Staples World
Staples, Minnesota
Thursday, February 8, 2018
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Brad Anderson will be on school board

Special meeting for facility talks set for Feb. 12

By Brenda Halvorson
General Manager

Brad Anderson was selected from five applicants to fill the open seat on the Staples-Motley School Board at their special meeting Feb. 5.

The board also discussed the amount of potential budget cuts and how to reduce the facility options.

The opening on the board occurred when Dave Hoemberg's resignation was accepted Jan. 22.

In addition to Brad Anderson, applications were received from Paul Anderson, Mark Carlson, Jeremy Reeck and Heidi Smith.

Board members reviewed the applications prior to the meeting. On the first round Brad Anderson and Jeremy Reeck each received two votes and Paul Anderson received one. In the second round Brad Anderson received three votes, the majority needed to be appointed.



Brad Anderson

Greg Frisk, who voted for Jeremy Reeck, spoke in his favor saying he had no affiliation with the health system, the Freshwater Education District or National Joint Powers Alliance (NJPA) and so was "a better fit for where we are as a board." He also noted Reeck's association with business and that he had children in school.

Chad Longbella also voted for Reeck in both rounds.

Mary Freeman and Bryan Winkels both noted Brad Anderson's previous board experience. He served from 2010-2014. They said he was familiar with board procedures and the issues and could step in right away, especially since this was an eight month appointment.

His background in finance and his work with building and expansion projects at Lakewood Health System, his

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On January 31 a lunar trifecta was experienced - the Super Blue Blood Moon. One of three full Moons in a series of "Supermoons," when the Moon is closer to Earth in its orbit and about 14 percent brighter than usual. It was the second full Moon of the month, commonly known as a "Blue Moon." The Super Blue Moon passed through Earth's shadow providing a total lunar eclipse. While the Moon was in the Earth's shadow it took on a reddish tint, known as a "Blood Moon" as shown in the photo above taken and shared by Pete Card, Jr. of Staples. "The photograph was taken from my balcony," said Pete, who used a Canon 7D Mark II camera with a 300 lens at 2.8.

Jasmer learning parks, recreation job

By Mark Anderson
News Editor

Tricia Jasmer has been a quick learner in her process of becoming Director of the Staples Parks and Recreation Department and the Staples Community Center.

"Last year I took everything on myself, it was sink or swim," she said.

She didn't sink and has been implementing new programming and new ideas into the parks department. She also has learned a lot about how the department relates to the community as a whole. When Parks and Recreation Director Kevin Grondahl retired in September, Jasmer said they went through all of the old files.

"It was learning the history of the department, it has been very beneficial," said Jasmer. "The files have all the expectations that the community had for the center when it was first built, and explains why things happened the way they did in the past."

She said it also gives her a perspective on how to fix some of the issues that keep coming up.

Jasmer has been at the community center for almost five years. She started after being on the Parks and Recreation Board, where she took part in forming the Dower Lake Recreation Area action plan in 2010.



Running the recreation department

Tricia Jasmer has moved from checking out equipment at the Staples Community Center to becoming the Director of the Parks and Recreation Department. (Staples World photo by Mark Anderson)

She was still on the board when she found out that the center needed a new office person. Jasmer had been raising her kids, working at LMH Embroidery and helping with other family businesses, but decided to try the community center.

She started as an assistant who did the payroll and bills, but quickly added jobs such as organizing swimming lessons.

After her first summer there, she started with programming, implementing new activities, coordinating early outs and starting winter swimming lessons.

"Not every idea worked, but some of them worked better than we expected," she said.

Soon she started moving into the parks department as well, taking shelter rentals and working with the baseball and softball leagues.

When Grondahl decided to retire, that led to her sink or swim trial.

"Kevin was a great mentor, he made it work," she said.

She takes over the department with enthusiasm but also a little caution.

"I'm excited, but a little bit nervous," Jasmer said. "In this job you work for the public, but the best interest of the city comes first."

Of course there are always different opinions on what the best interest is for the city and the people using the facilities. But she enjoys working out solutions.

"I like dealing with people, a variety of ages come through here, from little kids to seniors," said Jasmer. "Different generations have different needs and different communica-

See **JASMER** on page 2a

Hello, Readers,

'If you have a garden and a library, you have everything you need.'
– Marcus Tullius Cicero

Stop hugging that library. No wait, my mistake, I forgot that it's Library Lovers Month.
So why do you love your local library? Libraries are a sanctuary away from the hustle and bustle of everyday life; they offer security and peace and quiet. They are also a place where you can focus surrounded by likeminded people with the desire to acquire knowledge. It's important to understand that not everything is available on the internet (yet). There may be some crossover of information but in most cases libraries are a much more economically viable solution when looking for reliably accurate information than the internet.

Public Notices

Tax abatement, property sale: **7A**



Top spellers in Staples-Motley School District Spelling Bee

District Spelling Bee contestants, front; from left, William Thew (first), Jadyn Vogel (second), Zach Wilhelmi and Benet Robinson (third place tie) and Keegan Harvey (fifth); back, Amber Ruhl, Ashlynn Rieck, Estella Bock, Adriana Dickey, Jade Storry, Mandy Carter, Wyatt Kobliska, Keegan Bestland, Brayden Smith, Donald Kray, and Josh Picconatto. (Staples World photo by Mark Anderson)

Thew, Vogel advance in District Spelling Bee

By Mark Anderson, News Editor

William Thew placed first and Jadyn Vogel was second at the Staples-Motley District Spelling Bee Jan. 31 at Centennial Auditorium, Staples.

Thew correctly spelled the words exasperation, sinewy and incessant on his way to the title. His final word was ricochet.

He said he practiced spelling to get ready for the competition. During one of his practice sessions, he remembered misspelling "sinewy", so that's why he remembered it in the competition.

Thew placed second in last year's district competition. He said he hopes to do better at the regional competition this year, as he dropped out early last year.

Vogel correctly spelled the words barrette, chimpanzee and tribulations on her way to the final round. This was her first live spelling bee competition and she said "it was scary" to spell the words on the stage. But she said she had studied all the words and that is what got her through to the final two.

The competition began with sixteen spellers. The first three rounds, found all sixteen spellers perfect.

In rounds 4-7, spellers started missing words like handiwork, severely, defensiveness, callous, grandiose and dexterity. Meanwhile, the remaining spellers correctly spelled words like Icelandic, hoarsely, correctional, Chesapeake, affirmation and balloonist.

With five spellers remaining in round eight, Keegan Harvey dropped, missing the word paralysis. Zach Wilhelmi spelled conspiracy and Benet Robinson spelled Hispaniola correctly.

In round nine, Wilhelmi dropped, spelling the word, commendable incorrectly and Robinson missed the word, boisterously.

Round ten found Vogel spelling the word fluorescent incorrectly, leaving Thew to spell his final word, ricochet, correctly.

Thank you for subscribing!



Won't you be my Valentine?

Children in the pre-school program at Sacred Heart Area School in Staples made special Valentine's Day cards recently. Pictured, from left, are Finlay Jensen, Paislee Boozell, Brynn Stevens, Bennett Sonenstahl; and twin brothers Zane and Reed Leech. When asked who they were giving their Valentines to, the students called out a variety of answers, including 'mommy' 'daddy' 'auntie' and 'grandma.' (Staples World photo by Dawn Timbs)

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Administration to recommend up to $800,000 in budget cuts including staff, program reductions

employer, were also cited.

Bruce Lund joined Freeman and Winkels in support of Brad Anderson in the second round. He voted for Paul Anderson in the first round.

Brad Anderson will take the oath of office at the Mar. 19 regular board meeting and can begin voting at that time. He will serve until Dec. 31 and has indicated that he will run for a permanent seat on the board in the November election.

The board thanked all of the applicants and encouraged them to file for election. In addition to Anderson, the terms of Freeman and Lund will expire the end of the year.

Budget cuts

Interim Superintended Ron Bratlie asked the board for a number they would "be comfortable with" for budget cuts. He will be meeting with the principals and wanted to know how much in staff and program reductions should be considered.

Bratlie started with the ending balances from the last audit to extrapolate a deficit of about $400,000 at the end of this fiscal year. By the end of the next fiscal year, that could be $1.4 million.

The consensus was the district should have at least one month of operating expenses in the unassigned general fund. That would be almost $1.2 million.

They estimated that $800,000 would need to be cut to reach that goal.

Freeman suggested they look at 2014-15 when the board cut $400,000. She noted that a number of those budget cuts were now back in the budget. She also suggested other strategies to consider.

Longbella said they haven't cut the last few years and it's been "a double-edged sword" because the money went to serve students, but now they're looking at a deficit.

Bratlie said he would have some preliminary numbers for the Mar. 5 work session so the board could be ready to act at their Mar. 19 meeting

Facility update

The board set a special meeting for 7 p.m., Monday, Feb. 12, at the high school media center to further refine exactly what options or which one option for the facility consultants to place their focus.

At a special meeting Jan. 18 they chose to have one building for grades K-12 as their top priority. The second option was two buildings: a grade 7-12 high school and a K-6 elementary, both in Staples. This would be accomplished by renovating and adding to the two existing buildings.

However, the first option for one building was not defined if it was to be a new building in a new location or renovation and additions to one of the existing buildings in Staples.

Bratlie was concerned about the deadline to present a plan to the state Department of Education by June 29.

"So we should get it down to one option before going to the community?" Lund asked.

"If we have to explain why we have two options, I'm concerned you'll have emotional reactions," Bratlie said, adding that one plan is better if you can say here is where we are collaborating with other entities in the community and here is how we might repurpose the other buildings.

Freeman recommended that board members look back through the booklets of studies and surveys prepared by the consulting firm with their particular points of view to come to a conclusion of "This is what I see my communty wants."



Family fun night in Staples



Sixteen families attended the 'Move, Drop (everything) & Read' event at Staples-Motley Elementary School Feb. 5. The event was sponsored by the Staples-Motley Early Childhood Coalition and Early Childhood Family Education (ECFE). It featured a number of activities, including reading, singing and movement exercises. Pictured at top, from left, are instructor Jody Fischer; and Champagne family members Koralie, Lou, Lisa and Tucker, all of Staples. In center, Charlie Maros of Motley climbs through a tunnel; and below, children enjoy an activity with the giant parachute. Guest readers at this year's event included Principal Jim Opelia, Sacred Heart Area School; and Principal Mike Schmidt, Staples-Motley High School. (Staples World photos by Dawn Timbs)



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She sees positive momentum

tion styles. A lot of this job is letting people know what they can do and getting them to rally around the activities."

While continuing with the increase in community center activities, Jasmer said she would like to increase park use as well. She noted that Dower Lake Park is underutilized, and they may have a chance to capitalize on the seasonal camping that was added last year.

She also has big plans for the 100th anniversary of Pine Grove Park in 2019. "They had a big event there in 1919, and we want to have a similar event," she said.

The toughest part of the job is letting the ideas take shape while maintaining the park board's budget.

"There are ways to work on it, we can get grants and we have organizations that help, we also will be going for the next bonding bill for the community center," she said.

The learning process has also led Jasmer to research for hardier boulevard trees that withstand street salt and don't need as much water. She also found out that maintaining a public swimming pool is a lot more work than it appears, with reporting and inspections to complete.

But she feels the parks and recreation department, as well as the community, is on an upswing as she takes over.

"I've seen great things, great momentum in the city," she said. "The school is moving forward with facilities planning and we will be ready for whatever they decide."

Besides her new department head position, Jasmer will remain active in other community groups, including LEAP, the new marketing board and the Todd County Parks Board.

Through it all, Jasmer will remain commited to Staples. "This has always been home for me," she said.









Foundation narrows list of 'Big Idea' projects

By Brenda Halvorson
General Manager

Nearly 70 project ideas were received by the Staples Motley Area Community Foundation in their search for Big Idea projects to fund or help fund.

Ideas ranged from improvements like flowers, green space and Christmas decorations to signs, benches and trail improvements to major building and improvement projects.

The foundation asked the public for ideas of projects to partially or completely fund that meet their mission statement of developing and strengthening community resources and enhancing the quality of life of individuals, families, and organizations in the Staples and Motley area.

Mike Gold, coordinator of the committee, broke the list into four types of projects:

- Activity - providing people to organize and run specific events, such as craft shows, music contests, tour of homes, art crawl, etc.
- Support - aiding another group that has begun a project, but needs financial help.
- Capital - building a new structure or space or improving and/or adding to an existing space.
- Group - combining a number of these categories.

The committee decided that the goal of the foundation was not to organize and execute specific events. Their regular grants could help support those activities.

Each member of the committee then chose his or her top seven projects - most could not limit their choices to six because they felt there was merit in so many of them.

Various projects related to biking and walking trails rose to the top so those were combined into one project. Those included extending Legacy Trail to Old Wadena Park; extending walkways and trails from Staples to Dower Lake, Lakewood Health System, and Motley; paving trails and building trailheads. Other related projects could evolve.

Other projects the committee is considering (not in any particular order) include improvements at Dower Lake; a south side Staples playground; a pavilion at Old Wadena Park; improvements at Centennial Auditorium, such as acoustic panels and soundboard; and the Dream Big campaign, an initiative by Lakewood Health System for intergenerational parks.

The committee will research projects for how they meet the foundation's goals and will include budgets and timelines. The final project is expected to be announced in April.

If other projects arise that warrant discussion, the schedule could change. An example might be decisions made by the Staples-Motley School District as the result of the facilities plans currently under consideration.

As committee members reviewed the list they noted that many projects could be funded or partially funded by grants already available in the foundation's regular grant cycle. The applications are due Mar. 30 and Sept. 30 and can be found at the foundation's website at www.staplesmotleyfoundation.org.

A few of the ideas that could qualify for the semi-annual grants included park benches, grills and picnic tables; signs; flowers and shrubs for green spaces; and Chirstmas decorations.

Foundation grant committee members will contact the organizations and people who submitted those types of projects and will encourage them to apply for the regular grants.

For more information on applying for grants or on the Big Idea project, contact Mike Gold at 218-296-2355.

Committee members include Gold, Chris Trout, Barb Markus, Gretchen Bestland, Mary Kobliska, Melissa Birkholtz, John Wolak, Joe Roline and Mary Jo Hofer.



Speech team takes 1st at Dilworth-G-F

The Staples-Motley Speech Team took first place at the Dilworth-Glyndon-Felton tournament held Feb. 3. Four Cardinal's were named tournament champions: Jonah Johnson (Creative Expression), Alex Erickson and Andrew Bates (Duo) and Ari Brings (Great Speeches and Poetry). Second place finishers were; Delaney Larson (Drama and Poetry), Iain Sams and Connor Judd (Duo), Jens Klemm (Prose), Alex Erickson (Humor) and Samantha Mrazek (Original Oratory). Placing third; Bryn Williams (Extemporaneous Reading), Alex Brings (Great Speeches), Caden Mrazek (Humor) and Macy Judd (Poetry). Finishing fourth were; Johanna Picconatto (Discussion and Extemporaneous Reading), Krystal Yoder (Original Oratory) and Bryn Williams (Poetry) and in fifth place were; Krystal Yoder (Creative Expression), Torii Nienow (Informative) and Samantha Mrazek (Prose). Earning Superior ribbons were Caleb Picconatto (Discussion), Jaydon Friedel (Drama), Kayla Yoder and Olivia Leslie (Duo) and Andrew Bates (Storytelling). Excellence ribbons were awarded to Jonah Johnson and Ethan Gilbertson (Duo), Olivia Leslie (Extemporaneous Reading), Lilly Niemi (Informative), Kallee Abbas (Poetry) and Kayla Yoder (Storytelling).

