



It's a boy.... first baby born in 2019

Above, left to right: Lisa Kajer, Piecemakers Quilting Club; Brynn Hathaway, Lakewood RN; Sam Waln and Taylor Schmitz, holding Kassen; Dr. Sarah Israelson and LaDonna Peterson, Lakewood Auxiliary. (Submitted photo)

Baby Kassen arrives Jan. 1

Twenty-nineteen brings the celebration of birth for Taylor Schmitz and Sam

Waln of Wadena, who welcomed their new baby boy, Kassen Paul, into the world on January 1. Kassen was born at 2:49 a.m. weighing 10 pounds, two ounces and measured 22-½ inches long. This is the couple's first child.

Delivering physician was Dr. Sarah Israelson, Lakewood Health System in Staples. Lakewood Health System Auxiliary

and Piecemakers Quilting Club presented gifts to the family in honor of the new baby. The Auxiliary, represented by LaDonna Peterson, gave a gift of \$50; representing the Piece Makers Quilting Club, Lisa Kajer gave a handmade baby quilt. The Auxiliary and Piecemakers Quilting Club annually present gifts to the family of the New Year's baby at Lakewood.

School board requests more details for building projects

By Mark Anderson
Managing Editor

The Staples-Motley School Board asked for more information before committing to a building project. The board discussed various building studies done by the district and asked for more specifics on the two plans. Although no vote or consensus was taken, three board members appeared to favor a two school solution, while the other three want to explore the one school solution that would likely cost more.

Board member Greg Frisk said the recent survey presented by Nexus Solutions showed that a \$60 million bond would have an even chance to pass. That amount could be close to the one school option, which would be located at the current Staples-Motley Elementary school in Staples. However, the Nexus study showed the figure could be over \$70 million, which they predicted would not pass

a vote, according to their survey.

Board member Bryan Winkels said they could still make a case that the one school option is a better economic investment in the long term. He did ask that question at the Nexus Solutions presentation, and was told the actual return on investment might be 40 years down the road, but Winkels said the project could last 75 to 100 years.

Both Winkels and Frisk said educating the public on the advantages of the one building option could shift the willingness of the public to vote in favor of the more expensive project.

Board member Brad Anderson said the school has spent two years on facility studies and gathering public input, and the top solution was the one school option. Even though the Nexus Solutions survey showed more than half the public felt they could not afford one building, Anderson said he wasn't ready "to discredit two years of work, just for a telephone

survey of 600 people."

Board members Bruce Lund and Chad Longbella both said they were in favor of the two building option because it would be a lower initial cost. That plan would build new gyms and classrooms at the elementary site, fix up the Staples-Motley High School site, and tear down the 1935 and 1950 portions of the high school, including the varsity gym.

Longbella brought up the operating levy increase that the board passed in December, and felt they shouldn't keep raising money from taxpayers. "This is my fourth go-round with buildings, and this is the farthest we've gotten," said Longbella. "You only have one chance, otherwise people are going to drop off" from supporting the building project.

Board member Mary Freeman said the building project should focus on meeting the educational adequacy needs identified in an earlier building study.

See **SCHOOL** on page 3a

Hello, Readers,
As many of our readers noticed last week, we printed one section last week, and I'm sure they will notice just one section this week. We still have the same number of pages, but instead of eight pages in the front section and four in the second section, we now have 12 pages all together. Last week it may have been confusing because there was little sports coverage due to the winter break in sports. We may not be finished with our page location changes, but we have moved Crow Wing Currents to page 2a, where we will have color photos more often, and sports to the back page, for the same reason. Please let us know what you think of the changes and keep giving us suggestions for how to improve our newspaper.

Public Notices
Feedlot Expansion: 8A

Obituaries
*Kristina Faber
Marjorie Forte
Nancy Johnson
William Johnson
Ralph Marotzke
Don Norton
Ronald Selvey*



Thank you for subscribing!

Provider of the Year 2018 awarded to Deb Hausmann

By Janice Winter

Miles of smiles, little babies trusting eyes and tons of hugs from little ones as well as parents have made for a huge caregiving family in Debra Hausmann's life.

She has been a day care provider for 37 years, sharing and being a part of 100s of boy's and girl's lives, school age on down.

"It's so much fun to love them," said Deb, of the children that attend Kids Kountry Kastle, her licensed home day care near Staples in Wadena County. Deb and Dale Hausmann have four grown children of their own, and now six grandchildren - three boys and three girls. While the Hausmann's have followed the many growing footsteps of their own children, Deb pretty much continues to follow each child who attended her day care throughout their school career, graduation and many times beyond. If they re-connect with her, that's even better.

In 1982 following the birth of the Hausmann's third child, Deb wanted to stay at home to raise her children. The couple were also just starting to build their home.



Debra Hausmann with her "Provider of the Year" plaque. (Submitted photo)

"Debbie."

"The words that come out of children's mouths" or carrying on a plerplexing, but serious in their minds - conversation - are some of Deb's favorite ways to connect with the little ones.

"My ultimate is rocking the babies," she said. "They look right into your eyes. There's no better bonding experience," said Deb, with a beaming smile.

Thirty-seven years later, Deb Haus-

"I received an intriguing phone call one day that someone needed day care... would I consider it?" said Deb. That was the beginning. Already knowing she loved being around children, Deb checked into opening her own licensed day care. It became a reality. Her two youngest children, both girls, "grew up with day care kids".

As the day care gained recognition and reputation, an assistant, Shirley Giffith was added. Shirley recently completed 22 years at Kids Kountry Kastle, in a loving role as an "extra" grandma.

A loving mom with a delightful spirit, Deb is an instant hit with the children, even with shy ones. "They are all 'my kids,'" she said of the children, who all call her

See **AWARD** on page 2a

Comedian to headline Chamber Dinner

The Staples-Motley Area Chamber of Commerce will host their annual Chamber Dinner on Thursday, Jan. 17, at Ted & Gen's in Aldrich, starting at 5:30 p.m.

The dinner will honor retiring board members, welcome new board members and there will be an update on the Staples-Motley Schools building project.

Comedian John DeBoer will be the program headliner. DeBoer has appeared at comedy clubs, colleges, three federal penitentiaries, the Daytona 500 Experience, as well as on Comedy Central, XM-Sirius Satellite Radio, and in national TV commercials

Tickets are on sale from



John DeBoer

the Staples-Motley Area Chamber, 218-894-3974 or 218-296-0238, or at staples-motleychamber@gmail.com, or from any board member. The chamber appreciates all advance sales.

Staples and Motley ATV club gaining momentum

By Mark Anderson
Managing Editor

ATV enthusiasts are joining together to look at forming an off-road trail in the Staples and Motley area.

"We've had pretty decent turnout and a lot of responses through emails," said Paul DeBoer, who is organizing the club. "It's been really cool, the positive response and all the great ideas everybody has."

DeBoer said they held one meeting in Staples in December and will hold their next meeting in Motley on Saturday, Jan. 19, at 11 a.m., at Bricks Travel Plaza.

The agenda for that meeting includes choosing a name, a club motto and naming board members.

DeBoer said there are grants that can help build trails, and it can be a benefit to the community.

"The ATV industry is a billion dollar industry," said DeBoer.

He said he has talked to business owners in other areas of Minnesota where ATV trails have been built, and it is great for the tourism industry. He said one motel owner said they rarely have empty rooms in the summer, even during the week.

The local club also plans to get involved in educating youth on safe riding and helping them get certified to drive the vehicles.

For more information, contact DeBoer at pauldeboer24@gmail.com or (320) 428-2639



Saturday afternoon hockey game



With temperatures nearing 40 degrees Jan. 5, area boys ditched their winter coats during a game of hockey at the ice rink in Motley. In lower photo, from left, are Simon Johnson, 17, and Charlie Johnson, 13, both of Motley; and Cael Sams, 16, of Cushing. The boys said they try to spend time at the rink whenever possible. Other outdoor enthusiasts spotted during the unseasonably warm weather last weekend included snowmobilers on area trails; and sleds enjoying the sledging hill at Lakewood Health System Hospital in Staples. (Staples World photos by Dawn Timbs)



Wadena County Attorney Oath of Office

Wadena County Attorney Kyra Ladd was sworn into service at a ceremony held January 3 at the Wadena County Courthouse. Honorable Judge Doug Clark performed the official duties, right.

Above: Attending the Oath of Office were Judge Clark, Wadena County Commissioner Jon Kangas, Wadena County Commissioner Sheldon Monson, Wadena County Auditor Heather Olson, Wadena County Sheriff Mike Carr, Wadena County Recorder Soledad Henriksen with Wadena County Attorney Kyra Ladd, who will serve for the next four years. (Submitted photo)



Motley Police, MCSO reports

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

Jan. 2 - The MPD responded to a call of three suspicious males in the Northwood grocery store in Motley.

Dec. 29 - The MPD received a report of a gas drive-off in the amount of \$29.12 at Orton's in Motley.

Dec. 28 - The MPD responded to a two-vehicle accident near Hwy 10 and Eledredge St. in Motley. One of the drivers, Trevor Hamblin, 27, failed to stop for a stop sign due to it being slippery from the recent snowfall. He was issued a citation.

Dec. 27 - The MPD gave verbal warnings to two drivers along Hwy 10 in Motley for not having headlights on during the snow fall.

Dec. 27 - The MPD was advised of a subject at Bricks in Motley who had been there since the previous day. The MPD spoke with the subject who stated she was supposed to get a ride from a trucker the day before but he did not show up. She was given a ride to the train station in Staples where she bought a ticket to her destination of Manitoba.

Jan. 2 - The MCSO received a call from someone who voiced their concerns about thin ice and open water near the public access of Stanchfield Lake in Motley. The responding deputy attempted to contact CO (Conservation Officer) Randy Posner and also spoke with a member of Scandia Valley Fire who stated that Stanchfield has some open water just to the right of the access and that lake has some springs in it. He felt that the only way you could get access to the lake is via snowmobile, the report said.

Motley Area Historical Society elects officers

The Motley Area Historical Society (MAHS) elected officers at their December Christmas potluck. These included:

- President - Bernice Thomson
- Vice President - Gayle Quinn
- Secretary - Paula Johnson
- Treasurer - Sherry Miller Frisk
- Membership - Robin Kramer

The MAHS meets on the second Tuesday of each month (except January and February) at Motley City Hall at 1 p.m. Anyone interested in a membership can send their dues to PO Box 7, Motley, MN, 56466. For more information, call 218-352-6699.



Food shelf donation

Stephanie Leslie (left), a member of the Piece-makers Quilt Club, presents a check for \$100 to Sherry Miller Frisk of the Motley Area Food Shelf. (Submitted photo)

Senior nutrition frozen meals information

The Motley Area Food Shelf (MAFS) will no longer be the pickup point for senior frozen meals. Previously, gold tickets could be purchased at Motley City Hall and brought to the food shelf to pick up frozen dinners.

According to Sherry Miller Frisk, MAFS Director, the center in Eagle Bend had wanted to reach out to the Motley area with this service and the food shelf agreed to be the pickup point during a trial period. As the service was not well received, it will be discontinued.

Gold tickets can still be purchased at Motley City Hall and redeemed at Countryside Restaurant in Motley for a special menu meal.

Woman injured in snowmobile accident

The Morrison County Sheriff's Office reports that on Dec. 31, at approximately 5:20 p.m., their office received a report of a snowmobile accident with injuries on property located off Lakeview Drive, on the east side of Lake Alexander in Scandia Valley Township.

According to the sheriff's office, 70-year-old Mary Schmidt of Cushing was driving a snowmobile on her property. She drove down a steep hill and hit a tree. Scandia Valley Fire Department responded to the scene to assist in getting Schmidt up the steep hill. Schmidt was transported to the hospital by ambulance with a possible leg injury.

The MCSO was assisted at the scene by the Scandia Valley fire Department, Scandia Valley First Response Team, North Air Care and Gold Cross Ambulance.

Reminder to clear address sign of snow

Cass County Sheriff Tom Burch reminds residents to make sure that their rural address sign commonly referred to as their "blue number sign" is free of snow and ice. These winter snows are piling up and in some instances covering up address signs making it difficult for responders to find your residence in the event of an emergency.

