Staples World
Staples, Minnesota
Thursday, February 23, 2017
$1

Men's Chorus sings at Carnegie Hall



Ready to sing at Carnegie Hall

A contingent of men from the Staples Area Men's Chorus had the opportunity to sing at Carnegie Hall in New York City in a combined chorus under the direction of Lee Nelson, front center. Rob Freelove, SAMC director, is on the left and Kevin Olsen, SAMC president-elect, is on the right. Behind them are most of the SAMC members who made the trip. (Submitted photo)

By Jerry Reck
Staples Area Men's Chorus

Every now and then life will offer you a once-in-a-life-time opportunity and you will need to decide - "Do I take it or let it go by and hope for another one someday?"

On Thursday, Feb. 16, 28 members of the Staples Area Men's Chorus (SAMC) along with 29 friends and family members grabbed their opportunity. They accepted the invitation from Distinguished Concerts International New York (DCINY) to join a select international chorus and perform the musical composition, "Testament of Freedom" in Carnegie Hall, New York City.

Their whirlwind journey began when they boarded a bus in Staples at 5:45 a.m. and traveled to Minneapolis to catch their flight to New York. No time was lost by most of the entourage as they went looking for Broadway tickets, explored new restaurants, Times Square and other NYC attractions. Others attended an information session provided by DCINY to gather all the details of the weekend's practice and performance schedules.

On Friday the chorus was expected at a practice session from 12:45-5 p.m. Many had to begin the day early if they wanted to get to any of the sites before practice.

The practice session was an incredible learning opportunity and was a chance for everyone to learn more about the composition of the chorus. We discovered that, in addition to having 28 SAMC members, the chorus included members from:

The Wartburg College Ritterchor, Iowa; West Point Alumni Glee Club, Washington D.C.; Jamestown Choralaires, North Dakota; Avon Old Farms School Riddlers, Connecticut; Metropolitan Men's Choir, Minneapolis; Big Canoe Chapel Men's Chorus, Georgia; South-

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Connections High School to close

Students, staff react

By Mark Anderson
News Editor

Connections High School will not open again in the fall of 2017, but Staples-Motley High School will continue to support the project-based learning that makes the school unique.

At their Feb. 7 meeting the Connections High School Board voted to give up autonomy and roll the school into a program within the high school.

Connections has been operating as a "school within a school," with its own school board. Connections students are able to take additional classes in Staples-Motley High School.

According to Superintendent Mary Klamm, the biggest setback to the new school came when it was denied charter status from the Minnesota Department of Education.

"That meant the school did not receive up to $200,000 in Minnesota State start-up funds to get the school off the ground," she said. They did, however, receive a smaller grant from the Blandin Foundation to support their efforts to open their doors.

In order to stay open, the school estimated they would need 40 students per year, but in the four years of the school's existence, they've been below 30 students every year.

Taeliegh Marlowe has been a Connections student all four years of her high school career. She said she prefers project-based learning to traditional classes. "It's more independent, and you don't have a lot of homework," said Marlowe. "It's fun, you do what you want to do. It's still a good education because you get to explore more."

Alyssa Vanderhoof, another Connections student, agreed, saying "We get the same education if not more. We understand (the material) in our own way, not just what the book says. We're able to investigate more and make more personal connections."

Connections student Shelby Brusewitz said "I like the relationships we

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Doing well with project-based education

From left, Connections High School students Alyssa Vanderhoof, Taeleigh Marlowe and Shelby Brusewitz. All three believe the Connections educational format of project-based curriculum fits them well. Marlowe will graduate with a Connections High School degree this spring while Vanderhoof and Brusewitz would like to continue with the program even though it is ending as a separate school. (Staples World photo by Mark Anderson)

Staples City leaning toward lodging tax

By Mark Anderson
News Editor

The Staples City Council seemed to be open to implementing a lodging tax before the new Timberlake Hotel opens in May. The tax would cover all the lodging facilities within the city.

City Administrator Jerel Nelsen said most cities that have a hotel also have a lodging tax. The tax would only be paid by people who stay at the facilities. Nelsen said anyone who has ever stayed at a hotel has likely paid the same tax in other communities.

According to state laws, a city can approve the lodging tax up to three

See **COUNCIL** on page 3a

Hello, Readers,

Folk singer Woody Guthrie writes one of his best-known songs, "This Land is Your Land," on Feb. 23, 1940. The song reflected not only Guthrie's support for the common folk, but also his deep love for his country. The verse celebrated the beauty and grandeur of America while the chorus drove home the populist sentiment that the nation belonged to all the people, not merely the rich and powerful.

Where in the World?
Township elections: ***8 & 9A***

Obituary
Esther Unruh

Thank you for subscribing!

Don and Gloria, still in love after all these years

By Dawn Timbs
Staples World reporter



Renewing their vows

Longtime sweethearts Don and Gloria Norton, Staples, renewed their vows on their 70th wedding anniversary Feb. 14, at Lakewood Health System Care Center, where they now reside. The couple shared a kiss and a smile after exchanging rings and a heartfelt promise to love each other 'for better or worse, for richer or poorer, in sickness and in health.' (Staples World photos by Dawn Timbs)

Pachelbel's 'Canon in D' played softly as Don and Gloria Norton were wheeled in to the dining room to renew their wedding vows Feb. 14.

The special ceremony commemorating their 70 years of marriage was held at Lakewood Health System Care Center in Staples, where the Nortons now reside.

Six of the Nortons' seven children were in attendance that day...Kathy 'Kate' Norton, Maryland; Tim, Osakis and Texas; Mike, Mora; Kevin, Hibbing; Shawn, Idaho; and Colleen Anderson, Virden, Manitoba. Their son Dennis, of Colorado, was unable to attend due to a snowstorm. Several grandchildren and great-grandchildren were there to witness their grandparents renew their vows.

Also in attendance were two of Gloria's bridesmaids: Bertha Mae (Menefee) Johnston, Anoka; and Ailene Norton, Don's cousin and Gloria's best friend from years ago. Ailene, who served as Maid of Honor 70 years ago, introduced the two sweethearts and was thrilled when they decided to tie the knot. "They call me 'Cupid,'" Ailene said at the celebration.

Don, 94, recently moved to the care center after breaking his hip last September. Gloria, 91, lives in the facility's memory care unit.

"When my dad was hurting, he told me multiple times that the one thing on his bucket list was to make it to his 70th wedding anniversary," Kevin shared.

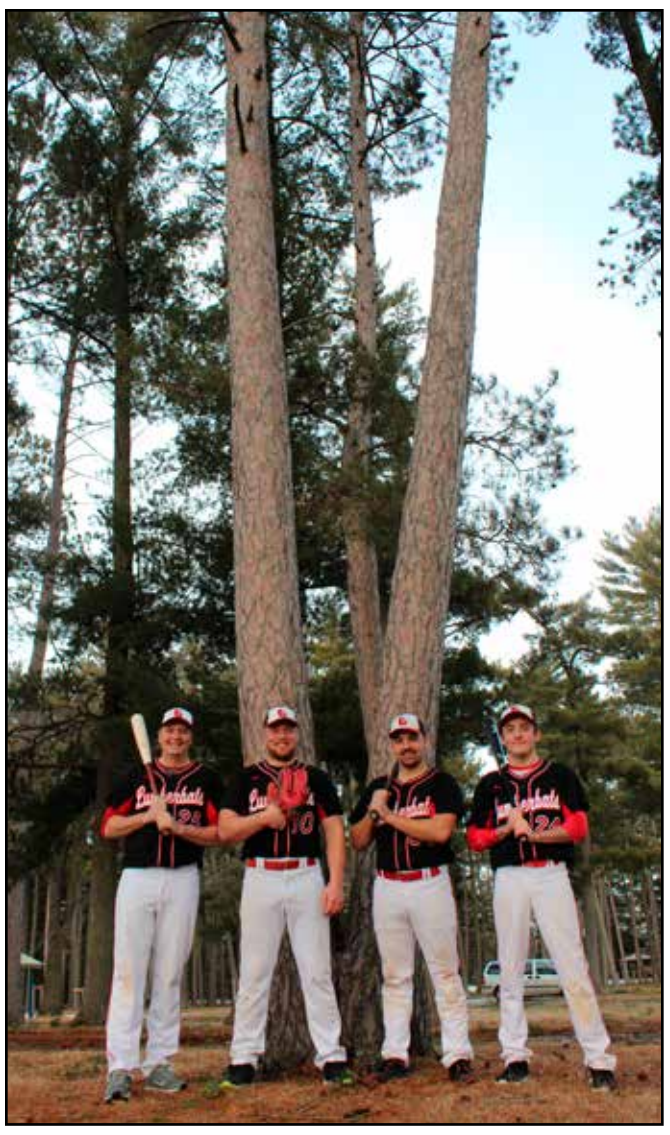
That day became a reality Feb. 14, 70 years to the day that Don and Gloria each said, 'I do,' at Trinity Methodist Church in Northeast Minneapolis. "That was my mother's church and I was baptized there," Don shared after the ceremony.

With daughter Colleen serving as her mother's attendant; and son, Tim, acting as groomsman for his dad, Kevin (who is a pastor) led his parents in reciting the vows they first voiced in 1947.

Prior to having his mother repeat the vows after him, Kevin reminded Gloria that the man sitting next to her was her husband and that they were celebrating their 70th wedding anniversary.

In answer to the opening prayer, it seemed the spirit of the sacred cere-

See **NORTON** on page 3a



'In the second month of '17...'

... Paul Bunyan gave to me, two tall pines.' Pictured above at Pine Grove Park in Staples are members of the Lumberjacks baseball team, Staples, recipients of the second gift from the giant lumberjack. From left are Jason Bachmann, Blake Petrich, Austin Redemske, Tanner Fischer. To see a video performance of the Lumberbats' song, visit the Staples World website at www.staplesworld.com or our Facebook page. The Staples World will be highlighting a variety of area landmarks during the debut year of 'The Twelve Months of '17' sung to the tune of 'The Twelve Days of Christmas.' Stay tuned to find out what Paul Bunyan delivers each month. (Staples World photo by Dawn Timbs)

Live First grant applications open

First International Bank & Trust announces their third annual community giving campaign.

This campaign encourages community members to apply for a Live First Community Grant which awards $5,000 to a project or cause that makes a difference in your community. Three runners-up will also receive $1,000 each, as voted on by social media followers.

Applications are due March 12. Voting is open from March 13 to March 31. Winners will be announced on April 11.

All of the details can be found on their blog post: https://firstintlbank.com/blog/apply-for-the-3rd-annual-live-first-community-grant/

Garden Day

The Todd County Master Gardeners in conjunction with the Sauk River Watershed will present the Todd County Garden Day Saturday, March 11, from 8:15 a.m. to 3:05 p.m. at the First Baptist Church, 401 4th St S, Long Prairie.

Early bird registration deadline is Feb. 24. Registration fee includes morning refreshments, lunch, sessions and door prizes.

Keynote speaker is Stan Tekiela a naturalist, wildlife photographer and writer, along with the originator of the popular state-specific field guides. Over the past three decades Stan has authored more than 130 field guides, nature appreciation books and wildlife audio CDs for nearly every state in the ncountry, presenting many species of birds, mammals, reptiles and amphibians, trees wildflowers and cacti. HHe holds a Bachelor of Science degree in Natural History from the University of Minnesota and as an active professional naturalist for more than 25 years, Stan studies and photographs wildlife throughout the U.S. and has received various national and regional awards for his books and photographs. A well-known columnist and radio personality, his syndicated column appears in over 20 newspapers and his wildlife programs are broadcast on a number of Midwest radio stations.

There will be four choices of sessions featuring speakers on; Creating Wildlife Habitat; Creating Curb Appeal; Smart Design for the Long Haul; Basics of Home Canning; Preserving Food Safely; Pollinator Habitats; Shoreland Restoration; Raised Beds, High Tunnels and Soil Friendly Practices; Bucket Gardening; Buck Thorn Treatment and Prevention; Perennials for Shade Gardens; Hydrangeas; Creating from Nature's Bounty; Maple Syrup Production; Tree Planting; Wild about Minnesota Birds and Natural Disaster in the Garden.

For questions or to register, contact Wannetta Ehnes at 218-738-6342 or 218-639-9316; or Shannon Wettstein at 320-547-1651.



Goofy hoops for Special Olympics

Characters from Disney movies entertained Special Olympics athletes and fans during a break in the action during the Special Olympics basketball event at Staples-Motley High School on Feb. 15. Varsity basketball players donned the costumes and played games to entertain fans. Pictured from left, Brayden Losh as Goofy, Chase Davis as the Teapot, Josh Lombard as Donald Duck and Scout Strickland as the Kool-Aid Man. Not pictured, Tristan Etzler as Mickey Mouse and Isiah Ross-Bahn as Cruella DeVille. (Staples World photos by Mark Anderson)



Cardinals ready to play

Borden Bonne gets ready to take a shot as Gaven Christensen moves in for the rebound, in the back, Colton Fraley, Corey Ekholm, Maykayla Lambert and Logan Paklonsky get in on the action as the Staples-Motley Special Olympics basketball team warms up before a game during the Special Olympics basketball event on Feb. 15.

CONNECTIONS continued from page 1a

School brought project-based, individualized learning to students

have with the teachers." Instead of the teacher telling the class what to study, Connections teachers help them create their individualized learning plan that meets the state curriculum standards.

Klamm said the school is still committed to project-based learning, and to teachers Chris Trout and Joy Rippentrop, who have become experts in the field. Klamm said they may teach other classes as well as helping the project-based students.

Trout and Klamm both see positives in closing Connections as a separate school, especially in that some students in the high school can take part in project-based learning.

"This option will also give many students a great deal of flexibility within their schedules," Klamm said. "We all want to equip each and every one of our students with the tools and resources to succeed – both in school and in their post-secondary future."

Trout said "I don't think it will have a huge impact on what we're doing in the classroom."

That's good news for Rylie Rau, a 9th grade student who started her first year at Connections this year.

"I absolutely love it," said Rau. "I've always been told that I'm a creative and open-minded person, so when I came here, the possibilities kept on flowing, it was great," she said.

Rau said one project leads into another as she finds creative ways of exploring the curriculum standards. Most of her projects have been partnerships with Lizzie Boyer, another first year student at Connections. They've worked together on rearranging the periodic table, writing a history timeline, writing a play and putting on a fashion show about atomic models. They also collaborated on a weaving project with a loom that was part of their indigenous people unit.

Boyer said she likes project-based education better than traditional classroom settings.

"If I get mad I can just put headphones on and research whatever," said Boyer. "I'm better working with hands-on projects than lectures, I don't like sitting in class."

Marlowe will graduate this year with a Connections High School diploma. All the other students mentioned in this story said they would prefer to continue their project-based curriculum.

"All my four years will be this, definitely," said Rau.

Some of the students believe the change could make the school stronger. Brusewitz said it may allow some students more flexibility in certain subjects. "People can learn better in one subject using project-based, I know it helps me learn better," she said.

Vanderhoof said there's currently a divide between Connections students and the rest of Staples-Motley High School, even though most Connections students take some classes in the high school. She thought that more students in the traditional school could benefit by taking a few project-based classes and it would help bridge that divide.

"Connections High School was a dream come true for many school and community leaders," said Superintendent Klamm. "The school opened its doors in September 2013, and brought a new standards-based option to learning, focusing on student needs, interests, projects and their future career interests."



Creative curriculum

Rylie Rau and Lizzie Boyer show their version of the atomic model created by scientist Earnest Rutherford, who discovered that atoms have a nucleus. They will use their atomic models as part of a fashion show. (Staples World photo by Mark Anderson)

Have You HEARD?
Presented by
Steve Trebil, BC-HIS



OPEN DISCUSSION

Open-fit hearing instruments have become immensely popular because they deliver natural sound quality. This is due, in large part, to the fact that the open-fit design eliminates the muffled effect that might come with other hearing instruments. While similar to a traditional behind-the-ear (BTE) hearing instrument, an open-fit instrument has a much more compact design. As a result, an open-fit sits discreetly behind the ear of wearers with barely a hint of noticeability. Sound is delivered from the main body of the instrument through a slender, clear plastic tube and tip that practically disappears in the wearer's ear. Because the tip leaves the ear canal open, wearers get only the frequencies they need without any stuffy feeling in their ears.

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NORTON continued from page 1a

Vows endured for 70 years



Love of a lifetime

Don and Gloria Norton, Staples, were married Feb. 14, 1947, at Trinity Methodist Church in Northeast Minneapolis. They recently celebrated their 70th wedding anniversary at the Lakewood Health System Care Center in Staples, where they currently reside.

mony awakened something in Gloria, who smiled and recited with clarity her wedding vows. Don would repeat those same vows with conviction...promising to take Gloria to be his wife, to have and to hold... for better, for worse, for richer, for poorer, in sickness and in health, to love and to cherish her, until they are parted by death.

They proceeded to exchange rings, as well as a kiss, which elicited smiles from Gloria and Don that were as big as the ones they wore in their wedding photo.

The Nortons' son, Mike, sang, "O Danny Boy," during the service, a favorite of his dad's. "Dad had requested that Mike sing this at his funeral," Kevin said, adding that as long as they were all together, it would mean a lot to have his dad hear it while he is still alive.

After Don and Gloria were once again pronounced 'husband and wife,' the family invited the guests to stay for a reception, complete with wedding cake.

Friends and family members took turns congratulating the Valentine's Day sweethearts, sharing memories throughout the afternoon.

Gloria was the only girlfriend he ever had, Don said of his bride. They had both grown up in Northeast Minneapolis, but their paths didn't cross until they were in their early 20's.

Don had been in the army and upon his return from service in the South Pacific during WWII, met Gloria.

He recalled the night his cousin, Ailene, stopped by to say 'hello' and to introduce him to her best friend, Gloria Olson. "It was my first night home from being overseas. They knocked on the door and I was in my pajamas," Don laughed.

It was pretty much "love at first sight" Don continued, adding that they started dating shortly after that encounter. Something inside him said, "I'd better grab this one before it's too late," Don said.

