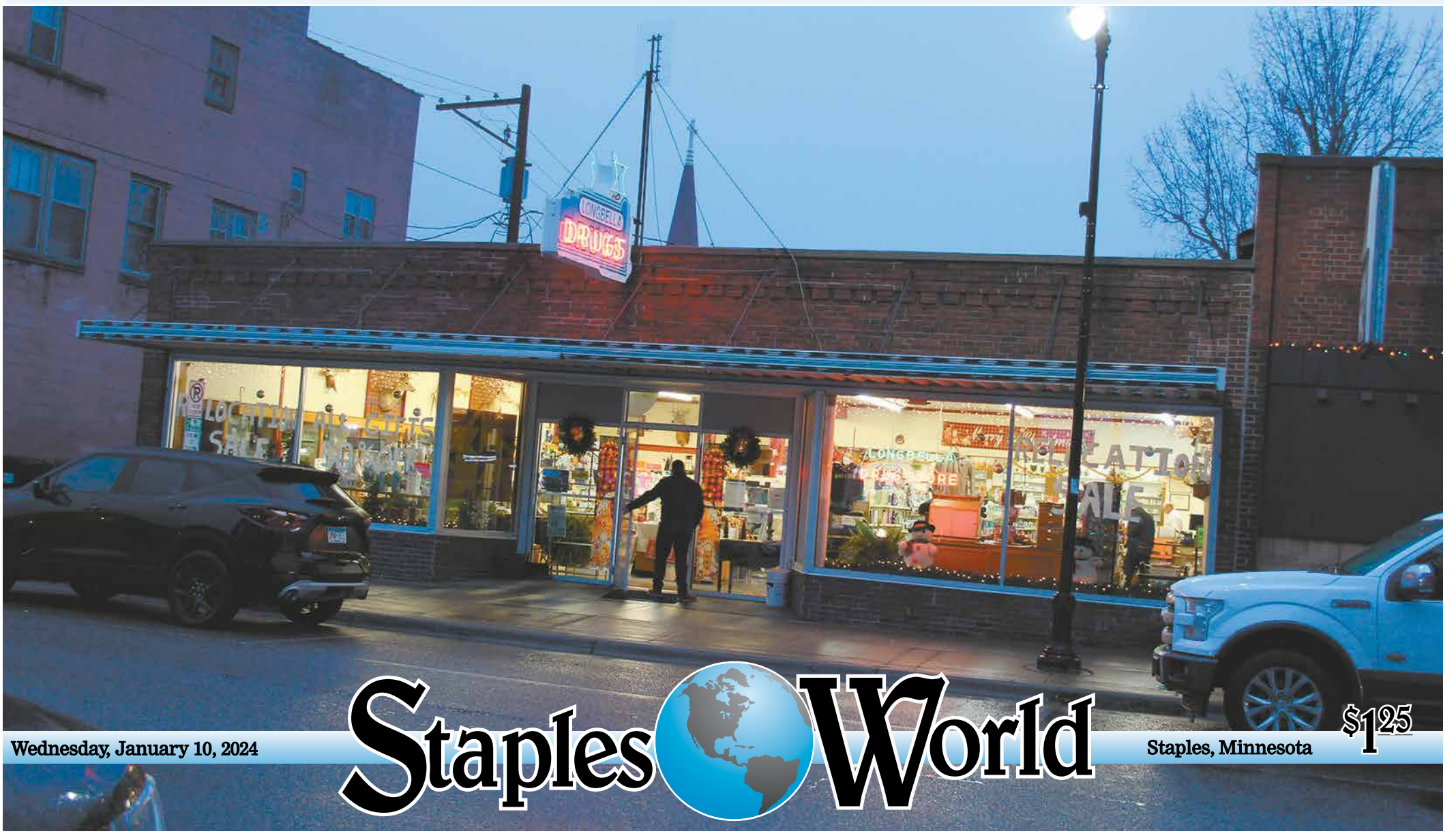
Inside this issue:

First baby of 2024
Rutten reaches 1,000 points
Plaza apartments open
Wrestlers win tournament
Ice safety for fishing

8 10499 02493 3



Wednesday, January 10, 2024 Staples World Staples, Minnesota $1.25

Downtown legacy The doors closed for good at the Longbella Drug Store in Downtown Staples Dec. 29, 2023. A fixture in the community for over 60 years, Longbella Drug was originally owned by the late Richard (Dick) Longbella and most recently, by his children Lani Longbella Roberts and Chad Longbella. The store's neon sign will be missed by travelers along 2nd Avenue NE in Staples. (Photo by Dawn Timbs)

Thomastown Church celebrates 125 years

By Dawn Timbs
Staples World reporter

Since 1898, Thomastown Covenant Church has been a beacon of light in rural Staples, offering a place for worship and spiritual guidance, as well as providing a Christian community where parishioners have found support and friendship along the way. Now heading into its 126th year of ministry, the church's light is still shining brightly.

This past June of 2023, the church celebrated its 125th Anniversary over a three-day weekend that included visiting, music, a worship service, and plenty of refreshments, which is to be expected from a congregation with Scandinavian roots, dontcha know.

A history of the Thomastown Covenant Church is included in, "125 Years of God's Faithfulness," a book compiled and written in 2023, by longtime member Sandra Carlson, with information gleaned from the church's Centennial booklet, which had been compiled by Sharon Nance, a member at that time.

The book notes that the Covenant Church in America had its beginnings in 1868, when a group of Swedish immigrants in Chicago organized a "Mission society." They initially called themselves the 'Swedish Evangelical Mission Church,' but later changed their name to the Evangelical Covenant Church of America, based on their belief that God was a 'covenant making God.'

Carlson went on to write that in Minnesota, around 1881 - 83, "Swedish settlers from southern Carver and Kandiyohi counties came to Bullard and Thomastown townships for cheaper lands." One of these couples, Mr. and Mrs. August Larson, opened their home to hold prayer meetings and Bible studies, inviting itinerant preachers to come in and share the gospel with their friends and relatives. Later on, regular church meetings were held in a log school house on the farm belonging to early members Henry and Anna Klodt.

On May 4, 1898, the "Scandinavian Christian Mission Church of Leaf River" was organized, with the charter members in favor of building a permanent church structure. The land for the church, overlooking the Leaf River where it still sits today, was purchased from Tom Ellis by C.E. Stallberg for the sum of $10. Stallberg later donated it to the church. Cash was short, but thanks to monetary donations from a variety of people (the book

See **THOMASTOWN** on page 2a



Reunion planning committee members

Many hours of work went into the planning of the 125th Anniversary celebration at Thomastown Covenant Church in rural Staples, held in June of 2023. Four of the planning committee members are pictured above, seated from left: Sandy Carlson, Pastor Scott Jorgenson, and longtime members Cindy and Wally Anderson. At far left is Julie (Carlson) Hauschield, St. Bonifacius, a Staples native who grew up attending Thomastown Covenant Church. She is the daughter of longtime members Jim and Sandy Carlson. Committee member Diane Hahn is missing from the photo. (Staples World photo by Dawn Timbs)

Cass County SWCD earns ecological award from DNR

On December 12, 2023, Katie Smith, Ecological and Water Resources Director, MN DNR, presented the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources 2023 Ecological and Water Resources Division Appreciation Award to Cass County Soil and Water Conservation District.

Cass County SWCD has made significant contributions to water resource management through partnerships and programs with an energy and understanding that is admirable. They have been open-minded, innovative, cooperative, and effective partners in water quality improvement, water conservation, and management. I would like to highlight some areas that showcase their programs and recent accomplishments.

Cooperative Water Planning and Partnering

• Cass County is the headwaters of or has a significant portion of four major watersheds. Watershed planning has involved much staff time over the past decade. They have chaired and/or co-chaired the development of the Leech Lake River, Pine River, and Mississippi River Headwaters One Watershed One Plans and are a primary partner in the current development of the Crow Wing Water-

See **SWCD** on page 10a



SWCD team receives award

Cass County Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD) was the recipient of the 2023 Ecological and Water Resources Division's Appreciation Award. This was presented by the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (MN DNR) during the Minnesota Association of Soil and Water Conservation Districts (MASWCD) state annual convention held December 11-13 in Bloomington MN.

Pictured left to right: Katie Smith - Director of Ecological and Water Resources at Minnesota Department of Natural Resources; Ken LaPorte – Cass County SWCD Supervisor; Katy Botz – Cass County SWCD Supervisor; Jennifer O'Neill – Cass County SWCD Supervisor; and Dana Gutzmann – Cass County SWCD Conservation Manager

Not pictured: Cass County SWCD Supervisors Tom Kuschel and David Peterson

Weather

2024
This Week's Forecast

	High	Low	Cond.
Jan. 10	23	9	Snow
Jan. 11	14	7	M. Cloudy
Jan. 12	15	2	Cloudy
Jan. 13	3	-11	Cloudy
Jan. 14	-4	-9	M. Cloudy
Jan. 15	-4	-9	P. Cloudy
Jan. 16	4	-4	M. Cloudy

Last Year, 2023

	High	Low	Cond.
Jan. 10	26°	19	Cloudy
Jan. 11	25	20	Cloudy
Jan. 12	17	12	Sunny
Jan. 13	19	-4	Sunny
Jan. 14	26	11	M. Cloudy
Jan. 15	37	28	Sunny
Jan. 16	33	29	Cloudy

Average Temps:
H = 21° Low = 3°

Compiled by Dale Hausmann, WCCO's Staples area Weatherwatcher

Public Notices

Thomastown: **8A**
Todd County Commissioners: **8-9A**
Todd County BOA: **8A**

Obituary

Dawn Allers

THOMASTOWN continued from page 1a

Thomastown Covenant Church reunion brings back memories for many parishoners

notes that A. B. Anderson, a farmer, drove many miles to give five dollars toward the project) and logs provided by members for lumber, the church's foundation was dug in 1899 with the building completed in 1900.

Rev. A. P. Sjodahl, described as 'an old Swedish minister with long whiskers,' was the church's first pastor, serving from 1899-1900. He was followed by Rev. F. W. Sandell, an evangelist/farmer, who served from 1900-1901.

The first *permanent* pastor at the Scandinavian church was Rev. C.J. Nygren, who served from 1901-1926. Little did this pastor know that a century later, many of his descendents would be faithful members of the rural church. In fact, his granddaughter, Ardis (Nygren) Schimpp, would serve as the church's pianist for over 60 years. Now 89, Ardis is still an active member, along with her daughter, Annette (Wright) and son, Doug (Schimpp), as well as several grandchildren and great-grandchildren who help fill the pews each Sunday. At the anniversary celebration's Sunday service, Ardis returned to her familiar seat at the piano to accompany the congregation in singing "How Great Thou Art," a favorite hymn with Swedish roots.

Charter members of 'The Scandinavian Christian Mission Church of Leaf River' included Lars and Anna Christopherson, August and Mathilda Larson, Charles Anderson, Alfred Edin, Carl Stallberg, Oley and Caroline (Larson) Johnson, and Charles Larson. The last names of other early church families included Anderson, Pederson, Lund, Klodt, Grondahl, Holm, Holman, Schimpp and Toedter. Most, if not all, of these names can be found on gravestones in the cemetery adjacent to the church.

Swedish was the only language spoken at services up until 1931, when Rev. Nygren retired. Parishioners sang from the Swedish hymnal during those early years, with "Tak O Gud" (Thanks to God) being one of their favorite hymns.

As documented in Carlson's book, the church had officially joined the "Swedish Mission Covenant Churches of America" in 1913, and it wasn't until the 1970s that the church, known as "The Swede Church," was officially changed to "Thomastown Covenant Church," after the township where it was located.

Carlson notes that as the younger generation took over, English, rather than Swedish, became the language of choice.

In addition to language changes at Thomastown, as the church grew in numbers, structural changes were necessary. An extensive remodeling project was completed during the 1950s, and a new addition was built in 1968. Then, in 1983, the original church that seated 125 was torn down, and in its place a new structure erected, described as "a lovely rural church that fit its Leaf River setting."

Dozens of people traveled to Thomastown for the anniversary celebration this past June...sharing memories from the past, as well as inspiring stories of how God is still at work in the rural church by the Leaf River today.

Siblings Wendel and Mae Toedter shared that their family first started attending Thomastown in 1948. Their parents, Walter and Lora, happened to visit for the first time when the church was celebrating its 50th anniversary. "We moved here from North Dakota," Mae said, adding that they quickly found they were in a "different culture." They weren't accustomed to the Swedish heritage, and it seemed that everyone in the church seemed to be related, but it didn't take long for the Toedter clan to feel part of the community.

Both Wendel and Mae recalled that Philip Johnson was the pastor when they first started attending, followed by Pastor Victor Manlove. Mae credits Thomastown (and a visiting speaker from Wycliffe Bible translators - Vivian Forsberg) for having an influence on her decision to become a missionary in Mexico.

Pat (Edin) Fries, St. Louis Park, attended Thomastown with the Toedters, as well as school in Staples. She recalled walking to the school bus and meeting her Sunday School pal Mae along the way. In addition to the friendships formed at Thomastown, Pat shared that the church holds special significance for the Edin family as their roots run very deep. Her grandparents, August and Anna Edin, were among its first members.

