



## Donation to the depot

John Wolak (right) of Staples recently donated a Northern Pacific ticket cabinet to the depot in Staples. He is pictured at the depot with Tom Kajer, a member of the Staples Historical Society. Wolak found the cabinet at a consignment store in Brainerd. (Staples World photo by Dawn Timbs)



## Ever feel like the load is too heavy?

A 30 ft. barn succumbed to the weight of the snow at 6:10 a.m. on Dec. 28, 2019.

## Weather

**This Week's Forecast**

High	Low	Cond.
Dec. 25	32° 29°	Cloudy
Dec. 26	32 19	Snow Showers
Dec. 27	26 16	P. Cloudy
Dec. 28	28 12	P. Cloudy
Dec. 29	25 14	P. Sunny
Dec. 30	27 15	M. Sunny
Dec. 31	25 19	P. Sunny

**Last Year, 2018**

High	Low	Cond.
Dec. 25	25° 18°	Cloudy
Dec. 26	27 17	Cloudy
Dec. 27	29 20	Snow
Dec. 28	39 21	Snow
Dec. 29	2 -19	Snow
Dec. 30	25 17	Cloudy
Dec. 31	28 20	Snow

**Average Temp.:**  
H = 21° Low = 6°

**Total snow: 27"**

**Recall:**  
Last week of 2018:  
20" of snow

Compiled by  
Dale Hausmann,  
WCCO's Staples area  
Weatherwatcher

## School buildings become top story of 2019

By Mark Anderson  
Managing Editor

The Staples-Motley School District's building options, discussions and decisions were reported on throughout 2019. Education was the biggest story of the year in the Staples World, with other big changes at the school. This was the first year the school moved out of the Motley building and put all classes in the two Staples Buildings. The district also welcomed new administration this year in the form of a new superintendent, activities/community education and a communications director.

Following are some highlights of 2019 from the pages of the Staples World.

### January

Jan. 3 - The two new buyers of the Staples World newspaper have long histories in small town Minnesota newspapers. Rick Gail and Mike Kremer have already partnered to run four weekly newspapers, and although Gail had retired a year ago, he decided to come back and work at the Staples World.

Jan. 3 - For 30 years, Brenda Halvorson has made sure Staples World readers can learn about their community every single week. She believes in the saying that newspapers are the "first draft of history."

"You can't tell the whole story in one paper, but you can tell it as it evolves over time," she said. Halvorson is stepping down as General Manager of the Staples World after a "full 30 years," having started the first week of January 1989.

Jan. 3 - Jeff Sterriker will be taking over as manager of the Vintage Golf Course in Staples.

Jan. 10 - ATV enthusiasts are joining together to look at forming an off-road trail in the Staples and Motley area. "We've had pretty decent turnout and a lot of responses through emails," said Paul DeBoer, who is organizing the club. "It's been really cool, the positive response and all the great ideas everybody has."

Jan. 10 - The socialization that is fostered at Curves is one of the main reasons it is successful. "It's more than weight loss and fitness, it's mood, socialization, blood pressure, helping with pain ... it's for every woman," said Jeannette Evans, who purchased the business in November.

Jan. 17 - After 45 years at the Staples World, Gary Mueller's trading in his ad sales paraphernalia for a fishing pole and hunting license. Neither hobby requires the use of a computer, which suits him just fine.

Jan. 17 - Nexus Solutions gave the Staples-Motley School Board a clear message of which project they think will pass a voter referendum and which one won't. At the Jan. 9 board meeting, Rob Brown of Nexus said their survey indicated that a 50 million dollar referendum would pass in the community, while a 75 million dollar referendum would not pass.

Jan. 24 - For Keegan Harvey, a word meaning "beginning" was the end of a long and compelling spelling bee competition.

Harvey outlasted Estella Bock in the 26th round of the Staples-Motley District Spelling Bee, correctly spelling "exordium," which means "a beginning or introduction, especially to a discourse or composition."

Jan. 30 - The Staples-Motley School Board received 21 applications for the open position of superintendent. Five finalists were selected for interviews, which were held on Jan. 25 and Jan. 26. Based on the interviews, Shane Tappe, currently Superintendent at Dawson-Boyd, was selected as the top choice and will be offered the position.

Jan. 30 - Regional partners Region Five Development Commission (R5DC) and Sourcewell are teaming up to expand the Welcoming Communities program to their shared five-county region in Central MN. This program is focused on workforce attraction and expanding cultural agility for individuals, organizations, and communities.

### February

Feb. 6 - Trevor Wentworth, of rural Staples, grew up as a river rat on the Crow Wing River on the north edge of town. Years later, he landed a part time job with the In-Fisherman magazine, considered the premier national publication for the fishing industry.

Feb. 13 - In his first month as Todd County Sheriff, Och said things are going very well, he has a few small changes he is making, and he is keeping an eye on the big issues affecting the county. Among the changes, Och said there will now be at least two deputies on duty every hour of every day.

Feb. 20 - At their regular meeting Feb. 12, the Staples City Council approved purchasing 24 Valley View tax forfeited lots from Wadena County for \$20,837. What to do with these lots, however, is not something the council seemed to be in total agreement with, based on comments made during a lengthy discussion prior to taking action on the matter.

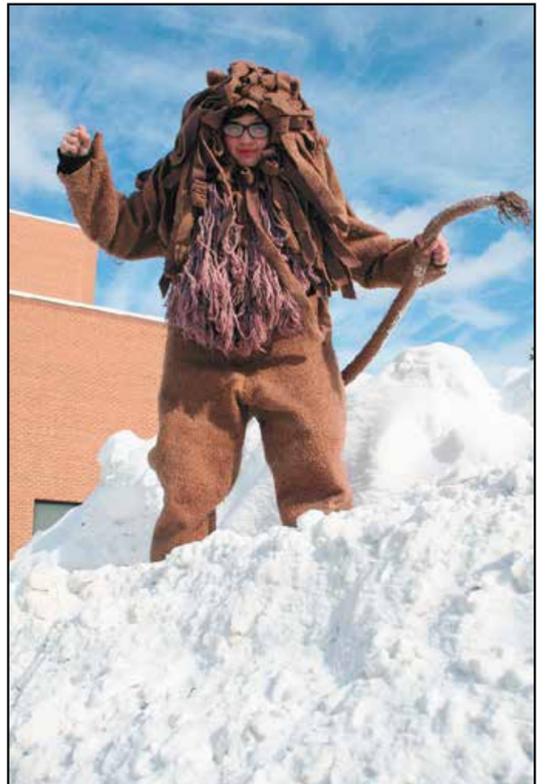
Feb. 20 - "We want you to engage with us, tell us how you want to interact with the campus," said Jana Shogren of the CLC Foundation at an alumni breakfast held Feb. 6 at the Staples Campus.

Feb. 27 - The Staples-Motley School Board approved several momentous decisions at their Feb. 20 meeting. The board approved a contract for a new superintendent, accepted the resignation of Activities Director Mark Jacobs, and approved going forward with the school's building project. The board passed a revised budget that gets the school close to a bal-



## Photos of the year 2019

Feb. 27 - Staples-Motley wrestler Blayne Dumpprope helicopters his way around an opponent in the Section 6A wrestling semifinals to score a takedown. Dumpprope, Spencer Miller and Owen Bjerga all won their weight class to qualify for the state wrestling tournament.



## Photos of the year 2019

March 6 - The Month of March definitely came in like a lion, bringing with it sub-zero temps and several inches of snowfall. Above, eighth grader Keegan Bestland of Staples donned a lions costume that was worn in 2003, by Christopher Olsen during the Motley-Staples Middle School's production of "The Wizard of Oz" when he was also in eighth grade.

anced operating budget.

### March

March 6 - Lakewood Health System recently learned it was the victim of an email phishing attack which impacted the email accounts of 12 employees. A portion of these employee emails contained patient personal health information (PHI) and/or personally identifiable information (PII), including names, Social Security numbers, dates of birth, health information, and/or treatment information.

See **TOP** on page 10a



## Photos of the year 2019

Jan. 24 - Pine River-Backus basketball coach John Riewer talks to his team during a timeout at the boys basketball game on Jan. 17, with players wearing the warmup shirts honoring John's wife Kim, who died of cancer. Riewer is a Staples alumnus and resides in Staples.

"I knew nothing about the shirts until the first game," said Riewer. "Senior captain Torry Hirschev (#4) and assistant coach Mike Dinnel came up with it. At the first game, I saw the fronts and thought they looked pretty sharp. Then I saw the back and they had to help me back to the locker room."

## Public Notices

ISD #2170: **9A**

## Obituaries

Holly Seamann  
Gary Wing



Thank you for subscribing!

# A look back on 2019 in Motley, Pillager areas

By Dawn Timbs  
Staples World reporter

A number of stories were collected throughout Motley, Pillager, Cushing and the surrounding area during 2019. A few highlights of the past year are included below.

## January

- The Staples World caught up with Ruth Boldan of Leader, who turned 95 years young on Dec. 17. She was born at home in Poplar Township in 1923. A birthday party was held in her honor at the Bear's Den in Leader with many in attendance, including Ruth's children and grandchildren.

- A barn owned by Travis and Jacqueline DiGiovanni of rural Motley was destroyed by fire Jan. 22. The Motley Fire Department received a call about the fire at about 5:50 p.m. Fire Chief Brad Olson said by the time they arrived at the scene, about eight miles north of Motley in Becker Township, the barn was fully engulfed. The Pillager Fire Dept. was called for mutual aid. Firefighters worked for nearly four hours in single-digit temperatures. They were able to get the cattle out, but the barn was a total loss.

## February

- Josh Pesta of Long Prairie is Motley's newest police officer, a full-time position he assumed Feb. 4.

Pesta was sworn into office during the Motley City Council's regular meeting Feb. 11. Prior to the ceremony, Motley Police Chief Jason Borash told the council that Pesta has been doing a great job. Previously, Pesta has served as a full-time police officer for the cities of Battle Lake and Big Lake; and part-time for the City of Staples.

## March

- Traffic along Hwy 10 in Motley was down to one lane March 5, as MnDOT snow plows worked to remove several inches of snow from the roadway. Several more inches of snow fell throughout the area the weekend of March 9 and 10, so snow plows were back at work once again.

- Members of the Becker Busy Bees 4-H Club took first place at the 4-H Regional Wildlife Bowl in Foley March 2. Winning members included Colton Converse, Sam Sauber, Bill Sauber and Dustin Converse. They will go on to compete at the state competition April 6.

## April

- Pat Beutz is the owner of FCA Auto Sales in Motley, located at 496 Hwy 10 S. He took over the business (formerly known as Integrity Motors) on April 1. A Mankato native, Beutz grew up in the auto business and has been in and



## Taking the oath of office

Motley Clerk/Treasurer Lacey Smieja (foreground) led newly elected city officers (all incumbents) in reciting the oath of office at their first regular council meeting of 2019 held Jan. 14. Pictured, from left,

out of it for the past 30 years.

- Kim Gibbs was named the 2019 Pillager Citizen of the Year, an honor bestowed on her by the Pillager Fair Board. She received her award at the Pillager Fiddler's Contest April 13. Gibbs is the owner of KC's Saloon in Pillager.

## May

- The City of Motley will soon be home to a solar-powered electric vehicle (EV) charging station, one of just a handful throughout the state. Construction began May 7, with completion estimated to take place within a few weeks. Hunt Electric out of Duluth is the general contractor for the project.

- The City of Motley will move forward, as funds permit, with the construction of a new pavilion at Converse Park. Estimated to cost around \$50,000, the pavilion will include a kitchen, handicapped accessible restrooms and an open area measuring roughly 32' by 30'.

The Motley City Council approved moving forward with this project at their regular meeting May 13. It was noted at the meeting that the Motley Free Methodist Church has agreed to donate between \$8,000 - \$10,000 toward the project. A large portion has already been raised, thanks to the efforts of the youth at the church's annual garage/bake sales.

- Congressman Pete Stauber, R-Duluth, took a tour of Morey's Seafood International, LLC, in Motley May 30, getting an

up close look at one of the leading industries of District 8, which he represents.

## June

- The Morrison County Fair in Motley takes place June 14 - 16. Back by popular demand is the Bull Bash event Friday night at the grand stand.

- June Fest, an all-day event for the entire family, takes place June 22 in Motley. The annual celebration is sponsored by the Staples Motley Chamber of Commerce.

- Motley Fire and Rescue hosted a mock vehicle accident training June 18, off 120th St. SW in rural Motley.

## July

- The 121st Annual Cass County Fair in Pillager in conjunction with the 4th Annual Husky Days celebration in Pillager, will be held July 11 - 14.

- Three children reported missing from Tennessee are safe after an early morning arrest of two suspects accused of taking the children.

According to a press release, a witness reported seeing the suspect's vehicle in rural Cass County July 11. BCA (Bureau of Criminal Apprehension) agents confirmed the presence of the vehicle in a wooded area on property near Motley.

Shortly before 4 a.m. July 12, Cass County Sheriff's Office and Minnesota BCA agents arrested Michale Darrel Christian, 48, and Amanda Colene Essex, 25, both of Spencer, Tennessee on multiple

are council members Jace Carlson and Pat O'Regan; Mayor Al Yoder; and council member Amy Hutchison. Seated is council member Steve Johnson. (Staples World file photo)



## Final hall duty at MSMS

Police Chief Jason Borash and Principal John Regan monitored the halls at Motley-Staples Middle School for one of the last times June 4. The middle school relocated to Staples in the fall of 2019. (Staples World file photo)

Tennessee warrants for custodial interference classified as Class E felonies in the State of Tennessee. Authorities also located three small children, ages six, two and one. The children were reported missing from Maury County, Tenn. on Tuesday, July 9.

## August

- Little Cardinals Academy Family Center in Motley held their grand opening Aug. 13. The theme of the event (as well as the upcoming school year) was, "Oh, the Places You'll Go!" and other Dr. Seuss favorites. Over 100 people attended the event which included a free meal, scavenger hunt and other activities and an opportunity to meet teaching teams and see the new classrooms.

- Ken Swecker of Motley is providing temporary assistance at Motley City Hall, answering phones and greeting people who stop by. The city's clerk/treasurer, Lacey Smieja, is currently out on maternity leave, and the former administrative/accounting assistant, Darci McGilivray, recently resigned. Swecker anticipates his temporary job will last into October.