We would like to remind citizens to remove the snow from their address sign or remind their snow plow operator not to cover up the sign, ensuring that it is visible from both directions. Having your sign easily visible will help ensure a timely response from emergency personnel in the event of an emergency.

In accordance with the policy adopted by the county board on Aug. 7, 2001, after the initial installation of the blue property number signs, the signs become the responsibility of the property owner.



"If the blue property sign or post becomes damaged or needs replacement, the landowner may contact the highway department for a replacement sign and/or post, at their expense. It is also the owner's responsibility to install replacement signs and posts."

The highway department office is located at 8045 Cty 12 NW in Walker and the office hours are 8 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. Monday - Friday. For more information call 218-547-1211.

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School board elects Lund as chairperson

By Mark Anderson
Managing Editor

Bruce Lund will be the chairperson of the Staples-Motley School Board following their organizational meeting on Jan. 7. Lund was nominated by board member Brad Anderson, and board member Greg Frisk nominated himself. Frisk said he wanted to be board chair because of the building issue coming up. Frisk said when he was chair of the Motley district, he was successful in dealing with the public. He also said being from the Motley school district could be an advantage for a bond refer-

endum. But the rest of the board stuck with the original nomination and voted for Lund as chair.

The board also elected Mary Freeman as vice chair, Frisk as clerk and Anderson as treasurer.

Other committee assignments included: Freshwater Education District, Lund; Minnesota State High School League, Bryan Winkels; Q-COMP, Mary Freeman; MSBA, Frisk; Community Education, Winkels; Staples Economic Development Authority, Lund; Technology, Winkels; Finance, Anderson and Freeman; Meet and Confer, Lund and Freeman; Policy, Frisk and Winkels.

In other organizational business, the board:

- Named Pemberton Law Office and Kennedy and Graven as official school attorneys.
- Named Staples World as official newspaper.
- Named official depositories as First International Bank and Trust, Unity Bank, Mid-Central Federal Savings, Mid-Minnesota Federal Credit Union, MN School District Liquid Assets Fund and MN Trust.

The board also voted to hold meetings at 6 p.m. for 2019, starting with their Jan. 22 regular board meeting.

SCHOOL continued from page 1a

More details asked for

"I like one building, but I'm not convinced we can afford one building," said Freeman. "Two (buildings) can serve us for a long period of time."

Freeman said that staff and students make the school, not the building. She said the face of education is changing, and brick and mortar school buildings might not be as important in the future.

Freeman also said keeping the auditorium and certified kitchen that are at the high school building are assets the school should preserve.

When board members asked for more details about each options, Superintendent Ron Bratlie said he would provide that at their next facilities meeting, which was held Wednesday, Jan. 9, after this newspaper went to print.

"If we are going to move forward, we need them both," said Winkels about details on both building options.

Anderson said "we need to do due diligence" in learning about the projects before deciding.

The next scheduled board meeting will be Tuesday, Jan. 22, at 6 p.m., at the high school media center.



Curves celebrates new owner Evans

Celebrating the new ownership of Curves in Staples are Staples Motley Area Chamber of Commerce members, Curves staff and the family of new owner Jeanette Evans. From left, Jen Selvaag, Dan Orth, Britney Bursch, Mary Osborn-Whitney, Randy and Jeanette Evans,

Tammy Johnson, Steve Gertken and Bruce Brotherton. The public is invited to Curves open house Jan. 14-18 to acknowledge the new ownership. Curves hours are 6 a.m.-1 p.m. and 3:30-6 p.m. (Staples World photo by Mark Anderson)

Curves more than an exercise business

By Mark Anderson
Managing Editor

The socialization that is fostered at Curves is one of the main reasons it is successful.

"It's more than weight loss and fitness, it's mood, socialization, blood pressure, helping with pain ... it's for every woman," said Jeannette Evans, who purchased the business in November.

She gave one example of a group of women who meet at 8 a.m. and have fun while moving, getting in their steps and elevating their heart rates as they work out together.

Evans uses her own experience as proof that the exercise programs and machines at Curves work. She said it has helped her arthritis and she believes she could be disabled without it.

Evans has worked at Curves for five years and bought the business from previous owner Autumn

Pechan.

Before taking over, Evans became certified in several aspects of the business, taking a physiology class, and is now a Certified Cleveland Clinic Coach. Employee Mary Osborn-Whitney is also trained on the Curves system and Jen Selvaag is going through the classes.

Curves will hold an open house to celebrate the new ownership, with different activities every day from Jan. 14-18, such as foot massages, nails or blood pressure checks.

Curves has many supplemental activities, such as dance, tai chi, yoga, balance and stretching. The training machines are hydraulic, so it is like an aquatic workout, said Evans. There are also higher levels of training, where members can track their workout intensity and increase it over time.

Evans also pointed out that Medicare and many health insurance policies will pay membership to Curves, so many women are members for free.

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-Submitted photos

Blueberry Pines lost in raging blaze Jan. 2

Northern area golf course Blueberry Pines lodge was a total loss in a blaze that raged through the building January 2, 2019.

The Wadena County Sheriff's Office received multiple 911 calls regarding a fire at the Blueberry Pines Golf Course around 3:55 p.m. Wednesday. When law enforcement arrived, high flames were already visible from Hwy. 71 where the lodge is located near Menahga.

The Menahga Fire Department was paged and soon after requested assistance from several area fire departments including Sebeka, Park Rapids and Wolf Lake, who were the first called for mutual aid. Due to the intensity of the fire, fire departments from Wadena, Verndale, Staples, Akeley, Nevis, Bluffton, and Carsonville were all requested by the Menahga Fire Chief. The building was still burning at 7:30 p.m. Wednesday evening.

The Minnesota State Fire Marshal's Office and the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency arrived on scene during the morning hours of Thurs., Jan. 3, 2019 to assist. Through investigation, it was determined that an employee had filled the enclosed fire-place located in the basement around 2:45 p.m. The

main heating source was propane with the wood stove used as a supplemental heat source.

Foul play is not suspected. There were no injuries reported.

The building is a complete loss. Approximately 300,000 gallons of water was used to douse the flames.

Also assisting on scene were the Minnesota State Patrol, Menahga Police Department, Minnesota Department of Transportation, Minnesota Department of Natural Resources, Wadena County Highway Department, Tri-County Ambulance, North Memorial Ambulance and Menahga First Responders.



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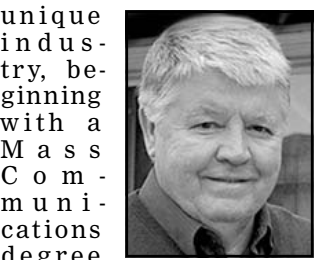


Small town newspaper opportunity is siren's call

Only a year ago, I wrote my final "Pub Notes." After almost 40 years, the time seemed right to silence my quill.

The column was saved, and last Friday the time was appropriate to confirm why someone should "never say never." I'm back in the game.

A short bio was published last week indicating my past 40 years in this unique industry, beginning with a Mass Communications degree from St. Cloud State University and 11 years managing a weekly in Hallock, Minn. A final stop would be in Canby, and although the following year would be relaxing and filled with travel and leisure time, there were thoughts, or actually the need, to fill a void - like part-time work - maybe at a newspaper office.



By Rick Gail
Staples World
Publisher

My exit from the newspaper industry would not have occurred a year ago, but four daughters opted not to pursue dad's profession, choosing medical careers (pharmacist, nurse practitioner, registered nurse and chiropractor). So, here we go again! Our competent staff will strive for local coverage, meaning filling advertiser needs and increasing news by involving more organizations and the school system. Those who give their time and talent to volunteer should be recognized, and schools are the hub of any community.

We look forward to this opportunity in the Staples area, and may we all be blessed with a memorable year.

ganizations and the school system. Those who give their time and talent to volunteer should be recognized, and schools are the hub of any community.

We look forward to this opportunity in the Staples area, and may we all be blessed with a memorable year.

Minnesota values
We are so fortunate to raise a family in small town USA.

This is in the great state of Minnesota, where we learn the meaning of work, along with being considerate and friendly. These attributes go far and result in that common saying - "Minnesota Nice."

There is great admiration for those who give, give and give again. They are the true Duracell components and just keep going far into their senior years. We know these givers who exemplify the meaning of being involved, receiving satisfaction from those many years of volunteerism. They are the "heart and soul" of a community. A thank you, hug or handshake to these generous volunteers is much appreciated and sometimes long overdue.

"Kill them with kindness." These words were shared long ago from a woman who knew the meaning of giving, especially volunteering. Some find this expression very difficult, especially to say thank you, give a hug or even say hi. They should be your targets. "Kill them with kindness." They just might learn something.

Will Rogers said ...
Over the years, I've shared pieces of trivia re-

ferred to as the "lighter side." These pieces were collected over many years, and often times shared again. After all, some remember a good joke while others get another chance. There are even times when a joke is better the second time.

Anyway, I share something from Will Rogers, who died in a plane crash back in 1935. You might even learn a thing or two from these words of wisdom:

- Never slap a man who's chewing tobacco.
- Never kick a cow chip on a hot day.
- There are two theories to arguing with a woman... neither works.
- Never miss a good chance to shut up.
- Always drink upstream from the herd.
- The quickest way to double your money is to fold it and put it back in your pocket.
- There are three kinds of men: The ones who learn by reading, the few who learn by observation and the rest who have to pee on the electric fence and find out for themselves.
- Good judgement comes from experience, and a lot of that comes from bad judgement.
- If you're riding ahead of the herd, take a look back every now and then to make sure it's still there.
- Lettin' the cat outta the bag is a whole lot easier'n putting' it back in.
- After eating an entire bull, a mountain lion felt so good he started roaring. He kept it up until a hunter came along and shot him. The moral: When you're full of bull, keep your mouth shut!

What a changing climate means for government

By Lee H. Hamilton

Looking back at 2018's weather-related news, it seems clear that this was the year climate change became unavoidable. I don't mean that the fires in California, coastal flooding in the Carolinas, and drought throughout the West were new evidence of climate change. Rather, they shifted the national mindset. They made climate change a political issue that cannot be avoided.

The Earth's climate changes all the time. But what we're seeing today is different: the increasing frequency and severity of extreme weather. Wet places are becoming wetter; dry places are growing dryer; where it was hot a generation ago, it's hotter now; where it's historically been cool, it's growing warmer. The global impact of human activity — specifically, the burning of hydrocarbons — is shuffling the deck. And we're only beginning to grasp the impact on our political and economic systems.

Warmer overall temperatures, for instance, have lengthened the growing season across the U.S. — by about two weeks compared to a century ago. But the impact on fruit and grain production isn't just about the growing season: plant diseases are more prevalent, and the insects that are vital to healthy agricultural systems are struggling. Insects that spread human diseases, like mosquitoes and ticks, are flourishing.

Precipitation is also changing. There will be more droughts and more heat waves, which will become especially severe in the South and West and in cities. This is troubling news. Extreme heat, according to the Centers for Disease Control, "often results in the highest number of annual deaths among all weather-related hazards." In other words, it kills more people than other weather-related disasters. The human cost and strain on public resources of prolonged heat waves will be extensive.

The rise in sea levels will be even more disruptive. Sea levels have been increasing since we began burning fossil fuels in the 1880s, but the rise is occurring at a faster rate now, something like six to eight inches over the past century — compared to almost nothing during the previous two millennia. This already poses a threat to densely populated coastal areas — in the U.S., about 40 percent of the population, or some 120 million people, lives directly on the shoreline.

And that's without the very real potential of melting glacial and polar ice, with

calamitous results. It's not just that this would affect coastal cities, it would also scramble the geopolitical order as nations like the U.S., Canada, and Russia vie for control over the sea lanes and newly exposed natural resources.

I'm not mentioning all this to be alarmist. My point is that dealing with climate change constitutes a huge, looming challenge to government. And because Americans are fairly divided in their beliefs about climate change — a division reflected in sharp partisan disagreements — policy makers struggle to come up with politically viable approaches. This makes the adverse impacts of climate change potentially much worse, since doing nothing is clearly a recipe for greater disaster.

