



Wednesday, September 30, 2020

Staples, Minnesota

\$1

Census reminder

A plane with a "2020 Census.. Do it!" banner flew over the Staples water tower during the lunch hour Sept. 22. (Photo by Janice Winter)

Weather

This Week's Forecast

| High | Low | Cond. |
|----------|---------|-----------|
| Sept. 30 | 56° 39° | P. Cloudy |
| Oct. 1 | 48 32 | Cloudy |
| Oct. 2 | 47 35 | M. Cloudy |
| Oct. 3 | 48 36 | Cloudy |
| Oct. 4 | 51 31 | M. Cloudy |
| Oct. 5 | 57 41 | M. Sunny |
| Oct. 6 | 63 43 | P. Cloudy |

Last Year, 2019

| High | Low | Cond. |
|----------|---------|-----------|
| Sept. 30 | 53° 44° | Cloudy |
| Oct. 1 | 61 54 | Rain |
| Oct. 2 | 61 46 | Cloudy |
| Oct. 3 | 45 39 | M. Cloudy |
| Oct. 4 | 45 37 | Rain |
| Oct. 5 | 46 41 | Cloudy |
| Oct. 6 | 46 40 | Cloudy |

Average Temps:
H = 61° Low = 42°
Rain for Week: .95"
Year total rain: 19.17"
Compiled by Dale Hausmann, WCCO's Staples area Weatherwatcher

Todd County Board sets 4.4% increase

By Karin L. Nauber
 Todd County correspondent

The Todd County Board of Commissioners approved a resolution to set the Preliminary 2021 Levy at \$18,581,820 less program aids of \$1,616,571, therefore, certifying the preliminary local levy at \$16,965,249. This a 4.4 percent increase over last year.

At the Todd County Commissioner's Board meeting held Sept. 17, 2020, Chairman David Kircher said they'd be working on lowering that amount before the final levy was set in December.

The board also set the Truth in Taxation Hearing for November 24, 2020 at 6 p.m. in the commissioner's boardroom.

In other business, the board

- Approved termination of Employee #786, a full-time correctional officer, effective August 19.
- Approved the resignation of Kathy Parteka from public health, effective August 16.
- Approved the retirement of Health Educator Connie Burns. Burns worked for the county for five years. Her resignation/retirement will be effective on September 30.

The availability of grant funding made her position fully grant-funded. This position will not be filled at this time.

- Approved a seasonal on sale and Sunday liquor license for Sauk Centre Country Club Inc., doing business as Greystone Golf Club in Kandota Township effective October 2, 2020, through March 31, 2021, which fully extends their license to a full-year license.

See **BOARD** on page 3a



Chuck and Peggy Seelen's 'Fire Arena'

Chuck and Peggy Seelen have spent nearly three decades constructing their 'Fire Arena.' In addition to their large pond, the area includes a waterfall, babbling brook, fire-pit, retaining walls, pavers and even a fire-hy-

drant. Sumac and tall pines add to the landscape. Recently, Central Lakes College students netted hundreds of goldfish that were in the Seelens' pond. (Staples World photo by Dawn Timbs)

Motley couple's patio/pond is classroom for CLC horticulture students

By Dawn Timbs
 Staples World reporter

Chuck and Peggy Seelen of rural Motley recently welcomed Central Lakes College (CLC) students to their rural Motley home, offering them the opportunity to learn first-hand about constructing a large pond. In addition, the students collected a few hundred goldfish along the way for the indoor pond at CLC's Brainerd campus.

The class, "Deck, Patio and Pond Construction," is taught by Jeff Dirks, Horticulture Instructor at CLC. Students learn about the construction and maintenance of ponds in the landscape and how to raise healthy fish in constructed ponds, Dirks said.

Over the years, students in this class have built several ponds both inside and outside at the CLC campus, as well as at the Northland Arboretum.

In addition to learning how the Seelens built their 70 ft. x 100 ft. pond, many other lessons were learned that day Dirks said. These included transporting and conditioning fish to a new environment, and the importance of not releasing non-native species of fish (like goldfish) into a natural pond, lake or river.

The Seelens have lived at their place just south of Motley for the past 30 years and built the pond about 27

years ago. They've had the goldfish for about 20 years, Peggy Seelen said, adding that their pond is self-contained. She decided to reach out to CLC to see if they would be interested in any of the fish. During their time at the Seelens, the students in Dirks' class netted hundreds of goldfish. Peggy estimates that there are still at least 200 in their pond.

See **SEELLEN** on page 10a

Staples-Motley School Board working toward April 2021 Referendum

By Dawn Timbs
 Staples World reporter

JLG Architects has been selected to help guide the Staples-Motley School District in options pertaining to their building needs.

Their hiring came after a recent interview process led by ICS Consultants and the school board's Facilities Planning Committee, which includes board members Mary Freeman and Greg Frisk.

Mike Hubbard, with ICS, gave an update about the project at the school board's regular meeting Sept. 21. He also introduced the three architects from JLG that will be involved. They include Project Manager Adam Barnett and Dan Miller, from the Alexandria office; and David Leapoldt from the St. Cloud office. Hubbard noted that Barnett is an alumnus of Staples-Motley.

'What are the top needs

for the district?' is the question the Facilities Planning Committee, guided by JLG Architects, will focus on as they move forward.

In making their decision, Freeman said the committee felt JLG fit with the school's ideology as they move forward. And, they presented very professionally, she said.

They've had a lot of good discussion in their six meetings so far, Freeman went on, noting that the group "worked really hard to leave no stone unturned." She credited their productive meetings to ICS, Superintendent Shane Tappe as well as having JLG Architects at the table. "Thanks to all those people," she said.

Superintendent Tappe returned the praise, stating that Frisk and Freeman have been very good board members as part of the facilities planning committee. "They've done a really good job through the pro-

cess," he said.

In a later conversation, Barnett said that he's excited to be a part of this project and looks forward to helping the committee look at the big picture. Having graduated from SMHS in 2001, Barnett said that it's fun to be a part of the background of the district. It will be exciting to see what approach they take as they explore options.

A tentative plan moving forward includes weekly Facility Planning Committee meetings; meetings with community leaders, parents and potential project partners; online needs surveys; community scientific polling on Nov. 15; board approval; and a Referendum Vote in April of 2021.

In other business the board:

- HEARD from Josh Lee, Dean of Students/Activities Director, that there will be football and volleyball this fall. Volleyball begins

Oct. 8, and football, Oct. 9. In addition, girls tennis and the cross country teams are all competing at high levels.

