



Wednesday, January 6, 2021

Staples World

Staples, Minnesota

\$1

Spearfishing

Pals Reed Olds, 13, and Peyton Jares, 12, both of Staples, were out on Dower Lake Dec. 31, spearfishing. Reed had been out the day before and narrowly missed a nice northern, so the boys were hoping they'd have better luck that day. The ice was at least 8-inches thick and the boys were getting ready to put a duck blind over the hole. He uses a decoy to attract the fish, Reed said. When one shows up, you spear it, he went on. "Then, supper!"
(Staples World photo by Dawn Timbs)

Weather

This Week's Forecast			
	High	Low	Cond.
Jan. 6	31°	19°	Cloudy
Jan. 7	31	20	Cloudy
Jan. 8	28	19	Cloudy
Jan. 9	29	17	Cloudy
Jan. 10	27	18	P. Cloudy
Jan. 11	26	14	Cloudy
Jan. 12	25	14	P. Cloudy

Last Year, 2019			
	High	Low	Cond.
Jan. 6	20°	16°	Sunny
Jan. 7	17	-3	Sunny
Jan. 8	7	-17	Sunny
Jan. 9	22	-11	M. Cloudy
Jan. 10	8	-12	P. Sunny
Jan. 11	5	-18	P. Sunny
Jan. 12	15	8	M. Cloudy

Average Temps:
H = 21° Low = 4°
Total Snow:
Thru Jan. 3: 5"
For 2020: 78"
Total Rain for 2020:
21"
Total Precipitation for 2020: 29"
Enjoy above normal temps!

Compiled by
Dale Hausmann,
WCCO's Staples area
Weatherwatcher



New Year's baby at Lakewood Health System

Twenty-twenty-one brings the celebration of birth for Katie Bounds and Brandon Lorentz, Wadena, who welcomed their new baby girl, Charli Kaye, into the world on Jan. 1. Charli was born at 4:42 p.m., weighing 8 pounds, 6 ounces and measuring 20 1/2 inches.
The delivering providers were Dr. Lindsay Leveille and Carrie Kneisl, CMN/CNP. To celebrate Charli's birth, the Lakewood health System Auxiliary and Piecemakers Quilting Club of Staples presented gifts to the family in honor of the New Year. The Auxiliary gave a gift of \$50 and the Piecemakers Quilting Club gave a handmade baby quilt.
All patients who give birth at Lakewood Health System receive gifts to help prepare them for life at home. These gifts include a candlelight dinner, a relaxing massage, an infant car seat, a CD of baby photos, a diaper bag, a complimentary home visit by the expectations team and a case of diapers.
(Submitted photo)

New representative

Rep. Michelle Fischbach (right) joins her husband, Scott Fischbach (center), and House Republican Leader Kevin McCarthy (left) on Sunday, Jan. 3, as Fischbach was sworn in as the new congressional representative for Minnesota District 7. See story, page 2a.



Coping with Covid at Lakewood

Public Notices

Staples Adopted Budget: **8A**

Obituaries

Eugene Horvath
Ernest Spilman



Since the Covid-19 pandemic hit Minnesota in the spring of 2020, the coronavirus has continued to affect everyone in some way or another. In the coming weeks and months, the Staples World will reach out to a variety of people to find out how they have been impacted by Covid-19 and what they are doing to cope with the situation.

Cory Denny, Medical Laboratory Scientist

1. WHAT ARE THE BIGGEST CHANGES YOU HAVE HAD TO MAKE IN YOUR JOB?

The biggest and hardest change I have had to make is how I interact. The staff and our patients often feel like extensions of family, and as a Lakewood employee, I pride myself on understanding the power of connection within healthcare. As much as we all understand how and why we need to take precautions and its importance, it does not always come easy or at times without consequence. Lakewood has done a great job finding ways to connect safely with patients and employees for the health and wellbeing of both. I have enjoyed the planned activities such as gratitude journaling, the morning prayer on Tuesdays, as well as the holiday festivities with Christmas coming up.

2. WHAT ARE SOME OF THE BIGGEST CHALLENGES YOU'VE FACED?

One of the biggest challenges we faced was around COVID-19 testing, and what we would need to send out and what would we would be able to bring in-house. Most of our COVID-19 testing is sent to a reference lab and the challenge with that is managing supplies, as well as working with a wide



Cory Denny, medical laboratory scientist

range of turn-around-times. We were able to bring molecular testing in-house and as much as we would like to do this kind of testing for all patients, we are not able to get enough collection and testing supplies to manage the volume we see day-to-day. Challenge sparks innovation; we have had to creatively manage and utilize the supplies not only for our COVID-19 testing but with many other reagents as well.

3. HOW DO YOU FEEL THE LAKEWOOD STAFF, AS WELL AS THEIR PATIENTS, HAVE ADAPTED TO



Ryan Markham (right), diabetes educator

THE SITUATION?

I feel the transparency and communication within Lakewood and to our patients has allowed for much smoother transition into what life with this pandemic looks like. Lakewood is doing a tremendous job at keeping their staff, patients, and residents safe knowing that information around COVID-19 will constantly be evolving.

4. AS YOU'VE HAD TO MAKE ADAPTATIONS, WHAT THINGS HAVE WORKED? WHAT HAVEN'T?

COVID-19 has brought a new kind of chaos that we have not seen before. The only adaptation technique that remains constant is the ability to be receptive to change. Those who aren't able manage change very well seem to struggle more. If I can come to work with the mindset that a process that was set up last week may look completely different this week, the better off I will be in managing the stress created from the chaos of things outside our control.

5. HOW DO YOU FEEL ABOUT BEING AT HIGH RISK, ON THE FRONT

LINES OF EXPOSURE TO THE VIRUS?

I feel Lakewood did a tremendous job as a healthcare system preparing for COVID-19 but I do remember getting our first positive COVID-19 result and feeling very anxious. The anxiousness came more from the uncertainty of what it would mean for our patients and my role in our healthcare system. Lakewood was very straightforward in what our life with COVID-19 may look like but many times the reality shows us something completely different. I enjoy getting to work with COVID-19 patients and being part of a team of healthcare professionals working to treat and manage these patients. Medical laboratory is my profession and even with the stress and the risk, I'm happy getting to fulfill my passion of helping patients by providing quality care.

Ryan Markham, RN, CDE (Certified Diabetes Educator)

1. WHAT ARE THE BIGGEST CHANGES YOU HAVE HAD TO MAKE IN YOUR JOB?

Initially, last spring as COVID emerged, our daily face-to-face visits decreased immensely. We did provide as much support as possible over the phone with our patients or through any other communications such as MyHealth. Beginning in May, when PPE supplies were at a better, sustainable level, we began seeing patients in-person again more frequently. Throughout the summer months in our department, our usual case load grew back to near normal levels. We continue to support masking to prevent the spread of COVID.

Since COVID emerged, we have performed daily

screenings for all patients and employees at all entrances. We now have sophisticated kiosks that employees use daily to answer a simple question naire regarding possible symptoms and get our temperature checked as well, with use of a hands free scanner. If someone does not pass the screening, employees are asked to leave the building and contact Employee Health to discuss next steps.

2. HOW DO YOU FEEL THE LAKEWOOD STAFF, AS WELL AS THEIR PATIENTS, HAVE ADAPTED TO THE SITUATION?

The staff have been tremendous. I have seen nurses jump right into different roles that they may not be used to, or perhaps made them uneasy doing at first, because new rolls/jobs can be scary for all of us. But the staff has truly been amazing. Providers have transitioned their schedules from providing well care to working as a hospitalist and seeing their schedules change to adapt to rising, falling patient needs regarding COVID. Many staff have assisted with health screens at door entrances and just doing other various tasks they were not obligated to do, but they selflessly took on, and that has been truly remarkable to see.

Patients overall have also been very accommodating throughout the past nine months. Though the changes can seem overwhelming and ever-changing at times, we thank them as we continue to adjust and hopefully begin to see light at the end of the tunnel in the coming months.

See **LAKEWOOD** on page 10a

Thank you for subscribing!



Pipeline protected by Northern Lights Task Force

In 2016, when it became evident that a pipeline would likely be built across northern Minnesota, numerous law enforcement leaders began initial conversations of what a joint public safety response would look like. As the plans became more formalized on the pipeline, the conversations moved from abstract to concrete with the formation of mutual aid agreements and detailed planning.

The Northern Lights Task Force is comprised of law enforcement leaders from the following counties: Kittson, Becker, Marshall, Pennington, Red Lake, Carlton, St. Louis, Aitkin, Kanabec, Clearwater, Polk, Hubbard,

Wadena, Cass, Crow Wing, Beltrami, Itasca and the Fond du Lac Reservation. The task force is managed by an executive committee consisting of Sheriffs Litman, Lake, Guida, Smith, Halverson and Glander.

The activities of the task force members is summed up by their mission statement: “To provide a safe environment that protects life, property, and free speech through a respectful approach by well trained, disciplined peace officers relating to the lawful activities conducted by those who wish to exercise their First Amendment rights in Minnesota.”

In support of the mission, sher-

iffs, their staff, state and municipal law enforcement partners attended a great deal of training. Topics ranged from crowd management, constitutional law and cultural classes.

Additional strong support is being received from additional agencies including the Department of Natural Resources, Minnesota State Patrol, Minnesota Homeland Security Emergency Management, Bureau of Criminal Apprehension and numerous police, fire and EMS agencies within each county.

A public information officer has been set up and can be reached at NLTFPIO@Gmail.com or 218-591-0678.

Fischbach takes office in Washington, D.C.

On Sunday, Jan. 3, Michelle Fischbach was sworn-in as a Member of the 117th Congress representing Minnesota’s Seventh Congressional District, which includes Todd County.

Fischbach issued the following statement:

“As I took the oath of office today, I felt an intense sense of responsibility for both our nation and the people of the Seventh District of Minnesota, who I now have the privilege of

representing in Congress. I want to thank the people of the Seventh District for placing their trust in me; my commitment is now, and will always be, to my constituents. I also want to thank my family for their unwavering support.

“I look forward to serving western Minnesota in the 117th Congress. I vow to fight for our great state and nation every day that I have the honor of being a Member of Congress.”

Minnesota DHS crisis services available

Minnesotans who need help coping with the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic will now have more support services available, thanks to grants from the Minnesota Department of Human Services.

DHS has awarded a total of \$1.68 million to 11 community agencies across the state for crisis counseling services to help people struggling with stress and anxiety as a result of the pandemic.

“As with any disaster that causes significant disruption to our lives, recovery includes addressing the mental health needs of those most impacted,” said Human Services Commissioner Jodi Harpstead. “The grant funds going to our partners will provide additional support for people who need extra help right now.”

Minnesota’s Crisis Counseling Program will focus primarily on those communities and individ-

uals most affected. It will promote coping strategies, emotional support and an array of resources. Agencies receiving grants are: African American Child Wellness Institute, Care Providers of Minnesota, Change Inc., LeadingAGE, Mental Health Minnesota, Native American Community Clinic, NorthPoint, Turning Point Inc., Twin Cities Recovery Project, Inc., Watercourse Counseling, and Wellness in the Woods.

In addition, DHS has added a number of resources for adults and children coping with COVID-19 to mn.gov/dhs/coping-with-crisis. These materials are being translated into Spanish, Hmong, and Somali.

The funding for the grants comes from a \$1.83-million Crisis Counseling Assistance and Training program grant from the Federal Emergency Management Agency.

COVID-19 numbers remain lower

For the second straight week, the COVID-19 rate of infection remained relatively low for central Minnesota.

After recording nearly 200 cases per week in November, Todd County was down to 32 new cases this past week, Dec. 28-Jan.

3. The previous week, Todd County showed 33 new cases. Wadena County reduced their weekly total from 37 to 30 and Cass County went from 53 to 50. Morrison County went up to 67 after recording 41 the previous week.

By Karin L. Nauber
Todd County correspondent

There was little discussion on the 2021 budget for the County at the Todd County Commission’s meeting on Dec. 15, 2020, as the topic had been discussed for months prior. So the Todd County Board approved the 2021 budget for the county.

The revenues are up about \$2 million while the expenditures are down approximately \$250,000.

Along with the budget, the board also set the final 2021 county levy at \$18,231,820 less program aids of \$1,616,571, certifying the final 2021 local levy at \$16,615,249. This is an increase of 2.25 percent over the 2020 levy.

In other board business

- Approved a gambling permit for the Staples Sportsmen’s Club to hold a raffle event at the Clarissa Ballroom on March 13, 2021.

- Approved a gambling permit for the NWTFF Struttin’ Blackbeards to hold a raffle event at the Clarissa Ballroom on Feb. 6, 2021.

- Approved to hire internal candidate Kelly Bryniarski to fill the open role of a child support officer. Her potential start date is Jan. 4, 2021.

- Approved the hire of Lateshia Harden for a part-time correctional officer position with a start date of Dec. 15, 2020.

- Due to the provisions of Minnesota Statute 340A.405 Subd 2 (e) which limits issuance if the establishment is located less than one mile by the most direct route from the boundary of any statutory or home rule city that had established a municipal liquor store before Aug. 1, 1991, the application for an Off Sale license for Thunder Lodge, located just outside of Long Prairie, had to be denied.

- Approved an On Sale and Sunday Liquor License for Thunder Lodge, Inc. effective Jan. 1, 2021 through March 31, 2021.

- Approved the Minnesota Department of Transportation purchase of a highway easement for their project located along Highway 71 in Browerville. This is a tax-forfeited property. The State will pay \$500 for it.

- Approved the designating polling places for the county absentee precinct, mail ballot precincts and special election precincts within Todd County for the 2021 election year.

- Approved the lease agreement with the Hands of Hope Resource Center for 2021, for space used in the Main Street Government Center. There are no changes to the terms.

- Approved the contract with Peters Law Office for public defender services in Todd County for 2021.

- Background: On Dec. 28, 2017, the Todd County Board of Commissioners approved the advance of \$300,000 from the general fund to the ditch fund for the County Ditch 18 Project.

On Sept. 4, 2018, the board approved the 10-year repayment terms of the special assessment for the County Ditch 18 Project. Each year, until fully repaid, the amount of principal funds collected along with the amount of interest collected is transferred from the ditch fund as a partial repayment back to the general fund.

It was approved to authorize the transfer of funds for a partial repayment of the County Ditch 18 loan.

The amount to be transferred is \$38,440.

- Background: Todd County became a member of the South Country Health Alliance as of Jan. 1, 2007 and further resolved to withdraw from said alliance as of Dec. 31, 2019. As part of the exiting terms, capital payments with interest are scheduled to be returned to Todd County.

The first installment payment has been receipted into the Human Services and Community Health Funds per audit standards.

