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page 2B



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page 1B



Staples World ^{\$1}

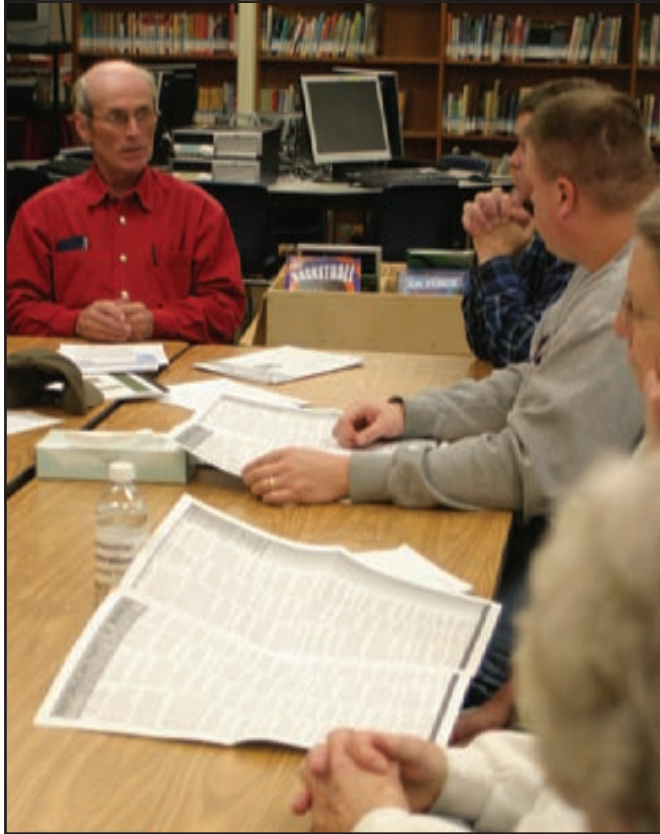
Staples, Minnesota www.staplesworld.com

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Precinct caucus night in Staples

Political parties held their precinct caucus session Tuesday night throughout Minnesota, with Staples area people involved. Twelve people attended the DFL caucus for five precincts at the Staples Motley High School, including Tom Kajer (photo at left) and in the far background Arnie Boie who temporarily chaired the DFL session. Ten Republicans from five precincts gath-



ered at the Staples Elementary School library. Roger Dukowitz, (photo at right) discussed party platform issues such as water rights for farm and irrigation. Both parties conducted straw polls to gauge the strength of their various candidates for governor in this year's election. (Staples World photo by Tom Crawford)

City lifts limit on 'off sale' liquor licenses

By Tom Crawford
News Editor

With virtually no discussion, the Staples City Council on Jan. 26 okayed deleting any limit to the number of 'off sale' liquor licenses the city can issue.

The Jan. 26 council session was the first session ever held in the new Staples City Hall and Library building. It was also one of the council's shortest sessions in recent years, wrapping up just 35 minutes after it began at 7 p.m.

The city has had a sentence in the city ordinance covering off-sale liquor licenses that states... "Not more than six 'off sale' licenses shall be issued." The amendment that was passed Jan. 26 simply states that sentence shall be deleted.

This action was accomplished on a 5-2 vote, with council members Roy Miles

and Joel Quance voting against the action.

In previous council sessions, the issue had come up, the first time based on the premise that the new Ernie's Food Market would be applying for a license to sell package liquor in a portion of the building. The existing six licenses had been issued when the new Depot Liquor store opened about a year ago.

After first being turned down by the council, the issue re-surfaced when Al Erbe, Ernie's owner, appeared at a council meeting for several issues, including the prospect of an off sale liquor license. The majority of the council appeared tired of the issue and questioned why the city imposes a limit on liquor sales, when it doesn't limit the number of other city licenses. The

See **COUNCIL** on page 2a

Staples EDA okays loan for local startup

By Tom Crawford
News Editor

A new loan for a new production company in the Staples Industrial Building was approved Jan. 26 at the monthly meeting of the Staples Economic Development Authority (SEDA).

The PCM Products company owned by Bill Paulson has been located in the SEDA Industrial Building

for most of the past year, with orders for the company's specialty ag products and other custom molded rubber parts coming in so steadily he cannot handle them with current equipment and operating capital.

The EDA board approved Executive Director Jerel Nelsen's recommendation to provide a \$50,000 contribution to a total loan package of \$300,000, which will have a 90 percent Small Business Administration guarantee. Nelsen said all five partners in the loan package will have a shared first position on the loan, which will be at 8 percent interest for ten years. Partners and the amounts they will provide are Unity Bank \$140,000; Staples EDA \$50,000; Initiative Foundation (Little Falls) \$50,000; North Central EDA (Region 5) \$30,000 and Todd-Wadena Electric \$30,000. Previous smaller loans from SEDA and some of the other lenders to Paulson will be paid off as part of this financ-

See **SEDA** on page 3a

'Feed My Starving Children' event is this weekend

Thanks to the overwhelming response from the Staples and Motley communities, there is money and more than enough volunteers to put together 125,000 meals for the Feed My Starving Children (FMSC) event this weekend.