The Cardinals will host their tournament Saturday, Feb. 10 at the Staples-Motley High School starting at 9 a.m. and will compete in the Brainerd High School on Feb. 17. (Submitted photos)



Cardinal champs

Champions at at the D-G-F tournament Feb. 3 were: Jonah Johnson (Creative Expression), Andrew Bates and Alex Erikson (Duo) and Ari Brings (Great Speeches and Poetry).

Three arrested for drugs

Holly Marsh, 40, Colleen Marsh, 57, and Timothy Marsh, 62, all of Staples, were arrested Feb. 2 as part of a drug investigation.

During the early morning hours of Feb. 2, agents from the West Central Drug and Violent Offender Task Force along with deputies from the Wadena County Sheriff's Office executed a search warrant in Section 33 of Thomastown Township as a result of a drug investigation involving methamphetamine.



Holly Marsh



Colleen Marsh



Timothy Marsh

Agents and deputies found methamphetamine, heroin, marijuana, cash and multiple items of drug paraphernalia.

Agents were assisted by the Staples Police Dept., Central Minnesota Drug Task Force, Cass County Sheriff's Office and the Verndale Police Dept.

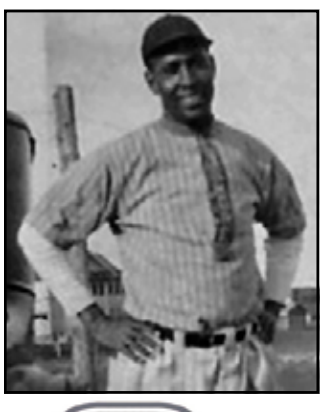


Ranchers ready to improve pasture soil

Area ranchers listen intently to Dana Didrickson of Badger talk about his family's operation at the 18th annual Winter Grazing Workshop on Feb. 1 at Central Lakes College in Staples, presented by the Crow Wing River Basin Forage Council. More than 80 people were in the room to hear Didrickson talk about returning nutrients to the field through grazing, cover crops and no-till farming. His tips included grazing winter hay placed in a field and letting cattle trample or eat weeds. "Nature wants green, not black dirt," said Didrickson.

Other sessions included Nathan Converse on the economics of farm transitions to the next generation, and a panel on watering systems. One of the presenters, Kent Solberg of the Sustainable Farming Association, said the science on grazing and cover crops is convincing more farmers and ranchers to try it. "We are seeing more every year," said Solberg. (Staples World photo by Mark Anderson)

John Donaldson: Black Baseball's Greatest Left-Handed Pitcher



Hear Peter Gorton tell the stories of John Donaldson, "the greatest colored pitcher in the world," said to be "better than Satchel Paige." Donaldson's career spanned the U.S. including teams in Central Minnesota.



1 p.m., Sunday, Feb. 11
Staples Historic Depot
No admission • Staples Historical Society Annual Meeting
The Depot is at Hwy. 10 & 4th St., Staples.

Staples Area Men's Chorus
PRESENTS
"Swing into Spring"
An evening of dining, dancing and entertainment, including a singing competition!
SATURDAY,
February 24, 2018
Timbers Restaurant and Event Center
1212 2nd Ave. NE | Staples, Mn.
5:00 p.m. Doors Open
5:30 Jazz band Performance - Dance floor will be open
6:45 Buffet Dinner followed by an evening of musical entertainment
ADVANCE TICKET SALES ONLY!
Tickets: $25
Available at:
www.staplesmen.org
•Nelson Insurance Agency, (218) 895-5046, 325 2nd Ave. NE, Staples
•Timberlake Hotel, Staples
•Or any SAMC Chorus Member
All proceeds go towards funding "The Real Men Sing" event held in the Fall.
w6-ssw7c
This project is made possible with support from the Five Wings Arts Council and the McKnight Foundation supplemented by the Legacy; and support from Staples Motley Area Community Foundation.
Sponsored by Timbers Restaurant and Event Center

What's on Your Nightstand?
What are you reading? Why did you choose it? Was it a gift or a recommendation?
Write a short review, a brief synopsis, why you liked it or didn't. We'll share your recommendations with our readers.
Please include your name, city and contact information. Contact information will not be published.
Email Brenda at info@staplesworld.com or drop off a note at the office by 5 p.m., Friday, Feb. 23.
February
I Love to Read Month
Staples World
224 4th St. NE, Staples



CLC needs 'asset preservation' funds

By Dr. Hara Charlier
President
Central Lakes College

One of the first lessons of homeownership is the importance of taking care of what you have. Otherwise, systems, appliances and structures deteriorate and become more expensive to maintain over time.

This also holds true for college campuses in what we refer to as "asset preservation." CLC's "assets" include our buildings, infrastructure and systems. Staying abreast of vital repairs keeps our campuses thriving, operating efficiently and our students safe, warm and dry.

Recently, in his priorities for the 2018 legislative session, Governor Dayton included $180 million in asset preservation projects for Minnesota State's 54 campuses, and a total of $94.5 million for capital projects. We are grateful for the support of the Governor, our legislators and our communities.

CLC has three critical asset preservation requests:

- Repairing a worn and leaking east roof and HVAC, Brainerd campus.
- Replacing the original boilers and HVAC, Staples campus.
- Replacing the original central and west roof, Brainerd campus.

Asset preservation is the top priority for our legislative request. It ensures that our operating dollars are dedicated to educational outcomes rather than costly repairs.

Also included in the Governor's recommendation are design funds to allow CLC to reimagine key student services and academic support spaces on the Brainerd campus. The campus has not had a significant update since the 1990s, and changes are needed to serve today's students. Ultimately, our goal is to create a more welcoming, efficient and engaging environment to promote the success of every student. The design funds will get us started.

CLC is *your* community college. If you are interested in seeing our vision, I invite you to visit one of our campuses. We'll be happy to give you a tour.

Thank you for your support.

Dr. Charlier can be reached at hcharlier@clcmn.edu

Science Fair encourages critical, creative thinking

- o -
Staples-Motley Schools



By John Regan
Motley-Staples Middle School Principal

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The Motley-Staples Middle School 4th through 6th graders had the opportunity to participate in the 2018 Science Fair held at the Middle School on Jan. 24. All students in 5th and 6th grade participated, 4th graders had the option of participating. Students were able to choose between a research project or an experiment and also whether they wanted to work with a partner or individually.

The goals of the Motley-Staples Middle School Science Fair are to foster positive student attitudes towards science, encourage students to think both critically and creatively, provide opportunities to learn and apply the scientific method, and provide an academic challenge to those students who are gifted or talented in the field of science.

There was a total of 178 participants in the science fair. Experiments and research projects were chosen for each grade level to move on to the Freshwater District Fair.

This year's winners included:

4th Grade Research: 1st - Josie Jennissen - Rainforest; 2nd - Isabella Dobson - Research; 3rd - Cameron Ganyo - Gold Mine.

4th Grade Experiment: 1st - Owen Carlson - Long Lasting Gum; 2nd - Luke Bjerga - Teeth Whiten; 2nd - Avandre Brandt - Flower Power; 3rd - Cecily Moe - Volcano

5th Grade Research: 1st - Alyson Jasmer - Solar System; 2nd - Deven Johnson - What's the Buzz; 3rd - Oliviah Lorber - Arctic Animals.

5th Grade Experiment: 1st - Lily Richey - Plastic Milk; 2nd - Cadynce Ferris - Borax Crystals; 2nd - Peyton Mithun - Genie in a Bottle; 3rd - Dylan Lawrence and Jaden Radermacher - Growing Bacteria.

6th Grade Research: 1st - Kailer Ecker - How Do Robots Think; 1st - Tiana Gonzalez - Tobacco vs. the Body; 1st - Lauren Rutten - Heart Rate; 2nd - Griffin Bettis - Deer Behavior; 2nd - Alex Black - The Stock Market; 3rd - Kyanna Burton and Addisyn Cichos - Zika Virus; 3rd - Zachary McIlravy - Wild vs. Captivity.

6th Grade Experiment: 1st - Eli Carlson - Butterfly Life; 2nd - Gabriel Koval - Wood Understood; 3rd - Macy Knudson - Cat Sound.

The winners from our school science fair will go on to participate in the 2018 Freshwater Education District Science Fair, Feb. 12 and 13 at the Bertha-Hewitt Community Center. The public is invited to attend on Feb. 13 from 8:30 a.m.- 4 p.m. There will be an awards ceremony at 4 p.m. Congratulations to all participants.

The Motley-Staples Middle School Science Fair was judged by volunteers from Camp Shamineau, Minnesota Pollution Control Agency and the local communities. We would like to extend a very special thank you to all who volunteered to judge. We would also like to thank everyone who came to view the student's projects. Thank you for supporting our students.

Census of Agriculture: Your chance to shape the future

By Karolyn Zurn

My husband and I live on a midsized farm in northwestern Minnesota, where we grow corn, soybeans, sugar beets, wheat, and alfalfa. Several of our grown children are farmers too, raising families and teaching them how to be competent, resourceful future farmers. We all rely on good policy that effectively keeps farms operational - especially young farmers who need startup capital and supportive risk-management tools.

So every five years, my family does something very important for our farms and communities - we complete the Census of Agriculture. We do this because we want the census to show the value of the work we do and we want to be reflected in the data that can and probably will have an impact on the future of our operations.

Census data play a big role in a lot of areas but one that affects us all is the Farm Bill. The Farm Bill encompasses farm commodity support, crop insurance coverage and disaster aid, nutrition assistance, trade, research, rural development and more.

The most recent bill, the Agricultural Act of 2014, expires this year. Policymakers will use Census of Agriculture data as a tool to help them address current and potential agriculture and food issues in the new bill. This is why it's imperative that every U.S. farmer and rancher be represented. Our collective responses to the census mean accuracy and strength - it means better data.

What did the last Census of Agriculture tell us? Here are some highlights:

We know that 3.2 million farmers operated 2.1 million farms covering 915 million acres, generating food, fuel, and fiber for the rest of America and people around the world. This means that 40 percent of all U.S. land was farmland being worked by less than one percent of the total U.S. population in 2012.

Of the 2.1 million farms, 97 percent were family-owned. Eighty-eight percent of all farms were small family farms.

The last census also revealed an increase in women, Hispanic, Asian, and African American farmers, and that beginning farmers operated one quarter of all farms.

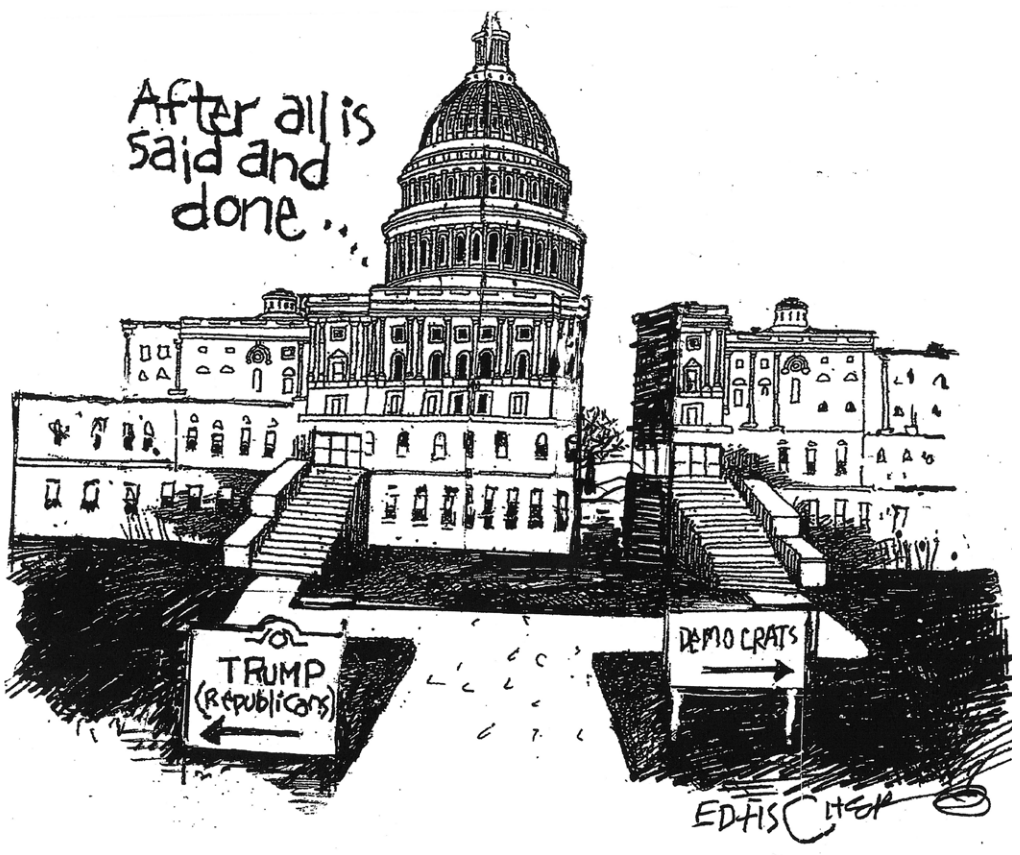
What will the 2017 Census of Agriculture tell us? This year's census aims to capture an even more detailed account of American agriculture with new questions about military veteran status, marketing practices, and the roles and contributions of individuals working the farm, including women and our next generation.

Though the first census response deadline has come and gone, USDA's National Agricultural Statistics Service will follow-up with producers and collect data through spring to ensure as complete a representation of U.S. agriculture as possible. If you have not already responded, I urge you to do so. Our voices are only heard if we have the numbers behind them.

I am a farmer, and I will continue to be counted because my family and our farms count.

For more information on the census and past census data, visit www.agcensus.usda.gov.

Karolyn Zurn is First Vice President of American Agri-Women, a national association with more than 40,000 members nationwide.



Staples City Council

Chris Etzler, Mayor	218-894-2894
Doug Case	218-296-1288
Brian Fisher	218-296-5147
Rachel Johnson	218-8820-5421
Roy Miles	218-894-1792
Ron Murray	218-296-0910
Mary Theurer	218-894-3752
Jerel Nelsen, admin.	218-894-2550

Motley City Council

Al Yoder, Mayor	320-630-9315
Jace Carlson	218-330-9408
Amy Hutchison	218-839-0870
Steve Johnson	218-352-6630
Pat O'Regan	218-316-7570
Lacey Smieja, City Clerk/Treas.	218-352-6200

What's on your nightstand?

Share what you're reading for 'I Love to Read' month

By Brenda Halvorson
General Manager

What's on your nightstand or side table? What book or books are you reading right now? What's next on your list?

For "I Love to Read" month in February tell us about what you are reading and why. Did someone give it to you? Are you trying out a new genre at the recommendation of a friend or a newspaper review or website? Did you stumble across a new author in a used bookstore?

Give us a short review of the book, a very brief synopsis and why you liked or didn't like it. Would you recommend it?

Include your name, city and contact information. Contact information will not be published.

We'll share the list with all of you at the end of the month. Email me at info@staplesworld.com or drop off a note for me at the newspaper office before 5 p.m., Friday, Feb. 23.

For instance, right now I am reading "The Case is Closed" by Patricia Wentworth. I am hooked on British mysteries and I've read and reread my Agatha Christie and Sherlock Holmes collections.