• HEARD praise from Superintendent Tappe for Leroy Peterson, Director of Buildings and Grounds, along with his staff, for all of their hard work cleaning and organizing these past months. "It's great to see staff and students in our buildings again," Tappe said. Tappe also praised Tammy Bell and Brittany Zuhlsdorf for their work with the Farm to School gardens program. As part of his report, the superintendent noted that enrollment this year is at 970, with 8.9 percent practicing distance learning. They are down a bit, Tappe said, adding that they were 1,000 students enrolled at the end of the last school year.

- HEARD from Elementary Principal Kathy Johnson that they have had a smooth 'back to school'

start, and that each grade will have a fun day at Camp Shamaineau.

In regard to Covid-19, Johnson said they had one student test positive Sept. 14. Phy. Ed. and music classes have been held outside when possible. She also reported there are 37 distance learners at SMES.

• HEARD from Middle/High School Principal Mike Schmidt in his report that they have had a great start, alongside the circumstances with going back to school. "Our students and families have been excellent regarding masks, social distancing, sanitizers, etc. The staff have responded with continued creativity and flexibility when it comes to 'all things.' It's truly remarkable and impressive to witness. It's our 'new normal' and we've owned that."

- APPROVED the Lane
- See **SCHOOL** on page 3a

Public Notices

May Township: **9A**

Obituaries

Emily Kohler
 Edwin Knapper
 Thomas Vogel



Thank you for subscribing!



Unwanted garbage at city site

An unidentified person(s) recently dumped a large load of garbage at the City of Staples' leaf and brush pile located at 12th St. NE, near the city's main sewer

lift station. City crew members spent valuable time cleaning up the site. (Staples World photo by Dawn Timbs)



This is how you do it, folks

Jim Kaneski of Staples brought bags of raked leaves to the leaf and brush pile off 12th St. NE in Staples Sept. 22, unloading them into the area designated for these items. Keneski noticed the garbage

dumped in the adjacent pile and shook his head in disbelief, noting that people who misuse the system make it difficult for those who try to abide by the rules. (Staples World photo by Dawn Timbs)

Five Pillager Scout leaders complete Wood Badge qualifications

The leadership of Pine Tree District, Central Minnesota Council, Boy Scouts of America (BSA) congratulates five of its Pillager Scout leaders on the completion of Wood Badge.

"Mike Anderson, Ryan Veith, Beth Ausland, Casie Tighe and James Gehrke each completed the seven day course and then went on to complete their ticket, to earn their completion status and be awarded their wood badge beads and neckerchief," said Kortney Jendro, Wood Badge course director.

According to the national BSA website, Wood Badge is an advanced, national leadership course open only to Scouting volunteers and professionals. It covers topics of instruction such as: listening, managing conflict, leading change, stages of team development, coaching & mentoring, leadership for different stages, servant leadership and project planning.

"When a person completes Wood Badge they are not just a better Scout leader but a better leader all around, because this course is not just about Scouting but about leading people in all parts of your life," said Kenneth Toole, Pine Tree district executive.

Wood Badge dates back to 1919 when the first course was conducted at Gilwell Park outside of London. Founder of Scouting Baden-Powell himself lectured during the course along with Francis Gidney and Percy Everett.

In order for a participant to earn their Wood Badge beads they must complete their "ticket." The phrase 'working your ticket' comes from a story attributed to

Baden-Powell: Upon completion of a British soldier's service in India, he had to pay the cost of his ticket home. The most affordable way for a soldier to return home was to get assignments progressively closer to home. In most scout associations, "working your ticket" is the final steps of Wood Badge training. Participants apply themselves and their new knowledge and skills to the completion of items designed to strengthen their leadership and their units. The ticket consists of specific goals that must be accomplished within a specified time, often 18 months due to the large amount of work involved. Effective tickets require significant planning and approval by the Wood Badge course staff.

"The ticket items are not just about how a leader will improve Scouting but how they will improve themselves through what they learn," said Holly Carlson, a troop guide for the course. "Often a leader will find a way to incorporate a self-improvement goal, which can include a personal health aspect."

"I did ten hikes in ten different state parks and that was the kick-start for my personal improvement for health," said Mike Anderson. "In order to be there to lead the scouts I need to be healthy and this has really helped motivate me to be healthy."

One of the five ticket goals generally impacts either recruiting more scouts or more leaders to a unit.

"As many people are aware Scouting opened up its ranks and now includes females, which is awe-

some, because here in Pillager our unit was always about the family and one of my ticket items was to get more family involved with our unit," said Ryan Veith, charter organization representative and Pillager Lions Club president, the charter partner for the Pillager Scouting units.

At the end of the ceremony each of the leaders were presented their Wood Badge Beads by their course leadership. The beads were first presented at the course in September 1919, at Gilwell Park.

According to The History of Wood Badge, the origins of Wood Badge beads can be traced back to 1888, when Baden-Powell was on a military campaign in Zululand. He was pursuing Dinuzulu, son of Zulu king, but never managed to catch up with him. Dinuzulu was said to have had a 12-foot-long necklace with more than a thousand acacia beads. Baden-Powell is claimed to have found the necklace when he came to Dinuzulu's deserted mountain stronghold. Such necklaces were known as iziQu in Zulu and were presented to brave warrior leaders.

Baden-Powell sought a distinctive award for the participants in the first Gilwell course. He constructed the first award using two beads from the necklace he had recovered, and threaded them onto a leather thong given to him by an elderly South African in Mafeking, calling it the Wood Badge.

"The wearing of Wood Badge beads is a significant identifier that that leader has completed something very special in the Scouting world," said Toole. "They



Scouts honored

A ceremony was held at the Baptist Church in Pillager Sept. 12, to honor five leaders from the Pillager Scouting units who completed the Wood Badge Program with Central Minnesota Council. Above: Beth Richards presents Ryan Veith with his new Wood Badge neckerchief. Below: Jason Vos present Beth Ausland with her Wood Badge beads during the ceremony. (Submitted photos)



have made a commitment to the youth of our programs to ensure they are getting the best from that adult leader.

Wood Badge is offered every two years in Central Minnesota Council and on average there are 40 participants for each course.

COVID-19 surge hitting Central Minnesota

For the past month, Todd County and Wadena County were seeing low numbers of COVID-19, as the rest of the state was seeing a surge. Now those numbers are starting to rise in local counties, with surrounding counties seeing a greater surge.