The board approved a resolution for the transfer of funds for the South Country Health Alliance Funds in the total amount of \$678,469. Human Services will receive \$379,942.64 while Community Health will receive the balance of \$298,526.36.

- Acting as the Ditch Authority, the board approved the 2021 legal services agreement with Rinke Noonan. It includes a \$200 a month retainer along with an hourly fee for attorney and legal services on ditches. The individual ditch systems are charged for the hourly rate for the system being served.

- As part of the technology rotation schedule, a host server is scheduled for replacement this year. Quotes were received and funding sources have been secured for this purchase. Contributing funding sources are Compliance Fund, Recorder Technology Fund, Corrections, Social Service and MIS budget. The total cost of the server is \$9,105.

The purchase was approved through NowMicro.

- A subdivision request to establish a preliminary plat containing two lots was approved by the Planning Commission on Sept. 3, 2020. It was remanded back to the Planning Commission by the Todd County Board of Commissioners during the Sept. 15, 2020 meeting.

The applicant has since obtained the appropriate variance and the item went back to the Planning Commission on Dec. 3, 2020. The final recommendation from the Planning Commission was to grant the preliminary plat with one condition: 1. No further subdivision of the approved plat.

The board discussed this plat length and Commissioner Randy Neumann questioned if it was a smart move to allow cutting the distance from the lake front from 150 feet to 85 feet.

This was the amount the variance that had been approved allowed for.

Planning and Zoning Director Adam Ossefoort said that everything had been done correctly and that a variance was the only option.

Ossefoort had checked in with the local Department of Natural Resources (DNR) Hydrologist and was told that they had been doing these types of actions correctly and that not hearing from the DNR was not unusual.

Neumann said he did not see how the board could change state statute which required the 150 foot setback.

Commissioner Barb Becker said that she, too, had received a call on this and expressed concern that the DNR had not gotten back to them.

With Neumann opposed, the board approved the preliminary plat.

- An application to rezoning a parcel in Burtrum requested by Jeanette Muellner was tabled for more

information.

- A request for a Conditional Use Permit (CUP) made by William Hartsock to operate a 60 site campground was received on Sept. 23, 2020. This item was reviewed during the Nov. 5, 2020 Planning Commission meeting and was tabled to allow for additional information.

It was reviewed again during the Dec. 3, 2020 Planning Commission meeting.

The final recommendation from the Planning Commission was to grant the CUP with the following conditions:

1. Submittal of an approved septic design for the dump station and installation prior to the start of operation of the campground.

2. All campground guests must empty all waste water tanks on site prior to departure.

3. Placement of a natural screening barrier on the east and north sides of the property to provide a visual barrier from all public roadways.

4. No additional road accesses will be allowed along County Highway 14.

5. Maintain a vegetated buffer along Little Elk River. Buffer must meet the requirements of the Minnesota Buffer Law. 6” of vegetation height, 30’ minimum width with a 50’ average.

There was lengthy discussion on this topic mostly related to the lack of a septic design.

Ossefoort said that Hartsock has the information needed for creating the system. It will all be holding tanks with no drain field.

Chair David Kircher expressed his concerns as did Neumann and Becker. Kircher asked that condition one be met immediately before any work begins on the project.

With Neumann opposed, the CUP was approved.

- An application for a CUP by William Bontrager, Eagle Bend, to establish a wholesale greenhouse was received on Nov. 5, 2020. This was reviewed by the Planning Commission on Dec. 3, 2020. The final recommendation from the Planning Commission was to grant the CUP with one condition:

Site is restricted to a wholesale operation only. Conversion or addition of retail sales will require a new application and review by the Planning Commission.

- Approved the reappointment for one Planning Commission member, Jim Pratt, and two Board of Adjustments members, Russell VanDenheuvel and Richard Johnson. In addition, the board approved the appointment of one new Planning Commission member—Ken Hovet.

- Approved the STEP Purchase of service and host county contract renewal

- Heard and update on COVID-19. There have been approximately 16,000 COVID-19 tests done in the county with an 11percent positivity rate.

There was some discussion about the vaccine and how it may be distributed. It was stated that the vaccine is not required or mandated.

- The commissioners held a closed meeting to consider strategies for labor negotiations.

- The commissioners held a second closed meeting for the purpose of evaluating the performance of County Coordinator Chris Pelzer.

NEWSPAPER REACH

89% of MN residents have accessed newspapers or their websites during a typical month.

WEEKDAY NEWSPAPERS reach 47% of those w/\$100k +income and 54% of those over age 65

78% of MN residents access newspapers during a typical week!

72% of Minnesotans have web access to newspapers

56% have mobile access

50% have smart phone access

WEB ACCESS to newspapers:

#1 IN GOOD DEALS

39% named newspapers and their websites as the most useful media in finding good deals.

22% Group, 19% Mail, 11 12%, Radio 2%

55% of coupon users expect to find their coupons in newspapers

38% of those age 35-49 use newspapers online

Source: Scarborough Custom Minnesota Newspaper Readership Survey, 2013.

Staples World

INJURED AT WORK? DISABILITY DENIED?

Contact Us Today For Free Advice

Workers' Compensation
Long-Term Disability
Social Security Disability

320-257-0231
www.GetFields.com

Steve Fields
Minnesota Attorney

FIELDS LAW FIRM

m
DEPARTMENT OF
TRANSPORTATION

Engineering Specialist - Design

Work in Willmar providing leadership and support within the district in performing and coordinating para-engineering tasks in preparing plans for construction and transportation systems. This position provides key expert leadership in CADD & 3d modeling.

Visit www.mn.gov/careers for job details and apply to Job ID 42661.
Contact: lena.garcia@state.mn.us or 612-257-2388

Looking back

75 YEARS Ago - 1946

• Jan. 3, 1946 - Staples high school basketball team will go to Crosby-Ironton Friday evening of this week, where they will meet the Rangers of the cities in the first basketball game of the 1946 year.

All during the Christmas vacation the Cards have been holding regular practices, and should be in pretty fair condition to meet the Rangers Friday evening.

C-I is considered the strongest team in the district, and also the Central

Compiled by
Dawn Timbs

Eight conference again this year, but the Cards will go to C-I with victory on their minds.

Long Prairie will invade the nest of the Cards on Jan. 8, and St. Cloud will be guests of the Cards on Jan. 11, in the first games after the holiday season. Both teams are rated high in the district.

• Jan 3, 1946 - Staples public and parochial schools will reopen on Monday Jan. 7, following a holiday vacation.

Two new instructors have been added to the public school staff, but neither need any introduction to the students.

John Rengel, who has been discharged from the United States Navy, after having served over three years, and John Haigh, who also served in the United States Navy, will again resume positions on the teaching staff of the Staples high school. Both will be assistant coaches, besides teaching classes in the junior and senior high school departments.

• Jan. 3, 1946 - The members of the Men's Chorus of Staples, who have been on a vacation during the holiday season, will resume their regular practices at the band room in the school building on Thursday evening, Jan. 10, at 8 o'clock, according to Erling Lian, director of the group.

All men of Staples, who are interested, are invited to attend these practices. "Dutch Coffee" is served after the meeting. Join the "gang" and you will have a good time.

50 YEARS Ago - 1971

• Jan. 7, 1971 - Lee Jenkins, president of the Staples Jaycees, presented a check in the amount of \$146.50 to Staples Mayor Ernest Weber. The check is for the purchase of hockey nets and other construction on the new hockey rink near the H. W. Carter plant in east Staples. A check for the same amount is available for a hockey rink on the southside at such time as it is constructed. The money represents the proceeds of the Redhead basketball game here last year.

The hockey rink is regulation size and is expected to be completed flooded soon.

• Jan. 7, 1971 - A well-known Staples woman is dead and her husband is hospitalized at the Staples Municipal hospital as a result of probable asphyxiation from a clogged chimney in their home, located at North Sixth Street.

Dead is Mrs. P. M. Atwood, 85, wife of a retired Staples Superintendent of Schools. Mr. Atwood, also 85, is hospitalized in Staples

Staples Police Chief William Card said that he was called to the home about 3 p.m. Monday, Jan. 4, along with Leo Fahnlander, fire chief, and Darwin Peterson, ambulance driver.

John Nygren of Pillager, who is a driver for the Meyers Cleaners and Launderers of Brainerd, stopped at the Atwood home to pick

up the laundry. It was not set out as usual and Nygren noticed some discoloration on the windows and some soot. He checked with neighbors, Mr. and Mrs. C. W. Mohler, who also went over to investigate, but could not gain entrance, and then officials were called to the scene. The Atwoods were found lying on the floor in the bathroom. Medical help was summoned and Mrs. Atwood was pronounced dead at the scene by the Todd County Coroner, Dr. T. J. Lelwica. Oxygen was administered to Mr. Atwood, who began responding. He was taken to the Staples hospital and at 11 a.m. Tuesday, his condition was listed as satisfactory by the attending physician.

• Jan. 7, 1971 - An undetermined amount of damage resulted as fire destroyed a building at the rural residence of the James Towers about 11 a.m. Dec. 30. The Towers reside on the north side of Hwy 10, about 5 miles east of Staples.

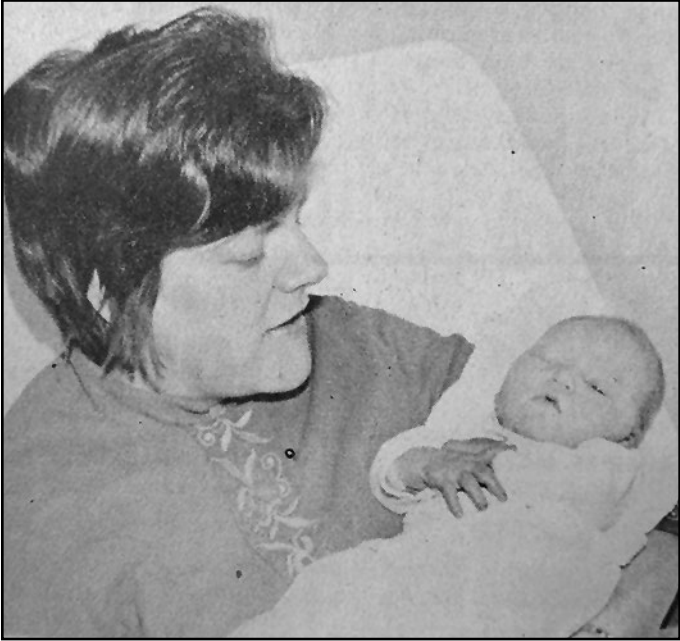
Destroyed by the fire was the old Motley depot, which was purchased by Tower in 1965 and moved to his place to be used for storage, his daughter's painting workshop and for the grinding and mixing of feed for the mink.

Mr. Tower reported to The World that he was at work at the time of the fire and that his wife, Dorothea, and daughter, Jathea, were in Staples shopping. Their son, James, was home alone and he heard the dogs barking, looked out the window and saw the flames shooting from the building.

Charles Mayer, publisher of The World, noticed the fire as he was returning to Staples and a call was made to the fire operator. Apparently another call by another motorist was made to the Motley Fire Department and crews of both arrived at the scene.

25 YEARS Ago - 1996

• Jan. 4, 1996 - Gaven



Mystery photo

Hello readers. This week's archive photo is from our Jan. 7, 1971 edition. Do you know who these people are and perhaps the context of the photos? Email your answers and where you are from to dtimbs@staplesworld.com by Friday morning, or call 218-894-1112. The answers will be published in next week's paper, as well as a new mystery photo.

James, the first baby born at Greater Staples Hospital in 1996, arrived at 12:36 a.m. Tuesday, Jan. 2. Parents are Kenneth and Rebecca Christensen of Browerville. Ceil Backberg presented the couple and baby with \$50 from the Greater Staples Hospital Auxiliary and Lorna Wiens presented a quilt from the Piecemaker's Quilting Group.

• Jan. 4, 1996 - Stan Carlson, Managing Director of Centennial Auditorium announced this week that the Centennial Auditorium Carpet Fund has reached its goal. A \$600 gift from Betty Gold recently has placed the fund at the estimated \$9,600 needed to carpet the lobby of the Auditorium and the side aisles.

• Jan. 4, 1996 - The Staples Area Chamber of Commerce recently held ribbon cuttings for new businesses in Staples. These included

Wendy's Deli & Gill & Pizza, Too, owned by Wendy Hansen; and A & M Travels, owned by Michael and Andrea Neuerburg.

10 YEARS Ago - 2011

• Jan. 6, 2011 - The first baby of 2011 is Hannah Mae, daughter of Sara and Jeremiah Schwanke of Verndale. Hannah was born at 6:37 p.m. on Jan. 2 and weighed in at 7 pounds, 3 ounces. Delivering physician, Dr. Sarah Israelson was assisted by Registered Nurses Lori Smith and Nance Rudenick.

• Jan. 6, 2011 - Alek Paskewitz plans to attend Northwestern University near Chicago next year after receiving a full scholarship to the school.

Paskewitz, the son of Lee and Laurie Paskewitz of rural Staples, said he was very excited when he got the news.



Mystery solved

Last week's mystery photo, published in the Jan. 28, 1993 edition of the Staples World (not 1970, as was incorrectly reported), featured cast members from Staples-Motley High School who were going to be competing at the sub-section one-act play tournament Jan. 30, at Centennial Auditorium in Staples. Six schools were participating, including Staples, Wadena, Menahga, Sebek, Bertha-Hewitt and New York Mills. The Staples-Motley entry, directed by Frank Odell, was "Sometimes I Wake Up in the Middle of the Night." Cast members are (front row, from left) Jason Kajer, Amy Knosalla, Tanyele Kajer, Melissa Hofer, Lisa Hanson. Back row: Seth Sams, Nicole Godejohn, Jenn Motl and Shane Pugh. Support personnel include Shana Dolezal, Eric Huff and Kelly Greig.

Linda Heier of Staples (along with help from her daughter, Stephanie Heier) correctly identified all, as did Lisa Kajer and Judy Wolak, also of Staples. All three noted that the play had gone

on to the state tournament and did very well. Alan Judd of Staples correctly identified five of the students.

Frank Odell called in to say the photo had brought back wonderful memories from his time directing plays at SMHS, where he was an English teacher for many years. He recalled that this particular play had to do with teens, all with complicated lives, who were struggling with decisions that needed to be made. "It was an excellent play," Odell said. He also recalled that two judges from Park Rapids had been highly impressed with the SM production. Odell also shared that three of the students in the photo were also state speech champions... Seth Sams, Nicole Godejohn and Lisa Hanson. "They were all wonderful kids," Odell said.

All five who responded this week noted that the photo was from the early 1990s, not 1970. Thanks for participating in our Mystery Photo.