Jeanette Klodt, along with her husband, Gary Klodt, came all the way from Soldotna, Alaska, for the 125th reunion. "Gary grew up here," Jeanette said, adding that after they married, she and Gary lived near Thomastown from 1971 - 81, during which time they had two children, and the family was actively involved at the church. "There was always lots of music, and great fellowship time," Jeanette recalled of Thomastown.



Longtime members

Larry and Diane Hahn of Verndale have attended Thomastown Covenant since 1964. During the past several decades they've served in a number of capacities, including music ministry and other leadership roles. Diane was part of the planning committee for the recent 125th Reunion. (Staples World photo by Dawn Timbs)



Reminiscing

Several members of past youth groups at Thomastown Covenant Church were in attendance at the church's 125th reunion this past June. Pictured above are siblings Wendel Toedter of Staples and Mae Toedter of Bloomington; and Pat (Edin) Fries of St. Louis Park. All three have fond memories of having grown up attending the rural church in Thomastown Township during the 1940s and '50s. (Staples World photo by Dawn Timbs)

In addition to Sunday morning worship, youth group has played an important role at Thomastown throughout the decades. Carlson wrote in her book that conducting youth group had been a pastoral responsibility until the mid 1960s when Rose Edin (wife of Stan Edin) started working with the young people. "Rose left home an hour early on Wednesday nights and picked up 18 youth in her van," Carlson wrote, adding that on one occasion, they went into the ditch and the youth got out and pushed the van out. The group, which included young people from the church and the surrounding community, grew to over 40.

Julie (Carlson) Hauschield, a 1990 Staples-Motley High School grad, grew up attending Thomastown and has fond memories of the youth group, led by Harold Moffett during those years. "I remember how wonderful he was...he cared about all of us," Julie said, adding that Moffett would always "point you to Jesus." In addition to the impact on her spiritual life, Julie recalled all of the fun the youth group had, especially on their canoe trips each summer, and attending Lake Beauty Bible Camp together. "We were a family," she added.

She enjoyed going to Sunday services, too, Julie went on. "Dan Brodin was the pastor when I was in junior high and senior high school," Julie said, adding that he was a fun pastor. She also has fond memories of Vacation Bible School and the 'Opening Exercises' before the start of Sunday School. "I still remember the songs," Julie said, going on to recite the first few lines of "Climb, Climb Up Sunshine Mountain" and another song that encouraged youngsters to, "Read your Bible, pray every day, and you'll grow, grow, grow."

A lot has changed since the start of Thomastown Covenant Church, but like the nearby Leaf River which has never stopped flowing, the mission of Thomastown has continued on throughout the decades. Carlson notes at the close of her book that "We face different cultural challenges in these times, but our God has always been faithful and compassionate over the past 125 years, and He calls us in turn to be faithful to the great commission found in Matthew 28:18-20 to continue to preach the 'gospel' of Jesus Christ and His salvation in our small corner of the world."



Deep roots at Thomastown



Ardis (Nygren) Schimpp of rural Staples (above left) is the granddaughter of C.J. Nygren, one of the first pastors at Thomastown Covenant Church. Ardis and her late husband Donovan Schimpp raised their three children at Thomastown (Annette, Debbie and Doug); and Ardis served as the church's pianist for 61-plus years. At 89 years young, she is currently the church's oldest member. Pictured with Ardis are her grandson Andrew Bernstrom of Brainerd, and her great-granddaughter Valerie. In lower photo, Andrew stands by an archive photo of his great-great-grandfather Rev. C.J. Nygren, who first came on board as pastor at Thomastown in 1901, serving a total of 29 years. (Staples World photos by Dawn Timbs)



Gospel concert celebration

Music has always played an important role at Thomastown Covenant Church, and to help commemorate their 125th anniversary, a special gospel concert with The Garms Family was held as part of the weekend celebration festivities. Pictured above, Pastor Scott Jorgenson introduces the Garms, who hail from Arkansaw, Wisc. (Staples World photo by Dawn Timbs)



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Donation from LABA

The Lincoln Area Business Association (LABA) recently donated $2,500 to the I.C.E. Fest's Pay it Forward campaign. In 2023, I.C.E. Fest donated $30,000 to hungry kids and regained the record for the World's Largest Ice Carousel inside a Carousel. Pictured, from left, are Becca Ruegemer, I.C.E. Fest organizer; Herb Bloomquist, LABA President; and Chuck Zwilling, I.C.E. Fest organizer. This year's I.C.E. Fest will be held Feb. 17 and 18, on Green Prairie Fish Lake in Little Falls. (Submitted photo)

Motley area police report

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

Dec. 27 - Jan. 2

Dec. 29 - Motley Police found a stalled vehicle at the junction of Hwys. 10 and 210 in Motley, and proceeded to give the driver a ride to BRICKS Travel Center.

Dec. 29 - The MPD received a call from a woman in Motley who reported that her dog had locked the vehicle while she was outside. The Motley Police arrived and unlocked it for her.

Dec. 28 - The MPD received a call from Rich's Seafood in Motley reporting that one of their employes had made some threats about shooting up the plant back in August, 2023. They planned on terminating his employment the following morning, and wanted this information on file.

Dec. 31 - Morrison County deputies responded to a vehicle rollover at 330th St. and Hwy 10 in Cushing. It appeared the vehicle was eastbound on 330th St. east of Hwy 10 when it left the roadway to the right, then swerved, causing the vehicle to roll on its right side. A tree was also impacted. The driver was not on scene, having left on foot to go to her residence which was just down the road.

Dec. 27 - Morrison County deputies responded to a report of burglary at the 32000 block of Atlantic Rd., Cushing.

Looking back

75 Years Ago - 1949

∘ Jan. 13, 1949 - Mrs. Glendara Maire of New York Mills will arrive in Motley this week-end to take over the principalship in the Motley high school to succeed K. S. Davey, who handed in his resignation during the Christmas holidays.

Mrs. Maire comes to Motley very highly recommended by the State Department of Education. She has a B.A. degree from Concordia college, Moorhead, and attended the University of Minnesota as a candidate for the M.A. degree. She taught for three years n Koochiching county, one year in New London, and five years in New York Mills. Mrs. Maire will teach social science.

- o -
Compiled by
Dawn Timbs
- o -

∘ Jan. 13, 1949 - Grand Opening of Hotel Cafe, Saturday, Jan. 15. Free coffee and donuts and free ice cream for the kiddies. Howard Holderbach and Robert McGowan, owners.

∘ Jan. 13, 1949 - Blue Crest Motel in Staples advertises Modern Rooms $2.50 and up. Steam Heat. Phone 406.

∘ Jan. 13, 1949 - The last statement of the Staples State Bank, called for on Dec. 31, 1948, shows that the bank has resources and liabilities topping two and a half million dollars.

Capital of the bank was increased some time ago by a vote of the stockholders and officers.

Total deposits at the bank as of Dec. 31, 1948, amounted to $2,371,972.25. The total of the resources and the total of the liabilities amounted to $2,547,414.85, each balancing the other.

∘ Jan. 13, 1949 - "War on Rats," that's what the City Dads have declared, and to further this war, the rat eradication program will start in Staples on Jan. 17.

For many months rats have raised havoc in the city, especially in some of the business places where possibly hundreds of dollars of damage has been done by this destructive rodent.

The warning issued by the city council states: "A supervised program of rat and vermin exterminating at the city dump ground and in different buildings in the business district of the city of Staples will be commenced Monday, Jan. 17. Citizens are warned to keep children and pets out of places where poison has been placed."

50 Years Ago - 1974

∘ Jan. 10, 1974 - Advertised at Ernie's Grocery: Extra lean Hams, $1.09/lb., Ground Beef, 89 cents/lb., Pork Roast, 79 cents/lb., Large Bologna, 99 cents/lb., Wieners, 3 lb. package, $2.89., Sausage Roll, 3/4 lb. roll, 89 cents.

∘ Jan. 10, 1974 - Mrs. Rose Edin, Staples, will be the speaker at the Wadena Christian Women's Club which meets at the Four Season Restaurant in Wadena at noon, Jan. 14. Mr. Paul Montan, Choir Director at the Wadena High School, will provide the special music.

∘ Jan. 10, 1974 - Jason Ian Macheel, son of Mr. and Mrs. Alvin Macheel of Motley, was the first baby born after New Year's at the Staples United District Hospital. He was born Jan. 4, and weighed six pounds, 12 ounces. He has a sister, , 3 1/2 years. In honor of the event, the Staples Lions Club presented Mrs. Macheel with several gifts for the baby last Saturday morning. Included in the gifts were a $10 check, a blanket, a sleeper, a spoon and fork set, a rattle, a nursery gym set, carrier seat, baby book, stuffed lion, baby bath toys, Pampers, powder, Baby Magic, diaper pins, bath oil, HandiWipes and Q Tips. Mrs. Macheel received a rose in a bud vase.

25 Years Ago - 1999

∘ Jan. 14, 1999 - Nicholas Kenneth Kent, son of Nichole and Robert Kent of Clarissa, was the first baby of the year born at Great Staples Hospital. His arrival on Jan. 7 was noted with the gift of a quilt from the Piecemakers Quilting group. Candius Nichols, club president, presented the quilt, which also has the message "A Star is Born" to the Kent family. Nicholas weighed 6 pounds, 12 ounces and was 21-1/2 inches long. He is the Kents' fourth child, joining Stephanie, 6; Tyler, 4; and 17-month old Emily.

∘ Jan. 14, 1999 - The Uptown Bar, Cedar Street in Pillager, was sold to a new owner with the finalization as of Wednesday, Jan. 13, 1999.

Arlene and Rich Schram sold their business to Randy Lee (not to be confused wit the Pillager Fire Chief with the same name).

Randy J. Lee has renamed the bar OB's (Out of Bounds) Uptown Saloon which will open on Jan. 14.

Lee recently moved back to the Brainerd area after spending a year in Alaska working with Princess Cruise Line, hotel division. Prior to that he spent 15 years with Madden's Resort as manager of the Madden Inn and Golf Club. Assisting in running OB's are Matt Walsh and Kent Blake. Blake is a graduate of Motley High School and Staples Technical College.

∘ Jan. 14, 1999 - Classified ads for vehicles: 1985 Olds Cutlass Supreme, $500; 1976 Chevy 4x4, good runner, 350 engine, 400 turbo trans. Asking $1,100; 1991 Red Chevy Blazer - S10 4x4, Tahoe pkg., auto, loaded, moderate miles, impeccable condition, $7,999.

10 Years Ago - 2014

∘ Jan. 9, 2014 - Bently Devere Borders is the New Years Baby, for 2014, born at Lakewood Health System Hospital in Staples. The hospital had four babies born on Dec. 31, but Bently was the only baby born on Jan. 1.

Bently came three weeks before his due date, according to his mother Amber Hoggarth and father Blake Borders of Pillager.

Amber said Bently was following a family tradition, as both her father and her sister were born on New Year's Day. Bently weighed seven pounds, two ounces and was 19 and one-half inches long. Bently will be welcomed home by his big brother Mason, five; and big sister Zoey, four.

∘ Jan. 9, 2014 - It was so dangerously cold throughout Minnesota Jan. 6, that Governor Mark Dayton closed all schools that day. Many were closed the next day as well, or started two hours late, like Staples Motley.

The arctic blast had begun to hit the Midwest Jan. 3, with below zero temperatures and even colder wind chills. By Jan. 6, in the Staples area, temperatures were reported at 25 - 30 degrees below zero, but it felt even colder, with wind chills at nearly 50 degrees below zero.

∘ Jan. 9, 2014 - The Staples Motley boys basketball team moved to 2-1 in the Mid State Conference with a 61-52 win over Pequot Lakes Patriots on Jan. 3.

"This was a huge game for us, to go on the road to Pequot right after a break," said Coach Micheal Poncelet.

With Christmas and New Year's limiting practice time, Poncelet wasn't sure what the team would play like, but it turned out he didn't need to worry, as the boys played with focus and energy.

"We had a total team effort, with 10 guys in the rotation who all contributed," said Poncelet.

Seth Auger turned in a double-double with 14 points and Nathan Schimpp gave the team a great spark off the bench with a season high 11 points.



Mystery photo

Hello readers. This week's archive photo is from 1990. Do you know who this person is and perhaps the context of the photo? Do you have a memory to share? Email your answers and where you're from to dtimbs@staplesworld.com by Friday, or call 218-894-1112. The answers will be published in next week's paper, as well as a new mystery photo.



Mystery solved

Last week's mystery photo published in the Jan. 19, 1984 edition of the Staples World featured Les and Debee Wille, the owners and operators of Movie Mania, a new business that opened New Year's weekend on Fourth Street in Staples. The firm rents and sells video cassette recorders and movie cassettes. The couple reported that business, so far, had been much better than anticipated.

Donna Bestland of Staples correctly identified both, adding that she was pretty sure Les and Debbie (Lorentzen) were high school sweethearts. Joana Bettis of Motley called in to say that Les and Debbie are now married and live in Florida. She also correctly guessed the context of the photo, as did Lillian Smith of Cushing. Smith also noted that Les and Debbie, natives of Staples and Lincoln, went on to other enterprises including a food truck and well drilling business, and that they currently own a business that supplies water lines to developments. She also said that the couple spend their time between Minnesota and Florida, have two sons and several grandchildren. Thanks for participating in our Mystery Photo.

