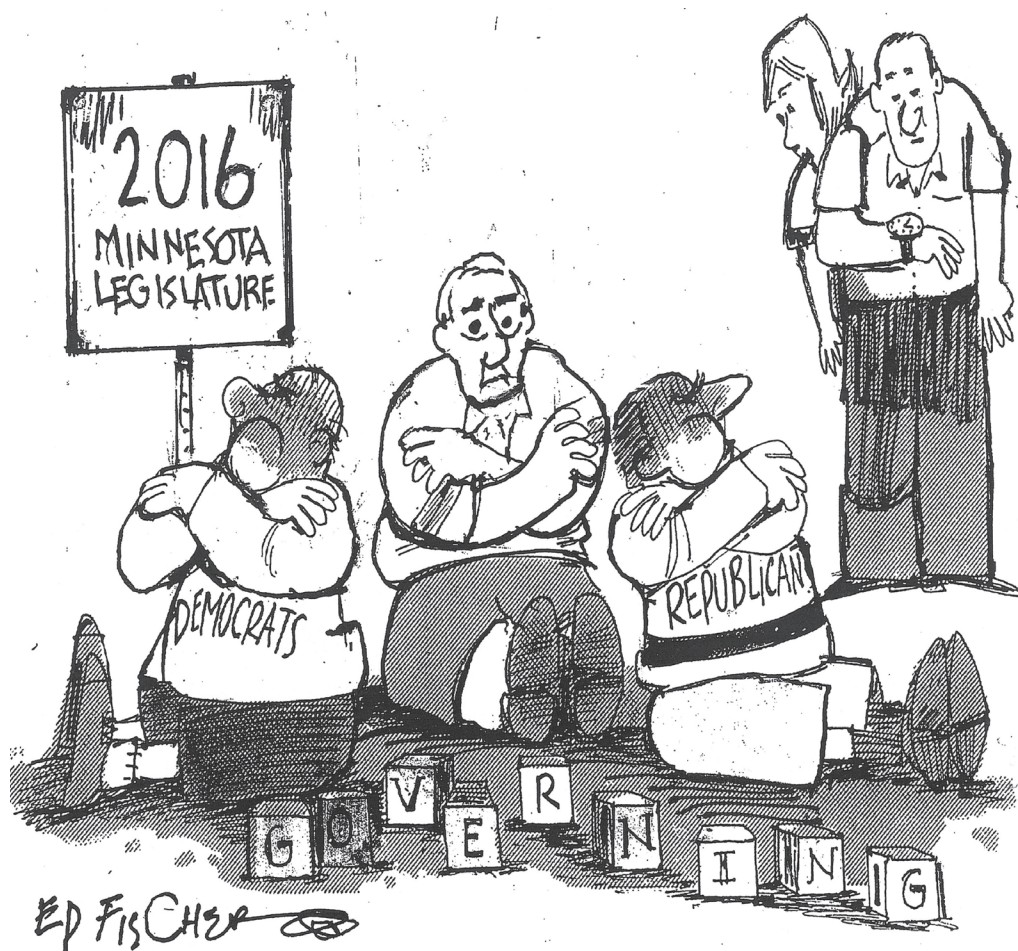




Television industry deceives nation's viewers

By Jeffrey M. McCall

A baseball pitcher doesn't get to call his own balls and strikes. A convicted felon doesn't set his own prison sentence. That's because those parties have a self-interest in the judgment.

The television industry, however, in spite of its self-interest, is still allowed by the federal government to issue content ratings for its own television programs. The Federal Communications Commission (FCC), along with an oblivious Congress, has let the big television industry make a mockery of a ratings system that was designed to inform viewers of program content.

Upon passage of the Telecommunications Act of 1996, the FCC established the Parental Guidelines Oversight Monitoring Board. That board is supposed to manage the content ratings system and apply accurate ratings to all programs aired on television. In theory, viewers receive guidance/warnings about which programs contain violence, foul language or sexual content.

The board, however, is overwhelmingly made up of executives from the broadcast networks, cable companies and program production companies. They meet in private, provide no press access and are totally unaccountable for the decisions they make.

That's how a program such as ABC's "Mistresses" (9 p.m. Eastern, 8 p.m. Central) got a PG rating for an episode that included a steamy threesome. That's how ABC's "The Real O'Neals" also gets a PG rating, even with jokes about sexting and "laugh lines" about a male school administrator sleeping with high school boys.