The problem is that politicians in Washington like to talk about climate change in general, yet we haven't seen any concerted consensus-building effort to deal with it. Occasionally you'll see bills being considered in Congress to study it more, but unless we get real, this will dramatically change our way of life.

And despite the growing impact of extreme weather, the opposition's point — that policies to fight climate change will impose hardship on working people, especially in manufacturing states — still has some merit and political legs. In response to inaction in Congress and the administration, some states have taken important steps to address climate change, even though it's best dealt with on the federal level.

Still, newer members of Congress appear to have more of an interest in addressing climate change than older, senior members. And the issue holds particular resonance for younger millennial voters, whose political influence will only grow over coming elections.

Only recently have thoughtful politicians I talk to begun to ask whether the political system can deal with the challenges posed by climate change before its impact becomes unstoppable. The one thing we agree on is that climate change and how to deal with it will place real stress on the system in the years ahead.

Lee Hamilton is a Senior Advisor for the Indiana University Center on Representative Government; a Distinguished Scholar of the IU Hamilton Lugar School of Global and International Studies; and a Professor of Practice, IU School of Public and Environmental Affairs. He was a member of the U.S. House of Representatives for 34 years.

Clubs, organizations can be helped by newspaper coverage

In all the stories from last week's newspaper about the transition of ownership at the Staples World, the theme of local commitment stands out. Every person involved is committed to small towns and wants the local newspaper to be a hub that helps a community thrive.

Even though the previous owners don't live in the area, they appreciated the newspaper's local focus and made sure to sell to independent buyers who will keep this a local newspaper. Even though the new buyers don't live in the area, they want to redouble the efforts to include local happenings in the newspaper.

Staples World readers may not realize how lucky their community is to have such a commitment. Through the transition process, I have heard stories about how some news-

papers lost part of their local identity after being purchased by a big parent company. To those of us in the newspaper industry, those are horror stories, because our entire business model centers on being a part of the local conversation.

The transition is an opportunity to renew our relationships to the community, and our first focus will be on clubs and organizations. The local newspaper has always sought out news from local clubs and organizations, but we are making a push to get more of their information into the newspaper.

The service clubs, nonprofits and community organizations spend all their energy on improving the community, and the newspaper can be a big benefit for them. Collectively, the groups have members from every corner of the community and they are constantly aware of the needs and problems that arise, so they bring them to their groups to work on. They come up with solutions.

This has been the way small towns have operated for decades. It is a great system and major issues

are often passed on to the agencies that can help. By putting more stories from every group into the newspaper, it can help the clubs determine if there are any gaps that they can fill, and also see if there are other groups they can partner with to enhance their projects.

The other opportunity for groups to take advantage of the newspaper is this section you are reading now, the opinion section. Clubs and organizations have always been welcome to write opinion columns, but we are asking for more, since these are the groups that are on the ground level of the community, discovering what is happening with our local people, and learning about the local opportunities.

The hundreds of members of organizations bring a knowledge base that can't be replicated. They have jobs where they are experts in certain topics, they have learned from other communities, and they often go online to find out the best ideas and cutting edge trends from around the world. But again, it all comes down to local commitment. Of all that experience and knowledge, it still needs to be tailored to our local needs, abilities and resources, and that's where the newspaper can help. We can help clubs, nonprofits and community groups get their message out, and maybe it will help them grow and provide a better quality of life for our area.

Staples World

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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.

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Ron Murray 218-296-0910
Mary Theurer 218-894-3752
Jerel Nelsen, admin.. 218-894-2550

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Amy Hutchison 218-839-0870
Steve Johnson 218-352-6630
Pat O'Regan 218-316-7570
Lacey Smieja, City Clerk/Treas.
..... 218-352-6200



Looking back



Historic devastation

Fire! Fire! January, 1916. Temperatures recorded 25 degrees below zero when the Hotel National in Staples goes up in flames along with the southwest quarter block across the street. That year, the high school also burned down.

Photo courtesy of Pete Card, Jr. compilation.

50 years ago

1969
• The Welcome Neighbor Committee of the Staples Jaycees welcomed Dr. and Mrs. John Gorton and their family to the community. Dr. Gorton opened his

dental office in Staples on Jan. 2. Dr. Gorton served with the United States Public Health Service as chief dental officer on the Turtle Mountain Indian Reservation in Belcourt, North Dakota, and the Sioux Sanatorium in Rapid City, South

Dakota, prior to opening his dental office in this city.

He is married to the former Sara Lee Bennett of Kansas City. They are the parents of two children, John, Jr., age two and a half years, and Greg, six months of age. The Gortons stated that they find Staples to be a community of gracious and friendly people and are looking forward to the coming years as residents of our city.

• Lee Jenkins of Staples is the newly appointed Todd County chairman for the 1969 Heart Fund campaign, George Schmidkunz, regional chairman, announced today (Jan. 9). Lee is the son of Mrs. LeRoy Jenkins and the late Mr. Jenkins. He is a member of the United Methodist Church, the Staples Jaycees, the Staples Fire Department and Crescent Lodge No. 207 A.F. & A.M. He is married and the father of one child.

25 years ago

1994

• The first baby of the year born at the Greater Staples Hospital went home to Verndale after his birth Tuesday, Jan. 4. Sheila and Wayne Stave are the parents of Kory Ralph Michael, who arrived at 8:21 a.m. and weighed in at nine pounds, one ounce. He received a gift of a new quilt from the Piecemakers Quilt Group of the greater Staples area and a \$50 gift from the Greater Staples Hospital Auxiliary.

• Mr. Ed's Restaurant in Motley advertised its Thursday Night Special for \$4.95; roast beef dinner with salad bar, served from 4-9 p.m.

• Michelle Heier was named by Hardee's of Staples as this week's Cardinal Athlete of the Week. Michelle, a junior at Staples Area High School, plays basketball on the Cardinal girls varsity team. She was named to the All-Tournament Team in the Cardinal's Classic. She is the daughter of Mike and Linda Heier of Staples.



A-1 4H helped ring the bells

A-1 4H members spent Dec. 15 ringing bells for the Salvation Army at Coborns in Long Prairie. They helped people with shopping carts, sang Christmas carols and played Christmas music on several instruments. Above: Jason Trantina, Abby and Ellie Dukowitz and Nathan Trantina. (Submitted photos)



A-1 4H musical selections

Above: Torii Nienow playing violin and AJ Nienow playing the cello.

Left: Anna Hegarty played the trumpet.

Food and Farming Conference grows, moves to Fargo

Northern Plains Sustainable Agriculture Society (NPSAS) will hold its 40th annual winter conference at the Holiday Inn, Fargo, ND on Thurs.-Sun., Jan. 24-27, 2019.

NPSAS moved its winter conference from Aberdeen SD to Fargo to accommodate its increasing numbers of attendees. Held each January, this educational conference is highly regarded for its valuable content and annual networking opportunities.

This year's conference program places a strong emphasis on the relationships between crop diversity and soil health, nutrient dense food and human health, and between sustainable agriculture and resilient, rural communities.

The conference kicks off on Thursday with pre-conference workshops on regenerative agriculture, tools to build soil health, and biodynamic practices. Thursday night will feature a brand-new event designed to bring farmers and consumers together, called A Taste of Agri-CULTURE. Attendees at this social event will enjoy tastings by local food busi-

nesses, appetizers and artistic displays inspired by agriculture.

This event is open to the public but requires the purchase of an entrance ticket.

Conference workshops run all day Friday and Saturday and cover a wide range of topics including healthy livestock management, raw milk, direct marketing, organic weed control, soil health, reducing inflammation, medicinal plants and managing for pollinators.

The conference will also offer youth workshops, evening entertainment and much more. 18 and under attend free.

Keynote speaker Dan Barber observed "In the rush to industrialize farming, we've lost the understanding, implicit since the beginning of agriculture, that food is a process, a web of relationships, not an individual ingredient or commodity."

Dan Barber can be seen on Netflix's "Chef's Table" and the film "Wasted!: The Story of Food Waste," screening at the Fargo Theatre on Sunday, Jan. 13, at 2 p.m.

Rachel and Steffen Schneider of Hawthorne Valley Farm will offer a pre-conference workshop and give a keynote on regenerative ag. The mission of their Institute for Mindful Agriculture "is to connect our current food and farming systems to a future of health and well-being for all. Because agriculture is so fundamental, we think that by mindfully evolving the foodshed, many other of Earth and society's illnesses will heal along the way."

Join like-minded individuals and a resource-packed exhibitor hall to gain access to valuable tools, innovative solutions and perspectives on regenerative practices and food systems that are developing across the Northern Plains.

For more information visit www.npsas.org, call 218-331-4099 or e-mail info@npsas.org.

Northern Plains Sustainable Agriculture Society promotes sustainable food systems through education, research and advocacy.

“Get YETI” for the 2019 Winter reading program at libraries

Great River Regional Library's Adult and Teen Winter Reading Program is about to begin and you can "Get Yeti" for it by visiting your local library.

The theme of this year's program is, you guessed it, "Get Yeti to Read." However, unlike the elusive Bigfoot, a good book is easy to find at the library.

Why join? Reading is relaxing, entertaining, boosts brain power and makes life more interesting. And, with your library card, it's free.

If you're struggling to pick your next title, you can browse our latest book list. Once you've read at least five books, turn in a drawing slip for a chance to win mugs, hats and gift cards.

The 2019 Winter Reading Program runs from Jan. 2 through Feb. 28. Participants must be in 6th grade or older.

You can register for the program at any Great River Regional Library or online, and check out griver.org/events to see what kinds of special programs and activities might be happening at your library.

Great River Regional Library (GRRL) provides library services at 33 locations in Benton, Morrison, Sherburne, Stearns, Todd and Wright Counties. GRRL supplies the residents of Central Minnesota with nearly 1 million books, CDs and DVDs, 250 public computers, programming and information services.

For more information contact the Staples 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.

Walk-ins welcome.

For more information or to make an appointment online visit www.redcross-blood.org; or call 1-800-733-2767.

Blood drive in Motley Jan. 24

An upcoming blood donation opportunity, sponsored by the America Red Cross, will be held Thursday, Jan. 24, 12-6 p.m., at the Motley United Methodist Church. The church is located at 847 3rd Ave. S.

Educational Opportunities

January 16

BARN QUILTS OF CENTRAL MINNESOTA will be offering an information session on how to make a barn quilt Wed., Jan. 16, 6:30 - 7:30 p.m., at the Staples Community Center. Mary Noska and Lisa Kajer will demonstrate and show the step-by-step process.

Thanks to a grant from the Staples Motley Area Community Foundation there will be a new brochure printed this summer featuring all of the barn quilts on the five trails. Barn quilts must be in either the Todd, Morrison Wadena or Cass counties and able to be seen from the road to be included on the website (www.barnquiltsmn.org) and in the brochure. For more information, call Lisa at 218-894-2906.

Mark Your Calendar

January 10

WADENA WHIRLWAYS SQUARE DANCE CLUB MTG
Thurs., Jan. 10, 7:30 - 9:45 p.m., Wadena VFW. Roger McNeil, caller. For info., 320-760-6043.

January 16

STAPLES ALL VETERANS AND COMMUNITY PARK ASSOCIATION ANNUAL MTG AND BOARD MTG
Wed., Jan. 16, 5:30 p.m. at Timbers Restaurant and Event Center, Staples. Public invited to attend.

January 17

ONE ACT PLAY - PUBLIC PERFORMANCE Thurs., Jan. 17, 7:30 p.m., at Centennial Auditorium in Staples. The play, "Property Rites" is directed by Lyn Vavreck and features students at Staples-Motley High School involved in the one act play competition. Tickets available at the door. The Subsection tournament is Saturday, Jan. 26, at Wadena-Deer Creek High School.