Todd County reported 21 new cases during the week preceding Sept. 27, and Wadena County had 10 new cases. With 69 total cases, Wadena County has one of the lowest cumulative totals among Minnesota counties. Todd County has 502 confirmed cases. Morrison County

reported 51 new cases and Cass County 48 in the week. Adjoining counties are seeing an even greater surge, with 89 new cases in Crow Wing County, 45 in Otter Tail, and 59 in Douglas. Stearns County, the St. Cloud area, is averaging 245 new cases per week over the past two weeks.

In Minnesota, 96,734 COVID-19 cases have been confirmed, which is around 1.7 percent of the state's population. Statewide, the number of hospitalizations increased over the past week and the number of deaths is averaging seven or eight each day.

Drive-Up Lefse Sale
 Motley United Methodist Church
 847 3rd Ave. S. Lane, Motley
 •Thurs., Oct 1 - •Fri., Oct. 2, 10 a.m.-3 p.m.
Handmade Lefse \$5/4
 (We will bring it to your car)
 I ♥ Lefse

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Jackson
 Beautiful son of Kaitlin & Steve
 Born 8/24/20 in Staples.

Ophelia
 Beautiful daughter of Michelle & Tristan
 Born 8/24/20 in Staples.

Jameson
 Beautiful son of Ashlyn & Christopher
 Born 8/25/20 in Staples.

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Law enforcement reports, Motley area

Recent reports from the Motley Police Department (MPD) and Morrison County Sheriff's Office (MCSO) included the following:

Sept. 11 - The MPD received a report of a female slumped in her vehicle at the Motley Dollar Store. Upon his arrival, the responding officer woke up the female who advised she was tired and must have fallen asleep. No alcohol was detected. The woman said she would head home and take a nap there.

Sept. 16 - The MCSO was dispatched to a theft complaint at the 1000 block of Postel Dr., in Motley. While en route, the deputy was dispatched to another call and the MPD took the theft complaint. Later that day, the deputy assisted the MPD with the recovery of possible stolen property at an address of Timber Ln., Motley. The deputy stood by as cover as the MPD conducted his investigation and located possible stolen power tools from a burglary earlier in the day. The MPD officer took possession of several power tools in a black bag and an entertainment system that was new in a box. The officer interviewed and questioned a possible suspect.

Sept. 22 - The MPD issued a citation to Mariela Gallardo Reyes, 19, for a hands free violation.

Sept. 19 - The MPD received a report of a Trump flag and pole stolen from a residence at the 100 block of Cedar St. W., Motley.

Sept. 22 - The MCSO received a report of a power washer sitting at the 32000 block of 30th Ave., Cushing. The person who called in stated that if no one comes forward in the next 30 days, he would like to have it. The washer is currently at the streets department shop in Scandia Valley.

Sept. 22 - The MCSO met with a Todd County deputy and transported a subject to the Morrison County Jail on their warrant.

Sept. 21 - The MCSO assisted Todd County with their warrant that was in Motley. Suspect was found at the 33000 block of Dogwood Ln., Motley.

Sept. 20 - The MCSO issued a speeding citation to Allen Keranen, 18.

Sept. 19 - The MCSO received a call regarding the theft of a three-wheeler at the 9000 block of East River Rd., Pillager.

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Start of school, new process for facilities question

By Shane Tappe
Staples-Motley Schools Superintendent

No doubt, the start of the 2020-21 school year was unlike anything we've seen at Staples-Motley Schools. COVID-19 has dramatically changed daily classroom routines, but we're embracing the normalcy of having students back in our classrooms.

I'm grateful for the patience and resilience of our students, staff and families as we navigate the challenges of this ongoing pandemic. I also want to express my sincere thanks to all of our residents for your support.

Keeping our students healthy, mentally and physically is always our top priority. We focus on providing the support they need to be safe and continue down their path toward preparing for success. We also know that healthy schools help create healthy communities. We're thrilled that additional fall sports are returning in October and hope they provide another opportunity for us to safely gather as a community.

Since the spring, the district's primary focus has been managing the COVID-19 pandemic and ensuring our students receive the education and services they need. It's amazing how quickly we changed how we teach our students, and how well they adapted to the emergency. The Continuous Improvement Plan, which began last year, looks a little different but we're still seeing positive results from this plan.

Despite our focus on the pandemic, we've not lost sight of the district's facilities improvement plan to address the long-term challenges of our school buildings. Now that we've had a successful return to school, I thought it would be a good time to provide an update.

Our facilities planning committee continues to review a variety of ways we can improve our facilities, from focusing on critical maintenance projects to exploring the benefits of new buildings. Our current facilities are aging and as we consider the investments needed to infrastructure and the building exteriors, we're also dis-

cussing changes that are needed in areas such as supporting a modern curriculum and providing proper security.

The committee has looked at nine different options for how to accomplish our goals and also reached out to the other organizations we work with to learn more about how to meet community-wide goals. Within a short time, we hope to have a small number of preferred options to take to residents for feedback.

As part of this process, the committee is also considering when might be the best time to present voters with a bond levy proposal to finance a new investment plan. With historically low interest and a highly competitive construction economy, we are in a good position to better manage the costs of high-value projects.

Over the coming months, the district will continue updating our communities about the future of our facilities. In the meantime, if you have questions or comments, get in touch at shane.tappe@isd2170.k12.mn.us.

Letters to the Editor

Setting a better example

This letter is in response to Jayme Carlson's powerful letter in the Sept 23 issue of the Staples World. I totally agree with her statements about the obscene, vulgar and disrespectful messages we have seen and heard about the political candidates. I have seen the billboard against Governor Walz. It is disgusting.

I agree with Jayme that we can disagree with each other about our candidates and elected officials, but we can do it respectfully rather than with graphic images and vulgar language. Jayme is right. Our children are watching and listening. Is this the example we should be showing our young people? We need to work together to present a positive approach.

Judy Wolak
Staples, Minn

Cardinal Card for all

Amidst all of the turmoil at this election time, I propose something that Republicans, Democrats, Inde-

pendents, Libertarians, the Green Party and any other political affiliation you may associate with can agree on: Bring the Cardinal Card back.

Kerry West
Staples, Minn

What makes CLC different

By Dr. Hara Charlier
President of Central Lakes College

I'm going to let you in on a little secret. For years, we at Central Lakes College have been hearing from students and alumni that there is just something different about CLC...Something that makes CLC special. Well, today, I'm going to tell you what that "something different" is: It's our employees.

Our staff and faculty are what give CLC that special sauce -- that unique flavor that just keeps students captivated. Every one of our nearly 300 employees is all about students. They are dedicated to transforming students' lives, and they go the extra mile, every time. You can see that dedication every single day, both in-person and in virtual environments.