The amount of violence and sexual content on

prime-time television has jumped in recent years, yet not one show is rated TV-MA, for "mature audiences only." Thus, this ratings board considers every single prime-time show suitable for a TV-14 rating, meaning the content is fine for kids as young as 14.

The ratings board won't label any show TV-MA because most advertisers still have enough conscience to not buy commercials on such mature programming. In the eyes of the ratings board, no TV-MA label equals no problem for advertisers.

A group of 28 leading scholars has sent a letter to the FCC calling for the television content ratings system to be reformed. These scholars are prominent medical and media effects researchers. Their letter points out the harmful effects when young viewers absorb video messages containing violence or sexual content. The scholars detail the inaccuracies in the ratings system and how the system has become more lenient in labeling violence and sexual content.

Parents Television Council (PTC) President Tim Winter was recently in Washington to urge the FCC and Congressional leaders to address the farce that is the content ratings board. "Parents who rely on the TV Content Ratings System to make informed decisions about what to watch on television have been deceived," Winter said in a statement. "The ratings system has systematically failed to provide accurate and consistent information for its entire 20-year existence."

Research by the PTC over a three-year period ending in 2014 found prime-time violence with weapons increased 17 percent. The amount of nudity, blurred or pixelated as it was, almost doubled.

Bleeped f-words are now common in prime-time and nobody can mistake the word choice.

Such content is certainly bad for kids, but it is also a drag on the culture as a whole. American culture is still created in large part by what is put on television. Disconnected network executives, living in their closed "artistic" circles, are debasing American life with an outpouring of savage violence, trashy sexuality and toilet humor.

In 1997 there were 20 hours a week of prime-time programming rated TV-G, for general audiences. Today, there are no such shows. The content ratings board has gotten this right. There are few shows parents can watch with their kids without having cringe-worthy moments or the need to explain things.

Sure, there is a place in culture for discussion of mature topics and presentation of entertainment for mature audiences. But it doesn't need to be in the nation's television living room during the early evening, and the Parental Guidelines Oversight Monitoring Board owes the viewing public a fair labeling of what questionable content is in a program.

Congress has plenty of complex challenges to address, but fixing the television content ratings system should be easy. Congress should order the FCC to get television industry insiders out of the content ratings business and appoint civic-minded people who reflect American society.

Jeffrey M. McCall is a professor of communication at DePauw University in Greencastle, Ind., and author of Viewer Discretion Advised: Taking Control of Mass Media Influences. Contact him at jeffmccall@depauw.edu. On Twitter: @Prof_McCall

Housing is also part of essential infrastructure

By Duluth Mayor Emily Larson, Red Wing Mayor Daniel Bender, Moorhead Mayor Del Rae Williams, Rochester City Council Member Michael Wojcik, and Warren Hanson, President & CEO, Greater Minnesota Housing Fund & Minnesota Equity Fund

Minnesota needs to invest in infrastructure.

That was the prevailing theme of this year's legislative session from Gov. Mark Dayton and both Democratic and Republican leaders. Yet, despite bipartisan consensus around the need to invest in systems that enhance our state's economic prosperity, legislators failed to act on a tremendous opportunity to boost job growth and enhance community stability by increasing affordable housing.

Right now, the gap between what Minnesotans earn and what they must pay for housing is a crippling barrier to economic prosperity.

For example, according to Maxfield Research, the average rent in Olmsted County last year was \$957 per month, a level that is unaffordable to nearly 60 percent of the county's renters. Minnesota Housing Partnership reports that a Minnesota minimum wage worker must work 82 hours per week - more than two full-time jobs - just to afford that average apartment. Adding to the challenge is that nearly one-fourth of the rental homes in Olmsted County were built before 1960, meaning that many likely are in need of significant repairs.

But there's good news. For much of Minnesota, investments in housing lead to a stronger local and state economy. According to the state's Job Vacancy Survey, 2015 ended with at least 40,000 job openings outside the Twin Cities metro area. These jobs are more than just paychecks. In communities throughout the state, they are 40,000 opportuni-

ties for a new worker to gain experience, a young couple to put down roots or a growing family to return to a hometown.

