



Snowflakes falling musically

First grade students help snowflakes fall from the sky while singing “Little Snowflake” during the Staples-Motley Elementary School Christmas Concert on Dec.

5 at the high school gymnasium. (Staples World photos by Mark Anderson)

Region Five looking at regional busing options

By Mark Anderson
News Editor

Region Five Development Commission is spearheading a Regional Transportation Coordinating Council (RTCC) for the five county area of Wadena, Todd, Morrison, Cass and Crow Wing counties.

The RTCC held a public meeting in Staples on Dec. 4 to get public input on the draft goals developed by the RTCC so far (listed below). Three more public meetings will be held in Pine River, Brainerd and Little Falls.

Tad Erickson of Region Five said the RTCC is made up of stakeholders who use and provide transportation, including social services, workforce representatives, veterans services, care coordinators and independent living advocates.

For example, Todd County Veterans Service Officer Pete Berscheit said he is interested in more transportation options because the county has one van that gives veterans rides to medical appointments, usually to Brainerd, Alexandria, St. Cloud, Fargo and Minneapolis. Volunteer drivers make the trips.

Two area citizens spoke about how Wadena County’s Friendly Rider transit system has improved their

lives. Joe Ebner of Wadena said he has been a regular rider for 12 years and during that time the buses have added regular schedules to other towns, which he has taken advantage of.

“I don’t know what I would do without it,” said Ebner. He figures he saves about \$400 per month by taking the bus instead of owning a car.

Wanita Pilcher still drives a car, but has developed bus events for people living in Hi-Rise apartments to take a bus to a restaurant so they can go out together. She said her next project is to form special trips so apartment residents can go to a mall together.

Friendly Rider Executive Director Randy Jahnke said the bus service has given around 70,000 rides this year, with nine buses in the fleet.

The draft goals that the public was asked to comment on include:

- Draft Goal One: Coordinate multi-county volunteer driver training program ? Quarterly meetings.

- Draft Goal Two: Identify and recruit additional volunteer drivers to meet rising ridership demands.

- Draft Goal Three: Develop new ways to let members of the public know what services are available, when, where and at what costs.

- Draft Goal Four: Seek ways to work with private sector employers to purchase bus passes for employees, clientele, etc.

- Draft Goal Five: Explore the possibility of developing a regional transit network and possibly a regional bus pass system.

- Draft Goal Six: Seek ways to integrate fixed routes, dial-a-ride services and volunteer driver programs to form a seamless transportation network from home to destination.

- Draft Goal Seven: Explore ways to simplify, streamline and coordinate how transit systems are funded.

- Draft Goal Eight: Consider the impact of a regional dispatching center website that would recommend the best combination of transportation services available along a selected route region wide.

- Draft Goal Nine: Consider

See **BUSING** on page 2a

Hello, Readers,

How will you celebrate Hot Chocolate Day, December 13? We think the best way to celebrate Hot Cocoa Day is to try every variety you can think of. Form a gathering of friends and have everyone bring their favorite recipe and all their favorite varieties. White and Dark, Milk and Bittersweet, there are as many different Hot Cocoa recipes as there are individuals. Chocolate’s history goes far back into history, far longer than most people are aware. It first was found by European explorers in South America, where it had been being enjoyed for hundreds of years prior to their arrival. Maybe the reason the Americas didn’t make contact with Europe sooner is they didn’t want to share this delightful beverage with the rest of the world. The first origins of cocoa can be traced back to 500BC, but many archaeologists believe that this is only as early as we can trace it, and that coffee consumption predates even that august culture.

Public Notices

Todd Printing: **7A**

Obituaries

Austin Bacon
Lois Reggie



Todd County approves official salaries with hesitation

By Karin L. Nauber
Todd County reporter

With hesitation on all of them except the sheriff’s salary, the Todd County Commissioners approved all of the elected official salaries for 2019 at their Dec. 5 meeting.

First up was the salary for County Attorney Chuck Rasmussen which was an increase of 5.14 percent.

Commissioner David

Kircher said that they didn’t give the unions that kind of raise.

Coordinator Jonathan Stainbrook said that it was the standard for county attorney salaries.

It had also been approved by the finance committee.

The commissioners approved setting the county attorney salary with an increase of 5.14 percent at \$111,000 for

2019. This is an increase of \$5,425 from 2018’s salary.

By roll call vote, Commissioners Gary Kneisl and Kircher voted against it.

Next up was the salary for County Auditor/Treasurer Denise Gaida.

She had requested a three percent increase which she felt was fair because as elected offi-

See **DECISIONS** on page 3a



Sharing school stories

Valeria Lozano makes a point to her table during the school input session for students on Dec. 6. Clockwise from front left, Izaiah Demars, Ben Olander, Lozano, Ava Schneider and Scout Strickland. When

asked about current issues in the school, the students immediately pointed out temperature differences in rooms, crowded hallways, crowded parking lot and the need for updated sports facilities and locker rooms.

Two fishermen found dead on Fish Trap Lake in Cushing

By Dawn Timbs
Staples World reporter

Longtime friends and neighbors Wayne Vaverek, 68, and Leonard Sanoski, 71, both of Cushing, died as the result of their vehicle going through the ice while ice fishing on Fish Trap Lake Dec. 9.

According to Morrison County Sheriff Shawn Larsen, family members notified the sheriff’s office that the fishermen were late returning home and they were unable to contact them. The initial report was received at approximately 6:32 p.m. that day.

The sheriff’s office coordinated search and rescue efforts with responding units and learned that a Polaris side-by-side ATV was missing. Responders searched the lake and located open water west of the Big Island which is near the middle of the lake. At this location, the body of Vaverek was located on

the surface near the edge of water. Lifesaving efforts were attempted, but were unsuccessful and Vaverek was pronounced dead at the scene. After a thorough search, responding units were unable to locate Sanoski.

Search efforts were called off and resumed on the morning of Dec. 10. Members of the Morrison County and Stearns County Dive Teams located the body of Sanoski inside the enclosed cab of the Polaris side-by-side ATV. It was in approximately 40 feet of water.

This incident took place on a pressure ridge, the sheriff’s office said. The pressure ridge is approximately 200 yards long, running north to south and approximately 75 yards wide running east to west. The pressure ridge is marked with cones and residents are reminded to stay away from this area.

Lorree Shereck, a wait-

ress at Countryside Restaurant in Motley, was saddened by the news. Vaverek and Sanoski were regulars at the restaurant and she had just visited with them two days before the tragic incident. “They were in for breakfast,” she recalled, adding that they “were just the nicest, from what I knew of them.” Even when she wasn’t waiting on them, they would exchange greetings. The two men always asked how she was doing and said they were praying for her, Shereck said.

Morrison County Deputy Al Yoder was on duty as rescue workers searched for the victims. It’s a tragic situation, he said. Yoder, who also serves as Mayor for the City of Motley, mentioned the tragedy at a recent city council meeting. “You couldn’t ask for nicer guys... I’d often have coffee with them,” he

See **DEATHS** on page 2a



Chatting with Santa

Jordan Tangeman of Staples, four, chatted with Santa at the high school cafeteria in Staples Dec. 8. Santa (formerly known as Orv Meyer) was there as part of the Christmas Community Appreciation dinner sponsored by the Staples Host Lions. Jordan, who has been a good boy all year, told Santa he would like some toy trucks and cars this year for Christmas. (Staples World photo by Dawn Timbs)

Thank you for subscribing!



Students give input to school planning

Rob Brown of Nexus Solutions spoke with Staples-Motley High School students on Dec. 6 to ask them about the possible school building project. Brown showed the students the latest trends in schools with more collaboration spaces, and trends in education that teach students to be life long learners.

Brown has also gotten input from other local

groups, including the LEAP Board and the Parent-Teacher Connection. Nexus will present the results, along with results from the community tax capacity survey, at a special school board meeting on Thursday, Dec. 20, at 6 p.m. at the Staples-Motley High School media center. (Staples World photos by Mark Anderson)



Small group conversations

Oliver Lund, lower left, speaks about the school while Emmet Anderson, Arthur Thew and Mackenna Bjerga listen. When asked what are the best things happening in the school, the students responded with

a list that included college in schools, career training, dedicated teachers, fine arts and sports, and an active student body.

DEATHS continued from page 1a

Ice conditions deadly

said.

Yoder said it's his understanding that in 30 years they have never seen open water on Fish Trap Lake as was the case Dec. 9.

The sheriff's office reminds everyone that the ice conditions vary throughout the lake and should not be considered 100 percent safe.

The Morrison County Sheriff's Office was assisted at the scene by the Scandia Valley Fire Department, Scandia Valley First Response Team, MN State Patrol, MN DNR, Stearns County Sheriff's Office, Sauk Rapids Fire Department, Little Falls Police Department, Life Link III and Gold Cross Ambulance.

Deadly, single car crash throws driver

The Wadena County Sheriff's Dept. received a 911 call Dec. 6 of a motor vehicle crash near the intersection of Cty. Road 26 and 182nd St. in Bullard Township.

Upon the arrival of emergency personnel, a single vehicle and lone occupant were found on scene. The adult male driver, identified as Austin Bacon, 19, of Nimrod/rural Sebeka, was ejected from the vehicle and pronounced dead on scene.

Bacon was transported to the Midwest Medi-

cal Examiner's Office for autopsy.

Through investigation, it was determined that Bacon's vehicle was south-bound on Cty Rd 26, north of 182nd St. The vehicle left the roadway on the east side of Cty Rd 26 and rolled, ejecting Bacon, who was determined to not be wearing a seatbelt.

The Wadena County Sheriff's Office was assisted on scene by the Verndale Fire Department, Schuller Funeral Home and Scott's South-town Towing.