We make education personal; we always have. Despite the restrictions that COVID-19 has placed on our operations, we've worked hard to keep things personal, even when we cannot be in-person. I'm happy to say our employees have persisted and found creative ways to continue offering all of our varied course formats and great services to students.

One example is the registration process. We typically hold registration sessions in person at one of our campuses, with groups of up to 25 students. Of course, COVID-19 required adjustment and our employees rose to the challenge. Today, our advisors are meeting with students one-on-one to help each person through the registration process. Our enrollment representatives offer virtual one-on-one tours to students, allowing them to see the programs they are interested in and explore areas in-

side the college. This added to the already full plates of these special employees, but we love working with students, and it was important to do it right.

Further, our staff and faculty found new, personalized ways to reach out to students and connect before the semester started. This included sending videos, letters through email and regular mail, phone calls, and creating CLC swag boxes for new students. Inside the boxes were a CLC-branded face mask, water bottle, shirt, bag, hand sanitizer, magnet and more!

There is no question that the success of CLC is due to our dedicated employees and their commitment to students. The first couple weeks of the semester have gone incredibly smoothly, especially considering some of the unique challenges we face. Our enrollment is far better than expected, given the uncertainty. Our Staples campus has even shown a slight increase in the number of students. That's all because of our employees.

Every week, I hear stories of incredible impacts our employees are making on our students' lives. Recently, a student in our Heavy Equipment Maintenance and Operations Program reached out to say, "I recognized there was something different about CLC early on. Every time I struggle, I not only receive abundant help, but also patience, determination and a boat load of encouragement that I've never experienced before."

Another alumnus wanted to express his appreciation for the kindness that one of our liberal arts instructors showed during a very dark period of depression. The instructor worked closely with this student, making sure the student had support and was able to finish

the course while addressing mental health needs. The student was grateful for the personal support and encouragement. Of course, that's just who we are.

In our Welding Program, our instructors made sure to continue with the time-honored tradition of unboxing new tools and gear. Even with social distancing and face coverings, this tradition is always a big production and something our students look forward to. There is so much excitement in the air as they uncover shiny new toolboxes, filled with everything they need to be a successful welder. Students get to keep these important items after they graduate, so they are ready to go and have all the supplies they need to start their careers.

There are so many examples of employees going above and beyond to make a difference in our students' lives. Collectively, this work equates to our special sauce, what makes CLC special: We are friendly, we know you by your first name, and we truly care about each and every student who walks in our doors or joins online from remote locations. As we welcomed September by celebrating Labor Day, it seems appropriate to close the month with our hats off to our colleagues. Thank you.

Here's some good news for those who haven't registered for classes yet: There is still time to sign up for some of our late start courses, which include Culinary Arts and some Liberal Arts courses in Physical Education and College & Career Studies. Find out more about these courses online at www.clcmn.edu or give us a call at 218-855-8000.

In these uncertain times, there is something you can rely on: CLC is here for you. Always.

Quote of the week
"He who opens a school door, closes a prison."
— Victor Hugo

Workforce future

By Hamse Warfa
Deputy Commissioner
Minnesota Department of
Employment and Economic
Development (DEED)

Gov. Tim Walz has proclaimed September as Workforce Development Month. The Minnesota Department of Employment and Economic Development (DEED) recognizes that workforce development is now more important than ever – and will continue to be in the coming months and years as we move through economic recovery.

Many people who lost jobs due to the pandemic will need help finding a new career path. Helping people build the right skills for the future is good for families, good for communities and good for business. Preparing people for the jobs in demand tomorrow is the important role of workforce development today.

A cornerstone of workforce development efforts are training programs, apprenticeships and earn-and-learn opportunities to help people prepare for sustainable employment. CareerForce is taking steps to help make more people aware of training programs and other opportunities to help build skills necessary for in-demand jobs. Reskilling and upskilling are especially important now because some sectors of the economy may take some time to rebound to full pre-pandemic employment and people may need to take jobs in occupations different from the ones they were in prior to COVID-19.

The pandemic has brought new and intense focus to our work of matching people looking for work with jobs in demand now.

Exploring ways of expanding our use of technology in career matchmaking – including more outreach to employers – is something we plan to continue into the future.

The pandemic may have pushed our adoption of remote technology forward more quickly than anyone had planned, but the virtual delivery of career exploration and job search services was underway long before COVID-19 came along. Thousands of Minnesotans have learned in online workshops and "met" employers hiring now through virtual career fairs. They've had personal phone meetings with job coaches and used other remote opportunities to explore career options and land their next job during the pandemic.

Virtual career exploration and job search services offer some distinct advantages:

People don't need to travel to a location in order to meet hiring employers, participate in workshops or get one-on-one help. Virtual options help people with disabilities, challenging schedules, and those with barriers to transportation access services. Many people prefer virtual services, especially if they can access them on a schedule and complete them at a pace that's right for them.

Recognizing that not everyone has the ability or the desire to access services online, it's important to know that in-person workforce development services will continue to play a key role in the future, although their delivery may look different. Online options or hybrid learning will likely continue to connect job seekers to these opportunities without requiring them to come in

person.

CareerForce will continue to use technology and virtual services to serve those it is reaching now, while doubling down on efforts to reach those who need workforce development services but aren't being served. These efforts include partnerships with local libraries, expansion of services in languages other than English and more work in the community to reach people where they are.

In addition, CareerForce is focused on addressing the digital divide that prevents many Minnesotans looking for work now from connecting with the employers who need them. Events like the one held yesterday in Minneapolis, where free computer packages were distributed to people in need, will continue to be part of our strategy to help people break down digital barriers. We will also continue to enhance efforts to provide digital skills assessments and classes with our workforce development partners.

The future of workforce development must include a more intentional focus on equity. Racial and ethnic disparities in educational attainment, employment and economic stability have persisted for far too long. The pandemic has highlighted the pervasive nature of these disparities in a way that cannot and must not be ignored. DEED, and our partners in CareerForce, are dedicated to breaking down barriers that hold people back and rebuilding a more equitable Minnesota – where all Minnesotans have an equitable opportunity to succeed. This goal guides all we do as we look to the future of workforce development in Minnesota.

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.

Fairness: The Staples World tries conscientiously to report fairly and accurately. If you feel we fall short of this objective at any time, please direct your complaint to the manager whose name appears on this page.

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There is a \$5 charge for address change from local to out-of-state.

Election policies 2020

Letters to the Editor

Letters to the editor in support of or in opposition to a specific candidate, political party or ballot question may be paid for and placed on the opinion page under the heading of "Paid Political Letter."