Our growth isn't just in regional centers. Earlier this year, Kelly Asche, program coordinator for the Center for Small Towns at the University of Minnesota-Morris, told an economic summit that small, rural communities are the most stable they have been in a long while, and "most of our rural areas are actually gaining population."

Recent state investments in housing make a tremendous difference in building resilient communities and families, even going so far as saving lives. Developments with state support - like the successful Steve O'Neil Apartments in Duluth or Cascade Creek in Rochester - are more than apartments: they house working families in job-growth areas, they revitalize neighborhoods, and they help end homelessness.

Yet, throughout the state, we now face a serious shortage of housing that is affordable for our workers, our elderly, and others. In fact, the shortage is so crippling that it undermines the recovery of small communities and the growth of regional centers. One in three Minnesota households - nearly 600,000 - pay more than 30 percent of their income for housing. Since 2000, that number has increased by 69 percent.

There is no debate: Housing is a huge challenge for more Minnesotans. We urge Gov. Dayton to call a special legislative session to pass a bonding bill that includes funds to support the construction and rehabilitation of housing for our workforce, our elderly, and our homeless in our most vital small cities and towns.

No doubt, political pundits on both sides of the aisle are eager to leave the policy work undone and take their case to voters

in November, painting the other side as "do-nothing legislators." It's also understandable that many Minnesotans may be wary of giving legislators more time to do what they failed to accomplish in the last three months.

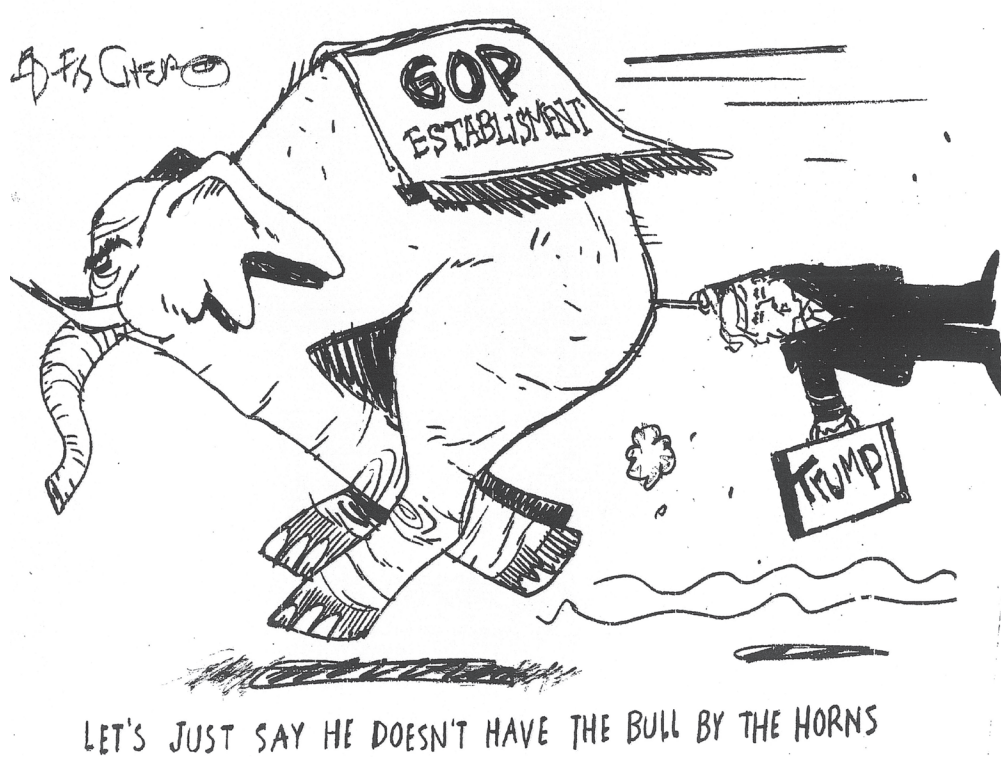
Those positions pale in the face of these realities: Without more workforce housing, Minnesota's economic vitality is in serious jeopardy. Without more stable housing, the education achievement gap will grow larger. And, without support and shelter, more Minnesotans, including families, will be homeless.

Certainly, other infrastructure issues received more publicity in recent months. And, while there is broad agreement at least on the amount of money needed for tasks like road and bridge repair, more conversation is needed to find common ground on housing.

