



Publishers say 'goodbye' after 26 years

Longtime owners/publishers of the Staples World, Bill and Margie Devlin of Finley, N.D., have recently sold the newspaper paper. The Devlins purchased the Staples World in 1992. Pictured above are Staples World employees who worked at the paper during the entire time the Devlins owned it. From left, are Kathy Odden, front office;

Brenda Halvorson, General Manager; Margie and Bill Devlin; Janice Winter, graphic artist; and Gary Mueller, advertising representative. With the change, Halvorson will retire from the newspaper, while Mueller and Odden have announced plans to step down soon. See the Staples World history on page 3a. (Staples World photo by Dawn Timbs)



New Staples World owners

New ownership and management of the Staples World, from left, Rick Gail, Mike Kremer and Mark Anderson. Gail and Kremer are majority owners, while Anderson is a part owner and will be

Managing Editor at the newspaper. Anderson has been with the newspaper for eight years. (Staples World photo by Janice Winter)

Hello, Readers,

Welcome to 2019! According to thechinesezodiac.org, this is the Year of the Earth Pig. The Farmer's Almanac predicts a long, cold, and snowy winter. According to forbes.com, three technologies will disrupt the tech world in 2019: 1. Blockchain-based identity and privacy; 2. Dueling AI; 3. 3D metal printing. But one prediction, the long-held (and self-fulfilling) belief that newspapers are a dying media, has once again been beaten back in 2019, with one prime example the sale of the Staples World. The newspaper will continue to print all the local news we can find, and will continue to be the only place to read well-written stories about the local city, school, county, sports teams, and the accomplishments, hopes and dreams of local people. Once again, welcome to 2019, we hope you continue to share the ride with us!

Devlins appreciate community, World staff

Devlin Newspapers Inc. has owned the Staples World for 26 years. Bill and Margie Devlin said the support of the business community and loyal subscribers make a weekly newspaper possible and said that is certainly true of the Staples World. They wanted to express their grateful appreciation to the business community and everyone in the Staples-Motley area for their strong support over the years.

The Devlins also said they wanted to extend heartfelt thanks to their "fantastic" employees in Staples for their loyalty and hard work.

"I don't think there is a better weekly newspaper staff anywhere in the state of Minnesota," Bill said.

He went on to say the employees have put out a great community newspaper, which has served the entire area very well. It has also been recognized as one of the top weekly newspapers in the state with awards over the years, the couple noted.

When the Devlins decided to sell the newspaper, they said they wanted to find people who were experienced in successful community newspapers to ensure the area would continue to have a well respected local newspaper. They worked with a broker who has spent her life in community newspapers and she found the buyers the Devlin family feels will keep the best possible community newspaper in Staples for the future.

New owners believe in small town newspapers

By Mark Anderson
Managing Editor

The two new buyers of the Staples World newspaper have long histories in small town Minnesota newspapers.

Rick Gail and Mike Kremer have already partnered to run four weekly newspapers, and although Gail had retired a year ago, he decided to come back and work at the Staples World. He will handle business and bookkeeping of the newspaper, as well as other duties. Kremer will still be involved in his other newspapers, so he doesn't plan to have regular hours at the Staples World, but still will help with operations.

Rick Gail

Gail is originally from Wheaton, Minn., graduating from WHS in 1969. Following graduation, he attended Fergus Falls Junior College. He enlisted in the US Navy in 1970 and was honorably discharged in 1973.

Utilizing the GI Bill, Gail attended Fergus Falls Community College and St. Cloud State University, graduating in 1978 with a mass communications degree.

His first experience with weekly newspapers was in Hallock, Minn. as managing editor. Eleven years later, which included births of four girls, Gail was offered ownership in the Western Guard, Madison, Minn. This would begin a 30-year partnership with William and Mike Kremer of Wheaton and include ownership in four weekly publications and two central printing plants. Papers purchased during that time included weeklies in Madison, Dawson, Pelican Rapids and Canby.

Gail opted for retirement in January 2018, selling his interest in the Canby News. Along with his wife, Ann, the couple moved to Alexandria and live near Lake Andrew. Ann (Himley) is a native

of Benson, Minn. She has three children, seven grandchildren and one great granddaughter.

"A year of retirement was enjoyable, but an opportunity was offered to get back on board with something so rewarding and diversified as 30 years publishing newspapers," stated Gail.

"Working with Brenda (Halvorson) and meeting staff made my decision an easy one. With new ownership, changes will be made. We feel our experience in publishing will make for an easy transition in creating a quality newspaper for years to come," Gail added.

Mike Kremer

"I have been in the newspaper business all my life," said Kremer. "I grew up stuffing newspapers as my father has been publishing weekly newspapers since the day I was born."

For the past 37 years, following graduation from

See **OWNERS** on page 3a

Public Notices

City of Staples
Summary

Budget 2019: **7A**

Births

Hello World **6A**



Thank you for subscribing!

Halvorson's career intertwined newspaper and community

By Mark Anderson
Managing Editor

For 30 years, Brenda Halvorson has made sure Staples World readers can learn about their community every single week.

She believes in the saying that newspapers are the "first draft of history."

"You can't tell the whole story in one paper, but you can tell it as it evolves over time," she said.

Halvorson is stepping down as General Manager of the Staples World after a "full 30 years," having started the first week of January, 1989.

Halvorson is not calling it a retirement, and instead describes it as starting another chapter. "I'll miss a lot of it, but I'm looking forward to my next venture," she said.

When she first interviewed for the job, Halvorson didn't know where Staples was, as she came from North Dakota. She met the publishers in Wadena and only later traveled to Staples.

Her career started out during a wild time in Staples, 1989 was the year of

the Centennial celebration when the newspaper published a big extra edition, and also printed Margaret Anderson's history book, "Northside-Southside, Stories of Staples." That was also the year of the hazardous waste incinerator controversy, and the break-up of the school districts after the first pairing attempt.

Halvorson thought she was prepared to cover a small town, having reported on government bodies, written a book and many other writings. But the first wild years in Staples changed that. "I didn't know how clueless I was," Halvorson recalled.

But she persevered, and her publisher told her "you really grew into the position."

Those challenging first years helped her develop her philosophy of delivering the news.

"I really believe the newspaper has to be a cheerleader for the community," said Halvorson. "You can't ignore the bad news, but you really should celebrate the positive news."

A large part of her job was getting involved in the community.

As the face of the newspaper in the community, she sought out positions on "a lot of boards," she said.

Halvorson started right away on the Centennial committee, and was on the 2005 and 2010 school reunion committees, even though she wasn't a graduate of the school. She has served on the Community Foundation Board twice, Chamber of Commerce, and Chili Cook-Off committee.

"Its fun to explore what the community has to offer," said Halvorson. "You are there to get projects done, but you just develop relationships, it makes you a part of the community."

Halvorson's work with Lamplighter Community Theatre and Staples Motley Area Arts Council are part of her favorite memories. "Arts add so much to the quality of life in a small town," she said.

While Halvorson had an interest in seeing the community thrive, she also felt it was good business for the newspaper. Besides building relationships, she was there at the table when

See **HALVORSON** on page 3a



High flying Christmas

Music General dancers launch one of their troupe into the air to start their performance at halftime of a basketball game earlier this year. Three groups performed Christmas themed dances for the audience. See more photos from the performance on page 10a. (Staples World photo by Mark Anderson)

Ruth Boldan's Irish eyes still smiling

By Dawn Timbs
Staples World reporter

After celebrating her 95th birthday recently, Ruth Boldan of Leader said she'd like to live another 50 or 60 years "to see what happens."

She's already had a very interesting life, Ruth said, adding that she's been to all 50 states and traveled to Ireland eight years ago with her son Kelly and daughter Janine.

It was the trip of a lifetime for the Cass County native whose ancestors were Scotch-Irish, Ruth said of Ireland. She recalls growing up in Poplar Township and learning to sing, "Over in Killarney" when she was just a girl.