Mertens' final plow run

Clyde Mertens is retiring after 35 years working for the City of Staples street department. Pictured, Public Works Director Scott Grabe presents Mertens with a plaque.

The most visible job for the street department is plowing snow in the winter. Mertens said it isn't true that he hasn't missed a single snowfall in 35 years, he missed one when his wife was in the hospital and missed another when he got a new hip. Mertens said he has helped revise the plowing system over the years, as they adapted to different needs, equipment and seasons. He recalled one year when the plows were called out for 13 nights straight. "I turned kind of grumpy during that time, if you came in and started talking about snow, you'd be wearing it," he said. Mertens was set to retire at the end of the year, and the snow gods recognized him with a final large snowfall in the early morning hours of Dec. 30. (Staples World photo by Mark Anderson)

Staples Police report

On Dec. 14, Staples Police received a report of a theft of a generator from Staples True Value.

On Dec. 15, Staples Police received a report of subject that used a stolen debit card to withdraw money at an ATM.

On Dec. 15, Staples Police responded to a disturbance on the 1200 block of 8th Street NE. A female arrived at the residence and became confrontational and had to be escorted away from the residence. After investigation the female was issued a citation for disorderly conduct.

On Dec. 15, Staples Police assisted Staples Fire Department with a fire at the Central Lakes College West Campus.

On Dec. 18, around 2:07 a.m., Staples Police observed a suspicious vehicle pull onto the AJR storage property. After investigation, Nathan Volk-muth, 38, of Brainerd, was arrested for possession of burglary tools and trespass by the Todd County Sheriff's Department..

On Dec. 18, Staples Police assisted the Staples-Motley School with contacting a parent whose child is not attending distance learning and has not responded back to the school. Police made contact with the parent and advised them of the concern.

On Dec. 18, Staples Police received a complaint of dogs that are continuously barking on the 400 block of 2nd Street SW. Police had received numerous complaints on this residence in the past six months. Police issued a citation to the owner for the offense.

On Dec. 18, Staples Police received a report of a parent picking up their child that parked in the no parking area of the school making it difficult for other vehicles. The parent was approached and became upset.

On Dec. 19, Staples Police assisted Todd County with a burglary that had taken place on the 900 block of 2nd Ave. NW.

On Dec. 19, Staples Police received a report of a concern for welfare, on a reported suicidal subject. Police made contact with the subject, who stated that they were fine.



Steve's Auto Salvage & G&L Service

- Tires (New & Used)
- Tubes •Belts
- AG Tires •Bulbs •Oil •Antifreeze
- Used Auto Parts

218-445-6885 • Located in Verndale at Steve's Auto

NOW HIRING



Rewarding PT Driver positions available with Friendly Rider.

All training will be provided and you will get an office with a view. Fill out an application at www.co.wadena.mn.us or stop by the Friendly Rider Transit Building at 229 Harry Rich Drive, Wadena MN 56482.

218-631-5730
WWW.FRIENDLYRIDER.COM





DEADLINES
Newspaper deadline for copy and advertising: 12 noon Fridays



What a year for rural Minnesota

By Marnie Werner
VP of Research & Operations
Center For Rural Policy and Development

Okay, it’s been a crazy year, right? Who would have imagined on January 1 of 2020 all the things we’ve been through by Dec. 31?

For many of us, it was a sad, frustrating year. All our personal plans were in ruins, we couldn’t visit friends and family, and we had to adapt to new ways of doing pretty much everything. But while the pandemic brought out a lot of weaknesses in our social fabric, it also brought out the strengths.

Moving everything on-line finally brought home how much rural areas need broadband and how much we can do when we have it. In May, just about the time we released our report on why rural areas are losing access to healthcare, health-care systems across the state were already suffering financially because of all the non-emergency care that had to be canceled for months. But our healthcare leaders kept things going, stretching their ICU space, figuring out how to treat patients at home safely and effectively, and generally showing up no matter how bad things got.

And we finally recognized those who are often paid little and noticed even less for what they truly are: essential workers. They are the nurses, teachers, grocery store shelf stockers, truck drivers, farmers and food manufacturing line workers who keep the foundations of our society running so smoothly that we fail to notice them until the beef disappears from the cooler and the shelves stand empty where the toilet paper used to be.

We had to ask ourselves some hard questions, too. Where do immigrants fit in rural Minnesota, and are we

as “Minnesota Nice” as we like to think we are?

In March, we made some predictions here at the Center about how the pandemic might affect rural Minnesota. Back then, no one knew a whole lot about COVID-19, what it would do or how it would behave and what impact it would have on us, our economy and our society. What was known, though, is how epidemics and pandemics behave. So how did we do?

- It was indeed all about the vectors. Vectors are the vehicles that germs hitch a ride on, and usually that means people, especially people packed together in close quarters, talking in each other’s faces. Across the nation the surges were fairly predictable: there was an initial surge in densely populated cities starting in March as COVID moved across the country from city to city, but rural areas looked like they might escape. In northern states, cases dropped off when preventive measures took hold and people headed outside for spring, but a new surge erupted in the southern states where everyone headed inside into the air conditioning for the summer. Then, the same thing happened here in the North in the fall when we all moved inside for the winter.
- Rural counties would see more deaths on average because they have on average an older population. This one we got half right. Rural counties did indeed have the highest death rates: The median death rate among Minnesota counties was 1.2 percent as of Dec. 28, far below the 4 percent that was floated as a possible death rate at the beginning of the pandemic. And some of our most rural counties did fare the worst. Kittson County came in at 5.9 percent, followed by Aitkin, Renville

and Lake, all at or above 3 percent. But some also had the lowest rates: Cook and Fillmore had recorded no COVID-related deaths as of Dec. 28, while Wabasha, Lincoln, Dodge, Steele and Pope all had death rates below 0.5 percent. Why the difference? We don’t know yet, but it may have something to do with proximity to healthcare facilities. I’m sure there will be countless studies examining this and other impacts for years to come.

- That the decisions we made back in March would have ramifications for the health and economic stability of our state for years to come. That has turned out true. Measures taken early at the state and federal level have for the most part helped the unemployed get along and keep people from losing their homes so far. We’ll also see in the future how programs like the federal stimulus checks and Paycheck Protection Program helped businesses. Ten months since the beginning of the pandemic here in Minnesota, some sectors of our economy, especially hospitality, are struggling greatly, but other sectors are doing just fine.

So where does that leave us now that cases are on the downside (for now) and we finally have vaccines?

Now we get to think about the recovery phase. The state legislature convenes their 2021 session on Jan. 5, and they will have some big topics to talk about. We’ll be

contributing our research to at least two of the biggest topics:

- Workforce. Even though unemployment rates spiked in the spring and are still higher than they were before the pandemic, they’re still at historic lows and there are still large regions of rural Minnesota experiencing a workforce shortage. We’re hoping some decisions can be made that will help connect people who need jobs to employers who need workers.
- Childcare. The early stay-at-home orders that shut down schools and places of employment not only put parents in a bind but pushed our childcare industry to the verge of collapse. We did lose many, but the grants given out early in the pandemic to providers have so far held off a mass collapse of that industry in Minnesota, unlike in other states. That puts us in a better position, because we need childcare to get people back to work.

Keep an eye out for these and other research we’ll be releasing this spring, like a further look at healthcare in rural Minnesota and what “access” means and a project we’re partnering with the Humphrey Institute on, looking at how local governments interact with immigrants and how well that’s worked during COVID-19.

So here’s to learning from our mistakes and celebrating our successes, and to blue skies ahead for all of us in 2021.

Quote of the week

“You can always count on Americans to do the right thing, after they’ve tried everything else.”

— Winston Churchill

Stalking: a real crime of fear

By Connie Nelson
Hands of Hope Resource Center, Todd County Office

January is National Stalking Awareness Month, which was started in 2004 by the National Center for Victims of Crime, and in 2011 the first National Stalking Awareness Month proclamation was signed. Stalking is best described as a course of behavior or conduct directed at a specific person that would cause a reasonable person to feel fear. Stalking is a crime in all fifty states, but is highly unreported by victims, due to lack of recognition of what stalking really is, and the tricky, deceptive, and often narcissistic behavior of the stalker themselves, that leaves victims as well as law enforcement often misinterpreting the behavior. Stalking consists of someone, most often someone you know or have known, following you, sending unwanted gifts and cards, damaging your property, monitoring your technology, using that same technology to track your movements, repeated hang up phone calls, threats of violence to you, your friends and or family, and other techniques that may only be known to the stalker. Stalking is serious, can be violent, and can escalate over time. Stalking is a favorite tool for domestic abusers. The National Stalking Resource Center reports that in 76% of domestic homicides committed, stalking had been a factor. A couple other stats to share are that 85% of stalking victims are women, and 87% of stalkers are men.

Other than the fact that

stalking can turn deadly if not addressed, there are many other life changing effects stalking can have on one’s life. Fear of what happens next, feelings of anxiety and fear, depression, isolating, not wanting to leave your home, nightmares, loss of appetite, physical illness due to stress. It is difficult to know what you can do to keep yourself safe, as you are never sure what is coming next. Changing your routines if possible, changing your driving habits and routes, blocking phone numbers, Facebook and all other digital ways that may be used to stalk you. You can always report to law enforcement, even if just for documentation purposes if you suspect you are being stalked. Start a stalking journal, listing days, times and events, this will come in handy if you should make a police report, file for a restraining order or OFP, and will assist you in safety planning.

If you need assistance or just someone to talk to about your thoughts or fears, please feel free to reach out to the trained advocates at Hands of Hope Resource Center. We are open Monday thru Friday from 8:30 AM to 4:30 PM. With COVID-19 restrictions still in place, we would greatly appreciate if you would call before coming in. Our contact numbers in Todd County are: Day line-320-732-2319, Crisis line {24/7} is 1-800-682-4547, or you can reach us at advocates.handssofhop@gmail.com

Statistics and information for this letter come from the Stalking Resource Center, and Hands of Hope Resource Center.

Agribusiness consolidation leads to Big Meat price fixing

By Heather Chapman
The Rural Blog

In January 1999, Sen. Richard Lugar, R-Ind., chair of the Senate Agriculture Committee, urged colleagues to pass on consolidation of agribusiness, saying Cargill’s offer to buy a competitor was a question for lawyers, not lawmakers.

That directive turned out to be prescient. “In fact, as a friend pointed out on Twitter shortly after Thanksgiving, ‘Turkey is now the only meat in U.S.A. right now not under investigation for price-fixing,’” writes syndicated agriculture columnist Alan Guebert. “That should infuriate all Americans for two reasons: First for what it says about today’s largely dysfunctional livestock and poultry markets and, secondly, that it has taken 20 years for end users to confront Big Meat over how it uses its sledgehammer market power to suck unearned profits out of both livestock growers and meat buyers.”

The increasing industrialization has hurt rural America, Guebert writes, citing recently published research for the Family Farm Action Alliance that says “Agrifood consolidation reduces farmer autonomy and redistributes costs and benefits across the food chain, squeezing farmer incomes.”

Guebert notes, “Lugar’s edict for ‘legislatures’ to stay out of Big Agbiz’s biz has remained in effect despite mountains of evidence that the corporatization of key ag sectors has cost farmers, ranchers, rural America and consumers billions of dollars and an untold number of jobs. And that’s on top of what boneheaded farm policies advocated by AgBiz — like 1996’s Freedom to Farm — cost taxpayers. (From 1997 to 2002, F2F cost taxpayers \$122 billion, or three times its projected cost.) Many of these policies also took down antitrust fences and, shortly thereafter, consolidation in ag inputs, production and processing went into overdrive.”

Guebert implies that economic disparities brought on by Big Ag have helped drive rural-urban polarization, noting writer, farmer and activist Wendell Berry wrote in Another Turn of the Crank that “Political democracy can endure only as the guardian of economic democracy. A democratic government fails in failing to protect the integrity of ordinary lives and local communities.”

“That wisdom bears repeating,” Guebert writes. “We will continue to fail if we continue to fail ‘to protect the integrity of ordinary lives and local communities.’”

Rural news media will help vaccine rollout

By Al Cross
Director and Professor,
Institute for Rural Journalism and Community Issues,
University of Kentucky

Rural hospitals and other health-care providers face special challenges in getting coronavirus vaccines to the public, but rural news media, especially newspapers, can help them overcome the challenge of vaccine misinformation.

The providers’ first problem was with the first vaccine, produced by Pfizer Inc., because it requires ultra-cold storage and is being shipped in large boxes with 975 doses. The Moderna vaccine takes normal refrigeration and comes in boxes of 100.

In Texas, some rural hospitals bought special freezers for the Pfizer vaccine but state officials didn’t di-

rect any Pfizer shipments to them, Will Stone reports for NPR and Kaiser Health News. “It’s frustrating that you would go to that effort and expense and not be able to participate,” said John Henderson, president of the Texas Organization of Rural and Community Hospitals.

The Moderna vaccine, which was approved a week after Pfizer’s, is now arriving at rural hospitals, clinics and health departments, but “having the vaccine is no guarantee it will get used,” even on frontline health workers, Stone reports, with a quote from Tracy Warner, CEO of Greene County Medical Center in central Iowa: “A third of the people that are in line said, no, I’m not interested.”

“Each vial has multiple doses. And once opened, they have a shelf life,” Stone reports. “In smaller hospitals, the dosing needs to be staggered carefully. An immune response could sideline a nurse or doctor for a day, and they don’t have staff to spare.”

dia and word of mouth, politics and religion, as well as previous experience with vaccinations,” the professors wrote, noting a Kaiser Family Foundation poll in December that found about 35% of rural Americans said they probably or definitely would not get a vaccine, higher than the 27% nationwide.

“Getting accurate information about the vaccine and how to receive it into rural areas has also proved difficult,” the professors write. “Many rural counties still have limited access to broadband internet connections, smartphone service and other technologies. That often means residents rely on television, newspapers and radio for news, which can limit the depth and scope of information.”

That last line should be a wake-up call to rural news media. For rural newspapers and local health officials, this challenge also presents an opportunity. Newspapers can mail sample copies in their home county to non-subscribers at subscriber rates, and a total-market-circulation edition can reach every household with detailed information from a trusted source, the local paper. At least three papers in Kentucky did this early in the pandemic, with support from local governments.

The vaccine-rollout period seems like another good time for sample copying, since states are adopting different policies and priorities for vaccinations, and the public may be confused by information they get from national sources, social media or news media based in other states. Local newspaper circulation is declining, but the postal regulations still give newspapers a powerful tool to reach everyone in their home county, and they and local officials should take advantage of it.