Minnesotans have been here before - and legislators consistently have put aside partisan differences to support housing. In fact, housing has been included in capital investment bills under the last three governors (each from a different political party) and regardless of whether Democrats or Republicans controlled the legislature.

Every politician, every economist and every employer knows that Minnesota's greatest asset is not our physical infrastructure or even our natural resources. It is our human capital, our people. Investing in roads, water treatment facilities and higher education buildings is important, but nothing is as essential as assuring that every Minnesotan has the opportunity to have a safe, affordable home.

It is imperative that Gov. Dayton call a special session and that legislative leaders find common ground to support this most basic of needs: housing for workers, families and all Minnesotans.



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The deadline is 5 p.m. Monday. Opinions expressed on this page do not necessarily represent the views of this newspaper.

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Learn how to help at 'Dementia Friends'

'Dementia Friends,' a free presentation sponsored by Lakewood Health System (LHS), will be held Thursday, June 9, 6:30 p.m., at Motley United Methodist Church.

'Dementia Friends' means learning about dementia and the ways you can help.

This informative seminar will focus on the symptoms and treatments of dementia. Speakers include LHS employees Bobbe Anderson and Amanda Mithun.

According to a press release, over five million Americans are living with Alzheimer's disease today; and someone in the United States is diagnosed with Alzheimer's every 66 seconds.

The 10 early warning signs for dementia are:

- Memory loss that disrupts daily life
- Challenges in planning or solving problems
- Difficulty completing familiar tasks at home, work or leisure
- Confusion with time or place
- Trouble understanding visual images and spatial relationships
- New problems with words in speaking or writing
- Misplacing things and losing the ability to retrace steps
- Decreased or poor judgement
- Withdrawal from work or social activities
- Changes in mood and personality.

- Attendees of the seminar will discover tools for helping people with dementia still enjoy their lives and hobbies; and to live independently longer. Refreshments will be served.
- Motley United Methodist Church is located at 847 3rd Ave. S., across from Countryside Restaurant.



Voyageur Choir

The Central Minnesota Boys Choir will present the final concert of their season at Sacred Heart Church, Staples, at 7:30 p.m., Tuesday, June 7. Members of the Voyageur Choir are, front row, from left, Conlan Jaeger, Tristan Sampson, Connor Judd, Keegan Bestland, Jay Dregney, Drew Berg, William Dolezal and Haideen Rychner; middle row, from left, Landin Foust, Hunter Miller, William

Thew, Christopher Moench, Luke Bates, Sam Jennissen, Grant Johnson, Isaiah Schultz, Alex Brings and Evan Allen; back row, from left, Alex McIlravy, Sivert Klefsaas, Caleb Jasmer, Jacob Olson, Brandon Hove, Cole Winkels, Kyle Dregney, Alex Morlock, Brandon Greenwaldt, Paul Freelove and Jackson Berg. (Submitted photo)

Boys choir sets final performance of season

The Central Minnesota Boys Choir will perform its final concert for the 2015-2016 season on June 7 at 7:30 p.m. at Sacred Heart Church in Staples.

The concert will feature both the Explorer and Voyageur choir levels. The public is invited to attend. Tickets will be available at the door. All proceeds will be used to support the choir for annual programming costs.

Led by director Mary Moen, the choir has over 50

boys in third through seventh grade from throughout the area, including Brainerd, Browerville, Motley, New York Mills, Pillager, Staples, Verndale and Wadena.

Younger students and first time members make up the Explorer choir. The upper elementary and middle school students typically make up the Voyager choir. The choir's primary goal is to develop musical interest, leadership skills and talent in its members.

Each season both choir levels perform both locally and away. This year, the Voyageur choir performed at the Boys Choir Festival held at St. John's University in March. Their annual tour the first weekend of June will be held in Duluth.

More information about the Central Minnesota Boys Choir can be found at www.centralmnboyschoir.com or by calling Mary Moen at 218-894-5400.



Relay For Life ribbon makers

The Bosom Buddies Breast Cancer Support group recently met to make the ribbons that are given to cancer survivors at the Relay For Life Survivors Banquet on June 9 at The Grille, lower level at the Lakewood Health System main campus, Staples. Registration begins at 5:30 p.m. Reservations can be made to Rachel Johnson at 218-894-8151 by June 3. Lakewood Health System is sponsoring the free dinner event for cancer survivors and their caregivers. Above, left to right: Millie Howard, Bernie St.