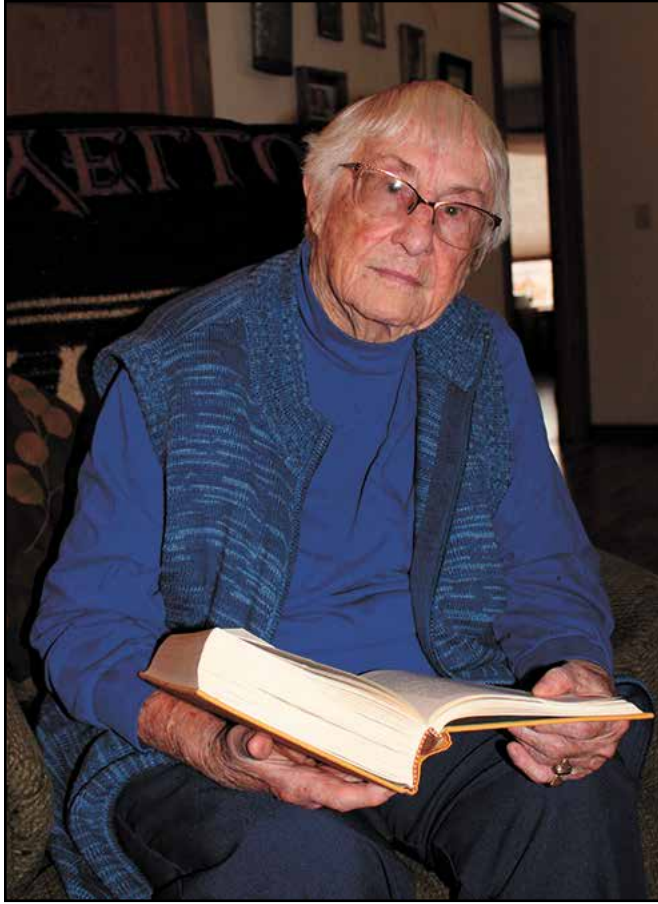
Her mother, Grace, would play the pump organ and "we'd all sing," Ruth said of the Johnson family, mentioning her father, Jack and older siblings Gordon, George and Evelyn. The words of those songs came back to her decades later as she joined in singing with others at a pub in Ireland.

No, her maiden name is not Scandinavian, Ruth says, explaining that her family surname was originally 'Johnston' but that it was changed to 'Johnson' when they immigrated to America. Her father used to always say, "They took the 'T' out of our name, but not the spark," Ruth laughed.

That was a long time ago and so much has transpired since the Johnstons arrived in America, Ruth says. "I have so many stories," she went on, adding that she hopes they will all be recorded at some point.

She's written a book about her childhood, and a Christmas poem every year since 1969. But, there are more stories that have yet to be written. Most recently, she wrote a story about what she imagines her Scottish ancestors may have experienced.

You can learn so much from history, Ruth said, going on to say that histori-



At home in Leader

Books have been an important part of Ruth Boldan's life since she was a child growing up in Poplar Township. At 95 years young, Ruth continues to read on a regular basis and is currently enjoying "Alaska" by James A. Michener. She's shared her love of books with others along the way, including students when she was a teacher; and her own children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren. See (Staples World photo by Dawn Timbs)

cal books are her favorite. She's in the middle of reading "Alaska" by one of her favorite authors, James A. Michener. If she'd had him for a student, however, she would have advised him to not use such big words when they aren't necessary to the story. Once a teacher, always a teacher, Ruth laughs.

She thanks her mother for her love of books and her father for inspiring her to become a teacher.

"Mother used to read to us at night after chores. She had a lovely voice," Ruth said. "It was much better than television," she

added about the family's nightly ritual.

Her dad taught her how to read before she even went to school, Ruth recalled. "He always called me his school teacher," she went on, adding, "I never wanted to be anything else."

She attended country school in the Poplar area and went on to attend high school in Staples, Pine River and Motley. Because of her dad's job with the county highway, the family moved around quite a bit during those years.

"We lived through The Depression," Ruth said. Yes, there were difficulties, but it wasn't all bad. "Everyone was in the same boat, no one had extras."



Happy birthday!

Ruth Boldan was all smiles as guests wished her a 'Happy birthday' at a recent party held in her honor. Boldan turned 95 years young on Dec. 17. (Submitted photo)

They made their own fun, she said, adding, "We raised good people."

Ruth eventually graduated from Motley High School, which is where she met her future husband, Budd Boldan.

They were the same age, but she was a grade ahead of him in school, Ruth said. During Budd's senior year of high school she attended teacher's training in Pine River, got her certification and went on to teach for a year in Osakis.

By this time, Budd had headed out west to work in the mines and Ruth decided to join him. She recalled taking the train by herself all the way to Idaho and learning somewhere in Montana that she'd have to transfer to a bus, as the train she was on was going straight to Washington State. After getting off the train, she had to walk several blocks to find the bus station. Eventually, the country girl from Cass County was reunited with her high school sweetheart. "I'd had a great adventure," she said of her journey west.

She and Budd were married in Wallace, Idaho, at the county seat. Ruth



They love their grandma

All seven of Ruth Boldan's grandchildren were in attendance at her recent birthday party in Leader. Pictured, from left, are Dawn Wells Weite, Leader; Jodi Boldan Wedell, Hugo; Lynn Boldan Vorvick Londo, Hudson, Wis.; Dale Wells, Poplar Twp.; Ron Wells, Springview, Neb.; Tad Boldan, New London; AJ (Anthony James) Boldan, Salt Lake City, Utah. Ruth also has 15 great-grandchildren and one great-great grandchild. (Submitted photo)



A look back in time

Pictured above, in Motley, is a photo of the Boldan family taken in 1944. From left are Catherine Murphy Boldan and W. Earl Boldan, Budd's parents; H. James (Jimmy) Boldan, Ruth Johnson Boldan and Budd Boldan. (Submitted photo)

recalled how the judge said, "So, you wanna get married? Come in, come in." Budd gave the judge five dollars and a silver dollar to each of the secretaries who served as witnesses.

And so began this new chapter in Ruth's life as a wife and eventually a mother.

During their three years in Idaho, the Boldans welcomed their firstborn son,

H. James, affectionately known as Jimmy. They later returned to Minnesota, where their son, Kelly, and daughter, Janine, were born.

The family settled in the Leader area, where they had a small dairy farm. They didn't have a lot of money, but they always had food, Ruth said. Eventually, they bought the machine shop/garage in Leader,



With her children

Ruth Boldan's children were in attendance at her 95th birthday party, held at the Bear's Den in Leader Dec. 22. Her daughter, Janine Wells, hails from Leader; and son, Kelly Boldan, from Willmar. Ruth was born at home in Poplar Township on Dec. 17, 1923. "My grandmother was my receiver," Ruth said of Susie Matthews Johnson who delivered her on what was said to have been "the coldest night of the year." (Submitted photo)

Law enforcement reports, Motley area

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

Dec. 18 - The MPD issued citations to two juveniles at Motley-Staples Middle School.

Dec. 14 - 18 - The MPD issued speeding citations to Kama Kamara, 36; Alexander Haessly, 20; Gale Brissett, 49; Mark Franklin, 54.

Dec. 18 - The MPD responded to a report of suspicious activity at the 100 block of Harrison St. W, Motley.

Dec. 17 - The MPD issued a citation to Renee Kallevig, 39, for failure to move over for emergency vehicle with lights on.

Dec. 14 - The MPD received a report of suspicious activity at the 200 block of 1st Ave. N., Motley.

Dec. 14 - The MPD received a report of a gas theft at Motley Express.

Dec. 13 - The MPD responded to a report of a three-vehicle accident at the intersection of Hwy

10 and Hwy 210 in Motley. Chief Jason Borash located the accident just east of the Hwy 64 intersection in Cass County. He spoke with the drivers of two of the vehicles and they stated they were not injured and did not require medical attention. The third driver/vehicle had left the scene before his arrival.