COZY THEATRE
WADENA, MN
Screen 1
THE UPSIDE
Fri. & Sat. 2 Shows at 7:00 & 9:30
Sun. thru Thurs. 1 Show at 7:00
Matinees Sat. & Sun. Jan. 12 & 13 at 1:15 pm
Screen 2
HELD OVER 2ND WEEK!
"THE MULE" R
Fri. thru Thurs. Jan. 11-17
Fri. & Sat. 2 Shows at 7:10 & 9:30
Sun. thru Thurs. 1 Show at 7:10
Matinees Sat. & Sun. Jan. 12 & 13 at 1:25 pm
Screen 3
"SPIDERMAN INTO THE SPIDERVERSE" PG-13
Fri. thru Thurs. Jan. 11-17
Fri. & Sat. 2 Shows at 7:15 & 9:30
Sun. thru Thurs. 1 Show at 7:15
Matinees Sat. & Sun. Jan. 12 & 13 at 1:30 pm
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Matinee Admission
All Seats \$6.00
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60 years together

Long time Staples residents, Happy (Hap) and Doris Corbett recently celebrated their 60th wedding anniversary December 27 at Good Shepard Nursing Home in Sauk Rapids where they now reside. The couple raised eight children in Staples, the youngest graduated over 30 years ago.

Above: Doris and Hap with their certificate from Bishop Donald Kettler congratulating them on being married for 60 years. (Submitted photo)

Hello World

BIRTHS REPORTED AT LAKEWOOD HEALTH SYSTEM HOSPITAL IN STAPLES INCLUDED:

Born to Bobbi Loucks and Mason Zebroski of Pillager, a baby boy, Bentley James weighing eight pounds on December 28, 2018.

Born to Stephanie Bredeson and Brandon DeLaHunt of Breezy Point, a baby boy, Rylan Joseph weighing five pounds, 13 ounces on December 28, 2018.

Born to Cristina and Scott Troyer of Staples, a baby girl, Gwen Marie weighing six pounds, two ounces on December 29, 2018.

Born to Taylor Schmitz and Sam Waln of Wadena, a baby boy, Kassen Paul weighing 10 pounds, two ounces on December 1, 2019.

Born to Odessey Renstrom and Brandon Johnson of Brainerd, a baby girl, Olivia Harlynn weighing five pounds, 10 ounces on January 4, 2019.

Born to Mary and Mark Schlagen of Cushing, a baby boy, Lawrence John weighing seven pounds, eight ounces on January 4, 2019.

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

Born to Alison and Jeremy Meyer of Hewitt, a baby boy, Briggs William weighing eight pounds on January 4, 2018.

Student Achievements

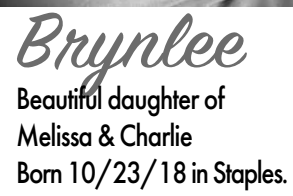
JORDAN HAGLIN, Staples, has been named to the Fall 2018 Dean's List at Belmont University in Nashville, Tenn. To qualify, students must carry a minimum course load of 12 hours and a grade point average of at least 3.5.

WELCOMING HOME TO STAPLES...



Ellaina

Beautiful daughter of Allison & Leo
Born 10/4/18 in Staples.



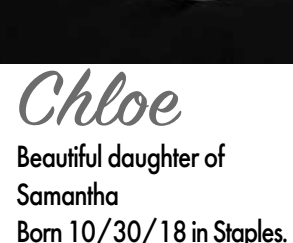
Evie

Beautiful daughter of Shari & Travis
Born 10/10/18 in Staples.



Brynlee

Beautiful daughter of Melissa & Charlie
Born 10/23/18 in Staples.



Cameron

Beautiful son of Sarah & Kyle
Born 10/12/18 in Staples.

Chloe

Beautiful daughter of Samantha
Born 10/30/18 in Staples.

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Obituaries

Nancy Johnson

Nancy Johnson passed away November 23, 2018, at 85 years young. She resided at Riverside Assisted Living in Pillager for the past eight years, but lived in Cleveland, OH, Circle Pines, MN, Anoka, MN, Idaho Falls, ID, St. Cloud, MN, Idaho Falls, ID, Las Vegas NV, Lincoln, MN and Motley, MN.

Nancy's family and friends have planned a celebration of her life to be held at Brenny Funeral Chapel in Baxter on January 12 at 5 p.m.

Nancy was born January 15, 1933 to Edward and Lillian (Weiner) Kaswell in Lakewood, Ohio. In her youth, she spent summers with grandparents in Kentucky, her teens going to the beaches on Lake Erie and listening to Allan Freed's "Moondog Rock 'n' Roll Party" and early 20's modeling and working in the fashion industry. Through mutual friends she met her husband Bill, who was on leave from the Navy in St. Petersburg, Florida. They were united in marriage in St. Cloud, MN in 1954 and there began 52 years of marriage and adventures.

Nancy was very active, creative and artistic. She loved moving to new houses and decorating them for her family. She enjoyed quilting, flower gardens, cooking, campfires, travelling and decorating the miniature doll houses husband Bill built. There was always something sparking her interests.

Nancy completed the Nurse's Aide training at St. Cloud Hospital in 1969 and spent many years working as an aide (loved the OB ward and new babies) and transcriptionist. For a city girl, she loved camping, going to the Minnesota lakes and the many adventures she would have explor-



ing Idaho and the west with her family. She also enjoyed her years being a girl scout troop leader. After several years of retirement in Idaho, Nancy and Bill moved back to Lincoln Lakes Area in 1996.

Survived by her sister, Sheila (Joe) Domabyl of Surprise, AZ; children, William E. (Judy) Johnson, of Cushing, MN, Kathleen Johnson, of Idaho Falls, and Bonnie (John) Heemeier, of Stevenson, WA; five grandchildren, Michelle Smoley, Tim (Makeal) Smoley, Katie (Rori) Stumvoll, Kelly (Jamie) Pearson, and William A. Johnson; and seven great-grandchildren. Preceded in death by her father, Edward Kaswell, mother, Lillian Kaswell, and husband, William H Johnson.

The family extends their sincere appreciation and gratitude for the years of caring and companionship provided by the staff at Riverside Assisted Living in Pillager and Dr. Sarah Israelson and colleagues at the Lakewood Health System in Staples, MN.

In lieu of flowers, the family encourages memorials to the Susan G. Komen Breast Cancer Research Foundation at Komen.org.

Arrangements are by Brenny Funeral Chapel and Cremation Services.

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Kristina Faber

Kristina Constance Faber (Tina) AKA (Mimi), of Motley, MN joined her loved ones in the beyond on January 3, 2019, 11 days after her 85th birthday encircled by her loving family. She has reunited with her beloved husband of 67 years, Armand Albert Faber who passed on this last year. Tina will be greatly missed by many including her children Brenda Lee Faber, Micheal Faber (Diane Forsberg), Lisa Muenchow (Bryan), Daniel Faber (Pauline Salvesson) and grandson raised as their son Daniel Faber, Jr. (Paige.) So far Tina and Armand have welcomed 36 "grand champions!" ranging from grand to great-great-grandchildren. We are expecting more.

In 1933 Tina was born in Nashua, NH to Greek immigrants Eleni (Helen) Zaferiou and Micheal D. Makris. In 1951 Tina and Armand were married. They lived in Nashua for another 20 years before moving to their farm in MN.

She was a compassionate, giving woman to more than just her family, volunteering at the food shelf, sponsoring needy children and mentoring many. Her generosity had no bounds nor did her interests. She enjoyed and excelled at bowling, fishing and even had the pleasure of fishing with the legendary Al Lindner. Her hobbies/talents included being an accomplished seamstress, working with yarn, doing



jigsaw, crossword and other puzzles/games and was a whiz at Scrabble. She was an avid reader on many topics who dearly loved her many pets and flower gardens throughout the years.

Her work history both in NH and MN was mainly waitress and factory work. Many would agree that she was a wonderful waitress partly due to her love of people. She served at the Quarterdeck on Gull Lake, River Inn and Mr. Ed's. For 10 plus years she worked and made friends at what is now known as Trident Seafoods. She also spent many hours helping train and care for the greyhound dogs the family raised.

Tina's unique and feisty personality was appreciated by those who knew her. She will be fondly remembered by her family as ~ the keeper of the bubbles. She'd say "I'm wrapping you in a protective bubble, angels will watch over you until we meet again." Tina Faber

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In Memory of my good friend, Harvey Reichel and fellow "Musician" -Dennis Lubke

Marjorie Forte

Marjorie L. Forte (née Brauch), 91, of Eveleth, MN, died Tuesday, January 1, 2019 in Fridley, MN.

Mass of Christian Burial was held January 9, 2019 at Resurrection Catholic Church, Eveleth with Celebrant Fr. Michael Garry.

Burial was in Calvary Cemetery, Virginia. To sign the online guest book and leave a memorial message, go to: www.cron-sheehy.com

Marjorie was born in Staples, MN, on August 1, 1927 to Robert and Catharine (Reinhard) Brauch. She graduated from Staples High School in 1945 and graduated from St. Cloud State Teachers College in 1947. She taught elementary education in Annandale, MN, Alexandria, MN, Seaside, OR and Eveleth, where she met her husband, Robert.

Marjorie was a longstanding member of Resurrection Catholic Church and an active member of Catholic Daughters of the Americas Court St. Margaret #1888. She held great conviction for the support of life and was a passionate advocate for the pro-life cause. From the love of her faith flowed the love of her family and friends. She enjoyed family celebrations and gatherings, playing

cards, games, knitting and reading. She was a wonderful conversationalist, loved people and visiting. She was a lifelong teacher and learner. Marjorie especially loved spending time with her eight grandchildren, whom she called "her Blessings." She and the kids spent many enjoyable hours playing board games.

She is survived by three daughters, Barbara (Thomas) Lucarelli of Mounds View, MN, Diane (James) Juth of Rochester, MN and Catherine (Thomas - TP) Harrington of Fridley, MN; grandchildren, Gino and Marco Lucarelli, Jenna, Jillian and Jared Juth, Michael and Joseph Harrington and Nicholas (Nico) Forte; sister Grace (Christian) Schlegel of St. Anthony, MN and numerous nieces and nephews.

She was preceded in death by her husband, Robert; son, Patrick; brother, Charles and sisters, Ida, Jean, Mary and Elaine.

Marjorie will be deeply missed by her family and friends.

Memorials are preferred to Resurrection Church and Pro-Life Across America.

w2c A00006B2019JAN10

Ronald Selvey

Ron Selvey, age 75, of Waconia and formerly of Staples, joined the endless praise of the Lord on December 30, 2018, after a long battle with Dementia. We were blessed to be with him until his last breath.

We will celebrate God's faithfulness in Ronnie's life on Sunday, January 6, 2019 at Staples Alliance Church. Visitation begins at 1:30 p.m. with a Memorial Service at 3:00 p.m., refreshments following.

Ronnie worked for the City of Staples for 40 years, starting as a meterman and ending as the Utilities Supervisor.

Ronnie will be remembered as a man who loved people. He believed in unconditional love and second chances. He had many opportunities to serve others in his job, in his church, and in his family.

Ronnie had a life-long love for God and his church serving in many roles in the Staples Assembly of God Church and Staples Alliance Church. His faith was his guide throughout his life, one of his life verses was Proverbs 3:5-6, "Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding, in all your ways acknowledge him and he will make your paths straight."

Ronnie was preceded



in death by his parents Franklin and Sylvia Selvey; sister Deborah Race.

Ronnie is survived by Donna, the love of his life, his wife of 56 years, his children, Rick (Marce')

Selvey, Cheri (Doug) Parkinson, Dave (Beth) Selvey, and Crissy (Murray) Ginther; his grandchildren, TJ (Kathryn), Mandi, Becky (Travis) Berry, Dianne (Josiah) Enns, Amy Parkinson, Megan Parkinson, Austin (Paige), Brooke, Cole, Judd Ginther, Sawyer Ginther, Cade Ginther, Renn Ginther, and great-grandchildren, Clayton and Lydia Berry, Alfred and Adeline Enns; siblings Eunice (Bud) Bergquist of Dilworth, Franklin (Genie) Selvey of North Mankato, Naomi (Steve) Grow of Moorhead; brothers-in-law and sisters-in-law Gary (Donna) Thiel of Browerville, Dennis (Susan) Thiel of Staples, Jeanne (Bryan) Voelker of Dassel, Doug (Arlene) Morey of Moorhead, Roxanne (Jim) Bakula of Champlin, Janeen Rae (Paul) Lohman of St. Louis Park; nieces, nephews other relatives and friends.