"The response has been unbelievably fantastic," committee member Lee Jenkins reported Feb. 2. "We're over our goal for putting together 125,000 meals; and we got permission to add more cell groups...so many people have wanted to volunteer."

Initially, 500 volunteers and \$17,000 were needed in order to conduct the FMSC event in Staples.

There are now over 600 volunteers signed up to each work a two-hour shift during the course of the weekend. In addition, Jenkins said there is \$18,000 currently in the bank for FMSC, but the pledges bring the total to \$21,500. "I believe the money will all come in," Jenkins added.

The Twin-Cities based FMSC event is scheduled for Feb. 6 and 7 at Central Lakes College in Staples. It is being made possible through a partnership between churches in Staples and Motley and FMSC.

"Doors open at 7:30 Saturday morning; and 8 a.m. on Sunday," Jenkins said. "We (committee members) participated in a walk-through of the event last night and four people from FMSC will be here this weekend to help us."

Although they don't need any more volunteers; money is still being accepted to help pay for the meals which cost 17 cents each.

To donate, send check payable to SM Community Packing Event to First International Bank and Trust, PO Box 40, Staples, MN 56479, or donate online at www.fmsc.org/mobilepack/donate (Event Number: 1002-87).

"This community has really come together," Jenkins said. "It's awesome."



Sno Daze royalty

Savanna Hill and Jason Johnson were crowned as queen and king of the Staples Motley High School Sno Daze Monday afternoon in a ceremony at the high school. Events this week include a visit Wednesday to the Care Center; trips Thursday to Sacred Heart Area School at 9:30 a.m. and Motley Staples Middle School at 2:30 p.m. The Sno Daze dance will be at T Maxwell's on Saturday, Feb. 13, from 8-11 p.m.

School payments delayed to Staples Motley

The Staples Motley School District is among those whose state aid payments will be delayed because of shortfalls in the state budget.

Payments for Mar. 15, Mar. 30 and April 15 for an estimated total of \$1,337,200 will be delayed until May 30, according to a press release from the Minnesota Department of Education.

The payment delay is allowed under state statute and is implemented under a specific formula. It will apply only to school districts with an unreserved operating fund balance over a certain level.

This payment delay was not totally unexpected given the state's projected budget issues. At their Jan. 19 meeting the Staples Motley School Board gave administration permission to investigate aid anticipation borrowing for the remainder of this fiscal

year. School Business Manager Bob Hamann said they were "looking at the investments we have to see if we can get by in a pinch. We may have enough on hand to get by with normal operating costs."

Hamann said the district doesn't want to borrow and have to pay interest, but "We may not have any choice. We don't want to run cash short."

His office is investigating the rates to borrow and comparing to the potential investment rates. If they have to borrow, they will hope to be able to put the funds into short term investments where the interest can offset some of the costs.

Usually aid anticipation borrowing takes place in August. The Staples Motley School District hasn't

See **SCHOOL** on page 11a

Hello, Readers,

It's Thursday, Feb 4, the 35th day of 2010, with 330 days remaining.

The Feed My Starving Children meal packing event is this Saturday and Sunday at Central Lakes College.

Where in the World?

News: 1-3, 10-12A
Opinion: 4A
Current Happenings: 5A
Life Currents: 6-7A
Public Notices: 8-9A
Sports: 1, 6B
Crow Wing Currents: 2-3B
Classifieds: 4-5B

LCT play: 2A

Library opens: 3A

Council: 2B

Wrestlers: 6B

Weather

Last Week High/Low Precip.

Jan 25	13	6
Jan 26	7	-9
Jan 27	6	-7
Jan 28	11	-10
Jan 29	11	-16
Jan 30	13	-9
Jan 31	12	-8

This Week's Forecast High/Low Cond.

Feb 4	29	18	Cloudy
Feb 5	28	14	Snowy
Feb 6	19	10	Snow
Feb 7	18	1	Snow
Feb 8	16	0	Sun/Cld



Where did you get this idea?

Madelyn Erbe and Molly Lindgren answered questions from judge Kathy Odden on their Science Fair project displayed at Staples Elementary School Jan. 29. Students in fourth and fifth grades are encouraged to enter the Science Fair sponsored by the Freshwater

Education District. Volunteers are asked to critique the projects in two categories - Experiment or Research - and are encouraged to meet the budding student scientists and ask questions. See results on page 12a. (Staples World photo by Janice Winter)