Court report Jan. 3

Long Prairie Police Department

Kevin Lee Joslyn, Alexandria. Speed 40/30. Fine $40. Fee $85.

Minnesota Department of Natural Resources

Dakota James Ashbrook, Milaca. ER Big Game- fail to validate deer license, tag. Fine $25. Fee $85.

Samson Jon Sjogren, Sauk Centre. Hunting- deer without a license. Fine $300. Fee $585.

Minnesota State Patrol

Roy Craig Drayna, Eagle Bend. Speed 75/60. Fine $60. Fee $85.

Samantha Lorraine Eagan, Sauk Centre. Speed 80/70. Fine $40. Fee $85.

Steven John Espinoza, Green Bay, Wis. Speed 70/60. Fine $40. Fee $85.

Joel Hernandez Lopez, Long Prairie. Driving after suspension. Fine $200. Fee $85.

Sara Mitchell Laliberte, Fargo, N.Dak. Speed 80/70. Fine $40. Fee $85.

Michael Wingghen Lezcano Romero, St. Paul. Speed 84/70. Fine $50. Fee $85.

Rachel Elizabeth Lolmasteymaugh, St. Cloud. Speed 91/70. Fine $70. Fee $155.

Tania Yadira Nava Ortiz, Melrose. Speed 70/60. Fine $40. Fee $85.

Jeremy Lee Nunez, Long Prairie. Speed 70/60. Fine $40. Fee $85. No Minnesota Driver's License after 60 days residency/30 days CDL. Fine $100.

Benjamin Roger Stickman, Hutchinson. Speed 82/70. Fine $50. Fee $85.

Maya Carolyn Tvrdik, Big Lake. Speed 84/70. Fine $50. Fee $85.

Jesse Alan Zirbes, Long Prairie. Second Degree DWI—alcohol concentration 0.08 within two hours. Dismissed, conditions met or expired.

Staples Police Department

Cassandra Lynn Meneely, Long Prairie. Disorderly Conduct. Dismissed, conditions met or expired.

Todd County Sheriff's Office

Tyler John Irlbeck, Clarrissa. Careless Driving- operate any vehicle carelessly on street or highway. Fine $200. Fee $85.

Rolando Jose Ruiz Vilchez, Melrose. Driving after revocation. Fine $200. Fee $85.

The following cases were heard before Judge James Dehn in Seventh District Court in Todd County Dec. 26, 2023.

Aneuri Caraballo Meija, Long Prairie. Driving after revocation. Dismissed. Uninsured vehicle- driver violation. Sentenced. Fine $200. Fee $75. Unsupervised probation, one year. Local confinement 45 days. Stay 45 days for one year. Traffic collision—driver involved fails to stop for collision—driven or attended vehicle. Dismissed.

Tyler Lester Vanderwerf, Springfield. Drivers' Licenses—display, possess fictitious or fraudulently alter driver's license or Minnesota ID. Sentenced. Fine $100. Fee $175. Local confinement 90 days. Stay 90 days for one year. Unsupervised probation, one year.

Long Prairie Police Department

Ariel Chavez Polanco, Eagle Bend. Speed 40/30. Fine $40. Fee $85.

Ambarly Fernando Nunez, York, Penn. Driving without a valid license for vehicle class or type. Fine $100. Fee $85.

Kevin Lee Joslyn, Alexandria. Speed 40/30. Fine $40. Fee $85.

Minnesota Department of Natural Resources

Kenneth Edward Hoppe, Paynesville. Hunting- transportation of firearms, loaded firearm. Fine $100. Fee $85.

Caulina Jane Pape, Preston. ATV- prohibitions on youthful operations, passengers- under 18- helmet required. Fine $50. Fee $85.

Samson Jon Sjogren, Sauk Centre. Hunting—deer without a license. Fine $300. Fee $85.

Minnesota State Patrol

Amanda Elizabeth Manzanares, Little Falls. Speed 80/65. Fine $60. Fee $85.

Stephan Clay Nelson, Staples. Driving after revocation. Fine $200. Fee $85. Seatbelt required- driver and passengers must use. Fine $25.

Gilly Willow Zylka, Long Prairie. Speed 70/60. Fine $40. Fee $85.

Daven Jamar Bates, West Fargo, N. Dak. No proof of motor vehicle insurance. Fine $200. Fee $85.

Andrew John Bishop, Byron. Speed 91/70. Fine $70. Fee $155.

Gregg Michael Dickey, Alexandria. Driving after revocation. Fine $200. Fee $85. No proof of motor vehicle insurance. Fine $200.

Jacob Lewis Driskell, South Saint Paul. Speed 80/70. Fine $40. Fee $85.

Tonia Kay Eriksmoen, Crosby, N.Dak. Speed 85/70. Fine $60. Fee $85.

John Edward Leinen, Long Prairie. Driving after revocation. Fine $200. Fee $85. Window restrictions—windshield tinted or glazed. Fine $50.

Michael Wingghen Lezcano Romero, St. Paul. Speed 84/70. Fine $50. Fee $85.

Laura Leigh Loewen, Winnipeg, Mantiboa. Speed 83/70. Fine $50. Fee $85.

Devendhar Reddy Lokasani, Eagan. Speed 89/70. Fine $60. Fee $85.

Mohamed Jama Mohamed, West Fargo, N.Dak. Speed 87/70. Fine $60. Fee $85.

Emmanuel David Rivera Rivera, Long Prairie. License plate not securely fastened. Fine $30. Fee $85. Window tint less than 50 percent light transmittance. Fine $50.

Treg Michael Schultz, Browerville. Speed 70/60. Fine $40. Fee $85.

Jasmine Jade Stanton, Alexandria. Speed 80/70. Fine $40. Fee $85.

Alec James Vruno, Cottage Grove. Speed 99/70. Fine $100. Fee $275. Careless driving. Dismissed.

Alexander Dean Warmka, Bricelyn. Speed 65/55. Fine $40. Fee $85.

Pamela Jo Wehlage, Sauk Centre. Hands-Free Law—initiate, compose, send, retrieve, read electronic message. Fine $50. Fee $85.

Thomas Michael Zupko, Flensburg. Speed 65/60. Fine $40. Fee $85.

Todd County Sherrif's Office

Jennae Marie Quistorff, Browerville. Speed 64/55. Fine $40. Fee $85.

The following cases were heard before Judge Daniel A. Benson in Seventh District Court in Todd County Jan. 2, 2024.

Brandon Michael Aldridge, Staples. CRM—assault domestic, fear. Sentenced. Local confinement 28 days. Credit for time served: 28 days. Fine $50. Fee $75. CRM—assault domestic, harm. Dismissed.

Geordon Jeffrey Goodell, Baxter. Theft- false representation. Continued for dismissal. $100. Unsupervised probation, six months.

Daniel Lee Zabel, Browerville. Refusal to test. Dismissed. Fourth Degree driving under the influence of alcohol. Convicted. Sentenced. Fine $200. Fee $100. Local confinement 90 days. Stay 90 days for one year. Unsupervised probation, one year. Vehicle lighting. Dismissed. Fail to signal change of course. Dismissed.

The following cases were heard before Judge Daniel A. Benson in Seventh District Court in Todd County Jan. 3, 2024.

Dustin Anthony Cestnik, Pillager. Burglary—First Degree, possession dangerous weapon, explosive. Dismissed. Theft—take, drive motor vehicle—no owner consent. Sentenced. Fine $100. Fee totals $2,627. Supervised probation, five years. Theft—take, use, transfer movable prop—no consent. Dismissed. Burglary Third Degree. Dismissed.

Samuel Alan Lunser, Long Prairie. Fifth Degree. Possess Schedule I, II, III, IV. Not small amount marijuana. Statutory stay of adjudication. Continued. Local confinement 11 days. Supervised probation, one year. Fine $100.


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SBDC workshop for new businesses

The North Central Small Business Development Center (SBDC) announced an upcoming Starting a Business 101 workshop, a comprehensive event designed to support entrepreneurs on their journey to business success. The workshop will be held on January 18 from 5-7 p.m. at the Central Lakes College Brainerd Campus.

This interactive workshop is geared toward individuals who are contemplating starting their own business or are in the early stages of entrepreneurship. North Central SBDC Consultants John Gunstad and Alison Medeck will dive into key topics, including the benefits of entrepreneurship; business planning; legal structures of small businesses; financing and financial statements; and marketing. "Our goal is to empower aspiring entrepreneurs with the knowledge and resources they need to turn their ideas into reality," said Katie Heppner, Regional Director of the North Central SBDC. "Whether you're just starting out or looking to refine your business strategy, Starting a Business 101 will provide invaluable insights and practical guidance."

Attendance is open to all, and early registration is encouraged as space is limited. To reserve your spot or learn more about the workshop, visit: https://mnscu.rschooltoday.com/public/costoption/class_id/281951. A direct link can also be found on the North Central SBDC Facebook page.

Current Central Lakes College students, alumni, and employees are eligible to attend at no cost.

The North Central SBDC is hosted by Central Lakes College and works throughout an 11 county and two sovereign nation region.

To learn more about the North Central SBDC and to register for services visit www.clcmn.edu/small-business-development-center or contact Katie Heppner, Regional Director, at katherine.heppner@clcmn.edu.

Putting fish before safety?

It's been said that when winter arrives, Minnesotans go through a re-education period to relearn how to drive on roads made slick and dangerous by ice and snow. Judging by a recent flurry of news reports, it's evident that anglers must also relearn some basic things about safety during the seasonal transition.

- o -
Inside the Outdoors



Mike Rahn
- o -

For a motorist, it's mostly a matter of being more patient and putting less pressure on the gas pedal. For anglers making the transition from open water to "hard water," it's a matter of judging when the ice on lakes and rivers is safe enough to support their weight, and that of their gear, their shelters, and their vehicles. So far, the available evidence on angler caution and judgment—based on numerous rescues, and several fatalities—is not promising.

Serious ice anglers want more than anything to be out on "first ice." Years of experience have shown them that this period is likely to provide some of the best catch rates of the winter. For this reason, there is an almost irresistible temptation to err more on the side of opportunity, and less on the side of safety. When you combine this gung-ho mindset with this year's atypical weather—and unusually tardy ice development—the result is likely to be mishaps. This year they've ranged from uncomfortable to deadly.

Perhaps to our embarrassment, Minnesota made it onto the national news stage within the last week with the rescue of more than 100 ice anglers on Upper Red Lake, in Beltrami County. CBS News and the Washington Post were among the national news outlets that deemed the event worthy of sharing with the rest of the nation.

Smaller lakes may freeze across their entire surface within a relatively short time. But larger bodies of water—and at 119,000 acres, Upper Red Lake is extremely large—ice formation is more gradual. Until a lake is covered in ice from shore to shore, there is a risk that a shelf of ice anchored onshore may break away, and drift out into open water.

This is what happened at Upper Red Lake during the last week of December, stranding some 122 anglers 30 feet away from shore. Conventional boats and airboats were used by the Beltrami Sheriff's Department and other first responders to bring them safely to shore. Prior to the arrival of better-equipped assistance, several bystanders with a canoe attempted to initiate a rescue. Four fell into the water, but fortunately none were injured.

This event followed the rescue of 35 anglers on Upper Red Lake on December 17 in a similar ice flow breakaway. A small plane carrying two anglers broke through the ice as they attempted a landing on the lake on December 19. On December 28, one day before the biggest of these news-making events, two anglers on all-terrain vehicle (ATV) broke through the ice on Upper Red Lake, but managed to make it to safety.

These mass rescue events are becoming almost routine on Upper Red Lake. In November of 2022, some 200 anglers required rescue when a similarly large expanse of ice detached and drifted away from shore. Amazingly, none were injured in these events.

Unfortunately, not all on-ice dramas end so positively. An angler on Big Toad Lake in Becker County died after his ATV broke through the ice there on December 23 of this year. On Lake of the Woods, near the Canadian border, a commercial Bombardier ice transport vehicle used to carry passengers to offshore fish houses broke through the ice on December 28, and one of its seven passengers could not be pulled from the water in time to save him.

In the wake of this flurry of rescue emergencies on Upper Red Lake, the Beltrami County Sheriff's Department has banned vehicle travel on the portions of this lake within its jurisdiction. This includes not only highway vehicles, but snowmobiles and ATVs, too, which are commonly used by anglers with portable shelters before lakes have sufficient ice depth to support cars and trucks, or pull-behind wheelhouse-type fishing shelters.

Dangerous ice conditions are not, by any means, limited to extremely large bodies of water like Upper Red Lake. Warm December temperatures, atypical rainfall in some areas, and windy conditions, have combined to make ice safety uncertain on many lakes, especially in Central and Southern Minnesota. The Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (DNR) has cited El Nino conditions in the Pacific Ocean as the force that has kept cold air masses many miles to the north in Canada, which has retarded ice formation here.