I picked up the Wentworth book at the Friends of the Library used book sale at the Grand Forks, N.Dak., Library. I'm almost halfway through and I still don't know "whodunit" for sure. I love the descriptions of everyday life in small English villages in that time period, the vivid portrayals of the characters and the language they used. I'm always learning new words.

My other guilty pleasure is speculative fiction so I was saddened at the recent death of Ursula LeGuin.

Both genres provide alternate universes and food for thought.

Staples World staffer Janice Winter is reading "Favorite Dog Stories" by James Herriot. It was a gift from her mother in 1999. Winter just lost a beloved pet and the book is giving her comfort.

Dawn Timbs, Staples World reporter, has just begun "Cold Comfort Farm" by Stella Gibbons which was a gift from her sister. She's also reading "Leaving Church: A Memoir of Faith" by Barbara Brown Taylor, saying she likes the journal approach and the style of writing.

So there are a couple of examples of what we're reading.

What are you reading?

Staples World

Established in 1890. USPS 518-760
©2018 Devlin Newspapers, Inc.
Published Thursdays by Devlin Newspapers, Inc.
Office located at 224 4th Street NE
Periodicals postage paid at Staples, Minnesota 56479.

Mailing Address: P.O. Box 100
Telephone: (218) 894-1112 - Fax: (218) 894-3570
Toll Free: 1-888-894-1112
www.staplesworld.com - E Mail: info@staplesworld.com

Official Newspaper for:
City of Staples
Staples-Motley School District,
Freshwater Education District and Todd County.

Publisher ..... Devlin Newspapers, Inc.
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CWC Reporter ..... Dawn Timbs dtimbs@staplesworld.com
Front Office ..... office@staplesworld.com
Courier ..... Tashina Simon

Subscription Rates:
Local: (Todd, Wadena, Morrison, Cass Counties) $40 per year
Website: $37 per year
Minnesota: $45 per year - *Out of State:* $50 per year
Foreign: $60 per year *Student Rate:* (Sept. through Apr./in-state) $29
There is a $5 charge for address change from local to out of state.

Letters: Readers are encouraged to express their views by writing letters to the editor. Letters are verified for authenticity, so please include a name, address and phone number. Only the author's name and city will be published. Letters may be edited for spelling and grammar errors, libel, length and other factors. Private thanks, solicitations and libelous letters will not be published. Letters are printed on a space available basis. The editor reserves the right to reject letters.
The deadline is 5 p.m. Monday. Opinions expressed on this page do not necessarily represent the views of this newspaper.

Fairness: The Staples World tries conscientiously to report fairly and accurately. If you feel we fall short of this objective at any time, please direct your complaint to the manager whose name appears on this page.
Note to Advertisers: Advertisers should check their ad following first publication. This newspaper shall not be liable for failure to publish an ad or for the typographic error or errors in publication except to the extent of the cost of the ad for the first day's insertion. Adjustment for errors is limited to the cost of that portion of the ad wherein the error occurred. The publisher reserves the right to cancel any advertisement at any time.

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'Darlings, Divas & Desserts' rehearsal

Director Mary Moen leads a rehearsal with the Colla Voce Girls Choir and Staples Area Women's Chorus recently, in preparation for their 'Darlings, Divas & Desserts' concert Monday, Feb 12. The concert will be held at Staples Alliance Church, 1512 8th St. NE, beginning at 6 p.m. and will feature selections from each individual choir, as well as a few combined numbers. Refreshments will be served. The event is a fundraiser for the Staples and Motley area food shelves. Both monetary and food donations accepted at the door. For more information, call Janet Anderson at 218-839-3900. (Staples World photo by Dawn Timbs)

Becky Davis braves winter for Book Ends meet-the-author

Becky Davis, Mankato young-adult novelist, is February's guest for Book Ends Saturday, Feb. 10, the monthly meet-the-author event at The Uptown café in Wadena.

When not writing novels, Davis is an avid bicycle rider (5,000 miles this past year,) loves being walked by her 160-pound Newfoundland dog, and teaches writing and humanities at South Central College in Mankato.

"Becky will be an enlightening and entertaining presenter," says Jerry Mevissen, event moderator. "And dedicating her endeavors to encouraging young people to read by writing riveting stories is commendable."



Becky Davis

Her latest novel "Slider's Son" chronicles the life of a young lad in post-depression North Dakota, with elements of mystery, loyalty in friendship issues, teenage dreams and realities, adolescent shenanigans and baseball. The novel, based on a 1930s true story of a murder in North Dakota, has all the elements of appeal to young readers.

She has written two other novels - "Chasing AlleyCat" and "Jake Riley: Irreparably Damaged."

Book Ends begins at 11 a.m. and includes conversation with the author on writing and reading, question and answer time, book autographs and sales, and lunch (on your nickel.) There is no admission charge.

Public library programs

The Staples Public Library is offering the following programs:

1,000 Books Before Kindergarten

Enjoy a fun program encouraging reading and early literacy skills. For ages birth to kindergarten. Sign up any time during open hours. Sponsored by Staples Motley Early Childhood Coalition.

D.I.Y. fun activity - 'I Spy' game

Stop in before Feb. 28 during library hours and try to find all the hidden objects on the "I Spy" board. Each week will be a new game. After searching for each item stop at the desk for a treat.

Lego Builders Feb. 13

A fun hour of block building will be held, Tuesday, Feb. 13 from 4-5 p.m. An assortment of Legos and large blocks will be provided. Bring your imagination and we will provide the Legos and challenges. For ages 5-13. Registration required. Sponsored by the Staples Friends of the Library.

Reading Roundhouse storytime – Feb. 14

A fun storytime and activities for ages Pre K -2nd grade. Wednesday, Feb. 14, from 10:30-11:30 a.m. Registration required. Limit 15. Sponsored by the Staples Friends of the Library.

Book Club – Feb. 22

Read the book and join the discussion. For teens and adults, Thursday, Feb. 22 from 6-7 p.m.

For more information on any of the activities contact the library at 218-894-1401.

The Staples Public Library is located at 122 6th St. NE, Staples. Hours: Mon. 10 a.m.-6 p.m., Tue. 2-8 p.m., Weds. 10 a.m.-6 p.m., Thurs. 2-8 p.m., Fri. 1-5 p.m., Sat. 10 a.m.-1 p.m.

Great River Regional Library (GRRL) provides library services for 32 public libraries in Benton, Morrison, Sherburne, Stearns, Todd and Wright counties. It also provides Central Minnesota residents with nearly one million books, CDs and DVDs, 250 public computers, programming and information services.

SMBP meeting

Staples Motley Beyond Poverty will hold their annual meeting on Thursday, March 15, at 10:30 a.m. at Staples City Hall. The public is invited to attend.

The meeting will be to review the past year's activities and plan for the coming year.

SMBP is a non-profit 501c3 community organization.

Special school board meeting

The Staples-Motley School Board will hold a special meeting Monday, Feb. 12, at 7 p.m. in the Staples-Motley High School media center.

The agenda includes an update, discussion and recommendations of the school facility plan.

Mark Your Calendar

February 13

Todd County Citizens Against Drugs (CAD) Hosting 'Meet and Greet' Tues., Feb. 13, 11:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m., Central Lakes College, Staples, in the Depot Rm. Bring a lunch. Learn about CAD's work with Todd County youth. For info., email connie.burns@co.todd.mn.us.

February 14

Staples Sr. Citizen's Valentine's Party Wed., Feb. 14, Staples Community Center. Meal, 11:45 a.m., party at noon. Free bingo, prizes, etc. Everyone welcome. For info., to RSVP for meal, call 218-894-2556 by Feb. 9.

Free Tax-Aide Wednesdays, 1 - 4 p.m., through April 11, Staples Community Center. No appt. needed. For low to moderate income taxpayers. For info., 218-894-5772.

February 20, 21

Immunization Clinic sponsored by Cass County Public Health, Tues., Feb. 20, 10 a.m. - noon and 1 - 2:30 p.m., Pillager Resource Center. Walk-in. For info., 219-547-1340.

WIC Nutrition Program sponsored by Cass County Public Health, Tues., Feb. 20, 10 a.m. - noon and 1 - 2:30 p.m.; and Wed., Feb. 21, 9:30 a.m. - noon and 12:30 - 2 p.m., Pillager Family Resource Center. For info., 218-547-1340.

COZY THEATRE
WADENA, MN
Screen 1 PETER RABBIT
Fri. thru Thurs. Feb. 9 - 22
Fri. & Sat. 2 Shows at 7:15 & 9:15
Sun. thru Thurs. 1 Show at 7:15
Matinees Sat. & Sun. Feb. 10 & 11 at 1:15 pm
Screen 2 12 STRONG ONE WEEK ONLY!
Fri. thru Thurs. Feb. 9 - 15
Fri. & Sat. 2 Shows at 7:00 & 9:30
Sun. thru Thurs. 1 Show at 7:00
Matinees Sat. & Sun. Feb. 10 & 11 at 1:25 pm
Screen 3 FIFTY SHADES FREED
Fri. thru Thurs. Feb. 9 - 22
Fri. & Sat. 2 Shows at 7:10 & 9:30
Sun. thru Thurs. 1 Show at 7:10
Matinees Sat. & Sun. Feb. 10 & 11 at 1:30 pm
Special Advance Screening Thurs. Feb. 8 at 7:00 pm!
Matinee Admission All Seats $6
Tuesday Bargain Night! All Seats Only $5!
www.cozytheatre.com

Staples City Council agenda

The Staples City Council will meet Tuesday, Feb. 13, at 7 p.m. at the Staples City Hall, 122 6th St NE, Staples.

Preliminary agenda items include:

- Hear committee report from the Staples Economic Development Authority.
- Open forum.
- City administrator's report.

Dave Hughes to speak in Staples

Dave Hughes will speak Thursday, Feb. 15, at 6 p.m. at Twisted Sister's in Staples. Hughes is running for the U.S. Congress from Minnesota's 7th Congressional District. A Republican, Hughes is seeking the seat now held by Collin Peterson.

He ran for the seat in 2016 and surprisingly came within four percent of defeating Peterson. That's the closest any Republican candidate has come to Peterson in 20 years.

Dave Hughes was born in San Diego, Calif. and graduated from San Diego State University in 1992 with a degree in Aerospace Engineering. He served 21 years in the U.S. Air Force, retiring with the rank of Major. He served in Central Europe and the Middle East seven times as a pilot and as an advisor and judge in Iraq.

After retirement from the air force, Hughes joined General Atomics. There he serves as a MQ-9 UAS (Unmanned Aerial System) Instructor Pilot teaching U.S. Customs and Border Protection aircrews, as well as flying operational missions on both northern and southern borders.



David Hughes

He and his wife Amanda have six biological and one adopted child. They live in Karlstad.

The evening will include a dinner, with meeting and activities to begin as soon as dinners are ordered and served.

Reservations would be appreciated and RSVPs may be directed to Diane Carlson at 218-296-1348 or dcarlson1899@charter.net.

Twisted Sisters is located at 119 3rd St. NE, (corner of 2nd Ave and 3rd St NE) a block east of Nyhus Chevrolet Buick, Staples. The event is sponsored by Crossroads Conservatives.

Group seeks input on rural policy issues

What rural policy issues should the Minnesota Legislature address during its upcoming session?

The Land Stewardship Project (LSP) will hold a special state policy meeting Monday, Feb. 12, at 7 p.m., at Central Lakes College Staples Campus (1830 Airport Rd.) Registration and refreshments begin at 6:30 p.m.

For more information, contact LSP organizer Amanda Babcock at 612-400-6355 or ababcock@landstewardshipproject.org.

During the 2017 session of the Legislature, LSP's members worked to pass bills that did everything from protect local control and environmental review for rural communities, to provide funding for sustainable agriculture research at the University of Minnesota and tax incentives for helping get the next generation of farmers started on the land.

The 2018 Minnesota Legislature convenes Feb. 20 and LSP will use the Feb. 12 meeting to brainstorm ideas for legislation that will support rural economies, benefit beginning farmers, support famers seeking to adopt production systems that protect our water while building soil health and help create a quality healthcare system that is affordable and available to everyone.

LSP is a bipartisan 504 3(C) non-profit based in Montevideo.

Valentine's Day Specials
Bring Your Special Valentine to Lefty's.....
Wednesday Feb. 14
*Shrimp Cocktails
*Shrimp Kabobs
*Steak Bites with garlic mashed potatoes and Texas toast
5-9pm
Lefty's Staples
894-9979

Come to Bricks for a Special Valentine's Day
Wed., Feb. 14
Ribeye Steak, Shrimp or Chicken Alfredo
With full Salad Bar & Special Dessert
With live Dinner Music starting at 5pm, with Tim Cline and Cliff Cline
BE SURE TO CHECK OUT OUR GIFT SHOP
BRICKS TRAVEL CENTER Motley MN
281-352-6677
265 Hwy 10 W
Motley

Don't Forget Your Sweetheart On Valentines Day Wed. Feb. 14. Join Us On Your Special Day
Special Valentines Menu Available. Call for Reservations 218-895-1400
TIMBERS RESTAURANT EVENT CENTER
1220 NE 2nd Ave., Staples

Valentine's Day DINE OUT
•Coconut Shrimp Dinner
•Stuffed Pork Chop Dinner
Your Choice $13.99 4pm
Served with choice of potato, vegetable, soup or salad with a SPECIAL DESSERT
Countryside Restaurant
Hwy 10 South, Motley
218-352-6777

Hello World

Births reported at Lakewood Health System Hospital in Staples included:

Born to Miranda Bundy and William Redner of Staples, a baby girl, Olive U weighing nine pounds, two ounces on January 26, 2018.

Born to Lindsey and Marcus MacLaughlin of Brainerd, a baby girl, Millie Jo weighing seven pounds, 11 ounces on January 27, 2018.

Born to Ashley and Anthony Prendiz of Nevis, a baby boy, Griffin Bear weighing seven pounds, 13 ounces on January 29, 2018.

Born to Andrea Ahrendt of Verndale, a baby boy, Liam Eldon weighing eight pounds, one ounce on Janaury 31, 2018.

Born to Mandy and Garry DeWald of Baxter, a baby girl, Melody Jean weighing six pounds, 13 ounces on February 1, 2018.

Born to Vivian and Cody Springer of Wadena, a baby boy, Lukas Thomas weighing eight pounds, three ounces on February 1, 2018.

Born to Krystal and Jonathan Ferris of Verndale, a baby girl, Maya Jacquelyn weighing six pounds, 14 ounces on February 1, 2018.

Student Achievements

Samantha Gavin, Staples, was recently named to the President's Honor Roll for Fall Semester 2017 at Valley City State University in North Dakota. To qualify, students must complete 12 semester hours or more while earning a 4.0 grade point average.

Zachary Hilde, Pillager, was recently named to the Fall Semester 2017 Dean's List at the University of Minnesota Crookston. To qualify, students must complete 12 or more letter-graded credits while attaining a 3.66 grade point average or higher.