StaplesWorld

Established in 1890. USPS 518-760
©2020 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, Staples-Motley School District,
Freshwater Education District and Todd County.

Letters: Readers are encouraged to express their views by writing letters to the editor. Letters are verified for authenticity, so please include a name, address and phone number. Only the author’s name and city will be published. Letters may be edited for spelling and grammar errors, libel, length and other factors. Private thanks, solicitations and libelous letters will not be published. Letters are printed on a space available basis. The editor reserves the right to reject letters.
The deadline is 12 noon, Friday. Opinions expressed on this page do not necessarily represent the views of this newspaper.

MINNESOTA NEWSPAPER ASSOCIATION
FREE PRESS
1867

MINNESOTA NEWSPAPER ASSOCIATION

MINNESOTA NEWSPAPER ASSOCIATION
1867

MINNESOTA NEWSPAPER ASSOCIATION

MINNESOTA NEWSPAPER ASSOCIATION
1867

MINNESOTA NEWSPAPER ASSOCIATION

MINNESOTA NEWSPAPER ASSOCIATION
1867

MINNESOTA NEWSPAPER ASSOCIATION

MINNESOTA NEWSPAPER ASSOCIATION
1867

MINNESOTA NEWSPAPER ASSOCIATION

MINNESOTA NEWSPAPER ASSOCIATION
1867

MINNESOTA NEWSPAPER ASSOCIATION

MINNESOTA NEWSPAPER ASSOCIATION
1867

MINNESOTA NEWSPAPER ASSOCIATION

MINNESOTA NEWSPAPER ASSOCIATION
1867

MINNESOTA NEWSPAPER ASSOCIATION

MINNESOTA NEWSPAPER ASSOCIATION
1867

MINNESOTA NEWSPAPER ASSOCIATION

MINNESOTA NEWSPAPER ASSOCIATION
1867

MINNESOTA NEWSPAPER ASSOCIATION

MINNESOTA NEWSPAPER ASSOCIATION
1867

MINNESOTA NEWSPAPER ASSOCIATION

MINNESOTA NEWSPAPER ASSOCIATION
1867

MINNESOTA NEWSPAPER ASSOCIATION

MINNESOTA NEWSPAPER ASSOCIATION
1867

MINNESOTA NEWSPAPER ASSOCIATION

MINNESOTA NEWSPAPER ASSOCIATION
1867

MINNESOTA NEWSPAPER ASSOCIATION

MINNESOTA NEWSPAPER ASSOCIATION
1867

MINNESOTA NEWSPAPER ASSOCIATION

MINNESOTA NEWSPAPER ASSOCIATION
1867

MINNESOTA NEWSPAPER ASSOCIATION

MINNESOTA NEWSPAPER ASSOCIATION
1867

MINNESOTA NEWSPAPER ASSOCIATION

MINNESOTA NEWSPAPER ASSOCIATION
1867

MINNESOTA NEWSPAPER ASSOCIATION

MINNESOTA NEWSPAPER ASSOCIATION
1867

MINNESOTA NEWSPAPER ASSOCIATION

MINNESOTA NEWSPAPER ASSOCIATION
1867

MINNESOTA NEWSPAPER ASSOCIATION

MINNESOTA NEWSPAPER ASSOCIATION
1867

MINNESOTA NEWSPAPER ASSOCIATION

MINNESOTA NEWSPAPER ASSOCIATION
1867

MINNESOTA NEWSPAPER ASSOCIATION

MINNESOTA NEWSPAPER ASSOCIATION
1867

MINNESOTA NEWSPAPER ASSOCIATION

MINNESOTA NEWSPAPER ASSOCIATION
1867

MINNESOTA NEWSPAPER ASSOCIATION

MINNESOTA NEWSPAPER ASSOCIATION
1867

MINNESOTA NEWSPAPER ASSOCIATION

MINNESOTA NEWSPAPER ASSOCIATION
1867

MINNESOTA NEWSPAPER ASSOCIATION

MINNESOTA NEWSPAPER ASSOCIATION
1867

MINNESOTA NEWSPAPER ASSOCIATION

MINNESOTA NEWSPAPER ASSOCIATION
1867

MINNESOTA NEWSPAPER ASSOCIATION

MINNESOTA NEWSPAPER ASSOCIATION
1867

MINNESOTA NEWSPAPER ASSOCIATION

MINNESOTA NEWSPAPER ASSOCIATION
1867

MINNESOTA NEWSPAPER ASSOCIATION

MINNESOTA NEWSPAPER ASSOCIATION
1867

MINNESOTA NEWSPAPER ASSOCIATION

MINNESOTA NEWSPAPER ASSOCIATION
1867

MINNESOTA NEWSPAPER ASSOCIATION

MINNESOTA NEWSPAPER ASSOCIATION
1867

MINNESOTA NEWSPAPER ASSOCIATION

MINNESOTA NEWSPAPER ASSOCIATION
1867

MINNESOTA NEWSPAPER ASSOCIATION

MINNESOTA NEWSPAPER ASSOCIATION
1867

MINNESOTA NEWSPAPER ASSOCIATION

MINNESOTA NEWSPAPER ASSOCIATION
1867

MINNESOTA NEWSPAPER ASSOCIATION

MINNESOTA NEWSPAPER ASSOCIATION
1867

MINNESOTA NEWSPAPER ASSOCIATION

MINNESOTA NEWSPAPER ASSOCIATION
1867

MINNESOTA NEWSPAPER ASSOCIATION

MINNESOTA NEWSPAPER ASSOCIATION
1867

MINNESOTA NEWSPAPER ASSOCIATION

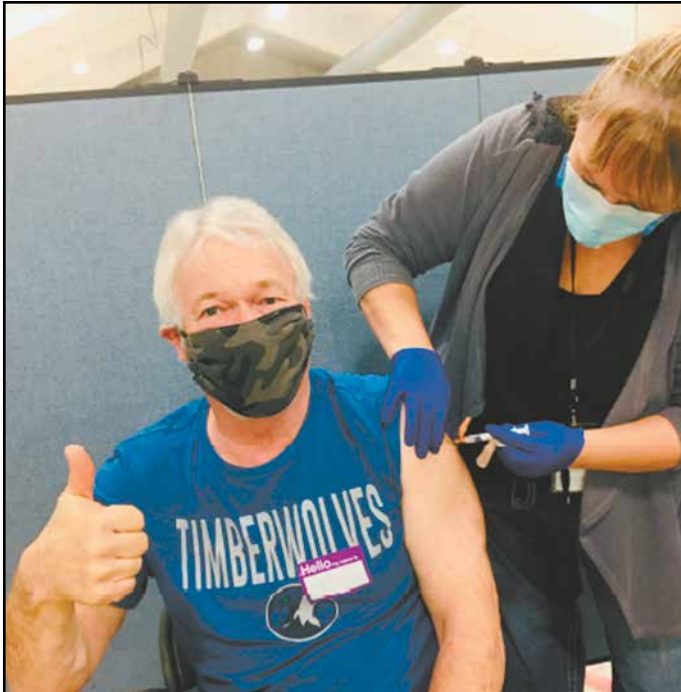
MINNESOTA NEWSPAPER ASSOCIATION
1867

MINNESOTA NEWSPAPER ASSOCIATION

MINNESOTA NEWSPAPER ASSOCIATION
1867

MINNESOTA NEWSPAPER ASSOCIATION

</



First vaccine doses

Tim Ludwig, a nurse at Todd County, was excited to receive his first dose of the COVID-19 vaccine from nurse Ronni Turchin. (Submitted photo)

Todd County starting first phase of COVID vaccines

Todd County Health & Human Services held its first COVID-19 vaccine clinic on Wednesday, December 30th. Todd County began its vaccination campaign with public health vaccination staff and first responders, following the guidance of the Minnesota Department of Health.

"We are pleased to finally have the COVID-19 vaccine available, as it is the best way to prevent the spread of the virus in Todd County", said Jackie Och, Director of Todd County Health & Human Services, who also received the vaccine on Wednesday.

Because there are very few doses of vaccine available initially, COVID-19 vaccination will take a phased approach. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) determined the priority groups that will be getting vaccine first. The first phase, which has already started, includes people working in health care settings and residents of long-term care facilities. The next phase includes first responders and assisted living and group home residents and staff. Next the vaccine will be made available to front-line essential workers and adults 75 years and older, followed by adults ages 65-74 years, people ages 16-64 years with high-risk medical conditions, and other essential workers will be able to get vaccinated.

We do not know yet the specific vaccination timelines for each priority pop-

ulation. This will depend on how much vaccine the manufacturers are able to make and send out, and how many people get vaccinated in the first priority groups. People do not need to get on a waiting list or make an appointment at this time.

Updates will be provided when we are able to start vaccinating more people and we will provide more information at that time for how eligible people can get vaccinated.

It's important to know that a vaccine for COVID-19 is only one of the ways to stop the spread of the disease. Because the supply of vaccine will be limited at first, doing other things to help stop the spread will be just as important as it is now. This means still wearing a facemask, staying at least six feet away from others, washing your hands, and staying home if you are sick.

For more information on COVID-19 vaccine safety, visit the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention at: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/vaccines/safety.html>.

Bookends goes to Machu Picchu Jan. 9

The first BookEnds Online Edition of the new year will be held via Zoom on January 9, 2021 at 11:30 a.m. Debra Eckerman Pitton is the author of the true life adventure book, "No One Left Behind: An unexpected educational adventure at Machu Picchu".

In 2010, she led a group of healthcare students to Peru and Machu Picchu. When rain swelled the mountain rivers, flooding downstream villages, the group was trapped and struggled to remain together as they waited to be evacuated.

Debra Eckerman Pitton is department chair and professor of education at Gustavus Adolphus College in St. Peters and specializes

in instructional methodology.

For more information contact the Wadena County Historical Society at 603wchs@arvig.net. Following the meeting, a recording of this program will be made available on the website www.WadenaCounty-History.org

BookEnds is a monthly literary event hosted by the Wadena County Historical Society, 'Travelin' Storyseller and the New York Mills Regional Cultural Center. These activities are made possible by the voters of Minnesota through a grant from the Five Wings Arts Council and legislative appropriation from the Arts and Cultural Heritage Fund.

Michelle Allred is newest nurse practitioner at Lakewood Health System

Michelle Allred is the newest family nurse practitioner (FNP) to join the Lakewood Health System medical staff, Staples.

Originally from Sumner, Wash., Allred received her advanced nursing degree from Walden University in Minneapolis. She is a member of the American Association of Nurse Practitioners, American Nurses Association and Minnesota Rural Health Association.

As a family nurse practitioner, Allred has special interests in health promotion and disease prevention for the most vulnerable patients. She received the 2019 Emerging Rural Health Leader award from the Minnesota Rural Health Association.

"I am excited to partner with Lakewood Health System in their devotion to providing exceptional healthcare," said Allred.

Allred is married to her



Michelle Allred, Family Nurse Practitioner, LHS

husband, Jason, and they have two children. They enjoy fishing, hunting, camping, and spending time with extended family. In her free time, Allred enjoys reading and cooking.

Allred provides care for residents and tenants at Lakewood Care Center and Lakewood Pines and Manor, respectively.



Local tree contest

The second annual Festival of Trees was sponsored by the Staples Motley Area Women of Today. First place winner was the tall tree at Central Building Supply (above) and second place Unity Bank (right). This year's festival was changed so that businesses put up their own trees and people could vote for their favorite at the business or online.



SUBSCRIBE

Staples World newspaper subscription rates, one year:

Local: \$41
(Todd, Wadena, Morrison, Cass counties)

Minnesota: \$46.

Out-of-State: \$51.

Foreign: \$61.

Student Rate: \$31
per school year, in-state (Sept.-April)

On-Line: \$37

Print with on-line: \$65

P.O. Box 100
224 4th St. NE
Staples, MN 56479
218-894-1112
www.staplesworld.com

STAPLES MOTLEY AREA COMMUNITY FOUNDATION

Building from Within, Creating for Tomorrow

Annual Awards Event Video Release

January 11, 6:00 p.m.

The STAPLES MOTLEY AREA COMMUNITY FOUNDATION ANNUAL AWARDS VIDEO will be released

Monday, January 11 at 6:00 p.m.

The video will premier on the Foundation Facebook page with a recording of the awards event to be published later on www.staplesmotleyfoundation.org.

For the past many years, the Foundation has hosted an Annuals Awards Banquet. The banquet showcases individuals and organizations, nominated by their peers, who've made an impact in the Staples-Motley School District Region during the year.

This year, the Foundation made the difficult decision to forego a banquet and complete the awards event online.

"We're very pleased with how the Awards video has come together," said Nick Trout, Board Treasurer for the Foundation. "Since we were unable to have our traditional banquet, we wanted to find a different, meaningful way to recognize the individuals and organizations in our community that made an impact this year, especially in light of the pandemic. I think we've done that."

To view the video, search for "STAPLES MOTLEY AREA COMMUNITY FOUNDATION" on Facebook and go to the homepage. The video will be live starting at 6:00 p.m., with a recording available later on the Foundation website, www.staplesmotleyfoundation.org.

For questions, or further directions on viewing the video, contact the Foundation at smacf@ifound.org, or call 218-296-2565.

The Staples Motley Area Community Foundation, a partner fund of the Initiative Foundation, serves as a philanthropic vehicle for accumulating and distributing financial resources to benefit our communities within the physical boundaries of Staples-Motley School District. The entire principal of the Staples Motley Community Foundation shall be held as a permanent endowment. The interest income shall be distributed in the Greater Staples Motley area to support local charitable endeavors.

Help Us Build Strong Communities.

As a family owned company, Duinick, Inc. understands that people come first. We hire the best in the field and we are committed to providing our employees with opportunities to grow in their jobs. We believe in supporting the communities we serve, investing in people, and living our values every day.

If you're ready to help us build stronger communities and join a world-class company that feels like family, apply today.

JUST SOME OF THE CURRENT OPENINGS AT DUINICK, INC.

ASPHALT / PAVING:

- Area Manager
- Estimator/ Project MGR
- Plant Oiler
- Plant Technician
- Loader / Dozer Operator
- Screed Operator
- Utility Operator
- Laborer

UNDERGROUND:

- Backfiller
- Excavator Operator
- Pipelayer
- Topman

AGGREGATES:

- Crusher Operator
- Loader / Dozer Operator
- Wash Plant Operator
- Laborer

GRADING:

- Excavator Operator
- Utility Operator

TRUCKING:

- Semi/Tr-Dump/Tandem/Lowboy & Side Dump Drivers

BRIDGE:

- Carpenter/Laborer/Welder

These jobs and many more await you! Check out all of our positions at Duinick.com

Contact us to learn more about opportunities to join our team

phone **320-978-6011** web **duinick.com**

Duinick is an EEO/AA/M/F/Vet/Disability Employer

Hello World

BIRTHS REPORTED AT LAKEWOOD HEALTH SYSTEM HOSPITAL IN STAPLES INCLUDED:

Born to Daniela and Charlie Wilczek of Little Falls a baby boy, Sawyer Peter, weighing seven pounds, one ounce on December 28, 2020.