Dec. 13 - The MPD responded to a report of a two-vehicle hit and run accident at the intersection of Hwy 10 and Hwy 210 in Motley.

Dec. 18 - The MCSO received a report from Cass County regarding a two-vehicle accident at the 8000 block of 120th St. SW in Motley. Staples Ambulance and Motley Fire and Rescue were both dispatched.

Dec. 15 - The MCSO received a call from Cass County requesting assistance at the Dollar General store in Pillager as all of their deputies were out of position. An employee had been fired and the husband was there causing a disturbance. Deputies were

cancelled en route as the subject had left.

Dec. 14 - The MCSO received a call from someone near Stanchfield Lake Rd. in Motley reporting that someone had smashed the rear passenger side window of his vehicle and stolen a brand new Jiffy 10-inch propane ice auger and a Under Armor backpack with his wallet in it. The suspect vehicle was located later in the night and both the auger and other belongings were found in it. Subsequently, deputies arrested Ryan William Schmidt, 25; and Daniel Lee Hinz, 22.

Dec. 14 - The MCSO issued a citation to Shawn Boyd, 27, for not having insurance on his vehicle and not having trailer lights.

Dec. 26 - The MPD was informed by a woman that her son is a heavy meth user and he had left her home in Sebeka the day before to come to Motley. She was driving around looking for him and asked the MPD to arrest him if possible so that he could get treatment.

Dec. 22 - 26 - The MPD issued speeding citations to Rae Ann Nason, 32; Alyssa Neistadt, 19; Alfredmy Chessor, 48; Ricci Milan, 38; Andrew Saldana, 21.

Dec. 26 - The MPD advised a homeowner on Postel Dr. in Motley that it is illegal to pull children in a sled behind an ATV except for in their own yard.

Dec. 21 - The MPD observed a vehicle driving at a very slow rate of speed and swerving over the fog and center lines. Subsequently, the driver, Steven Gerald Haakonson, 58, was arrested and booked for 3rd degree DUI.

Dec. 20 - The MPD arrested and cited Seairra Jayne Farber, 30, for theft of items at Dollar General in Motley.

Dec. 24 - The MCSO assisted state patrol with a report of a two-vehicle crash with injuries at Hwy 10 and Atlantic Rd. in Motley. One driver was transported by ambulance.

Ice conditions update from Cass County Sheriff's Office

Cass County Sheriff Tom Burch reports that the Cass County Sheriff's Office (CCSO) has received a variety of reports of a wide range of ice conditions on area lakes.

The unseasonably warm month of December has caused some good early ice conditions to deteriorate and the thaw freeze cycles have opened up large cracks and ice heaves on area lakes.

The CCSO urges extreme caution on all area lakes, especially during the holiday season when individuals are utilizing

area lakes for a wide variety of recreation. The following safety information is advised:

- No ice should ever be considered safe
- Check existing ice conditions as you travel
- Check with local bait shops, resorts, gas stations and other fishermen for conditions
- Consider other means of transportation other than a motor vehicle. ATV, snowmobile or foot travel are good choices
- Do not travel on the lake after dark
- Always notify someone

of the area you are traveling in and your expected return time

- Carry a cell phone
- Be familiar with the lake - carry a map
- Call 911 if you need emergency assistance
- Consider a GPS unit to help you on and off the lake
- Avoid the use of alcohol
- Pay attention to warning signs that are posted. Remember warning signs cannot be posted everywhere.

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Let it snow, let it snow, let it snow

Dave Endres of Wadena kept busy snowblowing sidewalks along 4th St. NE in Staples Dec. 27. The snow fell steadily in the area throughout much of the day and into the evening, with approximately 12 inches reported the next day. By the morning of Dec. 31, another eight inches of snow had fallen which meant it was time to get the snowblowers out again. (Staples World photo by Dawn Timbs)

Sterriker taking over as golf course manager

By Mark Anderson
Managing Editor

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

Sterriker said he has been working at the course and felt he fit the part when a new manager was needed. Sterriker, a Staples graduate, is a master carpenter by trade and currently works at Staples-Motley schools in the transportation department. He said it will be a good fit, as he will be able to spend more time at the golf course when school lets out for the summer.

Most golf course services will remain the same, but Sterriker said he plans on



Jeff Sterriker

expanding the food menu and increase family oriented activities. He said the golf course will con-

tinue to make strategic improvements.

There will also be new membership offers, such as half off for groups of four.

The golf course has been operating with a combination of paid staff and volunteers. The land is still owned by Herb and Gert Domino, while the equipment is owned by investors. Sterriker said they had a good year last year and they expect that to continue as they make positive changes.

The men's and women's leagues will continue to play weekly, and the course will host multiple tournaments throughout the season.



Barbecue season is over

A couple of outdoor grills sit piled with snow at a residence in Staples, waiting for a better day to cook outdoors. (Staples World photo by Mark Anderson)



Outdoor seating snowed under

The outdoor picnic tables at Burger King in Staples are piled high with snow after the two big snowfall events at the end of December. (Staples World photo by Mark Anderson)

Staples World history

From Presto Change to current purchase

The Presto Change

Saturday, April 18, 1891's paper (Vol. II, No. 8) is the earliest paper in the archives at the current Staples World Office. It was called The Presto Change.

The Presto Change, in 1891, was located in the northern half of the building that is now Baby STEPS, formerly Ben Franklin and Staples Dollar Store. At that time, the southern half was a building separate from the northern half and it is believed that F. W. Perry combined the buildings into one store after his purchase. The southern store was owned by Mr. Koenig, who had a billiard parlor at ground level and a funeral parlor in the basement.

According to the the Detroit Record in 1891, "A. J. Clark, publisher of The Presto Change of Staples, was in town yesterday and made us a pleasant call. Mr. Clark was one of the pioneers of Detroit and wielded saber in the Record office during its early days. There are a few of the early settlers of Detroit who well remembered and gladly renewed acquaintance with Mr. Clark."

The May 2, 1891 Presto Change printed the following, "To Our Patrons: With the present issue, the Change passes into the possession of the undersigned (J. T. Drawz), who has purchased Andy J. Clark's interest in the same. Our interests are centered in Staples and we shall do our share toward making it one of the best towns in the state," said Drawz.

1892

The Presto Change becomes The Staples World and changes location to a 4th Street location, the corner building currently occupied by Colby Orthodontics.

Printed on Feb. 6, 1892, "The Change will appear under a new heading in

a couple of weeks, the day of publication will be changed and other improvements will be made that, we believe, will please our patrons. We cannot promise to increase the size of the paper by that time, although we hope to receive a sufficient amount of advertising to warrant us in making this improvement also."

The Staples World, Vol. III, No. 1, Feb. 27, 1892 - Successor to The Presto Change. "The Staples World begins revolving this week in regular form. We intend that it will continue to spin and bring our thriving village to the front every week. Send in your \$1.50 on subscription. We need it to buy axle grease."

The Sept. 9, 1892 Staples World printed, "The editor is building a woodshed and is hoping someone would bring wood in on subscription. We need them every hour."

Location Changes?

The Sanborn Map Co. Engineering maps show The Staples World office locations may have changed for various, temporary reasons in 1904 and 1929. The office was last shown as located on 1st Ave. W., across from the depot. Research on this is incomplete.

1949

A Jan. 6, 1949 article announced the purchase of The Staples World by Wendel Stone, an employee of the World since November, 1926. It states further that Stone had become business manager in January, 1943. He purchased the World from Howard W. Sims, who had owned it for 23 years. Mr. Sims had purchased the World from Mr. E. D. Lum. Research on this timeline may also be incomplete.

1953-54

The Staples World moves to its present loca-

tion at 224 4th Street NE.

A Sept. 10, 1953 article states, "The Staples World will have a new home soon, located on Fourth Street North, next to the office of Dr. E. J. Leberee. Work on the digging of ditches for the foundation was started Friday, Aug. 21. The general contract was let to Laurence Odden, electrical work will be done by Robert Cross and J. C. Sorenson has the plumbing and heating work."