## September

- Pillager School is hosting its ninth annual Hall of Fame Induction Banquet on Sept. 28. This year's inductees are Tom Kavanaugh, Ken LaPorte, Rudie Sandberg and Dorothy (Berndt) Williams.

- Construction on the new pavilion at Converse Park in Motley began Sept. 16.

- St. Michael's Catholic Church in Motley held a community picnic Sept. 1, which included lunch, games and a drawing for the church's \$10,000 raffle. Roy Olander was the winner of the grand prize. The church is currently undergoing preparation for an upcoming building project which includes a necessary addition of an elevator and additional seating in an expanded sanctuary.

## October

- Motley's water tower, previously blue in color, has been repainted tan along with a new logo,

designed by Chris Mayhew of Staples. Tri State Coatings of Wadena was the contracted company for the project, which began last July. The logo is painted on both the north and south sides of the water tower, which is located behind the city's water treatment facility. Mayhew's logo design features pine trees and two rivers and is entitled, "Motley, Gateway to the North."

## November

- It's been three years since Terrence (Terry) Brisk was murdered while hunting on his parents' property in Belle Prairie Township, just east of Little Falls. He was 41 years old.

The incident took place on Nov. 7, 2016, and authorities are seeking the public's help as they continue to search for Brisk's murderer.

- Ernest (Ernie) and Diane Haehnel of Motley have been named the 2019 Cass County Farm Family of the Year.

Married since 1964, the Haehnels have made their living farming together for 45 years. They started their own farm in Sauk Rapids and moved to their current farm near Motley in 1978.

- They didn't want to do it, but after heartfelt discussion, the Motley City Council accepted, with regrets, the resignation of City Clerk/Treasurer Lacey Smieja.

It was a decision made at a special meeting Nov. 25, with all members of the council present. At their regular meeting Dec. 9, the Motley City Council approved a motion to keep Smieja on as a temporary employee after her last day on Jan. 3.

## December

- Motley is now home to a new solar-powered electric vehicle (EV) charging station, one of just a handful throughout northeastern Minnesota.

A ribbon-cutting ceremony was held Dec. 3, at the new EV station, located near BRICKS Travel Center near the intersection of Highways 10 and 210. The city is leasing the property from BRICKS.



## Grand Marshal grandpa

After serving as grand marshal at the June Fest parade June 22, Don Delude of Motley enjoyed spending time with his great-grandchildren Oliver (left) and Avery Melchert from Maple Lake. (Staples World file photo)



## Ribbon cutting at new EV charging station in Motley

A ribbon-cutting ceremony, hosted by the City of Motley and Minnesota Power, was held for a new solar-powered electric vehicle (EV) charging station in Motley Dec. 3. Local officials and businesses were invited to attend. Pictured, from left, are Stephanie Barney, Region Five Development Commission; Andrea Lauer, Mayor of Royalton; Greg Zylka, Mayor of

Little Falls; Lacey Smieja, Motley City Clerk/Treasurer; Pat O'Regan, Motley City Council member; Al Yoder, Mayor of Motley; Paul Helstrom, Customer Programs and Services Representative with Minnesota Power, Duluth; Joe Brichacek, owner of BRICKS Travel Center, Motley; and Bruce Brotherton, Public Works Director for the City of Motley. (Staples World file photo)

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 Newspaper deadline for copy and advertising: 12 noon Fridays



### Coffee shop reunions

There's no place like a coffee shop during the holidays...the perfect gathering spot for catching up with friends, according to a few Staples-Motley grads who were back in town from college (and work) during Christmas break and met up at the Stomping Grounds in Staples Dec. 27.

Pictured at top, from left, are Olivia Klefsaas, 2016 SMHS grad, now in her senior year at Oklahoma Baptist University in Shawnee, Okla.; and Breeze Bestland, 2015 SMHS grad, and a 2018 graduate of Crown College in St. Bonifacius. She's currently teaching 8th grade at Delano High School, Bestland said.

Center photo: Molly Lindgren (left) and Rachel Paskewitz, both 2018 SMHS graduates. Lindgren attends the University of Minnesota, Twin Cities; and Paskewitz attends South Dakota State University in Brookings, S.D.

Bottom photo: Amy Lochli (left) and Rebecca Soukup, both 2016 SMHS graduates. Lochli attends the University of Minnesota, Twin Cities; and Soukup recently graduated from Bemidji State University. (Staples World photos by Dawn Timbs)



### Region 5 residents invited to talk about transportation

Region Five Development Commission (R5DC) invites Region 5 residents to attend a public kickoff meeting to discuss transportation initiatives under Phase 2 of the Regional Transportation Coordinating Council (RTCC). The event is being held on Tuesday, Jan. 7 from 6 - 7:30 p.m. at Bethlehem Evangelical Lutheran Church, 418 8th Ave. NE in Brainerd, with food provided to registered guests. This kickoff meeting will provide an update on what is being done during the Phase 2 implementation and allow for community members to share feedback.

R5DC was awarded an RTCC Phase 2 grant and has been designated as the implementing agency for Cass, Crow Wing, Morrison, Todd and Wadena counties. The purpose of a Regional Transportation Coordinating Council is to improve mobility for the "transportation disadvantaged" - older adults, individuals with disabili-

ties, individuals with low incomes and/or military veterans as well as all residents within the region.

The RTCC seeks to provide coordination between transportation providers, service agents and the private sector to fill transportation gaps, streamline access to transportation and provide individuals more travel options. RTCC's will be responsible for coordinating regional transportation services through a network of public, private and non-profit transportation providers. The RTCC will also plan and implement strategies that meet the regional transit coordination needs.

Visit [www.regionfive.org/events](http://www.regionfive.org/events) to register for this event. For more information about RTCC, contact Matt Kallroos by phone at 218-894-3233 or by email at [mkallroos@regionfive.org](mailto:mkallroos@regionfive.org), or visit: <https://www.dot.state.mn.us/transit/grants/RTCC/index.html>

### Public invited to sneak peek of TCHC building project

Tri-County Health Care and Joel Beiswenger, president and CEO, will host four public forums over two days to give a sneak peek of the Tri-County building project.

At each session, Beiswenger will give a 20-minute presentation that will include project updates, artist renderings of the inside and outside of the building and time for questions and answers.

Following the presentation, community members will have the opportunity

to tour room mockups for the new building.

The forums are free and open to the public. The content for each forum will be the same, so community members need only attend one, if desired. It will be hosted at the old Family Dollar building, located at 95 Juniper Ave. in Wadena.

Following are the dates and times:

- Saturday, Jan. 18 at 9 a.m., 11 a.m. and 1 p.m.
- Sunday, Jan. 19 at 1:30 p.m.

### 75 YEARS Ago - 1945

• Jan. 4, 1945 - At the annual election and meeting of the Staples fire department held at the city hall Jan. 2, J. D. Hand was re-elected chief of the department, thus starting his thirtieth year as head of the department in Staples. Mr. Hand joined the fire fighters in 1912, and in 1915 was elected chief, and has been re-elected each year since that time. Other officers elected at the Tuesday meeting were Art Ahlbrecht as first assistant; Jesse Marr, second

- O -  
Compiled by  
Dawn Timbs  
- O -

assistant; Len Hahn, third assistant; Paul Demmon, secretary; and Mr. Ahlbrecht, treasurer.

• Jan. 4, 1945 - Dan Cupid was certainly a busy "heart crusher" in Todd county during the 1944 year, according to reports received from Maude Gutches, clerk of court of Todd county. According to figures received from Mrs. Gutches, a total of 144 marriage licenses were issued in Todd county during the 1944 year.

May and June lead the parade of marriages with 21 and 18 licenses, respectively, while October came along in third place with 15. December and January were the smallest months when both had only six licenses issued during the 30-day period.

The increase in the issuance of licenses might have been caused due to the fact that 1944 was leap year, and that the fairer sex put a little pressure on the "old boys" and made them succumb to their coy ways, by making the "promise" then capitalizing on this promise by taking the final vows.

### 50 YEARS Ago - 1970

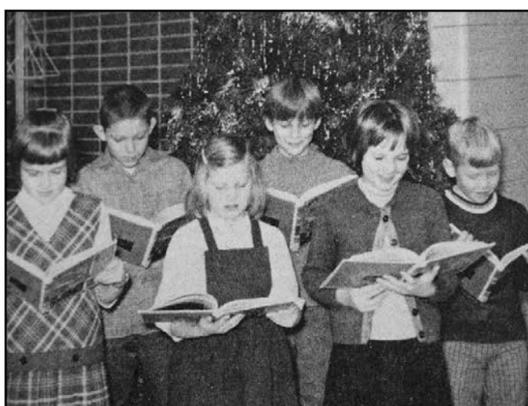
• Jan. 1, 1970 - The home of Mrs. Alice Erickson in Motley received heavy damage as a result of a fire Friday afternoon, Dec. 26.

Ed Morey, chief of the Motley Fire Department, reported that firemen were summoned to the place of residence about 5:25 p.m. The fire was apparently caused from a gas stove in the kitchen. Mrs. Erickson and her three children were at home at the time of the fire. They have now taken up residence with her mother, Mrs. Marie Allee in Motley.

• Jan. 1, 1970 - One of the very old landmarks in Motley has been sold recently. Mr. and Mrs. Albert Berndt, who have owned the "Castle" for a number of years, have sold it to Mr. and Mrs. Gordon Foster, Brainerd, who will take possession after the first of the year. The Berndts plan to go to Mesa, Arizona.

• Jan. 1, 1970 - Eleven boys and girls were winners of prizes in the second annual Christmas Boys and Girls Contest at the Staples Rexall Drug, according to Frank Gardner, owner.

Prize winners were Gloria Weishalla, record player; Carolyn Mertens, teen sleeper; Pamela Bur-



### Another mystery solved

Last week's mystery photo #2, published in the Dec. 25, 1969 edition of the Staples World, featured third grade students caroling at Staples Elementary School. Pictured, front row from left, Deanne Wagner, Laura Flistad and Roxanne Nelson. Back row, from left, Robin Lewis, Gregory Hall and Mitchell Peterson.

Thanks for participating in our Mystery Photo.

### Looking back



### Mystery photo

Hello readers. This week's archive photo is from our Jan. 1, 1970 edition. Do you know who these people are and perhaps the context of the photo? Email your answers and where you are from

to [dtimbs@staplesworld.com](mailto:dtimbs@staplesworld.com) by Friday morning, or call 218-894-1112. The answers will be published in next week's paper, as well as a new mystery photo.

rows, talking poodle; Jeff Skoglund, radio; Mark Redemske, television; Sandi Hoemberg, television; Scott Grossman, Hot Wheels; Michele Bacon, plush kitten; Joey Finn, walkie talkies; Greg Pittman, tool chest; and Brian Bostrom, table tennis set. About 200 names had been entered in the contest.

• Jan. 1, 1970 - Staples Adult Evening School Winter Session begins Jan. 12. Classes offered this year include Let's Sew Lingerie, The Three C's (Cosmetics, Clothes, Coiffure), Beginning Knitting, Baritone Ukelele, Guitar, Tailoring Fashions for Today, Beginning Welding, Figurine Painting, Farm Shop Night, Lip Reading.

### 25 YEARS Ago - 1995

• Jan. 5, 1995 - Staples Mayor Frank Williams recently presented Staples Chief of Police Kyle Huber with a certificate of appreciation from the Minnesota State Lottery. Huber was commended for his "excellent police investigation" of the cashing of lottery tickets stolen in a burglary of Batcher's Dept. Store in November. A confession was given by the suspects and criminal charges have been filed.

• Jan. 5, 1995 - Now showing at Staples Cinema: Star Trek: Generations; and Lion King. Theatre prices: 6 & Under, \$1; Ages 7 - 13, \$2; Age 14 & Older, \$3.

• Jan. 5, 1995 - Wayne Renn will perform at Scotty's Pub in Staples Friday, Jan. 6.

• Jan. 5, 1995 - The Staples Motley Cardinals won all three games last week in the Concordia College Invitational as the Cardinal squad improved to 7 - 0 for the season.

The boys record was good enough last week to get statewide attention, as the Cards broke into the top ten of the Minnesota Class A ratings for the first time this year. The Cards were rated 7th in the state by the Associated Press.

In the Concordia tournament, the Cards survived a first round scare, beating Waconia 56 - 55 on a last second shot by Eric Kelly, then downing Pelican Rapids 54 - 46 in the



### Mystery solved

Last week's mystery photo published in the Dec. 25, 1969 edition of the Staples World featured Mrs. Alvin Motl (left) and Mrs. Robert Doll, accepting their poinsettia plants at the Staples World. The two women had won the plants in a special drawing, at which over 300 had registered, the article said.

Thanks for participating in our Mystery Photo.

second round. In the finals on Thursday, the Cards defeated Warren 45 - 33.

### 10 YEARS Ago - 2010

• Jan. 7, 2010 - Tammy Chapin, Todd County Court Administrator, swore in the new chair and vice chair of the Todd County Board of Commissioners at the first meeting of the year Jan. 5. Mark Blessing was elected as vice chair and Dave Kircher was elected as chair for 2010.

• Jan. 7, 2010 - Alan Bjerga, 1991 graduate of Staples Motley High School, was featured in a "What ever happened to...?" article in the World. Bjerga, who grew up on a farm in the Lincoln area, was recently elected president of the National Press Club. He will be officially sworn into office at a black tie gala in the National Press Club's ballroom on Jan. 30. Bjerga currently lives in

the Washington D.C. area and is a correspondent for Bloomberg News.

• Jan. 7, 2010 - "There appears to be a little family rivalry going on," is the outline beneath a photo of a giant snowman. "This snowman is about 20 feet high and was built Christmas Day by about 15 aunts, nephews, and cousins to win the competition with the cousins across the road (just north of the Lakewood Health System hospital, in the Becker, Gode, Miller country). The cousins, who had just finished their giant snowman, got their photo in the paper last week.

• Jan. 7, 2010 - Guitarist Robert Michaels will perform a concert of Jazz, Flamenco and Cuban music at Centennial Auditorium in Staples Jan. 9, at 7:30 p.m. The concert is presented by the Staples Motley Area Arts Council.



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# Resolve to pay it forward

I'm not too serious about making New Year's resolutions. Perhaps it's due to a checkered history of keeping past resolutions. But I admit there is logic in reflecting on the last year and thinking about the year to come. It's ingrained not only in our personal lives, but in our work culture, too. Many businesses at this time of year ask their employees to evaluate how they have performed over the year that is ending, and set goals for the coming year. This process may even translate into whether or not a person gets a "bump" in pay, so there are tangible reasons—not just our self-esteem—for wanting to improve.