Born to Bailee and Tristan Palmer of Sebek, a baby boy, Warren Mathew weighing nine pounds, three ounces on December 30, 2020.

Born to Noelle and Justin Henline of Browerville, a baby girl, Elizabeth Ruth weighing five pounds

10 ounces on December 30, 2020.

Born Sarah and Michael Reiner of Brainerd, a baby girl, Annalise Elizabeth weighing seven pounds, 14 ounces on December 31, 2020.

BIRTHS REPORTED AT TRI-COUNTY HOSPITAL IN WADENA INCLUDED:

Baby girl, Gemma Jane DeYonge was born December 17, 2020, to Leah Mills and Josh DeYonge of New York Mills weighing eight pounds, 2.5 ounces at Tri-County Health Care in Wadena. Proud siblings are Jaxton and Olivia. Grandparents are Lisa and Randy and Dian and Dale.

Baby girl, Mary Jane-Elaine Tressler was born December 9, 2020, to Jaclyn Foreman and Steven Tressler of Verndale weighing seven pounds, 14 ounces at Tri-County Health Care in Wadena. Proud siblings are Malachi, Matthias and Eli. Grandparents are David and Vicki.

Obituaries

Eugene Horvath



Eugene Paul Horvath, 87, Motley, passed away on December 23, 2020 after a two year battle with cancer. A memorial service will be held in the summer of 2021. Paul will be interned next to his wife, Harriet, in the VA cemetery located at Fort Ripley.

Paul was born to parents John and Susan Horvath on June 25, 1933 in Campbell, Ohio. He received a business degree from St. Thomas College after serving as a Staff Sergeant in the US Air Force.

Paul married the love of his life, Harriet Derbis in 1958 and they were nearly inseparable for 54 years.

Paul was known for being a devoted Catholic father and put his family above work. After retiring from the insurance industry as a highly successful manager, Paul and Harriet retired full time “up north” to their weekend cottage

on Lake Shamineau near Motley. Paul spent most of his time on the water, sharing his patience and passion for fishing with his children and granddaughters. He spoke fondly of the Friday evening “group therapy” sessions with neighbors held on the cabin porch. They also traveled, enjoyed cruises and spent many winters in North Myrtle Beach, SC.

Paul is survived by one brother Eddie; one daughter Paula (Tom) Daniels, their children Brianne, Amy and Carena; two sons, Thomas (Sandra) and their children Shannon and Nicole and David and his daughter, Emma.

Paul was predeceased in death by his wife, Harriet; parents; three sisters Anne, Mary and Helen; four brothers John, Fr. Myron, Larry and Charlie.

Tom, Paula and David wish to thank Pat Ranzau for being a very special friend and companion to Paul. They also wish to acknowledge Fairview Hospice and Trinity Care Center in Farmington for their compassionate care near the end of his life.

The family desires that people wishing to send flowers or cards consider making donations in support of cancer research or taking your loved ones fishing in honor of the greatest fishing guide.

w2p A00006B2021JN06

Ernest Spilman

Ernest Benjamin “Ernie” Spilman, 92, of Motley, died December 30, 2020, at his home.

A memorial service will be held at a later date.

Private interment was held at the Poplar Cemetery, Leader.

Ernie was born May 6, 1928 to Benjamin and Mable (Noyes) Spilman at Hinkley. The family moved to Leader in 1939, where Ernie attended school through the eighth grade. He then headed to western Minnesota, where he worked on his uncle’s farm near Fergus Falls, worked harvesting ice and a variety of other jobs. He served in the U.S. Army during the Korean Conflict and received the Purple Heart for wounds received as a result of action with enemy forces. He married Leona Gebbie on August 13, 1955 at Sisseton, SD. They made their home in Fargo before moving to California where he worked for Boeing Aircraft. They returned to the Leader in the mid-1960’s and he began working part-time for the Minnesota Highway Department. He had also worked as a welder at Sadusky’s and drove school bus for a time. They moved to Motley in 1969, when he began working full-time with the highway department doing highway maintenance. Ernie retired in 1986 and he and Leona wintered at Mathis, Texas. Leona died in 1998 and Ernie continued to winter in Texas for a few years after her death.

Ernie enjoyed fishing, winding copper, carpentry, welding, farming and animals. He also enjoyed his grandkids and spending time at their cabin on Shamineau Lake. He served as Commander of the American Legion, was a member of the DAV and the VFW. He served on the Motley City Council and the Leader Town Board, worked with the Fair Share Pro-



gram, was a member of the Lion’s Club. He also served with the Fire Department, planted trees with Ralph Nutter, and worked measuring (surveying?) Cass County.

Ernie is survived by two daughters, Susan Mary Carlson (Dale Jacobs) of Willow, Alaska and Margaret (Steven) Dille of Staples; one son, Benjamin (Nancy) Spilman of Motley; eight siblings, Edward (Mary) Spilman, Nisswa; Vernon Spilman, Foxhome; Irene Johnson, Fargo, ND; Mary (Tom) Larson, Brooklyn Park; Doug (Eileen) Spilman, Pillager; Elaine Perry (Jim Costa), Sparks, NV; Richard “Butch” (Connie) Spilman, Billings, MT and Wally (Faye) Spilman of Hammond, WI; 12 grandchildren, Erik, Jason, Vesta, Melissa, Christina, John, Lori, Kevin, Nicholas, Shawntell, Robert and Russell; 23 great grandchildren and two great-great-grandchildren.

Ernie was preceded in death by his parents; wife, Leona; special friend, Martha Shequen; six siblings, Josephine Hove, Leroy Spilman, Wayne Spilman, Edna Dahlvang, Marvin Spilman and Donald Spilman; one granddaughter, Jamie Hanson and one great-granddaughter, Danika Tkalcich.

Arrangements by Brenny Family Funeral Chapel of Staples, www.brenny.com.

w2c A00006B2021JN06

Staples Area Church Directory

Staples

Staples Alliance
1512 8th St. NE, Staples218-894-2891
Associate 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, Staples218-894-1081
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.

First Congregational Church, UCC
firstcongregationalstaples@gmail.com
204 5th St. NE, Staples218-894-2571
Worship.....9:30 a.m.
Fellowship, refreshments following service

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

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

Seventh Day Adventist
421 Dakota Ave. SE, Staples
218-894-0033
Saturday Worship.....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, Staples218-894-2372
Rev. Robin Collins
Sunday Divine Service.....9:00 a.m.
Sunday School & Bible Class.....10:30 a.m.

United Methodist
310 5th St. NE, Staples218-894-2248
Pastor Greg Leslie
Sunday Worship.....10:30 a.m.
(Nursery Available for Sunday Worship)
Sunday School (for grades K-12 and adults).....9:15-10:15 a.m.

Aldrich

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
Associate Pastor: Carleton Smee
www.bethanylutherancushing.org
Sunday Worship.....10:45 a.m.
Sunday School and Coffee Fellowship.....9:30 a.m.
Pancake Breakfast.....11:45 a.m.
2nd Sunday, each month

Lincoln Evangelical Free
1354 320th Street, Cushing, MN 56443
Phone: 218-575-2449
www.lincolnefree.org
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/Youth Joe Reigstad
SUNDAY
Church Worship Gathering.....10:00 a.m.
Facebook Live.....10:00 a.m.
YouTube Channel.....10:00 a.m.
WEDNESDAY
Praise & Prayer.....6:30 p.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 Wallwood St. E
Motley 56466.....218-352-6888
Jim Johnson, Senior Pastor
Charles Mallory, Associate Pastor
Sunday Worship.....9:00 & 11:00 a.m.
facebook live.....9 a.m.
WEDNESDAY
Youth Group.....6:00-7:30 p.m.

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

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

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

Oylen

Oylen Alliance
City 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 Qy 34 to Qy. 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.

Check with your church to be up-to-date on service options. Many offer remote services.

Verndale

Verndale Alliance
109 NW Brown Street, Verndale, MN 56481
218-445-5619
Senior Pastor Tony Stanley
Heath Balknap, Pastor of Student Ministries
Sunday Worship.....9:30 a.m.
Sunday Bible Fellowship Classes.....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
Children’s Pastor Kenneth Kjeldergaard
SUNDAY
Sunday School.....8:30 a.m.
Worship Service.....10:00 a.m.
Prayer Meeting.....5 p.m.
WEDNESDAY
Night Life Groups.....6:30-8 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 Qy Rd 26 (Nimrod tar)
Pastor Chuck Horsager, 218-639-4225
Sunday Worship.....9:00 a.m.
Sunday School.....10:30 a.m.

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

“A Threefold Prayer: Praise - Thanks - Change”

Pastor Barry Klein, Staples Church of Christ

In Matthew 6:5, Jesus, before sharing the beloved “Our Father” prayer, told His followers to NOT follow the example of people who made a spectacle of their prayer life, “standing on street corners to be seen” in their praying. Jesus then gives the life-giving way to pray by going behind closed doors and communicating directly to the heavenly Father. Length of prayer isn’t important; love for God is important as we pray directly to Him through His Son Jesus (John 14:6b).

One of my prayers is: Praise You, God. Thank You, God. Please change me, God. (Another historical prayer in the Church is: “Lord, have mercy.” Those three words, shared from the heart, are life-giving).

Let’s consider praise, thanksgiving and change together as we pray to God.

In praising God, we are acknowledging, gratefully, that He is worthy of our heavenly beings (Revelation 5:8-14). Do we realize that eternally praising God is the most fulfilling and life-giving

expression of life? Now, I know that some have thought “how boring.” But folks, when we owe everything else that He is deserving of our gratitude, first and for most is praising Him, adoring Him before anything else that He gives us. Jack R. Taylor wrote a book, “The Hallelujah Factor” that would be worthy of your reading.

When the apostle Paul directs us to “give thanks in all circumstances” in I Thessalonians 5:18, that is a “way of life” also, not just a quickie here and there. As the hymn calls us to, “County Your Many Blessings” may we take regular opportunity to do just that!

Finally, God is our only hope to change what needs to be changed in our lives. This calls for a sincere awareness of our need to depend upon Him with every breath that He gives us. In all of this, remember that God is our very life. Haggai 2:7 (NKJV) reminds us that “(God) is the desire of the nations.” May He be our deepest desire!

The Staples area Church Directory is sponsored by these businesses:

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

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

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

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

Central Building Supply
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

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

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, call 218-894-1112 for Jan or email: jwinter@staplesworld.com. As usual continue to email your Ministerial pastoral message to: jwinter@staplesworld.com

Breana Dell Clayton, OD
Independent Optometrist at Costco, Baxter, MN



Clayton Eye Care

218-855-5756

•Comprehensive Eye Exam...\$75
•Contact Lens Exams starting at...\$110

Membership not required for eye exams, but is needed to purchase glasses or contact lenses.
Call or visit us at www.claytoneyecaremn.com



Public Notices

NOTICE MORAN TOWNSHIP FILING

Notice is hereby given to the residents of Moran Township that filing for Township Offices will be open on December 31, 2020 and close on January 12, 2021 at 5 p.m.

The offices to be filed for are: One (1) Supervisor for a three (3) year term; One (1) Treasurer for a two (2) year term and One (1) Clerk for a one (1) year term. Candidates may file at the clerks office at 28316 410th St., Browerville, Mn. Because of COVID, please call the clerk at 218-831-0929 to make arrangements before filing.

Teresa Wagner, Clerk.
2pnx

PUBLIC NOTICE

An aeration system will be in operation on Lake Shamineau from January 12, 2021 to March 31, 2021 at 3501 Pine View Blvd., Motley, MN.

Please use caution on thin ice.

2pnnp

NOTICE BYRON TOWNSHIP REGULAR MEETING

Byron Township will hold their regular monthly meeting Tuesday, January 12, 2021, at 7:00 p.m. at the Leader Community Hall.

Beverly Hoemberg, Clerk
Byron Township
1-2pnc

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE TODD COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS Nov. 17, 2020

Call to Order

The Todd County Board of Commissioners met in the Commissioner's Board Room in the City of Long Prairie, MN on the 17th day of November, 2020 at 9:00 a.m. The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Kircher. The meeting was opened with the Pledge of Allegiance. All Commissioners were present.

Approval of Agenda

On motion by Becker and seconded by Becker, the following motion was introduced and adopted by unanimous vote: To approve the agenda as presented.

Consent Agenda

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

To approve the Todd County Board of Commissioner's Meeting Minutes for November 2 and 10, 2020 as presented.

GAMBLING PERMIT – BROWERVILLE SPORTSMAN CLUB

WHEREAS, the Todd County Board of Commissioners are establishing their approval for a Gambling Permit for the Browerville Sportsman Club through this resolution;

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Todd County Board of Commissioners approve a Gambling Permit for the Browerville Sportsman Club to hold a raffle event at the Clarissa Ballroom in Eagle Valley Township

at the address 19281 Kotter Road, Clarissa, MN on March 7, 2021.

To approve hiring of Mr. Arlan Bjorstrom to fill the Temporary Emergency Equipment Operator position.

To approve Sheri Greenwaldt to fill the open Public Health Nurse position.

To approve Jesse Cebulla to fill the open Registered Nurse position.

Auditor-Treasurer

On motion by Neumann and seconded by Kneisl, the following motion was introduced and adopted by unanimous Roll Call vote: To approve the Commissioner Warrants number (ACH) 400910 through 400934 in the amount of \$34,699.42 and (Regular) 54104 through 54160 in the amount of \$129,479.91 for a total of \$164,179.33.

On motion by Erickson and seconded by Becker, the following motion was introduced and adopted by unanimous Roll Call vote: To approve the Health & Human Services Commissioner Warrants number (ACH) 801138 through 801201 and (Regular) 707238 through 707307 for a total amount of \$74,455.21.

On motion by Kneisl and seconded by Neumann, the following motion was introduced and adopted by unanimous Roll Call vote: To approve the Health & Human Services SSIS Warrants number (ACH) 600289 through 600299 and (Regular) 516059 through 516088 for a total amount of \$77,288.86.