Winter truck loads increase Dec. 14

Winter truck load increases will begin Friday, Dec. 14, on unrestricted highways in the central frost zone, according to the Minnesota Department of Transportation (MnDOT). The frost zones can be found on the MnDOT load limits map. Winter load increases have already begun in the north and north-central zones.

Vehicles will be allowed to operate up to 10 percent over the standard legal maximum loads on unrestricted highways during the winter load increase period. However, trucks must comply with current registration weight laws and not exceed registered gross weight tolerances.

Drivers should check with local agencies before increasing any weights on city, county and township routes. The sign erected on the roadway governs the load limit in effect. A winter weight increase permit is required to take advantage of the 10 percent weight increase on interstate highways only; a permit is not required for state trunk highways.

For questions about over legal weight/size "heavy haul" trucking, call MnDOT's Freight and Commercial Vehicle Oper-

ations - Oversize/Weight Permits, 651-296-6000, or email: ofcvpermits.dot@state.mn.us.

For questions about enforcement call the Minnesota Department of Public Safety - State Patrol - Commercial Vehicle Enforcement; 651-405-6196 (select option 3, option 3).

The start and end dates for winter load increases are based on how weather is affecting roadway strength. These dates are established by monitoring roadway strength as weather conditions change. The end date for winter load increases is variable and drivers should check for updates throughout the year. Vehicle operators are required to check with MnDOT for the exact start and end dates.

All changes are made with a minimum three-day notice.

For the most current information, go to MnDOT's automated 24-hour message center at 800-723-6543 for the U.S. and Canada. This information is also published on the MnDOT seasonal load limits website at www.dot.state.mn.us/materials/.

For updated road condition information, call 511 or visit www.511mn.org.



Santa's helpers

Over 250 area children received holiday gifts this year thanks to the Staples '93 Lions' Christmas for Kids' program. As part of the program, each child received more than two gifts each, plus hats and mittens; and each family received a blanket from the Linus Project. In addition, coats were given away by CARE Ministry. Pictured above helping package up the gifts are, from left, volunteer youth workers Alex Brings, Marie Brings and Kimberly Stachowiak, a foreign exchange student at Staples-Motley High School from Bochum, Germany. Stachowiak is living with the Brings family from Staples during this school year. (Staples World photo by Dawn Timbs)

THANK YOU

for making a difference!

Congratulations to these 5-Star employees

Left to right: Rachel Delaney, Jackie Sharpe, Christine McGrane, Deana Nypan, Kelly Hotchkiss

Rachel Delaney, Internal Communications

Nominated by Lynn Rice, "Rachel took on the multigenerational park project. She set up a committee, she worked with the committee to select a vendor and various pieces of equipment plus they determined the location of the equipment. This was a huge project and required much time and energy on Rachel's behalf. Lakewood has benefited with a multigenerational playground in the park by the Senior Campus and outdoor exercise equipment at the main campus. I really appreciated Rachel's willingness to take on this project; she has always been willing to take on projects and is an exceptional team player."

Jacki Sharpe, Administrative Assistant

Nominated by Lynn Rice, "Jacki willingly took on two big events, the Survivor's Banquet and Loren Morey's retirement party. Jacki worked with marketing on the Survivor's Banquet by updating the invitation list, getting invites out to the survivors and worked on the logistics for the Banquet. She also volunteered her time to work the Banquet. For Loren Morey's retirement party, Jacki worked with Timbers for the food and set up of the party, she also attended the party, took all the pictures and videotaped. Jacki is a tremendous asset to Lakewood; her go-to attitude and work ethic can't be denied. She is always willing to take over projects and do things outside of her normal job responsibilities. Both of those events were huge successes due to Jacki's oversight and follow through."

Christine McGrane, RN, Outpatient Services

Nominated by the Quality Committee, "While reviewing charts for a patient's recent visit to the Emergency Department, Christine noticed the patient had some health concerns. She alerted the surgeon to inform him of the situation. This nurse was following the correct process for reviewing charts prior to surgery. She had the skills and knowledge to keep this patient safe knowing that the health concerns could affect the healing process after surgery. She made high-quality decisions with patient safety on her mind and topped the line until clarification was made on how to proceed with the situation."

Deana Nypan, RN, Outpatient Services

Nominated by the Quality Committee, "A hand written order was received in Infusion Therapy and the signature was not in the proper location. The order was also questioned by the nurse and returned to the ordering provider for clarification. Deana had patient safety on her mind and prevented the patient from receiving an infusion that was not correctly ordered. The order was changed to an order that could be carried out by nursing staff. We are thankful for Deana who is willing to speak up in order to prevent harm to a patient."

Kelly Hotchkiss, Clinic RN Supervisor

Nominated by Trista Finck and Barbara Trantina, "Kelly has maintained an open door policy with her staff along with balancing healthy friendships. She encourages and challenges us according to our abilities and is willing to work alongside us. Kelly shows the utmost respect for her co-workers and patients and our Staples Care team is grateful to have such an approachable and dependable team member. Kelly is a great asset to this facility and a wonderful person who represents LHS's model of 5-Star service."

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24 HOUR EMERGENCY SERVICE

BUSING continued from page 1a

Public input needed for plan

tinue to expand Wi-Fi capabilities on buses.

After input from the public, the RTCC will determine their final goals and begin an implementation plan.

EXPERIENCE THE MAGIC

North Pole Lights Display

Pine Grove Park Staples

6-9 p.m. every Friday, Saturday and Sunday in December

\$5 per car

All proceeds will benefit local events



Enjoying the free Christmas dinner

Over 190 people enjoyed a free turkey dinner at the high school cafeteria in Staples Dec. 8, thanks to the generosity of the Staples Host Lions Club. Their ‘Christmas Community Appreciation Dinner’ is an annual event that includes a visit from Santa Claus. Pictured above, from left, are Maury and Mavis Peterson, Motley; LaDonna Peterson, Motley; and Rose Hoemberg, Staples. In lower photo, David Lemcke and his daughter Zoe, enjoy the meal. (Staples World photos by Dawn Timbs)



Hoting-Mrazek named CLC Board Outstanding Educator

Tanya Hoting-Mrazek has been selected as the Central Lakes College Board of Trustees (BOT) Outstanding Educator for 2018-19.

CLC President Hara Charlier recently made the announcement to the campus community.

“This honor includes nomination by peers, followed by a recommendation by a committee of CLC faculty,” Charlier said. “I am happy to support the recommendation due to Tanya’s dedication to students, outstanding instruction and commitment to engaging students in the work of our community. She certainly inspires learning!”

Hoting-Mrazek joined CLC in 1994 as a sign language interpreter and started teaching American Sign Language (ASL) soon after. During her tenure at the college, she’s also taught college success classes, developmental reading, writing and math.



Tanya Hoting-Mrazek

She heads the ASL Club on campus and with her students, volunteers with Lifetrack putting on a safe Halloween trunk or treat event for deaf and hard of hearing children from across central Minnesota. They also volunteer at Camp Sertoma (a youth deaf and hard of hearing camp in Brainerd) cooking and serving meals for kids, and they help with the ASL Community Concert. They volunteer with the Brainerd Jaycee’s Ice Fishing Extravaganza and they put

on plays in ASL for area elementary schools.

Hoting-Mrazek also leads a cultural immersion experience with her students in Washington D.C. at Gallaudet University, the only liberal arts university in the world specifically for deaf and hard of hearing people.

According to one nomination letter, “Tanya strives to create a very supportive and encouraging learning environment that extends outside the classroom as well.”

Hoting-Mrazek lives in Motley with her husband, Joe and two kids, Samantha and Caden.

She will represent CLC at the BOT award ceremony in St. Paul in April, and will be under consideration for selection as the Board of Trustees Educator of the Year. Previous CLC educators to receive this honor include Darci Goeden, Betsy Picciano, Adam Marcotte and Kari Frisch.

Bridge priority replacement, host server and solid waste hearing

DECISIONS

continued from page 1a

cials they don’t get a step increase part way through the year.

The unions receive a 2.5 percent raise the first of the year and then later in the year another three percent for the step increase, said Gaida.

With a long pause of hesitation from Kircher, the board voted unanimously to approve setting Gaida’s salary with an increase of three percent at \$83,404.25 for 2019. This is an increase of \$2,429 from 2018’s salary.

The commissioners next approved their salary with Kircher opposed.

They set their salary at \$30,008 plus \$1,800 supplemental pay for board chair and \$1,200 supplemental pay for the board vice-chair in 2019. This is 2.5 percent increase which is the same as the union, but without the step increase.

The original motion was to set the board chair’s supplemental pay at \$2,400, but after discussion they lowered it to \$1,800 which is the same as 2018.

The next position was the county recorder being taken over by Linda Daoust the first of the year.

Current County Recorder Cheryl Perish has a salary of \$80,815.

Daoust was requesting a salary of \$70,013 which would have been a 24.21 percent increase above her chief deputy recorder salary of \$56,368.

Commissioner Rod Erickson asked for discussion prior to the motion because of the issue for

those who are appointed upwards.

Stainbrook said the concern was to make sure that Daoust would be making more than those who were just below her. If Daoust took the board approved minimum salary of \$60,715, her deputy recorder would be at \$63,000 - \$2,285 more than Daoust.

Stainbrook suggested raising Daoust’s salary to \$65,000

Chair Randy Neumann said that he had talked to them before about leap-frogging and now they would be doing it again by leaping over someone else’s salary.

“The recommendation in January was to set the minimum at \$60,000,” said Neumann. “The finance committee recommended \$60,000.”

Citizen Steve Beck felt that was fair because citizens have to now drive to Douglas County to get their passports as Todd County no longer does it.

