



### Highway 210 accident

Two people in this car were treated for injuries following this August 6 accident on Highway 210 near Wisconsin Avenue. According to the Staples Police report, Amy Dobson of Staples was the driver of this Pontiac Grand Am who reported she swerved to avoid another vehicle and was unable to miss the bou-

levard tree on the west side of Highway 210. Dobson, 32, and her 12-year-old daughter Ashley Crider were both transported by Staples Ambulance to Lakewood Health System for undetermined injuries. (Staples World photo by Tom Crawford)

## Two departments report early budgets

By Tim King  
Todd County Reporter

Todd County Attorney Charles Rasmussen and Todd County Sheriff Peter Mikkelsen made preliminary budget presentations to the county commissioners on Aug. 4

As part of their budget presentation both men talked about the purpose and goals of their departments. Rasmussen said the general purpose of the Todd County attorney's office is to provide legal representation to the state and county as well as to county personnel. Mikkelsen said that the primary goal of the sheriff's office is to keep the citizens and property in Todd County safe.

Both the sheriff and county attorney said that the only increases in their proposed 2010 budgets would be for increased costs related to supplies and employee salaries. Both offices have employees with union contracts in them. Mikkelsen said his budget would increase by about three percent.

The draft sheriff's budget for 2010 is \$1.65 million. The draft 2010 budget for the county attorney is \$433,000. The 2009 budget is \$420,836. The 2008 budget was \$410,319 and the 2007 budget was \$373,000.

#### County administrator

The commissioners approved a resolution adapting a cellular telephone policy for county employees. The policy, which was presented by County Administrator Burkett, limits personal use of county cell phones

by county employees to personal emergencies.

Burkett also asked the commissioners to sign a letter of support for a broad band network communications grant proposal to the United States Department of Agriculture, by the Mid State Education District. If the grant is approved it could lead to the creation of a 1,500 square mile wireless broadband communication zone that would include Todd County. It would provide high speed broadband communications for area hospitals, clinics, schools, businesses and others in the three county area. The grant money is available through the President's economic stimulus legisla-

#### County web site

Todd County's official web site had 3,569 visits from county residents in the last five months, Chris Pelzer, the county MIS Director, told the commissioners.

The estimated number of visits does include more than 1,000 visits from possible non-county residents in the cities of Swanville,

Sauk Centre, and Osakis, Pelzer said. Fifteen hundred visits from Long Prairie provided almost half of the visits whereas Eagle Bend generated only 21 visits during the five month period. Browerville had 60 visits and Staples had 440, or approximately three per day.

The web site apparently is used extensively by Todd County employees, who visited the web site more than 20,000 times during the five month period.

There were also 2,700 hits from Minneapolis, 1,600 from Alexandria, and over 600 from the state of California.

In other matters, the Todd County Board:

- AUTHORIZED Cheryl Schneider from Public Health to apply for an \$11,608 grant to support senior citizen public health nursing and educational clinics.

- ACCEPTED Burkett's suggestion to pay South Country Health Alliance its fee early. The early payment will save Todd County \$4,000 to \$6,000 in interest costs.

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### Plumbing family sees many changes over the years

change Marv noted he's seen over the years.

"You don't have rapid changes in plumbing, normally, but state codes and regulations are constantly being updated with amendments. Now each shop has to be licensed, with a master plumber in the business. Most people today coming into the field are graduates of a plumbing and heating program."

The Giza family will work on new construction, remodeling and service work. Recent major projects have included the Staples Police station, new heating systems for the Sacred Heart School and church, the new St. John Lutheran Church building in Motley and the Family Dollar Store building in Staples.

How long before Marv decides to relax and turn over the business to Greg? He pointed to a "Hagar the Horrible" cartoon on the wall, with Hagar the Viking suffering from three arrows in his back and being asked why he doesn't just retire and take life easy.

"Not as long as I'm having fun," Hagar answers.