



**TWO RIVERS  
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# Staples World <sup>\$1</sup>

Staples, Minnesota www.staplesworld.com Vol. 120, No. 27 Thursday, July 16, 2009



## Steam engine and train stop at Staples Depot

In a rare event and treat to former railroad workers in a former railroad town, the Southern Pacific "Daylight" No. 4449 steam engine and traveler cars stopped at the Staples Depot for a service stop Thursday, July 9. Even though there was short notice as to the timing of the stop, a crowd had gathered to witness the historical event. The train was on its way to Minneapolis and then to the 2009 Train Festival in Owosso, Mich., July 23-26.

Becker Construction, working on the steeple of Sacred Heart Catholic Church, took a camera atop the Hy-Lift machine to photograph the steam engine train and passenger cars from about 126 feet high. The photo was taken looking to the southeast as the train passed the 6th St. crossing before it came to the curve. The tops of former Batcher building, lower right, and Ken's 5th St. Photos and Frames can be seen. The roof and top

floor of North Portage Apparel and Embroidery is in the lower left. The train's first segment on the return trip leaves Minneapolis and runs to Fargo on October 13, but there is no word as yet about a Staples stop. The website is www.sp4449.com/ where the train can be tracked by GPS. Please see more photos on page 8 a. (Photo for the Staples World by Adam Becker)

## Sylvan Shores planning 40th anniversary

Public open house is 1-4 p.m., Sunday, July 26

By Tom Crawford  
News Editor

With a history of both peaks and valleys, but with a strong optimistic look to the future, an area housing development will soon be celebrating its 40th anniversary.

Sylvan Shores, located mostly in Moran, Fawn Lake and Turtle Creek townships just southeast of Staples, boasts over 2,200

lots and some 25 parcels of common space, such as their clubhouse, community center, campground and other recreational areas.

"We have property owners from all over," Joanne Folkert said last week while sitting in the Sylvan Shores clubhouse. She is active in the property owners group and one of the planners of their anniversary celebration. She noted there are between 300 to 350 homes constructed in the development, with about 120 year-round residents.

Those folks are gathering together on Saturday and Sunday, July 25 and 26, for a 40th anniversary

celebration. They plan an open house event from 1 to 4 p.m. Sunday, with Sylvan Shores Property Owners Association (SSPOA) hosting the public for a concert and tours of their grounds and facilities.

Today the majority of the property in Sylvan Shores is privately held. This includes property on four different lakes, Fawn Lake, Pine Island Lake, Little Pine Lake and Turtle Lake. A portion of Sylvan Shores also borders the Long Prairie River.

Beginning in 1969, Sylvan Shores was created out of all or parts of some eight different farms in the area. The land was a mix of cropland and heavily

wooded areas around the four lakes.

The 1,700 acres in Sylvan Shores were developed first by the American Central Corporation, a subsidiary of International Paper, Inc. They divided their property into eight subdivisions with roads that served the 2,200 lots. All lots were surveyed and platted. Roads were built, utility lines put in (mostly underground) and a clubhouse with swimming pool, a beach house and boat ramps were constructed. Tennis courts, playgrounds, picnic areas and other recreational areas were included.

Staples and Brower-  
See **SYLVAN SHORES**  
on page 2a



**Hello, Readers,**  
It's Thursday, July 16, the 197th day of 2009.

Music in the Park Sunday evening features Skilly and Duff, an Irish trio. Also, the Pillager Fair has activities for all ages this weekend.

**Where in the World?**

**News: 1-3, 8A**  
**Opinion: 4A**  
**Current Happenings: 5A**  
**Life Currents: 6A**  
**Public Notices: 7-8A**  
**Crow Wing Currents: 1-2B**  
**Sports: 3, 6B**  
**Classifieds: 4-6B**

**New pastor: 2A**  
**Deputy: 3A**  
**Street mtg.: 1B**  
**Playoff win: 3B**

**Weather**

Last Week High/Low Precip.	
July 5	76 46
July 6	75 55
July 7	78 51
July 8	80 55
July 9	75 59
July 10	76 54
July 11	79 55

This Week's Forecast High/Low Cond.		
July 16	68 49	Windy
July 17	74 51	Sun/Cld
July 18	78 53	T-Storms
July 19	78 57	Sun/Cld
July 20	78 58	T-Storms

## Wadena courts seek more courthouse space

By Rin Porter  
Wadena County Reporter

Court Administrator Kathy Ouren, recently appointed to a combined position that serves both Wadena and Otter Tail counties, appeared before the Wadena County Board of Commissioners on July 8 to request additional space in the courthouse for her department, and proposed a remodeling project to meet her needs.

Ouren told commissioners that Wadena County Court Administration faces serious space problem. She gave five reasons why employees of her department need more room.

First, her staff's work stations on the upper level of the courthouse are too close together, leading to feelings of being

crowded. Staff can hear all phone calls and conversations that go on, as well as the comings and goings of the public at the service counter. These disruptions "chip away at our focus, productivity and accuracy," Ouren said.

Second, the department's storage needs are not met at the staff work stations. Under the desks, there are piles of files, boxes, folders, notebooks, and other materials that have no place to go, Ouren explained. There is no store room, shelf space, or file cabinet available for these materials.

Third, the crowding of employees and lack of storage space has had a negative

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## Todd courthouse fate could be decided by voters

By Jan King  
Todd County Reporter

Todd County voters may have the opportunity to decide the fate of the county's historic courthouse. County commissioners are considering placing the issue of preservation of the building on next year's ballot.

"I would love to see the building preserved. I don't want to see it deteriorate," said Commissioner Gerry Ruda at the board's July 7 meeting. The building belongs to the people of Todd County, and they need to make that decision, he said.

The building has been vacant since 2006, said County Administrator Nathan Burkett, and is

beginning to show signs of many years of low maintenance and non-use. The foundation is sliding and the roof is not structurally sound, he said. The commissioners would have to hire a consultant to determine the costs of preserving or demolishing the building, Burkett said.

Citizens need to have all the numbers so they know what they're voting on, said Board Chair Gary Kneisl. If the building is to be preserved, there needs to be a plan for its future use, said Commissioner Mark Blessing.

The building is listed in the National Register of Historic Places.

This is just a designation, said County Attorney Chuck Rasmus-

sen.  
**County drainage ditches**

County taxpayers will pay a \$32,344 engineering expense on two county drainage ditches, numbers 33 and 2. The expenses were for engineering work completed in 2006. However, the work at that time was not fully authorized by the board. Because of this, the expense cannot be assessed back to the landowners on the ditch systems.

The board also authorized a payment of \$1,200 to Kenneth Theisen as reimbursement for trees that were removed from his property. This occurred during ditch work on County Ditch 25 in Germania Township.

**Veterans' service officer**

Peter Berscheit was unanimously re-appointed to a four year term as the County's veterans' service officer. He had been appointed in 2005. Berscheit is really good at what he does, Burkett said.

**Official website**

Commissioners will decide at their next board meeting if the Todd County website will also be designated as an official publication. The county spends about \$11,000 annually to publish the official proceedings in the county newspapers, Burkett said.

The Staples World last January was awarded the bid to be the official county newspaper for 2009.

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