A Feb 4, 1954 article states, "Fourth grade of the Lincoln Grade School paid a visit the the Staples World Office last week. The children were interested in watching the linotype, the presses, folder, cutter, etc., in action and many oohs and aahs were heard from the 24 students visiting."

1970-74

The Staples World was sold by Wendel Stone to a newspaper consortium named Quinco around 1970. The manager was Chuck Mayer. It then changed hands again and Paul Caquelin became publisher. According to long time employees, while Mayer was manager, the large presses and printing equipment were removed, except for presses and cutters for commercial printing jobs. The paper was then sent out for printing, as it is today.

1989

In January of 1989, the Staples World was sold by Caquelin's group to Staples Newspapers, Inc. and Brenda Halvorson took over the general management. In August, 1992, Devlin Newspapers, Inc. purchased the paper. Halvorson continued as manager, until 2019.

2019

Mike Kremer and Rick Gail purchased the Staples World and named Mark Anderson Managing Editor.

HALVORSON continued from page 1a

Stay involved in your community

projects came up and she could bid on print jobs or help the committees with communication. "I worked to make it easy for them," she said.

The newspaper became a ticket sales outlet for arts and other events. "All these things take time," she said, but figured it was a good investment.

Halvorson covered the school board for 30 years, including when there was a 12 person board that could extend meetings to midnight.

"They have wonderful people here in the school system," she said.

A culmination of her school board reporting came this year when an independent survey rated the newspaper as the number one place to learn about the school building project. A follow up question rated the newspaper as the most trusted source of school building project news, which the researcher said was well above most communities.

Halvorson was at every meeting and reported on every idea and plan that the board put out, even

though the plans changed nearly every month.

"That is how government should operate, it gives people a chance to give feedback," said Halvorson. "It informs the public, who help inform the board members. It keeps open those lines of communication."

She feels reporting on government boards is extremely important, because whatever the board decides, "ultimately we all pay for it," she said.

Like her own 30 year stay on the job, Halvorson is impressed by the longevity of the people at the Staples World. In that time there have been many long time employees, just two owners and two editors.

When discussions for selling the newspaper cropped up, Halvorson said she "knew from the get-go" that her position would likely be cut.

"I was ready to move on to other things," she said. "I'll do something different, something else that I love," she said.

Halvorson plans to remain in Staples, which is between family in North

Dakota and her son's family in the Twin Cities. She will still plan to be a part of Rotary, Friends of the Library and the Arts Council. She already has one volunteer gig as a guest reader for the early childhood Move, Drop and Read event at Staples-Motley Elementary School.

As she won't be the main person sending newspapers to Staples World readers any more, Halvorson had some advice for them: "Stay involved in your community. If you see something you think is not quite right, do something to fix it. There are so many good things happening, and the potential for so many more things. I can tell you from personal experience, it is very rewarding."

Halvorson also leaves with praise for the small town newspaper business and the employees at Staples World. "All the employees really love the newspaper. They go above and beyond to do the job right and keep it a good newspaper, and I appreciate that. You all really care, that's important in any job."

OWNERS continued from page 1a

Kremer impressed by Staples

Moorhead State University with a degree in Mass Communications, Kremer has been working for the Wheaton Gazette, where he is currently co-publisher with his father Bill.

Kremer has also become co-publisher of several other weekly newspapers in west central Minnesota.

"Weekly newspapering is all about being the eyes and ears for the public it serves," said Kremer. "The weekly newspaper in every community plays a vital role in keeping the public well informed as to what is

taking place in their communities. Whether it is an important governmental or school issue, a winning sports team or one-act play making it to state, a story about an avid gardener or hunter and what they have accomplished, all these stories are what make our communities great places to live and raise a family."

When looking into purchasing the Staples World, Kremer thought it would be a great fit for his philosophy.

"The residents of the Staples area take great

pride in their community," said Kremer. "This sense of pride and the newspaper staff which has worked to showcase this community week in and out, is one of the main reasons why I was so interested in getting involved."

Kremer said it is a goal to carry on the work of Bill and Margie Devlin, owners of the Staples World for 26 years, and the newspaper staff. He said there will be some new features added to the newspaper as well.

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

A quarter of Minnesotans live in a child care desert

By Nathan Bean
Center for Small Towns
University of Minnesota,
Morris

According to a 2017 report from the Center for American Progress, 26% of Minnesotans live in a child care desert.

Data from the Center for Rural Policy and Development shows that challenges in Greater Minnesota are distinct from those in the metro area. They identified a loss of 22,714 family child care slots in Greater Minnesota between 2006 and the end of 2016, partially offset by an increase of 7,048 center-based care slots. While the number of family slots in the Twin Cities decreased by 18,174 over the same period, an increase of 24,810 center-based slots meant the metro area gained child care slots overall. Access to child care is still an issue in the Twin Cities, but the data show a particularly concerning trend in Greater Minnesota.

The number of family providers in Greater Minnesota has been plummeting due to failures in the child care market. A key challenge for providers is that many families struggle to afford child care, and providers can't charge more than their customers can spend. Child Care Aware of Minnesota estimates the average cost of child care for a toddler in Greater Minnesota was \$195 a week in centers and \$135 a week in family-licensed care as of April 2018. That means that year-

round care for a toddler would cost over \$10,000, or about 16% of the 2015 Minnesota median income, according to the Minnesota Department of Human Services. These costs are especially prohibitive for single-parent households and families with infants, whose care costs considerably more than toddlers.

These pressures can cause providers to charge less than they need to operate their businesses comfortably in order to maintain affordable care. This leads to low profitability and low wages for child care workers. Providers also sometimes cite state regulations as a source of cost and stress, but these regulations are often important for creating a healthy and safe environment for childhood development. Overall, the inability of families to afford child care limits the demand for care at prices that are sustainable for providers. In turn, this leads to fewer family providers in the market and less child care available to the families that need it.

The slow growth of child care center capacity in Greater Minnesota means that its losses of family providers are felt harder than in the Twin Cities. Centers face several key challenges when operated in smaller towns across Greater Minnesota. It's difficult for rural areas to provide a large enough market to sustain a child care center and pay for their high start-up costs. Child care centers must

also meet more stringent staffing regulations than family providers. The attendance cost of child care centers is also typically higher than for family providers, and incomes in rural areas are lower than the state average. These factors combine to make it very difficult to open and sustain child care centers in Greater Minnesota.

Child care shortages can have a significant effect on community vitality. Lack of child care prevents parents from pursuing jobs and increases absenteeism among workers. It's also a barrier to attracting new families to Greater Minnesota. High quality care is important for early childhood development and protecting children from adverse childhood experiences which can affect them for the rest of their lives.

In summary, adequate child care is an important aspect of a healthy community. To better understand the efforts of rural communities to combat child care shortages, the Center for Small Towns commissioned this report to study examples of community-driven efforts to expand access to child care. A report from the Center for Small Towns, "Responding to the Child Care Shortage: Case Studies of Innovation in Greater Minnesota" found at morris.umn.edu/cst/, features seven accessible case studies that highlight different community approaches to increasing child care access. The case studies are built on infor-

mation gained from interviews with those involved in the efforts. Each case has "key words" that allow readers to quickly understand its context and model. The cases highlight the shortages that led to community efforts, what assets were available, and why communities chose the solutions they did. The options available to each community look different because of their unique assets, but the report synthesizes valuable insights that may be useful for others looking for solutions. Some of the key takeaways from the cases are summarized below:

- There are a variety of ways for communities to support or attract child care providers. Assistance can come from community members, local government, businesses, and community organizations, and there are a variety of ways interested parties can get involved besides direct financial support.

- Non-traditional child care models, like cooperative family providers and employer-supported child care offer advantages over typical family and center-based models.

- While the community solutions discussed were successful at expanding access to child care for local families, they didn't eliminate the existing shortages. This suggests community-level efforts may not be able to fully ease pressure on families and providers, and changes need to be made at the state level instead.