Memorials given to the family will be used as a gift to the City of Staples.

Arrangements are with the Johnson Funeral Home of Waconia.

w2c A00006B2019JAN10

William Johnson

William Oliver Johnson, 47, of Motley, MN, died December 31, 2018, at the St. Cloud Hospital.

Services will be held January 12, 2019 at 11 a.m. at Faith Lutheran Church in Staples with Pastor Carl Larson officiating. Visitation will be held one hour prior to services at the church.

Billy was born August 3, 1971 to Duane and Martha (Sorter) Johnson in Thief River Falls, MN. He graduated from Staples-Motley High School in 1989 and attended college for aviation mechanics in Thief River Falls. He started working for BNSF Railway in May, 1994. He loved his job, especially driving log-boy across country and enjoyed his railroad family and the many friends he made. Billy enjoyed vacationing in Mexico and the Caribbean.

Billy is survived by one son, Isaiah Erbe of Motley, two daughters, Laniah Erbe of Motley and Ava Johnson of Duluth; step-son Aadi Hand of Duluth; his mother, Martha Holsapple of Motley; two brothers, Lyndon (Linda) Johnson of Motley and Lyle (Lori) Johnson of Nisswa; two sisters, Aletha (Leroy) Flickinger of Motley and Linette (Tom) Horn of Dresser, WI and many nieces and nephews.

He was preceded in death by his father, Duane Johnson and step-father, Carl Holsapple; grandparents Clifford and Greta Johnson and Art and Maude Sorter.

Memorials are preferred in lieu of flowers.

Arrangements are by Miller-Carlin Funeral Home.

w2p A00006B2019JAN10

Obituaries

Don Norton

Don Orrin Norton was Born January 6, 1923 in Minneapolis, MN to Candice and Emily ‘Marion’ (Jenkins).

He never graduated from high school and served for a while at the CCC Camp in Chisholm, MN. While there, Pearl Harbor was bombed and Don received permission to sign up for the US Army and enlisted Jan. 15, 1941. He served in the Amer-ical Division in Guadalcanal, Northern Solomons and Southern Philippines. He was honorably discharged Aug. 30, 1945. Upon returning home he met his first girlfriend, Gloria Olson and married her February 14, 1947. After a few unsuccessful job attempts Donald joined the MN Army National Guard until his retirement.

Donald is survived by his children Kathy Jean Norton, Timothy (Dottie) Norton, Mike (Kathy) Norton, Dennis (Daninne Egizio), Kevin (Darcie) Norton, Shawn (Nancy) Norton, and Colleen (Murrey) Anderson; 20 grandchildren; many great-grandchildren and counting.



He was preceded in death by his wife Gloria (12/20/18), his parents Candice and Marion, his brothers James and Robert and one great-granddaughter, Kerri Ann Norton.

In lieu of the close proximity of their deaths, Don and Gloria’s funerals were held together December 27, 2018. A public Memorial Service will be held for Donald at the Camp Ripley Base Chapel July 1, 2019 at 11:00 a.m., followed by a lunch at the Base Town Hall.

Arrangements were with Brenny Funeral Chapel and Cremation Services.

w2c A00006B2019JAN10

Ralph Marotzke

Ralph James Marotzke, 87, of Eden Prairie, MN passed away January 1, 2019 at Fairview Southdale Hospital in Edina, MN.

A Memorial Service will be held May 3, 2019, at 1:00 p.m. at the Brenny Funeral Home in Staples.

Interment will take place at Evergreen Hill Cemetery, Staples.

Ralph was born February 18, 1931 in Detroit Lakes.

w2x A00006B2019JAN10

Student Achievements

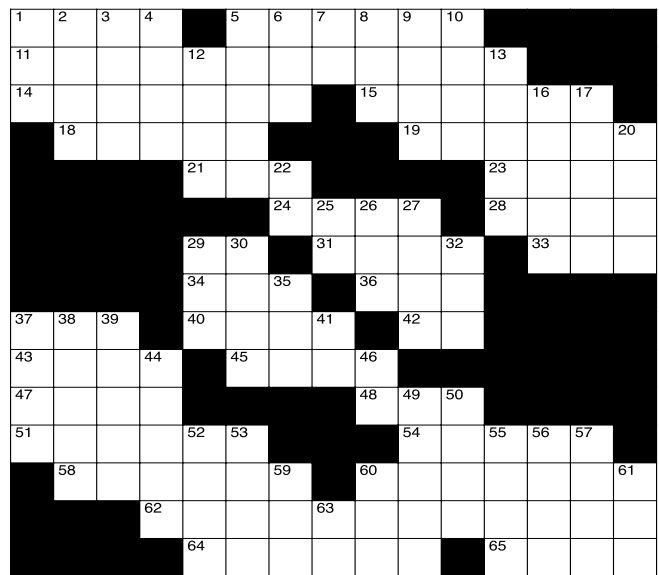
MINNESOTA STATE COMMUNITY AND TECHNICAL COLLEGE, FERGUS FALLS, has announced its Fall 2018 President’s List. To qualify, a student must complete 12 or more college-level credits for the semester and earn a grade point average of 3.5 or higher. Local students named include:

• Motley: Anna Bloomquist, Eric Kossan, MacKenzie McGree, James Nistler.

• Staples: Jerome Barrett, Hailey Halvorson, Alexander Jensen, Kelsie Lindaman, Shawnda Minolletti, Sherman Sheets, Joseph Weishalla.

The Family of Belma Trout thanks everyone for their love and concern during her long illness. Belma passed away on December 2, 2018 at her home with the family by her side. She is deeply missed. -Neil Trout

Crossword Puzzle

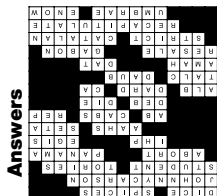


- CLUES ACROSS
- 1. Cut into cubes
 - 5. Food flavorings
 - 11. Longest tenured “Tonight Show” host
 - 14. One being educated
 - 15. British conservatives
 - 18. End without completion
 - 19. Boater
 - 21. Indicated horsepower (abbr.)
 - 23. Protects the chest
 - 24. Expresses pleasure
 - 28. Stiff hair, bristle
 - 29. Blood type
 - 31. Taxis
 - 33. Ribbed material
 - 34. Young female socialite
 - 36. Game cube
 - 37. Priest’s liturgical vestment
 - 40. 2.1 km tributary of the river Seille
 - 42. The golden state

- 43. Powder mineral
- 45. Coat with plaster
- 47. Far East housemaid
- 48. Digital audiotape
- 51. Merchandising
- 54. Libreville is the capital
- 58. Incapable of flexibility
- 60. Language of Andorra
- 62. Repeat in concise form
- 64. Dark areas
- 65. Enough (archaic)

- CLUES DOWN
- 1. Disk jockeys
 - 2. 9th Greek letter
 - 3. Fish of the carp family
 - 4. Medical prefix for within
 - 5. Short for synthesizer
 - 6. What part of (abbr.)
 - 7. Farm state
 - 8. Thermionic vacuum tube
 - 9. Employee stock ownership plan
 - 10. A crane
 - 12. Filippo __, Saint
 - 13. One below tens
 - 16. Goatpainted desirous
 - 17. Inflict a heavy blow

- 20. As fast as can be done (abbr.)
- 22. Ma’s partner
- 25. Carrier’s invention
- 26. Possessed
- 27. Invests in little enterprises
- 29. Summate
- 30. Rosary part
- 32. A large body of water
- 35. Woman’s undergarment
- 37. Essential oil obtained from flowers
- 38. Cripples
- 39. An explosion
- 41. Of, French
- 44. Fish of the genus Salvelinus
- 46. Bahrain dinar
- 49. Banded calcedony
- 50. Giant armadillo
- 52. In place of
- 53. Electronic counter-measures
- 55. Large package of cotton
- 56. 3564 m French Alp
- 57. European defense organization
- 59. Check
- 60. Former OSS
- 61. Not old
- 63. Goodwill promotion
- CW151410



Council on Aging to support long-distance caregivers

Many people will likely find themselves helping a relative or friend manage their health and wellness.

While providing care and support to a relative or friend can be difficult, long-distance caregiving can be particularly challenging.

In response to numerous requests from members of our community who provide some form of care to loved ones who do not live nearby, the Central MN Council on Aging is participating in the Home for the Holidays campaign to support these long-distance caregivers with tips, tools and resources that can assist them as they care for their relatives and friends, no matter where they live.

Launched every year during the holiday season, Home for the Holidays encourages discussion of important issues affecting

older Americans at a time of the year when family and friends often gather.

The new consumer brochure that is the centerpiece of this year’s campaign, Caring Across the Miles: Resources for Long-Distance Caregivers, provides long-distance caregivers with tools and resources that may help them better support their loved ones from afar.

The Central MN Council on Aging’s Senior LinkAge Line staff are also available to provide information about local resources available to older adults and family caregivers to help their loved one remain at home.

“Many people don’t realize that they are caregivers. But anyone who lives more than an hour away and helps a family member or friend coordinate transportation, arrange medi-

cal appointments, handle finances or secure in-home assistance is a long-distance caregiver,” says Lori Vrolson the Executive Director of the Central MN Council on Aging.

Our agency decided to participate in this national campaign because we know how important it is for all caregivers, including long-distance caregivers, to have the necessary tools and resources to help them meet the needs of their loved ones, no matter where they live.”

Most caregivers support family members by helping them manage long-term physical conditions, arrange medical appointments or secure in-home services, all while not living near the care recipient.

The Senior LinkAge Line provides free, accurate and unbiased information at 800-333-2433.

Care Center

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

Mon., Jan. 21 - 2 p.m. Fried Bread for Social Time

Tues., Jan. 22 - 2:15 pm. Church-Motley Free Methodist

Wed., Jan. 23 - 2 p.m. Bingo w/Motley UMC

Sat., Jan. 26 - 10 a.m. Bingo/Marge

Mon., Jan. 28 - 2:30 p.m. Trinity Lutheran Church

Tues., Jan. 29 - 2:15 p.m. Church - Faith Lutheran

Wed., Jan. 30 - 2 p.m. bingo/Marge

Thurs., Jan 31 - 7 p.m. Men’s Chorus & Boys’ Choir

Staples Area Church Directory

Staples

Staples Alliance
1512 8th St. NE, Staples 218-894-2891
Pastor Bob Hopokoski
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
Wednesday times are for Sept. - May
Sunlight (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 am.
Sabbath School..... 9:30 a.m.

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

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

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

Aldrich

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

Cushing

Bethany Lutheran
25430 Bison Rd. Cushing, MN
320-749-2140
www.bethanylutherancushing.com.
Sunday Worship..... 9:00 a.m.

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

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

Leader

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

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

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

Motley

Motley Free Methodist
33 Wellwood St. E
Motley 56466.....218-352-6888
Pastor Jim Johnson
Sunday 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
Bible study..... 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 Hoffer
Sunday School..... 9:30 a.m
Sunday Worship..... 10:45 a.m./6 p.m.
WEDNESDAY
Prayer..... 7:00 p.m.

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

United Methodist Church
Hwy. 210, Hewitt, MN
Pastor Kenneth Uhren
Sunday Services..... 10:30 a.m.
Sunday School..... 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
Childrens’ 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.

“New Beginning”

Fr. Gabriel Walz, pastor, Sacred Heart Church, Staples and St. Michael Church, Motley

“Mary kept all these things, reflecting on them in her heart” (Luke 2:19, RSV).

That’s such a beautiful line from Scripture which is echoed at certain key moments of our encounters with Mary early in Luke’s Gospel (Luke 1:29; 2:59). This is the woman to whom the angel was sent to offer God’s Divine proposal for the salvation of the human race. She, the “New Eve,” said “Yes” to God’s plan. Mary now reflects in her heart the divine mysteries of God which are at work in her life. Do we do the same thing? Where have you seen God at work in your life? Do you spend time - real prayer time - simply marveling at God’s action within your life? If not, you might not have even realized yet just how much He has been at work in your life, showering you with many blessings.