Daoust said that Douglas County does passports, but they don’t do driver’s licenses.

She added that she has been with the county a combined total of 24 years.

Kircher said they should look at her experience and that it should have some “weight” in their decision.

Gaida said when she became interim auditor/treasurer she had 27 years of experience and didn’t get anything extra as interim, just the four percent standard increase that comes with a promotion per county policy.

“Experience is not always looked at,” she said.

Erickson made the motion to set Daoust’s salary for 2019 at \$65,000 - an increase of 15.31 percent over her chief deputy salary or \$8,632.

By roll call vote, it was approved at \$65,000 with Commissioner Barb Becker and Neumann opposed.

Without much discussion at all, the board approved setting newly elected Sheriff Steve Och’s salary at the board approved minimum of \$88,501 for 2019.

Departing Sheriff Don Asmus had a 2018 salary of \$86,807.

Och’s salary reflects a 10.59 percent increase from his chief deputy salary of \$80,028 for a total increase of \$8,473.

In other business the board:

• Becker questioned why the commissioners were not seeing the exit interviews. After discussion, it was agreed that the policy related to exit interviews will be reviewed. The current policy states that the employees have to agree to let the commissioners see the exit interviews.

• Approved setting the County Fee Schedule Public Hearing for Dec. 27 at 9:15 a.m.

• Approved changing the date of the first meeting in January because it falls on Jan. 1. The meeting will be held on Jan. 2 at 9 a.m.

• Approved the purchase of one Challenger MT515E Tractor and one Diamond

Mower from Ziegler Equipment for \$141,250 for the Public Works Department.

According to Public Works Director Loren Fellbaum, the purchase is being requested at this time to meet the Dec. 15 state bid deadline. Purchasing this equipment at this time will prevent the county from experiencing the anticipated major equipment price increase in 2019 due to increased steel costs.

He said they are expecting a ten percent increase.

• Approved the 2019 Master Bridge Priority Replacement List for public works. This lists all the bridges in the county County State Aid Highways, county roads, township roads, and municipal streets are either listed as structurally deficient or are a high priority for removal and replacement within the immediate future. There are three on the list for replacement in 2019.

• Approved submitting an application for an eligible construction project - CSAH 2 - to Region Five Development Commission for possible inclusion into the Central Minnesota Area Transportation Partnership’s 2023 Area Transportation Improvement Plan.

• Approved the Ditch/Ag Department’s vehicle purchase of a 2008 Ford F150 XLT 4WD truck from John Wiese Ford of Sauk Centre at the quoted price

of \$12,000.

• MIS is in need of replacing a host server as part of the technology rotation schedule. Quotes were received and funding sources have been secured for this purchase. Because this purchase is over \$5,000, board approval is needed. The total cost of the server is \$6,327.76. The breakdown per fund is:

- \$2,088.16 Compliance Fund
- \$632.78 Corrections
- \$2,024.88 MIS
- \$253.11 Recorder Tech Funds
- \$1,328.83 Social Service

Funds

• Set the Solid Waste Public Hearing for the 2019 proposed tipping, parcel, and general operating fees for Dec. 27, 2018 at 9:30 a.m.

• Approved out of state travel for Health and Human Services Director Jackie Och for the 2019 Alliance for Innovation Annual Conference being held April 10-12, 2019, with Neumann opposed. The travel would be in support of Region Five being selected as an Innovation Showcase Session for the Alliance for Innovation Annual Conference.

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Call Sue Van Hal for more information or if you wish to participate (218) 821-2276
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SMBP annual meeting Jan. 17

Staples-Motley Beyond Poverty will hold their annual meeting on Thursday, Jan. 17, at 10:30 a.m. at Staples City Hall.

SMBP’s mission is to

educate, collaborate and connect to improve poverty issues in the community.

For more information, call Gail at 218-296-1957.

SANTA'S Workshop
December 16th
Noon - 7pm
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Staples World
Holiday Deadlines
For news, classified ads and other advertising, the deadline for the
Dec. 27 Staples World is 5 p.m., Thurs., Dec. 20.
The deadline for the
Jan. 3 Staples World is 5 p.m., Thurs., Dec. 27.
For the Dec. 29 and Jan. 5 Square Shooter shoppers the deadline remains the same at 5 p.m. Wednesday.
Office Hours
The Staples World office will close at noon, Monday, Dec. 24, and will reopen at 8 a.m., Weds., Dec. 26.
We will close at noon, Monday, Dec. 31, and will reopen at 8 a.m., Weds., Jan. 2.

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Access points can connect communities with food

By Rhea Landholm
Center for Rural Affairs

How do we increase healthy, fresh foods in rural America? One way is to identify new opportunities for people to access food. Here are five suggestions for your community.

- Mobile grocery stores or veggie vans are refrigerated vans or trucks that bring affordable produce into communities at a certain time and day. The stores can be an effective way to provide fresh fruits and vegetables to communities that may not otherwise have access to such produce.
- Community-Supported Agriculture, or CSAs, function like a magazine subscription; a customer pays in advance for a season of produce deliveries,

receiving a “share” from a farmer. The farmer uses that money to grow food, then delivers a weekly box of produce to the customer.

- Farmers markets create a social environment for community members to access healthy foods and a place for local producers to sell their products. If the food is fresh and affordable, community members are willing to support local farmers and gardeners, which benefits the economy.
- Food hubs are networks that allow local producers to collaborate on marketing and distribution. Together, growers can supply more produce to meet larger scale wholesale or retail orders. These hubs create an opportunity for communities to simultaneously improve access to local foods and create

business for local farmers, distributors, and retailers.

- Seed banks operate by allowing a person to “check out” seeds, rootstocks or other plant materials, taking them home to grow, then saving seeds to give back following harvest. Seed banks not only protect such plant materials, but also provide farmers, gardeners, and other growers access to seeds.

Established in 1973, the Center for Rural Affairs is a private, non-profit organization working to strengthen small businesses, family farms and ranches, and rural communities through action oriented programs addressing social, economic, and environmental issues. For more information see cfra.org. Landholm can be reached at rheal@cfra.org



Micro-rural: mini scale, personal touch works for small towns

There are many ways to elevate a small town to new levels that increase local activity and community pride. It isn't going to drop out of the sky, it has to come from within the people currently living in the town. It isn't a matter of copying what other towns are doing, it should be unique, with personal touches that fit in with the landscape and people of the area.

This fall I attended a conference called “Rural that Works” put on by Deb Brown and Sarah Thompson, two Iowans who are finding incredible stories in many small towns.

The keynote speaker for the conference was Ben Winchester of the Center For Small Towns at the University of Minnesota Morris. I had heard Winchester speak several times in Staples before this, but it was fun to hear the oohs and aahs coming from the people hearing him for the first time as he validated the things they are seeing in their towns. His main message is that small towns are changing, not dying. The rest of the conference was about how to help your town benefit from the changes.

Brown has a web site, saveyourtown.com, that she operates with Becky McCray of Oklahoma. They have developed a method of helping people in small towns thrive and find what works in their communities. I won't describe it here, but the process involves starting small and building connections.

Brown gave an example of a local person who started a popcorn stand at a local fair, then kept expanding until they eventually bought a coffee shop.

It is not just small size, also small time commitments can do great things. Solving the empty building issue of most rural downtowns, Brown gave many examples of pop-up stores or temporary galleries. The building owner lets an artist or a vendor into their building for a few weeks, perhaps before Christmas. Sometimes the temporary vendor decides to stay long term or the increased traffic to the building brings in other tenants.

“Places who have tried those things see the empty buildings start to fill up as people realize the potential the building has,” said Brown.

The temporary galleries and pop-ups can also be put into established businesses that have space.

Besides working on a mini scale, another theme was to build connections between businesses and even between communities.

The simplest connection between businesses is to allow extra vendors near the business or even in the same building. Instead of the food truck trend, the latest idea is food sheds in a parking lot. They have found it greatly increases traffic to the main store.

The shed theme kept popping up at the conference. Brown said most towns have a business that sells garden sheds. Some towns are partnering with the shed supplier to make pop-up art galleries in the town, with sheds placed downtown, near parks or in parking lots. It might be rotating galleries in one shed or a row of sheds that are there for a month. It is good advertising for the shed seller and a quick, cheap way to build an attraction in the

community.

One town took the garden shed idea and made a row of them look like an 1800's town, with micro-businesses inside each shed. One place sold American Doll clothes, while another made mini bread.

The shed idea can also be used for a Cozy Cabin Christmas, with sheds for a baker, Santa Claus, and a Chinese restaurant bringing food to a shed. The business selling the sheds also sells fire pits, so they put one out and let people gather outside for a make-shift community outdoor winter party.

Other towns have turned FEMA trailers or Airstream trailers into business parks.

Established businesses banding together can create multiple community-wide sales events, instead of single store specials in each separate store.

Brown also advocated for shared working spaces, and creating co-working spaces available in towns. This could be in a business that has a little extra space or in an empty building, but many vendors, suppliers and mobile workers need work space, and every town should have a way to supply it, instead of a lineup of cars outside the library to get free wi-fi.

“People can live and work anywhere now, they don't need to be in the basement, they might rather become a part of the community,” said Brown.

If the community wants to take it to the next level, they could turn a shared space into an innovation lab or enrichment center for local people, travellers and local organizations. It could be run by non-profits who also want to work on ideas for the community. This would be a less structured way to invite people who want to help but may only have small amounts of time to work on it. Or it could inspire people to commit much more time to improving the community.

“People still want to spend time talking about the community, they just don't want to do it as a committee meeting,” said Brown.