Pierre, Kay Martin, Marge Evans, Judy Hutard, Anne Loose, Barb Peterson, Sophia Johnson, Bonnie Thoele, Marge Tepley, Nancy Johnson, Deanna Ihme, Kathy Carlson. Standing: Karen Anderson, Doris Amundson, Anita Seekins, Tonia Dolezal.

The annual Relay For Life event will be held Friday, July 22, 5 p.m. at the Motley fairgrounds. For information on the Relay event contact Angie, 218-296-2974. (Submitted photo)



Little dancers

This is one of the groups performing at the Music General dance recital. (Submitted photo)

Music General sets dance recital

Forty five dancers from the Staples Music General Dance Studio will be performing their annual Staples Recital on Thursday, June 2 at 5:30 p.m. at Faith Lutheran Church in Staples. Dancers range in age from 3-17 years old. The show is free to the public, doors will open at 5 p.m.

Staples dancers will also perform in a staged recital on Friday, June 10 and Saturday, June 11 at Tornstrom Auditorium in Brainerd. Showtimes are at 6:30 p.m. on Friday and p.m. on Saturday. Tickets can be purchased in advance at Music General or online at www.musicgeneral.com. All seating is reserved.

School board special meeting, work session

The Staples Motley School Board will hold a special meeting Monday, June 6, at 6:45 p.m. at the Motley School media center.

Agenda items include:

- Approve 2016-17 contract for Kevin Roline as Community Education coordinator.
- Approve 2016-17 contract for Margaret Fisher, custodian at Motley.
- Approve an anticipated request for a leave of absence.

Immediately following the special meeting the board and administration will hold a work session.

Mark Your Calendar

June 8

SENIOR HEALTH CLINIC sponsored by Wadena County Public Health, Wed., June 8, 8:30 - 11:30 a.m., 22 Dayton Ave. SE, Wadena. For info., 218-631-7629.

June 13

CELIAC DISEASE SUPPORT GROUP MTG Mon., June 13, 6 p.m., Wadena Alliance Church, 1528 S. Jefferson St., Wadena. Informational mtg. on what to eat, how to cook and bake using gluten-free flours and ingredients. Bring gluten-free dish to share and recipes. For info., 218-631-2170.

Minnesota Quilters, Inc.
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Avoid Event Conflicts
Check the Events Calendar online at www.staplesworld.com
Submit events to dtimbs@staplesworld.com

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Screen Fri. thru Thurs. June 3 - 9
ONE Show Every Night at 9:15 ONLY!
MATINEE SUN. JUNE 5 AT 1:15 PM

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2 Shows Every Night at 6:45 & 9:30
MATINEE SUN. JUNE 5 AT 1:25 PM

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MOTLEY FAIR
June 16-19
MOTLEY JUNE FEST AND STREET DANCE
Saturday, June 18
NO MINORS AFTER 8:00 P.M.

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Student Achievements

LISA BJERGA Motley, recently graduated from the University of Saint Mary in Leavenworth, Kan., with a Master of Business Administration degree.

CONCORDIA COLLEGE, MOOREHEAD held its commencement exercises May 1. Local graduates include:

- **Taylor Klimek**, Motley, daughter of Norbert and Jill Klimek. She received degrees in English and Art.
- **Rebecca Nemitz**, Motley, daughter of Kevin and Kristen Nemitz. She received a degree in Psychology.
- **Aryn Ladd**, daughter of Blaine and Kyra Quast. She received a degree in Psychology.

MINNESOTA STATE COMMUNITY AND TECHNICAL COLLEGE Fergus Falls, has announced its 2016 Spring Semester President's List. Local students named include:

- **Motley:** Tiffany Wierega.
- **Pillager:** Torri Thompson.
- **Staples:** Andrew Knossalla, Britteny Kylander, Celena Martin, Reza Mikhaeil, Shelly Risser, Robbyn Watland, BethAnn Wolters Daly.

ST. CLOUD STATE UNIVERSITY has announced its 2016 Spring Semester Dean's List. To be eligible, students must have a grade point average of 3.75 or higher on a 4.0 scale. Local students named include:

- **Pillager:** Jennifer Crimmins, Jacob Friedel, Kelly Mast.
- **Staples:** Samantha Weyer.