Public Works

On motion by Erickson and seconded by Becker, the following resolution was

introduced and adopted by unanimous vote:

FINAL PAYMENT AUTHORIZATION – 2020 HIGHWAY CONSTRUCTION CONTRACT

WHEREAS, the contract with Anderson Brothers Construction for the 2020 Highway Construction Contract known as SAP 077-598-028, SAP 077-614-018, SAP 077-632-006, SAP 077-611-033, SAP 077-593-001, SAP 077-601-022, SAP 077-603-009 & CP 77-20-01 located on various routes in Todd County, has in all things been completed, and;

WHEREAS, construction work on this contract was scheduled and completed in 2020 with the value of the total work certified being \$4,034,201.79, and;

WHEREAS, partial payments amounting to \$3,824,919.61, have been previously been made to the contractor as work progressed, and;

WHEREAS, it has been determined that \$209,282.19 still remains to be paid to Anderson Brothers Construction.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Commissioners does here accept said completed project for and in behalf of the County of Todd and authorize final payment as specified.

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

2021 MASTER BRIDGE PRIORITY REPLACEMENT LIST

WHEREAS, Todd County has determined that the attached list of bridge on County State Aid Highways, County Roads, Township Roads, and Municipal Streets are either listed as structurally deficient or are a high priority for removal and replacement within the immediate future, and;

WHEREAS, local roads play an essential role in the overall state transportation network and local bridges are a critical component of the local road system, and;

WHEREAS, State support for the replacement of bridges continues to be crucial to maintaining the integrity of the local road system and is necessary funding source for the County, Townships, and Municipalities to proceed with replacements of the bridges on the attached list, and;

WHEREAS, Todd County intends to proceed with the replacement of these bridges as soon as either State Transportation Bond Funds or State Town-bridge Funds become available.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that Todd County commits that it will proceed with the replacement of these listed bridges immediately after being notified of the availability of State Transportation Bond Funds or State Town-bridge Funds.

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

REQUEST FOR SPEED LIMIT STUDY ON COUNTY ROAD #10

WHEREAS, some Todd County residents have expressed concerns over the appropriateness of the 55 mile per hour regulatory speed limit on County Road 10 from the Douglas County Line to 500' northeast of Eagle View Drive in Gordon Township, and;

WHEREAS, by Minnesota Statute 169.14, Subdivision 5, local authorities can request the Commissioner of the Department of Transportation to authorize a speed limit on a local (non-trunk highway) roadway.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Todd County Board of Commissioners does hereby request the Commissioner of Transportation to make the necessary investigation to determine the reasonable and safe speed limit, as provided in Section 169.14, Subdivision 5, of the Minnesota Statutes, on Todd County Road 10 from the Douglas County Line to 500' northeast of Eagle View Drive in Gordon Township.

County Sheriff

On motion by Kneisl and seconded by Erickson, the following motion was introduced and adopted by unanimous vote: To approve the updated contract with Anoka County for Medical Examiner Services.

Facilities

On motion by Neumann and seconded by Erickson, the following motion was introduced and adopted by unanimous vote: To approve the purchase of a new backup Generator from Cummins Generator at \$23,944.14.

Planning & Zoning

On motion by Neumann and seconded by Erickson, the following motion was introduced and adopted by unanimous vote: To approve the rezoning of parcel 03-0033000 to Shoreland Zoning.

On motion by Neumann and seconded by Erickson, the following motion was introduced and adopted by unanimous vote: To approve the R&J Addition Preliminary Plat with no conditions.

On motion by Neumann and seconded by Erickson, the following motion was introduced and adopted by unanimous vote: To approve the rezoning of parcel 15-0040000 to Shoreland Zoning.

On motion by Neumann and seconded by Erickson, the following motion was introduced and adopted by unanimous vote: To remand the DC Lien Addition Preliminary Plat with the proposed conditions back to the Planning Commission for further consideration and extend the application period for another 60 days.

On motion by Erickson and seconded by Kneisl, the following motion was introduced and adopted by unanimous vote: To approve a Conditional Use Permit for Temporary Family Living on parcel 20-0018800 with no conditions.

On motion by Neumann and seconded by Erickson, the following motion was introduced and adopted by unanimous vote: To approve the Sibell Subdivision Four Preliminary Plat with the proposed conditions.

Health & Human Services

On motion by Erickson and seconded by Kneisl, the following motion was introduced and adopted by unanimous vote: To approve the revised Todd County Tobacco Sales & Access Ordinance.

Jackie Och, HHS Director presented an update on the COVID-19 Situation for

discussion.

Administration

On motion by Becker and seconded by Neumann, the following motion was introduced and adopted by unanimous vote: To approve HHS CARES Act request of \$38,747 to purchase saliva test kits.

On motion by Erickson and seconded by Kneisl, the following motion was introduced and adopted by unanimous vote: To award Grants approved for Todd County 3rd Round Small Business Relief Grant Program.

On motion by Erickson and seconded by Neumann, the following motion was introduced and adopted by unanimous vote: To extend the deadline for the Small Business Grant Relief application submissions to December 1, 2020.

A progress report was provided by the County Coordinator regarding the CARES Act Funds projects for the County Board's review and discussion.

On motion by Becker and seconded by Kneisl, the following motion was introduced and adopted by unanimous vote: To award Grants approved for Todd County Extended 2nd Round Small Business and Non-Profit Relief Grant Program.

Adjourn

On motion by Kneisl and seconded by Neumann, the meeting was adjourned for the month of November 2020.

COMMISSIONER WARRANTS		
Vendor Name.....	\$ Amount	
APPLIED CONCEPTS INC.....	\$6,020.50	
ARC ELECTRIC SERVICE.....	3,680.86	
BIG STONE THERAPIES, INC.....	4,716.13	
CARGILL SALT DIVISION.....	49,252.54	
CHARM-TEX.....	3,943.60	
CITY OF LONG PRAIRIE.....	3,289.40	
D & D AUTO REPAIR.....	2,374.53	
DIAMOND MOWERS INC.....	2,782.00	
FARM-RITE EQUIP, INC.....	3,323.50	
GOODIN COMPANY.....	4,681.90	
H & L MESABI.....	12,778.84	
HERDERING INC.....	13,558.58	
LABSOURCE.....	4,091.50	
NORTHERN STAR COOP.....	2,688.70	
O'REILY AUTO PARTS.....	2,294.17	
ROYAL TIRE.....	8,287.38	
STREICHER'S.....	2,611.98	
ZIEGLER INC.....	10,109.65	
64 PAYMENTS LESS		
THAN \$2,000.....	23,693.57	
Total.....	\$164,179.33	

HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES WARRANTS

Vendor Name.....	\$ Amount
#16413.....	\$2,311.36
#15998.....	3,124.49
#14593.....	3,867.56
HOLISTIC FAMILY ED. SRVS.....	5,520.65
LUTHERAN SOCIAL SERV. OF MN-ST PAUL.....	2,765.20
#10746.....	3,749.88
MLPS FORENSIC PSYCHOLOGICAL SRVS...	2,400.00
NEW HORIZON ACADEMY 75.....	2,307.00
NORTH HOMES CHILDREN & FAMILY SRVS.....	2,320.86
NORTHERN PINES MENTAL HLTH CTR INC.....	2,500.00
NORTHLAND COUNSELING CTR- FAMILY HEALING.....	14,135.00
#16183.....	2,626.32
STEP.....	5,669.60
#16109.....	2,036.08
WEST CENTRAL REG JUVENILE CTR.....	4,114.00
PAYMENTS LESS	
THAN \$2,000.....	17,840.86
Total.....	\$77,288.86

Vendor Name.....	\$ Amount
DHS- SWIFT.....	\$2,090.88
DISCOVERY BENEFITS LLC.....	2,975.56
RURAL MN CEP INC.....	13,928.73
131 PAYMENTS LESS	
THAN \$2,000.....	55,460.04
Total.....	\$74,455.21

On a motion by Becker and seconded by Erickson, the preceding minutes of the County Board meeting held November 17, 2020 were duly approved by unanimous vote at the Todd County Board of Commissioners at the Regular Board Meeting held on December 1, 2020.

Witness my hand and seal:

David Kircher,
County Board Chairperson

Denise Gaida, Todd County Auditor-Treasurer

2pnc

City of Staples Summary Budget 2021				
The purpose of this report is to provide summary 2021 budget information concerning the City of Staples to interested citizens. The budget is published in accordance with Minn. Stat. Sec. 471.6965. This budget is not complete: The complete budget may be examined at City Hall, 122 6th St NE. The City Council approved the budget on December 8, 2020.				
Table 1 Governmental Funds 2021 Adopted Budget				
Budgeted Governmental Funds	2019 Actual	2020 Budget	2021 Adopted	
Revenues				
Property taxes	\$ 1,023,597	\$ 997,452	\$ 1,009,728	
All other taxes	570,846	652,810	668,000	
Special assessments	104,369	96,740	88,090	
Licenses and permits	132,400	77,100	79,565	
Intergovernmental revenues				
Federal	546,805	612,000	370,312	
State	1,327,582	1,494,630	1,314,971	
County	-	-	-	
Other Local Units	54,095	-	-	
Charges for services	110,618	268,440	294,980	
Fines and forfeits	21,714	22,000	22,000	
Interest on investments	129,227	76,665	37,870	
Miscellaneous	233,691	99,200	112,910	
Total Revenues	\$ 4,254,584	\$ 4,397,037	\$ 3,998,426	
Other Financing Sources				
Proceeds from borrowing	\$ 64,818	-	-	
Transfers from other funds	66,369	\$ 60,000	\$ 60,000	
Proceeds from sale of capital assets	119,954			
Expenditures				
Current:				
General Government	\$ 461,522	\$ 436,312	\$ 445,741	
Public Safety	929,023	1,075,040	1,093,072	
Streets and Highways	453,116	601,440	615,363	
Culture and Recreation	193,496	146,680	154,598	
Economic Development	483,503	176,490	160,475	
Miscellaneous	83,209	371,640	418,640	
Total Current Expenditures	2,603,869	2,807,602	2,887,889	
Debt Service - Principal	489,000	505,000	511,000	
Interest and Fiscal Charges	332,510	211,405	192,853	
Capital Outlay	1,212,658	1,140,300	560,249	
Total Expenditures	\$ 4,638,037	\$ 4,664,307	\$ 4,151,991	
Other Financing Uses				
Transfers to Other Funds	-	-	-	
Debt refinancing	-	-	-	
Increase (Decrease) in Fund Balance	\$ (132,312)	\$ (207,270)	\$ (93,565)	
Property Tax Levy Required to Fund the 2021 Budget	\$ 1,023,597	\$ 997,452	\$ 1,009,728	

CITY OF STAPLES Table 2 Enterprise Funds 2021 Adopted Budget							
	Community Center	Sewer	Water	Electric	2021 Adopted Budget	2020 Adopted Budget	2019 Actual
Operating Revenues							
Charges for services	\$ 91,800	\$ 730,800	\$ 603,200	\$ 2,948,500	\$ 4,374,300	\$ 4,611,630	\$ 4,385,252
Other operating revenue	-	104,400	50,300	267,175	421,875	58,980	183,951
Operating Expenses							
Personal Services	171,887	219,552	208,295	600,745	1,200,479	1,172,480	1,139,466
Contractual Services	46,760	92,150	80,900	292,295	512,105	519,270	480,412
Supplies	18,250	78,200	67,400	108,400	272,250	248,150	268,000
Purchase of energy	-	-	-	1,742,103	1,742,103	1,716,820	1,703,192
Heat, Light, Power	38,990	75,000	34,000	102,100	158,190	150,500	166,246
Depreciation/Capital Outlay	66,600	8,030,000	225,000	404,500	8,726,100	9,376,600	430,339
Total Operating Expenses	\$ 342,487	\$ 8,494,902	\$ 615,595	\$ 3,158,243	\$ 12,611,227	\$ 13,183,820	\$ 4,187,655
Operating Income (Loss)	\$ (250,687)	\$ (7,659,702)	\$ 37,905	\$ 57,432	\$ (7,815,052)	\$ (8,513,210)	\$ 381,548
Nonoperating Revenues (Expenses)							
Property Taxes	49,310	-	-	-	49,310	41,810	19,632
Intergovernmental	127,460	-	-	-	127,460	126,200	119,418
Interest Earnings	2,000	1,000	6,000	34,450	43,450	39,400	76,367
Miscellaneous revenue	4,500	2,960,000	8,850	24,500	2,997,850	3,882,610	5,663
Operating grants and contributions	50,000	5,040,000	-	-	5,090,000	5,018,990	328,495
Interest and Fiscal Charges	-	(175,000)	(154,721)	(167,382)	(497,103)	(318,722)	(68,835)
Total Nonoperating Revenues (Expenses)	233,270	7,826,000	(139,871)	(108,432)	7,810,967	8,790,288	480,740
Income (Loss) Before Operating Transfers	(17,417)	166,298	(101,966)	(51,000)	(4,085)	277,078	862,288
Operating Transfers In (Out)	-	-	(20,000)	(40,000)	(60,000)	(311,000)	(66,369)
Net Income (Loss)	\$ (17,417)	\$ 166,298	\$ (121,966)	\$ (91,000)	\$ (64,085)	\$ (33,922)	\$ 795,919



The Open Book

Now Online

Search public notices published in local newspapers from across the state in one convenient place. Stay in the know at www.mnpublicnotice.com

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

Staples-Motley School Board Minutes

**ISD #2170
SCHOOL BOARD
MEETING #8
Nov. 23, 2020, 6 p.m.
District Office**

MINUTES

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order with Longbella, Freeman, Lund, Frisk, Winkels and Anderson present (comprising a quorum). Also attending: Supt. Tappe; Business Services, Herdegen and Regan; Principals, Johnson and Schmidt; Activities, Lee; SMES Rep., Simek; Science Curriculum staff; Bldgs and Grounds, Peterson; Staples World Managing Editor, Anderson; Recording Secretary, Madson. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Motion by Longbella, seconded by Frisk, to call the meeting to order: MC

Facilities

LTFM Project Report
-Troy Miller, LHB

Troy Miller attended remotely, and gave a brief update on the completion of the MS/HS and Elementary projects which began last spring. Some challenges delayed the process along the way and we are still waiting for the delivery of parts for the electrical systems at the HS CTE area. Project costs will be finalized with the project is closed.

Consent Agenda:

Motion by Lund, seconded by Anderson, to approve the Consent Agenda. MC

Grants and donations

Motion by Longbella, seconded by Freeman, to approve the Resolution to Accept Cash Donations and Grants in the amount of \$2,670 and to acknowledge the receipt of donated items in the amount of approximately \$2,400. MC

Finance Items:

Motion by Longbella, seconded by Frisk, to authorize payment of the vouchers. MC

VII. Curriculum and Policy (Policy Committee minutes 10-26-20)

First Reading of Policy
#713 Student Activity Accounting

No action needed. The Board will be asked to adopt this Policy in December.