January 1 starts off the New Calendar Year. This new beginning is celebrated within our culture by making resolutions to strive for virtue especially in areas we recognize we have failed during the past year. Don’t let this day become merely a check-point. In these first weeks of the new calendar year, claim the resolutions you will make, hearing the words of our Lord in the Gospel echo in your soul: “Do not be afraid” to say “Yes” to His plan in your life. Ponder anew the mysteries of God at work in your life each day. Strive for the greatness to which you have been called this year. And, may everything you think and say and do in this New Year, abound to the glory of God and the salvation of souls.

The Staples area Church Directory is sponsored by these businesses:

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

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

Staples Veterinary Clinic
“Complete Animal Care”
Staples, MN 218-894-1775

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

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

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

Tower Pizza
Pizza, Pasta, Salads, Sandwiches
Staples, MN 218-894-3299

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

Todd County Commissioners continued from page 8a

NYHUS CHEVROLET	
BUICK INC.....	22,686.00
VERIZON.....	3,465.34
17 PAYMENTS LESS	
THAN \$2,000.....	11,380.12
AMERICAN HERITAGE	
BANK.....	39,635.96
CITY OF BERTHA.....	12,900.06
CITY OF BROWERVILLE.....	8,050.45
CITY OF CLARISSA.....	16,881.99
CITY OF EAGLE BEND.....	18,277.83
CITY OF GREY EAGLE.....	8,729.41
CITY OF HEWITT.....	4,933.44
CITY OF LONG PRAIRIE.....	38,318.19
CITY OF OSAKIS.....	14,524.13
CITY OF STAPLES.....	41,850.20
REGION V DEVELOPMT	
COMMISSION.....	2,863.10
SAUK RIVER WATER	
SHED DISTRICT.....	7,388.54
SCHOOL DISTRICT 213.....	77,106.35
SCHOOL DISTRICT 2170.....	47,733.05
SCHOOL DISTRICT 2753.....	177,474.70
SCHOOL DISTRICT 486.....	29,855.82
SCHOOL DISTRICT 740.....	4,477.71
SCHOOL DISTRICT 743.....	58,656.20
SCHOOL DISTRICT 786.....	67,343.17
DEBT DIST 86.....	11,662.76
SCHOOL DISTRICT 787.....	82,389.10
SCHOOL DISTRICT	
787- DEBT DIST 87.....	16,678.87
SCHOOL DISTRICT 818.....	5,559.18
TOWN OF BARTLETT.....	9,422.50
TOWN OF BERTHA.....	12,562.01
TOWN OF BIRCHDALE.....	14,200.99
TOWN OF BRUCE.....	14,657.36
TOWN OF BURLEENE.....	14,172.92
TOWN OF	
BURNHAMVILLE.....	16,886.12
TOWN OF EAGLE	
VALLEY.....	17,233.41
TOWN OF FAWN LAKE.....	7,622.68
TOWN OF GERMANIA.....	12,229.08
TOWN OF GORDON.....	33,295.62
TOWN OF GREY EAGLE.....	14,893.23
TOWN OF HARTFORD.....	30,203.20
TOWN OF IONA.....	20,889.37
TOWN OF KANDOTA.....	8,808.25
TOWN OF LESLIE.....	17,540.33
TOWN OF LITTLE ELK.....	8,164.06
TOWN OF LITTLE SAUK.....	20,991.07
TOWN OF LONG	
PRAIRIE.....	16,069.16
TOWN OF MORAN.....	12,799.00
TOWN OF REYNOLDS.....	15,856.21
TOWN OF ROUND	
PRAIRIE.....	38,463.02
TOWN OF STAPLES.....	13,420.62
TOWN OF STOWE	
PRAIRIE.....	16,334.39
TOWN OF TURTLE	
CREEK.....	7,172.71
TOWN OF VILLARD.....	15,011.51
TOWN OF WARD.....	20,910.80
TOWN OF WEST UNION.....	16,002.17
TOWN OF WYKEHAM.....	18,514.90
8 PAYMENTS LESS	
THAN \$2,000.....	4,721.38
1 PAYMENTS LESS	
THAN \$2,000.....	791.15
Total.....	\$2,005,983.90

COMMISSIONERS WARRANTS	
Vendor Name	\$ Amount
BIG STONE THERAPIES,	
INC.....	\$4,946.03
CARGILL SALT DIV.....	44,940.93
EMERGENCY	
AUTOMOTIVE TECH.....	3,349.89
FORD OF HIBBING.....	87,652.35
H & L MESABI.....	3,498.88
KRIS ENGINEERING.....	33,332.50
MORRISON CO PUBLIC	
HEALTH SERV.....	2,342.47
NORTHERN STAR COOP.....	2,056.66
SHI CORP.....	2,632.50
TRIMIN SYSTEMS INC.....	13,188.00
ZIEGLER INC.....	163,688.00
ZUERCHER TECH. LLC.....	23,184.00
59 PAYMENTS LESS	
THAN \$2,000.....	22,731.01
Total.....	\$407,543.22

HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES	
WARRANTS	
Vendor Name	\$ Amount
DHS - MSOP- MN SEX	
OFFENDER PROGRAM.....	5,781.50
DHS - ST PETER RTC - 472	
DHS - SWIFT.....	21,055.87
FRESHWATER ED.	
DISTRICT 6004.....	16,392.00
INFORMATION SYSTEM	
CORP.....	22,296.00
69 PAYMENTS LESS	
THAN \$2,000.....	15,643.87
Total.....	\$90,205.74

Vendor Name	\$ Amount
CARLSON/BARBARA.....	\$3,200.00
LUTHERAN SOCIAL SERV.	
OF MN - ST PAUL.....	4,848.35
PRODUCTIVE ALT.	
INC - FERGUS FALLS.....	2,021.55
PAYMENTS LESS	
THAN \$2,000.....	6,247.15
Total.....	\$16,317.05

On a motion by Erickson and seconded by Kneisl, the preceding minutes of the County Board meeting held December 5, 2018 were duly approved by unanimous vote at the Todd County Board of Commissioners at the Regular Board Meeting held on December 18, 2018.

Witness my hand and seal:

Randy Neumann, County Board Chairperson

Denise Gaida, Todd County Auditor-Treasurer

MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL BOARD MEETING OF THE TODD COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS HELD DECEMBER 17, 2018

Call to Order

The Todd County Board of Commissioners met in the Commissioner's Board Room in the City of Long Prairie, MN on the 17th day of December, 2018 at 9:00 a.m. The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Neumann. The meeting was opened with the Pledge of Allegiance. All Commissioners were present.

Approval of Agenda

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

Finance Committee

Commissioners held final discussions regarding the proposed 2019 Budget & 2019 Levy amounts.

On motion by Kircher and seconded by Becker, the following motion was introduced and adopted by unanimous vote: To approve the reduction of two (2) CMH Social Worker FTE positions for the 2019 Todd County Budget within Fund 11-Human Services.

On motion by Becker and seconded by Kneisl, the following motion was introduced and adopted by majority roll call vote with Kircher and Erickson against: To approve the reduction of \$150,000 within the Facilities Improvement Fund for the 2019 Todd County Budget within Fund 01-General Revenue.

Chairperson Neumann tabled agenda items 4.2 Approve the 2019 Final County Budget and 4.3 Approve the 2019 Final County Levy to the December 18, 2018.

Recess

Chairperson Neumann recessed the meeting until December 18, 2018.

On a motion by Becker and seconded by Kneisl, the preceding minutes of the County Board meeting held December 17, 2018 were duly approved by unanimous vote at the Todd County Board of Commissioners at the Regular Board Meeting held on December 27, 2018.

Witness my hand and seal:

Randy Neumann, County Board Chairperson

Denise Gaida, Todd County Auditor-Treasurer

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE TODD COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS HELD DECEMBER 18, 2018 Administration

The Todd County Board of Commissioners met in the Commissioner's Board Room in the City of Long Prairie, MN on the 18th day of December, 2018 at 9:00 a.m. The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Neumann. The meeting was opened with the Pledge of Allegiance. All Commissioners were present.

Approval of Agenda

On motion by Kneisl and seconded by Becker, the following motion was introduced and adopted by unanimous vote. To approve the agenda as presented with the addition of item 5.4 Approve 2019 County Budget and item 5.5 Approve 2019 County Levy.

Consent Agenda

On motion by Erickson and seconded by Kneisl, the following motions and resolutions were introduced and adopted by unanimous vote:

To approve the Commissioner's Meeting Minutes for December 5, 2018 as presented.

To approve the Human Resources Report for Personnel Actions dated December 18, 2018 as on file.

To approve the 2019 tobacco license applications for Clarissa Municipal Liquor Store, Don and Dave's Store, The Hub Supper Club LLC, Jon's Family Foods, Eagle Valley Express, Little Sauk Legion, Partridge Creek Blinds and More, Rhode's Midway Gas, Bar and Grill, Saukinnac Campground and Shady's Golden Eagle Inc.

To approve a One-Year On & Off Sale 3.2 Malt Liquor License for Don & Dave's Store at the address of 26762 County 26, Browerville, MN in Moran Township effective January 1, 2019 through December 31, 2019.

GAMBLING PERMIT - SAUK CENTRE CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

WHEREAS, the Todd County Board of Commissioners are establishing their approval for a Gambling Permit for the Sauk Centre Chamber of Commerce through this resolution;

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Todd County Board of Commissioners approve a Gambling Permit for the

Sauk Centre Chamber of Commerce to hold a raffle at the Diamond Point Steakhouse & Lounge in Birchdale Township at the address 12818 Bayview Drive, Sauk Centre, MN on January 21st, 2019.

GAMBLING PERMIT - SAUK VALLEY GOBBLERS

WHEREAS, the Todd County Board of Commissioners are establishing their approval for a Gambling Permit for the Sauk Valley Gobblers through this resolution;

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Todd County Board of Commissioners approve a Gambling Permit for the Sauk Valley Gobblers to hold a raffle at the Diamond Point Steakhouse & Lounge in Birchdale Township at the address 12818 Bayview Drive, Sauk Centre, MN on February 23, 2019.

GAMBLING PERMIT - ST MARY OF MT CARMEL SCHOOL

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

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Todd County Board of Commissioners approve a Gambling Permit for the St Mary of Mt Carmel School to hold a raffle at the Lake Osakis/Head of the Lakes Resort in Leslie Township at the address 15080 Gardenia Drive, Osakis, MN on February 2, 2019.

GAMBLING PERMIT - TODD COUNTY COUNCIL ON AGING

WHEREAS, the Todd County Board of Commissioners are establishing their approval for a Gambling Permit for the Todd County Council On Aging through this resolution;

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Todd County Board of Commissioners approve a Gambling Permit for the Todd County Council On Aging to hold a bingo event at the Clarissa Ballroom in Eagle Valley Township at the address 19281 Kotter Rd, Clarissa, MN on February 3, 2019.

Auditor-Treasurer

On motion by Kircher and seconded by Erickson, the following motion was introduced and adopted by unanimous vote: To approve the Commissioner Warrants (ACH) 400065 through 400084 in the amount of \$14,060.16 and (Regular) 50502 through 50625 in the amount of \$193,327.16 for a total of \$207,387.32.

On motion by Becker and seconded by Kneisl, the following motion was introduced and adopted by unanimous vote: To approve the Health & Human Services Warrants number 514590 through 514659 in the amount of \$130,272.45 and warrants number 703980 through 704100 in the amount of \$67,689.40.