Excited to read



Ethan Mertens (above center and lower photo) was excited to sign up for the '1,000 Books Before Kindergarten' program Feb. 5, at the 'Move, Drop (everything) & Read' event in Staples. Also pictured are his mother, Molly and baby brother Owen; and Beth Fabian of the Early Childhood Coalition (standing). The goal of the program, which is sponsored by the Staples Public Library and the Early Childhood Coalition, is to have parents read to their children from the time they are born until they begin school and beyond. After reading 500 books, the child receives a free book; and after 1,000, a stuffed animal and another book. In lower photo, Ethan holds the free book bag he received upon signing up for the program, as well as a log book to keep track of the books he's read. *A new app is available that parents can use to keep track of their child's books if they don't care to use the paper booklet. For more information, call the library at 218-894-1401.* (Staples World photos by Dawn Timbs)

Public library issues visit challenge for elementary grades

To encourage reading and library visits during February, "I Love to Read" month, the Staples Public Libray has issued a challenge to students in grades K-6 at Staples-Motley Elementary School, Motley-Staples Middle School and Sacred Heart Area School.

The challenge is to see which class has the most students visiting the library during February. The class with the most student visits will receive a special treat from the Friends of the Staples Public Library and a photo of the class in the Staples World.

All visits from Feb. 1-28 will be counted.

Check in at the desk to record each visit. One visit check-in is counted per day.

If a student or family member signs up for a library card, that class gets an additional sticker for each registered card.

For more information contact the library at 218-894-1401.

The Staples Public Library is located at 122 6th St. NE, Staples. Hours: Mon. 10 a.m.-6 p.m., Tue. 2-8 p.m., Weds. 10 a.m.-6 p.m., Thurs. 2-8 p.m., Fri. 1-5 p.m., Sat. 10 a.m.-1 p.m.

SMHS Honor Roll

Staples-Motley High School honor roll:

A Honor Roll

Grade 12: Allshouse, Nicholas; Banaka, Camryn; Bartkowicz, Alyssa; Braith, Mitchell; Brings, Natasha; Busker, Reid; Davis, Alexandra; Demars, Zachary; Erickson, Alex; Kronenberg, Kimberli; Lindgren, Molly; Peterson, Kelsi; Stejskalova, Anna; Vanderhoof, Alyssa; White, Kassidy; Willgohs, Anna; Williams, Bryn; Wolhowe, Claire.

Grade 11: Adamietz, Jack; Allen, Jeffrey; Bartczak, Benjamin; Bates, Andrew; Benson, Jack; Carlson, Jordon; Dumpprope, Blayne; Dumpprope, Kiera; Fisher, Matthew; Gerard, Ryan; Giummarra, Francesca; Johnson, Bethany; Klemm, Jens; Lee, Jiye; Miller, Spencer; O'rourke, Nancy; Plopper, Trenton; Salcido, Torrence; Schneider, Lilian; Storry, Kiara; Yoder, Krystal.

Grade 10: Achermann, Tasha; Achermann, Tiffany; Bjerga, Mackenna; Boyer, Elizabeth; Brings, Marie; Carlson, Cadee; Demars, Izaiah; Friedel, Jaydon; Gelle, Kailyn; Johnson, Jonah; Kobliska, Elizabeth; Koval, Thomas; Leslie, Olivia; Olander, Benjamin; Peterson, Alixandra; Peterson, Paul; Peterson, Riley; Rau, Rylie Julianna; Rutherford, Madeline; Schmidt, Cade; Smith, Kaitlyn; Sullivan, Alana; Swecker, Morgan; Tyrrell, Jack; VanAlst, Izabelle; Wick, Ryan; Winkels, Emmitt; Wolpert, Mackenzye.

Grade 9: Allen, Tabetha; Bjerga, Payton; Brings, Alex; Brown, Rebecca; DiGiovanni, Abbigail; Erholtz, Beck; Han, Rose; Heldman, Brooke; Heschke, Hannah; Kincaid, Jadyn; Lund, Mary; Martin, Charlize; McIlravy, Alex; Nienow, Torii; O'Neil, Libby; Robben, Tanner; Schneider, Ava; Shequen, Amber; Strickland, Maxwell; Sweeney, Kira; Williams, Mikayla; Winkels, Cole; Zigmund, Zaynie.

Grade 8: Dickey, Adriana; Dukowitz, Elizabeth; Erholtz, Bo; Klefsaas, Sivert; Lorber, Addison.

B Honor Roll

Grade 12: Carlson, Zachary; Eblen, Hillary; Florent, Camille; Gerard, Emma; Giza, Maxwell; Halvorson, Hailey; Johnson, Sydnie; Kieffer, Gage; Lane, Draven; Larson, Delaney; Maloney, Jacob; Mikel, Kearra; Mitchell, Stephanie; Paskewitz, Rachel; Serich, Kyle; Swendsrud, Isaac; Tyrrell, Braden.

Grade 11: Abbas, Kallee; Carpenter, Danielle; Christensen, Bentley; Christensen, Brayden; Fernandez, Javier; Iaquinto, Matthew; Judd, Macy; Kennedy, Derek; Lombard, Joshua; Magnuson, Shaine; Nanik, Evan; Owen, Hailey; Paskewitz, Jasiah; Runge, Chastity; Stangle, Jakob; Stimac, Elizabeth ; Strickland, Scout; Weber, Bryce.

Grade 10: Bjerga, Owen; Black, Ashley; Braith, Jasmine; Christoffersen, Isaac; DeWald, Juanita; Erbe, Kaila; Fall, Aleecia; Fox, Connor; Gallardo-Reyes, Mariela; Gilbertson, Ethan; Gosch, Tyler; Kern, Isaac; Klimek, Hunter; Kronenberg, Issac; Martin, Isabella; Rosenthal, Alexander; Rubink, Brandon; Rudenick, Trevor; Stultz, Jeremy; Sumey, Shayliegh; Trantina, Joshua; Trantina, Nathan; Vold, James; Yoder, Kayla.

Grade 9: Anderson, Emmet; Brown, Abigail; Cassidy, Christian; Cichos, Haley; Clark, Tanner; Dewald, Hannah; Dobson, Conner; Dvorak, Jenna; Ferdon, Brooke; Giza, Alexander; Halverson, Damon; Halvorson, Elijah; Lombard, Heidi; Lozano, Vanessa; Macheel, Connor; Michel, Katherine; Miller, Alexia; Morlock, Alexander; Noble, Elizabeth; Oberlander, Adam; Ottomoeller, Kyler; Picconatto, Caleb; Ross-Bahn, Alexander; Schimpp, Jessica; Schmitz, Jacob; Tweeter, Alexis; Weite, Logen.

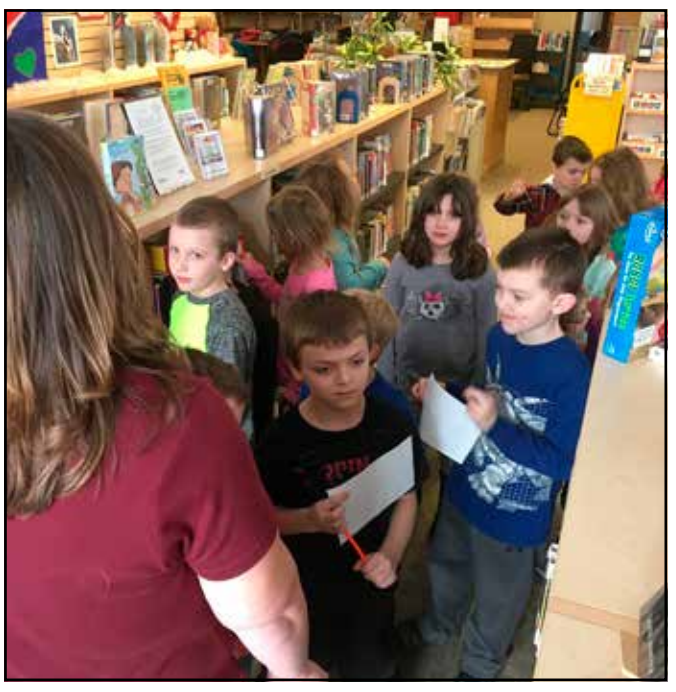
Grade 8: Becker, Morgan; Berg, Drew; Bestland, Leah; Braith, Chandler; Dukowitz, Abby; Enyart-Martinez, Gordon; Gonzalez, Evelyn; Hansen, Brent; Hansen, Corey; Huisenga, Brookelyn; Hull, Madysen; Johnson, Austin; Knosalla, Allison; Larson, Ryan; Olson, Kiyrrae; Radueg, Cassidy; Sams, Iain; Schimpp, Joshua; Storry, Klaire; Sullivan, Amber; Trantina, Calob; Vernon, Alex; Vogel, Jadyn



First graders at the public library

First graders at Staples-Motley Elementary School were invited to visit the Staples Public Library Feb. 2. While there, they listened to stories and participated in a scavenger hunt. Students with library cards were able to check out books. "It was a great way to kick off 'I Love to Read' month!" said Robin Kautto, first grade teacher.

Above, library coordinator Cathy Perish read a story in the Staples City Council chambers. At right, Angie Johnson helped the children with their scavenger hunt. (Submitted photo)



State building code and contractor license requirements

Minnesota established a statewide building code July 1, 1972 as set forth in MN Rule 1300.0030 which superseded and replaced building codes of any municipality. This state code is still in place and has been amended numerous times since to include construction, electrical, plumbing, energy efficiency, and other standards.

Many cities and counties employ or contract a state certified building official to inspect all permitted work after it is completed to ensure it meets state building codes. Often times these officials also ensure that contractors doing the work have the appropriate licenses. Some municipalities, including Todd County, choose to not be the regulator of the state building code. In fact, this was voted on by the citizens of Todd County shortly after the state building code was put into place.

Therefore, Todd County does not employ or contract state building code inspectors. County Planning and Zoning staff do inspect new septic system installations which are regulated by the MPCA and the shoreland rules established by MN DNR. Electrical work within Todd County is inspected by Victor Clasemann (320) 732-6385.

Pertaining to construction, just because Todd County does not enforce the state building code does not relieve an individual builder or general contractor from following the minimum standards set forth in the code. Some contractors are required to be licensed by the state of Minnesota. It is the landowner's responsibility to ensure that contractors they select have the needed licenses. The MN Department of labor and Industry has references on these topics at www.dli.mn.gov/ccld/rbc.asp.

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



REPEATING PROBLEM

If you find yourself constantly asking people to repeat what they have said to you, it is a good indication that you have a hearing problem that should be diagnosed and treated. Unfortunately, all too many people who could benefit from wearing a hearing instrument shy away from getting one. Most of these individuals fear that they will draw attention to themselves and their hearing deficiency if they wear a hearing instrument. However, the fact is that those who ask people to constantly repeat themselves are drawing more undue attention to themselves than they would with a hearing instrument. In fact, most hearing instruments are so small that they do not attract the attention of others at all.

Hearing is a vital part of communication with those around us. If your hearing is suffering from age-related loss, noise and noise pollution, disease, or trauma, seek professional attention. Hearing loss varies by type and degree, so we offer comprehensive evaluations and a complete line of hearing instruments to suit each person's particular needs. Visit 17274 STATE HWY 371,BRAINERD (1-800-458-0095), and have your hearing tested. It's free, doesn't take very long, and can help you more than you know. PREFERRED HEARING provides this information as a public service. If we become aware of any unusual condition during a hearing consultation that warrants additional professional attention, we can provide an expert referral.

P.S. Many hearing instruments fit entirely in the ear canal where they are virtually invisible.

PREFERRED Hearing Aid Center
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218-546-8103



Happy 39th birthday, Dave!
You're almost old enough to have your story featured in the Staples World!

New Dipped Strawberry



Our Dipped Strawberry made with Ghirardelli® Blizzard® treat Cupid Cake, layered with vanilla soft serve, and an irresistible center.

Perfectly sized for two.

DQ Grill & Chill

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When someone we love becomes a memory; that memory becomes a treasure.

SSWC

Book Ends
Connecting Minnesota readers and writers
Becky Davis
Children and young adult novelist
The Uptown in Wadena
Saturday, Feb 10 • 11 AM
No admission charge



STAPLES ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY COUNTIES OF TODD AND WADENA STATE OF MINNESOTA

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING ON THE SALE OF STAPLES EDA OWNED PROPERTY

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Staples Economic Development Authority (the "Authority") of Todd and Wadena Counties, Minnesota, will hold a public hearing on Tuesday, February 27, 2018, at 5 p.m., at the Staples Police Department Conference Room in the City of Staples, Minnesota, relating to (a) the proposed sale of land to Staples Multi Family, LLC, for the purpose of constructing a multi-family housing complex. This public hearing is pursuant to and in accordance with Minnesota Statutes Sections 469.105, Subd 2, inclusive, as amended.

The property is located on County Road 30, in the City of Staples, and consists of parcels 20-361-0110 and 20-361-0120. A map of the proposed property sale is set forth below:



Copies of the terms and conditions of the sale will be on file and available for public inspection at the office of the Executive Director for the Staples Economic Development Authority at City Hall.

All interested persons may appear at the hearing and present their view orally or in writing.

BY ORDER OF THE STAPLES ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY

/s/ Chris Etzler, Chair
6pnc

NOTICE MAY TOWNSHIP BOARD OF AUDIT MEETING

May Township will hold its regular scheduled township meeting on the second Monday of each month, at the May Township Hall, 7:00 p.m.

In addition to the regular scheduled meetings in June, July and August only, they will meet the fourth Monday of the month at 7:00 p.m. to discuss road maintenance and repair issues.

Bianca Wyffels, Clerk
May Township
6pnc

NOTICE TODD-WADENA COMMUNITY CORRECTIONS

The Todd-Wadena Community Corrections Executive Committee will meet Monday, February 12, 2018, at 4:30 p.m., at the Todd County Courthouse, 221 First Avenue South, Suite 200, Long Prairie, Mn.

Curtis Bryniarski
Administrative Assistant
6pnc

NOTICE FAWN LAKE TOWNSHIP BOARD OF AUDIT

The Board of Audit will take place following the regular monthly meeting on Monday, February 12, 2018 at the town hall. Any questions please call the clerk at 218-531-0287.

Kelly Miller, Clerk
Fawn Lake Township
5-6pnc

Public Notice Advertising Protects Your Right To Know

CITY OF STAPLES

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING TO CONSIDER A PROPERTY TAX ABATEMENT FOR STAPLES MULTI-FAMILY LLC PROJECT

NOTICE is hereby given that the Staples City Council will conduct a public hearing at 7:00 p.m. on Tuesday, February 27, 2018 at the Staples City Hall located at 122 6th Street NE to consider a property tax abatement for Staples Multi-Family LLC Project. The abatement would apply to parcels 20-361-0110 and 20-361-0120 over a period of two years in an estimated amount of $57,277.

All interested persons are invited to attend the hearing and be heard on this matter or submit written comments to the City Clerk prior to the hearing.

Dated: February 8, 2018

Diane Archer, City Clerk
6pnc

NOTICE BECKER TOWNSHIP BOARD OF AUDIT

The annual Board of Audit for Becker Township will be held on Tuesday, Feb. 13, 2018 at 7:00 p.m. following the regular meeting. Any questions, please call the clerk at 218-352-6498.

Mary Fitcher, Clerk
Becker Township
5-6pnc

NOTICE VILLARD TOWNSHIP BOARD OF AUDIT

The Villard Town Board will hold their annual Board of Audit meeting on Tuesday, February 13, 2018 at 7:00 p.m. at the Eastwood Inn Conference Room in Motley. The regular meeting will follow.

Mary Trantina Koenig, Clerk
Villard Township
6pnc

NOTICE STAPLES TOWNSHIP BOARD OF AUDIT MEETING

Staples Township will hold their Board of Audit meeting immediately following the regular monthly meeting on Monday, February 12, 2018 at the Town Hall.

