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Staples World ^{\$1}

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City office candidates respond to questions

The November 3 elections will offer choices this year to voters in the City of Staples. Two candidates have filed for mayor of the City of Staples. Terry Minnick has joined the race against incumbent Chris Etzler. The mayor's term is two years.

Mike Isenberg is one of four candidates running for three seats on the Staples City Council. The others are the incumbents, Roy Miles, Joel Quance and Rob Schmieg. Council member terms are four years. The polls will be open from noon-8 p.m., Tuesday, Nov. 3,

at the Staples Community Center located at the corner of Fourth Avenue and Fourth Street Northeast. The Staples World asked the candidates three questions. Here are their responses.

Mayor candidates

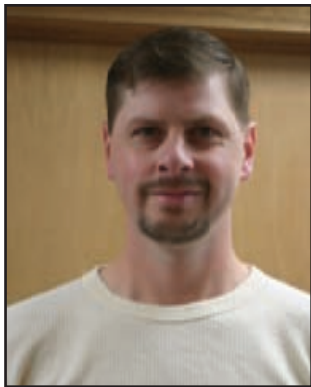
City council candidates



Chris Etzler



Terry Minnick



Mike Isenberg



Roy Miles



Joel Quance



Rob Schmieg

FIRST, GIVE A VERY BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF YOUR PAST EXPERIENCES, ESPECIALLY ANY SERVICE ON ELECTED OR APPOINTED GROUPS OR BOARDS.

My name is Chris Etzler. I am currently serving the City of Staples as Mayor. Prior to being elected Mayor in 2007, I served as council member since April of 2005. Since return-

See **ETZLER** on page 12a

FIRST, GIVE A VERY BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF YOUR PAST EXPERIENCES, ESPECIALLY ANY SERVICE ON ELECTED OR APPOINTED GROUPS OR BOARDS.

1. How would you personally plan to replace or reinstate Local Government Aid (LGA) funds to cities which have been cut drastically the past few years?

See **MINNICK** on page 12a

FIRST, GIVE A VERY BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF YOUR PAST EXPERIENCES, ESPECIALLY ANY SERVICE ON ELECTED OR APPOINTED GROUPS OR BOARDS.

1. How would you personally plan to replace or reinstate Local Government Aid (LGA) funds to cities which have been cut drastically the past few years?

See **ISENBERG** on page 12a

FIRST, GIVE A VERY BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF YOUR PAST EXPERIENCES, ESPECIALLY ANY SERVICE ON ELECTED OR APPOINTED GROUPS OR BOARDS.

I have been a council member for about 14 years. I have served on the Public Works Commission for 17 years. In my denomination I have served on the Minnesota District Council of the

See **MILES** on page 12a

FIRST, GIVE A VERY BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF YOUR PAST EXPERIENCES, ESPECIALLY ANY SERVICE ON ELECTED OR APPOINTED GROUPS OR BOARDS.

1. How would you personally plan to replace or reinstate Local Government Aid (LGA) funds to cities which have been cut drastically the past few years?

See **QUANCE** on page 12a

FIRST, GIVE A VERY BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF YOUR PAST EXPERIENCES, ESPECIALLY ANY SERVICE ON ELECTED OR APPOINTED GROUPS OR BOARDS.

Experiences: Director of Anesthesia, Lakewood Health System Staples; City Council Member, City of Staples; Vice-President Staples Economic Development Authority; Member,

See **SCHMIEG** on page 12a

Flu still bugging local schools

No vaccine expected until November for public

By Tom Crawford News Editor

Higher than normal levels of student absenteeism are still being reported in the Staples Motley schools due to flu symptoms this week, according

to school health officials. However, while the Motley Staples Middle School in Motley continues to have over 10 percent of their students out with 'flu like symptoms,' the number of missing students at the high school in Staples has gone down.

Cheryl Mashuga, school district nurse, said Tuesday morning that less than five percent of the students at the high school were absent on Monday, meaning they were below the threshold for reporting the numbers to the state.

"But here at the high school we have more staff members who are sick right now," she added.

In other buildings, however, it was a different story. "Motley was the hardest hit all last week, both in the elementary and in the middle school grades there,"

See **FLU** on page 3a



Brief stop

A brief stop in Staples for the Southern Pacific's No. 4449 which was pulling several vintage passenger cars was a sentimental journey for old rails and rail fans who gathered near the Staples depot Tuesday afternoon for the 30 minute stop. Steam billowed from

the stacks as crew members greased the giant wheels of the 1940s era engine. The same train had traveled from Portland to the Midwest in July and is now making its return trip to its home base in Portland. (Staples World photo by Tom Crawford)

Hello, Readers,

It's Thursday, Oct. 15, the 288th day of 2009, with 77 days left this year.