Letters to the Editor

Christmas lights up Pine Grove Park

It's like to send out a big thank-you to Rob and Trish Jasmer, and anyone else who helped to make the "drive through" Pine Grove Park so beautiful. The lights were perfect. It provided ohhs and ahhs from our car load all the way through. Thanks for the work. It was and will be a definite destination to see.

Barb Hasselberg,
Staples, Minn

Enjoyed the lights

I just want to say how much we enjoyed "elfing" at Pine Grove Park. It was fun, and well done. Thanks for the hard work. We are looking forward to next year.

Sally Grove,
Staples, Minn

Stalking: Know it. Name it. Stop it.

By Connie Nelson

Have you ever had the eerie feeling that someone is watching you or that someone is following you?

Unfortunately, this happens more often than we think and it happens in many ways that often are not looked upon as threatening, such as unwanted gifts, cards and flowers sent to one's home or work, repeatedly driving by home or work, following, possible damage to property, and stalking done with technology.

Many stalkers use cell phone apps and GPS to locate and follow their victims, as well as email and computer monitoring. January is the 15th year of National Stalking Awareness Month, a time to take a closer look at the issue of stalking.

One of the frightening and least known statistics of stalking is that 75 percent of victims of stalking know the stalker personally, an ex-husband, former co-worker or boyfriend, etc. Stalking is a crime in all 50 states, with over 7.5 million victims each year nationwide, including men and women, and is one of the most significant risk factors for femicide, homicide of women in abusive relationships.

Stalking often goes hand in hand with domestic violence or teen dating violence and is done to cause fear and show control. Like sexual violence, stalking

often times goes unreported to the criminal justice system, thus allowing the behavior to continue sometimes for years.

What can you do if you think that you are being stalked? Like any crime, if you feel in immediate danger, you should call 911. If you realize that you are being stalked, document the incidents that happen, when, where and what. Always take the threats, whether verbal or other, with great seriousness.

Under no circumstance, answer or have any communication with the stalker, he could construe this as an encouraging sign. Make a safety plan for your home, work, and times of travel, so that you have a predisposed plan to attempt to ensure your safety.

Trust your instincts, listen to your "gut," you will seldom be steered in the wrong direction. Also, if you believe that you are being stalked, you can contact Hands of Hope Resource Center. We are trained advocates and we can offer you support, safety plan assistance and other crime victim services, free of charge.

Contact us at 320-732-2319 or our 24-hour crisis line at 800-682-4547, or www.handssofhope.net or our Facebook page. Be aware and be safe.

Hands of Hope Resource Center
Po Box 171
Long Prairie, MN 56347

Water Commission priorities

The Minnesota Legislative Water Commission is announcing legislative recommendations for the 2019 session. At the release of the recommendations, Commission Co-Chairs issued the following statements:

Representative Paul Torkelson stated that "Minnesota's economic strength flows from our water. Water is fundamental to industry, agriculture, recreation and to public health."

Senator Chuck Wiger noted that "Minnesota truly is the State of Water. We need to protect this precious resource for now and for future generations. When we consider water policy, we need to think both short term and for the long run."

Based on feedback from Commission members, the Administration, agency staff and stakeholders, the priority water issues facing Minnesota include:

- Providing clean and sustainable drinking water for the future
- Protecting, preserving and enhancing streams, lakes and groundwater
- Preparing to manage our waters for the future.

Based on these broad issues, the Commission is recommending the following legislative actions.

Each of the actions includes specific legislative recommendations. Details can be found at www.lcc.leg.mn/lwc/Meetings_2018.

- Improve source-water protection for drinking water

- Upgrade and repair aging water infrastructure

- Increase efforts to keep water on the land by slowing runoff

- Protect and preserve water for future generations

- Improve water quality by improving soil health

- Reduce the overuse of salt de-icers that impair our waters

- Protect our lakes for the future

- Provide sustainable groundwater to support lakes, rivers and human needs

- Enhance water education in our schools

- Provide thorough review of changes to wastewater regulations and standards

- Fix our leaky and broken sewer lines

- Ensure drinking-water safety through programs provided by the water serviced connection fee.

The Legislative Water Commission is composed of six members of the House, including District 9A Representative John Poston and six members of the Senate appointed by legislative leadership.

The Commission reviews water policy issues that affect Minnesota. Meeting agendas, participants and materials are available at www.lcc.leg.mn/lwc/Meetings_2018.



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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.

Note to Advertisers: Advertisers should check their ad following first publication. This newspaper shall not be liable for failure to publish an ad or for the typographic error or errors in publication except to the extent of the cost of the ad for the first day's insertion. Adjustment for errors is limited to the cost of that portion of the ad wherein the error occurred. The publisher reserves the right to cancel any advertisement at any time.

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



Cow/Calf Days at CLC Staples January 22

University of Minnesota Extension will be holding the annual Cow/Calf Days workshop in Staples on Tuesday, Jan. 22 starting at 9:30 a.m. in the Commons Area at Central Lakes College.

This event has been held for over 45 years and continues to be the leading information, technology and research outlet for cow/calf producers in the state of Minnesota.

This year's event will feature information on: cow herd efficiency, genetic selection for commercial cow-calf operators and optimizing ranch production per acre.

The program will also feature a Q & A session with Elanco Animal Health veterinarians Dr. Brett Terhar and Dr. Bruce Hoffman.

Updates from the Minnesota State Cattlemen's Association will also highlight the event. The corresponding tradeshow will feature vendors with new informa-

tion, technology and products with a wide array of practical uses for the operators in the cow-calf sector.

The program is directed at cow/calf producers, allied industry representatives and is open to the public. A meal will be served with the program and a registration fee will include the meal, proceedings book and program materials. The program is approximately three hours long.

Please RSVP by Tuesday, Jan. 15 by contacting Brenda Miller at the Todd County Extension Office at 320-533-4655 or email nels4220@umn.edu.

If you have any questions about the event or would like to be an event sponsor, please contact Brenda Miller at the Todd County Extension Office at 320-533-4655.

For more information on more U of M Extension Beef Team events or Cow/Calf topics, please visit: www.extension.umn.edu/beef.



SMAC Foundation donation

The Staples Motley Area Community Foundation recently funded new Barn Quilt Trail brochures in the total sum of \$1,312. Above: Lisa Kajer, left, Barn

Quilts of Central Minnesota accepts the check from Chris Trout, president of the SMAC Foundation in front of the Staples Depot Barn Quilt. (Photo by Tom Kajer)



Todd County Sheriff Don Asmus and Melissa Moranzon

MN Sheriff's Association local scholarship winner

Todd County Sheriff Don Asmus announced the local winner of the Minnesota Sheriff's Association Scholarship Program for 2018 as Melissa Moranzon of Long Prairie.

The Association awards scholarships each year to individuals planning to become Minnesota Peace Officers. The applicants apply through their local Sheriff's Office. This year, the Scholarship Committee chose 19 recipients, with Melissa receiving the scholarship for Todd County.

The Minnesota Sheriff's Association Scholarship Program is promoted by

the 87 sheriffs of Minnesota. Members of the Minnesota Sheriff's Association offer their congratulations to each of the scholarship awardees.

"The qualifications and academic excellence shown by this award reflect the dedication and pride of the young people in the State of Minnesota who will enter the difficult but rewarding profession of law enforcement and public service," said the award.

For additional information on the Minnesota Sheriff's Association, please visit: www.mnsheriffs.org

Mark Your Calendar

January 15 - 16

IMMUNIZATION CLINIC - WALK
In sponsored by Cass County Public Health, will be offered Tues., Jan. 15, 10 a.m. - noon and 1 - 2:30 p.m., Pillager Family Resource Center. For info., 218-547-1340, ext. 209.

WIC NUTRITION PROGRAM
sponsored by Cass County Public Health, will be offered Tues., Jan. 15, 10 a.m. - noon and 1 - 2:30 p.m.; and Wed., Jan. 16, 9:30 a.m. - noon and 12:30 - 2 p.m., Pillager Family Resource Center. For info., 218-547-1340.