Mike Rahn

Inside the Outdoors

Without making a mission or crusade of it, I do think about how I might approach the coming year more positively. After all, I'm not that far from the biblical lifespan of three-score-and-ten, which might contribute to someone reflecting on how they will spend the remaining time they may be blessed with.

The things we resolve to do, or to change, in the year ahead may range from the totally selfless to the purely selfish, though one kind may have some of the flavor of the other. I could resolve to contribute some of my fishing time to a charity that provides a fishing opportunity for seniors, or youth, or the disabled. That seems selfless, but—based on the limited charitable work I've done, like serving food in a local soup kitchen—I know I would get an emotional payoff from it. Doing good does you good. Just this sort of resolu-

tion was found in a recent letter-to-the-editor in a publication I read regularly, called Outdoor News. It was penned by a reader who has been hearing and reading a lot of criticism of some special programs that provide outdoor recreation opportunities for Minnesota youth. Specifically, many have been criticizing the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (DNR) for its youth waterfowl hunting weekend, and multi-day youth deer hunt.

Both programs provide a short time slot before the start of the regular waterfowl and deer hunting seasons when only young people can hunt, but must do so with a non-hunting adult. The idea is to provide an opportunity to hunt in a less competitive environment, hopefully to be coached and mentored in a dedicated manner that is less likely to happen when the state's full complement of hunters are in their duck blinds and deer stands. Many have been complaining that by allowing youth to essentially have "first-crack" at ducks and deer, the quality of others' hunting is diminished.

The letter's author recalled how he was 35 years old before he ever hunted, having had no family members, relatives, or acquaintances who hunted to introduce him. He learned the handling of weapons in the U.S. military, but somehow a seed of hunting interest sprouted, grew, and matured into his becoming an avid hunter.

Not just an active hunter, but one who—as he put it—"was going to see that as many young people as possible would not have to go through what I did." This resolve led to his participating in Minnesota DNR-sponsored special hunts and fishing events for those without experience or skills. Duck, goose, pheasant, turkey, and deer hunting, trout fishing, and Great Lakes salmon fish-

ing were among the experiences he shared with "rookies" of various ages.

He rightly pointed out, that—with the passing years and attrition of those aging out of hunting—a smaller and smaller percentage of the population calls themselves hunters. The consequence of that, he also pointed out, is declining influence on policies that are vital to those who hunt and fish. The letter's author challenged us to seek the satisfactions of the sport not just in the rewards of more birds bagged, or big bucks in our crosshairs, but in seeing the joy and pride of others who we've helped to initiate.

Like this mentor, I too, grew up in a family that did not hunt. But I was fortunate to have friends who did, and a willingness on their part—and in some cases their parents—to include me. In high school there was Tom, whose dad included me in their deer camp, and even furnished me with a deer rifle. Kevin, whose dad set us up with a jon boat and decoys to hunt ducks. Randy, whose dad included me with his brothers on grouse hunting expeditions. And Gary, who helped me assemble the right kind of tackle to enter the world of stream trout fishing.

I grew up to be an avid hunter and angler. But, aside from my involvement in organizations like the Minnesota Waterfowl Association, the Ruffed Grouse Society, and Trout Unlimited, I've done too little to directly encourage the entry of anyone else into these pursuits I've come to love. Maybe it's time—given the great number of years I have enjoyed these sports, and the smaller number that the odds tell me lie ahead—to look for opportunities to mentor or introduce someone who might otherwise remain on the outside looking in.

Maybe it's time I resolve to pay it forward.



# The role of newspapers in rural Minnesota

By Julie Tesch  
President & CEO,  
Center for Rural Policy and  
Development

Have you read a newspaper lately? Was it your local newspaper? Was it in print or online?

I'm fortunate to have a daily, regional newspaper delivered to my door every day. I also have two neighboring community newspapers delivered weekly. Why do I spend this money? It is my connection to my community and local news. I can go online at any time and find out what is going on in pop culture and national politics, but I still rely on my daily and weekly printed newspapers for the majority of my local news.

But I'm part of a growing minority.

The trend is going towards online publication more every single day. I, too, get a great deal of my news online. It is quick and easy to get, but I still prefer a printed newspaper. There is just something about those pages of newsprint that I adore.

This past fall I was in Benson, MN, visiting one of our board members, Reed Anfinson. He is the longtime publisher of the

Swift County Monitor-News and a true advocate for rural Minnesota. As Reed and I sat chatting in his office, he made an observation that I found profound.

"You can tell how healthy a community is by their newspaper. If they don't have a local newspaper, then Main Street is probably suffering greatly, which means that people are moving away."

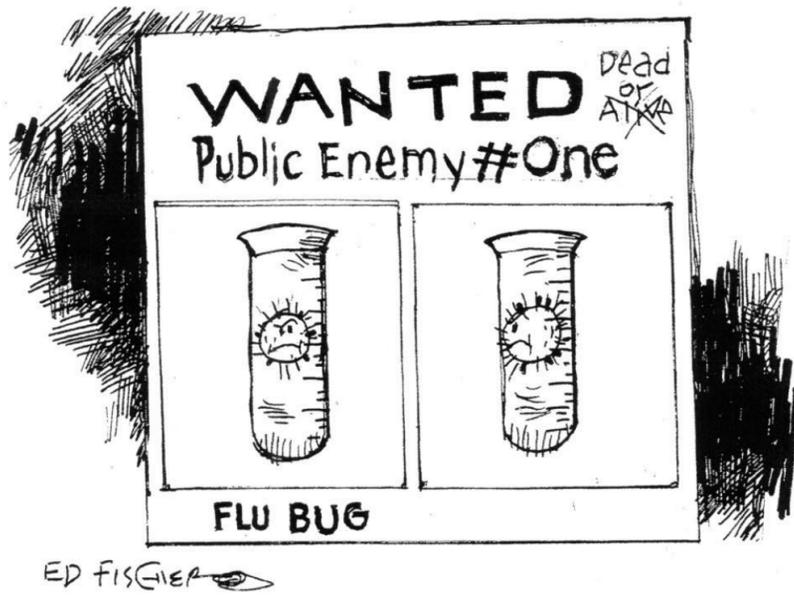
I had never thought of a local newspaper being such an important part of a rural community. I have always taken my local newspapers for granted. They were always there giving me updates from the local school board meeting, congratulating local students on their accomplishments and having an editorial section that I may or may not agree with. I never thought about there not being a local newspaper.

Reed went on: "Without our newspaper, we don't have the stories that draw us together as a community with a shared sense of responsibility and purpose."

That really struck a chord with me. Who else is going to report on city council meetings? Who is

going to report on Main Street businesses and their success or failure? Where will I find out the sales going on at local stores? I would like to think that I would like to think that I would check these stories out online, but in reality, I won't. I'll click on the one article I am interested in and ignore everything else on the site. With a print newspaper, I have a whole buffet of stories in front of me to read. I might or might not read all of them, but I can guarantee you that I will probably learn something new that I wasn't expecting to learn, or I might decide to go shopping at a local business because I saw their advertisement.

When you think about rural Minnesota, I encourage you to think about your local newspaper as well. There is so much angst about "fake news" and disdain for the media across the country. Through it all, local newspapers continue to report the news of the area, so that we as readers can stay informed and connected to our local community. When you support your local newspaper, you are also supporting your community.



# DNR takes emergency action to stop CWD

From Minnesota DNR press release

The Department of Natural Resources issued an emergency rule that temporarily prohibits the movement of all farmed white-tailed deer within the state.

The rule is a temporary, emergency action to reduce further spread of chronic wasting disease and protect Minnesota's wild deer. The action is in response to the recent discovery of CWD in a farmed white-tailed deer in Douglas County in western Minnesota. The emergency

rule is in effect for 30 days.

The Minnesota Board of Animal Health earlier this month confirmed an 8-year-old white-tailed doe tested positive for the fatal deer disease in a small, two-deer hobbyist herd.

The new discovery in Douglas County has connections to other Minnesota deer farms and the state needs time to investigate locations that either provided deer to, or received deer from, the hobby farm.

"We don't take this action lightly," said DNR Commissioner Sarah Strommen. "The DNR is committed to proactively addressing CWD and doing everything we can do to protect Minnesota's deer herd. The Douglas County positive, with its connections to other farms in the state, poses a risk to wild deer that requires emergency action."

The temporary prohibition on all movement of farmed white-tailed deer in Minnesota would help control and contain the current spread of CWD, while allowing the state time to evaluate the outbreak, generate potential solutions to containing and eliminating

the disease, and protect the wild deer herd. The DNR is working closely with BAH on investigating the Douglas County discovery and tracing the farm's connections to other locations in the state.

The DNR is already monitoring for CWD in disease management zones in southeastern and north-central Minnesota where the disease has been detected in both captive and wild deer, as well as in a CWD surveillance area in central Minnesota where it has been found in captive deer.

Prions, the infectious agent causing the disease, are found in urine, saliva, blood, feces, muscle and antler velvet of infected deer. Disease transmission can occur via direct animal-to-animal contact.

Since CWD was first detected in Minnesota in 2002, the DNR has tested more than 90,000 wild deer in the state. To date, 73 wild deer have been confirmed positive for CWD in Minnesota. Test results, including locations of confirmed positive test results and statistics, are available on the DNR website at [mndnr.gov/cwdcheck](http://mndnr.gov/cwdcheck).

# Staples World

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**The deadline is 12 noon, Friday.** Opinions expressed on this page do not necessarily represent the views of this newspaper.

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Member: Minnesota Newspaper Association, National Newspaper Association, Heartland Market Group, MCAN Advertising

Quote of the week

"Be at war with your vices,  
at peace with your neighbors,  
and let every new year  
find you a better man."  
— Benjamin Franklin



## Looking for a New Year's resolution? Give singing a try!

### Staples Area Men's chorus 'New Member Night' is Jan. 8

I know, not your normal New Years resolution, but one that can bring you a lot of joy and satisfaction as well as a release for any pent up frustrations. Sound good? Then read on.

On Wednesday, Jan. 8, the Staples Area Men's Chorus (SAMC) will host a "New Member Night" at 8:30 p.m. in the Staples Motley High School choir room. New Member Night is a "no-strings-attached" opportunity for men with even the slightest interest to come see what singing in the chorus is all about. Prospective members will not only gain a sense of what a typical rehearsal is like, but also what an atypical singing group of guys we are," says Steve Hoemberg, chorus director. "Our group is made up of men of all ages, teens to retirees, and all walks of life, dairy farmers, machinists, and even a couple musicians," chuckles Hoemberg.

Now in its 49th season, the Staples Area Men's Chorus continues to grow in both its membership and its willingness to change with the times. Who are the Staples Area Men's Chorus? We are, of course, a group of men who like to sing, but as the following Mission and Values statement shows, we are more than just a singing group:

#### Mission Statement

The mission of the Staples Area Men's Chorus is to promote high quality choral and cultural experiences in Central Minnesota.

#### Values

- The SAMC values:
- Collaboration with professional composers, directors and choruses
  - Outreach efforts to encourage participation and appreciation of choral music
  - Diversity of musical experience through incorporation of elements from theatre, visual arts and technology.
  - Promotion of male chorus singing through travel, outreach, social and performance experiences.
  - Partnership with other

community organizations.

Some examples of our commitment to our mission and values are:

- The annual "Real Men Sing Festival" where we invite young men from junior high through college age from across the state of Minnesota to join us to learn from respected choral conductors and each other and then showcase what we learned by performing a massed choral concert that evening.

- Bringing our joy of singing to assisted living and care center residents.

- Incorporating photographs taken by some of our own members in to a concert like we just did this past December with our "Frostiana" concert.

- Collaborating with the Staples Area Women's Chorus in concerts like "Frostiana" and our upcoming Dinner/Variety Spring Concert on March 21, which will feature songs from each group as well as small group numbers based on "A Night at the Movies" theme.

#### Schedule

The choruses' remaining schedule for this year includes the following major upcoming events:

- The aforementioned spring concert at Timber's Restaurant in Staples on March 21.

- A trip to Eau Claire, Wisc. for the "Big Sing Festival" with other male singers from North Dakota, Wisconsin and Minnesota on April 17 and 18.

- Our finale concert "The Afterglow" at the Landmark Inn in Staples on May 16.

Over the years many members have confessed that they don't know why they waited so long to start up with the chorus. Most say they were worried about their music reading skills, or the time commitment, but shortly found out that rehearsals really help guys learn and feel more confident in the music. Many guys have busy work schedules and young families. "Guys with solid work ethic and strong family values have been the foundation of

the group for nearly five decades," stated Hoemberg. "We understand that sometimes guys can't make it to everything, but everyone just does the best they can to work through it," he added. Although talented singers are certainly valuable, membership in the chorus is just as much about camaraderie, fun, hard work, and a humble attempt to make the world a better place.

Rehearsals are always at 8:30 p.m. on Wednesdays, but on Jan. 8, interested singers are encouraged to show up at the SMHS choir room around 8:15 p.m. to socialize and pick up some music prior to rehearsal.

The Staples Area Men's Chorus has members from Staples, Pillager, Verndale, Wadena, Brownville, Eagle Bend, Long Prairie, Grey Eagle, Lincoln, Sartell and more. The group

is accompanied by Sandy Paskewitz and directed by Steve Hoemberg.

For tickets, concert schedules, information about the group and a sample of their singing, visit the Staples Area Men's Chorus online at [www.staplesmen.org](http://www.staplesmen.org).

### January 9

**MOTLEY BLOOD DRIVE** Thurs., Jan. 9, noon - 6 p.m., Motley United Methodist Church, 847 3rd. Ave. S., Motley. Sign up online at [Redcrossblood.org](http://Redcrossblood.org) or call 1-800-733-2767. Walk-ins welcome.

### January 11

**2020 ARCTIC BLAST HAMFEST - HOSTED BY WADENA AREA AMATEUR RADIO CLUB**, Sat., Jan. 11, Bertha Community Center, 9 a.m. - 2 p.m. A Hamfest is a convention of amateur radio enthusiasts. It combines a trade show and flea market with various other activities. More information is available online at [www.wadenaham.org](http://www.wadenaham.org) or on Facebook.