The rate will be \$30 for the first 100 words plus 30¢ per word over 100 words. Payment must be made in advance of publication.

These letters must contain the signature and city residence of the writer. Please include a phone number for verification purposes. If a letter cannot be verified, it will not be published.

Letters regarding campaign practices and issues that do not contain statements of support or opposition regarding a candidate or ballot question may be considered for publication without charge, subject to review and editing.

The Staples World reserves the right to edit, condense or refuse letters and will not publish libelous statements. The final decision about how letters to the editor are handled will rest with the Staples World.

Political ads

Political ads will be accepted at the regular Staples World advertising rates.

Deadlines

The regular deadline for letters to the editor, advertisements and news releases in the Staples World is noon on Friday.

For the general election, the Staples World will not accept letters or advertisements raising new issues after Friday, Oct. 23.



Lawn mower donation to cemetery



Rita Stone of Staples recently donated a new Husqvarna zero turn riding lawn mower to the Evergreen Hill Cemetery. It was purchased at Staples True Value Hardware, Staples. Pictured above, from left, are Loren Lanske, cemetery groundscrew member; Huck Holst, Dennis Miller, cemetery board members; Rita Stone; Jeff Scribner, cemetery groundscrew member; and Bob Reek, Secretary/Treasurer of Evergreen Hill Cemetery. At right, Reek thanks Rita and her late husband Phil Stone for their support of the cemetery over the years. In the center is Miller. (Staples World photos by Dawn Timbs)



Meeting the architect firm

Members of JLG Architects were in attendance at the Staples-Motley School Board meeting Sept. 21, held at the district office in Staples. They include, from left, Dan Miller, Adam Barnett (project manager) and David Leapaldt. Barnett, now of Alexandria, is a 2001 graduate of Staples-Motley High School. In the background, from left, are Leroy Peterson, Building and Grounds Supervisor; John Regan, Business Manager; Chuck Herdegen, Business Services; and Greg Frisk, SM School Board member. The meeting was chaired by school board member Brian Winkels, not pictured. (Staples World photo by Dawn Timbs)

Athletic Hall of Fame induction postponed

The Staples-Motley Athletic Hall of Fame has postponed their planned induction of the 2020 class that was planned for October, and has decided to host an event in the spring, because of COVID-19 concerns. "We were hoping for better news on the virus and outlook but all things considered, we have come to the conclusion that we are going to be better positioned to postpone our event and celebration until spring," said Mike Hajek, Hall of Fame organizer. "The common goal that we all share is to host a program that is all that it can be." The 2020 Hall of Fame Class includes athletes Dave Joerger, Randy Frisk, Tony Spandl and Jerry Cleveland, plus coaches John Rengel, Ron Beachy, Tom Wolhowe and Mel Nefstead. The teams selected are the 1982 Staples wrestling team and the 1982/1983 boys cross country teams. "With travelers coming from long distances and gathering closely in the auditorium and at the Timbers reception, we would be putting a lot of people at risk and possibly contributing to spreading the virus," said Hajek. "We all want to do this right and have it be the special event we know it should be."

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NOTICE
Water Main Flushing

The City of Staples Water Department will be flushing water mains throughout the City as needed, **September 28 - October 9, 2020.** You may experience cloudy water during this time. If this occurs, allow the cold water to run until it clears.

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CC teams first, second in state rankings

The Staples-Motley cross country teams shot towards the top of the state rankings after strong performances at their home meet Sept. 18. The girls team is now ranked number one in the Minnesota State High School Coaches Association poll and is undefeated in five meets this year. The boys team is ranked second after finishing two points behind top ranked West Central Area at the Sept. 18 meet.

Emmet Anderson and Kyanna Burton remained undefeated for the year, with Anderson breaking his own course record at The Vintage golf course with a race of 16:00 and Burton was half a second away from the home course record at 19:28.

The teams had another home meet Sept. 25, in which both varsity squads used as a training run, but the junior high and junior varsity teams showed great improvement.

Team results

Boys results

At Staples-Motley Sept. 18

Varsity: West Central Area 31, Staples-Motley 33, Perham 61
1. Emmet Anderson 16:00, 6. Issiah Tabatt 17:33, 7. Lyle Brownell 17:34, 9. Luke Brownell 17:45, 10. Logan Robben 17:51, 12. Tanner Robben 17:57, 18. Sam Jennissen 19:02

Junior varsity: 4. Connor Judd 21:26, 12. Will Dolezal 22:27, 17. Evan Allen 24:48, 19. Alex Brings 26:59

Junior high (2,500 meters): 2. Gage Bjerga 9:28, 3. Colbe Tappe 9:37, 7. Garrett Bjerga 10:17, 14. Justin Olson 11:09, 15. Gabe Kroll 11:15, 19. Zachary Tabatt 12:15, 20. Reid Judd 12:24,

21. Luke Bjerga 12:32, 22. Niko Moore 12:38, 23. Evan Schultz 12:52, 24. Cameron Ganyo 13:22

At Staples-Motley Sept. 25
Varsity: Staples-Motley 15, Ottertail Central 54, Pelican Rapids 71

1. Anderson 17:19, 2. I. Tabatt 17:52, 3. Lu. Brownell 17:55, 4. T. Robben 18:01, 5. Ly. Brownell 18:02, 6. L. Robben 18:19, 9. Grant Johnson 19:03, 11. Jennissen 19:31, 14. D. Robben 20:08

Junior varsity: 1. Tappe 21:06, 2. Dolezal 21:09, 13. Kroll 25:03, 15. Brings 26:43, 16 R. Judd 26:44, 17. Moore 27:51

Junior high (2,500 meters): 1. Gage Bjerga 9:35, 2. Gar. Bjerga 10:05, 5. Olson 10:53, 12. L. Bjerga 12:48, 13. Z. Tabatt 13:14, 14. Ganyo 13:40, 15. Scuultz 14:05,

Girls results

At Staples-Motley Sept. 18

Varsity: Staples-Motley 25, West Central Area 46, Perham 53

1. Kyanna Burton 19:28, 3. Aften Robinson 20:10, 4. Audrey Brownell 20:17, 8. Naila Mikhaeil 21:26, 9. Ashley Robben 21:30, 29. Addisyn Cichos 23:19, 21. Abby Brown 28:03