Motion by Winkels, seconded by Freeman, to approve the review of policy #419 Tobacco Free Environment with Revisions; #611Homeschooling; #624 and #624.1 On-Line Learning Options and Procedures, #520 Student Surveys, and #600 Parent Volunteers with minor revisions or no changes. MC

Presentation of the updated Science Curriculum document - (*no action needed*)

Several Board Members spoke on behalf of Chad Longbella, commending him for 29 years of service and commitment to the education of Staples-Motley students. Chad's tenure as a Board member will end on Dec. 31, 2020.

Adjournment

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

2pnc

**SCHOOL BOARD
WORK SESSION
& TRUTH IN TAXATION
- MEETING #9
Dec. 7, 2020,
6:00 p.m.
District Office**

MINUTES

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order with Longbella, Freeman, Frisk, Lund, Winkels and Anderson present (comprising a quorum). Also attending: Supt. Tappe; Principals Johnson and Schmidt; Business Services, Herdegen and Regan; several students, parents and staff; Staples World Managing Editor, Anderson and Recording Secretary Madson. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

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

Truth in Taxation Levy and Budget Public Discussion

Chuck Herdegen presented the Levy Certification Summary and provided a Public Hearing power point to Board Members. The

Board will certify the Levy Dec. 21, 2020.

Facilities Updates / ICS Consulting

Mike Hubbard gave an update

- The scientific survey is complete

- "Plan B" funding was presented remotely by Ehlers. This plan would address boilers, indoor air quality, roofs, windows, tuck-pointing, parking lots, ADA compliance and an elementary gym addition if the bond referendum is not successful. The funding for Plan B was reviewed: Abatement Bonds, Capital facilities bonds, lease levy, health and safety and deferred maintenance. PLAN B is based on net tax capacity

- The facility options were presented again with questions answered regarding renovations and new construction.

Community Survey Results / Morris Leatherman Company

Peter Leatherman gave a remote report on the scientific survey which was conducted in November.

The survey consisted of 400 random households in the district and concluded that the district would be most likely to support a two facility option (remodel and new construction on the existing elementary and MS/HS).

The survey gave a favorable rating to the district for it's handling and communication during the pandemic and the job performance of teachers and administration.

Based on community support and tax tolerance, the Facility Committee made the recommendation to move forward with the Review and Comment process for a two-building plan. The final decision will be made at the Dec. 21, 2020 meeting.

Adjournment

Motion by Lund, seconded by Anderson, to adjourn the Work Session at 7:45 p.m.

Complete minutes available at www.isd2170.k12.mn.us

2pnc

Todd County Board votes for 2021 salary increases

By Karin L. Nauber
Todd County correspondent

The elected officials of Todd County will start the year with a minimum of a two percent salary increase in 2021.

At their year-end meeting held on Dec. 29, the commissioners voted to raise the salaries of the elected officials in the following fashion:

- Board: 2 percent increase from \$31,940 annually with no per diem to \$32,578.80.

- County Attorney: 2 percent (asked for 2.5 percent) increase from \$118,151 to \$120,514.02.

- Auditor/Treasurer: 2 percent (asked for 4 percent) increase from \$92,578 to \$94,429.56.

- Recorder: With Chairman David Kircher opposed, the board approved a 2 percent increase for the county recorder. Kircher said this salary was low compared to the state average. Recorder Linda Daoust had requested a 5 percent increase. Her salary went from \$69,186 to \$70,569.72 with the 2 percent increase.

- Sheriff: 8 percent increase (asked for 10 percent) from \$94,180 to \$101,714. Commissioner Barb Becker made the motion for 8 percent because there is a lot going on in the sheriff's department. The sheriff's salary is lower than comparable counties.

- Non-union and Appointed Officials: 2 percent general increase.

In other business

- Approved a One-Year On and Off Sale 3.2 Malt Liquor License for Don & Dave's Store in Moran Township effective Jan. 1, through Dec. 31, 2021.

- According to Auditor/Treasurer Denise Gaida, Todd County received \$3,000,085 on July 31, 2020 from the Federal CARES Act CRF (Coronavirus Relief Funds) and have used/expensed all funds within the allotted time-frame indicated in the federal terms.

In order to comply with audit standards, it is recom-

mended to transfer funds from Fund 19-CARES Act Fund totalling \$573,852 to Fund 01-General Fund \$361,298, Fund 03-Public Works \$874.67, Fund 21-Public Health \$181,475, Fund 37-Building Improvement \$5,904, Fund 51-Solid Waste \$18,504, and Fund 75-Community Corrections \$5,794.

The board approved the transfers.

- A transfer of funds from the General Fund to the Building Construction Fund in the amount of \$91,125 was approved to balance the books on the work done on the Expo Building.

- Approved setting a committed fund balance account for future retirements within the General Fund with a balance of \$50,000 for fiscal year ending 2020. This fund balance will be revealed on an annual basis for transparent financial reporting. This is just for departments that are under the General Fund.

- Approved a 2020 budget rollover request (Retiree Severance) for the Public Works department in the amount of \$30,800. Engineer Loren Fellbaum said that an expected retirement did not occur, but it was anticipated that it would occur in 2021.

- Appointed Amy Allen, member at large and Kevin Ehnes, District 2 to the Extension committee.

- Approved the contract with CentraCare Clinic for the jail. The contract will provide a number of services: including medical director, nursing services, and mental health services.

The cost of the one year contract is \$131,800.

- Approved a 2020 Budget Rollover Request for the MIS department in the amount of \$7,000. The 2020 MIS budget included a project of moving to hosted services for i-Series access. Due to unforeseen workload created by COVID-19, this project was not completed within the 2020 calendar year. It is expected to be completed in 2021.

- Approved the 2021 Solid Waste department budget (see illustration.)

- Approved the final payment to Arnzen Construction for the Expo Building construction contract in the amount of \$145,013.66.

The total of the project was \$1,377,859.70.

- The board approved a motion to withdraw from the Minnesota Merit System. The withdrawal process takes one year.

Health and Human Services Director Jackie Och said that the system has served them well, but with 10 or 11 other counties withdrawing, the cost for Todd County and the other remaining members will likely increase significantly.

The system performs human resources functions which the county also does.

Och said she had been considering this for some time now because she feels that the county's HR department is doing well.

When she received the notification on Christmas Eve that several counties were planning to leave the system, it clinched her decision.

Human Resources Director Sara Ogren said that the Merit System does the same things her department does.

The deadline to submit a withdrawal notice was Dec. 30 or 31 so it had to be done expeditiously. If they missed this deadline, they would have to wait two years to withdraw.

- Solid Waste Director Chris McConn gave an update on the insurance situation for the Prairie Lakes incinerator. He said that Minnesota Counties Inter-governmental Trust (MCIT) has come up with some alternatives that will provide insurance coverage for the facility in Perham.

The premium for coverage is about 25 percent less but has a higher deductible.

McConn has asked MCIT for a history of claims by the county. He said that for the past three years that he has been working for the county he has never submitted a claim.

Solid waste budget.png

- Planning and Zoning Director Adam Ossefoort had a number of items on the list.

First was an application from Jeanette Mueller for rezoning a parcel from AF1 to AF2. This had come before the board previously with a recommended denial from the Planning Commission. Ossefoort said that the rezoning did not correlate with the intention of the county's ordinance.

Commissioner Rod Erickson made a case for the rezoning and said he saw no problem with granting it.

With no conditions, the commissioners approved the rezoning with a 3-2 vote. Commissioners Randy Neumann and Barb Becker cast the dissenting votes.

Ossefoort also presented a number of violation updates. An update was provided by Ossefoort during the Dec. 15 work session on.

NOTICE OF MORTGAGE FORECLOSURE SALE

THE RIGHT TO VERIFICATION OF THE DEBT AND IDENTITY OF THE ORIGINAL CREDITOR WITHIN THE TIME PROVIDED BY LAW IS NOT AFFECTED BY THIS ACTION.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN: That default has occurred in the conditions of the following described mortgage:

DATE OF MORTGAGE: April 12, 2017

ORIGINAL PRINCIPAL AMOUNT OF MORTGAGE: \$122,550.00

MORTGAGOR(S): Jacob Meyer, a single man

MORTGAGEE: Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc., as nominee for United Wholesale Mortgage

DATE AND PLACE OF FILING: Recorded on April 13, 2017 as Document Number 503546 in the Office of the County Recorder of Todd County, Minnesota.

ASSIGNMENTS OF MORTGAGE: Assigned to: Nationstar Mortgage LLC d/b/a Mr. Cooper by assignment recorded on December 17, 2019 as Document Number A517474 in the Office of the County Recorder of Todd County, Minnesota.

LEGAL DESCRIPTION OF PROPERTY: The North Half of the South Half of the Northwest Quarter (N1/2 S1/2 NW1/4) of Section Twenty-three (23), Township One Hundred Thirty-one (131) North, Range Thirty-four (34) West of the Fifth P.M., according to the United States Government Survey thereof, Todd County, Minnesota.

STREET ADDRESS OF PROPERTY: 35614 205TH AVE, CLARISSA, MN 56440

COUNTY IN WHICH

PROPERTY IS LOCATED: Todd County, Minnesota.

THE AMOUNT CLAIMED TO BE DUE ON THE MORTGAGE ON THE DATE OF THE NOTICE: \$132,639.27

TRANSACTION AGENT: Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc.

NAME OF MORTGAGE ORIGINATOR: United Wholesale Mortgage

RESIDENTIAL SERVICER: Nationstar Mortgage LLC d/b/a Mr. Cooper

TAX PARCEL IDENTIFICATION NUMBER: 07-0027201

TRANSACTION AGENT'S MORTGAGE IDENTIFICATION NUMBER: 100032412170200270

THAT no action or proceeding has been instituted at law to recover the debt then remaining secured by such mortgage, or any part thereof, or, if the action or proceeding has been instituted, that the same has been discontinued, or that an execution upon the judgment rendered therein has been returned unsatisfied, in whole or in part.

PURSUANT, to the power of sale contained in said mortgage, the above described property will be sold by the Sheriff of said county as follows:

DATE AND TIME OF SALE: January 28, 2021 at 10:00 a.m.

PLACE OF SALE: Todd County Sheriff's Office, County Detention Center, 115 Third Street South, Long Prairie, MN 56347.

to pay the debt then secured by said mortgage and taxes, if any actually paid by the mortgagee, on the premises and the costs and disbursements allowed by law. The time allowed by law for redemption by said mortgagor(s), their personal representatives or assigns is

twelve (12) months from the date of sale.

TIME AND DATE TO VACATE PROPERTY: Unless said mortgage is reinstated or the property redeemed, or unless the time for redemption is reduced by judicial order, you must vacate the premises by 11:59 p.m. on January 28, 2022.

THE TIME ALLOWED BY LAW FOR REDEMPTION BY THE MORTGAGOR, THE MORTGAGOR'S PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVES OR ASSIGNS, MAY BE REDUCED TO FIVE WEEKS IF A JUDICIAL ORDER IS ENTERED UNDER MINNESOTA STATUTES, SECTION 582.032, DETERMINING, AMONG OTHER THINGS, THAT THE MORTGAGED PREMISES ARE IMPROVED WITH A RESIDENTIAL DWELLING OF LESS THAN FIVE UNITS, ARE NOT PROPERLY USED IN AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTION, AND ARE ABANDONED.

MORTGAGOR(S) RELEASED FROM FINANCIAL OBLIGATION ON MORTGAGE: None

Dated: November 25, 2020

NATIONSTAR
MORTGAGE LLC D/B/A
MR. COOPER
Mortgagee

TROTT LAW, P.C.
N. Kibongni
Fondungallah, Esq.
Samuel R. Coleman, Esq.
Michael van Muelken, Esq.

Attorneys for Mortgagee
25 Dale Street North
St. Paul, MN 55102
(651) 209-9760
(19-1521-FC02)

THIS IS A COMMUNICATION FROM A DEBT COLLECTOR.

50-6pnc



Prepare for power outages with a Generac home standby generator

**REQUEST A FREE QUOTE!
855-984-8982**

FREE
7-Year Extended Warranty*
A \$695 Value!

Offer valid December 15, 2020 - March 1, 2021

Special Financing Available
Subject to Credit Approval

*To qualify, consumers must request a quote, purchase, install and activate the generator with a participating dealer. Call for a full list of terms and conditions.



MCA Network

Minnesota Classified Advertising Network



WANTED TO BUY WANTED: ALL 1970S MOTORCYCLES Running or not. Titled or not. Cash in exchange. Sell now while prices are high! Call Dan at 612/720-2142	MISCELLANEOUS TIMESHARE CANCELLATION EXPERTS Over \$50,000,000 in timeshare debt and fees cancelled in 2019. Get free informational package and learn how to get rid of your timeshare! Free consultations. Over 450 positive reviews. Call 833/619-1117 AT&T WIRELESS Two great new offers! Ask how to get the new iPhone 11 or Next Generation Samsung Galaxy S10e on us with AT&T's Buy one, Give One offer. While supplies last! Call 855/332-0464 DONATE YOUR CAR truck or boat to Heritage For The Blind. Free 3-day vacation, tax deductible, free towing, all paperwork taken care of 844/220-9501	MISCELLANEOUS DIRECTV Every live football game, every Sunday - anywhere - on your favorite device. Restrictions apply. Call IVS 877/350-0094 DISH NETWORK \$59.99 for 190 Channels! Blazing fast internet \$19.99/mo. (where available.) Switch & get a free \$100 Visa gift card. Free voice remote. Free HD DVR. Free streaming on all devices. Call today! 855/562-4309 SAVE MONEY! Call your local newspaper or MNA 800-279-2979 to find out how you can save money by placing your advertisement here!
---	--	--



Place your Classified Ad

for only ^{\$9⁸⁵}/wk.

Your ad will appear Wednesday in the

and online at www.staplesworld.com

Mailing address for checks:

Staples World

P.O. Box 100

Staples, MN 56479



Payment must accompany the order.