Thompson showed how towns can work together to build each other up. One group held a Hometeam Hoopla event in four towns, where organizers wore baseball jerseys and people were awarded points for visiting all four towns. The next year they combined for a block party in one small town, but they ran out of food and beer because so many people came.

They also take a different approach to organizing events, doing everything online by Facebook Messenger, Dropbox or Google Docs, instead of driving between towns.

“People don't want to spend too much time talking, but still want to have fun,” said Thompson. “They do want to help, but just don't want to do it the way it's been done for 100 years.”

The common denominator to these stories is that local people simply decide to take that first step to do things differently, add their unique personal touch, and revitalize the community using what they already have, not waiting for someone to do it for them.

The same principles can be used to create unique community events, but that story is for another column.

PHONE NUMBERS	
Staples City Council	
Chris Etzler, Mayor.....	218-894-2894
Doug Case	218-296-1288
Brian Fisher	218-296-5147
Rachel Johnson	218-8820-5421
Roy Miles.....	218-894-1792
Ron Murray	218-296-0910
Mary Theurer.....	218-894-3752
Jerel Nelsen, admin..	218-894-2550

Letter to the Editor

Thanks!!

Hats off to Tricia, her husband and all the fine folks who blessed us this season with the wonderful light show for Christmas at Pine Grove Park.

Everyone should come and see this loving display of holiday scenes. Bring all the kids and grand kids.

Thank you, Parks Dept. Bless “All-Y’all’s little hearts!”

Gary Timbs,
Staples, Minn

StaplesWorld

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Letters: Readers are encouraged to express their views by writing letters to the editor. Letters are verified for authenticity, so please include a name, address and phone number. Only the author's name and city will be published. Letters may be edited for spelling and grammar errors, libel, length and other factors. Private thanks, solicitations and libelous letters will not be published. Letters are printed on a space available basis. The editor reserves the right to reject letters.
The deadline is 5 p.m. Monday. 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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Staples-Motley School Board

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Mary Freeman

Greg Frisk.....

Chad Longbella

Bruce Lund

Bryan Winkels

Ron Bratlie, Interim Supt.

218-894-1411

218-575-2309

218-352-6137

218-894-1526

218-894-2202

218-895-7189

218-894-5400



Holiday Voices program Dec. 20

Celebrate the holidays with a showcase of talent from around the area on Thurs., Dec. 20 from noon to 1 p.m. at the Wadena County Museum.

Holiday Voices is the final Minnesota Voices program of 2018, which includes a series of free programs from the Wadena County Historical Society featuring programs with Minnesota writers, artists and scientists. It is held the third Thursday of the month at the Wadena County Museum.

Following the program, the Wadena County Historical Society will hold their Holiday Tea and Open House from 1 to 6 p.m. The event will include refreshments and more entertainment and possibly a sneak preview of the newest addition to the Wadena County Museum.

The Wadena County Historical Society is collaborating with Gillette Kempf of An Open Book to open a new bookstore featuring books about the history and culture of the region. The bookstore will be located in the lobby of

the Wadena County Museum and will be open Tuesday - Saturday from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

After 12 years in business, Wadena's most popular local bookstore closed its doors in November. Family obligations made it necessary for owner Gillette Kempf to move out of the area.

The collaboration between Kempf and the Historical Society came about because she wanted to be able to leave the community with something of her interest in local history and culture.

For the Wadena County Historical Society it was a great opportunity to have a professional bookseller as a partner to help expand their services to the community.

The museum bookstore will carry a line of about 150 titles to begin with. In addition, the museum has plans to include a souvenir line to the store and has been working with the Wadena Chamber of Commerce on ways to attract more tourism to the community.

For more information about the Museum Bookstore, contact the Wadena County Historical Society, 603 Jefferson Street North. 603wchs@arvig.net or 218-631-9079.

Mark Your Calendar December 19

BRainerd Chapter #738 NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF ACTIVE AND RETIRED FEDERAL EMPLOYEES Mtg Wed., Dec. 19, Skillet, NE Brainerd. Social at 11:30 a.m., lunch at 12:30 p.m. Christmas party. Bring items for Salvation Army.

STAPLES ALL VETERANS AND COMMUNITY PARK ASSOCIATION Mtg Wed., Dec. 19, 5:30 p.m., in the meeting room at Timbers Restaurant in Staples. Public invited.



Spruced up for the holidays

Approximately 180 wreaths have been placed at gravestones at Evergreen Hill Cemetery in Staples, thanks to the efforts of the cemetery board. The

wreaths were sold as a fundraiser for the Evergreen Hill Cemetery. (Staples World photo by Dawn Timbs)

School board agenda

The Staples-Motley School Board will meet Tuesday, Dec. 18, at 7 p.m. in the Staples-Motley High School media center. Note change of day.

Agenda items include:
• Financial items include presentation of the 2017-18 audit by CliftonLarsonAllen; approve current school year budget and 2018 levy, payable in 2019; approve annual resolution directing administration to make recommendations for reductions in programs and positions.
• Personnel items include approve grade increase for technology coordinator; approve contracts for Rebecca Rapaway and Alexis Jordan, parapro-

fessionals; accept resignations of Jenna Smith, ticket gate manager, and Kristi Johnson, assistant track coach; approve hire of Lyndsey Tyni, ticket gate manager.

• Curriculum items include approve request from the Spanish Club for an extended field trip to Dominican Republic in June 2020 and approve request for a science extended field trip to Costa Rica in June 2020.

• Other items include establishing combined polling places for multiple precincts and adopting public forum guidelines.

School board special meeting

The Staples-Motley School Board will hold a special meeting Thursday Dec. 20, at 6 p.m. in the Staples-Motley High School media center.

The board will be receiving an update on the facility project and the results of the community survey.

Christmas shopping? Consider a Gift Subscription to the Staples World Gift cards available. 224 4th St. NE Staples, MN Staples World

COZY THEATRE WADENA, MN
Screen 1: "THE OLD MAN & THE GUN" PG-13
Fri. thru Wed. Dec. 14 - 19
Fri. & Sat. 2 Shows at 7:00 & 9:15
Sun. thru Wed. 1 Show at 7:00
Matinees Sat. & Sun. Dec. 15 & 16 at 1:00 pm
Screen 2: "Held Over 3rd Week! 'INSTANT FAMILY'" PG-13
Fri. thru Wed. Dec. 14 - 19
Fri. & Sat. 2 Shows at 7:10 & 9:30
Sun. thru Wed. 1 Show at 7:10
Matinees Sat. & Sun. Dec. 15 & 16 at 1:15 pm
Screen 3: "ROBIN HOOD" PG-13
Fri. thru Tues. Dec. 14 - 18
Fri. & Sat. 2 Shows at 7:15 & 9:30
Sun. thru Tues. 1 Show at 7:15
Matinee Sun. Dec. 16 at 1:30 pm
FREE CHRISTMAS MATINEE
Saturday, December 15 at 12:00 & 2:00 pm
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Tuesday Bargain Night! All Seats Only \$5.00!
www.cozytheatre.com

Staples Area Church Directory

Staples
Staples Alliance
1512 8th St. NE, Staples 218-894-2891
Pastor Bob Hepokoski
Mark Shea, Pastor of Student Ministries
Sunday Worship 9:30 a.m.
Sunday School 10:30 a.m.
Sunday School 11:00 a.m.
WEDNESDAY
AWANA 6:15 p.m.
Assembly of God
914 3rd Ave. NE, Staples 218-894-1081
Pastor Roy Miles
Discipleship Class 9:15 a.m.
Sunday Worship 10:30 a.m.
Evening Prayer 6:00 p.m.
WEDNESDAY
Wednesday times are for Sept. - May
Soulflight (Kids Program).... 4:00 - 5:30 p.m.
Youth Group 5:30 - 7:00 p.m.
Church of Christ
27343 490th St., Staples 218-894-2609
Pastor Barry Klein
Website: 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.
Congregational Church, UCC
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 218-894-2296
Church:
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 am.
Sabbath School 9:30 a.m.
Thomastown Covenant
15940 251st Ave., Staples 218-894-3923
Pastor Nathan Hillman
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
www.bethanylutherancushing.com
Sunday Worship 9:00 a.m.
Lincoln Evangelical Free
1354 320th St., Cushing 218-575-2449
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: Kelly Gelle
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
www.cushingbaptistchurch.org
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 School 9:00 & 10:30 a.m.
Sunday Worship 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.motleyumc.org
Sunday Worship Service 9:00 a.m.
Monday AA meeting 8:00 p.m.
Oylen
Oylen Alliance
City 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
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@tbcpillager.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 Hoffert
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 9:30 a.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
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.
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
10 3rd 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.

"Where can we find an Unchanging Bearing in an Ever Changing World?"
Pastor Barry Klein, Staples Church of Christ
We have often heard adages that go something like "Change is the only thing that doesn't change" We hardly need to convince anyone that change is coming at a faster speed all the time. We can feel swallowed up by fast change.
Before we go further, let's be on the same page about an axiom of life: "Some change is good. Some change is harmful." We literally need to thank God that our bodies go through humanly incomprehensible amounts of change, beginning as a fertilized egg in our mother's womb. That provides growth. We need to change in growth spiritually, emotionally, mentally and physically in a way that matches God's design for life. (Think of Jesus' use of an extremely small mustard seed with its mammoth growth. -Matthew 13:31-32 or yeast...) Change for change's sake is directionless. Good change always has a larger purpose and direction to it... often outside of ourselves. Remember another old adage: "a person wrapped up in themselves makes for a very small package."
So, in a tumultuous world of change, where do we find our bearings? A bedrock bearing is Hebrews 13:8 that simply but profoundly exclaims: "Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today and forever." That matches descriptions of Him when He is described as "the Alpha and Omega, the First and the Last, the Beginning and the End." (Revelation 22:13). Unlike a dangerous hearsay that attempts to dethrone Jesus as the Second Person of the Tri-une God by making platitudes of Him being the first of and in creation (as a created being), Jesus is eternal... with no beginning or end. Even Jesus' religious enemies caught that Jesus claimed Divinity and therefore they wanted to kill Him for it. (John 8:59).
So, if Jesus is Who He says He is (and He is), that means that "change" in whatever form that takes, needs to be brought before the One "Who does NOT change!" In Who Jesus is with what He speaks (Bible), we need to let Him lead us through change, always hearing from Him what any change really means.