And, speaking of the DNR, its standard advice to ice anglers is even more worth paying attention to now. Until you're sure of completely safe ice, wear a life jacket or float-coat. Check ice thickness at regular intervals with a "spud," or your auger, to determine ice thickness. Don't go out alone if you can avoid it, especially now. Carry a cell phone or personal locator beacon. Make sure someone knows where you'll be, and when you expect to return.

In closing, perhaps a radical idea, one that some ice anglers might not wholeheartedly support. When an angler's pickup, snowmobile, or ATV breaks through the ice and has to be recovered, the angler expects to pay for the recovery. If an ice angler takes chances and has to be rescued at taxpayer expense by a sheriff's deputy, or a DNR conservation officer, perhaps there should be a fee for that, too. As I said, probably not a popular solution; but food for thought, anyway.

Quote of the week

"A lot of people like snow. I find it to be an unnecessary freezing of water."
— Carl Reiner

New film shows how hedge funds are destroying local journalism

From Editor and Publisher Magazine

Rick Goldsmith's website, New Day Films, states that his mission as a filmmaker is to "tell stories that encourage social engagement and active participation in community life and the democratic process, and to stimulate young minds to question the world around them."

And when one watches his latest work: "Stripped for Parts: American Journalism at the Crossroads," a 90-minute documentary that tells the tale of how hedge fund Alden Global Capital's entry into the news publishing industry has dismantled local newspapers "piece by piece," creating a crises within the communities they serve, leaving "news deserts" and "ghost papers" in their wake.

A posted synopsis about the film by Goldsmith, states "Ours is a cautionary tale: What is lost when billionaires with no background nor interest in a civic mission, who are only concerned with profiteering, take over our most influential news organizations? What new models of news gathering, and dissemination show promise for our increasingly digital age? What can the public do to preserve and support vibrant journalism? Stripped for Parts addresses these questions and more. "Democracy dies in darkness" and the stakes could not be higher.

Foodborne illness

Submitted by Todd County Health and Human Services

Foodborne illness is caused by consuming contaminated foods or beverages. Many different disease-causing microbes or pathogens can contaminate foods, so there are many different types of foodborne illnesses. Most foodborne diseases are infections caused by a variety of bacteria, viruses, and parasites.

Symptoms of Foodborne Illness

Common symptoms of foodborne illness are diarrhea and/or vomiting, typically lasting 1 to 7 days. Other symptoms might include abdominal cramps, nausea, fever, joint/back aches, and fatigue. What some people call the "stomach flu" may actually be a foodborne illness caused by a pathogen (i.e., virus, bacteria, or parasite) in contaminated food or drink. The time between exposure to the pathogen and onset of symptoms can range from several hours to 1 week.

Foods Associated with Foodborne Illness

• Raw foods of animal origin, that is, raw meat and poultry, raw eggs, unpasteurized milk, and raw shellfish are the most likely to be contaminated.

• Fruits and vegetables can also be contaminated with animal waste when manure is used to fertilize produce in the field, or unclean water is used for washing the produce.

• Raw sprouts are particularly concerning because the conditions under which they are sprouted are ideal for growing microbes.

• Unpasteurized fruit juices or cider can also be contaminated if there are pathogens on the fruit that is used to make it.

• Any food item that is touched by a person who is ill with vomiting or diarrhea, or who has recently had such an illness, can become contaminated.

Do you suspect you have a foodborne illness?

• Call 1-877-FOOD-ILL (1-877-366-3455).

• Submit your report using the Foodborne and Waterborne Illness Report, found here: https://www.health.state.mn.us/diseases/foodborne/reporting.html.

• Or email: health.foodill@state.mn.us.

Common good requires compromise

By Lee H. Hamilton
Hamilton Lugar School of Global and International Studies

Making decisions about public policy is no simple task. It requires balancing interests, exercising our values and making choices among competing ideas. When we vote, should we favor candidates who will cut taxes or those who will improve services? Should we support a strong American presence in the world or keep our focus on domestic issues? The answers aren't easy.

And where do we look to develop the values that shape these decisions? For many of us, they start with our families, friends and colleagues. Faith and community organizations play a role. We often look to people whom we admire: examples from history, influential figures in public life and admirable individuals we have known.

Ultimately, we should return to this guiding standard: Will our decisions advance the common good? We won't all agree on what the common good is, but the question should be a starting point.

In fact, the idea of the common good runs through public life in the United States. It was a key concept for the Enlightenment philosophers who influenced America's founders. They connected it to the ideal of citizenship, the notion that people should engage in public life.

John Adams, our second president, wrote, "Government is instituted for the common good … and not for profit, honor, or private interest of any one man, family, or class of men." James Madison wrote in the Federalist Papers that governments should identify wise leaders in search of the common good.

But what do we mean by the common good? The founders left some hints in the Preamble to the Constitution. They sought "a more perfect union" that would promote elements of the common good: justice, domestic tranquility, the common defense, the general welfare, and the blessings of liberty.

These phrases are meaningful, but they leave room for debate. What is the "general welfare." What happens when domestic tranquility conflicts with individual liberty? In today's world, does the "common defense" include supporting our allies in Israel and Ukraine, or should it focus on securing the border? In our democratic society, we continually define and re-envision the common good.

And that's a real challenge in these politically divided times. Polarization is nothing new in America; in some ways, it's baked into our two-party system. But increasingly, it seems like Republicans and Democrats live in separate worlds. Surveys find that many Americans view members of the opposing party as dishonest or immoral. This plays out in Washington, where Congress is so divided that it has passed only a handful of bills this year and can barely agree to keep government operating.

How do we get out of this mess? We can start by reminding ourselves that we are all Americans, regardless of party, and there's more that unites us than divides us. We share a common history, and we all have a stake in the peace and prosperity of our nation. It's our duty as citizens to engage with people with different views, to listen to them and seek common ground.

We also need to remember that, in a diverse and pluralistic society like ours, compromise is a necessity. One of the most worrisome findings in recent public opinion polling is that many Americans view compromise as a dirty word. If we're going to make progress, we need to recognize that our side won't get everything it wants. The common good includes what's good for you, not just what's good for me.

I've always believed that the American people are fundamentally decent, optimistic and forward-looking, regardless of our differences. We are fortunate, in our democracy, to be able to discuss, debate and ultimately reach agreement on tough questions. It's up to us to define the common good and to continually strive for the more perfect union that the founders envisioned.

Home values cause property tax issues

By Heather Close
The Rural Blog

Alongside soaring home values, U.S. property taxes have increased, leaving some homeowners struggling to pay eye-popping bills. "The typical home value in Idaho increased from $275,852 in November 2019 to $434,224 this November, according to data provided by real estate giant Zillow, which tracks the average of the middle one-third of home values," reports Kevin Hardy of Stateline. Property tax rates are "generally set by local governments, not legislatures. But public pressure has compelled lawmakers in several states, including Idaho, to use surplus state revenues to mitigate property tax hikes."

Commenting on the public outcry, Idaho state Rep. Jason Monks told Hardy, "The biggest problem was they just went up so quickly. … I think that's one of the reasons why it became this rallying cry from the people asking for tax relief." Jared Walczak, vice president of state projects at the Tax Foundation, a pro-business research organization, told Hardy: "In virtually every state where the legislature meets this year, property tax relief bills will be filed. This is a front-of-mind issue for many legislators across the country."

However, intervening in property taxes is complex, and failure to do it correctly could leave some coffers empty because the money is being used for tax relief. "The effort across the country to provide property tax relief has sparked some concern that states could go too far, jeopardizing revenue for school districts and local governments," Hardy explains. "And some policymakers worry about overly broad relief that could benefit the wealthiest property owners at the expense of those most in need."

Colorado lawmakers are trying for a measured approach, which is difficult when the state's "landscape ranges from rural ranching communities to booming urban and suburban markets," Hardy reports. Democratic state Rep. Marc Snyder told Hardy: "I've been struggling with this. It's really hard to come up with a statewide solution when you have such a variety of situations in Colorado."

Democratic state Rep. Chris deGruy Kennedy said he "wants to ensure that Colorado's school and fire districts have the revenue sources they need to operate well," Hardy adds.

Staples World

Established in 1890. USPS 518-760
©2024 RMM Publications
Published Wednesdays by RMM Publications
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: editor@staplesworld.com
Deadline: 12 noon, Friday

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

Publisher .....RMM Publications LLC
Owners Rick Gail, Mike Kremer, Mark Anderson
Managing Editor.....Mark Anderson editor@staplesworld.com
Advertising Rep..... editor@staplesworld.com
Photo Tech/production.....Janice Winter jwinter@staplesworld.com
Bookkeeping/Circulation/
.....Kathy Odden kodden@staplesworld.com
Reporter.....Dawn Timbs dtimbs@staplesworld.com
Front Office..... office@staplesworld.com

Subscription Rates:
Local: (Todd, Wadena, Morrison, Cass Counties) $53 per year
Website: $50 per year
Minnesota: $58 per year - *Out of State:* $63 per year
Foreign: on-line only - *Student Rate:* (Sept. through Apr./in-state) $43
There is a $5 charge for address change from local to out-of-state.

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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.

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Plaza apartments, drug store now open

Longbella Drug by Lakewood Health System is now open at The Plaza, the new Lakewood building on Highway 10 in Staples. The other portion, Twin Cities Orthopedics, will open soon. The apartments above the building are also being filled with residents. In December, the Staples Economic Development Authority sponsored a tour of the building for Staples City Council members. Pictured above, Brad Anderson of Lakewood talks about the new drug store. He said the space available is similar to the downtown Longbella's, but there is space to grow into and a drive-through window. The drive-through will be on a first come, first served basis but there will be parking areas for those whose prescriptions are not ready yet. Anderson said customers can sign up to get a text message when their presecriptions are ready. Special pharmaceutical ameneties include a negative ventilation room for mixing oncology drugs and a sterile room equipped with suits, hoods and booties for specialty medications. The tour included the one and two bedroom apartments on the second floor, right. The cost of the apartments are in the $1,200 to $1,400 per month range, which includes utilities and internet. Anderson said Lakewood is holding onto a couple of the apartments for staff but have rented the others out to the pulic. The apartment complex includes an outdoor patio on the second floor, top right photo. Anderson said patio furniture will be coming. (Staples World photos by Mark Anderson)



SMBP annual meeting Feb. 8

Staples Motley Beyond Poverty will have their annual meeting on February 8 at 10:30 a.m. at Sourcewell in Staples. Lunch will be served. Anyone from the community is welcome to attend.

Mark Your Calendar

January 11

'Walk With A Doc' Thursdays at 5:15 p.m., at Lakewood Health System's main campus in Staples. Meet at the main entrance. For more information about this free program, visit https://walkwithadoc.org/join-a-walk/locations/staples-minnesota

Wadena Whirlaways Square Dance Group Dancing Thursday, Jan. 11, 7:30 - 10 p.m., at St. Michael's Church, 280 1st Ave. S., Motley. Bob Maiden, caller. For info., 218-894-2900.

January 12

Women's OPEN AA Recovery Meeting Every Friday in person, 10:30 a.m., Motley Free Methodist Church (lower level), 33 Wellwood St. E. Motley. All women welcome.

January 15

AA group Mtgs In Motley are held at the United Methodist Church, 847 3rd Ave. S., on Mondays at 8 p.m.

January 16

Experience Strength And Hope AA group Mtgs In Staples are held at the Church of Christ, 27343 490th St., Tuesdays at 7 p.m. For info., call Dan at 218-640-7228.

January 17

Staples All Veterans and Community Park Association will hold its 2024 Annual Mtg on Wednesday, Jan. 17, at 5:30 p.m. at Timbers Restaurant and Event Center in Staples. The regular monthly board mtg will follow. Both meetings are open to the pubic. To attend via Zoom, contact Bob Hamann at 218-894-3139.



Use your gift card from the Timberlake for a pool party or a party room for a family gathering or dinner at the Timbers by January 26 and receive a free glass of House Wine or a Tap Beer

Election Judges Needed

Empower your community and play a crucial role in shaping democracy by joining us as an Election Judge. As a paid official, you'll be at the heart of the democratic process, ensuring that every voter's rights are safeguarded on Election Day. Election Judges receive training and have a right to get time off work to serve, without a reduction in pay. Current pay for election judges is $15.00 per hour. You must be eligible to vote in the State of Minnesota and be able to read, write and speak English. The time commitment is 3 hours of training and an 8-hour shift for the Presidential Primary (March 5), State Primary (August 13) and General Election (November 5).

To sign up, contact Tara Greer, City Clerk at 218-541-5004 or send an e-mail to tgreer@ci.staples.mn.us.

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Hello World

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Community invited to ConnectEffect, an innovative interactive entertainment experience

Central Lakes College, in partnership with the Central Lakes Community Performing Arts Center, presents ConnectEffect, an innovative interactive entertainment experience that aims to tackle the prevailing issues of loneliness and social isolation.

The event is free, open to the public, and runs January 23-25, 2024, at 6 p.m. at Central Lakes College, Brainerd campus.

ConnectEffect is hosted by two-time Emmy-nominated television producer Riaz Patel, a visionary leader with a unique approach to breaking down societal barriers. Walk-ins are admitted but due to limited seating participants are encouraged to register in advance. Detailed information and a link for registration are available at www.connecteffectbrainerd.net.