Bonnie Thoele, Clerk
Staples Township
6pnc

NOTICE MORAN TOWNSHIP BOARD OF AUDIT

Moran Township will hold it's Board of Audit meeting on Tuesday, February 20 at 7:00 p.m. at the town hall.

Teresa Wagner, Clerk
Moran Township
6pnc

NOTICE LEADER COMMUNITY HALL BOARD

The Leader Community Hall Board will meet on Friday, February 16, 208 at 7:00 p.m. at the Leader Hall.

Mark Strom, Secretary
5-6pnc

TODD COUNTY PUBLIC WORKS
44 Riverside Drive
Long Prairie, Minnesota 56347
Phone 320-732-2722
Fax 320-732-4525

REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL - ADVERITSEMENT

Todd County is requesting proposals for a Cold Storage Building at the Todd County Public Works Northern Shop located at 23305 County 24, Staples, MN 56479. The complete Request for Proposal which includes all the specifications and requirements can be picked up at the Todd County Public Works Department at the address below.

Proposals must be submitted in complete original form to the following address:

Todd County Public Works Department
44 Riverside Drive
Long Prairie, MN 56347

Proposals will be accepted at the above address until **March 9, 2018 at 10:00 a.m.** and immediately after will be publicly opened and the names of the proposers read aloud. All proposers shall complete and enclose a contractor provided proposal form in a tightly sealed envelope and plainly marked "PROPOSAL - NORTHERN SHOP - COLD STORAGE." Proposals opened by mistake due to improper identification will be rejected and returned.

Loren Fellbaum, Public Works Director
6-7pnc

Staples Motley School Board Minutes

ISD #2170 SCHOOL BOARD MEETING #11 AND BUDGET & LEVY PUBLIC DISCUSSION
Monday, Dec. 18, 2017, 7:00 p.m.
Motley School Media Center
MINUTES

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order with members Freeman, Lund, Winkels, Hoemberg, Frisk and Longbella present (comprising a quorum). Also attending were Supt. Bratlie; Business Manager, Boesen; Principals Schmidt, Johnson and Regan; SMEA Rep Schneider; several employees and students; Staples World Manager, Halverson; and Recording Secretary Madson. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Motion by Winkels, seconded by Lund, to approve the addition of Agenda Item #24 - Lease Agreement with MNSCU. MC

Motion by Longbella, seconded by Frisk, to adopt the agenda. MC

Chair Freeman recognized the public and thanked them for attending.

Community Forum -

a. Truth in Taxation Levy and Budget Public Discussion

Supt. Bratlie presented the Levy information and a budget overview. The Levy will be certified at the Dec. 21 Special Meeting. There were no questions from the public.

a. Keith Olander, Dean of Agriculture Studies at Central Lakes College, presented the history of the partnership between the school and the college and the Farm Occupancy Lease which the Board would be asked to approve later in the meeting.

Consent Agenda:

Motion by Lund, seconded by Winkels to approve the Consent Agenda as presented. MC

Finance Items

Ms. Boesen presented the Financial Report including a new format asking for feedback.

Motion by Frisk, seconded by Lund, to approve the Financial Report and Vouchers. MSC

Motion by Longbella, seconded by Winkels, to accept the 2016-2017 audit by CliftonLarsonAllen as presented on Dec. 11. Voting in favor: Freeman, Lund, Winkels, Frisk and Longbella Opposed: Hoemberg. MC

Motion by Longbella, seconded by Freeman, to approve the Resolution Directing Administration to Make Recommendations for Reductions in Programs and Positions. Upon roll call vote, voting in favor: Lund, Longbella, Frisk, Winkels, Freeman and Hoemberg. Opposed: None MC

This is the annual resolution required to allow any future budget reductions to occur.

Motion by Winkels, seconded by Longbella, to approve the Credit Reimbursement requests from Jolene Elfstrum and Melissa Holey. MC

Personnel

Motion by Freeman, seconded by Lund to approve the hire of JoMarie Michel, SME Reading Teacher; 2.5 hours per day; Inservice rate of $20.21. MC

Motion by Lund, seconded by Frisk, to accept the resignation of Norbert Klimek, eff. Jan. 2, 2018; with permission to post. Many "thanks" to Mr. Klimek for his loyal service to the district. MC

Policy & Curriculum

Motion by Winkels, seconded by Longbella, to approve the MSBA recommendations to Policy #513 Student Promotion and #414 Mandated Reporting. MC

Motion by Longbella, seconded by Frisk, to adopt the 2018-2019 School Calendar Option #2. MC

Other

Motion by Lund, seconded by Winkels, to adopt the Resolution Establishing Combined Polling Places for Multiple Precincts. Voting in favor: Lund, Longbella, Frisk, Winkels, Freeman and Hoemberg. Opposed: None

Motion by Lund, seconded by Freeman, to approve the Resolution of Support for the Purchase and Exchange of School Trust Lands in the Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness Proceeding in Tandem. MC

Motion by Longbella, seconded by Winkels to approve the Resolution to Fully Fund Special Education Services MN and Federal. MC

~~*Facility Recommendation*~~: *Tabled until the January regular meeting*

Motion by Lund, seconded by Freeman, to enter into negotiations with Mr. Ron Bratlie for Superintendent duties for the 2018-2019 school year. These negotiations could include at least one more day in the district.

Addendum: Approve the 2018-2021 Farm Occupancy Lease with CLC (MNSCU) at $5,000 per year.

Motion by Longbella, seconded by Lund, to approve the 2018-2021 Farm Occupancy Lease. MC

Adjournment

Motion by Lund, seconded by Frisk, to adjourn the meeting. MC
6pnc

SPECIAL SCHOOL BOARD MEETING #12
Thursday, Dec. 21, 2017, 7:30 a.m.
District Office
MINUTES

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order with Freeman, Longbella, Frisk, Hoemberg, Lund and Winkels present. Also attending were Supt. Bratlie; Business Manager, Boesen; Staples World Manager, Halvorson; and Recording Secretary Madson.

Motion by Winkels, seconded by Frisk, to adopt the agenda. MC

Finance

Set the 2017 Tax Levy, Payable 2018 at $1,971,041

Motion by Longbella, seconded by Winkels, to set the 2017 Tax Levy, Payable 2018 at $ 1,971,041. MC

Adjournment

Motion by Longbella, seconded by Winkels, to adjourn the meeting. MC
6pnc

SCHOOL BOARD MEETING #13 ANNUAL ORGANIZATIONAL MEETING
Monday, Jan. 8, 2018, 7:00 p.m.
Staples-Motley High School Media Center
MINUTES

Call to order by Chair Freeman

The meeting was called to order with Freeman, Lund, Winkels, Frisk, Longbella and Hoemberg present (comprising a quorum). Also attending were Supt. Bratlie; Principals Johnson and Regan; SMEA Rep. Schneider; several employees and students; Staples World Manager, Halvorson; and Recording Secretary Madson. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Motion by Winkels, seconded by Longbella, to add #10 to the agenda MC

Motion by Frisk, seconded by Lund, to adopt the agenda as presented. MC

The public was welcomed.

Organizational Items

Elect Board Chair: Acting Chair Freeman called for nominations for Board Chair. Lund nominated Longbella; Hoemberg nominated Lund. Freeman called for additional nominations three times. Upon no further nominations a vote was taken by a show of hands. Frisk, Freeman and Lund voted for Longbella; Winkels and Hoemberg voted for Lund; Longbella abstained. Longbella was declared Board Chair

Election of other Officers

Chair Longbella called for nominations for Vice Chair. Longbella nominated Frisk; Freeman nominated Lund. Longbella called for additional nominations three times. Upon no further nominations a vote was taken by a show of hands. Lund was declared Vice Chair. Longbella called for nominations for Clerk. Freeman nominated Winkels; Hoemberg nominated Frisk. Additional nominations were called for three times - upon hearing none a vote was taken by a show of hands. Frisk was declared Clerk. Longbella called for nominations for Treasurer. Frisk nominated Freeman. Longbella called three more times for nominations and upon hearing no further nominations, Freeman was declared Treasurer.

Motion by Winkels, seconded by Freeman, to appoint Bonnie Madson as assistant to the Clerk and Jaime Boesen as assistant to the Treasurer. MC (This is an MSBA recommendation)

Members voiced their intent to serve on the following committees: **Freshwater Education District,** Bruce Lund and alternate Chad Longbella; **NJPA** is an elected official: (Mary Freeman is up for re-election) **NJPA Delegate Assembly,** Bryan Winkels; **MN State HS League,** Dave Hoemberg and Bryan Winkels, Alt.; **QCOMP,** Mary Freeman (reassignment in June) **MSBA Legislative Liaison,** Greg Frisk; **Community Education Advisory Council,** Bryan Winkels; **Economic Development Authority,** Bruce Lund and alternate Ron Bratlie

Finance Committee: Hoemberg and Freeman; **Policy Committee:** Winkels and Frisk; **Technology Committee:** Winkels; **Meet & Confer Committee:** Lund and Freeman and Superintendent Evaluation (Longbella and Lund).

2017-2018 Negotiating Teams: Instructional Group - Lund, Hoemberg and Frisk; Principals, Support Staff, Professionals and Transportation Groups - Winkels and Longbella; Superintendent - Longbella and Winkels

Annual Organizational Items:

Motion by Freeman, seconded by Winkels, to designate 2018 School Attorneys, Official Depositories, Official Newspaper, Investment of Funds, Electronic Transfers, Signature Approvals. It was clarified by Brenda Halvorson, that the Official newspaper must conduct business within a town included in the district. (Morrison County Record does not).

a. Official School Attorneys

To name Pemberton Law Office of Fergus Falls and Kennedy & Graven to serve as the official school district attorneys for fiscal year 2018 and that the selection be determined by the administration. Authority also was granted to the administration to employ any other attorney/law firm as deemed necessary.

b. Official Depositories

To name the following as official depositories for FY 2018: First International Bank and Trust, Unity Bank Central, Mid-Central Federal Savings Bank, Mid Minnesota Federal Credit Union and other financial institutions which are in compliance with MN Statutes governing school district depositories.

c. Official Newspaper

To designate The Staples World as the legal and official newspaper for the Staples-Motley School District for 2018

d. Official(s) to Invest Funds

To authorize school officials to invest funds on behalf of the school district: Business Manager & Superintendent

e. Agent(s) to Make Electronic Transfers

To authorize school officials to electronically transfer funds to be invested for the district: Business Manager and Payroll Clerk

f. Signature Approvals

Authorize Superintendent Ron Bratlie and Business Manager, Jaime Boesen to execute agreements and/or financial documents as necessary on behalf of the Staples-Motley School District.

Motion Carried.

Motion by Lund, seconded by Frisk, to set the School Board Meeting Schedule (date, time and location) as follows: The 2nd to the last Monday of each month at 7:00 p.m. with a school / public forum first on the agenda (7:00 - 7:15) if someone would like to address the board on any topic, subject to the limitations of policy #206. (The February meeting will be Tues., the 20th and the December meeting will be Tues., the 18th.) Work Sessions will be held the 1st Monday of each Month at 7:00 p.m., (with the exception of Sept.). All meetings will be held in the building of the District Office. MC

Motion by Winkels, seconded by Lund, to set the 2018 School Board salary at $3,278.64. MC

Personnel

Motion by Freeman, seconded by Frisk to accept the resignation of Josh Mailhot; contingent on the hire of a new fifth grade teacher; and grant permission to post. MC The district wishes the best to Mr. Mailhot as he moves into a Principal position at another district.

Facility Discussion

Supt. Bratlie presented a preliminary Facility Timeline. There was discussion regarding the options and whether to take a vote at this time. It was determined that not all members were prepared to make the decision at this time. A Special Board Meeting was scheduled for Thursday, Jan. 18 at 7:00 p.m. to vote on the options that have been presented by FJJ.

Motion by Winkels, seconded by Lund, to hold a Special Board meeting on Jan. 18, 7:00 p.m. at the HS Media Center. The intent of this meeting will be to arrive at a recommendation (narrowing down the options) MC

Other - Longbella thanked Freeman for her service as Board Chair over the past several year.

Motion by Winkels, seconded by Frisk, to adjourn the meeting. MC
6pnc

SPECIAL SCHOOL BOARD MEETING #14
Thursday, Jan. 18, 2018, 7:00 p.m.

See **SCHOOL** on page 8a

Staples Motley School Board

SCHOOL continued from page 7a

Staples-Motley High School Media Center MINUTES

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order with members Freeman, Lund, Longbella, Winkels and Frisk present (comprising a quorum). Also present were Supt. Bratlie; Principals Johnson and Regan; Staples World Manager, Halvorson; a number of students, employees and community members and Recording Secretary Madson. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Motion by Lund, seconded by Winkels, to adopt the agenda as presented. MC

Facilities

(ICS, formerly FJJ, were present)

The team from ICS reviewed the process of the preliminary long range planning options thus far. Questions from the audience were taken.

Discussion of options

- **Option #1: One Building (K-12)**
- **Option #2: Two Buildings (K-6 Staples; and 7-12 Staples)**
- **Option #3 Two Buildings (K-6 Motley; and 7-12 Staples)**

Board members had the opportunity to express their opinions prior to a vote being taken and they were then asked to verbally rank their choices. *(1st choice 3 pts; 2nd choice 2 pts; 3rd choice 1 pt)*

Member Longbella - Option 2; Option 1; Option 3

Member Freeman - Option 2; Option 1; Option 3

Member Winkels - Option 1; Option 2; Option 1

Member Frisk - Option 1 (only voted for one option)

Member Lund - Option 2; Option 1; Option 3

Member Hoemberg was not present

Option #1 One Building; K-12 received 12 votes

Option #2 Two Buildings: K-6 Staples; 7-12 Staples received 11 votes

Option #3 Two Buildings: K-6 Motley; K-12 Staples received four votes

Motion by Frisk, seconded by Winkels, to move ahead with Option # 1 and Option # 2. MC

The next step will be to schedule a meeting with ICS Consultants to define roles, look at community forum dates, etc. June 29 is the deadline to have a plan submitted to MN Department of Ed.