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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
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Staples True Value "Just Ask Rental" Open 7 days a week. Staples, MN 218-894-3263



2018 Community Christmas concert

The Community Christmas Concert was held Dec. 8 at Sacred Heart Catholic Church in Staples featuring The Colla Voce Girl's Choir, Central Minnesota Boys Choir, Staples Area Women's Chorus and the Staples Area Men's Chorus. The annual event highlights perfor-

mances by each group, heralding in the Christmas season. Over 157 voices, directors and accompanists culminated the concert with the songs, "Lullaby to the Savior", Paul John Rudoi and "Away In a Manger", Arr. Gilbert Martin. (Staples World photo by Janice Winter)

Hello World

BIRTHS REPORTED AT LAKEWOOD HEALTH SYSTEM HOSPITAL IN STAPLES INCLUDED:

Born to Jessica Randall and Jesse McKane of Hewitt, a baby girl, Ivy JoAnne weighing eight pounds on November 30, 2018.

Born to Angela and Dillon Remmick of East Gull Lake, a baby boy, Calvin Crew weighing seven pounds on December 5, 2018.

* * * * *

BIRTHS REPORTED AT TRI-COUNTY HEALTH CARE HOSPITAL IN WADENA INCLUDED:

Born to Cally and Deven Anderson of Deer Creek, a baby girl, Lillian Sterling Anderson weighing seven pounds, six ounces on December 5, 2018. Grandparents are Brad and Judy Mattocks; and Laura Sterling.

Born to Maryssa Nolan and Austin Bimberg of Sebeka a baby boy, Brakkin Gaige Bimberg weighing eight pounds, one ounce on December 10, 2018. Grandparents are Talana and Eli Bimberg, Bobbi Allen and Tim Nolan.



Building holiday gingerbread houses

A number of families enjoyed making gingerbread houses at the Staples Public Library Dec. 6, while listening to music of guitarist Angie Hoeft (below, left). Pictured at top, from left, are Natasha Myers and her son, Brantley Cleveland; unknown; and Anders, Peter, Shelo and their dad, Nathan Hillman, all of Staples. Center photo: Annika Weber of Motley adds a finishing touch to her gingerbread house; and below right, Stacy Schultz and her daughter Chadia, Staples, enjoy working on their holiday creation. This event was made possible by the Friends of the Library, Stomping Grounds and MN Arts and Cultural Heritage Fund. (Staples World photos by Dawn Timbs)



Wadena Cty. Historical Society to host BookEnds

BookEnds is a monthly literary event that connects readers and writers in outstate Minnesota. It meets the second Saturday of the month at 11 a.m. at the The Uptown, 224 Jefferson Street S. Wadena.

The event is held in a casual interview style with a moderator.

Jerry Mevissen, who has been the moderator for the past two years, is stepping down but the BookEnds event series will continue with the Wadena County Historical Society.

Last year's authors in-

cluded award winning Minnesota authors Mike Lein, Erin Hart and Doris Stengel to name just a few. A complete listing for 2019 will be available soon.

This December, Alicia Schwab will talk about the children's book, The Mukluk Ball at the Wadena City Library at 11 a.m. on Saturday Dec. 15. Written by Katherine Johnson with illustrations by Alicia Schwab, the book features the story of Karhu as he dances his way to Finn Town's liveliest winter event, the Mukluk Ball, featuring the tango, the conga and even the Bear Hug Twist.

For more information about upcoming BookEnds programs contact the Wadena County Historical Society. 603wchs@arvig.net or 218-631-9079.

95th
BIRTHDAY
Celebration
honoring



Ruth Boldan
Sat., Dec. 22
1 to 4 p.m.
Bear's Den, Leader

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STOMPING GROUNDS



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Obituaries



Austin Bacon

Austin David Bacon, 19, of Nimrod, passed away Dec. 6, 2018, due to injuries sustained in a motor vehicle accident.

A memorial service will be held at 1 p.m. on Sat., Dec. 15 at the United Methodist Church in Sebeka. Visitation will be held two hours prior to the service at the church.

Burial will follow the service at Montrose Cemetery in Bullard Township.

Arrangements are with the Taylor Funeral Home in Staples.

Austin was born August 6, 1999 to Cory and Kim Bacon in Wadena. He attended Sebeka Schools where he played basketball, baseball and football through his elementary years. He found his true passion for wrestling during high school and achieved over 100 varsity wins. Austin enjoyed hunting, fishing, four-wheeling, dirt biking and being on the Crow Wing River. He was mechanical, enjoyed animals and especially loved his family and friends.

Austin is survived by his father, Cory Bacon of Nimrod; mother, Kim (Dawn) Bacon of Motley; one brother, Tanner Bacon of Motley; paternal grandmother, Karen Johnson; maternal grandmother, Pat Drury; aunts and uncles, Cindy Anderson, Craig (Carol) Weigel, Bill (Stacey) Drury, Becky (Mike) Harrison, Steph Drury, Dave Drury, Angela (Ryan) Roiko; cousins, Lettie, Lisa, Lyndsey, Taylor, Gavin, Melanie, Tim, Karly, Taylor, Dean, Dylan, Alex, Jade, Courtney and Rilee; girlfriend, Aleecia; puppy, Roxy.

He is preceded in death by his paternal grandfathers, Ronald Bacon and Don Johnson; maternal grandfather, David Drury; and one uncle, Mike Anderson.

w50c A00006B2018DEC13

Lois Reggie

Lois Reggie, 76, of Wadena, passed away December 4, 2018, at Lakewood Health System Care Center in Staples.

A celebration of life will be held at a later date in California.

Arrangements provided by Karvonen Funeral & Cremation Service, Wadena.

w50c A00006B2018DEC13

Student Achievements

MINNESOTA STATE UNIVERSITY MOORHEAD will award degrees to approximately 500 students during its fall commencement program Dec. 20. The following local students will receive degrees:

• Courtney Lisson, 2012 Staples-Motley High School graduate, Bachelor of Science degree.

• Mason Quick, 2014 Pillager High School graduate, Bachelor of Science degree.

• Paul Wicht, 1979 Staples High School graduate, Bachelor of Arts degree.



Brenny
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someone
we love
becomes
a memory;
that memory
becomes
a treasure.



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Assumed Name
Minnesota Statutes,
Chapter 333

The filing of an assumed name does not provide a user with exclusive rights to that name. The filing is required for consumer protection in order to enable consumers to be able to identify the true owner of a business.

1. List the exact assumed name under which the business is or will be conducted:

St. John Vianney Priory

2. Principal place of business:

820 St. John's Avenue
Browerville,
MN 56438

3. List the name and complete street address of all persons conducting business under the above Assumed Name, OR if an entity, provide the legal corporate, LLC, or Limited Partnership name and registered office address:

Society of Saint Pius X, Long Prairie, Minnesota, Inc.

11485 N. Farley Rd.,
Platte City, MO 64079

St. John Vianney Church, 18910 Ellipse Loop, Long Prairie, MN 56347

St. John Vianney Academy, 18910 Ellipse Loop, Long Prairie, MN 56347

4. I, the undersigned, certify that I am signing this document as the person whose signature is required, or as agent of the person(s) whose signature would be required who has authorized me to sign this document on his/her behalf, or in both capacities. I further certify that I have completed all required fields, and that the information in this document is true and correct and in compliance with the applicable chapter of Minnesota Statutes. I understand that by signing this document I am subject to the penalties of perjury as set forth in Section 609.48 as if I had signed this document under oath.

Signature:
Rev. Fr. Jurgen Wegner - President

DATE: November 28, 2018
49-50pnc

TODD COUNTY BOARD OF ADJUSTMENT
215 First Ave. South
Long Prairie,
Minnesota 56347
320-732-4420

PUBLIC NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that on Thursday, December 27, 2018 at 6:00 p.m. the Todd County Board of Adjustment will hold a public hearing in the Commissioner's board room, 215 1st Ave. South, Long Prairie, Minnesota to consider the following Variance applications:

1. **Jeffrey Kuhlmann:** Lots 1 to 5 & Lots 13 to 17 Blk 1 & N 33 FT of Vacated Street Lying E of Lots 1 & 17 & Lying S of Lots 13 to 17 & RR R.O.W. Lying E of Lots 1 & 17 Blk 1 in Round Prairie Township
Site Address: 23265 190th St. PIN: 21-0040200

1) Request to build a security-screen privacy fence 10' in height instead of the required 6'.

2) To request to add-on 455 sq ft with 27' peak height to existing 65' x 100' storage building 28' from the Road Right-of-Way instead of the required 35'.

2. **Diane Liesemeyer:** Section-27 Township-129 Range-35 in Leslie Township
Site Address: NA. PIN: 15-0031800

1) Request to increase height requirement to 22' from the 18' as limited by shoreland for a 40' x 60' storage shed.
Adjournment.
Next meeting: **January 24, 2018**

All persons interested are invited to attend said hearing or submit a letter to be heard on these matters.