Cardinal Calendar

SM school events

January

◦ **PROSTART DINNER** Monday, Jan. 7.

◦ **DISTRICT SPELLING BEE** Thursday, Jan. 17, 12:15 - 3 p.m., Centennial Auditorium, Staples.

◦ **CONNECTIONS SHOWCASE NIGHT** Wednesday, Jan. 30, 6:30 - 8 p.m., Sourcewell in Staples.

All Staples-Motley Upcoming Events are subject to change. Go to www.isd2170.k12.mn.us for up to the minute information.

Programs and activities at Staples Public Library

1,000 Books before Kindergarten

Enjoy a fun program encouraging reading and early literacy skills. For ages birth to kindergarten. Check out the new app available to record books read. Sponsored by the Staples Friends of the Library. During library open hours.

D.I.Y. Fun Activity

Check out our fun guessing game. Each week a new question and prize winner. For ages 5-12. Sponsored by the Staples Friends of the Library. Ongoing through Jan. and Feb. During library open hours.

Tech Time - Jan. 2

Trouble understanding your laptop, iPad, Kindle or another electronic device? Would you like to download books from the library website or use eBooks but aren't sure how to? Tech help will be available the first Wednesday of each month. Call ahead or drop in for individual help from a Great River Regional Librarian. For teens or adults. Wednesday, Jan. 2, anytime between 10 a.m. and noon.

Minnesota Workforce Center visits - Jan. 2

A Workforce Center staff person will be

available the 1st Wednesday each month to assist job seekers with resumes, accessing online job sites and any other one-on-one assistance. For adults. Wednesdays, Jan. 2 anytime between 2 and 4 p.m.

"Warm Up With" Storytime - Jan. 9

Join us for a fun storytime with stories, crafts and snacks. For ages Pre K to 2nd Grade. Registration is required. Limit 15. Sponsored by the Staples Friends of the Library. Wednesday, Jan. 9, 10:30 to 11:00 a.m.

Crafts 'n Creations - Jan. 10

Join us for a fun evening of crafting. Our January class will be all about glass etching. Learn how to etch a design or name on your favorite glass item. For adults. Limit 10. Registration is required. Sponsored by the Staples Friends of the Library. Thursday, Jan. 10, 6:00 to 7:00 p.m.

For more information contact the library at 218-894-1401.

The Staples Public Library is located at 122 6th St. NE, Staples. Hours: Mon. 10 a.m.-6 p.m., Tue. 2-8 p.m., Weds. 10 a.m.-6 p.m., Thurs. 2-8 p.m., Fri. 1-5 p.m., Sat. 10 a.m.-1 p.m.

Care Center

JANUARY SPECIAL ACTIVITIES AT THE LAKEWOOD HEALTH SYSTEM CARE CENTER:

Fri., Jan. 4 - 10 a.m. Capucino
Sat., Jan. 5 - 10 a.m. Bingo/Marge; 1:45 p.m. Seven Day Adventist singers
Sun., Jan. 6 - 1:30 p.m. Bingo/Marge
Tues., Jan. 8 - 2:15 p.m. church-Staples Church of

Christ; 3:45 p.m. Bingo/Marge
Wed., Jan. 9 - 2 p.m. Bingo/Marge
Fri., Jan. 11 - 9:30 a.m. Church-Faith Lutheran; 10:00 a.m. Friendly Friday
Sat., Jan. 12 - 10 a.m. Bingo/Marge
Sun., Jan. 13 - 1:30 p.m. Activities Choice
Mon., Jan. 14 - 2:30 p.m.

Trinity Church
Tues., Jan. 15 - 2:15 p.m. Church-Paul Koehler; 3:45 p.m. Bingo w/Marge
Wed., Jan. 16 - 2 p.m. Bingo/Marge
Thurs., Jan. 17 - 10 a.m. Bible Study-Jim Johnson
Sun., Jan. 20 - 2:00 p.m. Assembly of God Singers

Financial Powers of Attorney - legal rights

From the Office of Minnesota Attorney General Lori Swanson

It is usually best for people to make their own decisions on matters that significantly affect their lives. In some cases, however, people become unable to do so because of health or cognitive impairments. In these situations, it is important for people to have someone they trust who can make decisions for them. Establishing a power of attorney may be something to consider.

What is a financial power of attorney?

A financial power of attorney is a document that gives someone permission to act on another person's behalf. When a person creates a power of attorney, they are considered the "principal." The individual to whom they give this permission is called their "agent" or "attorney-in-fact."

This individual does not need to be an attorney, but should be someone the person greatly trusts. There has been an uptick in recent years of financial fraud by agents who abuse the authority granted to them under a power of attorney. The person selected as the agent should be responsible, honest and diligent.

When establishing a power of attorney, a person must decide how much authority they want their agent to have over their affairs. A general power of attorney gives an agent the ability to act on a person's

behalf in all of their affairs, while a limited power of attorney grants an agent this authority only in specific situations.

A person may also choose to make their power of attorney "durable," which means it stays in place even if the person becomes incompetent or incapacitated. A principal can also revoke a power of attorney. For example, somebody facing surgery may complete a power of attorney on a temporary basis, but then revoke it once they are healed and out of the hospital.

When should I use a power of attorney?

A power of attorney may be a good idea for people who are unable or who may become unable in the future to manage their financial affairs or make other decisions for themselves. Examples of powers people can give to their agent are:

- To use a person's assets to pay their everyday living expenses.
- To manage benefits from Social Security, Medicare or other government programs.
- To handle transactions with their bank and other financial institutions.
- To file and pay a person's taxes.
- To manage a person's retirement accounts.

How do I create a power of attorney?

A power of attorney must be in writing, signed in front of a notary, dated, and clear on what powers are being granted. If a person wishes to make the power of attorney durable

(i.e., to last even if they become incapacitated), they must include a statement such as: "This power of attorney shall not be affected by incapacity or incompetence of the principal." It is not necessary to have a lawyer prepare a power of attorney, but consulting with one can help ensure that the power of attorney is constructed in a way that aligns with the person's wishes.

When does a power of attorney end?

A mentally competent person can remove a power of attorney at any time with a signed document. If a power of attorney is not removed, it ends with a person's death.

Where can I get a sample form?

A statutory power of attorney short form is available on the Minnesota Attorney General's Office website at: www.ag.state.mn.us/Consumer/Handbooks/Probate/PowerOfAtty.pdf. This form is prepared according to statutory requirements. It allows a person to create a power of attorney, choose which powers they wish to delegate to their agent, and identify whether or not the power of attorney will be durable. Before completing the form, the principal and agent should carefully read all pages of the form, including the instructions at the top of the first page.

In addition, some banks and financial companies have their own power of attorney forms. Preparing additional, organization-specific forms may make it

easier for an agent to work with certain organizations with which the principal does business.

For general information (not legal advice) and sample forms, contact:

Office of Minnesota Attorney General Lori Swanson
445 Minnesota Street, Suite 1400
St. Paul, MN 55101
800-657-3787
TTY: 800-366-4812
www.ag.state.mn.us

School board special meeting

The Staples-Motley School Board will hold a special meeting Wednesday Jan. 9, at 7 p.m. in the Staples-Motley High School media center for BUILD 2170.

GRADUATION NOTICES LEGAL ADVERTISING MEETING NOTICES CAR SALES FEATURES

YARD SALE ADS FOR SALE ADS HIGH SCHOOL SPORTS HELP WANTED ADS STORE SALES LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

SPECIALS OBITUARIES SALES FLYERS GOVERNMENT MEETINGS

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Staples-Motley High School Orchestra and Bell Choir entertain at Lakewood Pines

Residents listen to a festive holiday number performed by members of the high school orchestra, directed by John Koopmann. From left are Bob and Junette Blake, Hazel Knudson, Aletha Deyoung, Elsie Hanson (hidden), Alice Grandby (hidden), Audrey Tholl, Bessie Huff, Joyce Snyder, Jean Medley. (Staples World photos by Dawn Timbs)

Members of the Staples-Motley High School Bell Choir, directed by Cindy Koopmann, shared Christmas music at Lakewood Pines in Staples recently. (Staples World photos by Dawn Timbs)

Hello World

BIRTHS REPORTED AT LAKEWOOD HEALTH SYSTEM HOSPITAL IN STAPLES INCLUDED:

Born to McKenzie Kowalski and Sean Mileski of Staples, a baby boy, Kyryn Richard, weighing five pounds, 12 ounces on December 19, 2018.