## ProStart students to host class dinner

The Staples-Motley ProStart culinary class will host a dinner on Thursday, Jan. 9, at Timbers Restaurant in Staples. The students will host a social hour at 5:15 p.m. and the dinner will be at 6:15.

The high school students will prepare an Italian themed buffet, with several choices. If requested, the meal will also have dishes that are gluten free, nut free, soy free or can accommodate other dietary

restrictions.

Anyone wishing to attend is asked to register with the school by Jan. 2. There is a cost for each attendee.

ProStart is a culinary program at Staples-Motley High School. The program hosts two dinners per year, showcasing what the students have worked on each semester. The dinner is a graded event for the students.

## Staples Area Church Directory

### Staples

**Staples Alliance**  
1512 8th St. NE, Staples ..... 218-894-2891  
Associate Pastor Zach Jones  
Sunday Worship ..... 9:30 a.m.  
Sunday School ..... 11:00 a.m.  
WEDNESDAY  
AWANA ..... 6:00 p.m.

**Assembly of God**  
914 3rd Ave. NE, Staples ..... 218-894-1081  
Pastor Roy Miles  
Discipleship Classes ..... 9:30 a.m.  
Sunday Worship ..... 10:30 a.m.  
Evening Prayer ..... 6:00 p.m.  
WEDNESDAY  
Wednesday times are for Sept. - May  
Sunlight (Kids Program) ..... 4:00 - 5:30 p.m.  
Youth Group ..... 4:00 - 5:30 p.m.

**Church of Christ**  
27343 490th St., Staples ..... 218-894-2609  
Pastor Barry Klein  
Website: [www.stapleschurchofchrist.org](http://www.stapleschurchofchrist.org)  
Bible School (youth and adult) ..... 9:30 a.m.  
Sunday Worship ..... 10:30 a.m.  
WEDNESDAY:  
Teen Youth/Adults Bible Study ..... 6:30 p.m.

**First Congregational Church, UCC**  
firststangourcstaples@gmail.com  
204 5th St. NE, Staples ..... 218-894-2571  
Worship ..... 9:30 a.m.  
Fellowship, refreshments following service

**Faith Lutheran**  
430 12th Street, NE, Staples ..... 218-894-1546  
Pastor: Carl Larson  
Sunday Worship Service ..... 9:00 a.m.  
Sunday School and  
Coffee Fellowship ..... 10:05 a.m.

**Sacred Heart Church**  
310 4th St. NE, Staples  
Church ..... 218-894-2296  
Pastor Fr. Gabriel Walz  
Youth and Young Adult Ministry  
Coordinator:  
Monica J. Simmons ..... 218-414-0081 cell/text  
MASS:  
Thursday and Friday ..... 8:30 a.m.  
Saturday ..... 5:00 p.m.  
Sunday ..... 8:30 a.m.

**Seventh Day Adventist**  
421 Dakota Ave. SE, Staples  
218-894-0033  
Saturday Worship ..... 10:45 a.m.  
Sabbath School ..... 9:30 a.m.

**Thomastown Covenant**  
15940 251st Ave., Staples ..... 218-894-3923  
Sunday School ..... 9:15 a.m.  
Sunday Worship ..... 10:30 a.m.  
WEDNESDAY ..... 7:00 p.m.

**Trinity Lutheran**  
1000 4th St., NE, Staples ..... 218-894-2372  
Rev. Robin Collins  
Sunday Divine Service ..... 9:00 a.m.  
Sunday School & Bible Class ..... 10:30 a.m.

### United Methodist

310 5th St. NE, Staples ..... 218-894-2248  
Pastor Greg Leslie  
Sunday Worship ..... 10:30 a.m.  
(Nursery Available for Sunday Worship)  
Sunday School (for grades K-12 and adults)  
..... 9:15-10:15 a.m.

### Aldrich

**Balsamlund Lutheran**  
19550 490th Street, Aldrich  
Eric Clapp ..... 701-261-2394 (cell)  
Sunday Worship ..... 8:15 a.m.  
Sunday School ..... 8:30 a.m.

### Cushing

**Bethany Lutheran**  
25430 Bison Rd. Cushing, MN  
320-749-2140  
Pastor Carl Larson  
[www.bethanylutherancushing.org](http://www.bethanylutherancushing.org)  
Sunday Worship ..... 10:45 a.m.  
Sunday School and  
Coffee Fellowship ..... 9:30 a.m.  
Pancake Breakfast ..... 11:45 a.m.  
2nd Sunday, each month

**Lincoln Evangelical Free**  
1354 320th St., Cushing ..... 218-575-2449  
[www.lincolnefree.org](http://www.lincolnefree.org) Facebook Lincoln E Free  
Office Hours: Mon.-Thurs., 9 a.m.-2 p.m.  
Senior Pastor: Donald Reigstad  
Pastor: Jim Brown  
Youth Coordinator: Joe Reigstad  
SUNDAY  
Sunday School for all ages ..... 9:00 a.m.  
Worship Gathering ..... 10:00 a.m.  
WEDNESDAY  
Praise & Prayer ..... 4:30 p.m.  
Kids' Club ..... 6:00 p.m.  
Jr./Sr. Forge Youth Group ..... 6:00 p.m.

### Cushing Baptist

26298 Bear Rd., Cushing  
Pastor Dan Holmes ..... 320-749-2583  
Sunday School ..... 9:30 a.m.  
Worship ..... 10:30 a.m.  
WEDNESDAY  
Bible study ..... 7:30 p.m.

### Leader

**Swan Valley Lutheran**  
Leader ..... 218-397-2470  
Sandy Knight, Synodically Authorized Minister of Word and Sacrament  
Sunday Worship ..... 11:00 a.m.

**Maple Hill Lutheran**  
Sandy Knight, Synodically Authorized Minister of Word and Sacrament  
Leader ..... 218-397-2470 (Rural Pine River)  
Worship and Sunday School ..... 9:00 a.m.

**Leaf River Township The Old Country Church**  
Leaf River Twp., Wadena County Rd. 6  
Info: 218-837-5690 . Open by arrangement

### Motley

**Motley Free Methodist**  
33 Wellwood St. E  
Motley 56466 ..... 218-352-6888  
Pastor Jim Johnson  
Sunday Worship ..... 9:00 & 10:30 a.m.  
Sunday School ..... 10:30 a.m.  
WEDNESDAY  
Kids Club ..... 4:00-5:30 p.m.  
Youth Group ..... 5:30-7:30 p.m.

**St. John's Lutheran**  
497 3rd Ave. S, Motley ..... 218-352-6399  
Pastor Vicar Paul Koehler  
Sunday School and Bible Class ..... 8:30 a.m.  
Sunday Worship ..... 9:30 a.m.

**St. Michael**  
1st St. and Birch, Motley ..... 218-894-2296  
Pastor Fr. Gabriel Walz  
MASS:  
Tuesday ..... 6:30 p.m.  
Wednesday ..... 8:30 a.m.  
Saturday ..... 7:00 p.m.  
Sunday ..... 10:30 a.m.

**United Methodist**  
847 3rd Ave. S. Lane, Motley ..... 218-352-6466  
Pastor Greg Leslie  
[www.motleyum.net](http://www.motleyum.net)  
Sunday Worship Service ..... 9:00 a.m.  
Monday AA meeting ..... 8:00 p.m.

### Oylen

**Oylen Alliance**  
Cty. Rds. 7 and 9, Oylen  
218-472-3440 or 218-472-3316  
Pastor Neal Malcore  
Sunday School ..... 10:00 a.m.  
Sunday Worship ..... 11:00 a.m.

### Pillager

**First Lutheran Church**  
Pastor Mathew Sundquist  
717 River Street S, Pillager, MN  
218-746-3775  
Sunday Worship ..... 9:30 a.m.  
Sunday School ..... 8:30 a.m.

**Casino Assembly of God**  
Pastor Dan Johnson  
N. of Motley, Hwy. 64, E. on Cty 34 to Cty. 104.  
Phone ..... 218-746-3839  
Sunday School ..... 9:30 a.m.  
Worship ..... 10:30 a.m.  
Sunday Worship ..... 7:00 p.m.  
WEDNESDAY ..... 7:00 p.m.

**First Baptist**  
903 River Street South, Pillager  
Pastor Jake Anderson  
218-746-3768  
[curious@fbcpillager.com](mailto:curious@fbcpillager.com)  
Worship Gathering ..... 10:00 a.m.  
Connection Point ..... 9:30 a.m.  
(serving coffee and donuts)

### Hewitt

**Church of the Nazarene**  
114 Front Street, P.O. Box 146 Hewitt, MN  
218-924-2028  
Pastor Wayne Hoffer  
Sunday School ..... 9:30 a.m.  
Sunday Worship ..... 10:45 a.m./6 p.m.  
WEDNESDAY  
Prayer ..... 7:00 p.m.

**Trinity Lutheran Church (LCMS)**  
524 Front Street, PO Box 116, Hewitt, MN  
Pastor Robin Fish  
Sunday Worship ..... 10:30 a.m.

**United Methodist Church**  
Hwy. 210, Hewitt, MN  
Pastor Kenneth Uhren  
Sunday Services ..... 10:30 a.m.  
Sunday School ..... 6-8 p.m.

**Verndale Verndale Alliance**  
109 NW Brown Street, Verndale, MN 56481  
218-445-5619  
Senior Pastor Tony Stanley  
Heath Belknap, Pastor of Student Ministries  
Sunday Worship ..... 9:30 a.m.  
Sunday Bible Fellowship Classes  
..... 11-11:45 a.m.

**Family Life Church**  
402 NE Clark Drive, Verndale 218-445-5568  
[VerndaleFLC@gmail.com](mailto:VerndaleFLC@gmail.com)  
Pastor Amos Self ..... 218-371-7189  
Children's Pastor Kenneth Kjeldergaard  
SUNDAY  
Discipleship Classes ..... 9:00 a.m.  
Prayer ..... 9:20 a.m.  
Coffee / Fellowship ..... 9:30 a.m.  
Worship Service ..... 10:00 a.m.  
Celebrate Recovery ..... 6-8 p.m.  
WEDNESDAY  
6:00 p.m. .... Meal ..... 6:30 p.m. .... Groups

**Hope Chapel Alliance**  
18126 County Road 7, Verndale  
218-445-5643 or 218-472-3316  
Pastor Neal Malcore  
Sunday Worship ..... 9:00 a.m.  
Sunday School ..... 10:30 a.m.  
WEDNESDAY  
Family Night ..... 5:30 p.m.

**Immanuel Lutheran Church of Bartlett Township (LCMS)**  
17097 460th St. PO Box 37, Verndale  
Pastor Robin Fish  
Sunday Worship ..... 9:00 a.m.  
WEDNESDAY  
Bible Study ..... 6:30 p.m.

**Verndale United Methodist**  
103rd Ave. SW, Verndale  
218-445-5108  
Pastor Jill Pawlowski  
Sunday Worship ..... 9:00 a.m.

**Central United Methodist**  
5 miles N on Cty Rd 26 (Nimrod tar)  
Pastor Chuck Horsager, 218-639-4225  
Sunday Worship ..... 9:00 a.m.  
Sunday School ..... 10:30 a.m.

## 'Ski Lodge Escape Room' at Staples Public Library Challenge part of library's Winter Reading Program

Can you escape the ski lodge at the Staples Public Library?

Families and other groups are invited to participate in the challenge (which includes locks, puzzles and riddles) and escape the ski lodge in 45 minutes or less. The group that completes the challenge in the shortest amount of time will receive a pizza party at Tower Pizza. Groups are limited to five people or less.

The Ski Lodge Escape Room is sponsored by the Staples Friends of the Library and runs simultaneously with the library's Winter Reading Program, 'Snow Better Time to Read,' which runs Jan. 2 - Feb. 29.

The Ski Lodge Escape Room will be open:

- Thursdays, Jan. 9, 16, 23 and 30; Feb. 6, 13, 20 and 27, from 2 - 7 p.m.

- Fridays, Jan. 10, 17, 24 and 31; and Feb. 7, 14, 21 and 28, 1 - 4 p.m.

To participate in the challenge (for teens and adults), register at the library for a time slot by calling 218-894-1401. Or stop by to register in person.

In addition to the escape room challenge, the Staples Public Library is offering a new reading app called Beanstack. It allows patrons to keep track of reading, earn online badges, get book recommendations and participate in library reading programs. More information can be found at [www.griver.beanstack.org](http://www.griver.beanstack.org).

The library is also encouraging people to stop by and get a free library card. Those who register, or refer someone else to get a card, will have the opportunity to win a \$25 gift card from a local business.

"This is an exciting time to come to the library and we want to encourage everyone to come check out what we have," said Cathy Perish, Library Services Coordinator. "They can follow us on Facebook or on our web page, [www.griver.org](http://www.griver.org)," she added.

Staples Public Library is located at 122 6th St. NE in Staples. Their phone number is 218-894-1401.

**COZY THEATRE**  
WADENA, MN

Screen  
"STAR WARS: THE RISE OF SKYWALKER"  
Held Over 3rd Week  
Fri. thru Thurs. Jan. 3 - 9  
Fri. & Sat. 2 Shows at 6:45 & 9:30  
Sun. thru Thurs. 1 Show at 7:00  
Matinees Sat. & Sun. Jan. 4 & 5 at 1:15 pm

Screen  
"FORD V. FERRARI"  
Fri. thru Thurs. Jan. 3 - 9  
Fri. & Sat. 2 Shows at 6:45 & 9:30  
Sun. thru Thurs. 1 Show at 7:00  
Matinees Sat. & Sun. Jan. 4 & 5 at 1:15 pm

Screen  
"SPIES IN DISGUISE"  
Held Over 2nd Hilarious Week!  
Fri. thru Thurs. Jan. 3 - 9  
Fri. & Sat. 2 Shows at 7:15 & 9:30  
Sun. thru Thurs. 1 Show at 7:15  
Matinees Sat. & Sun. Jan. 4 & 5 at 1:30 pm

Tuesday Bargain Night - All Seats \$5.00  
Matinee Admission All Seats \$6.00  
[www.cozytheatre.com](http://www.cozytheatre.com)

## "Increasing Our Faith"

Pastor Roy Miles, Staples Assembly of God Church

Have you ever said, "I wish I had more faith"? You are not alone! The disciples even asked the Lord to increase their faith in Luke 17:5. Here are some scriptures on faith and how to build it up in our lives:

#### Hebrews 11:6 (NKJV)

But without faith it is impossible to please Him, for he who comes to God must believe that He is, and that he is a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him.