Hello World

BIRTHS REPORTED AT LAKEWOOD HEALTH SYSTEM HOSPITAL INCLUDED:

Born to Shane and Brianna Kern of Browerville, a baby boy, Isaac Marcel weighing eight pounds, seven ounces on May 21, 2016.

Born to Brian and Jennifer Abrahamson of Randall, a baby boy, Hunter Joseph weighing eight pounds, three ounces on May 23, 2016.

Born to Elvin and Maggie Gingerich of Deer Creek, a baby boy, Lewis E weighing eight pounds, eight ounces on May 25, 2016.

Born to Ryan and Liz Wright of Staples, a baby girl, Charlotte Elizabeth weighing seven pounds, 11 ounces on May 25, 2016.

Born to Kim Holker and Tim Cline of Browerville, a baby girl, Kaylee Isabella weighing seven pounds, 11 ounces on May 26, 2016.

Born to Kayla Brewer and Brandon Spandl of Staples, a baby girl, Rory Jane weighing seven pounds, four ounces on May 27, 2016.



Early start on reading

Nadia Santos has completed 1,000 Books Before Kindergarten. She was awarded her prize recently from Cathy Perish, representing the Staples Public Library, a branch of the Great River Regional Library, and Beth Fabian from the Staples Motley Early Childhood Coalition. (Submitted photo)

Obituaries



Gerald Motl

Gerald Motl, 86, of Staples, passed away on May 30, 2016 at Lakewood Health System, Staples.

Funeral services were held June 1 at Faith Lutheran Church in Staples with Pastor Steve Sveom officiating.

Interment was at Christ the King Cemetery, Browerville.

Arrangements were with the Iten Funeral Home, Browerville.

Gerald was born August 12, 1929, in Bertha to Rudolph and Olive (Olmshenk) Motl. He graduated from Clarissa High School. After his graduation, Gerald worked on the farm with his dad. He enlisted in the U.S. Army on May 26, 1952 and was honorably discharged on February 16, 1954. After his discharge he bought a farm in Moran Township and also worked for Stracek Construction. On August 31, 1974, he married Clara Lenk in Little Falls. Gerald enjoyed hunting, fishing, being outside on the farm, telling stories about his dog "Sheppy", playing cards and visiting with friends and neighbors.

Gerald is survived by his wife Clara; four daughters, Carol (Paul) Kert, of Palmdale, CA, Barb (Joe) Hassleberg of Staples, Rose (Dave) Bruhn, of Maple Plain and Joanne (Mark) Forsberg of Staples; three sons, Donald (Debbie) Lenk of Junction City, KS, James (Cathy) Lenk of Staples and Dan (Tammy Lewis) Lenk of Motley; 15 grandchildren; 14 great-grandchildren; one sister, Carol (Charles) Hales of Maple Plain and many nieces and nephews.

He is preceded in death by his parents; many aunts, uncles and one niece.



Bertha Nelson

Bertha Jane Nelson, 84, of Blair, WI, died, May 24, 2016 at Gundersen Health System, LaCrosse.

Funeral services were held May 28, at Blair Lutheran Church West in Blair with Pastor Barbara Bruneau officiating.

Graveside services were held May 31, at the Holmesville Cemetery in Detroit Lakes.

The Jack Funeral Home in Blair was in charge of arrangements.

Bertha was born on October 4, 1931 in Moscow, Freeborn County, Minnesota to Everett A. and Bessie J. (Rowland) Noble, Sr. She married Verlyn Nelson on June 7, 1953 in Austin. After their retirement, Bertha and Verlyn lived in Clear Lake during the summer and in Mission, TX during the winter. After Verlyn's death in 2014, Bertha spent the summer months with her sister, Mary Ann Uecker, in Blair and in the winter lived with her daughter, Wendy, in Peoria, AZ. Bertha enjoyed embroidery, sewing, crocheting, camping and fishing.

Bertha is survived by two daughters, Wendy (Michael) Conlin of Peoria, and Brenda (William) Johnson of Russian Mission, AK and one son, Timothy (Pamela) Nelson of Glenrock, WY; ten grandchildren, nine great-grandchildren, one great-great-grandchild; six sisters, Mary Ann Uecker, Freda Westcott of Oelwein, IA, Ethel (Bill) Sandidge of Galesburg, IL, Alice Henthorn of Black River Falls,

Helen (Phillip) Johnson and Carrie Smith both of Austin, ; two brothers, John H. Noble, Sr. of Crosby, and Charles Noble of Black River Falls.