Born to Brittany and Patrick Trettel of Staples, a baby girl, Harleen Quinzel, weighing seven pounds, nine ounces on December 21, 2018.

Born to Rabeca Schaefer and Brian Fischer of Menahga, a baby boy, Melvin Alan, weighing eight pounds, 10 ounces on December 21, 2018.

TC Historical Society Next meeting is Jan. 7

The annual meeting/Christmas Party of the Todd County Historical Society was held Dec. 12 at the museum. The meeting was called to order by President Gary Stracek with the Pledge of Allegiance.

The secretary and treasurer reports were approved.

De's Museum Report:
• Audrey Illies updated the Evergreen Cemetery list through 12/2017.

• Thank you to those who helped document various items in the museum.

• Feb. 28 we will be going to the Paramount Theater in St. Cloud to see "Rise Up Old Men." There will be two other stops along the way. Anyone interested, call the museum at 732-4426 for more information.

• We have three books by local authors for sale. Jeff Lucas' book about Long Prairie, a cookbook compiled by Lorna Hunter to

benefit the Christie House and a children's book entitled "A Killdeer Named Mabel" written by Dave Jacobsen.

The old original Hart Press printing press is now housed in our fairgrounds building.

All board members and trustees were re-elected with the exception of one, who declined. The replacement will be Judy Petrie.

The next meeting will be Mon., Jan. 7 at 1:30 p.m. in the museum.

Meeting adjourned. Following the meeting, the video "Minnesota 13" was presented, about the distilling and selling of illegal whiskey in Stearns County during Prohibition. Lunch was served followed by the drawing for the Christmas quilt donated by Jody Bebaul. The winner of the quilt was Zo Klimek.

-Submitted by Alice Siegle

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 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
Wednesdays are for Sept. - May
Sonsight (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
Church 218-894-2296
Pastor Fr. Gabriel Walz
Youth and Young Adult Ministry
Coordinator:
Monica J. Simmons 218-414-0081 cell/text
MASS:
Thursday and Friday 8:30 a.m.
Saturday 5:00 p.m.
Sunday 8:30 a.m.

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

Thomastown Covenant
15940 251st Ave., Staples 218-894-3923
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.bethanylutheranacushing.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 Worship 9:00 & 10:30 a.m.
Sunday School 10:30 a.m.
WEDNESDAY
Kids Club 4:00-5:30 p.m.
Youth Group 5:30-7:30 p.m.

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

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

United Methodist
847 3rd Ave. S. Lane, Motley 218-352-6466
Pastor Greg Leslie
www.motleyumc.org
Sunday Worship Service 9:00 a.m.
Monday AA meeting 8:00 p.m.

Oylen

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

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

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

First Baptist
903 River Street South, Pillager
Pastor Jake Anderson
218-746-3768
curious@fbcpillager.com
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

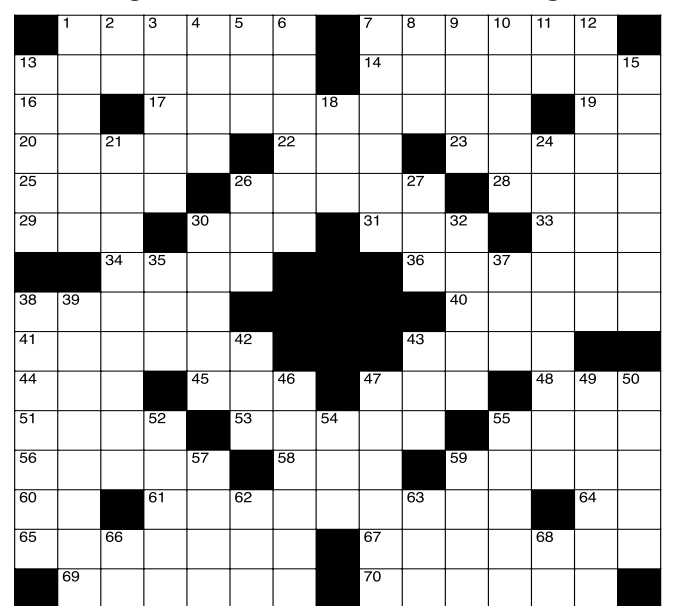
Hope Chapel Alliance
18126 County Road 7, Verndale
218-445-5643 or 218-472-3316
Pastor Neal Malcore
Sunday Worship 9:00 a.m.
Sunday School 10:30 a.m.
WEDNESDAY
Family Night 5:30 p.m.

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.

Crossword Puzzle



CLUES ACROSS
1. Contradicted
7. The Donald's Marla
13. Mediterranean sandstorm
14. Shoulder adornment element
16. Earth crust's 5th element
17. Rainbow prize
19. NCIS star's initials
20. Mischa __, violinist
22. Constitution Hall org.
23. More dried-up
25. First on moon
26. Braid
28. 11% of Guinea population
29. Sea eagle
30. Scottish variant of "to"
31. A border for a picture
33. Belonging to a thing
34. On top
36. Automobile hood (Brit.)
38. Skewered Thai dish
40. Clamors

CLUES DOWN
1. One who operates a dial
2. Trauma center
3. Prickly pear pads
4. Fashion superstar
5. Shock treatment
6. Mindless drawing
7. AKA migraine
8. Military mailbox
9. Buddies
10. Heavy tranquilizers (slang)

41. Eggs cooked until just set
43. Flat
44. 13th Hebrew letter
45. Short poking stroke
47. Japanese classical theater
48. 007's creator
51. Romanian Mures river city
53. Music term for silence
55. A crane
56. Ringworm
58. Romanian money
59. True frog
60. Integrated circuit
61. "Highway Patrol's" Crawford
64. Point midway between S and E
65. On a whim
67. Protagonist
69. Quantity with only magnitude
70. Oversights

11. Raised railroad track
12. School session
13. Picture
15. Stabs
18. Supervises flying
21. Early American militiaman
24. Downfall
26. Cooking vessel
27. Check
30. In a way, manipulated
32. Sacred book of Judaism
35. Chum
37. Negating word
38. Relating to the body
39. W. hemisphere continents
42. Make lacework
43. Witty remark
46. More hairless
47. Relating to a nerve
49. Originates
50. Consumer advocate
52. Actress Winger
54. Center for Excellence in Education (abbr.)
55. Japanese brews
57. Fleshy seed covering
59. Canadian law enforcers
62. So. Am. wood sorrel
63. Actress Lupino
66. Personal computer
68. Do over prefix
CW151310

"Home for Christmas"

Pastor Roy Miles, Staples Assembly of God Church

I found this story written by Marjorie Homes recently and wanted to share it:

It was a Christmas during the Great Depression when Dad was laid off and I was a senior working my way through a small college 500 miles away from home. I had an opportunity to make \$50-a fortune!-by working during the vacation and I jumped at the chance. ("I'll miss spending Christmas with you," I wrote Mom and Dad, "but do I ever need the money!")

Yet as Christmas approached I grew more dubious of my decision.

One by one my classmates waved good-bye. Finally, the last girl ran out of the dorm and I was alone. Suddenly I jumped up, snatched my coat and mittens and raced after her. I remember I rammed a hand down the torn lining of my coat sleeve so fast it emerged mittened and I had to start over.

"Can you take me as far as Fort Dodge?" I cried. Their car was full, but she said to come anyway, that I could sit on someone's lap. What a ride! We drove all night through the snow in a heaterless car, but I didn't mind a bit. I was going home for Christmas!