#### Look to Jesus

#### Hebrews 12:2 (NKJV)

Looking unto Jesus, the author and finisher of our faith, who for the joy that was set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.

#### Ephesians 2:8-10 (NKJV)

For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God, not of works, lest anyone should boast. For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand that we should walk in them.

#### Read God's word - Psalm 119

This Psalm outlines how much reading God's instruction book will increase our faith and love for the Lord.

#### Be content with God's strength

#### Philippians 4:11-13 (NKJV)

Not that I speak in regard to need, for I have learned in whatever state I am, to be content: I know how to be abased, and I know how to abound. Everywhere and in all things I have learned both to be full and to be hungry, both to abound and to suffer need. I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me.

#### Ask

#### Matthew 7:7-8 (NKJV)

Ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you. For everyone who asks receives, and he who seeks finds, and to him who knocks it will be opened.

#### Fasting and prayer

#### Matthew 6:16-18 (NKJV)

Moreover, when you fast, do not be like the hypocrites, with a sad countenance. For they disfigure their faces that they may appear to men to be fasting. Assuredly, I say to you, they have their reward. But you, when you fast, anoint your head and wash your face, so that you do not appear to men to be fasting, but to your Father who is in the secret place; and your Father who sees in secret will reward you openly.

### The Staples area Church Directory is sponsored by these businesses:

**Longbella Drug Store**  
"The Prescription Store"  
2nd Ave., Staples • 218-894-2242  
Motley and Pillager

**Ernie's Food Market**  
Groceries - Gas - Convenience - more  
Staples, MN 218-894-1072

**Staples Veterinary Clinic**  
"Complete Animal Care"  
Staples, MN 218-894-1775

**Mid-Central Federal Savings Bank**  
Fully Insured to \$250,000  
Staples, MN 218-894-3900

**Central Building Supply**  
Bob Reeck, Manager  
Hwy. 10 West, Staples, MN

**Staples World**  
Your community newspaper since 1890  
224 4th St. NE, Staples, MN  
218-894-1112

**Tower Pizza**  
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Staples, MN 218-894-3299

**Staples True Value**  
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Open 7 days a week.  
Staples, MN 218-894-3263



## Hello World

### BIRTHS REPORTED AT LAKEWOOD HEALTH SYSTEM HOSPITAL IN STAPLES INCLUDED:

Born to Marisa and Jordan Ashbaugh of Wadena, a baby boy, Cooper Jameson weighing eight pounds, one ounce on December 19, 2019.

Born to Mary and Jon Hoffmann of Baxter, a baby girl, Rosie Jameson weighing six pounds, nine ounces on December 20, 2019.

Born to Abby McNeil and Justin Tholl of Staples, a baby girl, Sloane Justine weighing seven pounds, five ounces on December 20, 2019.

Born to Julia Sexton and Wyatt Kidrowski of Backus, a baby girl, Layla Fare weighing seven pounds, three ounces on December 20, 2019.

Born to Renne and Joseph Kortus of Baxter, a baby boy, Corban Michael weighing seven pounds one ounce on December 23, 2019.

Born to Bren and Michael Davis of Brainerd, a baby boy, Creed Michael weighing nine pounds, six ounces on December 24, 2019.

Born to Amy and Ryan Roller of Hewitt, a baby boy, Caleb Daniel weighing seven pounds, 15 ounces on December 26, 2019.

## Wedding



### Beck, Meech

Matthew and Trinity Meech were married at Bethel Church, Fergus Falls, on August 17, 2019.

The bride's parents are Tammy and Greg Beck, Menahga. Grandparents are Pam and Tom Hjermstad, Menahga; David and Jane (Rautio) Beck, Park Rapids.

The groom's parents are Dawn and Brian Meech, Fergus Falls. Grandparents are Julann Meech, Underwood; Arlene Ludovissie, Staples; David Ludovissie, Wadena; Don and Evelyn Meech, Sebeka.

The couple has settled in Fargo, ND. Trinity earned scholarships and is majoring in accounting at NDSU. Matthew is a commercial diver based in LaCrosse, WI.

## Service news



### Earns diving degree

Matthew Meech recently graduated from CDA Technical Institute, earning a five month trade degree in Commercial Diving. His CD degree involves construction projects completed underwater such as bridges, dams, docks and more using pneumatic hydraulic, bronco burning rods to cut through metal. The welding equipment provides and additional weight of 60 pounds.

Matthew is based out of LaCrosse, Wisc. and received his training in Jacksonville, FL.



### Wilmot promoted to Air Force captain

Chantel Wilmot, was promoted to the status of Captain in the United States Air Force on Nov. 14 at Yokota Air Force Base in Japan.

Her husband, Matt, also an Air Force officer at Yokota, was given the honor of pinning her with her new rank during the ceremony. The couple's dog, Finley, was also a proud member attending the ceremony.

## Obituaries

### Holly Seamann

Holly Seamann, 42, of Aldrich, passed away unexpectedly on December 22, 2019.

Funeral services were held Dec. 30 at the Staples Church of Christ with Pastor Barry Klein officiating.

Holly was born January 6, 1977 in Staples, to Herman and Bonnie (Hendrickson) Jasmer. On July 6, 1996, she married Chad Seamann in the Emmanuel Lutheran Church in Bartlett Township. Holly was a professional mother to four children and a secondary mom to many. She was a perceptive listener and always willing to lend a helping hand. Holly was very active in her children's lives; generous in helping where she was needed. She was key in the after school elementary youth group, a past member of the Staples Women's Chorus and a member of the Church of Christ in Staples.

Holly is survived by her husband, Chad; four children, Brian, Abbygayle, Trinity and Nathaniel; parents, Herman and Bonnie;



two sisters, Heidi Jasmer and Heather Jasmer; one brother, Harley Jasmer; grandmother, Loretta Hendrickson; in-law Eileen Gorley and many nieces, nephews, cousins and friends.

Holly is preceded in death by her grandparents, Herb and Alverna Jasmer and Gordon Hendrickson; two uncles, David Hendrickson and Gerald Jasmer and one nephew, Xander Jasmer.

Arrangements with the Iten Funeral Home - itenfuneralhome.com

wic A00006B2019JN01

### Gary Wing

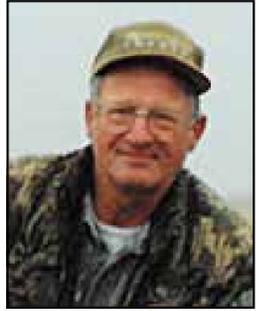
Memorial Services were held for Gary Wing, age 81, of Motley on December 30, 2019 at the Karvonen Funeral Home in Wadena with Sam Salo officiating.

Burial will be held at a later date.

Gary Wayne Wing was born January 24, 1938 to Lloyd and Dorothy (Leinen) Wing in Fulda. He attended Verndale High School, graduating with the class of 1957. After school, he began his career at AT&T as an Installation Technician. In 1961, Gary was drafted into the United States Army and honorably served his country until his discharge in 1963.

Gary loved spending time with his family. He had a great passion for hunting and fishing, traveling to places like Canada, and the Arctic Circle. He also enjoyed camping, woodworking and could sit for hours and visit.

On December 22, 2019, Gary passed away surrounded by his family. He will be dearly missed by his family and friends. Preceding Gary in death are his parents: Lloyd and Dorothy Wing; and wife Delores "Bobbi" Wing.



Gary is survived by his special friend, Janice Fallon; one daughter, Gina (John) Young; one son, Jeff Wing; five grandchildren, Alec, Joshua, Brandon (Abby), Cody (Josie) and Mikayla; one great-grandchild, Rowyn; four sisters, Carol (Kenny) Jansen, Judy (Gordon) Prairie, Julie (Rich) Wambolt and Patty (Jerry-Latte) Wendorf; many other relatives and a host of friends.

Visit [www.karvonenfuneralhome.com](http://www.karvonenfuneralhome.com) to send a message of comfort and support.

Arrangements provided by Karvonen Funeral & Cremation Service of Wadena.

wic A00006B2019JN01

## Care Center

### JANUARY BIRTHDAYS AT LAKEWOOD HEALTH SYSTEM CARE CENTER INCLUDE:

Ervin Swanson, January 1; Betty Tepley, January 1, 2020.

### JANUARY SPECIAL ACTIVITIES AT THE LAKEWOOD HEALTH SYSTEM CARE CENTER:

Weds., Jan. 1, 2 p.m. Bingo/Marge  
Thurs., Jan. 2, 10 a.m. Bible Study; 2 p.m. Birthday Party

Sat., Jan. 4, 10 a.m. Bingo/Marge; 1:45 p.m. Seventh Day Adventist Singers

Sun., Jan. 5, 1:30 p.m. Bingo/Marge

Tues., Jan. 7, 2:15 p.m. Church; 3:30 p.m. Bingo/Marge

Weds., Jan. 8, 2 p.m. Bingo/Marge; 7:30 p.m. Men's Choir

Fri., Jan. 10, 9:30 a.m. Faith Lutheran Church;

10 a.m. Friendly Friday w/ Faith Lutheran

Sat., Jan. 11, 1:30 p.m. Bingo/Marge

Mon., Jan. 13, 2:30 p.m. Trinity Lutheran Church

Tues., Jan. 14, 10 a.m. Sing-A-Long w/Connie; 2:15 p.m. Church; 3:30 p.m. Bingo/Marge

Weds., Jan. 15, 2:00 p.m. Bingo

Thurs., Jan. 16, 10 a.m. Bible Study

Sat., Jan. 18, 1:30 p.m. Bingo w/Marge

Sun., Jan. 19, 1:45 p.m. Assembly of God Singers

Tues., Jan. 21, 10 a.m. Bell Choir; 2:15 p.m. Church; 3:30 p.m. Bingo/Marge

Weds., Jan. 22, 2 p.m. Bingo/Marge

Fri., Jan. 24, 2 p.m. Fried Bread

Sat., Jan. 25, 1:30 p.m. Bingo/Marge.

### CLC Green Card Voices Exhibit dates correction

The Green Card Voices of Central Minnesota Exhibit will be at the Staples CLC campus Jan. 27 to Feb. 3, 2020.

For information contact Rosy Hjermstad at 218-855-8109 or [rosy.hjermstad@clcmn.edu](mailto:rosy.hjermstad@clcmn.edu).

### Needing/Wanting a Granite Memorial FOR YOUR FAMILY?



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# Staples World

## DEADLINES

### Newspaper deadline for copy and advertising: 12 noon Fridays

**SQUARE SHOOTER** Square Shooter advertising deadline: 5 p.m. Wednesday

## Much Appreciated

Every year there are several people who devote funds to someone who, throughout the year, has saved money every week so families in and around the Staples area have a nice Christmas Dinner. There are approximately 10 families who are recipients of this generosity and this year we were one of them.

Three beautiful elves delivered a trove of food on December 21 that my wife and I might feed our seven grandchildren, daughter and ourselves a very nice dinner on Christmas Day. These elves, and

others, donate their time and resources that others might have a Christmas without having to worry where their bounty might come from. They seek no accolades, they just show up in a SUV with enough food to feed everyone in the household.

I, and I am sure the other nine families, appreciate this Christmas Spirit and thank you from our collective hearts. May God Bless you and keep you in the palm of His hand.

Kerry West  
Staples, Minn.

## Senior Citizen news

**Jan. 13, 10 a.m.**, Staples Senior Citizens board meeting, Senior Citizen's Room, Staples Community Center  
**Feb. 5, 11:30 a.m.**, January/February Birthday and Anniversary party; LSS Nutrition Site meal to follow w/ regular bingo games after noon

To be honored for your birthday or anniversary, you must be a Staples Senior Citizen member (dues are \$5/year). Dues may be mailed to Staples Senior Citizens, PO Box 14, Staples, MN 56479 or pay Carol Olsen at any Wednesday bingo game.

**January birthdays:** Rose Hoemberg, Jan. 1; Rita Stone, Jan. 13; Arvilla Dyer, Jan. 15; Annette Crocker, Jan. 15; Jeanie Hueber, Jan. 16; Carol Olsen, Jan. 27

**February birthdays:** Jean Medley, Feb. 2; Virginia Pogreba, Feb. 13; Amelia Lindstrom, Feb. 20; Dorothy Balken, Feb. 27.

Nutrition Site congregate meals are available every weekday in the Senior Citizens Room. To reserve a meal, call Diane at 218-894-2556 one day prior.

Meals on Wheels drivers are also needed in Staples. Call Diane, 218-894-2556 to sign up.



Todd County Commissioners Minutes

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE TODD COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS DECEMBER 4, 2019

Call to Order

The Todd County Board of Commissioners met in the Commissioner's Board Room in the City of Long Prairie, MN on the 4th day of December, 2019 at 9:00 a.m. The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Kneisl. The meeting was opened with the Pledge of Allegiance. All Commissioners were present with Commissioner Kircher absent.

Approval of Agenda

On motion by Neumann and seconded by Erickson, the following motion was introduced and adopted by unanimous vote: To approve the agenda as presented.

Consent Agenda

On motion by Becker and seconded by Erickson, the following motion and resolution were introduced and adopted by unanimous vote:

To approve the Commissioner's Meeting Minutes for November 19, 2019 as presented.

GAMBLING PERMIT - ST. MARY OF MT. CARMEL CHURCH-SCHOOL

WHEREAS, the Todd County Board of Commissioners are establishing their approval for a Gambling Permit for the St. Mary of Mt. Carmel Church-School through this resolution;

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Todd County Board of Commissioners approve a Gambling Permit for the St. Mary of Mt. Carmel Church-School to hold a raffle event at the Head of the Lakes Resort in Leslie Township at the address 15080 Gardenia Dr., Osakis, MN on February 1, 2020.

Auditor-Treasurer

On motion by Erickson and seconded by Becker, the following motion was introduced and adopted by unanimous Roll Call vote: To approve the November 2019 Auditor Warrants number (ACH) 900523 through 900586 in the amount of \$1,271,593.92, (Manual) 515 through 515 in the amount of \$808.80 and (Regular) 234554 through 234700 in the amount of \$1,579,021.80 for a total of \$2,851,424.52.

On motion by Neumann and seconded by Becker, the following motion was introduced and adopted by unanimous Roll Call vote: To approve the Commissioner Warrants number (ACH) 400449 through 400463 in the amount of \$22,815.18 and (Regular) 52602 through 52677 in the amount of \$103,591.28 for a total of \$126,406.46.