Junior high (2,500 meters): 4. Bella Hines 11:42, 9. Sophie Schlosser 11:55, 11. Suhaila Mikhaeil 12:26, 12. Arabella Moore 12:31, 20. Brooke Bendson 13:47, 23. Peyton Mikol 14:12, 24. Kyleena Rudlang 15:01, 25. Adelaide Toepper 15:10

At Staples-Motley Sept. 25

Varsity: Staples-Motley 15, Ottertail Central 45, Pelican Rapids 72

1. Burton 20:27, 2. Robinson 20:56, 3. Brownell 20:57, 4. Robben 21:37, 5. N. Mikhaeil 22:21, 13. Cichos 23:35, 22. Brown 28:49

Junior varsity: 8. Moore 26:57, 12. CJ Koval 32:42

Junior high: 1. Hines 10:55, 6. Schlosser 11:55, 11. Bendson 13:17, 12. Toepper 13:31, 14. Mikol 13:36, 17. Rudlang 14:31



Leading the state

Top photo, Emmet Anderson leads the pack down the hill in the first 400 meters against West Central Area and Perham, with Lyle Brownell and Luke Brownell right behind and Luke Brownell behind them. Bottom photo, Kyanna Burton takes off in front in the girls race. Following this race, the Staples-Motley girls were ranked at the

top of the state and the boys team was number two in the Minnesota State High School Coaches Association poll. Anderson was ranked number one in the boys individual poll and Burton was number eight in the girls poll. (Staples World photos by Mark Anderson)

September's brilliant colors, delicious dilemmas

Every September, arrive some unmistakable signs that one of the most delicious times of the year is arriving. Delicious, that is, if you love the drama and excitement of radical changes in the world around us, and—especially—if your pulse quickens when you imagine peering through cattails at bobbing duck decoys, or looking down from a tree stand, ready to draw back your bow if the source of the crunching on the trail wears a handsome set of antlers.



Mike Rahn

One of these unmistakable signs is the flipping of the temperature regimen between air and water. When overnight temperatures fall below water temperature, sunrise on the lake where the family cabin sits brings a wispy, misty fog on some mornings, or a solid bank of damp grayness that can blot out every island or shoreline landmark, and only those with lake knowledge and good navigation skills set out before the fog burns off.

The first maples to pop into full Technicolor are an equally unmistakable

sign, and even more dramatic. Saturday morning, covering the dozen miles from the cabin to a local café to score caramel rolls still warm from their oven, the sun was up just enough to illuminate the tree line on the hills to the west of the county highway. Maples there are scattered thinly among the birch, aspen, and jack pine that mostly populate this tree line, and—though few in number—these sentinels were ablaze in the way that only the slanting rays of early morning and evening light produce.

There is a saying in art, or is it literature—maybe both—that “less is more.” For me, that’s how it is with the transformation of maples, birch and aspen in September and October. Many think it’s about peak color. Television weather segments at this time of year invariably show a map of Minnesota divided into irregular patches, these boundaries revealing state forests’ progress toward that ultimate stage called peak color.

You could get the impression that the only worthwhile time to view the season’s unique arboreal beauty is when a forest’s color is at its peak. Tourism brochures, postcards, and travel guides portraying autumn’s appeal leave the same impression. If you were a photographer trying to sell your images to a photo editor or art director, those are the images you’d

expect to pay off.

But as a member of the less-is-more school, I find just the opposite to be true. While on my Saturday morning caramel roll expedition, rounding a curve, or rising out of a dip, I would pass a single maple that stood out in brilliant crimson or orange against the pale green of its neighbors. If I were an artist, that’s how I’d paint it; a subject all the more striking because it stood out against the canvas of forest greens.

It may be overstatement to call the luminous, flaming oranges and yellows and reds of these transforming leaves delicious. But their impact is almost enough to make the sensory leap from sight to taste. Delicious, too, are the dilemmas we face this time of year in deciding how to spend our time, when so many pursuits of the outdoors are an option. Out front from the cabin this same Saturday brought a parade of anglers. By day, a number of them were leveraging long rods, heaving what must have been puppy-size lures, based on the splashes they made hitting the water; muskies the target, obviously. By night, the darkness was punctuated by the safety lights of boats that were slow trolling down the length of a break line or weed line; certainly prospecting for walleyes.

Mid-day, while planting little bluestem prairie grass in a shoreline restoration,

there came a sequence of three closely-spaced explosions to the north. They startled some, including my wife, but only reminded me that the early Canada goose hunting season is on, and the farmer across the road—in whose fields the geese routinely feed—was attempting to claim his toll for that privilege. A neighbor who was closer to the action confirmed that the farmer was indeed going to have the option of wild goose for Thanksgiving.

Then, too, last Saturday was the start of the archery deer season, as well as the kickoff to the season for ruffed grouse. Mere days away, September 26th is the start of statewide duck hunting. Many waterfowl hunters have been scouting their favorite wetlands or shallow lakes to check local bird numbers, touching up paint on duck decoys, and seeing to other tasks that some find almost as much fun—almost—as the hunt itself. Stream trout anglers here in the North are on borrowed time, some putting in their last days on-stream as the 2020 season draws to a close on September 30th.

As the late, much-admired outdoor yarn spinner Gordon McQuarrie once wrote “...how fine it would be if throughout the year this season would hang on dead center ... to be sure these are mere dreams of perpetual paradise.” Delicious dreams, for sure.

Running as a team

Addison Lorber and Addisyn Cichos run together against Pelican Rapids and Ottertail Central. (Staples World photo by Mark Anderson)

Football, volleyball to hold shortened seasons

The Minnesota State High School League’s Board of Directors approved a reconsideration of fall activities, a decision that brings football and volleyball back to the fall season.

The Staples-Motley schedules had not been released at the time of publication.

The plan, which fits within COVID-19 guidance of the Minnesota Department of Health, will have an approved football season beginning on Sept. 28 with the first of six regular season games scheduled for the week of Oct. 5. Since Sept. 14, member schools have had the option of participating in fall training sessions. In the framework that was adopted by the Board of Directors, a planned two-week football postseason will begin the week of Nov. 16.

Volleyball will begin an 11-week season on Sept. 28 and member schools will play their first matches on

Oct. 8. In the framework that was approved by the board, two weeks of postseason play would begin the week of Nov. 30. Like football, member schools have had the option of participating in voluntary training sessions since Sept. 14.

“The Minnesota State High School League continues to work to provide educational opportunities for our student athletes in the safest manner possible for all involved,” said Board of Directors President Blaine Novak of New York Mills. “Coming into the meeting, we knew that every decision we make affects every other decision for the rest of the calendar year. Today’s decision, based on what we currently know and with the unknowns of what spring will bring, is based on the belief that playing now provides us the best opportunity to play a football and volleyball season.”