"Marj!" Mother stood at the door clutching her robe about her, silver-black hair spilling down her back, eyes sparkling with tears of joy. I'll never forget those eyes or the feel of her arms around me, so soft and warm after the bitter cold ...

Home for Christmas. There must be some deep psychological reason why we turn so instinctively toward home at this special time. Perhaps we are acting out the ancient story of a man and a woman and a coming child, plodding along with their donkey toward their destination. It was necessary for Joseph, the earthly father, to go home to be taxed. Each male had to return to the city of his birth.

The Child Who was born on that first Christmas grew up to be a man. Jesus. He healed many people, taught us many important things. But the message that has left the most lasting impression and given the most hope and comfort is this: that we do have a home to go to, and there will be an ultimate homecoming. A place where we will indeed be reunited with those we love.

A place where every day will be Christmas, with everybody there together. At home.

-Written by Marjorie Homes

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Minnesota elk plan deserves thought and care

My first sighting of a live Minnesota elk was at least a quarter-century ago. This timeline is linked to the days when my hunting partner and I would bunk at his grandparents' home in Mahanomen, Minnesota, from where our adventures would take us to far-flung places; most often in pursuit of waterfowl. On this particular day we were driving a county road in the approaching dusk, when in the distance we saw a very large animal emerge from a ditch and cross perpendicular to the gravel road.

Jim and I have seen many deer, some of which we've harvested, and it was clear this was not a whitetail. In that general area at that time were a small number of elk—also known as wapiti—the results of an effort by the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources to reintroduce elk to the state in 1935. This large member of the deer family had disappeared from Minnesota before 1900 as settlement expanded, unfenced lands dwindled, and animals were aggressively harvested. Today there is still a small remnant population of elk from that reintroduction that persists in the Northwest corner of the state.

The relevance at this time is the fact that tentative steps are being taken that could lead to a new effort aimed at reintroducing elk to Minnesota, this time in several areas in the East-Central part of the state, on lands north, south, and west of Duluth. Feasibility studies to determine the suitability of habitat to support an elk

population, and to gauge landowner support or opposition, are underway. Involved are the University of Minnesota, the Fond du Lac band of Lake Superior Ojibwe, and the Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation. The bulk of the funding for the feasibility studies—just under \$450,000—came from the state's Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund.

The Minnesota DNR is not reported to be actively involved in the project. Its supporters are quoted in media accounts as recognizing that determining feasibility is only stage one. Others in decision-making positions will have to weigh in, including—those behind the effort say—state lawmakers. Up to this point I've not seen opinions expressed by the Minnesota DNR, which generally would—and should—have a seat at the table in such discussions, since managing big game in Minnesota falls under their area of responsibility.

In their revelation of positive landowner and public response to the survey, supporters of elk reintroduction have pointed out the difference in landscapes between the locus of the elk population in Northwest Minnesota, and that envisioned for the East-Central area now in focus. There has been conflict between elk and farmers in the Northwest, due to the elk's inclination to consume crops, or forage intended for cattle in that largely agricultural area. The three areas in East-Central Minnesota, on the other hand, include more public land, and a balance more leaning toward forest and less toward agriculture. This may account for less expressed landowner anxiety over the introduction of elk there.

As the feasibility studies move forward, and the wheels of decision-making turn, a certain amount of caution should be part

of any final decision. I'm not a trained biologist, having only a minor in natural resources on my college resume. But I do consider myself as well-informed on wildlife management and natural resource issues as the average Minnesota legislator, who may someday be in a position to vote up or down on the introduction of elk in this part of the state.

There have been game species introductions in the past that have been exceptionally successful. The Chinese ringnecked pheasant is a creature not originally found in the Western Hemisphere, but is now one of the most wildly successful and widely hunted game bird species. The wild turkey's reintroduction here in Minnesota is another good example.

But there are at least a couple of issues to be addressed when it comes to elk. One is competition with whitetail deer. The elk is first and foremost a grazer, meaning it is a consumer of grass and similar soft plants. The folks at Rocky Mountain National Park—one of our oldest national parks, established more than a century ago—say that an elk's eating is about 85% grazing and 15% browsing, which means to eat woody plant parts and leaves. Deer at the park are roughly the reverse in dietary preferences, at 75% browsing, and 25% grazing. Deer are the better adapted to forest habitat, but the mix of mountain meadows and forest in the Rockies has suited elk, too, and they are abundant.

In winter, however, when the grasses and soft-tissue plants on which elk prefer to graze become less available, they become browsers of necessity, and—so say the managers at Rocky Mountain National Park—compete with deer. It remains to be seen how the two species would interact in the mix of forest and open lands near Duluth, but it should

not be ignored. If an elk population here would be little more than a novelty, and not sufficiently abundant to be a natural resource available to the public—and that is an unknown—is there justification for spending significant time and treasure to introduce them?

A second issue that should be addressed is the obvious one of bringing in big game animals from beyond our state's borders. It's not clear at this time where the elk would come from. The "elephant in the room" is chronic wasting disease, or CWD, the always-fatal, incurable disease of the deer family that the Minnesota DNR is struggling to contain in Southeast Minnesota. Elk are carriers of the disease, and captive elk on Minnesota game ranches have been found to have it.

Of course, it would be wild elk that would be captured elsewhere and released here. But what precautions could be taken to be sure they are not CWD carriers, as some are in the West? The only tests for CWD currently considered valid by the United States Department of Agriculture are tests performed post-mortem, on dead animals. There are efforts underway to perfect blood tests that would identify infected animals without harming them, but they are not yet approved.

The point here is not to prejudice anyone against a proposal to introduce elk to these parts of Minnesota. But introducing any species anywhere is a "playing God" exercise. There are a goodly number of wildlife introduction success stories in the history of game management. But there are also some disasters, and some resource-wasting failures, too. This is a case where all the possible outcomes have to be considered, with key decisions made by resource professionals, moving forward with eyes wide open.



Mike Rahn

Inside the Outdoors

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52-1p

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602

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207 Equipment for Rent	314 Farm Services	612 Real Estate Wanted
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Todd County suggests wildlife habitat spaces

When evaluating a field for a producer, the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) conservationist will look at a variety of resource concerns.

SWAPA+H+E is the acronym the agency uses to identify the resources. SWAPA+H+E stands for Soil, Water, Air, Plants, Animals, Human considerations and Energy. The resources interact with each other and can be broken down into component parts.

One component of animal resources is wild-

life habitat. The quality of wildlife habitat is dependent upon five components: food, water, cover, space and nesting and birthing areas. Each of these components is just as essential as the other.

Wildlife rely on a variety of different food and water sources throughout the year. Each season offers a different source. It is important to keep each season in mind when trying to enhance wildlife food and water sources. Cover, nesting and birthing areas go hand in hand.

Wildlife need enough cover to be able to hide and escape from predators.

Most wildlife need both aerial and horizontal cover. In the winter they rely on thick, dense cover to protect them from wind and cold. During the nesting and birthing season wildlife need areas that provide sufficient cover from predators but allow enough space to birth or nest successfully.

The last component of wildlife habitat is space. Space encompasses every other component of wild-

life habitat. Each species is going to have a different requirement for how much space they need. Within each of their spaces, they are going to need food, water, cover and birthing areas.

If you are interested in improving wildlife habitat on your land look for future articles about animal components and the other resource concerns or visit the local NRCS office for more information, 607 9th ST NE in Long Prairie, 320-732-6618 ext. 3.

Todd County drug investigation nets two arrests

The Todd County Sheriff's Office along with members of the Central MN Violent Offender Task Force executed a search warrant Nov. 27 at the address of 16861 171st Ave. in Gordon Township, Todd County for narcotics. Taken into custody were two individuals, Sharon

Lee Sorenson, 61; and Michael Brian Helberg, 45, of Merrifield.

Both were arrested and held at the Todd County Detention Center pending formal charges for 5th Degree Possession of Controlled Substance (methamphetamine)

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