On motion by Becker and seconded by Erickson, the following motion was introduced and adopted by unanimous Roll Call vote: To approve the Health & Human Services Commissioner Warrants number (ACH) 800255 through 800267 and (Regular) 706096 through 706137 for a total amount of \$41,771.19.

On motion by Neumann and seconded by Erickson, the following motion was introduced and adopted by unanimous Roll Call vote: To approve the Health & Human Services SSIS Warrants number (ACH) 600081 through 600088 and (Regular) 515533 through 515548 in the amount of \$35,586.95.

On motion by Erickson and seconded by Neumann, the following motion was introduced and adopted by unanimous vote: To approve the contract with Peters Law Office for Public Defender services in Todd County for 2020.

Veterans Services

On motion by Becker and seconded by Neumann, the following resolution was introduced and adopted by unanimous vote:

RESOLUTION FOR THE COUNTY VETERANS SERVICE OFFICE

OPERATIONAL ENHANCEMENT GRANT PROGRAM BE IT RESOLVED,

by Todd County that the County enter into the attached Grant Agreement with the Minnesota Department of Veterans Affairs (MDVA) to conduct the following Program: County Veterans Service Office Operational Enhancement Grant Program. The grant must be used to provide outreach to the county's veterans; to assist in the reintegration of combat veterans into society; to collaborate with other social service agencies, educational institutions, and other community organizations for the purposes of enhancing services offered to veterans; to reduce homelessness among veterans; and to enhance the operations of the county veterans service office, as specified in Minnesota Laws 2019, Chapter 10 Article 1, Section 37, Subdivision 2. This Grant should not be used to supplant or replace other funding.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, by Todd County that Pete Berscheid, the County Veterans Service Officer, be authorized to execute the attached Grant Contract for the above-mentioned Program on behalf of the County.

Health & Human Services

On motion by Erickson and seconded by Neumann, the following motion was introduced and adopted by unanimous vote: To approve the County Contract Coordination Services between Region 5 and Sourcewell on behalf of Todd County.

On motion by Erickson and seconded by Becker, the following motion was introduced and adopted by unanimous vote: To approve, on behalf of Todd County, the attached Purchase of Service Agreement with Resource Training and Solutions.

On motion by Becker and seconded by Erickson, the following motion was introduced and adopted by unanimous vote: To approve the attached Annual Purchase Agreement with the West Central Regional Jurisdiction Center.

Administration

On motion by Erickson and seconded by Becker, the following resolution was introduced and adopted by unanimous vote:

2020 Non-Union Employee/Appointed Officials Salaries

WHEREAS, the Todd County Board of Commissioners are responsible for setting the compensation of county employees, elected officials, appointed officials and board members, and;

WHEREAS, the Todd County Board of Commissioners desire to follow the same pattern bargained with unions for the non-union county employees and appointed officials, and;

WHEREAS, the agreements include a 2.5 percent (%) general increase effective the first full pay period worked in January, 2020, pay date January 29, 2020, and a 3 percent (%) step increase effective the first full pay period worked in July, 2020, pay date July 29, 2020 for eligible staff. Staff currently over the maximum of the salary grid shall receive a 1.25 percent (%) (one-half general increase) effective the first full pay period worked in January, 2020, pay date January 29, 2020 in accordance with county policy.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Todd County Board of Commissioners authorize a 2.5 percent (%) general increase effective the first full pay period worked in January, 2020, pay date January 29, 2020, and a 3 percent (%) step increase effective the first full pay period worked in July 2020, and pay date July 29, 2020 for eligible staff. Staff currently over the maximum of the salary grid shall receive a 1.25 percent (%) (one-half general increase) effective the first full pay period worked in January, 2020, pay date January 29, 2020 in accordance with county policy.

On motion by Erickson and seconded by Becker, the following resolution was introduced and adopted by majority Roll Call vote with Commissioners Becker, Erickson and Kneisl for and Commissioner Neumann against:

2020 COUNTY COMMISSIONERS SALARY

WHEREAS, the Todd County Board of Commissioners are responsible for setting the compensation of county employees, elected officials, appointed officials and board members, and;

WHEREAS, the Todd County Board of Commissioners have considered the duties and responsibilities of each individual position; and

WHEREAS, the Todd County Board of Commissioners have considered the salaries of elected officials in other comparable counties; and

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Todd County Board of Commissioners approve setting the County Commissioners salary at \$31,941 plus \$1,800 supplemental pay for Board Chair and \$1,200 supplemental pay for the Board Vice-Chair in 2020.

On motion by Becker and seconded by Neumann, the following resolution was introduced and adopted by unanimous Roll Call vote:

2020 COUNTY ATTORNEY SALARY

WHEREAS, the Todd County Board of Commissioners are responsible for setting the compensation of county employees, elected officials, appointed officials and board members, and;

WHEREAS, the Todd County Board of Commissioners have considered the duties and responsibilities of each individual position; and

WHEREAS, the Todd County Board of Commissioners have considered the salaries of elected officials in other comparable counties; and

WHEREAS, the County Attorney is not on the County Comp worth Springsted pay scale; and

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Todd County Board of Commissioners approve setting the County Attorney salary with an increase of 6.44 percent (%) at \$118,151 for 2020.

On motion by Becker and seconded by Neumann, the following resolution was introduced and a Roll Call vote taken with Commissioners Becker and Neumann for and Commissioners Erickson and Kneisl against resulting in a tie vote:

2020 COUNTY AUDITOR TREASURER SALARY

WHEREAS, the Todd County Board of Commissioners are responsible for setting the compensation of county employees, elected officials, appointed officials and board members, and;

WHEREAS, the Todd County Board of Commissioners have considered the duties and responsibilities of each individual position; and

WHEREAS, the Todd County Board of Commissioners have considered the salaries of elected officials in other comparable counties; and

WHEREAS, the County Auditor Treasurer is not on the County Comp worth Springsted pay scale; and

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Todd County Board of Commissioners approve setting the County Auditor Treasurer salary with an increase of 15 percent (%) at \$95,915 for 2020.

Robert's Rule of Order was cited that this item was held from further discussion and redirected to the next Board Meeting scheduled for December 17, 2019.

On motion by Neumann and seconded by Erickson, the following resolution was introduced and adopted by unanimous Roll Call vote:

2020 COUNTY RECORDER SALARY

WHEREAS, the Todd County Board of Commissioners are responsible for setting the compensation of county employees, elected officials, appointed officials and board members, and;

WHEREAS, the Todd County Board of Commissioners have considered the duties and responsibilities of each individual position; and

WHEREAS, the Todd County Board of Commissioners have considered the salaries of elected officials in other comparable counties; and

WHEREAS, the County Recorder is not on the County Comp worth Springsted pay scale; and

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Todd County Board of Commissioners approve setting the County Recorder salary with an increase of 6.44 percent (%) at 69,186 for 2020.

On motion by Becker and seconded by Neumann, the following resolution was introduced and adopted by unanimous Roll Call vote:

2020 COUNTY SHERIFF SALARY

WHEREAS, the Todd County Board of Commissioners are responsible for setting the compensation of county employees, elected officials, appointed officials and board members, and;

WHEREAS, the Todd County Board of Commissioners have considered the duties and responsibilities of each individual position; and

WHEREAS, the Todd County Board of Commissioners have considered the salaries of elected officials in other comparable counties; and

WHEREAS, the County Sheriff is not on the County Comp worth Springsted pay scale; and

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Todd County Board of Commissioners approve setting the County Sheriff salary with an increase of 6.44 percent (%) at 94,180.00 for 2020.

Auditor-Treasurer's Report

The County Auditor-Treasurer had no new events to report.

Commissioner's Report

The Commissioners reported on meetings attended.

Interim Coordinator's Report

The Interim County Coordinator reported on meetings attended.

Recess

Chairperson Kneisl recessed the meeting until December 17, 2019.

AUDITOR WARRANTS

Table with 2 columns: Vendor Name, \$ Amount. Lists various vendors and their amounts, including COMPATICO, GOVERNMENT, MANAGE GROUP, LONG PRAIRIE OIL, etc.

COMMISIONERS WARRANTS

Table with 2 columns: Vendor Name, \$ Amount. Lists various vendors and their amounts, including LONG PRAIRIE OIL CO., MASWCD, METRO SALES INC., etc.

HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES WARRANTS

Table with 2 columns: Vendor Name, \$ Amount. Lists vendors like DHS - SWIFT, PERISH/ALAN, TRIMIN SYSTEMS INC., etc.

HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES WARRANTS

Table with 2 columns: Vendor Name, \$ Amount. Lists vendors like DHS - SWIFT, PERISH/ALAN, TRIMIN SYSTEMS INC., etc.

On a motion by Becker and seconded by Neumann, the preceding minutes of the County Board meeting held December 4, 2019 were duly approved by unanimous vote at the Todd County Board of Commissioners at the Regular Board Meeting held on December 17, 2019.

Witness my hand and seal:

Gary Kneisl, County Board Chairperson

Denise Gaida, Todd County Auditor-Treasurer

MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL MEETING OF THE TODD COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS DEC. 5, 2019

Call to Order

The Todd County Board of Commissioners met in the Commissioner's Board Room in the City of Long Prairie, MN on the 5th day of December, 2019 at 9:00 a.m. The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Kneisl. The meeting was opened with the Pledge of Allegiance. All Commissioners were present.

Approval of Agenda

On motion by Erickson and seconded by Neumann, the following motion was introduced and adopted by unanimous vote: To approve the agenda as presented.

County Commissioners

On motion by Becker and seconded by Neumann, the following motion was introduced and adopted by unanimous vote: To proceed with County Coordinator final interviews and reserve the right to hold another interview with select candidates if deemed necessary upon the conclusion of this interview schedule.

Interviews were held with the County Candidates in the following order: Chris Pelzer, Misty Lemke, Jennifer Strei, Darcy Long, Karla Weishalla, John Pomaski

Interviews concluded at 3:33 p.m. Commissioners held discussion regarding the candidates. Human Resources Manager Ogren provided the Commissioners with the final score tally for consideration. The Commissioners voiced their opinions of how they wanted to move forward with candidate selection.

On motion by Kircher and seconded by Erickson, the following motion was introduced and adopted by unanimous Roll Call vote: To approve to hire Chris Pelzer as our County Coordinator.

Adjourn

On motion by Kircher and seconded by Kircher, the meeting was adjourned.

On a motion by Becker and seconded by Neumann, the preceding minutes of the County Board meeting held December 5, 2019 were duly approved by unanimous vote at the Todd County Board of Commissioners at the Regular Board Meeting held on December 17, 2019.

Witness my hand and seal:

Gary Kneisl, County Board Chairperson

Denise Gaida, Todd County Auditor-Treasurer

Public Notices

FILING NOTICE MORAN TOWNSHIP

Notice is hereby given to the residents of Moran Township that filing for township offices will be open December 31, 2019 and close January 14, 2020, at 5:00 p.m. The offices that may be filed for are: One (1) Supervisor for a three (3) year term, and One (1) Clerk for a two (2) year term. Candidates may file at the clerk's office at 28316 410th St. Browerville, Mn.

Teresa Wagner, Clerk

51-52pnc

See PUBLIC NOTICES on page 9a

Trust Us!

Without public notices, the government wouldn't have to say anything else.

Public notices are a community's window into the government. From zoning regulations to local budgets, governments have used local newspapers to inform citizens of its actions as an essential part of your right to know. You know where to look, when to look and what to look for to be involved as a citizen. Local newspapers provide you with the information you need to get involved.

Notices are meant to be noticed. Read your public notices and get involved!

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## Deadline: Friday at Noon

### Classifications

<b>NOTICES</b>	<b>FOR SALE</b>	<b>WANTED TO BUY</b>
100 Events/Announcements	300 Antiques/Collectibles	501 Miscellaneous
101 Card of Thanks	301 Good Things to Eat	502 Livestock
102 In Memory	302 Lawn/Garden	<b>REAL ESTATE</b>
103 Lost & Found	303 Hay/Straw/Feed/Seed	601 Wanted to Rent
104 Give Away	304 Livestock	602 Apartments for Rent
106 Personals	305 Pets	603 Houses for Rent
107 Notices	306 Sporting Goods	604 Commercial for Rent
<b>SERVICES &amp; EMPLOYMENT</b>	307 Household	605 Mobile Homes for Rent
201 Business Opportunities	308 Musical	606 Land for Rent
202 Childcare Providers	309 Miscellaneous	607 Houses for Sale
203 Childcare Wanted	310 Health/Beauty	608 Farms for Sale
205 Help Wanted	311 Firewood	609 Mobile Homes for Sale
206 Positions Wanted	312 Christmas Trees	610 Land for Sale
207 Equipment for Rent	313 Computers/Office Equip.	611 Business Property for Sale
208 Storage	314 Farm Services	612 Real Estate Wanted
209 Business Services	315 Camper Trailer	
210 Animal Care/Supplies	<b>VEHICLES</b>	<b>GARAGE SALES</b>
211 Work Wanted	401 Automobiles	701 Garage Sales
	402 Trucks/Vans	702 Flea Market/Crafts
	403 Recreational	
	404 Farm Equipment	
	405 Heavy Equipment	
	406 Parts/Repair	

### Classified Ad Order Form

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Classification # \_\_\_\_\_

#### Cost of Ad

First 15 words for one week	\$9.85
Add for number of words over 15	x 25¢ = _____
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Add \$5 for bold type and/or CAPITALIZED indicate which word(s) is/are to be bold or capitalized	_____
Add \$10 for Blind Box	_____
<b>TOTAL enclosed</b>	_____

\*Card of Thanks\* and \*In Memoriam\* are 20¢ per word with no minimum. Number of words \_\_\_\_\_ x 20¢ = \_\_\_\_\_

**TOTAL enclosed** \_\_\_\_\_

**Please check your ad the first day. Refunds or credit will not be given for errors brought to our attention after the second publication. We are not responsible for errors due to illegible copy or missing punctuation.**

Your ad will be printed as you write it. Please print clearly, one word per space.

Use additional paper if necessary. Thank you for your order!

Please mail completed form and check payment to: Staples World, Box 100, Staples, MN 56479

### The Fine Print

The publishers liability for errors in an advertisement or for failure to publish the ad shall be limited to publishing the ad in a subsequent issue or for the refund of any monies paid for an ad not run (and out of date for subsequent issues) providing the advertiser reports the error or omission immediately after it occurs.