They were married on Valentine's Day, 1947. Don was a member of the Minnesota National Guard, which took the family to Alabama for awhile, but raised their kids mostly in the Twin Cities area... New Brighton, St. Francis, East Bethel, Nowthen and Ramsey. They moved to Sylvan Shores around 1975, eventually retiring in the Staples area.

In addition to their love for each other, Don and Gloria's faith was always a priority in their lives. They were always involved at a church (upon their move to Staples, became members at Staples Alliance Church) and their passion for God was passed down to their children. Three of their sons (Mike, Kevin and Shawn) went on to become pastors.

In his work as a pastor and volunteer law enforcement chaplain, Kevin said that he has seen many unstable and broken homes. "To my knowledge, my mom and dad never used the 'D' word (divorce) in their arguments or discussions." He went on to say that he had seen his parents disagree and become frustrated on occasion, "But I cannot remember an argument."

He remembers his dad working two to three jobs at a time to provide for his family and going without supper on occasion in order for the family to be fed. His mom was a homemaker until Kevin was in junior high and he remembers she was always there when he got home from school. "I never felt tension or insecurity or unloved," Kevin said. The Norton family may have been poor financially, Kevin went on, "But we didn't know it because of the security and sacrifice of our parents."

When asked what he appreciates most about his parents' relationship, Kevin answered, "Their love was genuine, shared and virtuous."

Gloria has always been easy to love, Don said at the recent reception. "She has a great disposition," he went on noting that his wife was always calm and collected about everything. They laughed a lot together over the years, too. "We never had a run out ever. And I never made her cry. If I had, I'd never forgive myself. I love her and I would never want to hurt her."

Yes, they had their share of hardships over the years, but through it all their love endured. Those vows they recited 70 years ago are still holding strong.



Bridesmaids

Ailene Norton (left) of Blaine; and Bertha Mae (Menefee) Johnston, Anoka, served as bridesmaids at the wedding of Don and Gloria Norton in 1947. They were in attendance at the couple's 70th wedding anniversary Feb. 14, in Staples. Ailene, who spent her life as a missionary in Ethiopia and Eretria, is Don's cousin and was Gloria's best friend when they were younger. She introduced the two to each other and was thrilled when they ended up marrying. "They call me 'Cupid,' Ailene said at the anniversary celebration. (Staples World photo by Dawn Timbs)



Family celebration

Six of Don and Gloria Norton's seven children attended a celebration in honor of their 70th wedding anniversary Feb. 14, at Lakewood Health System Care Center in Staples. Pictured above, the family gathers around the wedding cake following the 'renewal of vows' ceremony. Front row, from left: Don; sons Mike, Mora; and Shawn, Idaho; Gloria. Back row: daughter Kathy (Kate), Maryland; sons Tim, Osakis; and Kevin, Hibbing; and daughter Colleen, Virden, Manitoba. The couple's son, Dennis, of Colorado, was unable to attend the celebration due to a recent snow storm. Also in attendance were several grandchildren and great-grandchildren, friends; and residents and staff at the care center. (Staples World photo by Dawn Timbs)



Let the games begin at Project Together

Amy Dinkel-VanValkenburg, standing, and Nancy Quance will have a variety of board games and card games as well as bingo for their first Project Together activity night March 6 at the Staples Community Center. These special nights are for adults with disabilities and their caregivers for education, recreation and socialization. Call 218-894-5315 to register. (Staples World photo by Brenda Halvorson)

Project Together plans monthly activities

By Brenda Halvorson, General Manager

Adults with disabilities and their caregivers will have a new option for social activities beginning in March.

Project Together, a program to provide educational, recreational and socializing opportunities for adults with differing abilities, is beginning a schedule of activities every Monday from 5:45-7:45 p.m. They will meet in the senior citizen room at the Staples Community Center at 425 4th St. NE.

The schedule for March is:

- March 6 - Bingo and board game night
- March 13 - St. Patrick's Day crafting
- March 20 - Cooking night
- March 27 - Pool night

There is no fee for these activities. However, participants are asked to register by calling 218-894-5315 or emailing Nancy Quance at nquance@fed.k12.mn.us or Amy Dinkel-VanValkenburg at avanvalkenburg@fed.k12.mn.us. The pre-registration allows them to assure enough supplies for all participants.

"We want to emphasize that the adult caregivers can participate in these activities along with the adult with disabilities," said Quance.

She also noted that all adults with disabilities are welcome, whether they live at home or independently or in a group home.

"We will try to make activities free," said VanValkenburg, the coordinator for Adult Basic Education and Project Together. "We may have to charge some minimal fees in the future depending on the activity, but we'll try to keep them as minimal as possible."

VanValkenburg said she and Quance were also seeking options for transportation, if that was a barrier for some potential participants. However, no plans or policies have been determined at this time.

If response is favorable for the Monday night activies, excursions could be added in the future, such as to Camp Confidence or to the Lindberg Center in Little Falls.

Project Together in Long Prairie has good participation in their activity night so VanValkenburg said they might partner with that group for events, such as the Cinco de Mayo event.

Quance will be the coordinator for the Staples events. She was a special education teacher for over 25 years and has also worked in group homes.

"This is something these adults can be part of and get beyond the four walls of where they live," Quance said.

Project Together also expects to be part of June Fest in Motley and Railroad Days in Staples this summer.

Project Together was started by a Staples family whose son had Down Syndrome.

Activities will be posted monthly, but are subject to change based on registration numbers or poor weather conditions. Updates will be posted on their Facebook page.

COUNCIL continued from page 1a

City to take over two areas of electrical service

percent of the cost of the room, but all of that money must go to marketing the community in the form of a convention and visitors bureau. Nelsen said if the city imposes the tax, they have to designate a nonprofit entity that qualifies as a convention and visitors bureau.

Nelsen said one such group could be the LEAP (Leadership, Engagement, Advocacy, Positiveness) marketing committee that is already working to promote the community.

Council member Rachel Johnson asked if it would be better to open the selection up for bids, rather than pursue the LEAP option. Council member Brian Fisher agreed that there should be more choices. "We should compare it to what other cities are doing," he said.

Mayor Chris Etzler said since LEAP already has a wide-ranging marketing plan, "if we go other places we are recreating another wheel."

Council member Mary Theurer said she is in favor of a lodging tax and "the additional dollars to promote the community," but would like to see all the options with "facts and figures" about what the tax would be for.

Etzler said "this is a game-changer, the community has never had the funds to market."

Nelsen said the council can discuss the lodging tax further at their next meeting in February, and they could have an ordinance to approve the tax at their first meeting in March, which will be March 14.

Nelsen said the communities in this area he has checked into charge the maximum three percent lodging tax, which would be his recommendation to the council.

Electrical territory agreement

After months of negotiations with Todd-Wadena Electric Cooperative, the council approved an agreement to take over two areas of the electrical territory in the city. Todd-Wadena currently covers the area north of Warner Road, and other portions of the city.

The agreement is for the City of Staples to take over a portion south of Warner Road, between Airport Road and 4th Street NE. Most of that area is undeveloped, but there are several houses included.

A larger portion of the Staples Industrial Park is also a part of the acquisition, west of Airport Road and north of Prairie Ave. NW, which includes the Staples Airport and McKechnie Tooling. The McKechnie portion will be transferred in 10 years.

Besides the airport, most of that area is undeveloped and ready for expansion of the industrial park. Nelsen said that portion was key to the agreement, because it gives the city the opportunity to expand along with the industrial park. Council Member Theurer said "it will be our focus to build on that side of the road."

Council member Doug Case said he thought the territory acquisition would be a larger portion of the city. Council member Roy Miles said it was not cost effective to have to buy all the equipment and territory. "It would take many, many years to make it up," said Miles.

The agreement includes a clause stating that the city will not expand into the Todd-Wadena territory for 16 years. Nelsen said that number was so that Todd-Wadena would have more accurate projections if they knew what their territory would be for the next 16 years.

Case questioned that provision, saying "in 16 years we'll be going back to where we were yesterday."

Nelsen said that in 16 years, the city may be in a better position to acquire more territory. "We will have the McKechnie for five years and debt service will be in a different situation. At that time, the Public Works Commission can decide how aggressive or not aggressive they want to be."

The council approved the agreement with Case voting against it.

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The importance of middle school conferences

- o -
Staples-Motley Schools



By Chris Halverson
Motley-Staples Middle School Principal
- o -

Don't let the weather fool you. We still have four months of school left and plenty of time for our students to take advantage of the great educational opportunities we offer at Motley-Staples Middle School. This means the students have a lot of time to make improvements or continue to give great effort toward growth and success. One of these opportunities comes in the form of parent conferences on Feb. 27.

Our staff is proud of their students and want the best for them and their families. This is shown by their constant long hours and passion for student growth and success. The Motley-Staples Middle School Staff understands the power of positive relationships with students and their families. Our goal is to be consistent and open with all communication throughout the year so these conferences are a review of the goals and plans that have already been discussed.

Teamwork that's needed for the ensured success of your child requires work and involvement from both schools and families. The following suggestions may help our teamwork to be most successful when it comes to student growth and success.

First, if possible, schedule a time to meet and be ready for a two-way conversation. When you tell the teacher about your child's skills, interests, needs and dreams, the teacher can better help your child

Second, to get ready for the conversation, look at your child's homework, tests and notices before the conference. Be sure to bring a list of questions you would like to ask the teacher.

Third, just like you, teachers want your child to succeed. You will probably hear positive feedback about your child's progress and areas for improvement. Be prepared by thinking about your child's strengths and challenges beforehand. Be ready to ask questions about ways you and the teacher can help your child with some of his or her challenges.

In the end, this is communication that's part of an ongoing process for the ultimate success of the student in common. We make a difference together.

Because these very important conferences are an ongoing process, another key action is to have follow-up plans in place. Write down the things that you and the teacher will each do to support your child. You can do this during the conference or after. Write down what you will do, when and how often. Make plans to check in with the teacher in the coming months. Schedule another time to talk. Communication should go both ways. Ask how you can contact the teacher. And don't forget to ask how the teacher will contact you, too. There are many ways to communicate: in person, by phone, notes, email. Make a plan that works for both of you. Be sure to schedule at least one more time to talk in the next few months.

Most importantly, talk to your child. The parent-teacher conference is all about your child, so don't forget to include him or her. Share with your child what you learned. Show him or her how you will help with learning at home. Ask for his or her suggestions.

"It is a great time to be a Cardinal." Come and join in this important partnership, which is about the success and future of our Motley-Staples Middle School students.



Minnesotans need quality, affordable health insurance

By Governor Mark Dayton, State Senator Tony Lourey and State Representative Clark Johnson

Since 1859, the Sexton family has owned and operated the Irish Ridge Dairy Farm in Millville, about 25 miles northeast of Rochester. Sheri and Vince Sexton run the family dairy today.

Like generations before them, Sheri and Vince work hard every day to produce high-quality milk and dairy products to provide better lives for themselves and their family.

But rising health insurance costs have thrown them into a financial crisis. Like most farmers, the Sextons have always bought their own health insurance on the individual market. Last year, they paid $1,580 a month for their health coverage. This year, their premiums went up 40 percent, to $2,200 per month.

Altogether, the Sextons are paying $26,400 in premiums this year, for a policy with a $13,000 deductible.

Thanks to the premium relief the Legislature and the governor authorized in late January, the Sextons will save about $6,600 on their annual premiums this year.

But even with that relief, they will still pay almost $20,000 for a health policy they can barely afford to use.

The Sextons' story is not unique. Many thousands of hard-working Minnesotans have been saddled with steep health insurance premium increases and huge deductibles - making quality health care unaffordable.

Their experiences show how urgent this problem is, and why we must work together to help the Sextons and so many other Minnesotans to buy the quality health care they need, at prices they can afford.

The Sextons told us, "Something has to change." We agree. And we have a solution.

In 1992, Gov. Arne Carlson and legislators from both parties created MinnesotaCare - a state-run health insurance plan that now provides more than 107,000 Minnesotans with affordable health coverage for themselves and their families.

And, with less than three percent in annual overhead, MinnesotaCare has proven that it can be run with more efficiency and accountability than many commercial plans now being sold on the individual market. It is a nation-leading, bipartisan solution that has worked in Minnesota for 25 years.

We believe Minnesotans should have the freedom to buy their health insurance through MinnesotaCare. Their premiums would cover the full cost of their policies, so there would be no ongoing subsidies from the state. The MinnesotaCare "Buy-in Option" would provide a more affordable choice for another 100,000 Minnesotans, who now buy coverage for themselves or their families on the individual market.

Another strong benefit of this proposal, particularly for Minnesotans in rural areas of the state, is the broad networks of physicians and care providers available through MinnesotaCare. Allowing more Minnesotans to buy-in to MinnesotaCare would offer many families a real option to choose their doctor. This is in stark contrast to the single, narrow network of insurance products available in large sections of the state.

Republicans, Democrats and all Minnesotans agree: we need more affordable health insurance. We also agree that there needs to be more competition to give consumers better choices while buying the coverage they need at prices they can afford.

We ought to take our lesson from a program - MinnesotaCare - that has worked successfully for decades, and now give more Minnesotans the choice to buy this high-quality insurance at lower prices.

It's time for a real solution to rising health insurance costs. That is what Minnesotans expect. That is what they deserve.

Letter to the Editor

NOTE: This letter was originally written to staff in the school district at the end of the day of the Special Olympics basketball tournament.

Special Olympics basketball

As I sit still basking in awe and pride of this day and all that occurred, I want to say THANK you.

Thank you to our staff - you have allowed us to not only host but execute a day of great success. Thanks to your willingness to excuse students from the traditional learning of the classroom to learning skills today of patience, kindness, encouragement, leadership, and fun.

Thank you to Leah Wolkow, Area 5 Program manager, Mike Schmidt, Julie Richgels, Kristie Johnson - You all are encouraging, supporting, fantastic leaders in what you do day in and day out. Thank you for the referees who came to officiate the events today.

Thank you to our Student Athletes. We hosted 250 Athletes today, and it was incredible to see them shine. There was laughter, focus, competition, fun, team work, and encouragement today on so many levels. Our Staples-Motley athletes applied themselves in individual skills and they worked hard to also win the championship in their division in traditional full court basketball. It was so wonderful to see the focus, excitement, teamwork, and joy on their faces today on the court. Accomplishment was seen in our gyms today on so many levels.

Thank you to our Student Volunteers. I am very proud of how our students demonstrated themselves as student leaders, as hosts to this special event, as models of how to have fun and keep trying. Many times over today they demonstrated leadership, kindness, patience, and overall FUN. They were more than willing to jump in, ask what needed done, encouraged and cheered on athletes all day long, and also provided a bit of Disney (Thank you Lorna Klefsaas!) basketball entertainment during lunch.

In our team traditional competition today, the Staples-Motley Cardinals faced Crosby-Ironton. The final score: SM 44, CI: 16

In the championship game against Pillager, Staples-Motley came out on top with a score of 28-24. Taking first place in full court, division 1.

Overall, the day was truly one that warms my heart. It was full of great "moments" on so many levels from young 8 year old athletes up to adult athletes, coaches, referees, students, staff, parents and families. Today was a celebration in so many ways. Thank you all for your part in contributing to this day. It is an honor and a privilege to be part of the Cardinal community.

Shawna Poncelet
Staples-Motley High School

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St. Paul, MN 55155
651-201-3400
E-mail: mn.gov/governor/contact-us/form/

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Bryan Winkels	218-895-7189
Mary Klamm, Supt.	218-894-5409

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Rachel Johnson	218-8820-5421
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Jerel Nelsen, admin.	218-894-2550

Staples World

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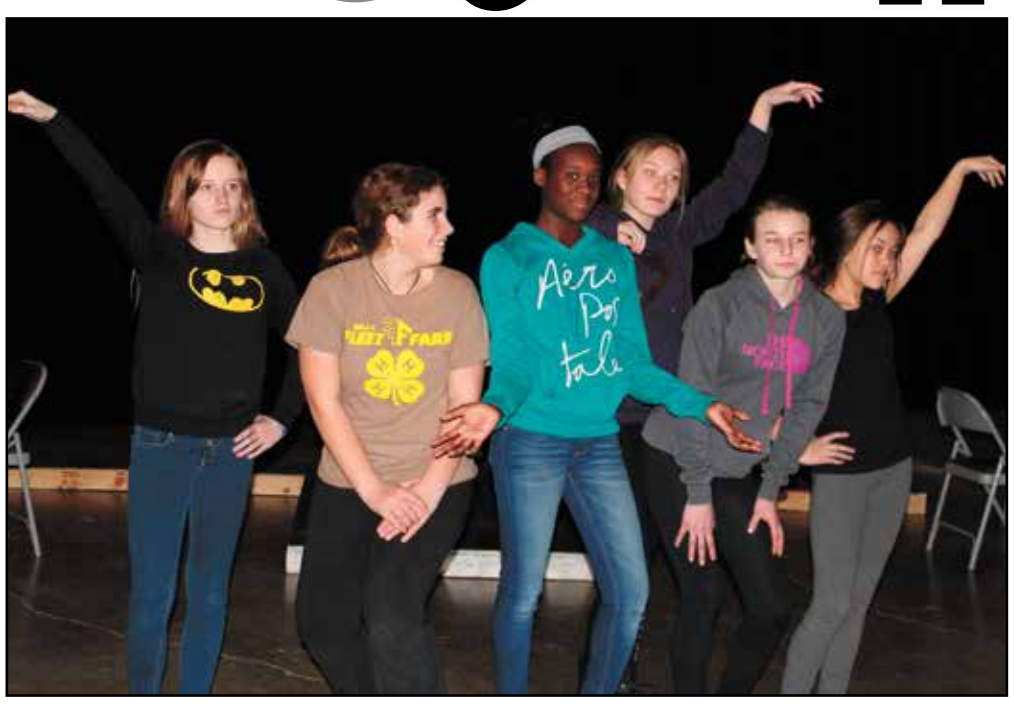
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Bugsy Malone Jr. rehearsals underway



Cast members of Bugsy Malone Jr. have been busy rehearsing for the upcoming production, presented by Motley-Staples Middle School. Pictured above, 'Tallulah & the Girls' rehearse a dance scene. From left are Mackenzie Wilds, Torii Nienow, Brooke Ferdon (Tallulah), Brookelyn Huisenga, Ava Schneider, Libby O'Neil. In lower photo, from left, are Sivert Klefsaas (Bugsy) and Madysen Hull (Blousey). The show will be presented March 10 and 11 at Centennial Auditorium See story for details. (Staples World photos by Dawn Timbs)

Middle School presents Bugsy Malone Jr.