On motion by Kircher and seconded by Kneisl, the following resolution was introduced and adopted by unanimous vote:

DESIGNATING POLLING PLACES FOR ABSENTEE & MAIL BALLOT PRECINCTS WITHIN TODD COUNTY FOR THE 2019 ELECTION CYCLE

WHEREAS, Minnesota Statutes 204B.16, subd 1 requires, by ordinance or resolution, to designate on an annual basis the polling places to be utilized for the upcoming year; and;

WHEREAS, it is important that the citizens of Todd County are provided accessible and equipped polling locations to exercise their right to vote; and;

WHEREAS, changes to the polling place location may be made at least 90 days before the next election if the authorized polling place becomes unavailable for use; and;

WHEREAS, changes to the polling place locations may be made in the case of an emergency when it is necessary to ensure a safe and secure location for voting pursuant to Minnesota Statutes 204B.175 and 204B.181.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Todd County Board

of Commissioners hereby designates the following polling place for the Todd County Absentee Precinct and the City of Swanville's Mail Ballot Precinct for elections conducted in 2019 to be:

Todd County Auditor-Treasurer's Office
215 1st Ave. S, Suite 201
Long Prairie, MN 56347

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that in the event that the County of Todd would require to call a special election not held on the day of a statewide election that the polling places of the County's Municipalities along with the Todd County Absentee Precinct will be utilized dependent on the needs of the County of Todd.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Todd County Auditor-Treasurer is hereby authorized to designate a replacement polling place meeting the requirements of Minnesota Statutes for the polling place designated herewith if said place becomes unavailable for use by the County of Todd.

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Todd County Auditor-Treasurer is hereby authorized to designate an emergency replacement polling place meeting the requirements of Minnesota Statutes for any polling place designated in this resolution when necessary to ensure a safe and secure location for voting.

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

A RESOLUTION TO APPROVE 2019 COUNTY BUDGET

WHEREAS, the Todd County Board of Commissioners are required to adopt an annual budget and certify it to the County Auditor; and;

WHEREAS, the County Board of Commissioners have had an opportunity to discuss the operations costs and revenues of the County for fiscal year 2019;

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, the Todd County Board of Commissioners hereby approve the following as the 2019 Budget for the County of Todd, Minnesota and directs that it be forwarded to the County Auditor:

REVENUES	2018	2019
Property tax	15,534,913	16,117,700
State General Purpose Aid	1,510,565	1,670,337
Other taxes	834,700	919,914
Licenses & Permits	167,915	170,665
Federal Grants	3,404,617	3,377,257
State Aids	9,045,024	8,667,021
Local Grants	0	0
Charges for Service	2,563,667	2,421,904
Misc Revenue	1,454,212	1,874,336
Interest on Investments	58,000	60,000
Other Financing Sources	0	0
Transfers	0	0
	34,573,613	35,279,134
Total Revenue & Other Source	3	35,279,134
EXPENDITURES		
General Government	5,432,468	5,492,532
Public safety	4,090,618	3,995,622
Highway/Construction	7,191,675	6,911,470
Streets & Highways (excluding Constr.)	3,244,234	3,378,458
Human Services	8,052,701	8,310,716
Health	2,896,212	2,835,894
Culture and Recreation	446,146	441,603
Conservation of Nat Resources	1,033,352	1,051,383
Economic Development	69,000	65,800
Gen Debt Service	570,265	574,778
Capital Outlay	1,158,782	1,793,902
Transfers	388,160	426,976
Other Fiscal Charges	0	0
	34,573,613	35,279,134
Total Expenditures & other uses:	3	35,279,134
Budget Balance		
	0	0

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

A RESOLUTION ADOPTING THE 2019 FINAL LEVY

WHEREAS, the Laws of the State of Minnesota direct that the Todd County Board of Commissioners are required to approve by resolution a final levy no later than December 30th annually; and;

WHEREAS, The Todd County Board of Commissioners have considered the financial situation of the County and had an opportunity to deliberate the levying of property taxes upon property owners within the County.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, the Todd County Board of Commissioners hereby approves the following as the 2019 final levy for the County of Todd, Minnesota, for property taxes payable in 2019 and directs that it be forwarded to the County Auditor:

	Certified Levy	Program Aid	Local Levy
General Revenue	10,026,515.00	1,430,089.00	8,596,426.00
Road & Bridge	2,491,928.00		2,491,928.00
Human Services	3,680,372.00		3,680,372.00
Public Health	396,874.00		396,874.00
Comp Water	5,360.00		5,360.00
Regional Library	334,162.00		334,162.00
Bonded Indebtedness	572,578.00		572,578.00
County Fair	20,000.00		20,000.00
Parks & Trails	20,000.00		20,000.00
Total	17,547,789.00	1,430,089.00	16,117,700.00

Community Corrections

On motion by Becker and second by Kircher, the following motion was introduced and adopted by unanimous vote: To approve the MN Department of Corrections Subsidy Act Agreement.

Public Works

On motion by Erickson and seconded by Kircher, the following motion was introduced and adopted by unanimous vote: To approve the Cooperative Construction Agreement for Improvements to 281st Avenue with Long Prairie Township.

On motion by Kneisl and seconded by Becker, the following motion was introduced and adopted by unanimous vote: To approve the Budget Request Forms for 2018 approved equipment purchases of \$100,494.50 and \$24,609 which will not be paid until 2019.

County Assessor

On motion by Kircher and seconded by Kneisl, the following motion was introduced and adopted by unanimous vote: To approve the abatement for Rueben & Lonnie Rahn on parcel 04-0029700 for taxes payable 2017 and 2018 per MN Statute 273.

Facilities

On motion by Erickson

the updated Interim Support Services Agreement with Vesta Solutions for 911 Call Handling.

Planning and Zoning

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

Final Plat Approval

-“Beckley’s Diamond Bay First Addition”

Subdivision

WHEREAS, Applicant Richard W Beckley applied to subdivide a property that is described as Part of Government Lot 1 of Section 11 in Kandota

Township with the plat to be known as Beckley’s Diamond Bay First Addition.

WHEREAS, Beckley’s Diamond Bay First Addition consists of one residential lot, Lot 1 40,001± sq. ft. located in the Shoreland (RD) zoning district of Kandota Township.

WHEREAS, On September 6, 2018 the Todd County Planning Commission recommended the following property be considered for Subdivision pursuant to Todd County Subdivision Regulation and Ordinance:

SECT-11 TWP-127 RANG-34

BEG AT A PT 33 FT W & 20 FT S OF NE COR OF

GOVT LOT 1, THENCE S 208.97 FT, SW 400.31

FT, NW 253.46 FT, NE 448.19 FT TO BEG

2.32 ACRES

WHEREAS, On September 18, 2018 the Todd County Board of Commissioners considered the Preliminary Plat for the above described property and approved the Beckley’s Diamond Bay First Addition preliminary plat with conditions.

WHEREAS, the Planning & Zoning Department has completed the necessary final plat review and find that all items required for final plat approval have been completed.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, the final plat of “Beckley’s Diamond Bay First Addition” subdivision be approved as presented.

On motion by Kircher and seconded by Becker, the following motion was introduced and adopted by unanimous vote: To approve the recommended list of individuals for the Planning Commission and Board of Adjustment effective January 2019 as on file in the Auditor-Treasurer’s Office.

On motion by Kircher and seconded by Erickson, the following motion was introduced and adopted by unanimous vote: To adopt the proposed Todd County Land Use Ordinance Compliance and Enforcement Policy to be implemented by the Planning and Zoning Department starting January 1, 2019.

Health & Human Services

Laura Vaughn from Northern Pines Mental Health Center provided an update on the services being provided in Todd County.

On motion by Kircher and seconded by Kneisl, the following motion was introduced and adopted by unanimous vote: To approve the Northern Pines Purchase of Service Contract effective Jan 1, 2019 - Dec 31, 2019.

Cory Lawrence provided an update to the Board of the services that STEP provides to clients in Todd County.

On motion by Erickson and seconded by Kneisl, the following motion was introduced and adopted by unanimous vote: To approve the STEP Purchase of Service and Host County Contract effective January 1, 2019 through December 31, 2019.

On motion by Becker and seconded by Kneisl, the following motion was

Todd County Commissioners continued from page 9a

introduced and adopted by unanimous vote: To approve the Mental Health Contract for Calendar Years 2019 for \$22,934.81.

On motion by Kircher and seconded by Erickson, the following motion was introduced and adopted by unanimous vote: To approve request to eliminate the Child Services Manager position and recruit and hire a full-time Behavioral Health Supervisor.

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

2019 Non-Union Employee/Appointed Officials Salaries

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

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

WHEREAS, the agreements include a 2.5 percent (%) general increase effective the first full pay period worked in January, 2019, pay date January 30, 2019,

and a 3 percent (%) step increase effective the first full pay period worked in July, 2019, pay date July 31, 2019 for eligible staff. Staff currently over the maximum of the salary grid shall receive a 1.25 percent (%) (one-half general increase) effective the first full pay period worked in January, 2019 pay date January 30, 2019 in accordance with county policy.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Todd County Board of Commissioners authorize a 2.5 percent (%) general increase effective the first full pay period worked in January, 2019, pay date January 30, 2019, and a 3 percent (%) step increase effective the first full pay period worked in July 2019, and pay date July 31, 2019 for eligible staff. Staff currently over the maximum of the salary grid shall receive a 1.25 percent (%) (one-half general increase) effective the first full pay period worked in January, 2019 pay date January 30, 2019 in accordance with county policy.

Auditor-Treasurer's Report

The Auditor-Treasurer has nothing to report at this time.

Commissioner's Report

The Commissioners reported on the meetings

that they had attended.

Coordinator's Report
The Coordinator reported on the meetings attended and project statuses.

Recess
Chairperson Neumann recessed the meeting until December 27, 2018.

Vendor Name	\$ Amount
BIG STONE THERAPIES, INC.	2,882.21
BRAATEN SAND & GRAVEL	10,757.38
CARGILL SALT DIV.	5,720.68
CLIFTON LARSON ALLEN, LLP	8,500.00
COMMISSIONER OF TRANSPORTATION	11,112.86
CONTECH ENGINEERED SOLUTIONS, LLC	47,259.01
CUMMINS NPOWER	
LCC	3,720.50
DIAMOND MOWERS INC.	7,027.00
ELECTION SYSTEMS & SOFTWARE INC.	12,239.40
GOODIN COMPANY	2,156.90
GUARDIAN SUPPLY	2,775.96
H & L MESABI	11,395.00
LIMELIGHT DEPART	3,195.00
M-R SIGN COMPANY INC.	7,478.78
MCCC, ME33	9,716.50
NAPA CENTRAL MN	3,407.70
STAPLES WORLD	2,234.31
TODD CO AUDITOR-TREASURER	2,205.36
US POSTAL SERVICE	2,500.00
WIDSETH SMITH	
NOLTING INC	5,764.83
WOLTERS BODY SHOP	4,028.28
123 PAYMENTS LESS	
THAN \$2,000	41,309.66
Total	\$207,387.32

Vendor Name	\$ Amount
V#15726 - COST EFF.	
HEALTH INS.	\$3,668.18
RURAL MN CEP INC	15,544.74
US POSTAL SERVICE	4,518.00
118 PAYMENTS LESS	
THAN \$2,000	43,958.48
Total	\$67,689.40

Vendor Name	\$ Amount
#15336	\$3,349.20
COMMUNITY AND FAMILY SRVS LLC	5,716.85
HEARTLAND GIRLS RANCH	7,082.57
HOLISTIC FAMILY EDUCATION SRVS	7,477.96
#15511	6,716.70
LITTLE SAND GROUP HOME	6,718.50
#10746	2,359.20
MID MINNESOTA DRUG TESTING INC	6,317.00
NORTHERN PINES MENTAL HLTH CTR IN	6,248.50
#13849	4,500.00
#15571	2,477.40
PETRANGELO MS Ed.D./GEORGE	2,201.25
#15286	3,916.50
#15615	2,836.20
STEP	6,863.80
VALLEY LAKE BOYS HOME INC	5,100.00
VILLAGE RANCH INC	10,327.50
WEST CENTRAL REG JUVENILE CTR	3,479.17
PAYMENTS LESS	
THAN \$2,000	36,584.15
Total	\$130,272.45

On a motion by Becker and seconded by Kneisl, the preceding minutes of the County Board meeting held December 18, 2018 were duly approved by unanimous vote at the Todd County Board of Commissioners at the Regular Board Meeting held on December 27, 2018.