All advertising copy is subject to the approval of the general manager. We will not accept ads from anyone with a past due account.

Regarding sex or age preference in help wanted advertising in accordance with the rules adopted by the Civil Rights Commission, the Staples World, Sunday Square Shooter and Heartland Market cannot accept help wanted advertising copy which in any way expresses a sex or age preference on the basis of a bonafide occupational requirement unless the advertiser files an affidavit with the newspaper justifying the sex or age preference on the basis of a bonafide occupational requirement.

All real estate and rental advertising in these publications is subject to the Federal Fair Housing Act of 1968 which made it illegal to advertise "any preference, limitation or discrimination based on race, color, religion, sex or national origin or any intention to make any such preference limitation or discrimination." These publications will not knowingly accept any advertising for real estate or rental which is in violation of the law. Our readers are hereby informed that all dwellings advertised in this newspaper are available on an equal opportunity basis.

### HEARTLAND MARKET

Display ads: \$12.00 (per col. inch)  
Classified Reader \$9.30 first 25 words; additional 35¢ each word (one week)

**Auction Directory = \$3 per line; \$15 minimum.**  
**Inserts = \$65 per thousand**  
\* Color rates available.

Heartland Market deadline: 5 p.m. Wednesday. Reaching over 20,585 homes;

DISTRIBUTED in these paid NEWSPAPERS: Staples World; Barnesville Record-Review; Battle Lake Review; Clay County Union of Ulen; Northwoods Press, Nevis; Eagle Bend/ Bertha/ Clarissa Independent News Herald; Hawley Herald; Henning Citizens Advocate; Long Prairie Leader; Parkers Prairie Independent; Sebeka/Menahga Review Messenger; Verndale Sun.

## SERVICES & EMPLOYMENT

### 205

#### Help Wanted

Motley Express (ARCO) is now hiring. Join our convenience store team. Must be self-motivated and work well with others. Apply within. 1000 Hwy 10 S., Motley. 218-352-6000. 51-1c

### 208

#### Storage

#### FOR RENT

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## 209 Business Services

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## FOR SALE

### 309

#### Miscellaneous

PLAT BOOKS AVAILABLE IN COLOR: Todd, Morrison, Crow Wing and Wadena counties, \$40 plus \$2.95 tax. Staples World Office. txf

## WANTED TO BUY

### 501

#### Miscellaneous

FREE DROP OFF: Microwaves, Air Conditioners, Water Heaters, Gas Grills, Propane Tanks, Furnaces, Lawn Mowers, Refrigerators, Freezers, Washers, Dryers, Misc. Iron and Scrap. Christmas Tree Lights. WE BUY CANS AND BATTERIES. NO: TV's, Electronics, Mattresses, Tires, Household trash. Call for information: 218-639-0150. Card Auto, 27593 Todd Line Rd, Staples. 36tfc

JUNK CARS and TRUCKS. 218-639-5509. 1-2c

## REAL ESTATE

### 602

#### Apartments for Rent

STAPLES: Downtown, 1 - 2 bdrm., recently remodeled, NO pets, non smoking, 218-894-3108. 6tfc

Eastwood Inn - MOTLEY/WADENA: Monthly rooms available. Inquire at: 218-352-6386. 1c

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Laundry facilities available on site.  
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Applications are available at: 956 Hwy 10 S., Motley  
For information and qualifications contact Nicole at 218-751-6881  
An Equal Housing Opportunity

### Help Wanted City of Motley

The City of Motley is accepting applications to fill the position of **FULL-TIME CLERK-TREASURER.**

Minimum requirements include: high school diploma or equivalent, Associate's degree in relevant field, previous administrative/office experience, and valid class D driver's license. The hiring range for this position is \$23.59 - \$26.83 per hour, dependent on experience.

The position is full-time and requires some evening hours. A resum , cover letter and City application are required.

Application forms and a full list of hiring requirements can be found online at [www.cityofmotley.com](http://www.cityofmotley.com), or at City Hall. Contact Lacey Smieja at 218-352-6200 or [cityofmotley@brainerd.net](mailto:cityofmotley@brainerd.net) with any questions about the position or hiring process. All application materials must be received no later than 3:30 p.m. on Thursday, January 16, 2020, and can be emailed to [cityofmotley@brainerd.net](mailto:cityofmotley@brainerd.net), dropped off at City Hall during office hours, or mailed to 316 Hwy. 10 S., Motley, MN 56466, Attn: City Clerk.

Incomplete or late applications will not be considered. EOE

Central Todd County Care Center  
**Part-time Dietary Aide Position**  
We are in search of someone who is looking for a rewarding job in the Dietary field. Part-time evening aide position now available. Must be able to understand and follow state and federal safety and sanitation regulations. Must be a TEAM player and possess a special interest in working with Long Term Care residents, families and visitors.  
Contact Patti Twardowski, 218-756-3636 ext. 17; or [ptwardowski@ctcccinc.com](mailto:ptwardowski@ctcccinc.com) or pick up an application in the Business Office, during business hours: Mon.-Fri., 8 a.m.-4:30 p.m.  
Central Todd County Care Center is located in Clarissa, MN EOE

Verndale Public School is accepting applications for the following positions:  
• Evening Custodian:  
-5 hour position -12 month position.  
• Substitute Paraprofessionals, Custodians, and Food Service.  
To apply go to [www.verndaleschool.org/employment](http://www.verndaleschool.org/employment)  
"Verndale Public School is an Equal Opportunity Employer"

Central Todd County Care Center is seeking **Certified Nursing Assistants**  
We are in search of someone who is looking for a rewarding job in the Nursing field. Overnight (NOC) shift now available for CNAs. Must be a TEAM player and possess a special interest in working with Long Term Care residents, families, and visitors.  
CTCCC offers a wide variety of benefits and is an Equal Opportunity Employer.  
Contact Amanda Rickbeil, [arickbeil@ctcccinc.com](mailto:arickbeil@ctcccinc.com) or call 218-756-3636 ext. 12  
Pick up an application in the Business Office, or after hours at the Nurse's Station.  
Business Hours: Mon.-Fri., 8 a.m.-4:30 p.m.  
CENTRAL TODD COUNTY CARE CENTER IS LOCATED IN CLARISSA, MN. EOE

**Sunny Pines Apts. in Motley**  
Tenant must be income eligible, 62 years or older, handicapped or disabled. Heat, water, sewer, electric provided.  
MOTLEY, MN. Call Rosie Talberg, Manager at: 320-468-2303

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218-894-1112  
[www.staplesworld.com](http://www.staplesworld.com)

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FOR RENTAL INFO CALL 218-296-5031  
Under new ownership  
We are accepting applications for 2 and 3 bedroom townhomes in Staples, a community you can get attached to. Rent based on income. Now professionally managed by **BRUTGER EQUITIES, INC.** Income guidelines apply.

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**Staples World DEADLINES**  
Newspaper deadline for copy and advertising: 12 noon Fridays



# Staples Motley School Board Minutes

**ISD #2170  
SCHOOL BOARD  
MEETING  
with closed session -  
MEETING #13  
NOV. 18, 2019  
6:00 p.m.  
District Office  
MINUTES**

**Call to Order**

The meeting was called to order with Longbella, Freeman, Anderson, Frisk, Winkels and Lund present. Also attending: Supt. Tappe; Business Services, Herdegen; Principals Johnson, Regan and Schmidt; Activities Director, Boran; approximately 15 employees, students and community members; Staples World Managing Editor, Anderson and Recording Secretary, Madson.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

**Motion** by Winkels, seconded by Freeman, to adopt the agenda. MC

**Community/School Forum**

a. Bernice Thomson from the Motley Area Historical Society addressed the Board regarding their request for the preservation of old Motley Rockets memorabilia.

**Facilities Update (Troy Miller - LHB)**

Troy Miller gave the Board an update on upcoming HVAC projects in the Elementary and HS, with a timeline for document review, the bidding process, and arrival of equipment to begin the projects at the end of the school

year.

**Motion** to move into Closed Session, pursuant to MN Statute 13D.03, for Support Negotiations update

**Motion** by Frisk, seconded by Anderson, to move into Closed Session, pursuant to MN Statute 13D.03, for Support Negotiations update. MC (6:14)

**Reconvene in Closed Session**

Update on details of the proposed Support Staff settlement

**Reconvene in Open Session**

**Motion** by Freeman, seconded by Longbella, to reconvene in Open Session. MC (6:29)

**Consent Agenda:**

**Motion** by Winkels, seconded by Frisk, to approve the Consent Agenda. MC

**Motion** by Frisk, seconded by Anderson, to approve the Resolution to Accept Donations and Grants in the amount of \$3,115. MC

**Finance Items:**

**Motion** by Anderson, seconded by Longbella, to authorize payment of the vouchers. MC

**Motion** by Longbella, seconded by Lund, to approve PIEP as the Health Insurance carrier for the 2020 School year. MC This will be a two year commitment with no guarantee of rates for the second year.

**OTHER**

**Motion** by Winkels, seconded by Lund, to approve the 2019-2021 Support Staff agreement with a .30 cent increase for 2019-20 and a

2.75 percent (%) increase for 2020-21; including language revisions as negotiated. MC

**Motion** by Frisk, seconded by Lund, to adopt the 2020-2021 Calendar Option # 2 as voted on by Certified Staff. MC

**Motion** by Winkels, seconded by Freeman, to approve the Resolution of School Board Supporting application to MSHSL Foundation. MC This is for grant funding which is based on the District's Free/ Reduced percentage.

**Motion** by Longbella, seconded by Frisk, to Approve the request from the Motley Area Historical Society for old Motley band uniforms, FFA Jacket(s), and some handmade furniture stored in the south gym. MC

Trophies and pictures will be retained at the Motley building.

**Reports:**

School Board:  
a. FED - Oct. 23, 2019 minutes

b. Sourcewell - Sept. 19, 2019 minutes

Principals - written reports were available

Superintendent Tappe updated the Board on the CIP (Continuous Improvement Planning) teams that are being formed and will be meeting throughout the next several months.

**Adjournment**

**Motion** by Anderson, seconded by Winkels, to adjourn the meeting at 6:47 p.m. MC

1pnc

**SCHOOL BOARD  
WORK SESSION &  
TRUTH IN TAXATION -  
MEETING #14  
DEC. 2, 2019  
6:00 p.m.  
District Office  
MINUTES**

**Call to Order**

The meeting was called to order with Longbella, Winkels, Freeman, Anderson and Lund present. Also attending: Supt. Tappe; Business Services, Herdegen; LHB, Troy Miller; several employees, community members and students; Staples World Managing Editor, Anderson and Recording Secretary, Madson.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

**Motion** by Longbella, seconded by Lund, to adopt the agenda. MC

**Community/  
Public Forum**

Truth in Taxation Levy and Budget Public Discussion

Mr. Herdegen presented Levy information with the recommendation to certify the levy at the maximum on Dec. 17.

**HVAC project update**

Troy Miller, LHB reviewed the current scope of work for the HVAC projects with a budget for projects as well as alternates. A timeline was also presented indicating all construction would be complete in mid-October 2021.

**Combined Polling  
Place Discussion**

At the Dec. 17 meeting

the Board will be required to designate the combined polling sites for 2020. For the last election the Motley City Hall and the Staples Community Center were the two polling spots. Discussion on adding a third site such as Scandia Valley.

**Future Referendum  
Discussion**

- Learn from the failed attempt
- Look at firms and see what they can provide as services for us
- A Bond referendum can be held in Feb., April, May, August or November; an operating referendum can only be held in November.
- Our current operating referendum will end in 2022 and the Board will need to strategically plan for that.
- Next steps?
- Hire a firm; go through the timeframe
- Determine our needs
- Communicate and Interact

Superintendent evaluation information (from the August MSBA meeting) will be presented at the Dec. 17 meeting. Freeman and Lund are on the committee for evaluations. This will be more of a reflection of what's going well or not going well.

**Adjournment**

**Motion** by Winkels, seconded by Freeman, to adjourn the Work Session. MC

1pnc

**SPECIAL SCHOOL  
BOARD MEETING -  
#15 DEC. 2, 2019**

**Immediately  
Following the Work  
Session  
District Office  
MINUTES**

**Call to Order**

The meeting was called to order with Longbella, Winkels, Freeman, Anderson and Lund present (comprising a quorum). Also attending: Supt. Tappe; Business Services, Herdegen; several employees, community members and students; Staples World Managing Editor, Anderson; and Recording Secretary, Madson.

**Motion** by Anderson, seconded by Winkels, to adopt the agenda as presented. MC

**Approve the  
MOU with SMEA  
regarding HRA/ HSA  
Contributions**

**Motion** by Longbella, seconded by Anderson, to approve the MOU with SMEA regarding HRA/ HSA contributions. MC

**Approve the  
Support Staff  
Agreement revision  
regarding HRA/ HSA  
contributions**

**Motion** by Winkels, seconded by Lund, to approve the Support Staff Agreement revisions regarding HRA / HSA contributions. MC

**Adjournment**

**Motion** by Freeman, seconded by Winkels, to adjourn the meeting at 6:56 p.m. MC

1pnc

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SW 2020 changed.wk #1

**TOP** continued from page 1a

School and Staples-Motley Elementary sites. The second question will be to build a \$10.4 million activities center at the elementary site.

March 13 - "S.O.S.: Safety Over Suicide," a mental health forum was held Feb. 25 at Central Lakes College in Staples. Four panelists gave their views on suicide before answering questions from the crowd of about 90 people. Panelists were Alyssa Vanderhoof, author of "When the World Goes Dark," Mary Marana, Executive Director of the Crisis Line and Referral Service, Stephanie Downey, suicide prevention planner with the Minnesota Department of Health, and Dr. Paul Davis, Lakewood Health System psychologist and Manager of Clinic

Staples in Wadena County. Some of the incident was video recorded and posted to social media.

April 10 - The Staples-Motley High School Chamber Orchestra, A Capella choir and Symphonic Band students boarded buses on March 18, for a trip to St. Louis, Mo., and New Orleans, La., during spring break, March 18-24.

Directors Jon Crust and Nathan Thelen led the trip, with 54 students and 15 chaperones.

