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Search for Peter Achermann still fruitless



Despite efforts of National Guard troops, volunteers

By Tom Crawford
News Editor

The search for the missing Peter Achermann of Leader has stretched into its third week, with still no trace of the missing 82-year-old man.

Close to 100 members of a Brainerd National Guard unit joined the search last weekend, covering much of the same ground tramped by volunteers in the first two weeks of the search. The Guard troops did so in a very systematic and coordinated search effort.

The result, however, was the same. The troops left the search Sunday evening having found no trace of the missing man.

Cass County Chief Deputy Tom Birch said Tuesday morning that the search effort continues, although most deputies were taking a break that



Peter Achermann

day. Sheriff Randy Fisher a week earlier, when asked how long they will continue looking, replied "Until we find him."

Peter Achermann was last seen Friday, July 24, when he ran several errands in Motley and Staples. His vehicle was found a day later in Becker Township, north and east

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Fanning out

Members of the Brainerd National Guard HHC Company fanned out Saturday afternoon in a wooded area owned by Joe Hasselberg near where Peter Achermann's car was found. The Guards walked through several of the harder areas to search as directed by the Cass County Sheriff's Office, but results were similar

to earlier efforts by family, friends and volunteers. One of the soldiers, who lives on 80 acres in the McGregor area, said he's used to woods like this. "We go out and play in the swamp all the time," he said. (Staples World photo by Tom Crawford)

Giza Plumbing reaches 75th year in business

By Tom Crawford
News Editor

One of the older family operated businesses in Staples will soon be celebrating 75 years in business under the same name.

Giza Plumbing and Heating will hold an open house, with coffee and cookies on Friday, Aug. 21.

John Giza moved to Staples in 1934 from Superior, Wisc., and set up a plumbing shop in his garage. In 1945 he moved the shop to Fifth Street. It is still on Fifth Street, now at 115 N. E. Fifth, but it was originally just north, in the Batcher's Backroom building at first. For about 20 years, Giza Plumbing was two doors to the south before moving

to the current location in 1971.

John Giza was joined by his son, Harold, in 1946. Harold's son, Marv, joined the business in 1970 (after a stint raising mink). The latest family member and fourth generation to come on board is Greg, who has been working full time since 1995.

"It's neat to be on a site and have someone point out, 'Your great-grandfather put that work in.' There is still cast iron pipe in Staples stamped with 'John Giza' on it," Greg said.

The business has changed over the years, keeping up with changes in the trade. They formerly offered Whirlpool and other appliances, but found it difficult to compete with discount stores. Over the years they adapted, learning to sell materials to do it yourself customers when plastic pipe and plastic cement came into use.

Today they are seeing more changes. "We're moving more and more to Green technology," Marv said. "The high efficiency furnaces and heat pumps have taken over. We've seen

big changes in recent years, with the heating and air conditioning technology changing fast, probably the biggest changes we've seen in the past 30 or 40 years."

Marv said the future will only see more of the multiple heat sources, combinations of gas and electric, combined with heat pumps.

"Today we like to think we are in the Home Comfort Business," Marv said, a slogan that Greg came up with recently.

They have had varying employment over the years, up to nine or ten at different times. Today the work force includes Marv, Greg, Bryan Reese and Clayton Hagman as full time, with son Mark Giza also working part time. ("I'm the grunt," says the son who decided to become a pilot. Son Matt is a physical therapist at Spencer, Iowa). Marv's wife Mary and Sharon Williams are the accounting and office staff.

Marv and Greg both have their masters plumbing licenses, another

See **GIZA** on page 11a



Celebrating 75 years

The Giza family will be observing the 75th anniversary of the Giza Plumbing and Heating business on Friday, August 21, with an open house in the afternoon at the shop. From left are third generation owners Marv and Mary Giza, with son Greg. John Giza started the busi-

ness in 1934, with his son Harold taking over from him. Marv joined the business in 1970, and Greg came aboard in 1995. Currently Marv is not talking about retirement. (Staples World photo by Tom Crawford)

Hello, Readers,

It's Thursday, August 13, the 225th day of 2009, with 140 left.

Hometown product Eric Neznik returns to Staples for Sunday night's Music in the Park final program of the summer.

Where in the World?

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Weather

	Last Week	High	Low	Precip.
Aug 3	77	57		.05
Aug 4	72	48		
Aug 5	69	46		.26
Aug 6	75	44		
Aug 7	63	58		.17
Aug 8	71	60		.16
Aug 9	77	58		

This Week's Forecast

	High	Low	Cond.
Aug 13	90	65	T-Storms
Aug 14	88	65	T-Storms
Aug 15	83	63	T-Storms
Aug 16	70	57	T-Storms
Aug 17	71	52	Showers



Getting ready

Runners Nick Schultz and Dave Johnson ran a part of the August 22 Railroad Days Dash 5 K race course at Fifth Street and Third Avenue. The race will start at 9 a.m. and will kick off a number

of Railroad Days events. Dave is jogging, a combination of jogging and juggling, to heighten awareness of Kinship. See listing of events on page 3a. (Staples World photo by Tom Crawford)

Off and running...

First ever Railroad Days Dash set for Aug. 22

Plans are in the final stages for the first ever Railroad Days Dash, a 5 kilometer run/walk being held on Saturday, Aug. 22, in Staples.

Nick Schultz, an avid runner for the past few years, is race director, with Dave Johnson, director of the Staples Kinship

program, assisting him. Both would love to be running, but Nick plans to be taking care of last minute details. Dave, however, will be both running and juggling at the same time. Jogging is both jogging and

See **RACE** on page 3a

Counties prep for H1N1 virus

Todd County

By Tim King
Todd County Reporter

Todd County Public Health Director Cheryl Schneider told the Todd County Commissioners, at their Aug. 4 meeting, that the H1N1 flu virus has only had a mild impact during the 13 weeks that the medical profession has been aware of it.

She said that most infected persons were experiencing mild to moderate

symptoms similar to seasonal influenza. Schneider told the commissioners that public health officials are no longer counting cases of infections but that they have been counting deaths and hospitalizations.

As of the end of July, across the country, there have been 352 deaths and 5,514 hospitalizations, attributed to H1N1. Schneider said that when there

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Wadena County

By Rin Porter
Wadena County Reporter

Wadena County Public Health Director Karen Nelson appeared before the Board of Commissioners at their Aug. 4 meeting and told them of her department's preparations for the expected arrival of the H1N1 flu virus this fall.

Nelson explained that she needs Emergency Management Services Director Scott McKellep to complete the Continuity of Opera-

tions Plan, or COOP, that tells how county business will run during a disaster.

Each county is required to have a COOP in place. In the meantime, Mrs. Nelson is supervising the preparation of the H1N1 Mass Dispensing Plan that would allow her department to vaccinate everyone in the county within 48 hours. Both plans are needed in order for the vaccinations to take place.

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