NOTICES

101

Card of Thanks

Thank you to all who came to celebrate our 60th wedding anniversary, sent cards, phone calls and prayers to give us a wonderful day. A special thanks to our family who made it all possible with their preparations. We appreciate you all.

Roy and Mary Lou Olander
40p

SERVICES & EMPLOYMENT

205

Help Wanted

LONGBELLA DRUG DOWNTOWN STORE has an immediate opening for a full-time Clerk position. Apply at the downtown Staples location. 36tfc

208 Storage

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209 Business Services

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FOR SALE

309

Miscellaneous

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REAL ESTATE

602

Apartments for Rent

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COZY 2 bdrm., great location, welcome: 218-296-3807. 29tfc



607

Houses for Sale

STAPLES: 3 BR, could be 4 if current laundry moved to basement, 2 bathrooms, lg. kitchen/ dining rm. Newly updated new kitchen cabinets, range, dishwasher, microwave. Established neighborhood, steel siding, move-in ready. \$147,500. 816 7th St. NE. 218-445-5368 or 218-639-2345. w40p

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GARAGE SALES 701

GARAGE SALE: Fri., Oct. 2, 8 a.m.-4 p.m., Sat., Oct. 3, 8 a.m.-noon. From Staples Hwy. 210 S, left on County Rd. #7 to 281st St. (right), 1/4 mi. left on Snowshoe Trl, to end of road. Follow signs. 40p

ESTATE/ MOVING SALE: 621 Iowa Ave. NE, Staples. Thurs., Oct. 1, 12-5 p.m., Sat., Oct. 3, 9 a.m.-5 p.m. Household, furniture, hunting, tools, collectibles, antiques and more. 40p

KARDINAL KREATIONS Craft Open House: **OUTDOORS**, Fri., Oct. 16, 4-7 p.m., Sat., Oct. 17, 9:30 a.m.-5:30 p.m. Decor for fall, holidays and home, hats, scarves, dishcloths, something for everyone. Masks age 5+, social distancing, 1001 Park Ave. NE, Staples. 40-42p

FAMILY ESTATE SALE
38565 Riverview Rd., PILLAGER
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w40-41p

Staples-Motley School District is taking applications to be placed on our SUBSTITUTE calling lists:

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Call 218-894-5400 for more information or visit our website www.isd2170.k12.mn.us
Submit applications to: Staples-Motley ISD #2170, District Office, 905 4th ST NE Staples, MN 56479.

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TODD COUNTY, MN NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING 2021 COUNTY FEE SCHEDULE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Board of County Commissioners (the "Board") of Todd County, Minnesota (the "County"), will hold a public hearing of the Board beginning at 9:15 a.m., on October 20, 2020, to be held at the Todd County Historic Courthouse, 215 1st Ave. South, Long Prairie, Minnesota, to solicit public input in order to determine the 2021 County Fee Schedules for the County Departments including but not limited to: Administration, Attorney, Assessor, Auditor-Treasurer, Environmental Health, GIS/MIS, Health & Human Services, Planning & Zoning, Public Works, Recorder, Sheriff and Solid Waste (Transfer Station).

The proposed 2021 County Fee Schedule is available on the Todd County website at <https://www.co.todd.mn.us/> and at the Todd County Auditor-Treasurer's Office, located at 215 1st Avenue South, Suite 201 Long Prairie, MN during regular business hours.

All interested persons are invited to make an appointment to attend the hearing in-person or submit written testimony prior to the hearing date. Written testimony should be submitted to the County Auditor-Treasurer's Office, 215 1st Avenue South, Suite 201 Long Prairie, MN 56347 or by email to clerk@co.todd.mn.us. Individuals requiring special accommodations should contact the County Auditor-Treasurer's Office prior to the date of the public hearing by calling 320-732-4414.

BY ORDER OF THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF TODD COUNTY, MINNESOTA

Denise Gaida,
County Auditor/Treasurer
Clerk to the County Board
40-41pnc

TODD COUNTY, MN NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING AND INTENT TO ADOPT THE TODD COUNTY SOLID WASTE DESIGNATION ORDINANCE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN pursuant to the provisions of Minnesota Statute 375.51 Subdivision 2, that the Todd County Board of Commissioners intends to adopt the "Todd County Solid Waste Designation Ordinance". The proposed ordinance will be considered at a meeting of the Todd County Board of Commissioners in the County Board Room at the Todd County Courthouse, at 215 1st Avenue S, Long Prairie, Minnesota, on Tuesday, October 20, 2020 at 9:30 a.m. The 2nd Public Hearing regarding the proposed ordinance will be considered at a meeting of the Todd County Board of Commissioners in the same location as the 1st Public Hearing on Monday, November 2, 2020 at 9:30 a.m.

The proposed ordinance is regulated and authorized by Minnesota Statutes 115A.80 through 115A.893. This public hearing is being conducted to conform with the process outline in Minnesota Statutes 115A.85 and 115A.86

The purpose of the proposed ordinance is regulating the transportation and delivery of Solid Waste generated within Todd County; defining the geographic area and the types and quantities of Solid Waste subject to designation; specifying the points of delivery of the Designated Waste; requiring that Designated Waste be delivered to Designated Facilities; excepting from the ordinance certain waste materials; and stating additional regulations governing Haulers; and other matters.

The proposed Todd County Solid Waste Designation Ordinance, as well as a letter from the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency noting their approval of the proposed ordinance

are available on the Todd County website at <https://www.co.todd.mn.us/> and at either the Todd County Solid Waste Transfer Station, located at 30433 US 71, Browerville, MN or the Todd County Auditor's Office, located at 215 1st Avenue South, Suite 201 Long Prairie, MN.

All interested persons are invited to make an appointment to attend the hearing in-person or submit written testimony prior to the hearing date. Written testimony should be submitted to the County Coordinator's Office, 215 1st Avenue South, Suite 300 Long Prairie, MN 56347 or by email to clerk@co.todd.mn.us. Individuals requiring special accommodations should contact the County Coordinator's office prior to the date of the public hearing by calling 320-732-1916.

Dated: Wednesday,
September 16, 2020

Chris McConn
Solid Waste Director

Denise Gaida
Todd County Auditor
40-41pnc

STATE OF MINNESOTA COUNTY OF TODD DISTRICT COURT SEVENTH JUDICIAL DISTRICT Court File No. 77-PR-20-708

In Re: ESTATE OF

Lucky Damon-Ward Moore, also known as Colleen Victoria Moore, Colleen V. Moore, C. V. Moore, and Lucky D. Moore.