Performances will be March 10 and 11

Motley-Staples Middle School will present Bugsy Malone Jr. Friday, March 10, 7 p.m.; and Saturday, March 11, 2 p.m., at Centennial Auditorium in Staples.

Matthew R. Olsen and Kevin Olsen are co-directing the show, which is a musical comedy based on the hit 1976 film written by Alan Parker, with music and lyrics by Paul Williams.

Other directors for the middle school play include choreographer Brian Sterriker; vocal director Caleb Horn; and assistant director Andrew Bates. Approximately 40 students have been cast in the production.

According to the play's synopsis, two gangs in a fictitious city populated only by children are in a rivalry of Caponeian standards. Dandy Dan's gang has gotten the upper hand since acquiring the "splurge" gun (a weapon that shoots whipped cream).

Bugsy Malone, a one-time boxer, is thrust into the limelight when he becomes the last chance Fat Sam's gang has of surviving. All Bugsy really wants to do is spend time with his new love, Blousey... but that just isn't in the cards for our hero.

Tickets for the show are available in advance at Motley-Staples Middle School; Staples-Motley High School; First International Bank & Trust, Motley and Staples branches; Ace Hardware and True Value Hardware, both Staples; and at the door.

Friends of Library annual meeting

The Friends of the Staples Public Library will hold their annual meeting Monday, Feb. 27, at 5:30 p.m. in the City of Staples council chambers at 122 6th St. NE, Staples.

Agenda items will include a report on activities and acquisitions in 2016, the 2016 financial report, election of board members and officers and plans for 2017.

The organization is dedicated to raising awareness of the library's services and resources. Members also raise funds to support programming, volunteers and to purchase items that fill needs and enhance the library experience.

The board's regular meeting will follow the annual meeting.

The public is welcome and encouraged to attend one or both meetings.

Wadena County Historical Society programs

The Wadena County Historical Society will begin a series of programs Feb. 25, with Living History Day at the Museum. That day, visitors will be greeted by costumed interpreters in the themed rooms of the Wadena County Museum. Now in its third year, Living History Day offers hands on activities for young and old. This year's event also includes actors from Madhatters Community Theater.

The Spring Legacy program series on March 17, will be author William D. Green. His book, "Degrees of Freedom: The Origins of Civil Rights in Minnesota, 1865-1912" spans the half-century after the Civil War and draws a rare picture of black experience in a northern state.

On April 7 Catherine Madison will talk about her book "The War Came Home with Him." This memoir is a heartfelt account of a family fractured by war and its awful aftereffects. It contains the interwoven stories of a young father's three hellish years as a POW in Korea and a daughter's life with the cruel lessons he brought home. Both of these events will be held at the Robertson Theatre.

Other events includeTimothy Berry and the Soul Drums Band on May 5 and local singer/songwriter/storyteller Elisa Korenne on June 18.

In addition to our regular program series, we will offer a noontime series that featured book signings and interviews with Minnesota writers. This will begin March 16 with Bob Riepe. His latest book, "Wrong Turns" a novel based on the true events of the story of Harvey Stull, a Civil War veteran desperate to start a new life by coming to New York Mills.

For more information about these and upcoming programs call 218 631-9079 or email 603wchs@arvig.net.

School board meeting

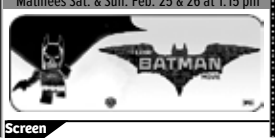
The Staples Motley School Board will meet Monday, Feb. 27, at 7 p.m. in the Staples-Motley High School media center.

Agenda items include:

- Financial items including approval of budget revision #1 and funding information on One to One technology.
- Personnel items incuding approving the spring extracurricular coaching assignments, approve resignations of Rachel Sanders, high school math; Jessica Lancaster, Little Cardinals Academy teacher; and Mark Michel, maintence; approve contract for Mark Michel, elementary custodian; accept retirement of Tammi Brisson.
- Approve extended trip request for Spanish Club in June 2018 to Galapagos Islands.

COZY THEATRE
WADENA, MN

Screen 1 — *HELD OVER 3rd WEEK!*
Fri. thru Thurs. Feb. 24 - March 2
Fri. & Sat. 2 Shows at 7:00 & 9:15
Sun. thru Thurs. 1 Show at 7:00
Matinees Sat. & Sun. Feb. 25 & 26 at 1:15 pm



Screen 2 — *HELD OVER 2nd HILARIOUS WEEK!*
Fri. thru Thurs. Feb. 24 - March 2
Fri. & Sat. 2 Shows at 7:10 & 9:25
Sun. thru Thurs. 1 Show at 7:10
Matinees Sat. & Sun. Feb. 25 & 26 at 1:25 pm

FIST FIGHT [R]

Screen 3
Fri. thru Thurs. Feb. 24 - March 2
Fri. & Sat. 2 Shows at 7:15 & 9:30
Sun. thru Thurs. 1 Show at 7:15
Matinees Sat. & Sun. Feb. 25 & 26 at 1:30 pm



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Monday - Thursday
6-7 p.m. & 9-10 p.m.
Friday, Feb. 24
*FREE Jukebox
Saturday, Feb. 25
*FREE Jukebox
NO MINORS AFTER 8:00 P.M.

Adult & Teen Challenge Choir hosted in Motley

The Motley Free Methodist Church is hosting a free performance by the Central Minnesota Adult & Teen Challenge Choir on Sunday, March 5, at the 9 a.m. and 10:30 a.m. services.

The choir is composed of individuals recovering from drug and alcohol addiction. They are known statewide, having performed at hundreds of churches over the years.

The concert in Motley will feature contemporary gospel and praise songs, as well as inspiring stories of addiction recovery shared by choir members.

For more than 25 years, this organization has been restoring hope to teens and adults struggling with drug and alcohol addiction. They are one of the largest, most effective and most affordable programs in the nation, with campuses in Minneapolis, Brainerd and Duluth.

The event is open to the public and all are welcome.

Motley Free Methodist Church is located at the junction of Hwys 10 and 210. For more information, call 218-352-6888.

Mark Your Calendar

Weekly events

Ongoing Events Posted Last Thursday of the Month:

AA Mtgs At Lakewood Health System Hospital Main Campus, Staples, Classroom A: Tuesdays, 8 p.m.; Thursdays, 8 p.m.; Saturdays, 7 p.m.. For info., 218-371-0573.

AA Mtgs At First Lutheran Church, Pillager: Tuesdays, 8 p.m.; Thursdays, 7 p.m. For info., 218-839-1804.

AA Mtgs At Motley Free Methodist Church: Wednesdays, noon; Fridays, noon. For more info., 218-296-1512.

AA Mtg at Motley United Methodist Church: Mondays, 8 p.m. For info., 218-639-9743.

AA Mtg at Staples Community Center: Tuesdays, 7:30 p.m. For info., 218-639-8048.

AA Mtgs in Verndale: Tuesdays, 8 p.m.; Fridays, 8 p.m., 106 S. Thompson. For info., 218-640-1365 and 218-640-6644.

Al-Anon Mtg Thursdays, 7:30 p.m., Staples United Methodist Church. For info., 218-296-1123.

Christians in Recovery - Alcoholics Victorious Mtg Thursdays, 7 p.m., Staples Alliance Church. For info., 218-640-5679.

Dual Recovery Anonymous Meeting Fridays, 4 p.m., Northern Pines, 11 2nd St. SW, Wadena. For info., 218-631-1714.

TOPS (Taking Off Pounds Sensibly) Chapter #1077 of Staples Tuesdays, Faith Lutheran Church, 430 12th St. NE, Staples. Weigh-in, 5 p.m., meeting follows. For info., 218-639-0544.

Weight Watchers Mtg Mondays, Lakewood Health System main campus, Staples. Weigh-in, 5 p.m.; Mtg., 5:30 p.m. For info., 218-639-4888.

Monthly events

'Adult Survivors Of Suicide Loss' Support Group Mtg third Tuesday, 6:30 - 8 p.m., Tri-County Health Care, Wadena. For info., 218-631-5228.

Alzheimer's Assoc. Caregiver Support Group Mtg first and third Thursday, 3:30 - 4:30 p.m., Reflections Intensive Outpatient (IOP) rm., Lakewood Health System's senior campus, Staples. For info, 218-894-8288 or 218-894-8195.

Foot Care Clinics sponsored by Lakewood Health System, first Tuesday, 8 a.m. - 3 p.m., LHS, Staples clinic; third Thursday, 8 a.m. - 3 p.m., Scandia Valley Town Hall. For appt., 218-894-8080.

Grief Support Group Mtg sponsored by Tri-County Health Care, first Tuesday, 4:30 - 5:30 p.m., TCHC, Wadena. For info., 218-631-5228.

Lyme Disease Support Group Mtg second Monday, 6 p.m., Staples Alliance Church. For info., 218-296-2352.

Memory Loss Support Group For Caregivers Mtg second Thursday, 2:30 p.m., Tri-County Health Care, Wadena. For info., 218-632-8733.

Motley Area Historical Society Mtg second Tuesday, 1 p.m., Motley City Hall. For more info., 218-352-6137 or 218-352-6699.

Multiple Sclerosis Support Group Mtg second Thursday, 3:30 - 5 p.m., Lakewood Health System Senior Campus, Staples. For info., 218-894-8393.

'Parents Who Have Lost a Child' Support Group Mtg second Monday, 5:30 - 7 p.m., Wesley Conference Rm. at Tri-County Health Care, Wadena. For info., 218-631-5228.

Senior Citizens Mtg at Leader Hall third Tuesday. Potluck lunch, 11:30 a.m.; blood pressures, 11:30 a.m.

Senior Health Clinic sponsored by Wadena County Public Health, second Wednesday, 8:30 - 11:30 a.m., at Wadena County Public Health, 22 Dayton Ave. SE, Wadena. Health screenings include blood pressure, foot care, health info. and referrals. For info., 218-631-7629.

Staples Motley Early Childhood Coalition Mtg second Tuesday, 6:30 p.m., Staples Family Center. For info., 218-894-1897, or smecc@isd2170.k12.mn.us.

Todd County Republicans Mtg third Thursday, 8 p.m., Church of Christ, Browerville. For info., 320-533-1119.

Wahoo Valley Area MN Deer Hunter's Association Mtg second Tuesday, 7 p.m., Wahoo Valley. For info, 218-640-5423.

Women Of Today Mtg first Tuesday, 6:30 p.m., Landmark Inn, Staples.

March 1

Free Tax-Aide Wednesdays, noon - 3:30 p.m., through April 12, Staples Community Center. No appt. needed. For people 60 and older, low-moderate income. For info., 218-894-5772.

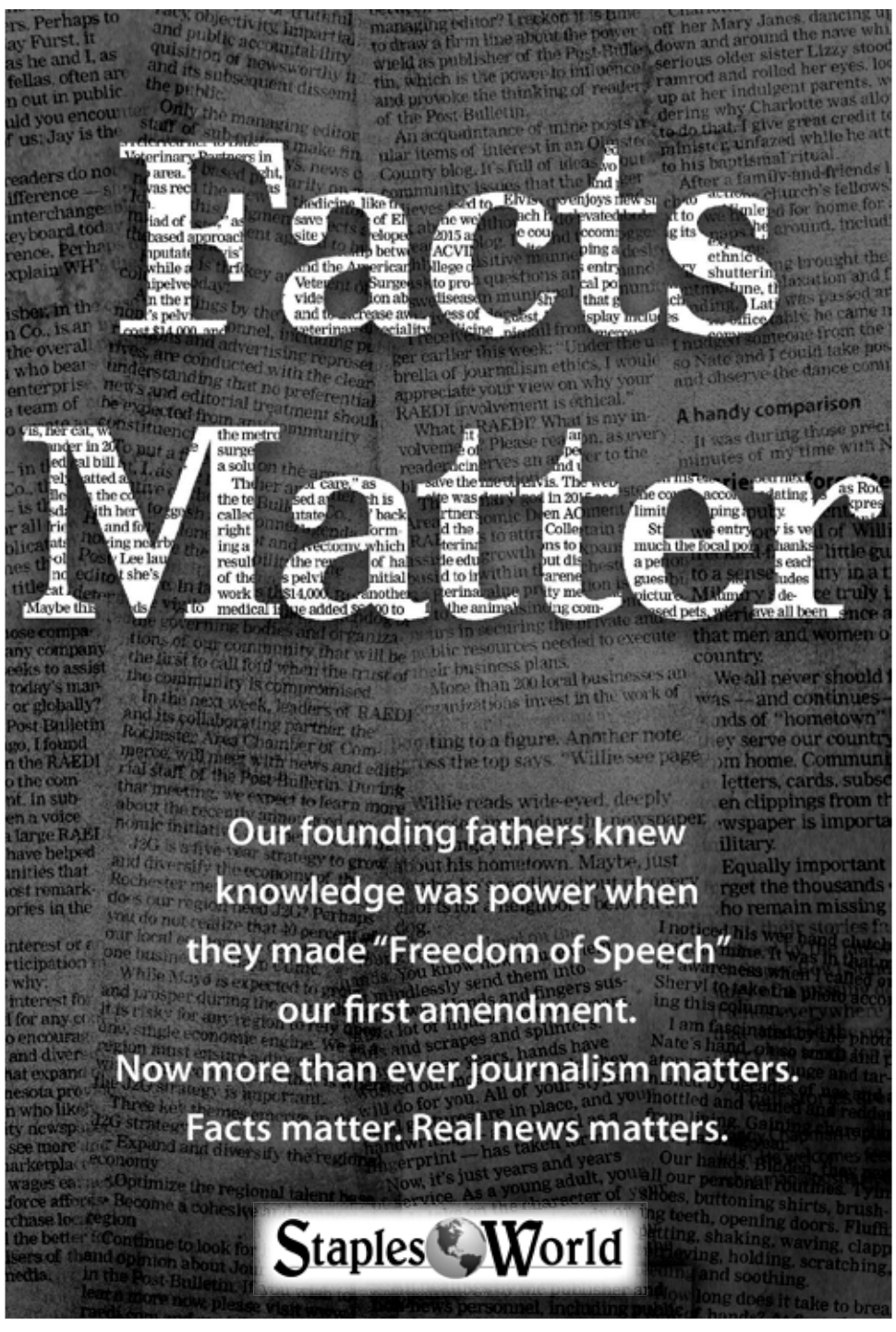
Staples American Legion Auxiliary Unit 70 Mtg Wed., March 1, 1:30 p.m., Staples Lions Bldg. Bring non-perishable items and/or cash donations for food shelf; and forms with volunteer hours/cash donations to charitable groups. For info., 218-894-2254.

Staples City Council agenda

The Staples City Council will meet Tuesday, Feb. 28, at 7 p.m. at the Staples City Hall, 122 6th St NE, Staples.

Preliminary agenda items include:

- Consider request from Sacred Heart Area School for a temporary on-sale liquor license to sell liquor on May 6, 2017 as part of its annual fundraiser.
- Discuss establishing a lodging tax
- Hear report from the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board.
- Open forum.
- City administrator's report.





March birthdays/ anniversary

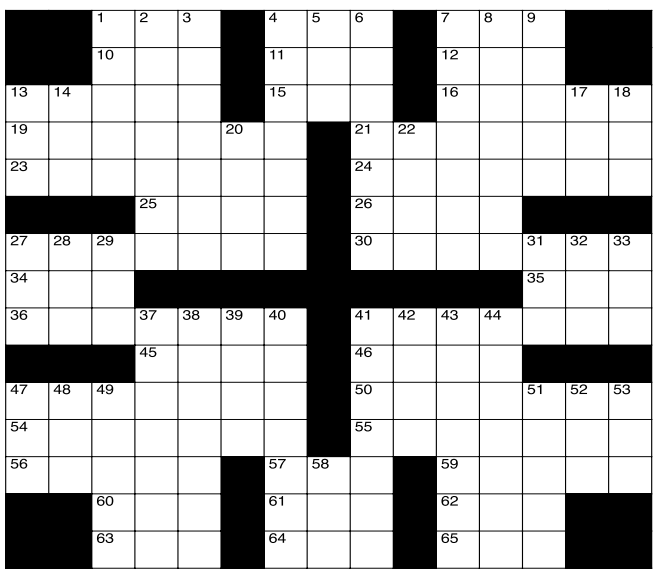
The February Senior Citizen's Birthday/Anniversary party was held, Feb. 14, at the Staples Community Center, in the senior citizen's room. Celebrating Feb. birthdays included; back, left to right: Erma Pavlacky, Dorothy Balken, Jean Medley and Liz Lindgren (front), Liz and her husband Del (front, right) were also celebrating their wedding anniversary. A Valentine's Day was the theme of the party where each person celebrating received a small decorated cake, a personalized card with their photo and everyone joined in singing Happy Birthday/Anniversary. A short program, drawings for prizes and a meal followed.

The March Birthday/Anniversary party will be held Tuesday, March 14. RSVP by calling; 218- 894-2556.