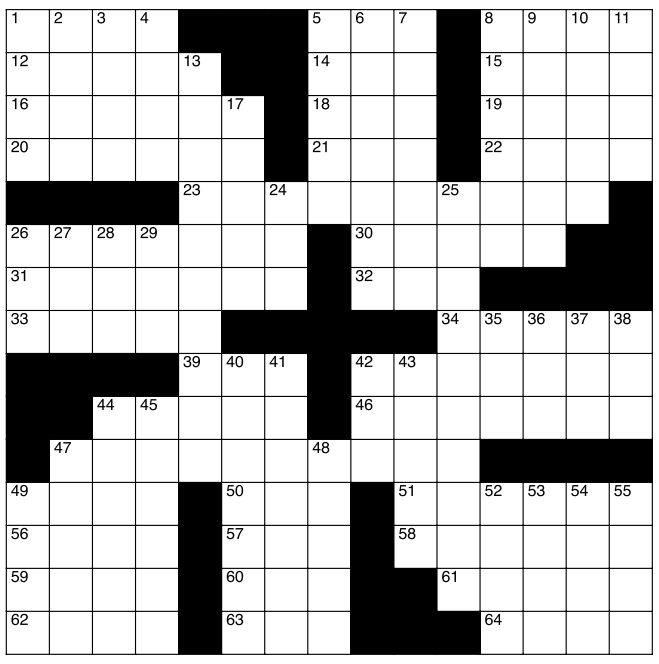
Motion by Winkels, seconded by Frisk, to adjourn the meeting. MC

Complete minutes can be viewed at: ***www.isd2170.k12.mn.us***

6pnc

Crossword Puzzle

Week 6

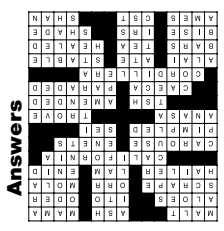


CLUES ACROSS
1. Make ale
5. Residue
8. Female parent
12. Succulent plants
14. OJ's judge
15. Czech river
16. Embarrassing predicament
18. NHL legend Bobby
19. Sunfish
20. One who acclaims
21. On the __: running away
22. Oklahoma's "Wheat Capital"
23. The Golden State
26. Merrymake
30. Siberian nomads
31. Pock-marked
32. Baleen whale
33. Leaf-footed bug genus
34. Treasure
39. Tanzanian shilling
42. Changed
44. Intestinal pouches
46. Walked in a celebratory way
47. South American mountain chain
49. Jai __, sport
50. Consumed
51. Firm
56. Pubs
57. Leafy drink
58. Cured
59. Northern wind of France
60. Tax collector
61. Respite from the sun
62. American spy Aldrich
63. Central Standard Time
64. Myanmar ethnic group

CLUES DOWN
1. Crush
2. Razorbill genus
3. "Full House" actress Loughlin
4. Bluish green
5. Garlic mayonnaise
6. Attacks repeatedly
7. Secretion
8. Special instance
9. A handsome youth loved by Aphrodite
10. Tree genus in the mahogany family
11. Israeli city
13. Formed a theory
17. Remove
24. Type of light
25. Repeats
26. Certified public accountant
27. River in eastern France
28. Returned material authorization (abbr.)
29. Special __: military group
35. Ribonucleic acid
36. Not even
37. Power transmission belt
38. Doctor of Education
40. Type of nerve
41. Types of tops
42. Large primate
43. Flooded, low-lying land
44. Gritty
45. Gets up
47. Stake
48. Not the most
49. Swedish rock group
52. Expresses pleasure
53. Expression of boredom
54. Queen of Sparta
55. Where Adam and Eve were placed at the Creation

CW181210

Answers



Deadlines for all classified ads, including garage sale ads is 5 p.m. MONDAY to be published in Thursday's Staples World and 5 p.m. Wednesday for the Staples Square Shooter.

The support you need to find quality
SENIOR LIVING SOLUTIONS
A Place for Mom has helped over one million families find **senior living solutions** that meet their **unique needs.**
There's no cost to you!
CALL (844) 347-2104
! We're paid by our partner communities
aPlaceforMom.

Greater Minnesota FAMILY SERVICES

Greater Minnesota Family Services , a growing counseling agency, has a full-time opening for a

School and Family Mental Health Counselor

in Clinton, Beardsley, and Graceville schools near Ortonville, MN.

Services are done at the school site mostly and in some family's homes that have critical care needs. We are looking for people who have a passion to help at-risk children and families, and invest yourself as an equal in your local team group. Master's degree in Social Work/Counseling related field or Bachelor's degree in Social Work/Counseling related field with 2,000+ hrs clinically supervised children's mental health experience. GMFS has a competitive compensation and benefits package including health insurance, Long-term disability, paid leave time, and much more. EOE

We are currently offering a $500 sign on bonus or a $1,000 relocation bonus for this position! Must choose one, cannot combine offers. Relocation open to candidates who relocate 100+ miles

Apply at: www.greaterminnesota.org

ESTATE SALE - LOG HOMES
PAY THE BALANCE OWED ONLY!!!
AMERICAN LOG HOMES IS ASSISTING **FINAL RELEASE** OF ESTATE & ACCOUNT SETTLEMENT ON HOUSES.
3 Log Home kits selling for BALANCE OWED, FREE DELIVERY
1) Model # 101 Carolina $40,840...BALANCE OWED $17,000
2) Model # 303 Little Rock $38,525...BALANCE OWED $15,000
3) Model # 403 Augusta $42,450...BALANCE OWED $16,500
BEFORE CALLING: VIEW at www.loghomedream.com Click on House Plans
NEW - HOMES HAVE NOT BEEN MANUFACTURED
- Make any plan design changes you desire!
- Comes with Complete Building Blueprints & Construction Manual
- Windows, Doors, and Roofing not included
- NO TIME LIMIT FOR DELIVERY!

BBB A+ Rating
SERIOUS ONLY REPLY. Call (704) 602-3035 ask for Accounting Dept.

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
Worship.....9:30 a.m.
Fellowship, refreshments following service

Faith Lutheran
430 12th Street. NE., Staples.....218-894-1546
Pastor: Carl Larson
Sunday Worship Service.....9:00 a.m.
Sunday School and
Coffee Fellowship.....10:05 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
Saturday Worship .....10:45 am.
Sabbath School.....9:30 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 Leslie
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, United Church of Christ
One block S. of Hwy. 10, Aldrich
Pastor Dave Seaton 218-445-5831
Sunday Worship,..... 9:00 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.
Senior Pastor: Donald Reigstad
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.....9:00 a.m.

Maple Hill Lutheran
Pastor David Stevens
Leader .....218-397-2470 (Rural Pine River)
Worship and Sunday School .....11:00 a.m.

Motley

Motley Free Methodist
33 Wellwood St. E
Motley 56466.....218-352-6888
Pastor Jim Johnson
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 Leslie
www.motleyumc.org
Sunday Worship Service.....9:00 a.m.
Monday AA meeting.....8:00 p.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 Jake Anderson
218-746-3768
curious@fbcpillager.com
Worship Gathering .....10:00 a.m.
Connection Point.....9:30 a.m.
(serving coffee and donuts)

Hewitt

Church of the Nazarene
114 Front Street, P.O. Box 146 Hewitt, MN
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.

Trinity Lutheran Church (LCMS)
524 Front Street, PO Box 116, Hewitt, MN
Pastor Robin Fish
Sunday Worship.....10:30 a.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.

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
Prayer.....8:30 a.m.
Coffee & Fellowship.....8:45 a.m.
Worship..... 9:10 and 11:00 a.m.
Prayer or Life Groups .....6:00 p.m.
WEDNESDAY
6:00 p.m. ..... Family fellowship meal
6:30 p.m ..... Ministry Groups/Bible study

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.

Immanuel Lutheran Church of Bartlett Township (LCMS)
17097 460th St. PO Box 37, Verndale
Pastor Robin Fish
Sunday Worship.....9:00 a.m.
WEDNESDAY
Bible Study.....6:30 p.m.

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.

This is what love is all about

Pastor Roy Miles, Staples Assembly of God Church

The following story is not just an example of true love but also one of true loyalty. Where are our hearts? Are we daily allowing Jesus to change them so we can display true love and loyalty? Our world (church, community, country) is in need of such a person.

It was a busy morning, approximately 8:30 a.m., when an elderly gentleman in his 80's arrived to have stitches removed from his thumb. He stated that he was in a hurry as he had an appointment at 9:00 a.m.

I took his vital signs and had him take a seat, knowing it would be over an hour before someone would be able to see him. I saw him looking at his watch and decided, since I was not busy with another patient I would evaluate his wound. On exam it was well healed, so I talked to one of the doctors, got the needed supplies to remove his sutures and redress his wound.

While taking care of his wound, we began to engage in conversation. I asked him if he had a doctor's appointment his morning, as he was in such a hurry.

The gentleman told me no, that he needed to go to the nursing home to eat breakfast with his wife.

I then inquired as to her health. He told me that she had been there for a while and that she was a victim of Alzheimer Disease. As we talked, and I finished dressing his wound, I asked if she would be worried if he was a bit late. He replied that she no longer knew who he was, that she had not recognized him in five years now.

I was surprised and asked him, "And you still go every morning, even though she doesn't know who you are?"

He smiled as he patted my hand and said, "She doesn't know me, but I still know who she is."

I had to hold back tears as he left. I had goose bumps on my arm, and thought, "That's the kind of love I want in my life." True love is neither physical, nor romantic. True love is an acceptance of all that is, has been, will be, and will not be.

wk6

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Pizza makers

Staples-Motley High School students will be expanding their horizons and global perspective in June when they travel overseas. Spanish students, led by Skyla Rewitzer, will travel to Ecuador and the Galapagos Islands. Science students, led by Lorna Bendson and Dawn Paurus, will travel to Iceland. The two groups combined efforts in fundraising recently by selling 360 handmade pizzas. They prepped all of these pizzas Feb. 1. Rewitzer said, "We would like to give huge thanks to Faith Lutheran Church for graciously allowing us to use their space for prepping the pizzas. We would also like to greatly thank Shirley's Gas Station out of Eagle Bend for sharing their amazing recipe with us and ordering ingredients." Rewitzer also said, "It was awesome to see our students rise to the challenge and complete this undertaking in a remarkable display of teamwork and professionalism. It was a great day to be a Cardinal!" In the top photo, from left, are Sydney Wallace, Jordon Carlson, Ryan Gergard, Derek Kennedy and Ryan Wick. At left are Nita DeWald and Baleigh Anderson. Below are Alex Davis, Kallee Abbas, Bryn Williams and Izabelle VanAlst in the foreground. In the background are Sydney Wallace and Ryan Wick. (Submitted photos)





REAL ID update: Standard licenses still accepted

Minnesotans can use their current driver's licenses for federal purposes, including boarding commercial aircraft, through Oct. 10, 2018. That's because Gov. Dayton asked for and received an extension to comply with the federal REAL ID requirements.

The Minnesota legislature passed a law that directs the Department of Public Safety Driver and Vehicle Services division (DPS-DVS) to make REAL ID compliant driver's licenses available by Oct. 2018. DPS-DVS and MNIT are currently working to meet that deadline.

DPS-DVS will provide more information on how to obtain a REAL ID compliant driver's license in the coming months.

Stay up-to-date on REAL ID in Minnesota

In addition to regular updates, DPS-DVS will provide REAL ID information on the web and through social media so Minnesotans can stay informed about new developments and find resources as the availability of REAL ID-compliant driver's licenses and identification cards approaches.

The website is dedicated to REAL ID information and resources and the DPS-DVS Facebook page will have information that can easily be shared.

A recent DPS Blog post also has information to consider when deciding which license or ID card you need. A REAL ID will be one of several options, when it is available.

DPS-DVS will include answers to frequently asked questions that are received through emails, phone calls, and social media channels.

Making progress on the new driver's license system

DPS-DVS and Minnesota IT Services (MNIT) contracted with FAST Enterprises to develop a new driver services system that will produce REAL IDs.

FAST has had a team in Minnesota since November working to develop the new system and process that will launch REAL ID-compliant driver's licenses by Oct. 1, 2018, to comply with state law.

The project team consists of eight separate teams. Development teams are working on license issuance, legal compliance, financials, interfaces with other agencies and organizations, data conversion, system training and communication, system testing and tech support.

DPS-DVS, MNIT and FAST will begin communicating with deputy registrars in February. There will be more information in the coming weeks regarding training on the new system.

The project is currently on schedule.

What is REAL ID?

Passed by Congress in 2005, the REAL ID Act establishes minimum security standards for state-issued driver's licenses and ID cards. The Act refers to federal anti-terrorism laws and regulations that control access to the following:

- Federally regulated commercial aircraft.
- Federal facilities requiring identification to enter, such as military bases or nuclear power facilities.

The act prohibits federal agencies like the Transportation Security Administration (TSA) from accepting cards for official purposes from states that do not meet minimum security standards.

Federal enforcement and identification requirements

For more information on acceptable forms of identification for boarding aircraft, please see TSA's website.

Information from the U.S. Dept. of Homeland Security includesREAL ID Enforcement: Minnesota and REAL ID Frequently Asked Questions for the Public.

Current situation for Minnesotans

While REAL ID requirements for states without federal extensions will begin Jan. 22, Minnesotans do not need to take any action at this time.

Minnesota has an extension for REAL ID enforcement, allowing Federal agencies to accept driver's licenses and identification cards from Minnesota at federal facilities, nuclear power plants and federally regulated commercial aircraft until Oct. 10, 2018.

DPS-DVS will provide updates as the availability of REAL ID-compliant driver's licenses and identification cards approaches.

MnDOT starts installing truck parking technology at rest areas

Work is under way by the Minnesota Department of Transportation to install technology at seven rest areas in the state that will help truck drivers find safe parking along high-volume freight corridors.

Minnesota is working with seven other states to implement the Regional Truck Parking Information and Management System that will collect and broadcast real-time parking availability on dynamic message signs. In Minnesota the signs will be posted along the I-35 and I-94 corridors and on MnDOT's 511 traveler information website. The network will become operational in January 2019 however some states, including Minnesota, could become operational sooner.

"Truck drivers sometimes spend 30 minutes or more looking for parking spots. We want to help them find safe, reliable parking so they don't waste time looking, which decreases their downtime, and so they can move their products faster," said Dan Rowe, state project manager. "There will also be less fuel consumption and reduced emissions."

The technology includes in-pavement sensors that detect the presence of the truck above it and send the information to MnDOT's Regional Transportation Management Center. The RTMC technology interprets the data and sends the appropriate number of available parking spaces to the dynamic message signs.

Trucking companies' dispatchers can also access the information on the 511 truckers' page and relay the availability to their drivers.

Other states participating in the project are Iowa, Indiana, Kansas, Kentucky, Michigan, Ohio and Wisconsin.

Truckers are required to comply with hours-of-service rules that limit how many hours they can drive. Fatigued driving is a major cause of preventable truck crashes.

"Rest areas fill up at night and truckers often park on exit ramps, which are unauthorized spots," Rowe said. "This is a safety concern and when we provide safe parking for truckers, we also save lives by getting fatigued drivers off the road."

Project funding comes from a $25 million U.S. DOT TIGER grant and the states. In Minnesota, the project will cost $1.4 million. MnDOT contributed $177,500.

The seven rest areas with the technology will be at Lake Lakota, Big Spunk Lake, Enfield, Elm Creek, St. Croix, Heath Creek and Forest Lake.

MnDOT and the other participating states first proposed the project when truck parking became a national safety concern following the 2009 murder of a trucker in South Carolina. Federal legislation, called Jason's Law, put a national spotlight on addressing the shortage of long-term parking.



Top SMHS readers for second quarter

The top Accelerated Reading program readers at Staples-Motley High School for the second quarter are: front row, from left: Elizabeth Noble, Abbigail DiGiovanni, Robin Bourne and Elizabeth Dukowitz; back: Amyah Converse, Camille Florent, Jeremy Stultz and Holden Fleischacker. Caleb Specht was unavailable for the photo. (Submitted photo)

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UMC Pastor Leslie sees value of teamwork

By Mark Anderson
News Editor

Greg Leslie has jumped right in to become a part of the community after starting as pastor of the United Methodist Church in Staples and Motley.

He doesn't want to be seen as a solitary leader, he wants his role in the church, as well as in the community, to be a member of a team.

Before Leslie started his job, he was familiar with Staples and Motley. His wife Stephanie (Saenger) was born in Staples and has many connections through friends and family here. Greg also has family in the area.

Despite knowing about the area, there were some pleasant surprises when he came here to live. "This is one of the most welcoming communities I've ever come into," said Leslie.

He sees himself as a regular person who happens to be a pastor. He doesn't like to wear a robe when he preaches and sometimes wears jeans.

In the past, he said ministers were revered because of their education, which gave them status over the rest of the community. But society is changing and that hierarchy no longer works for many people.