Todd County
Board of Adjustment
Bill Berscheit, Chair
50pnc

COUNTY PRINTING
TODD COUNTY - MINNESOTA

Notice is hereby given that the Board of County Commissioners of Todd County, will receive sealed bids until 4:00 p.m. Friday, December 28, 2018 at the County Auditor-Treasurer's Office. Bids will be opened at the County Board meeting on Wednesday, January 2, 2019, at 9:05 a.m. in the County Board Room, for publication for the year 2019 as may be required by the County of Todd, a municipal corporation, as follows:

Designation of the Official Newspaper

This requires the publishing of official proceedings by the Todd County Board, and other legal and public notices required by all Todd County Departments, publication of the financial statement and publication of the list of lands in Todd County, delinquent in taxes for the year 2018, which have not been attached to prior judgment.

The successful bidder will be required to furnish a performance bond in such amount as may be determined by the County Board. The County Board reserves the right to reject any or all bids if in its judgment of the public interest so required pursuant to M.S. 279.07, and to waive any informalities therein.

Denise Gaida
Todd County Auditor/
Treasurer
50-51pnc

OFFICE OF THE MINNESOTA SECRETARY OF STATE

Assumed Name/
Certificate of
Assumed Name
Minnesota Statutes,
Chapter 333

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1. List the exact assumed name under which the business is or will be conducted:

St. John Vianney Chapel

2. Principal place of business:

18910 Ellipse Loop
Long Prairie,
MN 56347

3. List the name and complete street address of all persons conducting business under the above Assumed Name, OR if an entity, provide the legal corporate, LLC, or Limited Partnership name and registered office address:

Society of Saint Pius X, Long Prairie, Minnesota, Inc.

11485 N. Farley Rd.,
Platte City, MO 64079

St. John Vianney Academy, 18910 Ellipse Loop, Long Prairie, MN 56347

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Signature:
Rev. Fr. Jurgen Wegner - President

DATE: November 28, 2018
49-50pnc

PUBLIC
NOTICES:
Your Right
to Know

TODD COUNTY NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC
COUNTY FEE SCHEDULE

Notice to the Public: on Thursday, December 27, 2018 at 9:15 a.m. in the Commissioners Boardroom, Todd County Historic Courthouse (215 1st Avenue South, Long Prairie, Minnesota), the Todd County Board of Commissioners will hold a County Fee Schedule Hearing to solicit public input in order to determine the 2019 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 and Sheriff.

Respectfully submitted,
Denise Gaida, Todd County Auditor-Treasurer
Clerk to the County Board
50-51pnc

OFFICE OF THE MINNESOTA SECRETARY OF STATE

Assumed Name/
Certificate of
Assumed Name
Minnesota Statutes,
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Signature:
Rev. Fr. Jurgen Wegner - President

DATE: November 28, 2018
49-50pnc

COUNTY PRINTING
TODD COUNTY, MINNESOTA

Designation of Extra Printing

Notice is hereby given that the Board of Commissioners of Todd County, Minnesota will receive sealed bids for the extra publication of the Financial Statement for the year 2018 as required by law until 4:00 p.m., Friday, December 28, 2018. Bids will be opened at 9:05 on January 2, 2019 in the County Board Room.

This requires the extra publication for distribution of the Financial Statement to the remaining parts of the county not covered by the distribution of the official newspaper. The successful bidder will be required to furnish a performance bond in such an amount as may be determined by the County Board. The County Board reserves the right to reject any or all bids if in its judgment of the public interest so required pursuant to M.S. 279.07, and it waives any informalities therein.

Denise Gaida
Todd County Auditor/
Treasurer
50-51pnc

NOTICE TO THE RESIDENTS OF MOTLEY TOWNSHIP

Affidavits of candidacy for the upcoming township election March 12, 2019, may be filed by appointment at the home of the clerk beginning Tuesday, January 1, 2019 and ending on Tuesday, January 15, 2019 at 5:00 p.m. for the following offices: one supervisor for a 3-year term and one treasurer for a 2-year term. Filing fee is \$2.00. Please call the clerk at 218-352-6564 to set up an appointment.

Ken Swecker, Clerk
50-51pnc

NOTICE OF FILING MORAN TOWNSHIP

Notice is hereby given to the residents of Moran Township that filing for township offices will open January 1, 2019, and close January 15, 2019, at 5:00 p.m.

The offices that may be filed for are: One (1) Supervisor for a 3 year term, and One (1) Treasurer for a 2 year term.

Candidates may file at the clerk's office at 28316 410th St., Browerville, Mn.

Teresa Wagner, Clerk
50-51pnc

NOTICE OF FILING STAPLES TOWNSHIP

Staples Township is accepting filings for:

Supervisor for a three (3) year term

Supervisor for a two (2) year term

Treasurer for a two (2) year term

The filing period for these offices opens at the home of the Clerk on January 1, 2019 and closes at 5:00 p.m. on January 15, 2019.

Filing fee is \$2.00.

Please contact Bonnie Thoele at 218-894-3638 or 218-296-2151 to file for office.

Bonnie Thoele, Clerk
49-50pnc

TODD COUNTY NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC
SOLID WASTE FEES

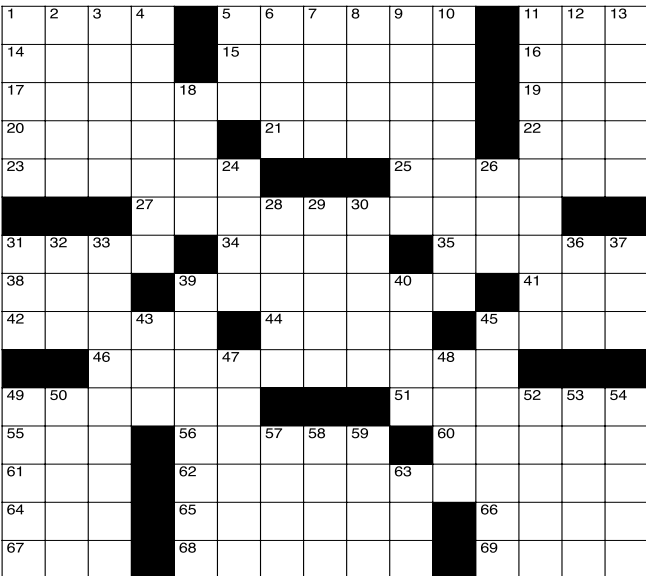
Notice to the Public: on Thursday, December 27, 2018 at 9:30 a.m. in the Commissioners Board Room, Todd County Historic Courthouse (215 1st Avenue South, Long Prairie, Minnesota), the Todd County

Board of Commissioners will hold a Public Hearing to solicit public input in order to determine the 2019 fees for the Solid Waste department.

Respectfully submitted,
Jonathan Stainbrook,
Todd County Coordinator
Solid Waste Director
50-51pnc

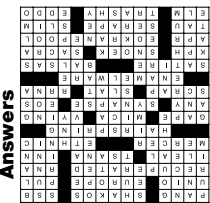
Crossword Puzzle

Week 50



CLUES ACROSS

- 1. Sharp pain
- 5. Military hats
- 11. Software app on a network (abbr.)
- 14. Genus of freshwater mussels
- 15. Continent
- 16. Afghani monetary unit
- 17. Recovered
- 19. Ribonucleic acid river
- 20. Refers to end of small intestine
- 21. Ethiopia's largest lake
- 22. Hostelry
- 23. Defunct American automaker
- 25. Denotes origin by birth or descent
- 27. Part of a watch
- 31. Stare with mouth open wide
- 34. Found in granite
- 35. Competing
- 38. Stone film " — Given Sunday"
- 39. Junction between two nerve cells



CLUES DOWN

- 1. Jewish festival
- 2. Anoint
- 3. More pleasant
- 4. Type pf painting
- 5. Witness
- 6. Harm
- 7. Builder of Arantea (Greek myth.)
- 8. City in India
- 9. Used to unlock cans
- 10. Induces sleep
- 11. More bouncy

- 41. Greek goddess of the dawn
- 42. Fight
- 44. Thin, narrow piece of wood or metal
- 45. Ribosomal ribonucleic acid
- 46. Type of kitchenware
- 49. Specialty of The Onion
- 51. Major Mexican river
- 55. Kilometers per hour
- 56. Species of mackerel
- 60. Bones
- 61. Interest rate
- 62. New York Mets legend
- 64. 19th letter of Greek alphabet
- 65. Shawl
- 66. Gracefully thin
- 67. Type of deciduous tree
- 68. Not classy
- 69. Taro corm or plant

- 12. A branch of Islam
- 13. White (French)
- 18. Legal term
- 24. Covered with frost
- 26. Hengyang Nanyue Airport
- 28. Wash
- 29. Disorder of the scalp
- 30. North American tree
- 31. Helps cars run
- 32. Mandela's party
- 33. Aromatic plant of the daisy family
- 36. Negative
- 37. College student educator (abbr.)
- 39. Most rare
- 40. Harm with a knife
- 43. Folk singer
- 45. Return to
- 47. One who repairs
- 48. Eastern England river
- 49. Hockey players need two
- 50. Dismay
- 52. Rebuke
- 53. Plant of the arum family
- 54. Fish genus
- 57. Plant of the mallow family
- 58. Amounts of time
- 59. 11th letter of the Hebrew alphabet
- 63. One of Napoleon's generals
- CW17C410

Enter To **WIN**
\$3,000



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Enter to win now, go to:
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www.heartlandgirls ranch.org

Help Wanted

Do you want to be part of an amazing team of dedicated and caring staff? Heartland Girls' Ranch in Benson has positions available.