A St.Patrick's party will be held Weds., March 22 at 12:15 p.m. for paid members only. Costumes are encouraged and will be judged, with best costume selected, receiving a prize. Free bingo,prizes and more will also take place. Dues can be paid the day of the party. (Submitted photo)

Crossword Puzzle

Week 8

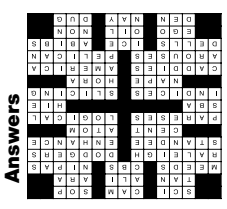


CLUES ACROSS
1. __ fi (slang)
4. Carolina PanthersÕ Newton
7. Documented organizational practice
10. A way to change color
11. Boxing legend
12. Football coach Parseghian
13. Rewards (archaic)
15. ColbertÕs network
16. Palm trees
19. Capital of N. Carolina
21. LA ballplayers
23. Does not sit
24. A way to intensify
25. Penny
26. ElementsÕ basic unit
27. Muscular weakness (pl.)
30. Makes sense
34. Helps little firms
35. Go quickly
36. Found at the end of books
41. A way of carving
45. The back of oneÕs neck
46. Israeli dance
47. They help golfers
50. Western landmass
54. Evokes
55. A Big Easy hoopster
56. Small valleys
57. Water in the solid state
59. Acquired brain injury behavior science (abbr.)
60. DonÕt let this get too big
61. Motor is one type
62. Negative
63. A hiding place
64. Negative
65. Excavated

CLUES DOWN
1. Upright stone
2. Beat
3. Intestines (informal)
4. Distinguishing marks
5. Clergical vestment
6. Give cards incorrectly
7. Underground construction worker
8. Japanese art form
9. Franz van __, German diplomat
13. Wife
14. Consume
17. Curve
18. Midway between south and southeast
20. Unit of heredity
22. Upon
27. Pressure unit
28. Australian TV station
29. Cool!
31. A personÕs guardian spirit
32. French river
33. Body part
37. Gratify
38. Watertight chamber
39. Dueling sword
40. Term
41. Having an attractive shape
42. Togo capital
43. Island nation
44. Arctic deer with large antlers
47. Dishonorable man
48. Equal to 100 sq. meters
49. Administered
51. Cake topping
52. Car for hire
53. Autonomic nervous system
58. Intelligence organization

CW172410

Answers



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Hello World

Births reported at Lakewood Health System Hospital included:

Born to Allison Doyle and Timothy Jones of Brainerd, a baby girl, Johannah Grace weighing four pounds, eight ounces on February 10, 2017.

Born to Jared and Kimberly Alexander of Clarissa, a baby girl, Virginia Jean weighing seven pounds, 13 ounces on February 10, 2017.

Born to Paige Klimek of Motley, a baby girl, Abryannah KayLee weighing seven pounds, nine ounces on February 10, 2017.

Born to Ariel Sutton and Bruce Praska of Brainerd, a baby girl, Harleyann Nevaeh weighing eight pounds, 12 ounces on February 13, 2017.

Born to Gregory and Michelle Salber of Randall, twin girls, Viola Lynn weighing four pounds, 15 ounces and Olivia Ann weighing five pounds, six ounces on February 14, 2017.

Born to Dan and Vicky Carry of Cushing, a baby girl, Averie Jane weighing six pounds, nine ounces on February 14, 2017.

Born to Elizabeth Yungbauer and Adam Cory of Verndale, a baby girl, Brynnlee Rose weighing six pounds, 9.5 ounces on February 14, 2017.

Born to Shai Love and Wade Luettinger of Brainerd, a baby girl, Aaliyah Rae Nicole weighing seven pounds, three ounces on February 15, 2017

Born to Bernon and Cindy Borntrager of Backus, a baby boy, Levi Paul weighing five pounds, 14 ounces on February 15, 2017.

Born to Troy and Maggie Schilling of Brainerd, a baby boy, Easton Neyssen weighing six pounds, 11 ounces on February 16, 2017.

Born to Kelly and Amie Neisius of Verndale, a baby girl, Kashlyn Leann weighing seven pounds, nine ounces on February 16, 2017.

Wedding

Shaffer, Mendonsa

Gemma Shaffer, St. Paul and Riyan Mendonsa, of Edina were united in marriage on August 26, 2017 at the Cathedral of St. Paul. Fr. Garrett Ahlers officiated the ceremony.

Parents of the couple are Bob and Kathy Shaffer of Staples and Austin and Rosanna Mendonsa, Mangalore, India.

Gemma is a graduate of St. Thomas University in Biochesistry, currently pursuing her Masters' Degree in medical device engineering at the U of M, Twin Cities. She is a research scientist at Zepto Life Technologies. Riyan is pursuring a Master's Degree in Electrical Engineering at St. Cloud State University. He is a senior electircal engineer for Seagate.

The couple are making their home in Edina.

March senior site schedule

Thurs., March. 2, 1:30 -3:00 p.m., Free Legal Aid from St. Cloud. Call: 218-894-2553 to make appointment

Whist: 12:15 p.m., **Tuesday, March 7, 21**

Bridge: 12:00 p.m., **Tuesdays, March 7, 14, 21, 28**

Penny Bingo: 12:00 p.m., **Weds., March 1, 8, 15, 29**

St. Patrick's Day Party 12:15 p.m., **Weds., March 15**

500 Cards: 12:00 p.m., **Thurs., March 2; Mon., March 20, 27**

Board meeting, 12:00 p.m., **Mon., March 13**

Birthday/Anniversary party 11:30 a.m., **Tues., March 14**

Evening meals: 5:00 p.m. **Thurs., March 9, 16, 23**

St. Patrick's party, 12:15 p.m., Weds., March 22 (Special event for Senior Citizen members only)

Obituary

Esther Unruh



Esther Unruh, 89, of Motley, formerly of Jamestown, ND and Colorado Springs, CO, died February 19, 2017, at CentraCare Hospital in St. Cloud. Esther incurred a traumatic brain injury in a fall the day prior and never recovered.

A celebration of her life was held Feb. 22 at the Haut Funeral Home, Jamestown, ND.

Burial will take place in the spring at the Gackle Cemetery, Gackle, ND.

Esther was born in Gackle to Lydia Dockter and John Veil. She grew up on her family's farm in Gackle and then went into the nursing field. She met her husband, Robert, when he returned to North Dakota after serving in the Korean War. Esther was a housewife, active in her church and a champion of people with intellectual and developmental disabilities. She was involved with Special Olympics, The Arc, and numerous other disability organizations in Jamestown and in Colorado Springs. She was a former member of St. John's Lutheran Church and Atonement Lutheran Church in Jamestown and Prince of Peace Lutheran Church in Colorado Springs.

She is survived by her husband of 63 years; two sons, Mark Unruh of Motley and Marty Unruh of Colorado Springs, CO; two daughters, Marsha (McNeil) Unruh of Colorado Springs, CO and daughter, Marla Smith of Rockford, IL six grandchildren; six great-grandchildren; five sisters, Lenora Labrenz, Bertha Labrenz, Magdalena Klundt, Violet Fischer, and Ilene Albin and two brothers, Eugene Veil and Henry Veil.

Esther is preceded in death by her parents and one sister, Olga Fischer.

In lieu of flowers, the family is requesting memorial donations be made to the Special Olympics North Dakota, 2616 South 26th Street, Grand Forks, ND 58201, http://www.specialolympicsnorthdakota.org/home/

w8c A00006B2017FB23

Local realtors receive special recognition



Nikki Hirschey



Sandy Knosalla

Realtors Nikki Hirschey and Sandy Knosalla, with Edina Realty in Baxter, are being recognized for outstanding sales performance and customer service as a member of Edina Realty's President's Circle.

Membership in the President's Circle places them in the top 24 percent of all Edina Realty sales associates.

"Agents who earn membership in Edina Realty's Chairman's, Master's, President's or Leadership Circles are among the best in the industry. They're well-informed on market trends and are adept at networking and meeting their clients' needs," said Greg Mason, Edina Realty Home Services president and CEO. "Edina Realty leads the market for the 17th consecutive year thanks to the efforts of our hardworking agents."

Staples-Motley HS Honor Roll

Staples-Motley High School announces their honor roll.

A Honor Roll

Grade 12: Norah Anderson, Katherine Benson, Hunter Berggren, Taylor Converse, Alessia Corti, Rachel Daly, Noah Han, Taylor Heldman, Kyle Huepenbecker, Alexis Johnson, Reyd Jordan, Emmeline Klefsaas, Matthew Miller, Chelsea Nanik, Samantha Schimpp, Ashley Smith, Samantha Svendsen, Grace VanAlst, Kelsie Weite, Taylor Yungbauer, MacKenzie Zetah.

Grade 11: Nicholas Allshouse, Mitchell Braith, Natasha Brings, Reid Busker, Zachary Carlson, Alexandra Davis, James Ehresman, Zhichen Lou, Stephanie Mitchell, Autumn Nelson, Sara Oberlander, Kelsi Peterson, Alyssa Vanderhoof, Kassidy White, Anna Willgohs, Claire Wolhowe.

Grade 10: Kallee Abbas, Jack Adamietz, Jeffery Allen, Benjamin Bartczak, Andrew Bates, Jack Benson, Jordon Carlson, Bentley Christensen, Hannah Dolezal, Kiera Dumpprope, Finn Erholtz, Matthew Fisher, Ryan Gerard, Brooklyn Kovach, Reyes Muniz, Amy Michel, Nancy O'Rourke, Trenton Plopper, Torrence Salcido, Lilian Schneider, Kiara Storry, Sadie Thompson, Heather Wonders, Krystal Yoder.

Grade 9: Tasha Achermann, Tiffany Achermann, Izaiah DeMars, Jaydon Friedel, Kailyn Gelle, Jonah Johnson, Thomas Koval, Benjamin Olander, Alixandra Peterson, Riley Peterson, Rylie Rau, Madeline Rutherford, Cael Sams, Kaitlyn Smith, Morgan Swecker, Joshua Trantina, Jack Tyrrell, Izabelle VanAlst, Ryan Wick, Emmitt Winkels, Kayla Yoder.

Grade 8: Tabetha Allen, Rebecca Abrown, Abbigail DiGiovanni, Beck Erholtz, Rose Han, Jadyn Kincaid, Alex McIlravy, Torii Nienow, Ava Schneider, Kira Sweeney.

B Honor Roll

Grade 12: Tesla Anderson, Audhelen Bjaanesoe, Edilia Chinbaeva, Nicholas Crist, Corey Ekholm, Jack Fietek, Coleman Klimek, Eric Lisson, Taeleigh Marlowe, Maria Martinez, Alexandra Miller, Dominic Nistler, Haley Payne, Mason Rychner, Trey Skeesick, Gavin Smith, Zachary Strickland, Jenna Trantina, Maren Vogt.

Grade 11: Jordan Dechaine, Zachary DeMars, Haley Dietman, Elizabeth Flansburg, Natilee Gabel, Emma Gerard, Maxwell Giza, Hailey Halvorson, Chelsea Hofmann, Sydnie Johnson, Kimberlie Kronenberg, Cody Noble, Hope Ratajczak, Lukas Schmieg, Kyle Serich, Cesar Sotelo Aportela, Jakub Suchopar, Isaac Swendsrud.

Grade 10: Brayden Christensen, Blayne Dumpprope, Del Eckman, Colton Fraley, Addison Hirschey, Macy Judd, Derek Kennedy, Joshua Lombard, Spencer Miller, Emilia Moore, Evan Nanik, Jakob Stangle, Scout Strickland, Jeffrey Sundstrom Jr, Sydney Wallace, Carter Weyer.

Grade 9: Jackson Berg, MacKenna Bjerga, Owen Bjerga, Ashley Black, Elizabeth Boyer, Jasmine Braith, Marie Brings, Isaac Christoffersen, Juanita DeWald, Aleecia Fall, Connor Fox, Tyler Gosch, Dominic Hamann, Victoria Jenkins, Hunter Klimek, Elizabeth Kobliska, Issac Kronenberg, Valeria Lozano, Paul Peterson, Alexander Rosenthal, Brandon Rubink, Trevor Rudenick, Cade Schmidt, Nathan Stiner, Alana Sullivan, Nathan Trantina, Haylee Wold.

Grade 8: Emmet Anderson, Payton Bjerga, Haley Cichos, Hannah DeWald, Jenna Dvorak, Hannah Heschke, Mary Lund, Connor Macheel, Katherine Michel, Adam Oberlander, Tanner Robben, Maxwell Strickland, Logen Weite, Cole Winkels, Zaynie Zigmund.

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Thank you
FOR READING THE
Staples World

Much Appreciated

Thank you to all the shoppers and visitors who stopped by the February Book Fair at the Staples-Motley Elementary School. We sold over $3,000 worth of books. The profits will be used towards field trips for the Jump Start, kindergarten, first grade, second grade and third grade students.

Stay tuned for more details on the May 22-May 26 "Buy One Get One Book Fair."

Thank you again.

The Parent Teacher Connection (PTC)

Seniors can get legal services

The St. Cloud office of Mid-Minnesota Legal Aid has received a grant of Older Americans Act funds from the Central Minnesota Council on Aging to provide free legal services for seniors residing in Todd County. The funds will be used to provide legal advice, counseling and representation in court and administrative hearings.

If you're 60 years or older and reside in Todd County, you can get help with legal problems involving Medicare, Social Security, eviction or other housing problems, public benefits, such as medical assistance, food support and fuel assistance, family law issues, including domestic abuse and income maintenance, nursing home issues, home care services, powers of attorney, health care directives and debt collection. NO help is provided for criminal matters, wills, estate planning or real estate transactions.

Seniors can call the St. Cloud office of Mid-Minnesota Legal Aid toll free at 1-888-360-2889 for help scheduling an appointment.

Mid-Minnesota Legal Aid accepts contributions for the legal services, but contributions are not required to receive legal help.



"Polar Plunge" Feb. 26

The 'Frozen Assets' team from First International Bank & Trust, Staples will be taking the "Polar Plunge" for Special Olympics Minnesota, Sunday, Feb. 26 at Lake Darling, Alexandria beginning at 1 p.m. Law enforcement is challenging individuals across the state, at various locations, to take the "Plunge" to help raise money for Special Olympics Minnesota. Individuals, organizations and businesses can all get involved. All monies raised goes for programming and events for more than 8,000 athletes statewide. For information visit: plungemn.org.

Above: the 'Polar Plunge' team from First International Bank & Trust: front, Joe Roline and Kylie Fix; middle, Helen Voeltz and Jessica Fishman; top, Ashley Seely, 2017 team captain, Alisha Winter and Alison Robben. Team members not pictured include: Chelsea Marcyes, Staples office; Jon Harrenga and Justin Romano, Fargo office; Lonnie Marcyes, Joshua Winter and Jared Cleveland. The Frozen Assets team from First International took the "Polar Plunge" last year held at Breezy Point, Brainerd. Tthe team has raised over $1,000.



All-District Orchestra Concert Feb. 24

Students in the Staples-Motley Orchestra Program have been preparing for their upcoming All-District Orchestra Concert which will be held Friday, February 24 at 8:00 p.m. in the Centennial Auditorium, Staples. The concert features all orchestra students in grades 6-12 and is free and open to the public.

Above, left to right are: Grace VanAlst, Abby Seamann, Anna Bloomquist, Macy Judd, Alex Davis, Trenton Plopper, Jakob Stangle, Nathaniell Rodrigues and Zach Strickland. (Submitted photo)

Student Achievements

Sarah Koopmann, Motley, has been named to the 2016 Fall Semester Dean's List at the University of St. Thomas, St. Paul. To qualify, students must have a grade point average of at least 3.5.

Anna Koopmann, Motley, has been named to the Fall 2016 Dean's List at St. Olaf College, Northfield. To qualify, students must earn a semester grade point average of 3.75 or higher.

Micayla Klinghagen, Motley, has been named to the Fall 2016 Dean's List at St. Cloud Technical & Community College, St. Cloud. To qualify, students must earn a grade point average for 3.5 or higher.

Jesslynn Johnson, Pillager, graduated magna cum laude from Minnesota State University Moorhead Dec. 15, with a Bachelor of Science degree in Elementary Inclusive Education.

Josie Nanik, Staples, graduated from Minnesota State University Moorhead Dec. 15, with a Bachelor of Arts degree in Communication Studies.

Lynnea Iverson, Staples, participated in Bemidji State University's 2016 Madrigal Dinners, an annual musical dinner production by the university's Department of Music. Iverson, a senior majoring in music education/music, was a cellar keeper in this year's production.

Emily Jones, Pillager, has been named to the 2016 Fall Semester Academic High Honor List at Minnesota State University, Mankato. To qualify, students must achieve a 4.0 grade point average and be enrolled for at least 12 credit hours for the semester.



Practical nursing students

Above: McKinleigh Rude, Nisswa, left, and Kassondra Blood, Brainerd, are two of the 24 nursing students, currently enrolled in the clinical portion of the nursing program at Central Lakes College Staples. Some of their training takes place at Lakewood Health System's hospital. Below are Alex Meisinger, St. Cloud, Mindy Dukek,Staples (center) and Angel Norwood, Wadena. Graduation is May 10 at the Staples CLC campus. (Submitted photo)



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S4-3B-RB

Staples Area Church Directory

Staples

Staples Alliance
1512 8th St. NE, Staples 218-894-2891
Pastor Bob Hepokoski, Paul Johnson
Mark Shea, Pastor of Student Ministries
Sunday Worship.....9:30 a.m.
Sunday School .....11:00 a.m.
WEDNESDAY
AWANA. .....6:15 p.m.

Assembly of God
914 3rd Ave. NE, Staples 218-894-1081
Pastor Roy Miles
Youth Pastor Julie Boone
Discipleship Class.....9:15 a.m.
Sunday Worship.....10:30 a.m.
Evening Prayer .....6:00 p.m.
WEDNESDAY
Sonlight & Youth .....6:30 p.m.

Church of Christ
27343 490th St., Staples.....218-894-2609
Pastor Barry Klein
Website: www.stapleschurchofchrist.org
Bible School (youth and adult).....9:30 a.m.
Sunday Worship.....10:30 a.m.
WEDNESDAY:
Teen Youth/Adults Bible Study .....6:30 p.m.

Congregational Church, UCC
204 5th St. NE, Staples 218-894-2571
Pastor Tony Romaine
Worship.....9:30 a.m.
Fellowship, refreshments following service

Faith Lutheran
430 12th Street. NE., Staples
218-894-1546
Emelia Enquist, Director of Youth, Family & Christian Ed.
Sunday Worship
Worship Service .....8:30 a.m.
Sunday School
and Coffee Fellowship .....9:35 a.m.
Worship Service .....10:45 a.m.