"Yes I am shepherding people, but I am no better than the person sitting in the pew. It really helps me in my ministry, I am just a normal guy," he said.

"I don't like authority," said Leslie. "I can still be a leader and bring authority to the two churches, but the church needs to go back into the hands of the people, not be dictated to by a higher power."

Leslie is a small town guy, growing up on a farm and living his whole life in small towns. "That is the connection I have between me and the rural ministry," he said. "I feel comfortable in small towns and with the people who live there."

That is why when he came to Staples and Motley, he was able to catch up right away as he became involved in the community.

He joined the CARE Ministry Board, where he said there is a lot of discussion about things going on and the needs of the people in the area.

"I found out that 64 percent of the people here are unchurched. I would like to help change that," said Leslie. "I also found out about the high poverty rates here."

He knows life is not easy for many people, especially if they have to spend months without enough money or in a bad situation. But good faith can be a tonic to help those who are suffering. "Knowing there is a higher power, that there is a God that loves me, puts all that to ease," he said, "That is the most comforting part of faith."

He is putting his church to work on helping with some of the issues. His technology team in Motley is compiling a database of people who use the gas and grocery vouchers from area churches. The list will help make sure no one abuses the system but also will allow them to track the needs of the community.



At the front of the church, helping the team

United Methodist Church Pastor Greg Leslie at the Staples church. He is also at the Motley United Methodist Church. (Staples World photo by Mark Anderson)

"All the churches agreed to jump on board," he said, "it will make it easier for everyone."

Churches and community members working together is something Leslie appreciates, as he is a sports fan and it takes him back to his days of playing college football.

"When you are on a team, you are held accountable, there is transparency there and it builds confidence," he said. He loves to go to local sporting events to spot the ways teams can work together.

Leslie has been the pastor of a two town church community in the past, working in Dent and Perham. One day he started his sermon at a small church and noticed the entire congregation was sitting in the back pews. He figured the solution was to pick up his lectern and walk to the back of the church so he could talk more personally with them. It worked that week, but the next week he looked up and found that the congregation was strategically scattered throughout the pews.

He knows some of his tactics can be intimidating, just based on his appearance. "A lot of people just know me as the big guy with a beard," he said.

But his faith comes through more than his persona. When he got his call to be a minister, he said his main question was "How do I preach the Bible in a very simple way, and keep it applicable to life right now?"

Instead of telling the same Bible stories over and over, he tries to come up with modern interpretations. "It is challenging but rewarding. One person came up to me and said 'I've never heard that Bible verse preached in that way, it was the first time I understood it,'" he said.

Leslie said he knows that ministers don't always stay long but he is enjoying his new job and wants it to continue. "You always want to get the church better than when you came. We had a good pastor before and I want to keep that momentum going," he said. "It is not about numbers, it is about being a church. We all sin, we all make mistakes. But we are also all striving for that great love and righteousness, and I believe we will get there some day."

Sustainable project ideas sought by U of M

The University of Minnesota Central Regional Sustainable Development Partnership (CRSDP) is seeking Project Idea Briefs by March 1, that promote community sustainability through citizen-driven university partnerships in Central Minnesota.

"We're excited to hear from community members and groups that haven't partnered with us before," said Board Chair Alison Holland. "The Project Idea Brief is a short form that begins a conversation about a community's needs around sustainability and the meaningful roles local community members and University of Minnesota faculty, staff or students can bring to advance the initiative or community goal."

As part of University of Minnesota Extension, the CRSDP brings together local talent and resources with U of M knowledge and seed funding to drive sustainability in four areas: agriculture and food systems, clean energy, natural resources and tourism and resilient communities. Central RSDP offices in Brainerd is led by a board of directors comprised of community and university representatives and Executive Director Molly Zins.

In recent years, CRSDP has supported successful projects such as the creation of a community garden and hands-on classroom in Native American culture traditional growing and harvesting; development of a community solar garden framework; conservation plans to protect a deep, clear lake that provides critical habitat; and creation of a community-led park design.

CRSDP is one of five partnerships across Greater Minnesota that connect local communities and citizens with the U of M . Each of the five partnerships is citizen-driven, building community-university collaboration to create new opportunities and solve challenges.

For more information or to submit a project idea to the CRSDP, visit extension.umn.edu/rsdp/idea-brief/ or contact Molly Zins at zend0007@umn.edu or 218-828-2332.

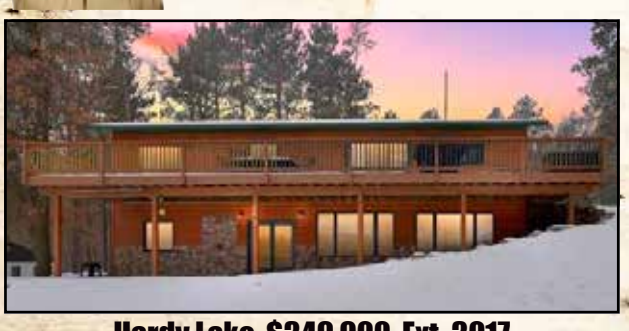


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Grandma Helen going on 21 years at Motley school

By Dawn Timbs
Staples World reporter

For nearly 21 years, Helen Bartle of Cushing has answered to the name of 'Grandma Helen' at the public school in Motley.

She is what's known as a foster grandparent to students at Motley-Staples Middle School, formerly Motley Elementary. It's a job she has enjoyed immensely and one that has brought a lot of meaning to her life, Helen said.

The 88-year-old remembers well the day she saw the Catholic Charities' ad in the newspaper, describing the foster grandparent position. "I applied and was accepted," Helen said, adding that she was the very first one to serve at Motley Elementary School.

The timing was right. She was retired and had recently lost her husband, Floyd, when she saw the ad. "I was looking for something to do," Helen said.

She was assigned to first grade teacher Debbie Blowers' classroom at MES. "I was there for 18 years," Helen said, adding that during their time working together, she and Debbie became good friends.

Since Debbie's retirement, Helen has been a foster grandma to fourth grade students at what is now Motley-Staples Middle School. Currently, she assists fourth grade teacher Renae Schmitz.

"I've liked it from the start," Helen said. "I've never had trouble with any of the kids."

Working with children is something Helen knows well, having raised seven children at the family's farm in the Lincoln Lakes Area (six boys and one girl).

"I definitely know how to work with boys," Helen laughed, adding that her daughter was a tom-boy growing up.

During her work as a foster grandma, Helen's even had the opportunity to teach her own grandchildren and great-grandchildren. "That's been special," she said. This year, her great-granddaughter Maddison Bartle is one of her students.

In particular, Helen enjoys helping children in the areas of reading and spelling, she said. One of the most rewarding aspects of being a foster grandma, Helen said, is "seeing how a student can catch up with a little extra help."

Helen works at the school about 25 hours a week, for which she receives a stipend from Catholic Charities. The only times she hasn't enjoyed her job are on those cold, cold days when no one feels like getting out and starting their car, Helen laughed.

With 26 students in her home-room, Renae Schmitz said she is grateful for the assistance Grandma Helen provides to the fourth graders. "She helps out a lot," Renae said, adding that what she appreciates most is having Helen sit next to the students and offer extra help with their reading assignments. "She will listen to them read their books and answer their questions."

Grandma Helen is also a big help when it comes to math, Renae went on, noting that she helps the students memorize facts and goes over corrections as needed. "She is very dedicated and the kids really like her," Renae said.

In over two decades, Helen has helped hundreds of students. "They still call me 'grandma' when they see me," she said.

Helen recalled the summer she was working at a bake sale and heard the familiar, "Hi, Grandma Helen," from a young adult male who was shopping with his boy. He proceeded to tell Helen that he had been one of her foster grandchildren when he was in the first grade.

She plans on continuing her role at the school "as long as I can keep up my driver's license," Grandma Helen said.

In her downtime, Helen enjoys gardening, making bird houses for the wrens and bluebirds in her area, crocheting dish towels and being a part of a dart league. "We meet at the Friendly Inn once a week," she said.

Come Monday morning during the school year, however, Helen puts on her 'foster grandma hat' and gives all of her attention to the fourth graders at Motley-Staples Middle School. There's no place she'd rather be.



Help from Grandma Helen

Helen Bartle takes a break from helping fourth graders at Motley-Staples Middle School with a reading assignment Feb. 2. Students pictured, from left, are Lydia Chenoweth, Maddison Bartle, Kiya Pope, Pamela Lawrence. In the background are Avandre Brandt and Dante vanDuinen. (Staples World photo by Dawn Timbs)



Loves her work

Grandma Helen Bartle, pictured with fourth grader Pamela Lawrence, enjoys her job as a foster grandparent at Motley-Staples Middle School. She was hired by Catholic Charities nearly 21 years ago. (Staples World photo by Dawn Timbs)

Motley Police Chief back on duty

Discipline action has been taken regarding complaints made against Motley Police Chief Ron Smith Jan. 4 and 5.

Previously, the Motley City Council had held two closed meetings to discuss preliminary misconduct allegations against the chief.

According to City Clerk/Treasurer Lacey Smieja, the issues brought up in the complaints included:

º Violations of Motley Police Department Employee Manual:

a) Section 26, 5.e, which states, "Officers must pass a qualification shoot annually under the supervision of the firearms inspector in accordance with the established training objectives," and,

b) Section 5, "...it remain(s) necessary for an officer to be properly armed for the protection of society and themselves."

º Violations of the City of Motley Personnel Policy, Section 10.1:

a) Willful misconduct or insubordination;

b) Failure to report or refusal to work when necessary to keep essential services operating to provide service to the public;

c) Incompetence in the performance of duties.

The charges were substantiated and the following discipline has been imposed on Chief Smith:

º Five-day unpaid suspension, effective Jan. 17 - 21, 2018.

º Privilege of taking a squad car home has been revoked until further notice.

º Placed on a six-month probationary period.

º Given 30 days to correct or complete certain actions. Pat O'Regan, the council liaison to the Motley Police Department, has been directed to follow-up with this and confirm completion.

Mark Your Calendar

February 21

Game Day at Motley United Methodist Church Wednesday, Feb. 21, 1 - 3 p.m. Bring your favorite card game or board game and spend the afternoon with others who like to play games. Refreshments will be served. All are welcome and the event is free. Motley UMC is located at 847 3rd Ave. South. For more information about this and future 'Game Days,' call 218-352-6466.

Motley Police, Morrison County Sheriff's reports

Recent reports from the Morrison County Sheriff's Office (MCSO) included the following:

Jan. 30 - The MPD helped the principal at the middle school in Motley search the grounds for a juvenile that had run from the school. While searching, they learned that the child had run to its grandmother's house in Motley.

Jan. 29 - The MPD assisted the MCSO with a possible theft at the 400 block of Cedar St. E, Motley.

Jan. 26 - The MPD issued speeding citations to Jerrett Santori, 32; and to a juvenile.

Jan. 31 - The MCSO responded to a 911 call regarding a head-on two-vehicle accident at Hwy 210 and Hwy 64 in Motley. Minor injuries were reported; vehicles included a semi truck and a car. Staples Ambulance was paged.

Jan. 29 - The MCSO received a call regarding the theft of wood from a residence at the 33000 block of Hwy 10 in Motley.

'Pillager Puzzlers' take first at St. Paul Winter Carnival

By Dawn Timbs
Staples World reporter

In just 37 minutes and 28 seconds, the 'Pillager Puzzlers' finished a 500-piece puzzle at the St. Paul Winter Carnival, taking first place at what is the largest puzzle tournament in the nation.

The team was made up of Betty Doss of Pillager, her daughter Emily (Doss) Kutzler of Annandale; son Joshua Doss, a senior at Pillager High School; and family friend Nicole Marcy of Brainerd.

Held at the Landmark Center, the event drew participants from across the United States, including Texas, Massachusetts, Utah and California. These puzzle enthusiasts competed in either the adult division or the family division, with 70-plus teams in each division.

The Pillager Puzzlers competed in the family division, Betty said. To qualify, you need to have a member who is 18 years old. "Joshua is 17, so this is our last year in this division," she said. "Next year we will be in the adult division which will be a new challenge."

This is not the first time they have experienced success. In 2015, the Pillager Puzzlers took second place and last year went home with the first place trophy.

Competing at puzzle tournaments has been a passion of her family's for several decades, Betty shared. She remembers participating at the St. Paul Winter Carnival tournament with her brother, Drew, and sisters Mary and Jodi 30 years ago. They competed for many years and were champions most of those years, she added.

Betty, who grew up in Hackensack, credits her mom, Rhoda Pope, for instilling the love of puzzles in her family. "My mom is a great puzzler and growing up, she had a puzzle going (most of the time) and we joined in whenever possible. We have done a lot of puzzles."

She went on to note that there is such great conversation around a puzzle and it's a tradition she has continued with her own children. "Whenever my family gets together, we have a puzzle going," Betty said.

The key to preparing for the St. Paul Winter Carnival puzzle tournament, is, "practice," Betty went on.

It's quite intense, she said of the tournament. Each team receives their puzzle in a brown paper bag and no one knows what the puzzle looks like until the officials count down to zero. At that point, participants can take their puzzle out of the bag and the race begins.

Each year it's a new puzzle that no one has ever done before. This year's puzzle featured a picture of Minnesota icons Paul Bunyan, the Hamm's Beer bear, the Pillsbury dough boy and the State Fair gopher.

For the most part, the room is quiet as teams race to finish the puzzle. There is some cheering that takes place along the way, but Betty said their team tends "to talk very little and just concentrate on getting the puzzle done."

This year they had some fans in the room cheering them on, Betty said, mentioning Pillager baseball coach Joe Davoli and his parents, John and Lori Davoli, who live in St. Paul and are big fans of the winter carnival.

Betty went on to share that when the first few teams are getting close to finishing, tournament officials (and cameras) start to gravitate toward those tables and you can 'feel' people around. Tournament officials are nearby to verify when a team completes their puzzle.

"We let the youngest team member put the last piece in, so Joshua got that honor," Betty said. She went on to note that, "the funny thing about that is at home when we are doing a puzzle, for as long as I can remember, Joshua will take a piece of the puzzle and hide it so when we are (nearly) done and looking for that last piece, he brings it out and puts it in."

So, it seemed fitting that Joshua would put the last piece in at the tournament, his mom said.

In addition to their puzzle, the Pillager Puzzlers took home the championship prize which included a basket full of items donated by various organizations.

After the tournament, they enjoyed taking in the sites at the St. Paul Winter Carnival, which included a walk through Rice Park and an up-close look at the ice castle. "It is beautiful," Betty said of the winter scene. Perhaps it's a scene that will be featured on a puzzle at a future tournament. Chances are, the Pillager Puzzlers are already practicing.