Heartland Girls Ranch is a group home that provides housing, schooling, supportive services, mental health support, and equine programming. Licensed by the MN Dept. of Corrections. **EOE**

Part-Time Youth Counselor Hours are 8:00 am-4:00 pm and/or 3:00-11:00 pm, every other weekend.

Primary Youth Counselor Hours are 2-11 pm weekdays and rotating weekends. This is a Full Time position. Qualifications include a Bachelor's degree or a combination of college coursework and experience in the field to equal 4 years.

Overnight Youth Counselor • SIGN ON BONUS

Full-Time position. Hours are 10:30 pm-8 am 2 weekdays and rotating weekends.

• **Experience Preferred But Will Train** •

*Top wage based on qualifications.

For an Applicant Information Packet and an Application, email Sherry Jones at:
sherry@heartlandgirls ranch.org

320.843.4815 Ext. 227



The Family Gourmet Feast

- 2 (5 oz.) Filet Mignons
- 2 (5 oz.) Top Sirloins
- 2 (4 oz.) Boneless Pork Chops
- 4 Boneless Chicken Breasts (1 lb. pkg.)
- 4 (3 oz.) Kielbasa Sausages
- 4 (4 oz.) Omaha Steaks Burgers
- 4 (3 oz.) Potatoes au Gratin
- 4 (4 oz.) Caramel Apple Tartlets
- OS Seasoning Packet

55586TJH | \$199.91* separately

Combo Price **\$499**



*Savings shown over aggregated single item base price. Limit 2 pkgs. Free gifts must ship with #55586. Standard S&H will be added. Expires 2/28/19. ©2018 OCG 18M1531 Omaha Steaks, Inc.

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www.OmahaSteaks.com/love17

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121 Arnold Avenue South
Thief River Falls, MN 56701
218-681-3450
Email: hartzfoods@mncable.net

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For more information visit
midcountycoop.com/mechanic-job
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or brent@midcountycoop.com

710 Lake St W, Cologne, MN 55322



Kindergarten performers

Staples-Motley kindergarten students overcome their nervousness to sing the Mitten Song to a packed gymnasium during their Christmas Concert on Dec. 5.



Third grade Christmas Concert

Third grade singers perform at the Staples-Motley Elementary School Christmas Concert on Dec. 5. (Staples World photos by Mark Anderson)

Elementary Christmas sights and sounds



Sweet second grade singers

Staples-Motley second grade students belt out a song at the Staples-Motley Elementary School Christmas Concert on Dec. 5.



First graders sing and dance

First grade dancers swing their partners while singing “Santa’s Hoedown” during the Staples-Motley Elementary School Christmas Concert on Dec. 5

CTC to bring high speed internet to Todd County

Consolidated Telecommunications Company (CTC) was recently awarded a \$2.1 million Community Connect grant through the USDA to bring much needed broadband services to a portion of

Todd County.

The area covered will include the Fawn Lake community, Philbrook, a portion of Moran Township and some surrounding areas.

“We are very excited to be the first telecommunications company in Minnesota to receive this grant,” states CTC General Manager/CEO Kristi Westbrook. “This grant will go a long way in helping us

continue to deliver much needed broadband services to Todd County.”

Construction for the fiber to the home project will begin in the spring of 2019. Homes and businesses within the build area can contact CTC at 800-753-9104 to inquire about services or visit www.GoCTC.com.

CTC will also be sending out information about the project and services available in the near future.



North Pole bound

Two-year-old Charlotte Grunewald of Staples dropped a letter to Santa in the mailbox at the Staples World recently. She is hoping to receive some Barbie dolls and pink hair from Santa for Christmas. (Staples World photo by Dawn Timbs)

Area projects included in Initiative Foundation grants

The Initiative Foundation and its Partner Funds announced 77 grants totaling nearly \$295,000 awarded during the third quarter of 2018.

Grants to area groups include:

- Sisters with Sass, \$2,200 for the women’s mentoring program focused on empowering women through education, work and well-being.
- Hands of Hope Resource Center, \$3,000 to support strategic planning.
- Central Lakes College Foundation, \$5,000 to support small grants to staff and faculty members with innovative ideas for reducing or removing barriers to student success, increase student retention and better prepare students to meet workforce needs.
- Wellness in the Woods, \$2,500 to help the organization build its brand, a key focus of the strategic plans developed through participation in the Initiative Foundation’s Financial Resiliency program.

The Initiative Foundation also hosts a variety of Partner Funds for families, businesses, nonprofit organizations and volunteer-led groups. They announced a \$1,800 grant to the Living Legacy Gardens from the Julius Kurpius Family Fund.

“We are proud to invest in these great organizations, all doing great work in the counties and communities they serve,” said Matt Varilek, Initiative Foundation president. “So far in 2018 we’ve supported projects helping to support innovation in education, improve quality of life with bike trails and more.”

Read all about it in the pages of the Staples World.

Have You HEARD?

Presented by Steve Trebil, BC-HIS

CAN YOU UNRING THAT BELL?

While the cause of “tinnitus” (the sensation of ringing in the ears when no external sound is present) is unknown, the condition has been linked to hearing loss that is either age- or noise-related. In fact, about 90 percent of people with tinnitus have some hearing loss caused by noise. With this in mind, those suffering from tinnitus may want to enlist the help of a hearing specialist to help with the proper fitting of a hearing instrument that addresses hearing loss. In many cases, tinnitus can be reduced when a person can better hear sounds around them. Another option is a tinnitus “masker,” which introduces white noise that may help suppress tinnitus and make it less bothersome.

Whether you are hearing the sounds of tinnitus or not, hearing the sounds of life around you, don’t hesitate to make an appointment with a hearing aid specialist. With the many options available today thanks to innovative, advanced technology, your ability to hear can be enhanced and so will your quality of life. Stop by soon or call us at 1-800-458-0095 to find out about having a free hearing test at 17474 State Hwy 371, Brainerd. PREFERRED HEARING provides this information as a public service. If we become aware of any unusual condition during a hearing consultation that warrants additional professional attention, we can provide an expert referral.

P.S. Tinnitus may occur as a result of taking certain medications, earwax blockage, and/or changes in the bones of the middle ear (otosclerosis).

PREFERRED Hearing Aid Center

Offices in Brainerd, MN • Pequot Lakes, MN • Crosby, MN
800-458-0895 • 218-825-7349
218-546-8103

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(218) 894-1522 | firstintbank.com

0147, 11-18

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©2006, Pioneer Drama Service, Inc.

First Congregational
United Church of Christ
(Highway 29 and 1st St. SW)

Dec. 14th - 7:00 pm
Dec. 15th - 2:00 pm & 7:00 pm
Dec. 16th - 2:00 pm

Tickets Available at Wadena Thrifty White,
online at madhattersinc.org
and at the Church Door

\$7.00 - Adults \$4.00 - Students

This activity is made possible by the voters of Minnesota through a grant from the
Five Wings Arts Council, thanks to a legislative appropriation from the Arts and Cultural Heritage Foundation.



Jordahl Hardware open in Motley

Carrying on a family tradition

By Dawn Timbs
Staples World reporter

Stephanie (Hoefs) Jordahl of Motley has been working in the hardware business since she was a teenager.

She recalls helping stock shelves at Miller True Value in Staples back in the '90s after school, and later on in Browerville when her dad, Tad Hoefs, bought the hardware store there.

Little did Stephanie know that one day she would be the owner of Jordahl Hardware in Motley.

She purchased the store from her dad last February when he indicated he was looking to retire.

"I didn't want to see it close," Stephanie said, adding that she feels it's important for small towns to have a hardware store. When she approached her dad about the possibility of her buying the store, "he was excited," she said.

The hardware business seems to be in her family's blood. Prior to purchasing the Browerville store in 1998, her dad worked at Zosel's in Wadena and a hardware store in Red Wing. When the family moved to

Staples, he worked at Miller True Value for several years.

About five or six years ago, he bought Tom's Hardware Hank in Motley from Tom Zetah. It was later named Motley Hardware. When she was still a teen, Stephanie recalls learning how to cut and flare copper pipe. She credits her dad for teaching her a lot of real life skills. "I still call him with questions," she said.

She loves meeting with customers and helping answer their questions. With her role having changed to store owner, Stephanie said she spends a lot more time now at the computer and doing bookwork. But, she still makes time to get out on the floor and talk with her customers...something she enjoys very much.

Having grown up in the area (Stephanie's a 1998 graduate of Staples-Motley High School) she knows many of the customers that stop by Jordahl Hardware.

Although big box stores have affected small town retailers, Stephanie knows that customers appreciate the one-on-one help

that's available at a locally-owned store like hers.

Stephanie's found that people are purchasing more things online these days, but she's a strong advocate for in-person shopping. "You can't ask Amazon about the exact part you need."

She's been busy "re-setting" the store, which has entailed changing the location of shelves and building some new ones.

Stephanie's been adding new inventory along the way as well. In addition to the usual hardware items you expect to find, customers will notice a section for Christmas gifts and decorations, as well as hunting and fishing supplies, and products such as locally-grown honey.

We've added merchandise items, Stephanie said, mentioning some new farm supplies including ear tags for cattle. Recently, she purchased a color-match machine for paint.

Bird feeders and bird food are also items Stephanie's found are in high demand at Jordahl Hardware.

She is happy to be able to provide a service to the Motley area, a community



Following in her dad's footsteps

Stephanie Jordahl is the owner of Jordahl Hardware in Motley, a business previously owned by her dad, Tad Hoefs. She took over the business (formerly

known as Motley Hardware) last February. (Staples World photo by Dawn Timbs)

that means so much to her and her family.

Stephanie is married to Shawn Jordahl, owner of Jordahl Concrete and Masonry in Motley. They have a daughter, Jaelyn, 14; and son, Jayde, 12.