Sacred Heart Church
310 4th St. NE, Staples
Church.....218-894-2296
Pastor Fr. Joe Korf
Youth and Young Adult Ministry Coordinator:
Monica J. Simmons..... 218-414-0081 cell/text
MASS:
Thursday and Friday.....8:30 a.m..
Saturday .....5:00 p.m.
Sunday.....8:30 a.m.

Seventh Day Adventist
421 Dakota Ave. SE, Staples
218-894-0033
Jeff Scoggins, Pastor
Saturday Worship .....9:30 am.
Sabbath School.....10:45 a.m.

Thomastown Covenant
15940 251st Ave., Staples.....218-894-3923
Pastor Nathan Hillman
Sunday School .....9:45 a.m.
Sunday Worship.....11:00 a.m.
WEDNESDAY .....7:00 p.m.

Trinity Lutheran
1000 4th St., NE, Staples 218-894-2372
Rev. Robin Collins
Sunday Divine Service .....9:00 a.m.
Sunday School & Bible Class.....10:15 a.m.

United Methodist
310 5th St. NE, Staples.....218-894-2248
Pastor Greg Ciesluk .....
Sunday Worship.....10:30 a.m.
(Nursery Available for Sunday Worship)
Sunday School (for grades K-12 and adults)
.....9:15-10:15 a.m.

Aldrich

Congregational, UCC
One block S. of Hwy. 10, Aldrich
Pastor Dave Seaton 218-445-5831
Sunday Worship,..... 9:30 a.m.
Communion .....1st Sunday of Month

Balsamlund Lutheran
19550 490th Street, Aldrich
Eric Clapp.....701-261-2394 (cell)
Sunday Worship.....8:15 a.m.
Sunday School .....8:30 a.m.

Cushing

Bethany Lutheran
25430 Bison Rd.Cushing, MN
320-749-2140
www.bethanylutherancushing.com.
Rev. Jean M. Megorden
Lay Pastor Bob Mueller
Sunday Worship.....9:00 a.m

Lincoln Evangelical Free
1354 320th St., Cushing.....218-575-2449
www.lincolnefree.org Facebook Lincoln E Free
Office Hours: Mon.-Thurs., 9 a.m.-2 p.m.
Friday Office Closed
Visitation Pastor: Jim Brown
Youth Coordinator: Kelly Gelle
SUNDAY
Sunday School for all ages .....9:00 a.m.
Worship Gathering .....10:00 a.m.
WEDNESDAY
Praise & Prayer .....4:30 p.m.
Kids' Club.....6:00 p.m.
Jr./Sr. Forge Youth Group .....6:00 p.m.

Cushing Baptist
26298 Bear Rd., Cushing
www.cushingbaptistchurch.org
Pastor Dan Holmes.....320-749-2583
Sunday School .....9:30 a.m.
Worship.....10:30 a.m.
WEDNESDAY
Bible study .....7:30 p.m.

Leaf River Township

The Old Country Church
Leaf River Twp., Wadena County Rd. 6
Info. # 218-837-5690
Open by arrangement

Leader

Swan Valley Lutheran
Leader 218-397-2470
Pastor David Stevens
Sunday Worship.....11:00 a.m.

Maple Hill Lutheran
Pastor David Stevens
Leader .....218-397-2470 (Rural Pine River)
Worship and Sunday School .....9:00 a.m.

Motley

Motley Free Methodist
33 Wellwood St. E
Motley 56466.....218-352-6888
Pastor Jim Johnson
Assistant Pastor Richard Broberg
Sunday Worship.....9:00 & 10:30 a.m.
Sunday School .....10:30 a.m.
WEDNESDAY
Kids Club.....4:00-5:30 p.m.
Youth Group .....5:30-7:30 p.m.

St. John's Lutheran
497 3rd Ave. S, Motley.....218-352-6399
Pastor Vicar Paul Koehler
Sunday School and Bible Class .....8:30 a.m.
Sunday Worship.....9:30 a.m.

St. Michael
1st St. and Birch, Motley.....218-894-2296
Pastor Fr. Joe Korf
MASS:
Tuesday.....6:30 p.m,
Wednesday.....8:30 a.m..
Saturday .....7:00 p.m.
Sunday.....10:30 a.m.

United Methodist
847 3rd Ave. S. Lane, Motley.....218-352-6466
Pastor Greg Ciesluk
www.motleyumc.org
Monday AA meeting.....8:00 p.m.
Sunday Worship Service.....9:00 a.m.

Oylen

Oylen Alliance
Cty. Rds, 7 and 9, Oylen
218-472-3440 or 218-472-3316
Pastor Neal Malcore
Sunday School .....10:00 a.m.
Sunday Worship.....11:00 a.m

Pillager

First Lutheran Church
717 River Street S, Pillager, MN
218-746-3775
Pastor Hector Merced
Sunday Worship.....9:30 a.m.
Sunday School .....8:30 a.m.

Casino Assembly of God
Pastor Dan Johnson
N. of Motley, Hwy. 64, E. on Cty 34 to Cty. 104.
Phone 218-746-3839
Sunday School .....9:30 a.m.
Worship.....10:30 a.m.
Sunday Worship.....7:00 p.m.
WEDNESDAY .....7:00 p.m.

First Baptist
903 River Street South, Pillager
Pastor Skip Hansen
218-746-3768
Sunday Worship.....9:30 a.m.
Children's Church.....9:30 a.m.
WEDNESDAY
Adrenaline Youth Group.....5:45 p.m.

Hewitt

Church of the Nazarene
114 Front Street, P.O. Box 146
Hewitt, MN 56453
218-924-2028
Pastor Wayne Hoffert
Sunday School .....9:30 a.m
Sunday Worship..... 10:45 a.m./6 p.m.
WEDNESDAY
Prayer .....7:00 p.m.

Verndale

Verndale Alliance
109 NW Brown Street, Verndale, MN 56481
218-445-5619
Senior Pastor Tony Stanley
Heath Belknap, Pastor of Student Ministries
Sunday Worship.....9:30 a.m.
Sunday Bible Fellowship Classses
.....11-11:45 a.m.

Hope Chapel Alliance
18126 County Road 7, Verndale
218-445-5643 or 218-472-3316
Pastor Neal Malcore
Sunday Worship.....9:00 a.m.
Sunday School .....10:30 a.m.
WEDNESDAY
Family Night.....5:30 p.m.

Family Life Church
402 NE Clark Drive, Verndale
Church.....218-445-5568
VerndaleFLC@gmail.com
Pastor Amos Self 218-371-7189
Childrens' Pastor Kenneth Kjeldergaard
Sunday School - Worship.....10:30 a.m.
Coffee Fellowship.....10:00 a.m.
Prayer & Praise .....6:00 p.m.
WEDNESDAY
6:00 p.m. ..... Family fellowship meal
6:30 p.m. .....Bible Study groups, all ages

Verndale United Methodist
10 3rd Ave. SW, Verndale
218-445-5108
Pastor Jill Pawlowski
Sunday Worship.....9:00 a.m.

Central United Methodist
5 miles N on Cty Rd 26 (Nimrod tar)
Pastor Chuck Horsager
218-639-4225
Sunday Worship ..... 9:00 a.m.
Sunday School ..... 10:30 a.m.

wk8

Epiphany

Rev. Tony Romaine, First Congregational Church UCC

As we near the end of the season of Epiphany, I was thinking about what is important about this time after the birth of Christ and before Lent? What is important, is that we need to be reminded that a light broke through the darkness to remind us all of the glory that awaits us through Jesus Christ. It is a light that is revealed to us through the Holy Spirit which cannot be squelched by shadows of fear, hate, oppression, or ignorance. It is a light that cannot be dampened by the forces of evil in this world which would rather have us be afraid of things we do not know, people we do not know, or situations we do not know. It is a light that tells us to trust in that we cannot possibly know everything, that we must trust that God is in control, trust in that love is the only way to peace, and trust that our neighbor wants the best for us too!

And yet, in our world that is ringing with the din of injustice, this message of light from God, through Jesus Christ, all too often is muffled by the blanket of our brokenness.

Why must we be reminded of the epiphany? Why must we be reminded of revelation? Because we have forgotten the greatest epiphany of all; when God entered into our lives in the wonderful form of our own humanity. Not to condemn us, but to save us from our sins and teach us how to live our lives, to demonstrate that we have the ability, the capacity, and the means to love each other; if we only try. Let this light carry us all forward into this world which needs the Good News of love more than ever. May God's peace shine upon us all, Amen!

The Staples area Church Directory is sponsored by these businesses:

Longbella Drug Store
"The Prescription Store"
2nd Ave., Staples • 218-894-2242
Motley and Pillager

Ernie's Food Market
Groceries - Gas - Convenience - more
Staples, MN 218-894-1072

Staples Veterinary Clinic
"Complete Animal Care"
Staples, MN 218-894-1775

Mid-Central Federal Savings Bank
Fully Insured to $250,000
Staples, MN 218-894-3900

Central Building Supply
Bob Reeck, Manager
Hwy. 10 West, Staples, MN

Staples World
Your community newspaper since 1890
224 4th St. NE, Staples, MN
218-894-1112

Tower Pizza
Pizza, Pasta, Salads, Sandwiches
Staples, MN 218-894-3299

Staples True Value
"Just Ask Rental"
Open 7 days a week.
Staples, MN 218-894-3263

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Certificate of Assumed Name
Minnesota Statutes, Chapter 333

The filing of an assumed name does not provide a user with exclusive rights to that name. The filing is required for consumer protection in order to enable customers to be able to identify the true owner of a business.

ASSUMED NAME: **Timberlake Hotel**
PRINCIPAL PLACE OF BUSINESS: **1300 NE 2nd Avenue, Staples, MN 56479 USA**
NAMEHOLDER(S):
Name: **Ives Family, LLC**
Address: **973 NE 4th Street Grand Rapids MN 55744 United States**

By typing my name, I, the undersigned, certify that I am signing this document as the person whose signature is required, or as agent of the person(s) whose signature would be required who has authorized me to sign this document on his/her behalf, or in both capacities. I further certify that I have completed all required fields, and that the information in this document is true and correct and in compliance with the applicable chapter of Minnesota Statutes. I understand that by signing this document I am subject to the penalties of perjury as set forth in Section 609.48 as if I had signed this document under oath.

SIGNED BY:
Mary F. Ives
MAILING ADDRESS:
1300 NE 2nd Avenue
Staples MN 56479
EMAIL FOR OFFICIAL NOTICES:
Maryives@timberlakehotel.com

FILED: 01/07/2017
8-9pnc

NOTICE
BECKER TOWNSHIP
ANNUAL MEETING

The Becker Township Annual Meeting will be held Tuesday, March 14, 2017 at 7:00 p.m. at the Becker Town Hall with the regular meeting to follow.

In case of bad weather it will be held the following Tuesday, March 21, 2017 at 7:00 p.m. at the Becker Town Hall.

All township residents are encouraged to attend.

Mary Fitcher,
Becker Township Clerk
8-9pnc

NOTICE
LEADER
COMMUNITY HALL
BOARD

The Leader Community Hall Board will meet on Thursday, March 2, 2017 at 7:00 p.m. at the town hall to discuss moisture damage and mold in the attic.

Mark Strom, Secretary
8-9pnc

(ABBREVIATED ADVERTISEMENT)

TODD COUNTY
HIGHWAY SAFETY
IMPROVEMENT
PROJECT

Closing date:
March 14, 2017

Sealed bids will be accepted until 10:00 a.m., March 14, 2017 by the Todd County Public Works Director/Engineer and County Auditor/Treasurer at 44 Riverside Drive, Long Prairie, Minnesota 56347 for the following construction project:

S.P. 077-070-008
Ground In Wet Reflective Epoxy Edge Lines Various County Roadways (16.560 miles)

This is an abbreviated advertisement. A full advertisement can be viewed by going to the Public Works website at https://egram.co.todd.mn.us/

Loren Fellbaum
Todd County Public Works Director/Engineer
7-9pnc

NOTICE
TODD COUNTY
PLANNING
COMMISSION
215 1st Ave. S, Ste. 103
Long Prairie, Minnesota
56347 320-732-4420

Notice is hereby given that on **Thursday, March 2, 2017 at 6:00 p.m.** the Todd County Planning Commission will hold a public hearing in the Commissioners Meeting Room, 215 First Ave. South, Long Prairie to consider the following applications.

1) **Jeff Borchert and Ilga Polleitis:** Saukinac Campground. Sect-11 Twp-127 Rng-34
PIN: 14-0011000
Site Address: 21914 Bay Loop, 13373 Bayberry Dr, AND 21860 Bay Loop, Sauk Centre, MN 56378
Request to create 36 additional camper sites with full hook up. Minimum site size 35 ft x 72 ft.

2) **Troy Larson:** Sect 10 Twp 130 Rng 32 SW4 of Section 10 of Little Elk Township
Site Address: 31356 315th Ave, Browerville, MN 56438
PID: 16-0009100
Request for a Conditional Use Permit to operate a trucking business with up to six semi tractors in or near the maintenance shop.

All persons interested are invited to attend said hearing and be heard on these matters.

Todd County Planning Commission
Michael Wiener,
Chairperson
8pnc

NOTICE
TO RESIDENTS OF
MOTLEY TOWNSHIP

The Annual Election of Officers will be held on Tuesday, March 14, 2017. The polls will be open from 5:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m. at the Motley Township Town Hall. Positions to be filled are as follows:

one (1) Supervisor for a three (3) year term, special election for Supervisor to fill vacancy in term expiring March 12, 2019, and

one (1) Treasurer for a two (2) year term.

Absentee ballots are available by appointment at the home of the Clerk, 218-821-0746.

In case of inclement weather the Annual Election of Officers and Annual Meeting will be postponed until Tuesday, March 21, 2017.

The following will be held after the Annual Election of Officers: the Board of Canvass, the Annual Meeting and the Regular Monthly Meeting.

Robin Johnson, Clerk
Motley Township
8-9pnc

(ABBREVIATED ADVERTISEMENT)

TODD COUNTY
2017 BITUMINOUS
PROJECTS

Closing date:
March 7, 2017

Sealed bids will be accepted until 10:00 a.m., March 7, 2017 by the Todd County Public Works Director/Engineer and County Auditor/Treasurer at 44 Riverside Drive, Long Prairie, Minnesota 56347 for the following construction projects:

SAP 077-616-007
SAP 077-618-012
SAP 077-631-006 / SAP 049-631-004
SAP 077-636-003
SAP 077-639-003
CP 17:61
CP 17:79
CP 17:106 / CP 049-219-013
CP 77-17-01
CP 77-17-06

This is an abbreviated advertisement. A full advertisement can be viewed by going to the Public Works website at https://egram.co.todd.mn.us/

Loren Fellbaum
Todd County Public Works Director/Engineer
6-8pnc

YOUR RIGHT TO KNOW

Todd County Commissioners Minutes

MINUTES
TODD COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
JANUARY 17, 2017

Call to Order

The Todd County Board of Commissioners met in the Commissioner's Board Room in the City of Long Prairie, MN on the 17th day of January, 2017 at 9:00 a.m. The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Erickson. The meeting was opened with the Pledge of Allegiance. All Commissioners were present.

Approval of Agenda

On motion by Neumann and seconded by Kneisl, the following motion was introduced and adopted by unanimous vote. To approve the agenda with the addition of 8.2 SWCD Approve Vehicle Purchase and 11.1 Accept Resignation from Livestock Council.

Consent Agenda

On motion by Kircher and seconded by Becker, the following motions and resolutions were introduced and adopted by unanimous vote:

To approve the Commissioner's Meeting Minutes for January 3, 2017 as presented.

EXCLUDED BINGO PERMIT – TODD COUNTY COUNCIL ON AGING

WHEREAS, the Todd County Board of Commissioners are establishing their approval for an Excluded Bingo Permit for the Todd County Council On Aging through this resolution;

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Todd County Board of Commissioners approve a one day Excluded Bingo Permit for the Todd County Council On Aging to hold a bingo at The Clarissa Ballroom in Eagle Valley Township at the address 19281 Kotter Road, Clarissa, MN on February 12, 2017.

GAMBLING PERMIT FOR ST MARY OF MT. CARMEL SCHOOL

WHEREAS, the Todd County Board of Commissioners are establishing their approval for a Gambling Permit for the St Mary of Mt. Carmel School through this resolution;

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Todd County Board of Commissioners approve a one day Gambling Permit for the St Mary of Mt. Carmel School to hold a raffle at the Head of the Lakes Resort in Leslie Township at the address 15080 Gardenia Drive, Osakis, MN on February 4, 2017.

To approve a one-day On Sale 3.2 Malt Liquor License for the Swanville & Sobieski Lions for the Long Lake Fishing Derby to be held on February 25, 2017 on Long Lake located in Burnhamville Township.

Auditor-Treasurer

On motion by Becker and seconded by Neumann, the following motion was introduced and adopted by unanimous vote: To approve the Commissioner Warrants number 45183 through 45304 in the amount of $338,745.40.

On motion by Kircher and seconded by Kneisl, the following motion was introduced and adopted by unanimous vote: To approve the Health & Human Services Warrants number 512093 through 512180 in the amount of $133,931.25.

On motion by Kneisl and seconded by Becker, the following motion was introduced and adopted by unanimous vote: To approve the Hands of Hope Lease Agreement effective January 1 - December 31, 2017.

On motion by Neumann and seconded by Kneisl, the following motion was introduced and adopted by unanimous vote: To approve acknowledgement of Central Planes Aviation of Sauk Centre, MN for spraying of army worms in Todd County in the calendar year 2017 along with the public shall be notified within 48 hours prior to spraying.