Witness my hand and seal:

Randy Neumann, County Board Chairperson

Denise Gaida, Todd County Auditor-Treasurer
2pnc



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Healthy girls team shows high quality basketball

By Mark Anderson
Managing Editor

The Staples-Motley girls basketball team played two quality games and came up with one win, beating Little Falls 67-57 on Dec. 28, and losing a halftime lead against Pequot Lakes on Jan. 3, before falling 62-41.

"We are finally healthy again," said Coach Brian Smith. Four of the top players had missed time due to injuries.

Against Little Falls, it was the team's best shooting game of the season, hitting 51 percent on 2 point shots, 46 percent on 3 pointers, and 61 percent from the free throw line.

"Katie Smith and Haley Cichos hit some key shots in the first half that kept us close," said Coach Smith.

Down two at halftime, the Cardinals stepped up their defense in the second half.

"We played mostly zone in the second half and our rebounding improved when we were in zone," said Smith. "We were able to get out in transition and

push the ball up the floor which helped up build up a double digit lead late in the game."

When Little Falls started pressing with a few minutes left, Staples-Motley turned the ball over a few times at the beginning. "We were able to maintain our composure and come away with a really good win for us," said Smith.

The good play continued into the Pequot Lakes game. "We played our best half of basketball yet this season," said Smith.

"We prepared for their tough 3-2 zone and executed our game plan perfectly," said Smith.

The team shot 50 percent from the field in the first half, leading to a 26-24 lead.

"We were able to slow the game down and get good high percentage shots. We moved the ball very well with quick ball reversals and we were very patient on offense," said Smith.

The second half was very different. Pequot changed their defense and it took the Cardinals a few

possessions to adjust to it. It was still a close game for most of the half, but Pequot started to pull away with eight minutes left.

"Now we know we can play with anybody, we just have to maintain the level we played in the first half," said Smith.

Tabetha Allen had a double-double in each game, with 16 points and 15 rebounds against Little Falls and 10 and 15 rebounds against PL.

Jenna Dvorak had 9 rebounds at Little Falls and 7 at PL. Kaila Erbe pulled down 8 rebounds in the first game. Against Little Falls, Katie Smith had two steals and five rebounds, and at PL she made three 3-pointers.

Team results

Staples-Motley 67, Little Falls 58

Scoring: Haley Cichos 18, Tabetha Allen 16, Kaila Erbe 13, Katie Smith 13, Jenna Dvorak 7

Staples-Motley 41, Pequot Lakes 62

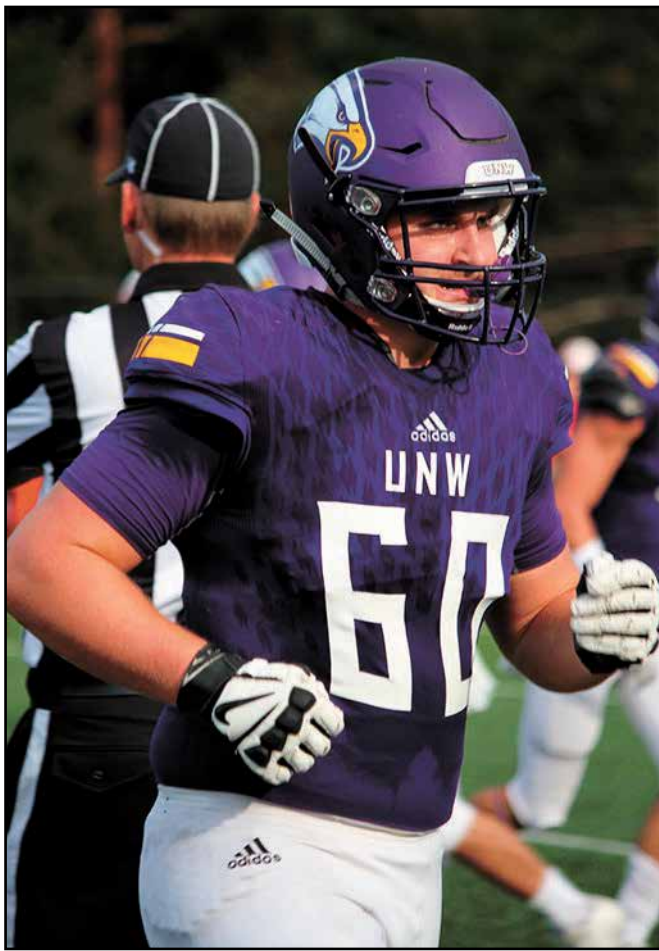
Scoring: Dvorak 11, Allen 10, Smith 9, Cichos 7, Erbe 2, Bella Martin 2



Junior high tournament

The Staples-Motley girls basketball team hosted a junior high tournament on Jan. 5, with eighth grade (above) and

seventh grade (below) teams competing. (Staples World photos by Mark Anderson)



Enyart, Guggenberger ensure wrestling win

By Mark Anderson
Managing Editor

The Staples-Motley wrestling team won two of their three dual matches at the Paynesville quadrangular Jan. 3, then had one championship, Owen Bjerga, at the Buffalo Invitational on Jan. 5.

To win a dual meet, the little things can add up to a lot for the team.

"Some guys saved team points by losing by just decisions and other guys won by pins and tech falls to gain bonus points, which makes a difference in those close matches," said Coach Mark Carlson.

The coach pointed to Gordon Enyart and Shaine Guggenberger, who had big back to back wins to seal the victory against Paynesville. Enyart came out on top in a very close match, winning 8-7 and earning three points for

the team. Guggenberger followed that with a pin at 220 pounds, earning six team points in a 30-24 team win. Spencer Miller also had a good matchup in the duals, moving up a weight and winning by tech fall against a high level wrestler.

The other win came against Royalton/Upsala 33-24. Big matches in that one included Connor Dobson taking his match to overtime before falling 2-0, Brayden Christensen's 3-0 win, and Spencer Miller's pin. A highlight of the Royalton match was Owen Bjerga coming out with a 6-4 win over the third ranked wrestler in the state. Bjerga is ranked number two at 160 pounds.

The team also lost 42-13 to Long Prairie-Grey Eagle/Browerville, a team ranked in the state. Although the Cardinals did not have every weight filled, they also

received some forfeits in their wins.

"We have lots of team players on our squad willing to wrestle wherever needed," said Carlson.

At the Buffalo tournament, The Cardinals faced some big school competition among the 10 team field. Bjerga won the 160 pound bracket, Miller was second at 152, Payton Bjerga was 4th at 120, Brayden Christensen was 5th at 132, and Logen Weite was 6th at 145.

Carlson said the junior varsity had a very good day at the Buffalo tournament, winning 75 percent of their matches.

Winning JV wrestlers that day included: Connor Dobson 3-0, Sam Jennissen 2-0, Dalton Wells 3-0, Jason Trantina 3-0, Issiah Tabatt 3-0, Chase Mikel 2-1, Owen Winter 2-1.

Cardinals fall twice

The Staples-Motley boys basketball team is taking a few lumps as they are going up against good teams with an inexperienced squad.

After the Little Falls tournament was canceled due to weather, the Cardinals played a single game against Little Falls, falling 70-29 on Dec. 28.

They played Dilworth-Glyndon-Felton on Jan. 4 and lost 86-33.

The Cardinals look to bounce back with a home game against Crosby-Ironton on Friday, Jan. 11.

Team results

Staples-Motley 29, Little Falls 70

Scoring: Max Strickland 10, Ben Olander 6, Isaac Kronenberg 5, Sivert Klefsaas 5, Jordan Carlson 2, Izaiah DeMars 1

Staples-Motley 33, DGF 86

Scoring: Klefsaas 16, Olander 4, Emmitt Winkels 4, Ryan Wick 3, Kronenberg 2, DeMars 2, Alex Giza 2.

DNR Commissioner will face tough assignment

Minnesota Governor-elect Tim Walz is now the top state office-holder, and has named most of the lieutenants who will serve under him in leading the various state agencies. One who is key to those whose first loves and favorite recreations lie in the outdoors, will be next Natural Resources Commissioner, Sarah Strommen.

She is a former mayor of the City of Ramsey on the north edge of the Twin Cities, and prior to being named to the top DNR post has been serving as Assistant Commissioner in the DNR's Division of Fish & Wildlife, and the Division of Parks & Trails. She also has served in a policy role for the group Friends of the Boundary Waters Wilderness, as well as a leadership position with the State Board of Soil and Water Resources. She holds an undergraduate degree in biology, and a graduate degree in environmental management from Duke University.

Needless to say, Strommen has serious natural resources credentials, unlike some past politically-

connected DNR appointees we've seen. Her predecessor, Tim Landwehr, who served as DNR Commissioner for eight years under Governor Mark Dayton, was also a natural resources professional. But political appointees have a limited shelf-life, no matter how well qualified, and new governors have typically wanted "their own man" in this role; or more correctly in this case, their own woman—since Strommen is the state's first to be appointed to serve in this role.

Strommen inherits a job that some past DNR Commissioners would probably describe as both a dream and a nightmare. Minnesota is a state that is one of the richest in Nature's bounty. But there is also a history of serious tension over just how to manage its resources. These resources are treasured for human recreation, but they are also potential treasure in the form of profits for agribusiness, mining, forest products, and residential and commercial development. Sometimes profits come at the expense of harming or destroying natural resource values. Who gets preference in resource access and use is a perpetual source of tension.

Strommen will lead an agency that has also been a favorite whipping-boy for state politicians, as well as for some citizens who recreate in the outdoors; among them, hunters and fishermen. County com-

missioners and state lawmakers duel with the DNR over environmental regulations, and in particular over the conversion of private lands to public land for recreation. Lawmakers with little or no natural resources background try to overrule professional managers to please their voters or political donors, in matters ranging from the stocking of walleyes, to live bait restrictions.

And citizen themselves often blame the DNR first when their hunting or fishing efforts are insufficiently rewarded, or regulations are bothersome or inconvenient. If it has to do with the out-of-doors, somehow the DNR is supposed to fix it. Even if the DNR had the budget and unlimited authority—which it doesn't—it would be impossible to control the forces of Nature in a way that met everyone's expectations.

Natural resource ills are also very much in the public eye. Invasive plants and animals are spreading among the state's most popular lakes and waterways, and so far there seem to be no magic bullets to stop their spread, or reverse infestations. Fatal Chronic Wasting Disease in white-tail deer seems poised to break out of its very limited presence in Southeast Minnesota, despite intensive efforts by the DNR to contain it.

Reducing agricultural runoff polluting our lakes, streams, and wetlands by

means of required planting of "buffer strips" adjacent to these bodies of water promises to be one of the biggest hot potatoes that Commissioner Strommen will face early in her tenure. It pits an acknowledged natural resource benefit against what is arguably the most powerful economic-political force in the state—agribusiness—and many expect to see fireworks in the process of resolving it.

So far, the selection of Strommen has been well-received by some prominent voices on the Minne-

sota outdoor scene, among them the leadership of Pheasants Forever, one of the state's most active and high-profile conservation organizations. Strommen's natural resources background suggests that she may have preservationist and public access threads running through the fabric of her past roles and experiences. Serving as Policy Director for the group Friends of Boundary Waters, outspoken critics of precious-metals mining next door to the wilderness area, reinforces this probability. Strommen, a St.

Paul native, has also been an associate director of the Minnesota Land Trust, a nonprofit conservation organization that works with landowners and local communities to protect lands and waters of special scenic and natural value in Minnesota.

Assets ascribed to Strommen include the ability to integrate science and public policy, as well as being an innovative, collaborative administrator. Strommen will need all of that, and more, as she attempts to tackle one of the toughest jobs in Minnesota.



Mike Rahn

Inside the Outdoors

•• NEW BUSINESS ••

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Bryan Reese is proud to announce the opening of his new business, Reese Plumbing, Heating & Air Conditioning, LLC. Bryan Reese is the former co-owner of **Sportsman's Plumbing, Heating and Outdoor Services, LLC**, which was **DISSOLVED** as of November 1, 2018.