ConnectEffect is a unique exploration of the "Real World" versus the "Screen World" in a style that merges talk shows with live theatre. Participants, approximately 80 per session, are guided by Patel and his team through group experiences, exercises and conversations designed to bridge generations, cultures, and beliefs.

Through a deeply personal and disarming approach, Patel brings together a diverse audience of total strangers and, within the span of the event, equalizes and humanizes them into one deeply connected group. Described by Forbes as a "game-changer", the ConnectEffect Experience fosters label-shedding and echo-chamber-breaking conversations, providing an enjoyable and entertaining platform for meaningful dialogue and connection.

With a background in psychology research and a two-decade career of producing shows in 20 countries and for every major network, Patel has a profound understanding of the impact of media, division and identity on human connection. Patel received a special commendation from the City of Los Angeles for his work with The Jenesse Center, a domestic-violence prevention organization and his and perspective-shifting work in entertainment. In an era marked by digital connectivity, Patel and health experts recognize the urgent need for genuine human connections.

U.S. Surgeon General Dr. Vivek Murthy recently stated, "Our epidemic of loneliness and isolation has been an underappreciated public health crisis that has harmed individual and societal health." Patel's approach to generating social connections amongst ConnectEffect participants is rooted in his belief that relationships are a powerful source of healing and well-being and that any two people can be deeply connected if introduced in the right way.

"We believe in the power of connection to bridge gaps, break down barriers, and foster understanding among individuals from all walks of life. We hope that ConnectEffect will be a catalyst for building a stronger, more connected community amongst both CLC and the Brainerd Lakes Area," said Joey Yow, Director of the Central Lakes Community Performing Arts Center.

This event is made possible through the support of several organizations committed to community well-being, including the Central Lakes College Office of Equity and Inclusion, the Central Lakes Community Performing Arts Center, the Region Five Development Commission, the Five Wings Arts Council, Essentia Health, Crow Wing Energized and the Lakes Area Justice Table.

For information and to register for the Brainerd ConnectEffect event, visit www.connecteffectbrainerd.net. For more information on the ConnectEffect organization, visit www.connecteffect.us.

-Jessie Perrine,
CLC Communications Coordinator

Staples Area Church Directory

Staples

Staples Alliance
1512 8th St. NE, Staples 218-894-2891
Pastor Zach Jones
Sunday Worship.....9:30 a.m.
Sunday School .....11:00 a.m.
WEDNESDAY
AWANA.....6:00 p.m.

Assembly of God
914 3rd Ave. NE, Staples 218-894-1081
Pastor Roy Miles
Small Groups (Bible classes for all ages) .....9:30 a.m.
Morning Worship Service.....10:30 a.m.
Children's Church (Kids start in main worship service) ..... 11 a.m.
Prayer Meeting ..... 5 p.m.
WEDNESDAY
Sonlight (kids ages 4 yrs.-6th grade) .....After school to 5:30 p.m.
Youth Group (Teens, 7th-12th grade) .....After school to 5:30 p.m.

Church of Christ
27343 490th St., Staples.....218-894-2609
Pastor Barry Klein
Facebook Live
Bible School (youth and adult).....9:30 a.m.
Sunday Worship.....10:30 a.m.
WEDNESDAY:
Teen Youth/Adults Bible Study .....7-8 p.m.

Faith Lutheran
430 12th Street. NE., Staples.....218-894-1546
Pastor Carl Larson
Pastor Chris Mathiason
Sunday Worship Service .....9:00 a.m.
Sunday School and Coffee Fellowship.....10:05 a.m.

Sacred Heart Catholic Church
310 4th St. NE, Staples
Church.....218-894-2296
info@marysacc.org
Fr. Aaron Kuhn
Fr. Gabriel Walz
MASS:
Sunday.....8:30 a.m.

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

Thomastown Covenant
15940 251st Ave., Staples.....218-894-3923
Pastor Scott Jorgenson
Sunday Worship.....10:30 a.m.
WEDNESDAY NIGHT YOUTH .....6:30 p.m.

Trinity Lutheran
1000 4th St., NE, Staples 218-894-2372
Rev. Robin Collins
Sunday Divine Service .....9:00 a.m.
Sunday School and Bible Class ...10:30 a.m.

United Methodist
310 5th St. NE, Staples 218-894-2248
Sunday Worship.....10:30 a.m.
(Nursery Available for Sunday Worship)

Aldrich

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
Pastor Carl Larson
Pastor Chris Mathiason
www.bethanylutherancushing.org
Sunday Worship.....9:00 a.m.
Communion .....1st and 2nd Sunday of each month

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Facebook Lincoln E Free
Office Hours: Tues. - Thurs., 9 a.m. - 12 p.m.
Senior Pastor: Don Reigstad
Community Life Pastor: Jim Brown
Associate Pastor: Joe Reigstad
SUNDAY
Church Worship Gathering.....10:00 a.m.
YouTube Channel .....10:00 a.m.

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

Leader

Swan Valley Lutheran
Leader 218-397-2470
Sandy Knight, Synodically Authorized Minister of Word and Sacrament
Sunday Worship
January - July .....9 a.m.
July - January.....11 a.m.

Maple Hill Lutheran
Sandy Knight, Synodically Authorized Minister of Word and Sacrament
Leader .....218-397-2470 (Rural Pine River)
Worship and Sunday School .....9:00 a.m.

Motley

Motley Free Methodist
33 Wellwood St. E
Motley 56466.....218-352-6888
Jim Johnson, Senior Pastor
Casey Reynolds, Assistant Pastor
Sunday Worship..... 9:00 and 10:30 a.m.
facebook live..... 9 a.m.
WEDNESDAY
AWANA..... 4:00-5:30 p.m.
Youth Group ..... 6:00-8:00 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 Catholic Church
1st St. and Birch, Motley.....218-894-2296
info@marysacc.org
Fr. Aaron Kuhn
Fr. Gabriel Walz
MASS:
Saturday .....4:00 p.m.

United Methodist
847 3rd Ave. S. Lane, Motley.....218-352-6466
Pastor Greg Leslie
www.motleyumc.net
Sunday Worship Service.....10:00 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
Pastor Mathew Sundquist
717 River Street S, Pillager, MN
218-746-3775
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.

Hewitt

Church of the Nazarene
114 Front Street, P.O. Box 146 Hewitt, MN
218-924-2028
Jim and Linda McGaffey, Pastor
Sunday School .....9:30 a.m
Sunday Worship.....10:45 a.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.

Hewitt Community Church
Hwy. 210, Hewitt, MN
Pastor Kenneth Uhren
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 218-445-5568
VerndaleFLC@gmail.com
Pastor Amos Self 218-371-7189
Tahna Rurup, Connections & Media Pastor
Tillman Phagan, Kid's & Food Shelf Pastor
Ryan Wolfenden, Youth Pastor
SUNDAY
Youth Prayer.....9:20 a.m.
Worship Service .....10:00 a.m.
Prayer Meeting ..... 5 p.m.
WEDNESDAY
Life Groups .....6:30 p.m.

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

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 James Middendorf, 320-260-4950
Sunday Service ..... 9:00 a.m.
Bible Study..... 10:30 a.m.
WEDNESDAY
Seeds of Hope..... 7:00 p.m.

St. Frederick Catholic Church
20 Mason Avenue NW.....218-894-2296
info@marysacc.org
Fr. Aaron Kuhn
Fr. Gabriel Walz
MASS:
Saturday .....6:00 p.m

St. Hubert Catholic Church
Bluegrass.....218-894-2296
info@marysacc.org
Fr. Aaron Kuhn
Fr. Gabriel Walz
MASS:
Sunday.....10:30 a.m.

Leaf River Township

The Old Country Church
Leaf River Twp., Wadena County Rd. 6
Info. 218-837-5690 Call first.
Sunday Service .....10:00 a.m.

w3c

"First Things First"

Pastor Barry Klein, Staples Church of Christ

When we go in for our medical appointments, sometimes the up front reasons are obvious. But at other times, we may be mistaken as to what the problem is and our medical personnels are trained to sort that all out. So, it is important that we, as the patient, are submitting ourselves to their expertise listening, observations, diagnosis and prescription.

Someone once said, "sometimes the grasp of the obvious isn't there for some people." I've been there. I've missed the obvious or maybe more honestly, I didn't want to know or hear the obvious. There are times when I knew that something needed to be addressed (and could be addressed) but I had to be reminded, once again, of what the real situation is. Pause to keep those thoughts for a moment.

Continuing with our medical world, we also are aware of the world of triaging. What we mean by that is that medical personnel are trained to assess and prioritize levels of need. For instance, if I go into the ER with an infected hang nail, even though I may go through the ER doors first, if someone after me is coming in with chest pain, that person obviously will need to precede me in being treated. It is a life and death matter of "first things first."

We need to live life this way all the time. Using another old adage, we need to "major in the majors and minor in the minors." We may get into trouble if we switch those around, thinking that its okay to "major in the minors and minor in the majors." We understand how the latter would be malpractice in the emergency room, but do we understand the equal error of trying to live that way in our daily lives?

Let's look at a couple of earthy examples. There is nothing wrong with watching a wholesome television show. But if a phone call comes in from someone in need, that needs to rise to the higher priority and would be "malpractice" if I ignore the need and continue to watch TV. Or, if I would like to enjoy some ice cream in the grocery store, but have a family back home that has no milk, meat and vegetables, it would be an upside down set of priorities to buy the ice cream to the neglect of the other items.

The point of this devotion title is this. In this generous and gracious good world that God created (Genesis 1:31), of which we all constantly draw from, we need to realize that neither the created world around us, including people, is an end onto itself. It is (and always will be) the lesser of priorities in comparison to God, the Creator. God is always the FIRST personal reality. Everything about life needs to center upon God, as the Owner of all (Psalm 24:1).

On this 10th day of the new year of 2024, let's recommit ourselves to living "first things first" which means putting God first in all things, so that the rest of life stays in it's proper order and perspective. Far from this being selfish of God, it is the only way we can prevent ourselves from self-destructing in using lesser things (which belong to God) against Him. If the truth be known, putting God first in all things will bring "the abundant life" to us.

The Staples area Church Directory is sponsored by these area businesses:

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

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

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

Central Building Supply
Hwy. 10 West, Staples, MN
218-894-3794

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

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

The Church Directory is supported by the advertisers listed above and the Ministerial Association.

***To update your church information or to advertise on the Church Directory, email: jwinter@staplesworld.com. or call 218-894-1112. As always, continue to email your Ministerial pastoral message or advertisement to: jwinter@staplesworld.com

Obituary

Dawn Allers



Dawn Allers, 67, of Staples passed away peacefully January 3, 2024, at A Daughter's Love, Staples.

A gathering of family and friends will be held Thursday, January 11, 2024, from 2:00 to 4:00 p.m. at the Brenny Family Funeral Chapel in Staples.

Dawn was born to Dick and Roberta Pepple on March 30, 1956, in Minneapolis. She married the love of her life, Bob, on September 18, 2010. She was employed with Flint Incorporated in an administrative position. Dawn enjoyed her various jobs working with people, up until her health wouldn't allow it anymore.

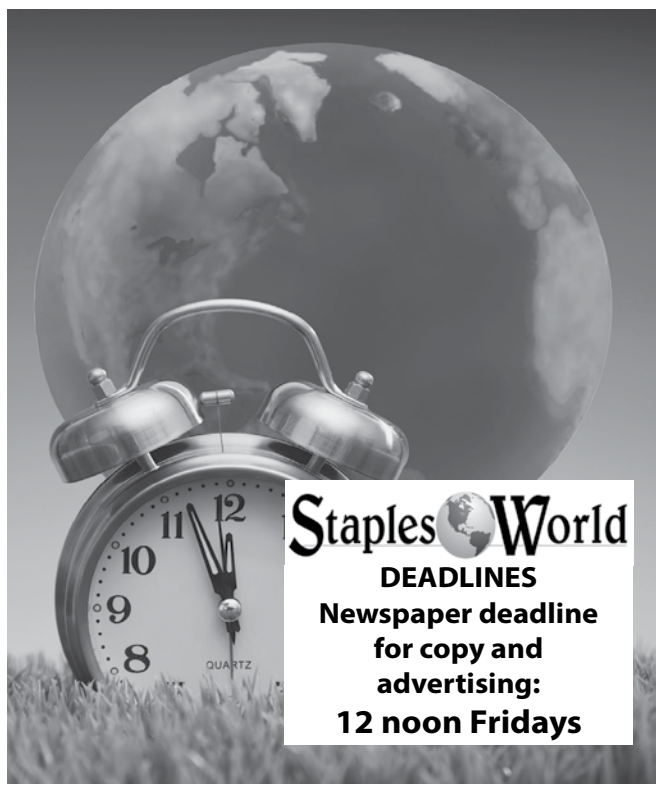
She most recently loved watching her TV shows, including Blue Bloods. Her favorite actors were John Travolta and Tom Selleck. She enjoyed caring for her house plants, baking cookies, cooking and spending time with her family and friends. She touched a lot of people's lives with her humor and sarcasm.