The Centennial Auditorium will be the setting for a performance by The Shadows with a tribute section to Buddy Holly Saturday night at 7:30 p.m.

Where in the World?

- News: 1-3, 10-12A
- Opinion: 4A
- Current Happenings: 5A
- Life Currents: 6-7A
- Public Notices: 8-10A
- Sports: 1, 6B
- Crow Wing Currents: 2-3B
- Classifieds: 4-6B

- Dyer home: 2A
- For Pete's sake: 3A
- Tennis 6A: 1B
- Street project: 2B

Weather

Last Week High/Low Precip.		
Oct 5	38 46	.33
Oct 6	40 41	.32
Oct 7	31 57	
Oct 8	28 41	
Oct 9	23 46	
Oct 10	21 28	
Oct 11	27 32	

This Week's Forecast High/Low Cond.		
Oct 15	39 33	Snow
Oct 16	38 31	Showers
Oct 17	45 34	Cld/Sun
Oct 18	55 39	Cld/Sun
Oct 19	47 37	Cloudy

Todd County studies courthouse future

By Jan King, Todd County reporter

The Todd County Board of Commissioners has hired a contractor to evaluate the condition of the historic courthouse.

Contegrity Group of Little Falls, in partnership with Collaborative Design Group of Minneapolis, was awarded a contract not to exceed \$75,000. The evaluation will consider costs to restore or replace the historic courthouse.

"It appears that we have a good contract to get the process started," said Commissioner Gerry Ruda at the board's Oct. 6 meeting. Ruda,

who served on a committee to select a contractor, said this was the most local group which also works with county vendors.

This contractor will also be looking at space requirements for county offices, and how to use space most efficiently, Ruda said.

Commissioner David Kircher asked where money to pay the contractor would come from. Tax dollars, replied County Administrator Nathan Burkett.

The contractor will have a historical preservationist, which may help the county receive grant funding of \$10,000, Burkett said.

Information on the condition of the historic courthouse will be presented to county citizens in a series of public meetings. A final decision on whether to restore or destroy the historic courthouse will be placed on next year's November ballot.

Pavement markings

A federal safety grant has provided a substantial amount of funding for pavement markings this road construction season, said County Engineer Loren Fellbaum.

Traffic Marking Services Inc of Maple Lake have completed their \$261,543 contract. The federal grant

paid 74 percent, or \$192,716. The balance of the contract came from state aid and local tax dollars.

Of the 520 total miles of paved state aid and county roads, 435 miles were painted this year, Fellbaum said. Usually about one quarter of the county highways is painted each year, he said.

The six-inch wide white edge on the highways makes a lot of difference, said Commissioner Mark Blessing. Pavement markings are the biggest safety issue, especially when there is one or two inches of snow on the roads, Ruda said.

See **TODD COUNTY** on page 2a

First private wind turbine going up in Wadena Co.

By Rin Porter, Wadena County reporter

Dorothy Kennelly of Huntersville Township has purchased a wind turbine to produce electricity for her home. The Jacobs 20 kilowatt turbine will be erected atop a 100-foot tower later this month by Dave Winkelman, owner of Winkelman's Environmentally Responsible Construction (WERC), a Brainerd company that has extensive experience in designing and installing small wind systems.

The Conditional Use Permit (CUP) application for Kennelly's wind turbine came before the Wadena County Board of Commissioners at

its Oct. 6 meeting. The CUP was recommended for approval by the county planning commission at its Sept. 17 public hearing.

Deana Skov, county zoning administrator, said she believes that Kennelly's wind turbine is the first wind energy system in the county that will be used to produce electricity. Several farms have windmills that pump water and have been around for years.

The board voted to approve the CUP for the new wind turbine.

Later in the meeting, the board voted to approve an amendment to the county zoning ordinance to include a section to regulate the

implementation of small wind energy conversion systems. The ordinance was drafted based on information gathered from Todd-Wadena Electric Co-op and West Central Telephone Association, and from a model ordinance provided by the state of Minnesota and other county ordinances already in existence.

The ordinance is intended to make it simple for property owners to incorporate small residential wind energy units at their homes without requiring CUPs.

CUPs will still be required for larger residential wind systems and for commercial wind systems.