On motion by Kircher and seconded by Kneisl, the following resolution was introduced and adopted by unanimous vote:

TODD COUNTY HOUSING AND REDEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY BOARD REAPPOINTMENT

WHEREAS, the Todd County Board of Commissioners held a duly authorized special meeting on the 12th day of September, 1972, and;

WHEREAS, at said meeting a resolution was passed and adopted declaring the need for a Housing and Redevelopment Authority in Todd County, Minnesota, and;

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that pursuant to the provisions of the Municipal Housing and Redevelopment Act of the State of Minnesota, the Todd County Board of Commissioners hereby reappoint Eva Buhl to serve as Commissioner of the Housing and Redevelopment Authority of Todd County, Minnesota and to serve for a period of 5 years effective September 19, 2016 through September 18, 2021.

On motion by Becker and seconded by Kneisl, the following motion was introduced and adopted by unanimous vote: To approve and implement the Todd County Procurement Standards Policy for Federal Awards.

Minnesota Dept. of Natural Resources - Section of Wildlife

A motion was waived so that discussion could be held between the DNR-Section of Wildlife representative Beau Liddell and associates, County Commissioners and Hartford Township Board members. The concerns discussed included debate over the existence of a township road on the subject parcel and debate over the existence of deeded legal access to the subject parcel.

On motion by Neumann and seconded by Kircher, the following resolution was introduced and denied by unanimous roll call vote:

REVIEW OF PROPOSED STATE WILDLIFE LAND ACQUISITION

WHEREAS, in accordance with Minnesota Statutes 97A.145, Subd. 2, the Commissioner of the Department of Natural Resources on January 17, 2017 provided the County Board with a description of lands to be acquired by the State of Minnesota for water, forestry, wildlife, and natural plant community conservation purposes.

Lands to be acquired are described as follows:

Commencing at the southeast corner of the SW1/4 NE1/4, thence on a record bearing of South 89 degrees 10 minutes West and along the south line of said SW1/4 NE1/4, a distance of 21.1 feet to the point of beginning, said point also being on the boundary line of Sheets Lake Wildlife Management Area; thence from the point of beginning and continuing along the south line of said SW1/4 NE1/4 and bearing South 89 degrees 10 minutes West a distance of 468.68 feet; thence leaving the south line of said SW1/4 NE1/4 and bearing North 19 degrees 10 minutes East a distance of 360.77 feet; thence North 42 degrees 57 minutes East 576.71 feet; thence North 19 degrees 57 minutes East 230.00 feet, thence South 78 degrees 46 minutes East 353.36 feet to the intersection with the western boundary line of Sheets Lake Wildlife Management Area; thence following said boundary line, thus South 30 degrees 04 minutes West 230 feet, South 29 degrees 20 minutes west 326.40 feet, South 74 degrees 55 minutes East 140.50 feet, South 41 minutes 19 seconds West 223.00 feet, North 70 degrees 26 minutes West 50.10 feet, South 29 degrees 56 minutes West 268.40 feet to the point of beginning, all being in the SW14 NE1/4 and SE1/4 NE1/4 of Section Nine (9), Township One Hundred Thirty (130), Range Thirty-three (33), Township of Hartford, according to the U.S. Government Survey thereof, Todd County, State of Minnesota, containing 9.87 acres.

The above described property will be managed by the State of Minnesota as a Wildlife Management Area (WMA) for public use.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Board of County Commissioners of Todd County on January 17, 2017 that the State's proposed acquisition of the above described property be approved.

Reason for disapproval:

After discussion prior to the vote, this resolution was denied via roll call vote 5-yes 0-no.

Public Works

On motion by Kircher and seconded by Becker, the following motion was introduced and adopted by unanimous vote: To approve the Cooperative Construction Agreement for 2017 Ward Township roads.

On motion by Kneisl and seconded by Becker, the following resolution was introduced and adopted by unanimous vote:

APPROVAL TO SELL COUNTY OWNED PARCELS 36-4013300 & 36-4014300 (IMPOUNT LOT AND STS WOOD SALE LOT)

WHEREAS, Todd County was approached by Long Prairie Packing Company, LLC to consider selling two County owned parcels that contain the Sheriff's Impound Lot, Veteran's Service Garage, and the Sentence to Serve Wood Sale Lot (Parcel ID 36-4013300 and Parcel ID 36-4014300), and;

WHEREAS, the County compiled a $277,183 cost estimate to provide for full replacement of these lots and publically advertised to accept bids for these parcels with a minimum bid requirement that equaled or exceeded the replacement cost of these parcels, and;

WHEREAS, a sealed bid of $277,185 was received from Henry Street Properties, LLC on January 10, 2017.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Todd County Board of Commissioners approves of the $277,185 bid received from Henry Street Properties, LLC and grants authority to the Todd County Auditor/Treasurer and the Todd County Board of Commissioners Chairman to act as signatories on behalf of Todd County to transfer ownership of these parcels to Henry Street Properties, LLC.

On motion by Neumann and seconded by Kneisl, the following resolution was introduced and adopted by unanimous vote:

APPROVAL TO CONSTRUCT A COUNTY BUILDING IN THE LONG PRAIRIE INDUSTRIAL PARK

WHEREAS, Todd County has recently sold two County owned parcels (Parcel ID 36-4013300 and Parcel ID 36-4014300) that contain the Sheriff's Impound Lot, Veteran's Service Garage, and the Sentence to Serve Wood Sale Lot to Henry Street Properties, LLC for $277,185, and;

WHEREAS, as a result of the sale of these parcels the County intended to replace the facilities located on these parcels by constructing a new building in the Long Prairie Industrial Park.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Todd County Board of Commissioners instructs

See **TCC** on page 9a

ADVERTISEMENT FOR BIDS
DOWER LAKE RV PARK EXPANSION

Owner: City of Staples
Address:
C/O JEREL NELSEN, CITY ADMINISTRATOR
122 6TH STREET NE, STAPLES, MN 56479

Separate sealed bids for the furnishing of all labor, materials, and equipment for the complete construction of the Dower Lake RV Park Expansion will be received by the City Council of the City of Staples, MN at City Hall until March 10, 2017 at 10:00 a.m. at which time they will be publicly opened and read aloud at City Hall. The bids will then be tabulated and it is the intent of the City Council to initially consider the bids at 7:00 p.m. on Tuesday, March 14, 2017 in the Council Chambers.

The proposed work includes, but is not limited to, the following major items:

DESCRIPTION	UNIT	APPROXIMATE QUANTITY
CLEARING AND GRUBBING	ACRE	1.9
SELECT GRANULAR BORROW	CU YD	2,300
AGGREGATE SURFACING, CLASS 5	CU YD	200
3" PVC WATERMAIN PIPE	LN FT	1,345
4" PVC SEWER PIPE	LN FT	1,229
WATER WELL AND WELL HOUSE	LUMP SUM	1.0
SANITARY SEWER TREATMENT SYSTEM	LUMP SUM	1.0
WATER SERVICE RISER	EACH	18
SAN. SWR. SERVICE RISER	EACH	18
ELECTRICAL SERVICE	LUMP SUM	1.0

Each bid shall be accompanied by a Bid Security in an amount equal to five percent (5%) of the total amount of the bid made payable without condition to the Owner, as a guarantee that the Bidder, if awarded the Contract, will promptly execute the Agreement in accordance with the Bid and the other Contract Documents.

Complete digital project bidding documents are available at www.wsn.us.com by clicking on Bidding Documents in the upper right hand corner or at www.questcdn.com by inputting Quest project #4850837 on the website's Project Search page. Please contact QuestCDN.com at (952) 233-1632 or info@questcdn.com for assistance in free membership registration, downloading and working with this digital project information. You may download the digital plan documents electronically for $30.

Women or minority-owned businesses are encouraged to apply.

The City reserves the right to waive any informality or to reject any or all bids.

No bidder may withdraw his / her bid within 60 days after the actual date of the opening thereof.

Dated this 16th day of February, 2017.

Jerel Nelsen, City Administrator
7-9pnc

Commissioners vote to accept buffer zone jurisdictional authority

By Rin Porter
Wadena County reporter

On Feb. 7, the Wadena County Board of Commissioners voted unanimously to "elect jurisdiction" – meaning that the county will enforce state-mandated buffer zones around lakes, streams, rivers, and public ditches rather than have the State of Minnesota do it.

Commissioners decided to accept jurisdiction after hearing from Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD) director Darren Newville about the choice the board had to make by March 31. Newville indicated that local control was probably a better idea than state control, because with local control, the SWCD staff could work with landowners whose property is adjacent to a body of water, to bring them into compliance with the buffer requirements. Under state control, it can take years before someone from the state arrived to deal with landowners who were not in compliance with buffer rules.

Chair Dave Hillukka said he thought local control was better than state control as well.

The buffer rules have been in place since 1989, Newville said. But it's only been in the last few years they've been enforced.

Last year, legislators amended the 50-ft buffer requirement so it now has to be "a 50-ft average width, 30-ft minimum width, continuous buffer of perennially rooted vegetation" around lakes, streams and rivers, according to Minnesota Statutes 103F.48 subd 3 (1)ii . The 16.5 ft width for a buffer from public ditches remains in effect, Newville said.

Newville also explained the concept of One Watershed, One Plan – a new approach to water conservation and water quality. Instead of the current county water plan required in each Minnesota county, a new set of water plans at the level of the watershed will be drafted.

Wadena County is part of three watersheds: Red Eye, Crow Wing and Long Prairie. So three plans for Wadena County will be drafted in the near future, in cooperation with other counties that lie in those watersheds. Joint Powers Boards will be established to make decisions about the watersheds.

Wadena commissioners voted unanimously to support the One Watershed, One Plan concept and authorized Newville to proceed with implementing the requirements of the new approach.

In other business, the board

- Authorized the highway department to advertise for bids on 2017 supplies including equipment rental, dust control, aggregate purchases, weed spraying and signage.
- Authorized the payment of current bills for the annex project, of $126,213.
- Heard an update on the progress of remodeling projects in the social services building and the public health building.
- Approved the appointment of Kristi Walsvick to the Public Health Advisory Committee.
- Approved the 2017 tobacco licenses for seven retail stores: Orton's, Shell Sport and Bait, Menahga C-Store, Chuck's Country Foods, Blueberry Pines, DG Retail and Judith Salorek. The last two licenses were for new retail outlets the board was not familiar with.



MMEA performers

Recently the Minnesota Music Educators Association hosted their annual Midwinter Clinic at the Minneapolis Convention Center. Staples-Motley was represented by, above from left, Noah Han and Nick Crist, with SMHS choir director, Caleb Horn.

Noah participated with the All-State Choir and Nick with the All-State Orchestra. Both Staples-Motley students performed at Orchestra Hall as part of the MMEA's final concerts. (Submitted photo)

Spring weight restrictions begin in state central zone

The Minnesota Department of Transportation (MnDOT) began spring truck weight restrictions in the central frost zones Feb. 21.

Removal of winter load increases and start of spring load restrictions in the south, southeast and Metro frost zones began Feb. 17.

Road restriction maps showing the locations of weight-restricted routes and those state highways open to maximum 10-ton axle weights are listed at www.mndot.gov/loadlimits. Click on "seasonal load limits," and then "spring load restrictions." Also available is a text list of the restricted segments and exceptions to the map.

Overweight permits for more than 80,000 pound gross vehicle weight will continue and new permits will be issued if all axle and group weights are legal.

Full-summer overweight permits can be issued during the spring load restriction period only on interstate through movements.

Middle-range overweight permits become available within each frost zone when spring load restrictions are lifted. Full-summer overweight permits become available two to three weeks after spring load restrictions are lifted.

Ending dates for spring load restrictions are variable and based on how weather is affecting roadway strength.

MnDOT will report dates on its 24-hour automated message center at 1-800-723-6543 for the U.S. and Canada and locally at 651-366-5400 for the Minneapolis/St.Paul area.

TODD COMMISSIONERS continued from page 8a

the Todd Wadena Community Corrections Department to relocate the Sentence to Serve Wood Lot to an area located at the County Transfer Station.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the construction of this building shall follow Minnesota Statute 373.345 and an effort should be made to ensure that all costs associated with this project not exceed the original project cost estimate of $277,183.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Todd County Board of Commissioners appoints the Todd County Engineer to act as the County's Project Manager to administer the purchase of the new lot from the City of Long Prairie and negotiate construction contracts and agreements, on behalf of the County, with purchasing authority up to a $25,000 threshold.

Planning & Zoning

On motion by Kneisl and seconded by Kircher, the following motion was introduced and adopted by unanimous vote: To approve the re-appointment of Planning Commission members Jim Pratt and Gene Irsfeld and Board of Adjustment members Steve Gjerstad and Mike Aksamit for four year terms ending in 2020.

On motion by Neumann and seconded by Kneisl, the following motion was introduced and adopted by unanimous vote: To approve accepting the bid for $9,908 for the 2010 Ford Escape from Gessell Auto Sales and proceed with purchasing of the vehicle for use in the SWCD division.

Sheriff's Office

On motion by Kircher and seconded by Becker, the following motion was introduced and adopted by unanimous vote: To allow the carryover of Contingency Funds in the amount of $2,054 from the 2016 Budget to the 2017 Budget.

Human Resources

On motion by Becker and seconded by Kircher, the following motion was introduced and adopted by unanimous vote: To approve the Personnel and Coordinator Hiring Committees recommendation of the hire of Joseph Hatch for the County Coordinator position with the terms in the Employment Agreement with a start date of February 27, 2017.

Todd County Livestock Council

On motion by Neumann and seconded by Becker, the following motion was introduced and adopted by unanimous vote: To accept the resignation of Delvin Durheim from the Todd County Livestock Advisory Council effective January 13, 2017.

Auditor-Treasurer's Report

An update of Cash balances at year end 2016 was provided for review.

Commissioner's Report

The Commissioners reported on the meetings that they had attended.

Adjourn

On motion by Neumann and seconded by Becker, the meeting was adjourned for the month of January, 2017.

COMMISSIONER WARRANTS

Vendor Name	$ Amount
CENTRAL TODD CTY CARE CENTERS	$2,557.60
CHARM-TEX	3,763.50
COMPASS MINERALS AMERICA	59,820.66
FLEETMATICS USA LLC	6,216.00
HILLYARD	2,017.45
IMPACT TECH	2,000.00
INDEPENDENT EMERGENCY SERV	9,870.82
INFO. SYSTEM CORP	19,818.00
LONG PRAIRIE LEADER	3,679.80
MCCC, MI33	23,224.99
MCIT	18,767.00
MIDSTATES EQUIP AND SUPPLY	13,463.87
STAPLES WORLD	8,336.88
TRUCK UTILITIES MFG. CO	132,722.00
TURNKEY/THREE SQUARE MARKET	2,371.32
107 Payments less than $2,000	30,115.51
Total	**$338,745.40**

HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES WARRANTS

Vendor Name	$ Amount
COMMUNITY/ FAMILY SRVS LLC	$6,967.83
# 4453	4,420.00
GERARD TREATMENT PROGRAMS	3,692.72
HEARTLAND GIRLS RANCH	3,950.05
HOLISTIC FAMILY ED. SRVS	7,616.12
ISD 191 COMM. ED	2,235.00
KINDRED FAMILY FOCUS	2,570.52
LUEBESMIER/ HEATHER	2,010.00
MEIER/LAUREL	2,594.82
NORTHERN PINES MENTAL HLTH CTR	9,090.50
NORTHWOOD CHILDRENS SERV	6,441.49
PETRANGELO MS ED.D/GEORGE	2,887.50
PORT OF CROW WING BOYS HOME	5,518.00
PRODUCTIVE ALTERNATIVES	2,100.50
STEP	6,534.16
# 14203	2,430.40
VILLAGE RANCH INC	19,833.08
Payments less than $2,000	43,038.56
Total	**$133,931.25**

On a motion by Kircher and secondeded by Neumann, the preceding minutes of the County Board meeting held January 17, 2017 were duly approved by unanimous vote at the Todd County Board of Commissioners at the Regular Board Meeting held on February 7, 2017.

Witness my hand and seal:

Rodney Erickson, Todd County Board Chairperson

Denise Gaida, Todd County Auditor-Treasurer

8pnc

Public Notices

(ABBREVIATED ADVERTISEMENT)

TODD COUNTY GRAVEL SURFACING PROJECT

Closing date: March 14, 2017

Sealed bids will be accepted until 10:00 a.m., March 14, 2017 by the Todd County Public Works Director/Engineer and County Auditor/Treasurer at 44 Riverside Drive, Long Prairie, Minnesota 56347 for the following construction project:

CP 17:82, CP 17:84, CP 17:86
Graveling Surfacing Project
Various County Roadways (15.556 miles)

This is an abbreviated advertisement. A full advertisement can be viewed by going to the Public Works website at https://egram.co.todd.mn.us/

Loren Fellbaum
Todd County Public Works Director/Engineer

7-9pnc

NOTICE BULLARD TOWNSHIP ELECTION AND ANNUAL MEETING

Notice is hereby given to qualified voters of Bullard Township, Wadena County, Minnesota, that the Annual Election of Officers and Annual Meeting will be held Tuesday, March 14, 2017, at the Bullard Township Hall. Election poll hours are 5:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m., at which time voters will elect:

One (1) Supervisor, three (3) year term;

One (1) Treasurer, two (2) year term.

Board of Canvass will take place immediately after the election, and the Annual Meeting will begin at 8:30 p.m.

In case of inclement weather, the election and meeting will be postponed until Tuesday, March 21, 2017, with the same times and location.

Janelle VanAlst
Bullard Township Clerk
(218) 894-2703

8pnc

Public Notice Advertising Protects Your Right To Know



Dancers do well in Houston

Dancers from Music General Dance Studio competed in the "Jump Dance Tour" in Houston, Tex., Jan. 27-29. The tap dance trio received a high gold and a third place award. From left are Jayce Kobliska, Staples; Kallie Baker, Brainerd; and Klaire Storry, Staples. As part of a teen large group they received high gold for their tap performance to "Dippity Dop." A total of 27 dancers competed in 13 routines including tap solos, duets, trios, and groups and contemporary solos. Overall, the dancers received five "You Rock" awards (scores of 97+ out of 100), five High Golds, three Golds, one "Best of Jump" (Senior Large Group), and one Teen VIP Scholarship, as well as numerous class scholarships. In addition to competing, the weekend included intensive dance workshops with top choreographers and instructors from across the country teaching tap, jazz, lyrical, contemporary, hip-hop and ballet. (Submitted photo)

Q: What do Honda, Chevy, Ford and Toyota have in common?

