



○○ Birthday ○○



74 years

There will be an open house celebration held in honor of Duane Dukowitz for his 74th birthday.

The event will be held on Saturday, August 15 at 2 p.m., at the home of Donald and Kari Brusewitz, 213 Park Rd., Staples.

○○ Student Achievements ○○

• **REBEKAH IVERSON**, Staples, has been named to the spring semester 2009 dean's list at Augsburg College, Minneapolis. Rebekah is the daughter of Jeff and Kathy Iverson.

• **TIFFANI COX**, Staples, is a New Student Orientation co-chair at Jamestown College in North Dakota for 2009. She will oversee a team of 38 New Student Orientation leaders who will introduce new Jamestown College students to college life.

MN property tax refund apps. due Aug. 17

The Minnesota Department of Revenue reminds Minnesotans to file applications for state property tax refunds and renter's refunds by Aug. 17, 2009. Even taxpayers who didn't qualify previous years may be eligible.

Taxpayers should complete Form M1PR to determine if they are eligible and, if so, the amount of refund.

The average renter's refund is \$585 - \$1,490. The average homeowner's refund is \$695 - \$2,310.

Renters may qualify if their 2008 household income was less than \$52,300. For homeowners, the total household income must be less than \$96,940, and they must have owned and used the property as their principal residence on Jan. 2, 2009.

SPECIAL PROPERTY TAX REFUND provides tax relief to Minnesota resident homeowners whose property tax increased more than 12 percent and at least \$100 from 2008 to 2009. Taxpayers should complete Schedule 1 of Form M1PR to determine if they are eligible and, if so, the amount of refund.

HOW TO FILE Apply electronically for a small fee at the department's website, <http://www.taxes.state.mn.us>. For paper files, download Form M1PR and instructions at the website; call 651-296-4444 or 800-657-3676 to request copies.

For information call 651-296-3781 or 800-652-9094.

25 Years Ago - 1984

Hot dry conditions have produced a busy season for the Staples Volunteer Fire Department. Firefighters responded to fire calls Saturday afternoon, Monday evening and two fires on Tuesday. Vehicles owned by firefighters Clyde Japke and Bill Vukelich were destroyed Saturday afternoon when a grass fire apparently rekindled and circled around behind them causing the gas tanks to explode. A pumper truck was endangered briefly when the fire spread beneath it but caused only minor damage. The fire was near County Road 7 southeast of Staples where a train had set fires along the Burlington Northern tracks.

The England Prairie Pioneer Club is holding its annual Pioneer Days and Threshing Show August 25 and 26. The show is held at the club's grounds 1 1/2 miles west of Verdale by the KSTP VHF tower.

With the start of school less than three weeks away preschool figures 123 youngsters starting their first year of school as kindergartners.

Some 250 meals were served to the public Saturday during the Motley Merchant Association's Family Fun Day. The meal was barbecued turkey and corn on the cob. Games and contests such as a greased pig contest and a softball hitting contest preceded the meal.

50 Years Ago - 1959

The champion of the summer recreations baseball league was the Braves team with a record of ten wins and four losses. Members are: David Ford,

Charles Hopkins, Brian Backberg, Sonny Pavlacky, Tom Edwards, Dennis Thelen, Bruce Backberg, Chuck Johnson, Billy Johnson and John Matanich, team captain.

Other participants in the summer recreation baseball league were: Ralph Jay, Jim Johnson, Harold Holst, Richard Pape, Wayne Jensen, Mike Hopkins, Buddy Rengel, Rick Rengel, Bob Bjerga, Ron Bjerga, Donnell Siepkes, Jack Rengel, Phil Rengel and Dennis Stranik.

Mr. and Mrs. Allen Flack were welcomed to Staples this week. Allen is a graduate of Concordia College at Moorhead and will teach science and math in both the junior high and senior high classes at Staples. The Flack's spent the last three years at Evansville. They have two sons, John (4) and Paul (2).

REMINISCENCES: Mention has been made before in my columns about living in a family with so many girls. We were affectionately known as the five little red-headed Martin girls as well as other names maybe not so sweet. Sometimes when I think of those early days I have great pity for my mother who saw all sides of her "sweet" little brood and their individual characters. She had no illusions about the trouble they could get into if left on their own to decide what to do on any given day so she did what every mother did. She occupied them with jobs to do and we were never busier than on laundry day.

Our small little house had two main rooms that became transformed on laundry day. They went from a kitchen and living room to what my mother would have said a cyclone just went through. It was nearly always a Monday. There was a ringer washer and two rinse tubs artfully arranged so that clothing could be put through the ringer at every stage. Over to one side was an ironing board with an iron (not

steam) and part of the kitchen table was used to sprinkle the clothes after they were brought in from the line. Our floor had piles of clothing carefully sorted by color.

I remember the terms bluing, starching, soaking, presoaking and bleaching, but since my job was mainly to bring the clothes in from the line, that's what I remember most. I remember all the starched skirts and dresses that stood up on their own under the line where I arranged them as I found fun in my "work." Little groups of make believe people wearing our clothes gathered under the clothes lines waiting to be scooped up and taken inside to be sprinkled, rolled and refrigerated and then ironed.