Dawn is survived by one daughter Pamela Reiman; one son, Eric (Jenny) Reiman; three grandchildren, Sasha (Justin Nehk) Petersdorf, Kira Eckrode and Haley (Travis Labbe) Reiman; two great-grandchildren, Cody and Wyatt and her siblings, Wendy (Dan) Walden, Steve (Kathrine) Pepple and Michelle Pepple-Feigum.

She is preceded in death by her parents; husband, Bob and two grandsons, Tyler Reiman and Jacob Haataja.

Arrangements are by the Brenny Family Funeral Chapel, Staples.

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Facing a fall

Eli Greenwaldt looks up to see if the referee is going to award him a pin. Greenwaldt is ranked second in the state at 121 pounds.

Wrestlers sixth at Rumble on the Red

The Staples-Motley wrestling team placed sixth at the Rumble on the Red tournament in Fargo Dec. 28-29, finishing as the top small school team at the 74 team tournament.

Colbe Tappe and Eli Greenwaldt finished second in their brackets while Gage Bjerga placed third.

Several other Cardinals won matches to contribute to the team score, but did not reach the top eight places, including Caden Kramer, Turner Beachy, Blake Neelan, Owen Winter and Luke Bjerga.

Every weight bracket was filled with ranked wrestlers from Minnesota, North Dakota and South Dakota. The other Cardinal wrestlers did not get a win but faced good competition.

All three Cardinal placers wrestled multiple ranked wrestlers to earn their medals.

Colbe Tappe made it through the 152 pound bracket facing tough competition in the last three rounds. In the quarterfinal, he faced the fourth ranked wrestler in Minnesota Class AAA. He scored two takedowns in the first period and held on for a 7-3 win.

In semifinals, he was ahead 7-6 going into the third period, then earned two takedowns to win 12-8 against the second ranked wrestler in Minnesota AAA.

In the championship, Tappe faced the third ranked 160 pounder in Minnesota Class AAA, who moved down a weight for this tournament. Tappe pulled ahead 3-2 in the third period before getting taken down and pinned.

At 121 pounds, Eli Greenwaldt advanced with a pin in the first round and a 7-2 win against a ranked wrestler from North Dakota. In the quarterfinal, he beat the top ranked wrestler in North Dakota, turning a 4-4 score into a 10-4 win with an escape, takedown and nearfall in the third period.

In the semifinal, he beat the top ranked wrestler in South Dakota 3-2. He had a takedown in the first period and an escape in the third for the win.

In the championship against the third ranked wrestler in Minnesota AAA, Greenwaldt couldn't generate any offense and ended up getting pinned.

At 107 pounds, Gage Bjerga earned pins in this first three bouts. He lost 4-0 in the semifinal against a ranked wrestler who had moved down a weight.

In the consolation bracket, he rode out his opponent in the second period to get a 1-0 win. That advanced him to the third place match, where he had two takedowns and a nearfall to win 8-0, with another second period ride out.

Team results

Rumble on the Red, Fargodome

Mounds View 177, Shakopee 166, Albert Lea Area 105, Forest Lake 101.5, St. Francis 86, Staples-Motley 84, Bemidji 81, Bismarck 79, Grand Rapids 78.5, Dawson-Boyd/Lac Qui Parle/Montevideo United 78, Rapid City Stevens 75, Woodbury 69, Willmar 66.5, Bismarck Century 65.5, Lake Crystal Wellcome Memorial Area 65, Jackson County Central 63, Eden Prairie 62, New Prague 62, Custer 55, Waconia 55, Northfield 54.5, Bishop Ryan 51, Stillwater 49, Bismarck Legacy 45, Minot 45, New London-Spicer 45, Dilworth-Glyndon-Felton 43.5, Thief River Falls 40, Mora 38, Perham 36.5, Canby 36, Minnetonka 33, United North Central Warriors 32, Philip/Kadoka Area/Wall 31.5, Delano 30, West Central Area-Ashby-Brandon-Evansville 30 ... 38 more teams

Rutten hits 1,000 point career mark

The Staples-Motley girls basketball team got off to slow starts in two games, scoring 12 points in the first half against Walker-Hackensack-Akeley and 16 against Upsala. They played better in each second half but ended up losing 59-28 and 63-43 in the two games.

Lauren Rutten reached the 1,000 point career scoring mark in the W-H-A game, leading the Cardinals with 10 points.

Liv Lorber had 10 rebounds in the W-H-A game and led the Cardinals with 18 points against Upsala.

The team record fell to 3-7 after the two losses.

Team results

Staples-Motley 28, Walker-Hackensack-Akely 59

Scoring: Lauren Rutten 10, Liv Lorber 8, Miranda Schotzko 6, Cami Anderson 2, Ellie Lange 1, Izzy Olander 1

Staples-Motley 43, Upsala 63

Scoring: Lorber 18, Rutten 12, Olander 4, Schotzko 4, Lange 3



Cardinal hoops action

Right, Lauren Rutten goes to the basket against Walker-Hackensack-Akeley. Below, Josie Jennissen, left, and Tamara Streli look to pass. (Staples World photos by Mark Anderson)





Wrestling team keeps winning in duals, tourney

The Staples-Motley wrestling team won two dual matches on Jan. 4 and finished in first place at the Ogilvie tournament on Jan. 6. They got off to fast starts to beat New York Mills 61-6 and Wadena-Deer Creek 47-18 at NYM.

In the Ogilvie tournament, the Cardinals had four champions and two second place finishers. Gage Bjerga, Eli Greenwaldt, Colbe Tappe and Luke Bjerga all won their bracket, while Caden Kramer and Jack Carlson reached the title match but lost to finish second.

Luke Bjerga won the 189 pound weight class with two pins and a 5-3 decision in the final. Gage Bjerga had two pins and a 15-1 win at 107 pounds. Greenwaldt had two pins and a 3-1 win in the championship match at 121 pounds. Tappe had three pins in three matches at 152 pounds.

Team results

Staples-Motley 47, Wadena-Deer Creek 18

107 Gage Bjerga W fall, 114 Caden Kramer W fall, Eli Greenwaldt W fall, 127 Cooper Tappe W 7-2, 133 Turner Beachy W fall, 139 Caden Dobson L fall, 145 Riley Reese W 11-2, 152 Colbe Tappe W fall, 160 Blake Neelan W 10-4, 172 Owen Winter W 9-6, 189 Luke Bjerga W 8-0, 215 ff, 285 ff

Staples-Motley 61, New York Mills 6

107 Garrett Bjerga W ff, 114 Gg. Bjerga W fall, 121 Kramer W fall, 127 Greenwaldt W ff, 133 Jack Carlson W fall, 139 Beachy W ff, 145 Reese W 15-4, 152 Cb. Tappe W fall, 160 Neelan W 8-3, 172 Winter W fall, 189 L. Bjerga W fall, 215 ff, 285 double ff

Ogilvie Tournament

Staples-Motley 186, Kerkhoven-Murdock-Sunburg 152, Osakis 135, Glencoe-Lester Prairie 102, Ogilvie 99, Deer River 87, Park Rapids 60, Blackduck-Cass Lake Bena 57, Unity 53, Walker-Hackensack-Akely-Nevis 52, Red Rock Central 33, Crosby-Ironton 26, Cloquet-Esko-Carlton 23

107 Gg. Bjerga 3-0, 1st place
114 Kramer 2-1, 2nd place
121 Greenwaldt 3-0, 1st place
127 Carlson 2-1, 2nd place
133 Beachy 3-1, 3rd place
139 Reese 3-1, 3rd place
145 Dobson 2-2
152 Cb. Tappe 3-0, 1st place
160 Neelan 2-2, 5th place
172 Winter 2-3, 6th place
189 L. Bjerga 3-0, 1st place



Winning isn't easy

Even though the Staples-Motley wrestling team is undefeated in dual meets this year, it hasn't been a cakewalk, with every wrestler putting out tremendous effort to get their wins. Left, Blake Neelan has his headgear knocked down over his eyes as he comes through for a takedown. Right top, Owen Winter strains to keep his opponent down while winning a 172 pound match. Lower right, Colbe Tappe, the top ranked 152 pounder in the state, grimaces as he gets a takedown. (Staples World photos by Mark Anderson)





Boys hoops splits two games

The Staples-Motley boys basketball team split their games last week, winning 68-55 at home against Browerville-Eagle Valley on Jan. 4 and falling at Henning, 61-45 on Jan. 6. The Cardinals are now 5-4 on the season.

Todd County Commissioners Minutes

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE TODD COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS HELD DECEMBER 19, 2023

Public Comment

Greg Hanson shared concerns regarding the Sheriff department staffing levels and continued support for this department in the current times.

Call to Order

The Todd County Board of Commissioners met in the Commissioner's Board Room in the City of Long Prairie, MN on the 19th day of December, 2023 at 9:00 AM. The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Neumann. The meeting was opened with the Pledge of Allegiance. All Commissioners were present.

Approval of Agenda

On motion by Noska and seconded by Denny, the following motion was introduced and adopted by unanimous vote: To adopt the agenda as presented.

Consent Agenda

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

To approve the Todd County Board of Commissioner's Meeting Minutes for December 7th, 2023 as presented.

To hire Halle Dahlen to fill the open Social Worker position. Grade 10, Step 1 at $27.38/hr. Start date: December 20, 2023.

To approve the above mentioned 2024 tobacco license applications.

To hire Rachel Middendorf as a full-time Deputy Auditor-Treasurer at Grade 8, Step 1 $24.36 per hour with a start date of December 21, 2023.

Todd County Fair/Todd County Agricultural Society

On motion by Denny and seconded by Becker, the following motion were introduced and adopted by unanimous vote: To approve Todd Co Fair/Todd Co Ag Society to rent the fairgrounds for Todd Co Winter Demolition Derby scheduled Sat. 1/20/24 or snow date Sat, 1/27/24. Also, allow Todd Co Fair/Todd Co Ag Society use of the fairgrounds at no additional rent fee to prepare/set-up and/or cleanup/takedown Mon. 1/15/24-Sun. 1/21/24 and/or Mon. 1/22/24-Sun. 1/28/24. Todd Co Fair/Todd Co Ag Society will pay utilities for the days listed above.

City of Long Prairie

DW Jones and the City of Long Prairie provided information for discussion about the proposed request for a Tax Abatement for the 4th Street Southwest Apartment Project. DW Jones is requesting $200,000 of collected tax funds to cover development costs associated with the property. The city, in partnership with Todd County, would retain the taxes generated by this development for up to an the 11-year period to pursue additional housing needs in our community.

On motion by Byers and seconded by Noska, the following resolution was introduced and adopted by unanimous rollcall vote:

A RESOLUTION CALLING FOR A PUBLIC HEARING ON THE APPROVAL OF A PROPOSED TAX ABATEMENT BY THE COUNTY ON CERTAIN PROPERTY LOCATED WITHIN THE COUNTY

WHEREAS, Todd County (the "County"), pursuant to Minnesota Statutes, Sections 469.1812 to 469.1815, as amended (the "Abatement Act"), is authorized to grant an abatement of the property taxes imposed by the County on parcels of property located within the County, if certain conditions are met, through the adoption of a resolution, specifying the terms of the abatement; and WHEREAS, to finance the development of an approximately three-story, 87,150 square-foot, 61-unit, market-rate workforce housing project and future housing projects (the "Improvements") in the city of Long Prairie, the County is proposing to abate the property taxes imposed by the County with respect to the parcels of property which are described in the Notice attached as Exhibit A hereto (the "Property"); and

WHEREAS, Todd County (the "County"), pursuant to Minnesota Statutes, Sections 469.1812 to 469.1815, as amended (the "Abatement Act"), is authorized to grant an abatement of the property taxes imposed by the County on parcels of property located within the County, if certain conditions are met, through the adoption of a resolution, specifying the terms of the abatement; and

WHEREAS, to finance the development of an approximately three-story, 87,150 square-foot, 61-unit, market-rate workforce housing project and future housing projects (the "Improvements") in the city of Long Prairie, the County is proposing to abate the property taxes imposed by the County with respect to the parcels of property which are described in the Notice attached as Exhibit A hereto (the "Property"); and

WHEREAS, pursuant to the Abatement Act, the Board of Commissioners (this "Board") may approve the abatement only after holding a public hearing on the abatement.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that a public hearing on the proposed abatement of property taxes imposed by the County with respect to the Property is hereby called and shall be held in the County Board Room at the Historic Courthouse, 215 1st Ave S, Long Prairie, Minnesota, on January 16, 2024, at approximately 9:00 a.m.; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the County Auditor-Treasurer is hereby authorized and directed to cause notice of said hearing in substantially the form attached hereto as Exhibit A to be published in the official newspaper of the County at least once not fewer than ten (10) nor more than thirty (30) days prior to the date fixed for the public hearing.

Auditor-Treasurer

On motion by Noska and seconded by Denny, the following motion was introduced and adopted by unanimous rollcall vote: To approve the Commissioner Warrants number (ACH) 402926 through 402951 in the amount of $57,917.18 and (Regular) 57574 through 57615 in the amount of $61,243.94 for a total of $119,161.12.

On motion by Becker and seconded by Denny, the following motion was introduced and adopted by unanimous rollcall vote: To approve the Health & Human Services Commissioner Warrants number (ACH) 804799 through 804864 and (Regular) 711329 through 711385 for a total of $340,016.45.