Puzzle champs

The 'Pillager Puzzlers' placed first at the St. Paul Winter Carnival's puzzle tournament, held at the Landmark Center in St. Paul Jan. 27. This year's puzzle was a Maynard's Signature Series jigsaw puzzle featuring Adam Turman's art, 'MN Abbey Road.' Pictured, from left, are Joshua Doss, Nicole Marcy, Emily (Doss) Kutzler, Betty Doss. The Pillager Puzzlers finished in 37 minutes, 28 seconds. Second place: Thala-Sirens, 39 minutes, 17 seconds; and third place: Puzzle Masters, 41 minutes, 55 seconds. (Submitted photo)



Fitting the pieces together

As the clock ticked away at the St. Paul Winter Carnival's puzzle tournament, the Pillager Puzzlers worked to finish their puzzle in the least amount of time. Pictured, from left, are Joshua Doss, Nicole Marcy, Emily (Doss) Kutzler and Betty Doss. (Submitted photo)

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-EOE-
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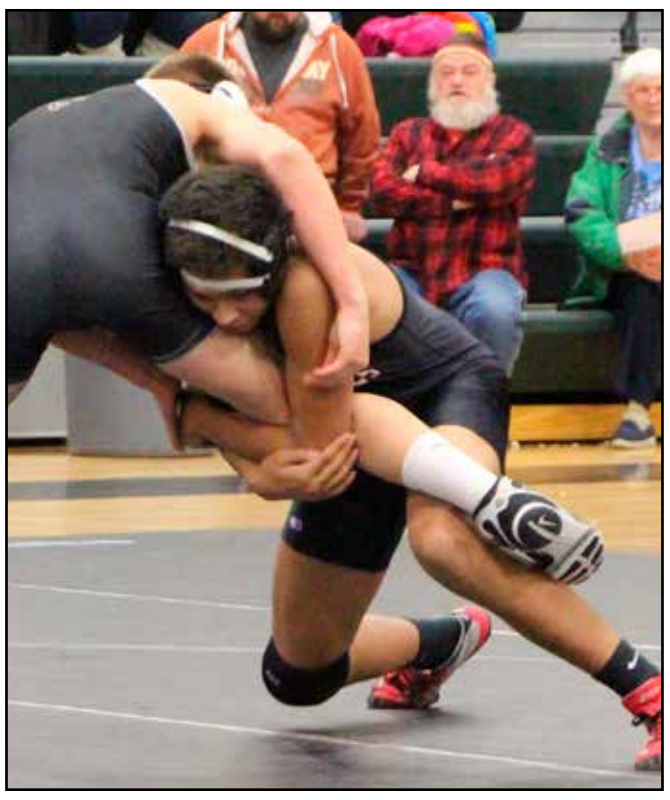
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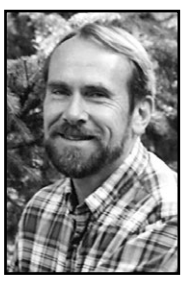


Aggressive wrestling

Above, Logen Weite controls the action after getting a takedown. Below, Alex Ross-Bahn scoops up a leg on his way to a takedown. (Staples World photos by Mark Anderson)

Welcome winter distractions

- o -
Inside the Outdoors



Mike Rahn

- o -

It's not that I and other Minnesotans don't enjoy the mainstay activities of winter, like ice fishing, snowmobiling, skiing or jealously watching other fans' NFL teams compete in the Super Bowl. But many of us have understandable desires to distract ourselves from the rollercoaster temperature regimen typical of January and early February.

As follows. A fellow writer on the outdoors scene recently communicated about the first steps in planning for open water fishing trips in early spring and summer: setting dates for an early canoe trek into the Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness, before the pesky and painful insects it's so famous for are out in full force. That, and perhaps a bucket-list trip to an acclaimed destination in Manitoba or Saskatchewan. The fishing's always fishier on the other side of some state line or international border, right?

I hope to attend the 41st annual Minnesota Decoy Collectors Association show, held at the Marriot Hotel near Minneapolis-St. Paul International Airport, not far from the Mall of America. It's a nostalgia lover's dream, with thousands of old duck and goose decoys, spear fishing decoys, game calls, collectible fishing lures, a variety of memorabilia of hunting and angling, wildlife art and vintage and sought-after books on these subjects. All things to warm the heart – if not the fingers and toes – of outdoor enthusiasts in the depths of winter.

I received an e-mail from a former co-worker recently, asking if I might be interested in selling a used outboard motor he had actually sold to me several years ago. Seller's remorse, as the saying goes. I bought it from him as a back-up to a motor I use for duck hunting, after a hair-raising outing in very cold weather when my "old reliable" had failed to start.

His motives for attempting repurchase are pure. He's starting, as-we-speak, to put together a fishing rig for his father to use on some of his favorite panfish lakes. This motor would be just the right size to push a 12 or 14-foot boat along, come April and open water. If weather trending temperature patterns of the last several years prevail, he could be trolling or anchored on open water in about two months, give or take a few days, especially on smaller waters.

This being the case – not just for him, but for you – it isn't too early to begin thinking about the tools used in open water fishing. A logical starting point is taking inventory of the most-used items of open water fishing tackle, and replacing what's in short supply. Then there's spooling fresh line on reels, something serous anglers do before the season and others do after they've lost a good fish. This, plus sharpening hooks that have encountered rocks, submerged timber, your boat's hull and other "dingers" in their travels with you throughout 2017.

One of my most frequently-broken resolutions is the one I make almost annually to shoot more during the months between hunting seasons. Most years I do get out on the clay target range during spring-to-autumn months, but never enough to markedly improve my shooting when it really counts, during waterfowl and upland bird hunting seasons. In a get-serious move this winter, I've acquired a device commonly referred to as a reloading press. It's used to refill empty shotgun shells with gunpowder and "shot" – lead or steel pellets – so they can be fired again.

The device is not likely to save me a lot of money. That rationale pretty much disappeared as foreign ammunition makers entered the U.S. market and put considerable downward price pressure on U.S. manufacturers. But those who reload their own shotgun shells can choose from a wider range of shot size, shot quantity and velocity combinations. They can also load combinations that might suit them but are unlikely to be found on the shelves of the big-box outlet stores.

Last, but certainly not least, getting involved in the reloading process almost inevitably leads to spending more time target shooting, which in the grand scheme of things is a lot more important than the real but limited opportunity to save money. Besides, it's a great distraction when the bitter February winds of an Alberta Clipper are howling around your home's foundation, and pruning dead branches from the trees in your yard. Some clay target shooting ranges re-open in March after their winter closures, on days that one range's web site describes as "when nice weather is in the area." Most shooting ranges have web sites where they either post range hours, or have contact information so you can inquire directly.

If you truly want to surrender to your winter-weary instincts, consider attending the Northwest Sport Show at the Minneapolis Convention Center, beginning on March 22. "The show" features fishing and hunting seminars, boat and watercraft displays, dog training clinics and folks representing fishing and hunting destinations that might – or deserve to be – on your outdoor adventure bucket list. And of course, there are product displays of fishing, hunting and outdoor sports gear. You might find the escape offered by shows like this to be just the thing to help you hold out a little longer.

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Applying pressure

Isaac Swendsrud stretches out his BHVPP opponent before clamping down for a pin. (Staples World photo by Mark Anderson)

Girls team plays tough in conference showcase

By Mark Anderson
News Editor

The Staples-Motley girls basketball team played tough in the Heart O Lakes Conference Showcase at the Fargo Civic Center on Feb. 3. The Cardinals stayed close but ended up losing to Perham 62-50.

"We played hard," said Coach Craig Wolhowe. "Turnovers late in the game cost us an opportunity to close the lead.

Staples-Motley had 22 turnovers but had 11 steals to help make up for it. Jenna Dvorak led the team with four steals. Tabatha Allen pulled down 15 rebounds and blocked two shots, while Claire Wolhowe made the team's only three point shot while scoring 16 and pulled down 11 rebounds.

The Cardinals fell to 1-16 for the season but pushed another winning team late in the game. "We continue to learn and improve," said Wolhowe.

Team results

Staples-Motley 50, Perham 62

Scoring: Claire Wolhowe 16, Haley Cichos 8, Jenna Dvorak 8, Kiara Storry 6, Tabatha Allen 5, Kiera Dumpprope 3, Kaitlyn Smith 2, Bella Martin 2

Boys hoops pushes DL, comes through at home

By Mark Anderson
News Editor

The Staples-Motley boys basketball team pushed Detroit Lakes to the wire in a 61-59 loss on Jan. 30, then put a complete game together to beat Dilworth-Glyndon-Felton 65-61 on Feb. 2.

Against DL, "We played almost flawlessly in the first half," said Coach Micheal Poncelet. They took a big lead into halftime but DL chipped away throughout the second half. "We had chances to put the game away, we took good shots that missed, but their pressure and missed free throws hurt," said Poncelet.

With the score tied in the final seconds, the Cardinals played great defense and caused DL to shoot an air ball, but they put in the offensive rebound for the winning basket.

Against DGF, an early Cardinal lead disappeared by halftime. In the second half, they came out with a 1-3-1 zone. "Putting Isaiah Ross-Bahn at the top of the zone created some turnovers, he covers a lot of space," said Poncelet.

Brayden Losh and Josh Lombard hit threes and Griffin Webster completed a four point play as the lead reached seven points. But DGF came back and the Cardinals had to hit their free throws late to keep the win.

"I was worried that we would be out-rebounded, since they are a big strong team, but we got our wits about us and started boxing out," said Poncelet.

The Cardinals moved to 5-11 on the season.



Going up strong

Josh Lombard races past the DGF defenders to score on a fast break. (Staples World photo by Mark Anderson)

Team results

Staples-Motley 59, Detroit Lakes 61

Scoring: Josh Lombard 13, Brayden Losh 11, Griffin Webster 8, Reid Busker 7, Chase Davis 7, Derek Kennedy 6, Max Giza 4, Isaiah Ross-Bahn 2, Bentley Christensen 1

Staples-Motley 65, Dilworth-Glyndon-Felton 61

Scoring: Webster 18, Losh 17, Lombard 15, Kennedy 6, Busker 6, Giza 2, Ross-Bahn 1

Cardinals win WHAN Invitational tournament

The Staples-Motley wrestling team won the Walker-Hackensack-Akeley-Nevis tournament on Feb. 2, after taking a depleted team to the Bertha-Hewitt/Verndale/Parkers Prairie match on Jan. 30.

At Walker, three Cardinals were tournament champions: Payton Bjerga at 106 pounds, Owen Bjerga at 138 pounds, and Kyle Serich at 285 pounds. Two second place finishers were Spencer Miller at 126 and Braden Tyrrell at 195.

"Every kid we put out there placed, they wrestled well as a team," said Coach Dave Anglin. "They found out what a team can do if they put their mind to it."

Against Bertha-Hewitt/V/PP, the Cardinals started out with a 53-22 win against Pelican Rapids. Gilberto Terrones won his first varsity match with a pin against Pelican Rapids.

With several starters out due to injury, Staples-Motley could not keep up with BHVPP and lost 52-24. In that match, Payton Bjerga and Spencer Miller got big wins in the early weights, while Jonathon Lisson and Isaac Swendsrud each won by pin in the later matchers.

Anglin said the loss likely dropped them to the fifth seed in the section, but they hope to have most of their injured wrestlers back by section time, starting Tuesday, Feb. 13.

The junior varsity has also been wrestling well, placing ninth at the Brainerd Paul Bunyan middle school meet. Staples-Motley champions were Gordon Enyart, Alex Ross-Bahn and Owen Winter.

Team results

Staples-Motley 53, Pelican Rapids 22

106 Payton Bjerga W 8-0, 112 Dalton Wells W ff, 120 Connor Dobson L 10-2, 126 Brayden Christensen W fall, 132 Spencer Miller W ff, 138 Gilberto Terrones W fall, 145 Logen Weite W 9-7, 152 Owen Bjerga W 11-2, 160 Jonathan Lisson L fall, 170 James Ehresman L fall, 182 ff, 195 Isaac Swendsrud W fall, 220 Braden Tyrrell W ff, 285 Kyle Serich W ff

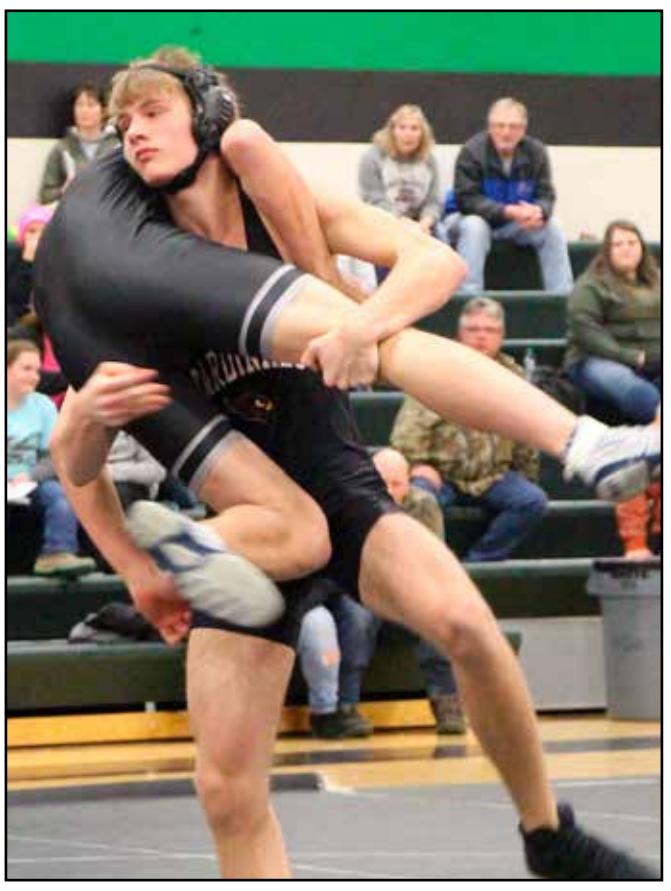
Staples-Motley 24, Bertha-Hewitt/Verndale/Parkers Prairie 52

106 P. Bjerga W 6-0, 113 Wells L fall, 120 Kristian Thompson L fall, 126 Dobson L fall, 132 Christensen L 14-6, 138 Miller W 8-6 (OT), 145 Weite L fall, 152 O. Bjerga W ff, 160 Alex Ross-Bahn L fall, 170 Lisson W fall, 182 Ehresman L fall, 195 Swendsrud W fall, 220 Tyrrell L fall, 285 Serich L fall

WHAN Wolves Invitational

Staples-Motley 185, Blackduck-Cass Lake Bena 159, Fosston-Bagley 145, Deer River 130, Crosby-Ironton 129, Thief River Falls 126, Walker-Hack-Akeley-Nevis 90, Virginia 83, Nashwauk-Keewatin-Greenway 61

106: P. Bjerga 3-0, 1st place
113: Wells 1-2, 5th place
120: Thompson 2-2, 5th place; Dobson 1-3, 6th place
126: Miller 2-1, 2nd place
132: Jasiah Paskewitz 3-1, 3rd place
138: O. Bjerga 3-0, 1st place
145: Weite 1-3, 6th place
152: Ross-Bahn 3-3, 4th place
160: Lisson 2-2 5th place
170 - Swendsrud 3-1, 3rd place
182: none
195: Tyrrell 2-1, 2nd place
220: Shaine Guggenberger 2-2, 5th place
285: Serich 3-0, 1st place



Fireman's carry

Jonathan Lisson picks up an opponent for a takedown in the triangular meet. He earned two pins that night. (Staples World photo by Mark Anderson)



Sure shot

Payton Bjerga shoots in for a takedown against BHVPP. (Staples World photo by Mark Anderson)



In the lane

Griffen Webster gets some tough points against DGF. (Staples World photo by Mark Anderson)



Hanging in the air

Isaiah Ross-Bahn slips past the DGF defender. (Staples World photo by Mark Anderson)



Pouncing on an opportunity

Spencer Miller quickly covers his BHVPP opponent after getting him to the mat in overtime. Miller was wrestling up a weight class but managed to control most of the action for an 8-6 win. (Staples World photo by Mark Anderson)