A: They are at the top of the list of stolen cars in Minnesota.

Lock Your Car. Take Your Keys.

Report Auto Theft: 1-800-359-HEAT AVCAM.org

SEEKING FIELD/SHOP MECHANIC

The Field/ShopMechanic position will diagnose and repair all heavy construction equipment in the field and shop. Must be be versatile and flexible with traveling to different work locations, when equipment repairs, maintenance and monitoring of equipment are required.
Essential Duties and Responsibilities:
- Operate and inspect all equipment to determine needed repairs.
- Repair, replace, calibrate, adjust and/or rebuild components.
- Test repaired equipment for proper operation.
- Perform routine service and maintenance.
- Welding and fabrication work.
- Maintain and update knowledge of equipment to be serviced.

Must be able to operate equipment for diagnostic purposes. Must be able to lift up to 60 pounds, work extended hours out of doors in a variety of weather conditions, and travel extensively as needed. Class A commercial driver's license a plus.



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The Open Book

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MINNESOTA NEWSPAPER ASSOCIATION

A public service provided by Minnesota Newspapers and the Minnesota Newspaper Association.

CHORUS continued from page 1a

Broadway shows, national monuments, museums beckoned them

west Minnesota Men's Chorus, Marshall; Cold Spring Area Maennerchor; Chariton High School Choir, Iowa; Choir of Rugby School, United Kingdom; and the Virginia Symphony Orchestra Chorus, Virginia.

Another amazing fact was that we had members ranging from 14 to 87 years of age. Dave Nibbe from SAMC said that it was an incredible experience for anyone, especially a high school student like himself, to be a part of such an experience. He especially noted the span of 73 years between young and oldest.

The chorus members found the practices intense and emotionally charged. They left the members feeling exhausted and yet somehow inspired to improve the next time we performed.

After completing the four-hour practice session the chorus members hit the streets of New York taking in plays and a New York Philharmonic Symphony performance; visiting several museums, the 911 Memorial, Statue of Liberty and Ellis Island; and the list goes on.

Twenty-three of the members attended "Beautiful, The Carol King Story" while others found their own way to a variety of different shows. Before some of the chorus left NYC Monday, the individuals would have attended over 20 Broadway plays as well as some off-Broadway plays.

Saturday brought another long practice session starting at 8:45 a.m. and ending at 12:30 p.m. This was our last chance to fine tune our presentation before the Sunday performance. Afterwards, the members once again scrambled to get in as much of New York City as possible choosing to get to Ellis Island, the 911 Memorial, or more Broadway shows. Some even managed to squeeze in two shows by catching a matinee and an evening performance.

Sunday arrived and after a two-hour rehearsal with the New York Symphony that was accompanying us, we were finally ready.

The concert began at 1 p.m. with a performance of "Gloria" featuring Suzanne Karpov, soprano, under the direction of Erin Freemann, DCINY Debut Conductor. The second act of the day featured the Rochester Philharmonic Youth Orchestra playing the "Music of Marqwuez" under the direction of James Mick.

The SAMC and the other 230 members of the distinguished chorus along with some members of the New York Symphony delivered the grand finale in Sterns Auditorium of Carnegie Hall by performing their "Testament of Freedom."

The performance was followed immediately by a gala celebration provided by DCINY for all performers and guests. As Ron Denning put it, "This is an opportunity of a lifetime which would not have been possible for any of us without being a part of a group like the Staples Area Men's Chorus. We should be proud."

Thoughts from other members of the chorus were:

Rob Freelove: "This experience was probably one of top three musical experiences in my life. It rates right up there with the time I performed for the King of Norway."

Bernie Nelsen: "I can't believe that I ever got this opportunity. It was without a doubt an opportunity of a lifetime."

For those who could not make the trip to New York, the SAMC will be performing an encore performance in the Centennial Auditorium on March 4 as part of a collaboration with Lakewood Health System, "Making a Mental Note."

Be sure to get your tickets early. All tickets are pre-sale only and must be purchased by Feb. 26 in order to have a dinner count for Ted & Gen's, who'll be catering the dinner.

EDITORS NOTE: The Staples World received an addition to this story from the chorus members as many of them were returning Feb. 20. They wanted to express their thanks to Jerry Reck for his work in organizing the trip.



Performing with other top male choruses

The Staples Area Men's Chorus is one of the 11 men's choruses accompanied by the Virginia Symphony Orchestra in the Stern Auditorium/Perelman Stage at Carnegie Hall in New York City for a performance of "The Testament of Freedom." (Submitted photo)

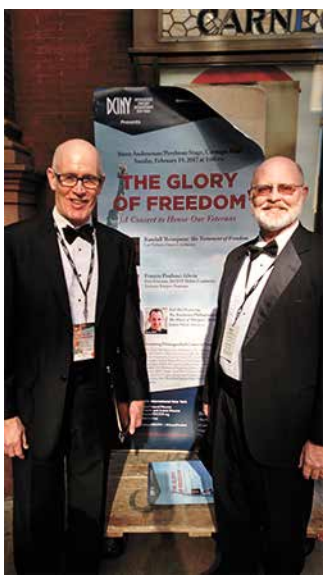
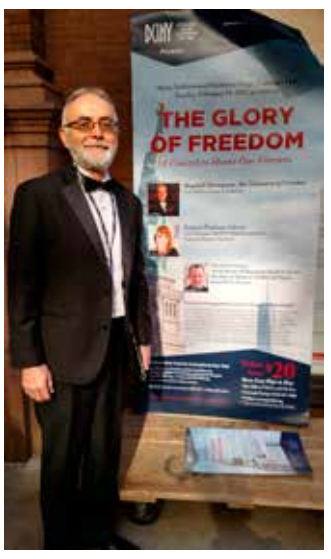
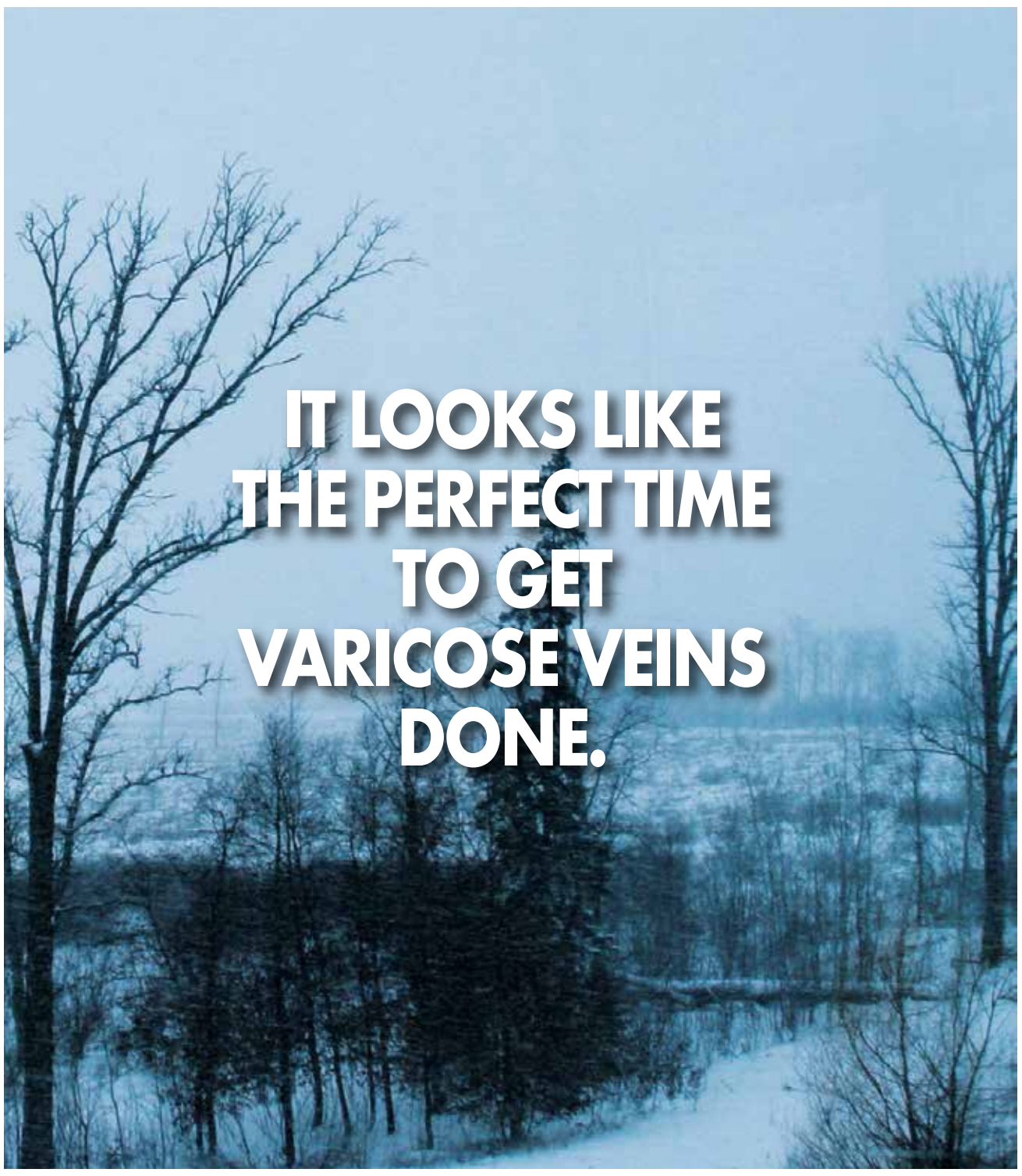


Photo op

The sign on the outside of Carnegie Hall promoting "The Testament of Freedom" was a favorite photo site for SAMC members. Above are Eric Dovre, left, president of SAMC, and Mike Gold, a former president. Below is Jerry Reck, past president. (Submitted photos)





Region Five names board of directors

Region Five Development Commission has announced this year's board of directors, along with the newest members to the commission.

The 2017 board of directors include: David Anderson, Wadena County Municipalities, board chair; Barb Becker, Todd County Commissioner, vice chair; Duane Johnson, Morrison County Commissioner, secretary; Craig Nathan, Rural Minnesota Concentrated Employment Program/Special Interests, treasurer; Sheldon Monson, Wadena County Commissioner, director; Rosemary Franzen, Crow Wing County Commissioner, director; and John Benson, Cass County Town Boards, director.

The Commission's newest representatives are Jill Abbott, M State/Higher Education; Nancy Stevens, Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe; and Curt Johnson, Region Five School Boards.

Executive Director Cheryal Hills shared "We are fortunate to work for elected officials and leaders of special interest groups who continually seek regional cooperation and efficiencies in ways that improve our rural quality of life."

Region Five Development Commission was established in Minnesota State Statute in 1973 and is designated as an Economic Development District (EDD) by the U.S. Dept. of Commerce Economic Development Administration for the five county region.

A few of R5DC's broad programs and services include community development - broadband, energy, local foods plans/program deployment; economic development-including four lending programs; and a multitude of transportation programs including Safe-Routes-to-Schools planning.

The work of the commission is guided by a governing commission that consists of members representing a cross -section of constituents from around the five county region. For a full listing of commission representatives visit www.regionfive.org.

Avoid Event Conflicts
Check the Events Calendar online at
www.staplesworld.com
Submit events to
dtimbs@staplesworld.com



A great day for snow golf

Above: Stacie Corrigan (far right) gets ready to hit the ball at hole no. one during the 11th Annual Snow Golf Tournament on Lake Alexander Feb. 18. Next in line is her friend, Meghan Johnson. It was the first snow golf tournament for both of the women, who hail from the St. Cloud area. Below: Tyler White of Randall (far left) attempts to hit the ball into the 18th and final hole of the tournament. Also pictured are, from left, Tim Corrigan, St. Cloud and Cushing; Kevin Corrigan, Browerville; Adam Corrigan, St. Cloud. (Staples World photo by Dawn Timbs)







Sleigh ride

Joe Swecker of St. Louis Park pulls a sled carrying a cooler and Michelle Storlie, also of St. Louis Park, to the next hole at the Snow Golf Tournament on Lake Alexander Feb. 18. Joe's parents are Motley-Staples area natives Kevin and Melaine (Miller) Swecker.



Ice fishing on Lake Alex



A number of ice fishing enthusiasts enjoyed being out on Lake Alexander Feb. 18, with temperatures reaching 50 degrees. Pictured in top photo, Bruce Bigalke of Ham Lake checks the underwater camera monitor to see if any fish are approaching his bait. "I saw 18 walleye a while back," he said. Bigalke, who has a cabin on the lake, said he has seen a lot of fish this winter but hasn't caught many. In addition to his love of fishing, Bigalke said he enjoys the peace and solitude of being at the lake. "I'll stay out here all day," he said, mentioning that his fish house is equipped with propane heat and a stove. "The menu today is Reuben sandwiches," he added. Bigalke also noted that his fishing hole is 35 ft. deep. In center photo, fishing out in the open over holes they have drilled are, from left, Angie Salman, Scott Runge, Kevin Miller, Shasta Miller, all of the Twin Cities area. In bottom photo, Krystal Wiekamp of Menahga holds up a northern pike she caught that day. (Staples World photos by Dawn Timbs)

Snow Golf Tournament has biggest turnout ever

By Dawn Timbs
Staples World reporter

Over 200 golfers participated in the 11th Annual Snow Golf Tournament on Lake Alexander Feb. 18, an event sponsored by the Lincoln Scandia Valley Lions Club.

Held at The Castaway Bar & Grill in Cushing, the event drew golf enthusiasts from around the state.

"We start planning for it in October," said Lion Ardis Sandstrom, adding that the course is different every year. The day before the tournament, club members clear snow off the ice and put flags up at each of the 18 holes.

The balmy 50-plus degree temperature that day may have helped bring golfers out to the lake; but "even when it's 30 degrees below zero, we have a core group of 50 - 60 people who never miss this," Sandstrom said.

Joe Swecker of St. Louis Park said he was enjoying the warm weather but noted that he had a great time the previous year as well, with sub-zero temps. "We drank a lot of beer both years," Swecker said.

It was the first time Meghan Johnson and Stacie Corrigan of the St. Cloud area had participated at the event. "It was fun and the weather was beautiful," Johnson said. She went on to note that their husbands, Ryan and T Jay, had participated at last year's tournament; and that there was approximately a 60 degree temperature difference between the two years.

From their husbands' experiences, Johnson said, the sub-zero temperature last year was better for course conditions. This year's 50-plus degree temps made things a little more challenging. However, the warmer temps were certainly more comfortable and brought in more participants, Johnson said.

Even with the spring-like weather, the ice was still 24-inches thick, Sandstrom noted.

The 18-hole course took snow golfers anywhere from three - four hours.

After finishing the course, participants were treated to bowls of free chili at The Castaway, complements of the Lincoln Scandia Valley Lions.

In addition to the chili, golfers had the opportunity to win several prizes. "We have $9,000 worth of prizes, all donated by area businesses," Sandstrom said. "We are so thankful to all of them for their generosity. Our business community is amazing."

Lonnie DeWald and Dennis Trana, both of Staples, had the lowest scores for the two-person team, winning a round of golf for four at Pine Ridge Golf Club in Motley.

Lion Terry Sandstrom, Ardis's husband, is the chairman of the snow golf tournament. "This was the best turnout ever," Terry Sandstrom said of last weekend's event.

Now that she's experienced her first snow-golf tournament, Johnson said she will be back again. "It's fun being a part of a community event where everyone is enjoying the outdoors and having fun together," she said. "We had a blast and look forward to next year."



Chili on a not-so-chilly day

Amanda Olson (left) and Nolan Toft, Brainerd, enjoyed a bowl of chili at The Castaway Bar & Grill in Cushing, following the snow golf tournament on Lake Alexander. The event is sponsored by the Lincoln Scandia Valley Lions club, which offered free chili to all participants. Olson teaches at Motley-Staples Middle School and Toft is a substitute teacher there on occasion. The two said this is the second year they have participated in the tournament. "Last year it was below zero out there…this year, it's almost 50 degrees," Olson said. (Staples World photo by Dawn Timbs)

Morrison County Historical Society seeks board member

Due to a recent resignation from the Morrison County Historical Society's board of directors, they are seeking someone to fill a vacancy on the board.

Normally, terms for elected board members are three years, but as the resignation occurred midway through a term, the appointed board member's term will last until September 2018. At that time, this board member will be eligible to be elected for a full term on the board.

Potential candidates for this position need to be interested in helping the Morrison County Historical Society fulfill its mission of preserving and sharing Morrison County's history. Board training will be provided, with additional training for a candidate who has never served on a nonprofit board.

To be considered as a board candidate or for further information, contact Mary Warner at 320-632-4007.

Trees cleared to make way for new transmission line

By Dawn Timbs,
Staples World reporter

Travelers along Hwy 10 south of Motley have been noticing a number of trees that have recently been cut down on the east side of the highway.

The tree clearing is one of the project phases in Great River Energy's (GRE) 115-kV transmission line project, which includes the Motley area. The project was granted a Certificate of Need and a Route Permit by the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission on March 23, 2016. In addition to GRE of Maple Grove, the two other utilities involved in this project include Crow Wing Power of Baxter; and Minnesota Power of Duluth.

According to information at their website, GRE received approval to construct and operate 16.5 miles of new 115 kilovolt (kV) overhead transmission lines in northern Morrison County, southern Cass County and eastern Todd County to ensure the reliability of electric service to the members of Crow Wing Power (CWP).

The project will connect to the existing Minnesota Power 115 kV "24" transmission line in Cass County and extend approximately 5.1 miles southerly to the existing CWP Motley Substation located at the intersection of Azalea Road and County Rd. 2 in Morrison County. From the Motley substation, the 115 kV overhead transmission line will continue westerly approximately 3.4 miles along Azalea Road to U.S. Hwy 10, then continue southerly approximately 7.3 miles along U.S. Hwy 10 to serve the new CWP Fish Trap Lake distribution substation which will be located on MPL's pipeline pump station property at U.S. Hwy 10 and Holt Road.