Thinking back, I must have ironed hundreds of hankies in my day. They had to be perfect which was difficult since they had frilly and scalloped edges and I wasn't very old. The perfection got lost every Sunday morning when a dime was wound up in a knot on one of the corners for the Sunday School collection.

Many of you share similar memories of those wash days. We struggled with hanging wet sheets and folding them right off the line. We exhausted ourselves trying to get the clothes pins around the overalls and jeans and we became experts at hiding our private laundry items in the middle of the inside lines. In winter we hung clothes out to freeze then decorated our house with thawing lines. This part of the process is difficult to understand until you read the following.

I'm guessing one specific thing stands out among all those similar memories we all share. It's a beautiful thing that just can't be forgotten. It's the smell of the sun and the open air on all the laundry. Makes you want to sing, "Oh, great day in the morning..."

○○ Hello World ○○

BIRTHS REPORTED AT LAKEWOOD HEALTH SYSTEM HOSPITAL INCLUDED:

Born to Everett and Fannie Beechy of Bertha, a baby boy, Matthew E., weighing nine pounds four ounces on Aug. 3, 2009.

Born to Michael and April Volk of Brainerd, a baby boy, Connor Michael, weighing six pounds four ounces on Aug. 3, 2009.

Born to Derek and Kelly Riepe of Perham, a baby girl, Kacie Ann, weighing seven pounds five ounces on Aug. 3, 2009.

Born to Tyrone and Bobbie Spencer of Brainerd, a baby boy, Joseph Ryan, weighing seven pounds one ounce on Aug. 4, 2009.

Born to Rafael and Melissa Pichardo of Wadena, a baby, Morgan Oliver, weighing nine pounds one ounce on Aug. 4, 2009.

Born to James and Sara Dregney of Staples, a baby girl, Amber Carron, weighing eight pounds nine ounces on July 27, 2009.

Born to Thane and Angela Schultz of Cushing, a baby girl, Kira Kate, weighing seven pounds four ounces on July 28, 2009.

Born to Macario and Margarita Linares Galvan of Browerville, a baby girl, Priscila, weighing seven pounds on July 28, 2009.

Born to Preston Eagle Tail and Kirstie Gottfried of Motley, a baby boy, Atreyu Hombli, weighing seven pounds six ounces on July 29, 2009.

Born to Daniel and Theresa O'Reilly of Brainerd, a baby girl, Emily Rose, weighing seven pounds two ounces on July 30, 2009.

Born to Brent and Naomi Plautz of Deer Creek, a baby boy, Riley Brent, weighing seven pounds 15 ounces on July 31, 2009.

Born to Jon Hopkins and Ruby Doust of Wadena, a baby boy, Na'Chitryell Geordae, weighing six pounds nine ounces on Aug. 2, 2009.

Born to Lige and Angela Holm of Pine River, a baby girl, Tavia Adeline, weighing five pounds 12 ounces on Aug. 3, 2009.

Born to Keith and Kristena Benson of Baxter, a baby boy, Peyton Andrew, weighing six pounds two ounces on Aug. 4, 2009.

Born to Nicholas and Jennifer Alleman of Baxter, a baby girl, Marley Jean, weighing six pounds 10 ounces on Aug. 5, 2009.

Born to Cody and Sarah Nelson of Pequot Lakes, a baby girl, Kaiya Jodi, weighing seven pounds eight ounces on Aug. 5, 2009.

Born to Kristopher and Kaila Flan of Long Prairie, a baby boy, Kayden Mark, weighing eight pounds one ounce on Aug. 5, 2009.

Born to Andrew and Kimberly Fink of Pillager, a baby boy, Caleb Eugene, weighing six pounds 12 ounces on Aug. 6, 2009.

Born to Jamie and Miranda Perez, a baby boy, Phillip Takevo (Tak), weighing six pounds 15 ounces on Aug. 3, 2009 at Tri-County Hospital in Wadena.

Welcoming him home is big sister, Faye.

○○ Looking Back ○○

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Birthday smiles

Dolores Riegger, far right, celebrated her 89th birthday Aug. 6, with her friends at Lakewood Pines in Staples. Pictured with Dolores are (from left) DeLoris Engevik, 90; and Clara Sanford, who turned 90 on Aug. 4. The friends enjoyed angel food cake, homemade ice cream and fresh raspberries, complements of Carmen Schimpp, Dolores's niece; and Carmen's husband Gary.

The Legend Lives On!

August 22nd - October 4th, 2009
Open Weekends & Labor Day
Plus: Festival Friday, October 2nd
9am - 7pm, Rain or Shine
FREE Parking!

NEW Events!

- Hypnotist Show
- Taste of Culture
- 10k / 5k Run/Walk
- Healthy Living Expo

Also Featuring . . .

- 3rd Annual Pet Fest
- World Amateur Highland Heavy Games
- FREE Beer & Wine Tastings
- Belly Dance Competition
- Longbow Competition
- Bocce Ball Tournament
- Homebrew Competition
- Irish Dancers

2009 Minnesota Renaissance Festival
www.renaissancefest.com