She was preceded in death by her parents; husband and two brothers, Earl and Everett Noble, Jr.



Love for Catherine

Pastor Jim Johnson, Motley Free Methodist Church, gives his granddaughter, Catherine Judd, a hug following the Memorial Day Service at Motley Evergreen Cemetery at which he offered the invocation and benediction. Now 16-months-old, Catherine was diagnosed with Acute Myeloid Leukemia last February. She will start her fourth round of chemotherapy next week. (Staples World photo by Dawn Timbs)



Top Accelerated Readers

The top Accelerated Readers at Staples Motley High School for the fourth quarter are, seated, from left, Cassidy White, Elijah Sams, Ezra Trantina and Silvana Cortes. Standing, from left, are Natilee Gabel, Shaine Guggenberger, Matthew Fisher and Ash White. (Submitted photo)

Pastor Greg Ciesluk celebrates 25 years of ministry

Special service June 12, at Motley UMC

Pastor Greg Ciesluk, leader at Motley and Staples United Methodist Churches, will celebrate his 25th anniversary in ministry at a special service Sunday, June 12, 10 a.m., at the Motley UMC.

There will be no service at the Staples UMC that day.

Pastor Ciesluk was ordained June 8, 1991, in Springfield, Mass., at the Southern New England Conference of the United Methodist Church.

Since that time he has served at United Methodist Churches in Washington Court House, Ohio; Cincinnati, Ohio; and throughout Minnesota, including Albert Lea, Duluth, Esko, Motley and Staples. He has pastored



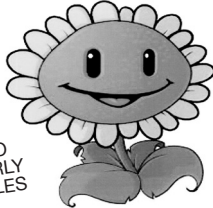
Pastor Greg Ciesluk at Motley UMC since 2008; and at Staples UMC since 2013. This summer, Pastor

Ciesluk will be on a renewal leave. The centerpiece of the renewal leave will be participating as a pilgrim on the Wesley Pilgrimage in England. "I will be with a group of United Methodists praying, studying and living in Christian community as we visit significant sites in the life of John and Charles Wesley (founders of Methodism) and the Methodist revival of 18th century England," Ciesluk said.

Following the service on June 12, a meal will be served in the church's fellowship hall. The public is invited. Motley UMC is located at 847 3rd Ave. S. For more information, call 218-352-6466.

Todd County Master Gardener's

Plant Sale



NO EARLY SALES

Saturday, June 4th 2016

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*Perennials *House Plants

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ULTRASOUND EXPOSURE

The term "ultrasound" refers to sound waves with frequencies that are higher than the audible limit of human hearing. By definition, then, any sounds exceeding this limit (generally, greater than 20 kilohertz) cannot be heard by humans. Thus, the general public remains unaware that it is being exposed to ultrasound and very high frequency (VHF) sound that may place their health at risk. It has been reported that people exposed to high frequencies from drills, industrial cleaning devices, and other apparatuses in the workplace have experienced ringing in the ears, headaches, dizziness, nausea, and other symptoms. While these cases may be covered by health guidelines, there are also ultrasound devices in public places (door sensors, etc.) that pose similar risks.

Noise-induced hearing loss usually develops gradually and painlessly. It can also occur as a result of an acoustic trauma, a single exposure or very few exposures to high levels of sound. If you are provided hearing protection at your place of employment, take it very seriously. To schedule a hearing assessment, please call Preferred Hearing at 800-458-0895. You will find us at 17274 State Hwy 371, Brainerd, MN 56401.

P.S. While the public is constantly being alerted about protecting their ears from audible noise, future warnings may extend to alerts about inaudible noise that can also cause noise-induced hearing loss.

PREFERRED

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• Crosby, MN

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218-546-8103

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Chair yoga demonstration

Ann Pate, a registered yoga instructor demonstrates some exercises that can be done while sitting in a chair, a part of MN Conference on Aging held May 26, at Central Lakes College in Staples. Pate teaches classes at the wellness center in Wadena. (Staples World photos by Mark Anderson)



Stretch those muscles and joints

Dr. Bryan Hedlund a chiropractor of Brainerd, shows a stretch to attendees at the Conference on Aging held May 26 in Staples.