April 17 - The Staples-Motley Cardinals Speech team brought home their first-ever state tournament trophy. The Cardinals placed third behind Melrose Area and Cannon Falls at the 2019 Minnesota State High School League (MSHSL) Class A State Speech Tournament held April 11-13, in

from each of the children she gave birth to over a span of 22 years.

May 8 - At the April 28 Old Wadena Society meeting, Peter Gorton gave an update on his group's efforts to bring baseball player John Donaldson's story to life.

May 22 - Officials in the Staples-Motley School District are pondering their next steps after the school referendum failed on May 14 with a vote of 2,072 against and 1,164 in favor. Question two failed by a similar margin, 2,147 against and 1,080 in favor.

The biggest factor was Cass and Morrison County voters, where there were 225 votes in favor of question 1 and 863 against. Todd County voters were also against the referendum, with 551 in favor and 946 against. Wadena County voters were the only ones in favor of the referendum, with 388 for and 263 against.

"I was surprised it was down that much, I thought it would be close," said School Board Chair Bruce Lund. "We need to re-look at things and do a survey to find out why, and develop a plan based on that." Lund said the building issue is not going to go away. "We have to do something with the buildings," he said.

May 22 - This coming June will mark the 75th Anniversary of the Allied Invasion of Normandy, most commonly referred to as D-Day.

Warren Johnson, who grew up near Staples, will be participating in a tribute to the historical event. He is the son of Tom and Carol Johnson. Tom operated Great Lakes Tool Company near Staples until his death in 2006. Carol has remarried and is now Carol Griffith.

May 29 - The Staples-Motley School Board considered \$9 million in repairs the schools may have to undertake after the May 14 building referendum failed.

Included in the \$9 million is \$5.8 million for roofing, \$350,000 for rooftop heating and ventilation

pluses; Jim Greig, Motley; Todd and Tanner Greig, Sheridan, Wyo.; and John and Erik Carlson, Rapid City, S.D. They were in France from June 3 - 7.

July 3 - Marco Puentes, 47, of Staples, was killed in a motorcycle/SUV accident on June 28.

July 10 - Todd County Coordinator Jonathan Stainbrook is no longer officially with the county after the passing of a separation agreement approved at the Todd County Board of Commissioners regular meeting on July 2.

July 10 - Mary Marana, Executive Director of the Crisis Line and Referral Service, gave a presentation at the Todd County CAD (Creating A Difference) meeting in Staples on June 25, where attendees learned the QPR method. "Intervention will almost always prevent suicide," said Marana. "The sooner the intervention, the greater the outcome."

July 17 - "Everyone wants to be a part of something great," Staples-Motley's Superintendent Shane Tappe said about coming to the school district. "There is a rich tradition here. The school has been known for great academics, and they also have athletic and extra-curricular traditions."

He hopes to build on those traditions, but the district's present and future are what brought him here.

"There is so much potential here, I am seeing the roots of what makes Staples-Motley so great," said Tappe.

July 17 - The Staples-Motley School board approved \$1.5 million in bonds to improve HVAC (heating, ventilation, air conditioning) in the elementary school and air quality in the wood shop and welding shop.

July 17 - After 37 years running 'Kids Country Kastle' daycare at her home, Deb Hausmann retired on May 31. It's a job she dearly loved, but she knew that it was time to close that chapter of her life.

cussed renegotiating their contract with the Staples Community Center, at a school board work session on Aug. 5.

Aug. 14 - Back when they were students at Concordia College in Moorhead, they were often called, "The Silly Seven," Mary Sperley said

deploying with the Navy Seabees to Okinawa, Japan, and will be stationed at Port Hueneme, Calif. after seven months in Japan.

Oct. 30 - The Staples-Motley School Board voted to end the previous agreement with the Staples Community Center, and



## Photos of the year 2019

Sept. 11 - Music flowed from the Batcher Opera Hall one more time on Aug. 28, as Gary and Dawn Timbs entertained the crowd that came to the tour of the Batcher Building on Aug. 28. They sang "Over the Rainbow" and "Hey, Good Lookin'." (Staples World photo by Mark Anderson)

recently, introducing her longtime friends that had traveled to Staples from various locations for their annual reunion.

Aug. 21 - The Staples Motley Area Community Foundation has named the recipients of their sixteenth annual Outstanding Community Service Awards. Award recipients are:

- Ken Klose - Duane R. Lund Award for Lifetime Achievement.
- Mike Gold - Outstanding Citizen.
- Sherry Miller Frisk - Chairman's Award.
- Staples-Motley Bus Drivers - Outstanding Organization.
- Four Legged Lodge - Outstanding Business.
- Macy Judd - Outstanding Youth.
- Aug. 28 - A 36-year-old man died the morning of Aug. 24, after being hit by a train just west of Pillager in May Township.

### September

Sept. 11 - "You are standing in a sleeping giant," artist Carter Averbeck told the crowd at a tour of the Batcher Building in Staples on Aug. 28. He said he has restored other opera halls, and this is "the best preserved I've seen."

Sept. 18 - A building consultant has the Staples-Motley School Board thinking about the benefits of saving the old gymnasium at the high school site instead of building a new one. The renovation could cost as much as building new, but the consultants said the old gym offers advantages that couldn't be built into a new gym. They also determined the walls of the gym are in danger of falling apart, and something will need to be done within the next three years or the gym could be beyond repair.

Sept. 25 - Dr. Adam Hayashi is now on board at Central Lakes College as the new Dean of Staples Campuses, Nursing & Grants. "It's a great school with a variety of amazing programs," he said.

### October

Oct. 2 - Kempe & Kit, a salon owned and operated by Jackie Goff, is now open in Staples.

Oct. 2 - Staples resident Dave Johnson has been accused of making threats about Staples-Motley school personnel, but Johnson said he did not make any threats and the school is taking extreme steps to ban him from school property.

Oct. 9 - Lakewood Health System is asking for the public's help designing a new process to minimize diagnostic errors through lack of follow-up care after patient test results are returned to medical providers.

Oct. 9 - For the past 100 years, Staples Alliance Church has served as a spiritual home for hundreds...offering Bible-based guidance, friendship and community to all who've stepped through its doors.

Oct. 16 - Staples native Sarah Daly graduated from the Field Medical Training Battalion (FMTB) at Camp Pendleton, Calif., on Sept. 26. This week she is

only pay for the hours that school programs use the building.

Oct. 30 - This year marks the 175th anniversary of the Woods or Crow Wing Branch of the Red River Oxcart Trail through Wadena County. Commencing in Winnipeg, Manitoba, Canada the Red River trail squiggled its way down the Red River Valley and down the Minnesota River Valley to Mendota and later St. Paul.

### November

Nov. 6 - It's been four decades since the Tu family arrived in Staples, thrilled to finally have a safe, comfortable place to call home, thanks to the members of Faith Lutheran Church of Staples who took them in during a very dark hour of their lives.

Nov. 6 - The final whistle blew this past Sunday for the man who put Staples wrestling on the map. Don Dravis, legendary Cardinal wrestling coach and teacher here from 1963 to 1995, died after a long battle with a host of health issues. Don was 82 years old.

Nov. 13 - Loren Walz of Staples has been hired as the Communications & Marketing Director at Staples-Motley School District #2170. "I'm looking forward to sharing the great things our schools are up to, as well as partnering with the community to best serve our students and families."

Nov. 20 - Staples-Motley schools are above average in achieving yearly growth for individual students and in graduating students, but they still are not satisfied with below average test scores in math and reading. On the positive side, science scores are strong.

Nov. 20 - Over 350 students from the five-county area participated in the Young Authors Conference at Central Lakes College in Staples Nov. 13 and 14. The event is sponsored by Sourcewell.

Nov. 27 - The Staples-Motley School Board approved a request by the Motley Historical Society to take items the school may have that pertain to the Motley school district.

### December

Dec. 4 - The Minnesota Court of Appeals ruled that two harassment restraining orders (HROs) against Dave Johnson of Staples were not backed by the proper legal evidence, and the orders were reversed.

Dec. 18 - Farm bankruptcies are rising. Farmers have a record amount of debt. Farm income is slightly improved this year but is still not high enough, and much of it is coming from government subsidies. Those are some of the factors that Ag and Energy Center Director Keith Olander talked about at the Farm Forum on Dec. 3.

Dec. 25 - At their Dec. 17, 2019 board meeting, Todd County Commissioners approved the hiring of Chris Pelzer to fill the vacant county coordinator, a position that she has been serving in the interim.

Dec. 25 - The Staples-Motley School Board voted to move forward with ICS Consulting to explore the possibility of a future building referendum.



## Photos of the year 2019

April 17 - State Speech champions Jonah Johnson, Jaydon Friedel and Andrew Bates.

Behavioral Health Services.

March 20 - Curt Hanson, Aldrich native and Staples-Motley graduate has joined the prestigious Archives Leadership Institute (ALI). He is currently director of University of North Dakota Special Collections.

March 27 - John and Karolyn Brenny, along with their son Alex, have taken over ownership of Brenny Funeral Home in Staples. They purchased the business from John's cousin Joe Brenny. One change the new owners made is changing the name to Brenny Family Funeral Home, to reflect on the importance of working with families during the funeral process.

### April

April 3 - Property tax assessments are up this year around 10 to 25 percent, especially in the city of Staples north of Highway 10. Todd County Assessor Chris Odden said every year 30 to 40 homes are sold in Staples, so his office gets a good sample of the prices homes in the city are selling for. In Staples, "We saw a lot of sales, and virtually every one was low on the assessment," said Odden, meaning all the homes sold for a price higher than their previous assessed value. This does not mean property taxes will go up. Since all the homes in the area have a higher assessed value, the tax impact will be more evenly shared.

April 3 - Lakewood Health System will add a walking track to the activities center if question two on the school referendum passes on May 14. Lakewood approved the donation at board meetings on March 28.

April 3 - A brother and sister from Staples were charged in a February incident involving the shooting of a dog north of

Wayzata. Three individual state champions were also named: Jonah Johnson; Creative Expression, Andrew Bates and Jaydon Friedel in Duo.

April 24 - The Five Wings Arts Council (FWAC) has selected four Todd County leaders to be honored at the region-wide Celebration of the Arts. The Outstanding Community Arts Leadership Awards for Todd County will go to Mary Dye Moen, Staples/Wadena; and James Ruiz, Long Prairie. The Outstanding Arts Advocate/Leader Award will go to the leaders of the Central Minnesota Barn Quilt Project, Lisa Kajer, Staples, and Mary Noska, Browerville.

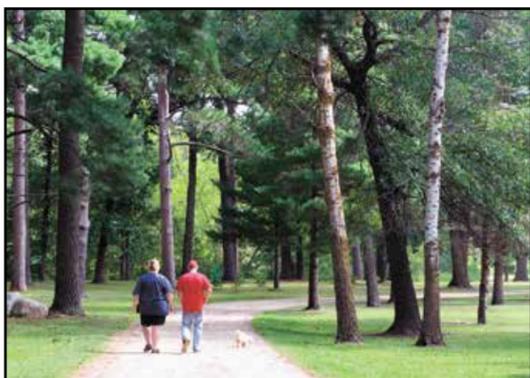
Barn quilts made by Central Minnesota residents and viewed along the scenic highways and roads in Wadena, Todd, Morrison and Cass counties will be featured in a Minnesota State Art Board exhibition showcasing artwork supported by the state's arts and cultural heritage fund.

### May

May 1 - The Staples City Council approved committing \$75,000 of the city budget to help operate the school activities center, which is the subject of Question 2 on the school referendum. City Administrator Jerel Nelsen said the original community center was a partnership between the school and the city. "It was an uncommon cooperation for the betterment of the community," said Nelsen.

May 1 - The public had two opportunities to hear an overview about the proposed referendum in the Staples-Motley School District and to participate in a question and answer session at each.

May 8 - Mary Ann Trantina of Motley will most likely receive 16 Mother's Day cards on May 12. One



## Photos of the year 2019

Sept. 4 - 100 years of solitude - Pine Grove Park's 100th anniversary picnic on Aug. 25 turned out to be a cold, cloudy day, and not many people came out, but it gave attendees a chance to appreciate the forest that was saved by the Ladies of the Staples Civic Association in 1919, providing a place of quiet nature walks in Staples for 100 years.



## Photos of the year 2019

Oct. 23 - The Staples-Motley boys cross country team takes off at the Proctor Invitational on Oct. 15, in front of the airplane that is on display at the Proctor Golf Course.

units, \$1.8 million for other HVAC work, \$400,000 for parking lots and \$300,000 for windows and doors.

May 29 - Using the benefits of modern technology and educational opportunities, Jack Benson is the Staples-Motley High School valedictorian for the Class of 2019, and Jordan Carlson is the salutatorian.

Both students took as many college level classes as they could, and Carlson is graduating with an AA college degree at the same time.

### June

June 26 - Lakewood Health System has been recognized by Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Minnesota as a Trailblazer for its Food Access Initiatives which have been shown to reduce ER visits, improve quality of life and improve mental health.

Dr. Craig Samitt, President & CEO of Blue Cross, presented the Trailblazer Award to Tim Rice, President and CEO of Lakewood, at a special ceremony June 6, at the LHS main campus in Staples.

June 26 - Jack Rengel will be the featured speaker at the July 4 Staples Veterans Park celebration.

### July

July 3 - The 'Band of Relatives' flew out of Minneapolis June 3, bound for Normandy, France, to take part in the 75th anniversary of the D-Day landing. Members of this group included Lee Jenkins, Sta-

July 24 - Peter Achermann's story is featured on a podcast entitled The Vanished. Co-researched and written by Marissa Jones and Erika Gwynn, the podcast features interviews with members of Peter's family, as well as a detailed history of his case.

July 24 - In his first week as the new Staples-Motley Activities Director and Community Education Director, Blake Boran found that he is in the position where he wants to be. "I'm humbled and excited, I'm going to bring a lot of energy," said Boran.

"I have seen successful programs, I know what it looks like to build success," said Boran. "You have to have people in leadership positions, keep up with the new trends every year and keep athletes informed and meet the athlete's needs."

July 31 - Staples-Motley students will no longer pay fees to participate in activities, including sports, music and performing arts. Superintendent Shane Tappe said the decision was made to improve academics. "Data shows students who are active and involved do better in school," said Tappe.

### August

Aug. 7 - After nine-plus years on the market, the former Ernie's Grocery building on Highway 10 in Staples has sold and will be home to NAPA Auto Parts.

Aug. 14 - The Staples-Motley School Board dis-