In most areas, the new transmission line will require a 100-foot-wide right of way, 50 feet on each side of the transmission line.

Reliable Tree Service of Cambridge is currently conducting tree clearing for the project. Last November, they cut trees in the Cass County portion of the 16.5-mile project, north of Hwy 210. In recent weeks, the company has been clearing trees in the Motley area.

During the first phase of tree clearing, trees were cut down and placed on large piles. The following week, a second crew continued cutting the felled trees into shorter lengths and cleaned up the brush and smaller trees. According to Jenny Mattson, GRE Communications Coordinator, timber will be left stacked along the back edge of the power line right of way for those landowners that indicated a desire to keep their wood. All remaining brush and timber will be chipped up and hauled away for processing at a bio-mass facility.

Mattson said that there is approximately 50 acres of wooded areas that are being removed for this project; and 67 property owners that are affected by the project.

After the trees are cleared, the next project phase will be to install 240 power poles, which are generally spaced 350 to 400 feet apart. Okay Construction of Princeton is the power line contractor; and they have already installed approximately 35 power poles along 51st Ave. north of Hwy 210.

Once the power poles have been set, the third and final stage of activity is stringing the electric conductors from pole to pole along the full length of the project.

The power line is estimated to be completed and energized by late August, 2017. There may be some clean-up and restoration activities that will extend into the fall months of 2017, Mattson said.

Motley Police, Morrison Cty Sheriff's Office reports

Recent reports from the Motley Police Department (MPD) and the Morrison County Sheriff's Office (MCSO) included the following:

Feb. 15 - The MPD received a call from someone reporting seeing a school bus with children in it run a red light at Hwys 10 and 210 in Motley at approximately 1 p.m. The bus was eastbound on Hwy 10 and then pulled into the parking lot of the Spot Cafe. Caller stated that the bus was a Reichert bus and had the number 5 on it.

Feb. 11 - The MPD issued a citation to Jay Saldana, 52, for not having proof of insurance; and a verbal warning for having a dog on his lap while driving.

Feb. 10 - The MPD arrested Jade Davis, 27, after responding to a domestic situation at the 500 block of Hwy 10 S., Motley. According to the report, Davis was intoxicated and had assaulted her brother. She was booked in the Morrison County Jail following her arrest and was cited for having a small amount of marijuana in her possession.

Feb. 9 - The MPD issued a citation to Shane Carr, 20, for driving with a revoked license; and for the possession of drug paraphernalia and possessing alcohol under the age of 21 (an open bottle of rum in a bag was found in the trunk of subject's vehicle).

Dec. 13 - The MCSO arrested Ryan Deters, 39, for possession of meth. During a traffic stop at the 26000 block of Beaver Rd. in Cushing, 2.1 grams of meth were pulled from Deters' front pocket. He told the deputy it belonged to someone else.

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107 Notices

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Regarding sex or age preference in help wanted advertising in accordance with the rules adopted by the Civil Rights Commission, the Staples World, Sunday Square Shooter and Heartland Market cannot accept help wanted advertising copy which in any way expresses a sex or age preference on the basis of a bonafide occupational requirement unless the advertiser files an affidavit with the newspaper justifying the sex or age preference on the basis of a bonafide occupational requirement.

All real estate and rental advertising in these publications is subject to the Federal Fair Housing Act of 1968 which made it illegal to advertise "any preference, limitation or discrimination based on race, color, religion, sex or national origin or any intention to make any such preference limitation or discrimination." These publications will not knowingly accept any advertising for real estate or rental which is in violation of the law. Our readers are hereby informed that all dwellings advertised in this newspaper are available on an equal opportunity basis.

NOTICES



103 Lost and Found

LOST: Fri., Feb. 10 badly missed red/rusty colored long haired small Chihuahua. Goes by name of Rusty. Lost north of Staples golf course and Simon Lake area. Old dog, may be limping on front leg. If seen call 218-894-1420 or 218-640-5415; if no answer leave message. 8x

107 Notices

St. Jude's Novena: May the most Sacred Heart of Jesus be adored, glorified, loved and preserved throughout the world now and forever. Sacred Heart of Jesus, pray for us. St. Jude, help of the hopeless pray for us. Say this prayer nine times a day for nine days. On the eighth day your prayer will be answered. Publication must be promised. Thank you. Sacred Heart and St. Jude. **SS** 8p

SERVICES & EMPLOYMENT

205 Help Wanted

THE VINTAGE at Staples, **NOW HIRING** for the 2017 golf season, **FT and PT positions available;** •CLUBHOUSE MANAGER •CLUBHOUSE STAFF •GROUNDS MANAGER •GROUNDS CREW STAFF. **To Apply;** email vintageatstaples@gmail.com 8-10c

Eastwood Inn Motley looking for someone for **front desk and housekeeping** as needed. Please inquire within. Hwy 10 S, Motley. 8c

Trinity Lutheran Church, Staples seeks **permanent PT organist** for worship. Would consider pianist. Contact Pastor Collins, 218-894-2372. 7-9p

HELP WANTED
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Freelance writer

We are seeking a part-time freelance writer to cover Wadena County Board meetings. The Commissioners regularly meet at 9 a.m. Tuesdays at the Wadena Courthouse. Additional meetings may be scheduled. Call Brenda at **218-894-1112** for details or appointment.

Staples World

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501 Miscellaneous

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Staples World

Boys hoops team regains momentum for win

By Mark Anderson
News Editor

The Staples-Motley boys basketball team took an early lead against Long Prairie-Grey Eagle on Feb. 16, let them back into the game in the second half, then closed it out with a run to win 65-57.

After taking a 12-2 lead, the Cardinals kept fighting LPGE runs.

"Thy would hit some threes and get close, we would stretch it back out and went up 15 at halftime," said Coach Micheal Poncelet.

The Cardinals came out slow in the second half and did it all over again. "A lot of credit goes to them, they defended us well, held us to a really low shooting percentage," said Poncelet.

Late in the game, Gavin Smith hit a three pointer from deep to close the door on a final comeback.

"It was a good win late in the season on the road against a team that plays really hard and has a game changing seven footer on the inside," said Poncelet.

Trey Skeesick had 14 rebounds and five steals for a productive game against the seven foot player.

Team results

Staples-Motley 65, Long Prairie-Grey Eagle 57

Scoring: Gavin Smith 28, Derek Kennedy 13, Josh Lombard 8, Trey Skeesick 6, Jack Fietek 4, Hunter Carlson 2, Max Giza 2

Record correction

The information regarding Gavin Smith's scoring record in last week's newspaper was incorrect. Smith tied the school record with 43 points, matching a 43 åpoint game by Blaine Joerger.



Scoring position

Claire Wolhowe beats the Crosby-Ironton Defense to the basket. (Staples World photo by Mark Anderson)

Walk-in access sign-up has begun

Landowners can generate revenue by allowing public hunting on their private land in 46 Minnesota counties, including Todd and Wadena, through the Department of Natural Resources' Walk-In Access program. Sign-ups are open Monday, Jan. 23, to Friday, April 28.

Eligible parcels must be at least 40 acres and covered by natural vegetation. Landowners are paid by the acre to allow hunting access from Sept. 1-May 31.

Landowners should contact their local soil and water conservation district office for enrollment information.

Cleveland makes wrestling hall of fame

Former Staples wrestler Jerry Cleveland will be honored by the National Wrestling Hall of Fame Minnesota Chapter at their Hall of Fame Banquet on Saturday, April 22, at the Austin Holiday Inn Conference Center.

His biography from the NWHOF:

Jerry Cleveland has given back to the Sport for 42 years as a Coach and Official. Jerry was a 2-Time All-American at Itasca Community College and and Bemidji State University! Jerry was selected as the OW of The Northern Intercollegiate Conference in 1975, and a a State Runner up for legendary Hall of Fame Coach Don Dravis at Staples. Jerry's 26 years as a head coach resulted in four of his teams competing in the Minnesota State Dual Meet Tournament with a 3rd and 4th Place State Finish. A 1998 Minnesota State AA Coach of the year with Cass Lake/Blackduck/Bena High School. Jerry also coached at Elbow Lake, Cambridge, 2 tour of duties at Cass Lake, and Onida, SD.

Jerry coached 38 state entrants, 14 state place winners in Minnesota; and had 9 entrants and 3 place winners in Onida, SD in one year. Jerry also officiated at all levels for 40 years.

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Wrestlers fall short in section final

By Mark Anderson
News Editor

The Staples-Motley wrestling team survived a thrilling semifinal match, beating Barnesville 36-30 to reach the Section 6A finals, but fell to West Central Area-Ashby-Brandon-Evansville 43-28 in the finals.

"It was pretty exciting, the kids did some really good things," said Coach Dave Anglin. "We have every reason in the world of be proud of our kids."

The semifinal excitement was set up by some big wins in the lower weights, which included pins by Payton Bjerga and Jasiah Paskewitz. Braden Christiansen and Blayne Dumpprope had big decisions at weights where the Cardinals needed the points.

Barnesville came storming back in the middle and upper weights so that the score was 33-30 in favor of the Cardinals, heading into the final heavyweight match. Kyle Serich took the mat against the state's fourth ranked wrestler, knowing that he had to win or stay close and avoid a pin for the team to stay on top.

The two heavyweights stayed even for three periods, sending the match into overtime. Serich was aggressive in overtime and it payed off as he got his opponent to the mat for a takedown that sent the team to the finals.

"Kyle wanted it more, that's why he won," said Anglin.

In the championship, the Cardinals did well against some of the top wrestlers from West Central, but they didn't have enough depth to keep up with the top seed.

"We turned a couple of matches," said Anglin. "I have nothing but good things to say about the way we wrestled, we were just a little bit short."

Coach Anglin said the best part of the tournament was how the team came together for the matches. "They showed a lot of team spirit, they were wrestling for each other instead of for themselves," said Anglin.

The individual section meet will be Saturday, Feb. 25, at Wheaton High School. Anglin said the Cardinals have eight wrestlers who could have a chance to advance to state. "We have some tough kids in weight classes where they should do really well," said Anglin.

"The kids will keep working hard and be prepared for the weekend," said Anglin. "This is an added bonus after working so hard all season."



Working from the top

Brayden Christensen controls the match in the win against Barnesville. (Submitted photo)

Team results

Section 6A Semifinal: Staples-Motley 36, Barnesville 30

106 Payton Bjerga W fall; 113 Brayden Christensen W 2-1; 120 Spencer Miller W 3-0; 126 Blayne Dumprope W 5-0; 132 Owen Bjerga W fall; 138 Jasiah Paskewitz W fall; 145 Cade Schmidt L fall; 152 Alex Ross-Bahn L fall; 160 Jonathan Lisson L fall; 170 Isaac Swensrud L 5-3; 182 Alex Erpelding W fall; 195 Shaine Guggenberger L fall; 220 Braden Tyrell L 7-0; 285 Kyle Serich W 3-1

Section 6A Championship: Staples-Motley 28, West Central Area-Ashby-Brandon-Evansville 43

106 P. Bjerga L fall; 113 Christensen L 11-4, 120 Miller W 9-5; 126 Dumprope L 12-1; 132 O. Bjerga W 12-4; 138 Paskewitz W 11-2; 145 Schmidt L fall; 152 Brandon Szymkowiak L fall; 160 Lisson L fall; 170 Swensrud L fall; 182 Erpelding W 15-0; 195 Tyrell W fall; 220 Guggenberger L fall; 285 Serich W fall



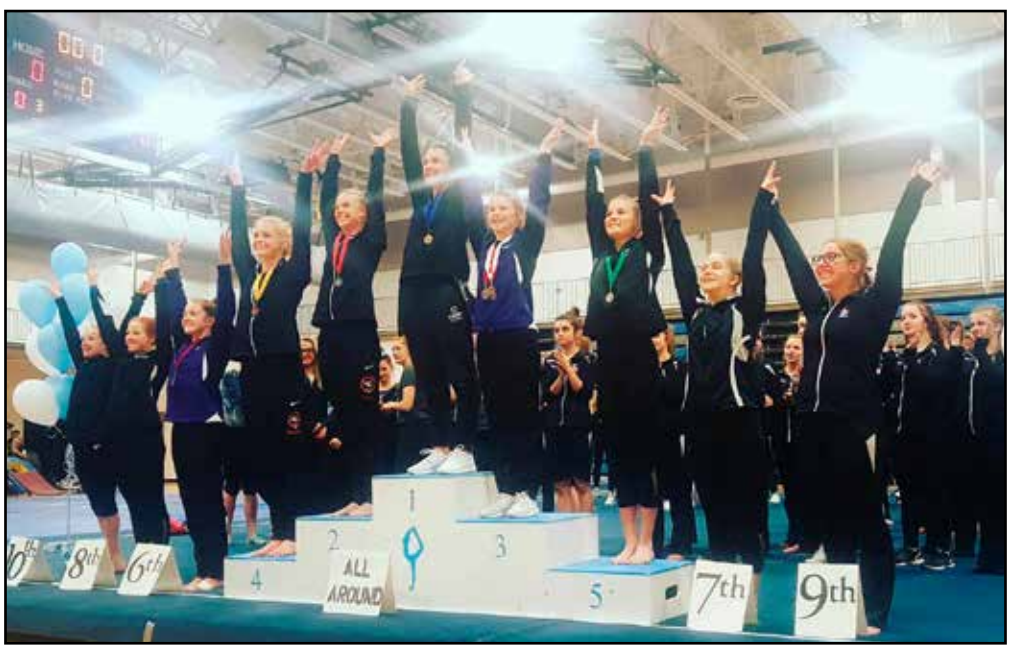
Big pretzel

Kyle Serich ties up the West Central Area heavyweight wrestler in the section championship match. (Submitted photo)



Locking up the pin

Braden Tyrrell gets close to a pin in the team section championship match against West Central Area. (Submitted photo)



Star at the top of the pyramid

Millie Klefsaas stands on top of the podium for her first place finish in the all around competition at the Section 8AA gymnastics meet. Klefsaas is finishing up her 5th and final year with the Brainerd gymnastics team. This is her second year as captain, along with the three other seniors. (Submitted photo)







Shooting stars

Chelsea Nanik, Ashley Smith and Sam Schimpp line up shots during the Cardinal's win against Crosby-Ironton. (Staples World photos by Mark Anderson)

Cardinals win Mid-State Conference title

By Mark Anderson
News Editor

The Staples-Motley girls basketball team clinched the Mid-State Conference title with a 63-43 win over Crosby-Ironton on Feb. 17, to post a 7-1 conference record. Their only loss was to Pequot Lakes, who finished with two losses in the conference schedule.

The Cardinals also defeated Holdingford 63-35 on Feb. 16 and got past West Lutheran 66-57 on Feb. 20.

All three games were danger games against opponents who have played well against good teams despite posting losing records.

Against Crosby-Ironton, "There was a lot of energy and emotions," said Coach Craig Wolhowe. "Not only was it for the conference championship, but we recognized the parents and seniors before the game."

The Cardinals started out hot, but let Crosby-Ironton back into the game. A buzzer beater at halftime trimmed the lead to three.

"At half-time we got refocused and played Cardinal basketball," said Wolhowe. Staples Motley outscored them 41-24 in the second half to claim the conference title.

"I'm so proud of these kids and how they have played this year," said Wolhowe. "When we come to compete, we are tough."

Against Holdingford, the team played with focus and effort the whole game, said Wolhowe. "We were executing our plays and our defense was superb," he said.

Against West Lutheran, the Cardinals took an early lead thanks to Ashley Smith's hot shooting from the outside and then held on in the second half for the win.



Dribble drive

Jenna Trantina drives to the basket. (Staples World photo by Mark Anderson)

Team results

Staples-Motley 63, Holdingford 35

Scoring: Claire Wolhowe 16, Chelsea Nanik 14, Amber Robben 12, Kelsie Weite 10, Kaitlyn Longworth 6,Lexi Johnson 3, Sam Schimpp 2.

Staples-Motley 63, Crosby-Ironton 43

Scoring: Wolhowe 28, Weite 11, Nanik 6, Schimpp 6, Ashley Smith 5, Longworth 4, Robben 3.

Staples-Motley 66, West Lutheran 57

Scoring: Smith 19, Wolhowe 15, Robben 10, Schimpp 9, Weite 9, Longworth 4



Section champion

Millie Klefsaas performs on the balance beam at the Section 8AA gymnastics competition at Bemidji on Feb. 18. The Staples-Motley student, competing for the Brainerd Warriors, was the all around champion in the meet and qualified for the state meet in all four events. She was the section champion in floor exercise, was second on beam and fourth on bars. Her sixth place on vault was enough to put her into the top spot for the all around competition.

The state meet will be Saturday, Feb. 25, at the University of Minnesota, with Klefsaas competing in all four events. This will be her fourth state gymnastics appearance. (Photo by Bemidji Pioneer)

Cardinal basketball OT Feb. 25

Come out for a friendly meet and greet with your 2016-2017 Staples-Motley Varsity basketball players, Saturday, Feb. 25 from 6 to 7:30 p.m. at the Staples-Motley High School main gym.

There will be an opportunity to get autographs from your favorite players at the end of evening. Enjoy fun competition with the varsity girls and boys, some mixed teams, some boys vs. girls and possibly impromptu fan participation.

Thursday Twilight League Bowling Wadena Lanes

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1. Mason Bros.	15.5-4.5
2. Spectrum Marketing	15-5
3. Staples Vet Clinic	13-7
4. Ted and Gen's	7.5-12.5
5. Lefty's	7-13
6. Ghost Team	2-18

High Team Series-
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High Team Game-
Staples Vet Clinic 611

High Ind. Series/	high games
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Tia Freitag	544 205-179
Deb Pundt	492 170-169
Gail Judd	490 177-167
Lana Hansen	478 177-164
Deb Shake	451 162-152

Amber Block	180
Kathy Marcussen	167
Jackie Perius	152
Helen Leaderbrand	150