DECEDENT

NOTICE OF AND ORDER FOR HEARING FOR FORMAL APPOINTMENT OF SPECIAL ADMINISTRATOR

Kristine Wiens has filed a Petition for Formal Appointment of Special Administrator. It is Ordered that on October 12, 2020, at 11:05 a.m., a hearing will be

held on the petition by this Court by "Zoom" call. The contact information for the Court is (320) 732-7800.

The petition represents that the decedent died intestate leaving property in Minnesota. The petitioner has determined that there is no will and possible multiple assets. The petition requests the Court appoint a special administrator for the collection of assets.

Any objections to the petition must be raised at the hearing or filed with the Court prior to the hearing. If the petition is proper and no objections are filed or raised, the petition will be granted.

Notice shall be given by publishing this Notice and Order as provided by law and by: Mailing a copy of this Notice and Order to each interested person by United States mail at least 14 days before the time set for the hearing.

BY THE COURT

Dated: September 15, 2020

Daniel A. Benson
Judge of District Court
Rhonda Bot, by deputy
Court Administrator
Mary Van Koevr

Mark A. Carter
(MN #134107)
Carter Legal services,
P.A.
13911 Ridgedale Drive Ste. 355
Minnetonka, MN 55305
Telephone: (952) 935-7383
Facsimile: (952) 935-8956
email: carterlegal@juno.com
ATTORNEY FOR PETITIONER

39-40pnc

PUBLIC NOTICES: Your Right to Know

edness shall be deposited in the Debt Service Fund and are hereby pledged to said Debt Service Fund. If any payment of principal or interest on the Certificate of Indebtedness becomes due when there is not sufficient money in the Debt Service Fund to pay the same, the Treasurer will pay such principal or interest from the general fund of the Town, and the general fund may be reimbursed for such advances out of the proceeds of levies when collected.

4. The Township hereby levies the following amounts in the following years upon all property included in the Township's net tax capacity for the purpose of repaying the Certificate of Indebtedness:

| | |
|------|----------|
| 2021 | \$25,000 |
| 2022 | \$25,000 |
| 2023 | \$25,000 |
| 2024 | \$25,000 |
| 2025 | \$25,000 |
| 2026 | \$25,000 |
| 2027 | \$25,000 |
| 2028 | \$25,000 |
| 2029 | \$25,000 |
| 2030 | \$25,000 |

The preceding levy amounts, which represent 105% of the amount due on the Certificate of Indebtedness in each respective year, shall be deposited in the Debt Service Fund upon receipt by the Township.

5. The Township Clerk and Chair are hereby authorized to execute the attached Certificate of Indebtedness and deliver the same to the Pine River State Bank, along with a copy of the County Auditor's Certificate required by Minnesota Statutes § 475.63.

6. The Township Clerk is hereby directed to file a certified copy of this resolution with the County Auditor and obtain the certificate required by Minnesota Statutes § 475.63.

Passed this 14th day of September, 2020.

Jason Barg,
Chairperson

Attest:

Bianca Wyffels
Township Clerk

40pnc

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College bound

After fish were netted at a pond in Motley recently, Central Lakes College students transferred them to a large container prior to their being transported to their new home at the CLC campus in Brainerd. Above: Jeffie Cleys of Deerwood, a student in the 'Deck, Patio and Pond Construction' class at CLC, helps collect the goldfish. Upon their arrival at CLC, the fish were first held in a temporary fish tank and later placed in a large indoor pond at the west end of the main campus. (Staples World photos by Dawn Timbs)

Here fishy, fishy

Hundreds of goldfish were netted recently at a pond owned by Chuck and Peggy Seelen of Motley, part of a class assignment for Central Lakes College students in Jeff Dirks' 'Deck, Patio and Pond Construction' class.

Above: Isaac Malone, in the water, uses a seine to collect fish. Standing at the edge of the patio, from left, are Chuck and Peggy Seelen; and Travis Wenzel of Randall. (Staples World photo by Dawn Timbs)

SEELEN continued from page 1a

Goldfish find new home

They live 25 - 30 years, possibly longer, she said.

In addition to collecting the goldfish, students were impressed by the craftsmanship and beauty on display at the Seelen residence.

"We call it the Fire Arena," Peggy said about the pond area which boasts of a waterfall, babbling brook and a 30-foot pine tree they decorate every Christmas.

It was a work in progress for several years, Peggy went on, noting that now there are retaining walls, blocks, pavers, stones, a pumphouse and the plastic-lined pond. They've built a fire pit, too, complete

with three vents so that it breathes better.

"They've enjoyed working on their Fire Arena, transforming an otherwise flat landscape into the picturesque setting it is today. "Our yard didn't match our personalities," Peggy said, adding that they added some contours and creativity over the years.

The Seelens are heavy equipment operators by trade and between the two of them have 55 years in the union.

Chuck hails from Rockville, where his dad had a small sewer-water outfit. "From the time he was 16,

he was running big excavators," Peggy said of her husband.

Peggy grew up in Sauk Rapids and studied heavy equipment at the vocational school in Staples. She met Chuck in a bar and they soon discovered they had a lot in common, including riding motorcycle. They've now been married 43 years.

During most of their life together the Seelens have been out on the road, working construction. Prior to retiring, they'd worked on the pipeline for several years.

They know how to "bust butts and get things done,"



Capturing goldfish with a seine

Horticulture instructor Jeff Dirks (left) helped hold the seine as students worked to collect goldfish in a pond at the residence of Chuck and Peggy Seelen in

Motley. In the water are Quinn Mathisen of Howard Lake and Isaac Malone of Willmar. Chuck Seelen is in the background. (Staples World photo by Dawn Timbs)

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Peggy said. Much of the materials they've used in constructing their pond area has been salvaged from their construction jobs out on the road. Peggy noted the fire-hydrant on their hill that came from a job in Staples.

They've collected some good stories out on the road, but the Seelens are enjoying the opportunity to spend more time at their 32-acre place in Motley these days. "Our home was a glorified storage unit for many years," Peggy said, explaining that during their time working construction she and Chuck lived on a bus for a five-year stretch, and in later years an RV.

She's always been "non-traditional," Peggy laughed.

Although retired, the Seelens haven't slowed down too much. They like to help neighbors out with projects on occasion, and they hope to build a lake on their property sometime down the road. But that's another story.

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CLC student Dan Schorn of Platte Lake transfers the goldfish to a large container aboard a truck headed for the college.

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