



Staples World

Staples, Minnesota Volume 120, Number 12 Two Sections Thursday, April 2, 2009 \$1

Flooding causes damage in Staples area

By Tom Crawford
News Editor

High water from the Crow Wing and other area rivers last week caused flooding in private homes and some businesses in the Staples area, most of it beginning Wednesday and Thursday and continuing into this week.

Rainfall Tuesday and Wednesday, March 24 and 25, added to the snowmelt to raise the Crow Wing and Long Prairie rivers to flood stages unseen since at least 1997, and possibly exceeding those levels.

Several roads in Wadena County were closed, includ-

ing County Road 30 near The Vintage golf course. The Wadena County Board held an emergency session Thursday, declaring a state of emergency situation and opening the way for potential federal reimbursement for some damages.

‘I’ve never seen water over the second hole’s green.’

Glen Hasselberg

tion on Thursday morning at The Vintage.

Everyone from neighbors to just plain strangers turned out at several locations Thursday and Friday to help those threatened

See **FLOOD** on page 3a



Staples World photo by Tom Crawford



Staples World photo by Dawn Schimpp Timbs

Surrounded by water

Dan and Betty Posner of Motley were forced to leave their home when the Crow Wing River flooded March 24, due to an ice jam. Normally, their house sits 75 feet from the river bank, Dan said. Although the Posner’s garage was filled with water, thanks to a cement border around their house, their basement remained relatively dry. By March 29, the water had begun to recede and the Posners were able to return home shortly after. “I wouldn’t try getting in here without a four-wheel drive, though,” Dan added. For more flood pictures of the Motley area, see pg. 1b.

A day’s work

Scott Odden’s young Lab puppies enjoyed all the company at Robert Stracek’s driveway Thursday afternoon. Odden was busy using a Vintage golf course tractor to haul sandbags while volunteer firemen, high school students, neighbors and relatives filled sandbags. This back breaking job was performed at Odd-

en’s house next door and at Roger and Kim Braith’s house across Country Road 30. When finished here, many of these same volunteers looked around for other people who needed help up and down the Crow Wing. See more photos on page 14a.

Friends, neighbors pitch in to help

By Tom Crawford
News Editor

Home owners who have survived the flooding around Staples all are singing the praises of their friends and neighbors who came to their aid.

“It was really emotional to see all the people pull together. People we didn’t even know,” Margaret Kenyon said. “It was really neat to see all those people helping.”

She and her husband Jim Kenyon live just north of the Leaf River,

across from Thomastown Covenant Church. Their house is up on a hill, they thought, since it has never flooded in 30 years. Until last week.

Apparently the Leaf River’s ice broke up but then jammed against the bridge just downstream from their home. It formed a better dam than the Corp. of Engineers could have built, flooding the Kenyon’s hay shed and horse barn first. Within minutes the water reached to their house. They have a 12 foot retaining wall around the perimeter, she said, and the water

came over that in one night.

Help arrived on Wednesday and Thursday, with volunteers putting up

See **HELP** on page 3a

‘It was really emotional to see all the people pull together. People we didn’t even know.’

Margaret Kenyon, homeowner

Hello, Readers,

It’s Thursday, April 2, the 92nd day of 2009, with just 273 days left.

This Sunday is Palm Sunday, marking the beginning of the Easter holiday period in the Christian faith.

Where in the World?

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Weather

Last Week High/Low Precip.		
Mar 16	53	31
Mar 17	47	27
Mar 18	33	19
Mar 19	33	11
Mar 20	37	23
Mar 21	46	26
Mar 22	51	30

This Week’s Forecast High/Low Cond.		
Apr 2	35	6 Snow
Apr 3	38	19 Sun/Cld
Apr 4	36	19 Showers
Apr 5	33	14 Showers
Apr 6	39	22 Showers

Council hears property owners’ vocal complaints

By Tom Crawford
News Editor

The Open Forum time is listed on every Staples City Council agenda, but most often no one is there to bring up items.

Not so March 24, when two people responded when their Open Forum time to speak came up toward the end of the meeting.

Jim Jeziorski, owner of the Staples Dollar Store on Fourth Street, questioned the direction the city is taking regarding the overall tax burden on property

owners. After listing the police station project, the old Highway 10 street project planned for 2010 and the new city hall/library to be constructed this summer, he asked how all that will affect property taxes.

“Right now, with the economic calamity that we have, do you honestly believe there is enough tax capacity in the incomes of the community to support any additional taxes.”

He noted both the city, and the school district are

See **COUNCIL** on page 2a

Staples EDA okays Ernie’s added land

By Tom Crawford
News Editor

The Staples Economic Development Authority (EDA) on March 24 took the first step in the process of selling an additional 50 feet (16,000 square feet) of land to the Staples Food Corporation for the proposed new grocery store on the east end of the city.

The city had already sold one of its three large commercial lots located south of new Highway 10 to the food corporation. A new Ernie’s Food Mart is being planned for that site, with the city learning the store needed the extra square footage to accom-

modate four gasoline fuel pumps for its convenience store corner. Initial plans had used three pumps.

Jerel Nelsen, the city’s EDA director, said that the council’s property task force had met and okayed the sale of added land. It was felt it might preclude a major ‘box store’ from locating on the adjacent lot, but that an ALCO or Pamida size store could fit on the lot just to the west.

At least one EDA member made a comment about having a bird in hand being better than not having anything.

Nelsen, after some other discussion and some ques- See **SEDA** on page 13a



Staples World photo by Tom Crawford

The big picture

Janet Kiley, one of Staples’ newer residents, looked out over her ‘great room’ from the loft of the Landmark Inn. Her home is the former Faith Lutheran Church. She was hosting a group of la-

dies for the weekend who were using the large former church sanctuary for scrap booking. That is just one of the many uses she foresees for the near home-based business.

Old church finds new life as Landmark Inn

By Tom Crawford
News Editor

A new use for an old building is one of the goals set by Janet Kiley over the past two years as she embarked on a new business venture.

She now has her Landmark Inn open for business

“I’ve always wanted to rehabilitate an older building,” the former real estate agent from the Twin Cities area said. “When I was just a kid, I remember my father driving through the warehouse district in Minneapolis and I was thinking about all those old buildings. Now I’m bringing a new life to this building.”

Janet, originally from the north Twin Cities area, is the owner of the Landmark Inn, the former Faith Lutheran Church property at the corner of Third Avenue and 7th Street N.E. in Staples.

“It’s the largest single family home in Todd County,” Janet said of the 12,000 square foot former church. She is operating it as a lodging facility, a retreat center, a place for anything from a scrapbooking weekend to a family reunion.

“It’s not a bed and breakfast,” she cautioned. I have no cooking facilities for my guests. They have to bring their own food or make other arrangements.”

She hosted a group of eight women See **LANDMARK INN** on page 2a