On motion by Denny and seconded by Byers, the following motion was introduced and adopted by unanimous rollcall vote: To approve the Health & Human Services SSIS Warrants number (ACH) 601111 through 601131 and (Regular) 517617 through 517651 for a total amount of $211,933.58.

On motion by Becker and seconded by Noska, the following motion was introduced and adopted by unanimous vote: To approve the attached Budget Request form to transfer $26,976.32 from the 2023 Building Improvement account to the 2023 Fairgrounds-Repairs & Maint account for audit tracking purposes.

On motion by Byers and seconded by Denny, the following resolution was introduced and adopted by unanimous vote:

2023 PARKS AND TRAILS APPROPRIATION FUNDS TRANSFER

WHEREAS, the 2023 budget for Todd County's allocation of funds to the Todd County Parks and Trails Board has been approved at $9,000; and

WHEREAS, a letter was received from the Todd County Parks and Trails Board requesting for the appropriation of funds from the General Fund for 2023.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Todd County Board of Commissioners hereby approve the transfer of funds in the amount of $9,000 from the General Fund to the Parks and Trails Fund.

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

TRANSFER OF FUNDS – SOUTH COUNTRY HEALTH ALLIANCE FUNDS

WHEREAS, Todd County became a member of the South Country Health Alliance on January 1, 2007, and;

WHEREAS, Todd County provided capital payments as part of our participation in this joint powers agreement, and;

WHEREAS, the Todd County Board of Commissioners resolved to withdraw from the South Country Health Alliance Joint Powers Agreement via BA#20190319-19 to be effective December 31, 2019 at 11:59 p.m., and;

WHEREAS, the fourth and fifth installment principal and interest payments of Todd County's capital has been receipted into the Human Services and Community Health Funds per audit standards.

WHEREAS, this receipt of payment represents full and final payment of the equity of Todd County in SCHA.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Todd County Board of Commissioners hereby authorize the transfer of funds in the amount of $669,274.70 from Fund 11-Human Services and $525,858.69 from Fund 21-Community Health for a total of $1,195,133.39 to Fund 01-General Revenue to assist with the budgetary essentials of the County.

On motion by Denny and seconded by Byers, the following motion was introduced and adopted by unanimous vote: To approve the contract with Peters Law Office for Public Defender services in Todd County for 2024.

Finance Committee

On motion by Noska and seconded by Denny, the following motion was introduced and adopted by unanimous vote: To approve the attached Budget Request Form in the amount of $30,908.68 for Dept 031 - Administration for the 2023 budget year.

On motion by Becker and seconded by Byers, the following motion was introduced and adopted by unanimous vote: To rescind BAF 20230207-35, allowing the $5,000 committed to be available for other proposed projects brought forward to the Board of Commissioners.

On motion by Noska and seconded by Denny, the following motion was introduced and adopted by unanimous vote: To approve the final amount of ARP funds previously authorized via BA #20220503-20 for Broadband survey costs at $3,659.00 and allow remaining funds of $16,341.00 to be available for other proposed projects brought forward to the Board of Commissioners.

On motion by Byers and seconded by Noska, the following motion was introduced and adopted by unanimous vote: To approve the final amount of ARP funds previously authorized via BA #20210720-21 to hire Assistant County Attorney costs at $178,188.02, and allow remaining funds of $5,897.98 to be available for other proposed projects brought forward to the Board of Commissioners.

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

A RESOLUTION TO APPROVE 2024 COUNTY BUDGET

WHEREAS, the Todd County Board of Commissioners are required to adopt an annual budget and certify it to the County Auditor, and;

WHEREAS, the County Board of Commissioners have had an opportunity to discuss the operations costs and revenues of the County for fiscal year 2024;

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, the Todd County Board of Commissioners hereby approve the following as the 2024 Budget for the County of Todd, Minnesota and directs that it be forwarded to the County Auditor.

REVENUES	2023	2024
Property tax	17,260,754	17,930,898
State General Purpose Aid	1,793,093	2,417,179
Other taxes	1,331,520	1,476,043
Licenses & Permits	184,690	174,690
Federal Grants	3,541,131	5,029,908
State Aids	11,803,293	10,136,351
Local Grants	0	0
Charges for Service	2,967,322	2,611,030
Misc Revenue	2,421,701	3,419,735
Interest on Investments	100,500	175,500
Other Financing Sources	27,700	27,700
Transfers	5,000	39,939
Total Revenue & Other Source	**41,436,704**	**43,438,973**
EXPENDITURES		
General Government	6,306,815	6,774,210
Public safety	5,162,386	5,936,677
Highway/Construction	9,237,580	9,300,760
Streets & Highways (excluding Constr.)	4,149,640	4,452,920
Human Services	9,078,696	9,788,100
Health	3,060,580	2,682,800
Culture and Recreation	458,976	450,594
Conservation of Nat Resourses	1,288,747	1,453,702
Economic Development	86,800	93,200
Gen Debt Service	414,251	417,506
Capital Outlay	1,577,100	1,457,100
Transfers	615,133	631,404
Other Fiscal Charges	0	0
Total Expenditures & other uses:	**41,436,704**	**43,438,973**
Budget Balance	**0**	**0**

On motion by Denny and second by Byers, the following resolution was introduced and adopted by unanimous vote:

A RESOLUTION ADOPTING THE 2024 FINAL LEVY

WHEREAS, the Laws of the State of Minnesota direct that the Todd County Board of Commissioners are required to approve by resolution a preliminary levy no later than September 30th annually, and;

WHEREAS, The Todd County Board of Commissioners have considered the financial situation of the County and had an opportunity to deliberate the levying of property taxes upon property owners within the County.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Todd County Board of Commissioners approves the following as the 2024 Final Levy for the County of Todd, Minnesota, for the property taxes payable in 2024 & directs that it be forwarded to the County Auditor.

	Certified Levy	Program Aid	Local Levy
General Revenue	12,553,651.00	2,090,297.00	10,463,354.00
Road & Bridge	2,878,727.00		2,878,727.00
Human Services	3,584,721.00		3,584,721.00
Public Health	188,665.00		188,665.00
Comp Water	5,360.00		5,360.00
Regional Library	349,765.00		349,765.00
Bonded Indebtedness	415,306.00		415,306.00
County Fair	20,000.00		20,000.00
Parks & Trails	25,000.00		25,000.00
Total	20,021,195.00	2,090,297.00	17,930,898.00

Administration

On motion by Denny and seconded by Noska, the following motion was introduced and adopted by unanimous vote: To renew the Hands of Hope Resource Center lease agreement as presented, for January 1, 2024 through December 31, 2024.

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

ADOPTION OF CHANGES TO THE TODD COUNTY PERSONNEL POLICY ARTICLE II DEFINITION OF TERMS, ARTICLE III SECTION 3.15 – TRAINING/PROBATIONARY PERIOD FOR NEW HIRES ARTICLE VII, SECTION 7.05 – SICK LEAVE

WHEREAS, the Todd County Board of Commissioners has recognized a need for strong, up to date personnel policy, and;

WHEREAS, the Todd County Board of Commissioners and Personnel Committee have had an opportunity to review the policy revisions put forth in Article II Definition of Terms, Article III, Section 3.15 Training/Probationary Period for New Hires, and Article VII, Section 7.05 Sick Leave, of the Personnel Policy and find the implementation to be in the best interest of the sound administration of the County;

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, the Todd County Board of Commissioners adopts the attached changes to the Todd County Personnel Policy and directs the County Coordinator to begin administration of said policy as of December 19, 2023, and;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that it is understood that this Resolution replaces and supersedes all prior County Board actions, oral or written, relating to the subject matter hereof.

Public Works

On motion by Noska and seconded by Denny, the following motion was introduced and adopted by unanimous vote: To approve the elimination of "Assistant to the Engineer" & "Engineering Supervisor" position titles and replace with the position title of "Senior Engineering Technician" for both with the enclosed updated position/job description.

On motion by Becker and seconded by Byers, the following motion was introduced and adopted by unanimous vote: To approve the attached Budget Request Form to carryover $15,000 in the Machinery & Equipment Maintenance to the 2024 budget year.

Planning & Zoning

On motion by Noska and seconded by Denny, the following motion was introduced and adopted by unanimous vote: To remand the Highway 27 Salvage CUP request item back to the Planning Commission for further consideration and extend the application decision deadline by an additional 60 days.

On motion by Denny and seconded by Byers, the following motion was introduced and adopted by unanimous vote: To adopt the findings of the Planning Commission and grant the CUP to parcel 13-0016902 with the following conditions.

1. The greenhouse operator must provide adequate off-street parking for all greenhouse traffic. No parking will be allowed within the road right of way.

2. No loading or unloading of materials will be allowed within the road right of way.

3. The business is restricted to construction of a single greenhouse. Construction of additional greenhouses will require review by the Planning Commission.

4. Business signage must abide by the Todd County Planning and Zoning Ordinance. Placement of signage within the road right of way shall require approval from Todd County Public Works.

5. Applicant must obtain additional permitting and/or licensing from additional government agencies as necessary.

On motion by Denny and seconded by Noska, the following motion was introduced and adopted by unanimous vote: To adopt the findings of the Planning Commission and grant the CUP to parcels 06-0017200, 06-0017300, and 06-0016301 with the following conditions.

1. There shall be no stacking of manure within 300' of Molly Creek.

2. Applicant shall apply for NPDES permit coverage with MPCA.

3. Feedlot owner shall abide by all other applicable federal, state, and local standards

On motion by Becker and seconded by Byers, the following motion was introduced and adopted by unanimous vote: To adopt the findings of the Planning Commission and grant the CUP to parcel 25-0004300 with the conditions below.

1. Wetland delineation shall be completed and submitted to Todd County prior issuance of land use permits.

2. Applicant shall maintain dust control on the site.

3. Applicant shall apply for MPCA Industrial Stormwater permitting and provide verification to Todd County prior to issuance of land use permits.

4. Applicant must abide by all other federal, state, and local standards.

On motion by Denny and seconded by Byers, the following motion was introduced and adopted by unanimous vote: To adopt the findings of the Planning Commission and grant the rezone with following conditions.

1. All future land uses shall abide by Todd County Planning and Zoning Ordinances.

2. Land owner shall abide by all other applicable federal, state, and local standards.

On motion by Noska and seconded by Denny, the following motion was introduced and adopted by unanimous vote: To remand the Dairy Ridge LLC CUP request item back to the Planning Commission for further consideration and extend the application decision deadline by an additional 60 days.

On motion by Denny and seconded by Becker, the following motion was introduced and adopted by unanimous vote: To adopt the findings of the Planning Commission and adopt the amendments to Section 9.20 of the Todd County Planning and Zoning Ordinance.

Solid Waste

On motion by Byers and seconded by Noska, the following motion was introduced and adopted by unanimous vote: To authorize the Solid Waste Department to issue license and permits to haulers upon receipt of proper documentation.

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

AUTHORIZATION TO ADVERTISE FOR BIDDING SOLID WASTE TRANSFER STATION

WHEREAS, Todd County applied for and received $4 million in Capital Assistant Program (CAP) funding through the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency; and an additional $2.8 Million through the State of Minnesota General Fund for the purpose of constructing a new Transfer Station Building and related improvements (Project) at the existing Transfer Station Property located at 30433 U.S. Highway 71, Browerville, Minnesota.

WHEREAS, Todd County retained Stantec (Consultant) to prepare detailed design drawings, bidding documents and a permit application report for construction and operation of the Project.

WHEREAS, Consultant prepared and submitted a permit application report to the MPCA in May 2023. Upon receipt, MPCA staff communicated to Todd County their plans to public notice the permit by December 2023.

WHEREAS, MPCA staff have reviewed the application and provided a letter of adequacy dated October 18, 2023. The letter requests additional information and clarifications. Consultant responded on November 6, 2023 with requested information. MPCA verbally responded that the application is now complete and ready for permitting. MPCA has not yet provided a draft permit or placed said draft permit on public notice.

WHEREAS, time is of the essence, and Todd County desires to commence construction in 2024 with final completion in 2025.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Todd County Board of Commissioners do hereby authorize advertisement for bidding of this project.

Health & Human Services

On motion by Denny and seconded by Noska, the following motion was introduced and adopted by unanimous vote: To approve the hiring of a sanitarian.

On motion by Becker and seconded by Noska, the following motion was introduced and adopted by unanimous vote: To deny the use of $7,354 ARPA funds towards the purchase of an oven for Hilltop Regional Kitchen at this time.

County Auditor-Treasurer's Report

The County Auditor-Treasurer reported that year end reporting preparation is underway and that Todd County received Worker's Compensation award from MCIT.

County Commissioner's Report

The Commissioners reported on meetings and events attended.

Commissioner Denny attended the solid waste committee meeting.

Commissioner Becker attended the Region V, TWCC, Personnel, Wellness, Dept Head, Finance, SWCD, Policies, Rainbow Rider meeting and informed that the Mississippi-Brainerd watershed plan was approved.

Commissioner Noska attended the TCDC meeting with a new director hire moving forward.

