



Submitted photo

Rotary essay contest winners

Winners of the Staples Rotary Club's annual 4-Way Test Essay Contest visited a recent meeting and read their essays. High school juniors and seniors can write about a subject of their choosing, but must use Rotary's 4-Way Test in supporting their thesis. At the local level, first place received \$100, second

\$50 and third \$25. The first place essay was forwarded to the district level competition for a \$2,000 prize. From left are Abby Edin, third place; Don Sanda, essay contest volunteer advisor; Celeste Harlow, first place; Shelby Smith, second place; and Alan Judd, essay contest chair.

Wadena closes transfer station, employees on leave

By Rin Porter
Wadena County reporter

The Wadena County Transfer Station was closed at 4:30 p.m. Wednesday, March 25, by the Wadena County Board of Commissioners following an emergency closed board meeting held earlier that day.

Local waste haulers licensed to operate in the county have been notified

to haul their loads directly to the Perham Resource and Recovery Facility (PRRF), known as the Perham Incinerator, or to the Henning Transfer Station, until further notice.

Both employees who worked at the transfer station were placed on leave by the board until further notice.

Scott Carpenter, director of the transfer station, was placed on leave

without pay. Joel Walsvik, employee, was placed on leave with pay.

The commissioners retained the services of Mike Gibson, human resources consultant, to oversee the cleanup and reorganization of the Wadena County Transfer Station. Gibson has been providing services to the county board for about a year, through a contract for services.

No further information was available on the situation, according to Char West, auditor/treasurer.



Staples World photo by Janice Winter

Todd County K-9 unit demonstration

The Todd County K-9 team of Deputy Steve Och and Gunther demonstrated their skills for area students March 12. Deputy Sheriff Steve Och, an 11-year veteran of the Todd County Sheriff's Department, and K-9 Dog Gunther, a sable colored male German Shepherd, patrol the roads together and assist other officers when requested. Gunther is the only K-9 dog in Todd County,

has asked him to find. Gunther's reward is praise - a "good boy" with petting or time with a play toy - not treats.

Above: Deputy Sheriff Steve Och explained the importance of training and working together to the fifth and sixth grade students at Sacred Heart Area School. Following the presentation Deputy Och gave the command to "seek dope" and K-9 dog Gunther sniffed out marijuana that had earlier been hidden inside a folder on a bookshelf. The team also visited Staples Elementary School that morning.

Left: Alan Paklonsy took his turn petting Gunther, an award winning K-9 dog who is also a part of the Och family.



Staples World photos by Tom Crawford

Paper artist

Shawn Decker displayed two of his several origami creations that he made during an evening class for young people at the Staples Library. The program on Thursday, March 19 was paper folding for beginners, ages 6 to 12. Shawn and his mother Susie Decker also read origami stories and showed the kids how to make more difficult origami objects

Paper cutters

Talitha Decker, at right, worked on an origami construction project during the March 19 origami session taught by her brother, Shawn Decker, and mother, Susie Decker (standing behind Talitha). Origami is an oriental art form of constructing artwork by folding and cutting paper.



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