Her children have been learning how to work at the hardware store just like she did when she was

their age. Jayde helps a lot with freight and Jaelyn has been training to be out on the floor helping customers, Stephanie said. It's apparent that the family tradition their grandpa Hoefs started is still going strong.

In addition to their regular full-time work, Stephanie and Shawn keep busy at their rural-Motley farm,

where they raise beef cattle.

Jordahl Hardware is located at 117 Hwy 10 So. in Motley. They can be reached by phone at 218-352-6366.

The store is open Monday - Friday, 8 a.m. - 6 p.m.; Saturday, 8 a.m. - 5 p.m.; and Sunday, 10 a.m. - 2 p.m.

Children enjoy 'Santa Day' at Motley UMC



Giving him their wish lists

Santa listened to the Christmas wish lists of dozens of children Dec. 8, during Santa Day at Motley United Methodist Church. Pictured above, from left, are siblings Jackson, Declan and Alexis Odden of Staples. Below is Michelle Blomquist of Motley. Santa, formerly known as Greg Townsend, said later that he told the pastor he'd promised all of the children a pony for Christmas. "Of course it's not true, but I got a few blank stares. Just a bit of Christmas humor," Townsend said.



Law enforcement reports, Motley area

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

Dec. 5 - The MPD paged out the Motley Fire Department regarding a garage fire at the 900 block of Poplar Ln. in Motley.

Nov. 29 - 30 - The MPD issued speeding citations to Lisa Karnowski, 47; Wayne Spier, 63.

Nov. 30 - The MPD received a complaint from Motley-Staples Middle School regarding a vehicle that was dropping off and picking up children on the back side of the school where only buses are allowed. Contact was made with the registered owner who stated that she didn't

realize she couldn't do this. She was advised that children needed to be dropped off and picked up at the front entrance of the school.

Dec. 3 - The MCSO attempted to serve a warrant on Ashley Olson at the 100 block of 270th St. in Cushing. John Lehmann, 31, obstructed the deputies' efforts to arrest her and was arrested for aiding an offender. Olson was arrested after being located in a dryer.

Dec. 1 - The MCSO received a report of a one-car rollover at the 32000 block of Cty 28 in Motley. Motley Fire was paged.

Nov. 29 - The MCSO issued a speeding citation to Jerry Tufvander, 69.



Christmas shopping

Over 80 children attended Santa Day at Motley United Methodist Church Dec. 8. The free event included 'Christmas shopping,' refreshments and visits with Santa Claus. Pictured above, eight-year-old Brodey Page of Motley (right) helps find gifts for his family with some assistance from Ben Olander, a volunteer from the Staples-Motley FFA organization.

Staples World photos by Dawn Timbs



Cousins visit Santa

Children of all ages had a good time at Santa Day in Motley Dec. 8, including these cousins from the Staples area who posed for a photo with Santa. From left are Evan, Ethan and Aliza Alexander; Arlo Capistrant; Jackson and Lindsey Alexander. In addition to visiting with Santa, young people were invited to "shop" for gifts for their family members. Refreshments for both children and adults were served throughout the day. The event was sponsored by the Motley United Methodist Church.



Wrapping presents

Members of Motley United Methodist Church and other volunteers helped wrap and tag gifts for youth after they finished "shopping" at the recent Santa Day. Pictured at left, from left, are church members Liz Curren and Becky Sullivan; and Jackson Odden, eight, of Staples. Above, Kathy Morey (left) and Ashley Robben (right) help wrap gifts for Bentlee Markus, six, of Bertha.

Scam phone calls reported, CCSO

The Cass County Sheriff's Office (CCSO) has received several reports from area businesses and individuals about a new scam call that is being received.

In the most recent scam call, the caller identifies themselves as a representative of the 'MN State Police Task Force' and is soliciting donations. The caller is using a caller ID 'spoof' tactic in which it appears that the call is coming from a local 218 area code number. These solicitation calls are timed with the season of

giving and disguised to go along with other legitimate fundraising initiatives that are happening this time of year. The sheriff's office is not aware of any state law enforcement organization that solicits donations or fundraisers in this manner. When attempting to call the number back, it is not valid.

The CCSO and MN Attorney General's Office reminds citizens of the following tips to avoid potential scam and fraud situations:

- Don't be afraid to say "no." If something doesn't seem right, tell the person you're not interested.

- Ask a friend, family member or neighbor for their opinion.

- Don't be rushed. If you are pressured to act quickly, take time to think things through.

- When in doubt, don't give your information out.

- Research the offer. A simple internet search can sometimes yield a lot of information.



Keeping a leg up on opponents

Staples-Motley wrestlers Owen Bjerga, left, and Logen Weite, right, scored takedowns at last week's



tournament by grabbing a leg. (Staples World photos by Mark Anderson)

Tennis awards

The Staples-Motley girls tennis team announced their 2018 varsity award winners:

All Conference - Lauren Rutten	ak
All Conference Honorable Mention - Jenna Dvorak, Haley Cichos, Rose Han	Most Improved - Rutten
Co-MVPs - Rutten, Dvorak	Most Wins - Cichos
	Rookie of the Year - Kera Kern
	Best Teammate - Han
	Miss Off-Season - Han
	Most Grit - Tasha Achermann



Under the hoop

Tabetha Allen goes up strong in last week's game. (Staples World photo by Mark Anderson)

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Smith leads Cardinals to second victory

By Mark Anderson
News Editor

The Staples-Motley girls basketball team equalled last year's win total of two in just their third game of the season, beating Frazee 60-39 on Dec. 4 behind Kaitlyn Smith's 20 points.

"She really stepped up and had a big game," said Coach Brian Smith.

The Cardinals played well against a good team in a 65-52 loss to Park Rapids on Dec. 6.

"We ran our system very well and got high percentage shots," Smith said about the Frazee game. "We rebounded well and had our lowest number of turnovers yet this season."

Smith's 20 points included 7 for 12 shooting including four of seven three pointers. Haley Cichos had four assists and six steals, while Tabatha Allen had 10 rebounds and five steals.

Park Rapids was undefeated coming in to the game, but the Cardinals hung tough for much of it.

"We had a few short stretches where we let them go on runs and that

hurt us," said Smith. "We were up 24-23 with a minute left in the first half," but turnovers allowed PR to go on an 8-0 run.

In the second half Staples-Motley got back within five at one point but just couldn't get any closer. Cichos made four 3-point shots to keep the team in the game.

"I was very proud of how hard the girls played, we knew it was going to be a good game and we feel like we can beat them when we play again in January," said Smith.

For future games, Smith said the team will look to limit turnovers, as the 30 against Park Rapids was significant in the outcome. The loss evened the team's record at 2-2.

Team results

Staples-Motley 60, Frazee 39

Scoring: Kaitlyn Smith 20, Jenna Dvorak 8, Haley Cichos 8, Bella Martin 8, Alix Peterson 5, Addison Lorber 6, Tabatha Allen 3, Kaila Erbe 2

Staples-Motley 52, Park Rapids 65

Scoring: Cichos 14, Peterson 13, Dvorak 12, Smith 5, Allen 2



First game for Staples-Motley basketball team

Left, Ben Olander takes a jump shot from the corner. Right, Connor Fox provided some energy for the Cardinals with his hustle. (Staples World photos by Mark Anderson)

Basketball players gain early season varsity experience

The Staples-Motley boys basketball team lost their first two games of the year with several players getting their first varsity action and learning

"We are very young and inexperienced and it showed," said Coach Nick Doll of the 82-51 loss to Wadena on Dec. 4.

In their second game, Doll said the team showed improvement in some areas but not all. They lost at Verndale 66-44.

Against WDC, the Cardinals fell behind early and never threatened. "They were ready to play and came out and blitzed us," said Doll.

It was the first significant varsity action for most of the players and they caught up a little in the second half, cutting into the lead. The Cardinals also had cold outside shooting, with no three point shots made until Isaac Christoffersen hit one in the second half. Meanwhile, WDC made 10 three pointers.

Another bright spot was Max Strickland passing for seven assists.

Against Verndale, Doll said the team played well except for a few spots.

"We allow our opponent to go on 10-0 runs, and that is enough to determine the outcome of the game," said Doll. "As we gain experience, we will begin to understand what it is to play the whole game and how demanding that task is."

Sivert Klefsaas had a double-double against Verndale, with 10 points and 10 rebounds. Ben Olander and Bentley Christensen each added 8 rebounds and Strickland had four more assists.

"We have some great kids who are showing up to practice every day and working hard," said Doll. "It will be fun to watch the



Crowd pleaser

Isaac Christoffersen got the crowd up and cheering with a basket coming on a fast break, and moments later added a three pointer. (Staples World photo by Mark Anderson)

improvement this year."

Team results

Staples-Motley 51, Wadena-Deer Creek 82

Scoring: Chase Davis 8, Bentley Christensen 8, Sivert Klefsaas 8, Ben Olander 7, Connor Fox 5, Isaac Christoffersen

5, Max Strickland 4, Emmitt Winkels 2, Issac Kroenberg 2, Jordon Carlson 1, Ryan Wick 1

Staples-Motley 44, Verndale 66

Scoring: Christensen 17, Klefsaas 10, Olander 8, Strickland 8, Kroenberg 1



Passing attack

Max Strickland drops off a pass after driving in the lane for one of his seven assists against Wadena-Deer Creek. (Staples World photo by Mark Anderson)



Splitting the defense

Chase Davis takes the ball into the defense. (Staples World photo by Mark Anderson)



Hot shot

Bentley Christensen pulls up for a score in the lane against Wadena-Deer Creek. (Staples World photo by Mark Anderson)