Commissioner Neumann attended the Personnel, Dept Head, Finance, Policy, SWCD, Solid Waste and Rainbow Rider meetings.

Commissioner Byers attended the Planning Commission meeting.

Recess

Chair Neumann recessed the meeting until December 28, 2023.

COMMISSIONER WARANTS
VENDOR NAME..... $ AMOUNT

See **TCC** on page 9a

Public Notices

TODD COUNTY BOARD OF ADJUSTMENT
215 1st Ave. South, Long Prairie, MN 56347
320-732-4420
toddplan.zone@co.todd.mn.us

PUBLIC NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that on **Thursday, January 25 at 6:00 p.m.** the Todd County Board ofAdjustment will hold a public hearing in the Commissioner's board room, 215 1st Ave. South, Suite 301, Long Prairie, Minnesota.

NOTE: This meeting is again being held in-person and the public is encouraged to attend, but Zoom and phone options are still available for those who are unable to attend in person. If you wish to join via Zoom, please contact our office for the call-in information. Those who do attend in person can find parking atop the hill on the west side of the Historic Courthouse and enter through the north doors, near the American Flag and monument.

Questions? Call or email 320-732-4420 or toddplan.zone@co.todd.mn.us

AGENDA

•Call to Order
•Pledge of Allegiance
•Introduction of Board of Adjustment Members and process review
•The applicant is introduced
•Staff report
•Applicant confirms if staff report accurately represents the request
•Public comment
•Board review with applicant, staff, and public
•Approval of agenda
•Approval of December 28, 2023, Board of Adjustment meeting minutes

1. Reorganization of the Board and review Business Rules

2. Michael T. and Lori K Lyon, Trustees: Section 03, Grey Eagle Township, Mound Lake. **Site Address:** 14314 Chippewa Road, Burtrum, MN 56318 **PID:** 11-0049600

1.Request to reduce the OHWL setback from 100' to 34.85' for construction of deck in GD Shoreland Zoning.

2.Request to reduce the OHWL setback from 100' to 44.85' for the proposed house with attached garage in GD Shoreland Zoning.

3.Request to reduce road right-of-way from 20' to 8.56' for the proposed garage in GD Shoreland Zoning.

4.Request to increase the height limit from 18' to 21'1.5" for the proposed house in GD Shoreland Zoning.

3. Dennis P. and Jody L. Wessel: Section 26, Birchdale Township, Little Birch Lake

Site Address: 27335 Alpha Lane, Grey Eagle, MN 56336 **PID:** 03-0045500

1. Request for variance to reduce the setback from the OHWL from 100' to 92' for proposed addition of handicapped accessible stairway to existing house in Recreational Development Shoreland Zoning.

4. Edward C. Kortuem: Section 14, Birchdale Township, Sauk (North Bay) Lake **Site Address:** 12281 Alcott Drive, Sauk Centre, MN 56378 **PID:** 03-0030000

1. Request for variance to reduce the setback from the OHWL from 100' to 75' for proposed new house with attached garage in Recreational Development Shoreland Zoning.

2. Request for variance to increase the height limit from the required 18' to 21'11" for proposed new house with attached garage in Recreational Development Shoreland Zoning.

Adjournment.
Next Meeting:
February 22, 2024

All persons interested are invited to attend said hearing or submit a letter to be heard on these matters. **All correspondence must include name, mailing address and be received 48 hours before the date and time of the hearing.**

Todd County Board of Adjustment
Richard Johnson, Chair

3pnc

Public Notices

THOMASTOWN TOWNSHIP FILING NOTICE

Thomastown Township will hold an election in March for

•One (1) Supervisor for a three (3) year term

and

•One (1) clerk for a two (2) year term.

The filing period for these offices opens January 2, 2024, and closes on January 16, 2024, at 5:00 p.m. To file for office, contact Stacy Dukowitz at 218-296-0834.

Stacy Dukowitz, Clerk
Thomastown Township
3pnc

TCC continued from page 8a

AMAZON CAPITAL SERVICES	2,043.63
BROWERVILLE TRUCKWASH/BIG BOYZ	8,507.64
CARGILL SALT DIVISION	22,335.33
FRIEDRICH'S TIRE & OIL CO INC	3,222.48
LIBERTY TIRE SERVICES LLC	4,726.65
MONSIDO, INC	3,874.00
NORTHERN STAR COOP	3,854.49
POMP'S TIRE SERVICE INC	12,794.00
TRUENORTH STEEL INC	33,499.30
59 PAYMENTS LESS THAN $2,000	24,303.60
Total:	**$119,161.12**

HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES WARRANTS

VENDOR NAME	$ AMOUNT
DHS - SWIFT	$239,872.93
RURAL MN CEP INC	18,351.43
TODD COUNTY AUDITOR/ TREASURER	15,096.10
USPS-POC	6,406.00
119 PAYMENTS LESS THAN $2,000	60,289.99
Total:	**$340,016.45**

VENDOR NAME	$AMOUNT
DHS - ANOKA METRO RTC - 412	65,286.00
DHS - MOOSE LAKE RTC - 462	4,288.91
DHS - MSOP - MN SEX OFFENDER PROG - 462	5,939.60
DHS - ST PETER RTC - 472	13,382.20
# 17324	5,540.40
HEARTLAND GIRLS RANCH	19,560.00
# 17353	2,028.60
# 15434	2,271.54
# 17302	3,212.10
LITTLE SAND GROUP HOME	9,979.20
PINEHAVEN YOUTH AND FAMILY SRVS INC	7,407.90
PORT OF CROW WING BOYS HOME	6,332.89
# 17183	2,388.60
RESOURCE TRAINING AND SOLUTIONS	2,242.40
STEP	7,068.11
VALLEY LAKE BOYS HOME INC	11,250.00
VILLAGE RANCH INC	15,795.01
25 PAYMENTS LESS THAN $2,000	27,960.12
Total:	**$211,933.58**

On a motion by Becker and seconded by Byers, the preceding minutes of the County Board meeting held December 19th, 2023 were duly approved by unanimous vote at the Todd County Board of Commissioners at the Regular Board Meeting held on December 28th, 2023.

Witness my hand and seal:
/s/ on file
Randy Neumann,
County Board Chairperson
/s/ on file
Denise Gaida,
Todd County Auditor-Treasurer
3pnc

Notices

101 Card of Thanks

Bruce Grondahl and Family would like to thank everyone who helped us celebrate his retirement.

PS: There is NO bike business. 3p

Services & Employment

205 Help Wanted

TODD COUNTY HHS EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES: Todd County HHS is looking for reliable, service-oriented individuals to serve the citizens of Todd County in the following positions: ****Social Worker – Care Coordinator (full-time). **Registered Nurse - Care Coordinator (full-time). **Social Worker - Child Services (full-time).** To learn more about this opening and how to apply, visit the official Todd County website at https://www.co.todd.mn.us/. Questions can be directed to Todd County Administration 320-732-6155. EOE 3c

208 Storage

FOR RENT
Japke's North 8th Street Mini Storage, 894-1551
6x20, 10x12, 10x20, 10x24

209 Business Services

Your major appliance parts source. Parts for all major brands. One day service, **Staples True Value**, Staples. 218-894-3263. 26tfc

Wanted to Buy

501 Miscellaneous

JUNK CARS & TRUCKS. 218-639-5509. 3-4c

Real Estate

602 Apartments for Rent

STAPLES: Downtown, 1 - 2 bdrm., recently remodeled, NO pets, non smoking, 218-894-3108. 6tfc

611 Wanted to Buy

40+ ACRES between Wadena/Pillager, with or without house, 218-831-3521. 2-4p



NOW TAKING APPLICATIONS

Sunny Pines Apts. in Motley
Tenant must be income eligible, 62 years or older, handicapped or disabled. Heat, water, sewer, electric provided.
Call Rosie Talberg, Manager at:
EQUAL HOUSING LENDER EEO/AA MOTLEY, MINN. 320-468-2303

EASTWOOD APARTMENTS
in Motley MN.
is now accepting applications for FUTURE 2-3 bedroom apartments
Laundry facilities available on site.
garage included with apartment. All utilities paid.
Applications are available at:
956 Hwy 10 S., Motley
For information and qualifications contact Nicole at
218-751-6881
An Equal Housing Opportunity

FRONTIER TOWNHOMES
FOR RENTAL INFO CALL
218-296-5031
Under new ownership
We are accepting applications for 2 and 3 bedroom townhomes in Staples, a community you can get attached to. Rent based on income. Now professionally managed by
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Income guidelines apply.

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•Stump Grinding •Brushing
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218-575-2222
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SW 2024 changed wk #7



First baby of 2024 born at Lakewood Health System

Twenty-twenty-four brings the celebration of birth for Kristina Vosen and Anthony Compton, Little Falls, who welcomed their new baby girl, Iela Ann, into the world on Jan. 3, 2024. Iela was born at 1:32 a.m., weighing 7 pounds, 5 ounces, and measuring 20 inches. She is the couple's first child.

The delivering provider was Dr. Lindsay Leveille, assisted by registered nurses, Allison Rondestvedt and Jaqualine Peterson. To celebrate Iela's birth, the Lakewood Health System Foundation and Piecemakers Quilt Club of Staples presented gifts to the family in honor of the new year. The Foundation gave a gift basket prepared by Sprinkle of Joy Boutique of Browerville and the Piecemakers Quilt Club gave a beautiful handmade baby quilt, prepared just for the first baby of 2024.

There were 515 babies born at Lakewood Health System Hospital in 2023, a new record, surpassing the previous record of 511 in 2022.

Pictured, from left, are Emily Clarke, medical student; Dr. Lindsay Leveille; Kristina, Anthony and Iela; and Allison Rondestvedt, RN. (Submitted photo)





TCO ready to go

The Staples EDA tour of the Lakewood Plaza included a walk through the new Twin Cities Orthopedics space. The facility includes private treatment rooms, a therapy room and a large gym space that can be used for training and workouts. Brad Anderson of Lakewood said they expect to eventually have ten to twelve therapists. Twin Cities Orthopedics expects to start in the new building soon. (Staples World photos by Mark Anderson)

SWCD continued from page 1a

Water conservation programs in Cass County

shed 1W1P.

• The SWCD continues to actively assist the MPCA and DNR with Watershed Restoration and Protection Plans for these same watersheds.

• They have been a leader in concentrating protection planning in a lake-dominated landscape into 1W1P efforts and have been successful at prioritizing minor watersheds, specific lakes, and actions in these plans, to not just improve, but protect these high-value water resources.

Watershed-Based Implementation Funding

• Cass County SWCD has been very effective at partnering with local organizations and landowners utilizing watershed-based implementation funding in the Leech Lake River, Pine River, and Mississippi River Watersheds. Projects include culvert replacements, stormwater management, forest management plans, sediment reduction, and agricultural BMPs and projects.

• A few recent accomplishments to highlight include Deep Lake/Boy River Crossing, May Lake Creek, and Stormwater Management in the City of Walker, Stoney Creek Crossing, Wabedo Township, and numerous other projects completed, or in the queue for design and implementation.

Culvert Inventory

• They are working closely with townships and other LGUs to locate and inventory existing culverts. Over 1,500 culverts were inventoried and located in the Leech and Pine River Watersheds. The Mississippi Headwaters culvert inventory project is 50% complete.

• Using the inventory, they have prioritized numerous public watercourse crossings for reconstruction, repairs, and/or the development of plans for replacement, to better meet their clean water and habitat goals.

Cooperative Water Monitoring and Mapping

• They have worked collaboratively with the DNR and the University of Minnesota to develop the required material for completion of the County Geologic Atlas. This was a very large undertaking for such a large geographic area and was completed in a very timely manner, to assist in addressing groundwater management-related issues that arise in the county.

• The SWCD also monitors three DNR wells as part of the DNR's cooperative groundwater monitoring program.

Private Forest Management Plans

• Cass County SWCD connects numerous landowners who own wooded acreage with Private Forest Management plan writers who can create a plan for them. They cost share on plans that are 20 acres or more in size. The program has been very effective in protecting large tracts of forest while providing for sustainable harvest, bringing many water quality, habitat, and economic benefits to the area and state.

Effective Partnerships in Water Regulation

• They have worked in conjunction with the DNR to address regional water issues in cases that involve high water, beaver dams, ordinary high water, groundwater, wetlands, harbor/breakwaters, and numerous other water issues. Their leadership and positive working relationships are instrumental in solving problems, while always providing useful input and technical assistance.

• In addition, the SWCD provides useful comments on public waters and appropriation permits and is a partner in bringing sites into compliance when water violations occur.

• They also provide valuable technical expertise as a member of the Technical Evaluation Panel and administrator for the Minnesota Wetland Conservation Act in Cass County.

January 2 through February 29
Adult & Teen Winter Reading Challenge

• PERCHED ON READING •
2024
WINTER READING CHALLENGE

• Keep track of your reading.
• Earn online badges.
• Make reading a habit.
• Get book recommendations.

Register at your library and enter drawings for prizes.
Earn digital badges by registering online at griver.beanstack.org

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INJURIES DON'T WAIT,
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Lakewood and Twin Cities Orthopedics now offer convenient daytime hours with walk-in care for urgent orthopedic and sports medicine injuries. No referral needed.

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