Use form below or click on www.staplesworld.com**Deadline: Friday at Noon**

Classifications

NOTICES

100 Events/
Announcements
101 Card of Thanks
102 In Memory
103 Lost & Found
104 Give Away
106 Personals
107 Notices

SERVICES & EMPLOYMENT

201 Business
Opportunities
202 Childcare
Providers
203 Childcare
Wanted
205 Help Wanted
206 Positions
Wanted
207 Equipment
for Rent
208 Storage
209 Business
Services
210 Animal Care/
Supplies
211 Work Wanted

FOR SALE

300 Antiques/
Collectibles
301 Good Things
to Eat
302 Lawn/Garden
303 Hay/Straw/
Feed/Seed
304 Livestock
305 Pets
306 Sporting Goods
307 Household
308 Musical
309 Miscellaneous
310 Health/Beauty
311 Firewood
312 Christmas Trees
313 Computers/
Office Equip.
314 Farm Services
315 Camper Trailer

VEHICLES

401 Automobiles
402 Trucks/Vans
403 Recreational
404 Farm
Equipment
405 Heavy
Equipment
406 Parts/ Repair

WANTED TO BUY

501 Miscellaneous
502 Livestock

REAL ESTATE

601 Wanted to Rent
602 Apartments
for Rent
603 Houses
for Rent
604 Commercial
for Rent
605 Mobile Homes
for Rent
606 Land for Rent
607 Houses
for Sale
608 Farms for Sale
609 Mobile Homes
for Sale
610 Land for Sale
611 Business
Property
for Sale
612 Real Estate
Wanted

GARAGE SALES

701 Garage Sales
702 Flea Market/
Crafts

SERVICES & EMPLOYMENT

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 ser-
vice, Staples True Val-
ue, Staples. 218-894-3263.
26tfc

HELP WANTED
Street Maintenance
Operator

The City of Staples Public Works
Department is accepting applications
for the position of Street Maintenance Operator.

This position provides a variety of skilled, semi-skilled and manual work
in the routine maintenance of the municipal streets, alleys, City facilities
and parks, as well as the water system, storm and sanitary sewer collection
systems. Class "B" CDL required, plus a minimum of two years Heavy
Equipment Operating experience and two years Heavy Operator Vocational
training or equivalent related experience.

Wage range for the position: \$19.47 to \$27.82 with full benefits.

A cover letter, resumé, and application forms must be
submitted to: Public Works Director Scott Grabe,
122 6th Street NE, Staples, MN 56479.
Application deadline: January 22, 2021.
Anticipated start date is mid-February.

Job description and application materials can be obtained at the
City website www.staples.govoffice.com or by telephoning
Staples City Hall. 218-894-2550.

EOE

c11-2c

CENTRAL TODD COUNTY



Certified Nursing Assistants

We are in search for someone who is looking
for a rewarding job in the Nursing field.
Evening and Night shifts now available for CNAs.
Must be a TEAM player and possess a special interest in
working with Long Term Care residents, families and visitors.

CTCCC offers a wide variety of benefits
and is an Equal Opportunity Employer.

Contact Amanda Rickbeil, arickbeil@ctcccinc.com
or call 218-756-3636 ext. 12

Pick up an application in the Business Office,
Mon.-Fri., 8 a.m.-4:30 p.m.
or after hours at the Nurse's Station.

CENTRAL TODD COUNTY CARE CENTER IS LOCATED IN CLARISSA, MN.

c130tfc

PERMIT
TO CARRY CLASS

New: \$75 Renewal \$55

Ed Jose

Call 218-371-2151

WANTED TO
BUY

501

Miscellaneous
JUNK CARS & TRUCKS.
218-639-5509. 2-3c

REAL ESTATE

602

Apartments
for Rent

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

COZY 2 bdrm., great
location, welcome: 520-249-
0152. 29tfc

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

BRUTGER
EQUITIES, INC.
Income guidelines apply.

Apartments for Rent

Staples Northside Apartments

936 6th Street

Smoke Free, Pet Friendly w/restrictions

Water, garbage included

Rental Assistance Available

Van Binsbergen & Associates, Inc.

320-269-6640 ext 23

www.vanblc.com

c150c



BUY IT SELL IT FIND IT IN THE CLASSIFIEDS

CENTRAL TODD COUNTY Care Center

Housekeeping and Laundry

Full-time and Part-time positions available
in our Environmental Services Department.
Applicants must be at least 16 years of age.

CTCCC offers a wide variety of benefits,
and is an equal opportunity employer.

CENTRAL TODD COUNTY



Please contact us for options
available for applying.
Business Office hours:
Mon. - Fri., 8 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.
218-756-3636

Central Todd County Care Center is located in Clarissa, MN

c152-3c

*SERVICE DIRECTORY*SERVICE DIRECTORY*SERVICE DIRECTORY*SERVICE DIRECTORY*SERVICE DIRECTORY*SERVICE DIRECTORY*SERVICE DIRECTORY*SERVICE DIRECTORY

SERVICE DIRECTORY

PAUL DRAKE TREE SERVICE
•General •Lot Clearing
•Storm Damage Clean Up
•Stump Grinding •Brushing
•55 ft. Bucket Truck
218-894-2871

Sportsmans Plumbing-Heating-A/C, LLC
Clayton Hageman
218-831-8720
24 Hour Emergency Service

H&R Electric of Staples
Electrical Services for
•Residential
•Commercial
•Industrial
218-296-2461
Zach Hanson 218-296-1285 • Mike Rollins 218-296-2461
hrelectricofstaples@yahoo.com
Licensed, Bonded & Insured • Over 30 years experience

GIZA
EST 1934
PLUMBING & HEATING
• PLUMBING
• HEATING
• AIR CONDITIONING
• GEOTHERMAL
• NEW CONSTRUCTION
• REMODEL
• SERVICE
MN LIC. #PC644417
218-894-2284
WWW.CALLGIZA.COM

Small Engine Repair
Authorized.....
Stihl, MTD, Murray, Scag,
Briggs & Stratton, Poulan
Sales-Service-Repair
Staples Ace Hardware
218-894-1080

LPS Inc.
Long Prairie Sanitation
Long Prairie, MN
218-631-3101 888-878-5578

Mixed Firewood
By the bundle
or by the truckload.
8 foot lengths
or processed
Enberg Logging
218-352-6175

SERVICING ALL BRANDS
Sharpen Mower Blades
Sharpen Saw Chains,
Small Engine Repair + more
SERVICE HOURS
Mon - Fri,
8am to 4pm
205 Warner Rd • 218.894.3263

ALBIE ELECTRIC LLC
Cell 838-0581 Home Office 894-0151
RESIDENTIAL AND LIGHT COMMERCIAL
ELECTRICAL INSTALLATIONS

Anderson Septic Service, LLC
•LOCAL SERVICE! •LOCAL PRICING!
Serving - Staples - Motley - Pillager
218-296-2835
crazycrates@youmail.com

Altrichter Excavation & Septic Service
218-575-2222
•Septic System Installation
•Camera Inspection, Tank
Pumping and Cleaning

ALTRICHTER SEPTIC SERVICE
218-575-2222
MN State Certified
6685 330th St.,
Cushing, MN. 56443

*SERVICE DIRECTORY*SERVICE DIRECTORY*SERVICE DIRECTORY*SERVICE DIRECTORY*SERVICE DIRECTORY*SERVICE DIRECTORY*SERVICE DIRECTORY*SERVICE

PROFESSIONAL

THRIVENT FINANCIAL
Bob Mueller, RIC, RICP®
Financial Associate
209 4th St NE
PO Box 163
Staples, MN 56479
218-894-2161
bo.mueller@thrivent.com
connect.thrivent.com/bo.mueller
"World's Most Ethical Companies" and "Ethosphere" names and marks are registered
trademarks of Ethosphere LLC. For details, visit Ethosphere.com. 27193 05-19

Sellnow Law Office, P.A.
Thomas H. Sellnow*
sellnowt@sellnowlaw.com
Jason R. Sellnow
sellnowj@sellnowlaw.com
218-894-4618 • 133 4th St. NE, Staples
229 Central Ave., Long Prairie
320-732-1919 • Toll free: 877-297-1125
*Thomas Sellnow is a Real Property Law Specialist certified
by Real Property Section of Minnesota State Bar Association.
• Probate and Trusts
• Estate Planning
• Real Estate
• Title Insurance
• Personal Injury
• Family Law
• Business Law
• Elder Law
• Auto Accidents
www.sellnowlaw.com

Statema Backhoe Service, LLC
MPCA CERTIFIED SEPTIC SYSTEMS
•FREE ESTIMATE FROM DESIGN TO INSTALLATION
•COMPLIANCE INSPECTIONS
Site Prep • Basements • Waterlines • Driveways • Landscaping • Black
Dirt • Gravel • Construction & Abandonment of Manure Pits • Fill Dirt
Clearing & Grading • Ditch Cleaning • Snow Plowing: Commercial & Residential
Andy Statema • 320-594-2912 • 320-594-6347

CONSTRUCTION

PHB Excavating Inc.
Phil Bjerga
218-639-5007
Licensed / Bonded / Insured
Septics • Waterlines • Trenching • Basements • Retaining Walls
Landscaping & Site Preparation • Backhoe & Skid Loader Work
Sewer Pipe Cleaning and Steaming • Custom Pressure Washing
Equipment, Buildings, Driveways, etc. • Snow Plowing & Removal

IDEAL CONSTRUCTION LLC
PAVING THE WAY FOR YOU!
Staples, MN 56479
218-894-3105
Asphalt Paving • Seal Coating • Excavating • Driveways
Roads • Parking Lots • Site Prep • Gravel • Rock • Black Dirt
Fill • Peat • Ponds • Demolition • Hauling • Landscaping
Recycled Concrete and Asphalt

*SERVICE DIRECTORY*SERVICE DIRECTORY*SERVICE DIRECTORY*SERVICE DIRECTORY*SERVICE DIRECTORY*SERVICE DIRECTORY*SERVICE DIRECTORY*SERVICE

LAKEWOOD continued from page 1a

Challenge to discuss difficult health topics through online platforms



Missy Lindow (right) clinic administration, pictured with Michelle Klein, door screen at LHS

3. As you've had to make adaptations, what things have worked? What haven't?

Diabetes educators are unable to perform virtual visits as we are viewed as a hospital service, rather than a clinical service. This may seem odd, as we see more patients in an outpatient setting than in a hospital setting on a day-to-day basis, but it's not something we can control, so we roll with it. We do apologize to our patients for the inconvenience of not being able to do visits virtually. Overall, I do feel our department has made as many accommodations as possible by providing frequent support over the phone to our patients.

4. How do you feel about being at high risk, on the front lines of exposure to the virus?

We have necessary PPE that must be worn while at work. Our risk of exposure with appropriate PPE is seen as minimal. I feel confident and safe from transmission while at work.

Missy Lindow, LHS Director of Clinic Operations and Access

1. What are the biggest changes you have had to make in your job?

One of Lakewood's greatest strengths is our independence; this allows our organization to quickly pivot to meet the needs of the communities we serve. I work with our leadership team and providers to adjust staffing to ensure we can provide Lakewood's standard of care when and where it is needed most, all with an emphasis on safety. Examples include drive-up COVID-19 testing in Staples and Browerville, dedicated Quick Care clinics, and increased staffing in the emergency department and on the hospital floor.

2. What are some of the biggest challenges you've faced?

Some of the biggest challenges for me as a leader are like the challenges everyone is facing. It has been challenging to not connect with my teams face-to-face. We have adjusted to virtual meetings and I am very proud of how our team is

looking out for, and supporting, one another. There is just something special about our time together celebrating, collaborating, and creating a shared future.

3. How do you feel the Lakewood staff, as well as their patients, have adapted to the situation?

Much like the public, I believe Lakewood staff is tired. We have spent the better part of 10 months in the trenches alongside our patients and community. I do believe our community is resilient and we have adapted well to the ever-present changes.

4. As you've had to make adaptations, what things have worked? What haven't?

Scalable plans have been very important. For example, Lakewood wanted to make getting a COVID-19 test as easy as possible for the members of our community. By developing a standing order and a dedicated phone line and implementing block testing times for drive-up testing, we can easily manage the volume of testing we are experiencing on any given day.

5. How do you feel about being at high risk, on the front lines of exposure to the virus?

I feel incredibly safe. Lakewood has an incredible materials management and central supply team who have been working tirelessly to ensure we have the personal protective equipment needed to keep our Lakewood family safe. Their planning and resourcefulness have been instrumental in Lakewood's preparedness through each stage of the COVID-19 pandemic.

6. Are there other things that come to mind?

Thank you, readers of the Staples World, for doing your part to keep our community safe!

Jennifer Swenson-Hove, RN, MDS Coordinator

1. What are the biggest changes you have had to make in your job?

I am new in the MDS role so trying to learn a new job while also working wherever needed as a charge



Jennifer Swenson-Hove, Care Center nurse

nurse or nurse's aide on the floor.

2. What are some of the biggest challenges you've faced?

One of the biggest challenges from the beginning was the first day the shutdown was ordered was also the first time I met one of my new residents. His wife was visiting, so I had to ask her to leave. She asked when she could come back, and I had to tell her she couldn't at that time, and we didn't know when that would change. This was very difficult for a married couple who had been together for years. Another challenge that has not been easy has been using Skype and Zoom platforms to discuss difficult topics such as terminal illness and end-of-life care. We've also had to start doing paperwork in the entry way instead of sitting down with residents and families. Another challenge for me was that I was unexpectedly out of work for six weeks. It is truly difficult to be away from the residents, and they notice because when I did come back, several residents asked, "Where have you been?!" It truly makes you feel good!

3. How do you feel the Lakewood staff, as well as their patients, have adapted to the situation?

I feel Lakewood staff are doing an AMAZING job adjusting to all the changes! Residents at the care center have had to make a lot of adjustments such as going from having a private room to now having a roommate, not being able to see their families as often, eating in their rooms, fewer to no activities, and more one-on-one visits from staff, and at times being quarantined to their room. Our residents and staff truly become family!

4. As you've had to make adaptations, what things have worked? What haven't?

We have created separate hallways in the care center for residents who have tested positive for COVID, those on precautions, and those who have tested negative. This is so we can care for everyone while making sure all residents and staff are safe. Staff from not only the care center, but also throughout the system have been so accommodating in picking up shifts and working in different areas when needed. When we've been in real need, there were very few times when we had to mandate staff to stay into the next shift to ensure we were able to continue caring

for residents as best we could.

5. How do you feel about being at high risk, on the front lines of exposure to the virus?

At first was a little concerned, mostly because I do not want to bring the virus home to my husband and children, but there has never once been a doubt that I should not be working in the front lines. I do not know how to explain in words that we are caregivers - it's in our blood - we aren't going anywhere. I am fortunate to work with a great team and we continue to hold each other up during this difficult time!

6. Are there other things that come to mind?

Lakewood has implemented a float pool, so we at the care center have been very fortunate to have other Lakewood staff members come in and help us. We have clinical and non-clinical staff who come in and this has been a huge help and blessing to our staff, and most importantly, our residents!

Amanda Mithun, LMFT, Behavioral Health Home Integration Specialist

1. What are the biggest changes you have had to make in your job?

The biggest change I have seen personally, as well as within the behavioral health department, is the use of telehealth. Prior to COVID-19, telehealth was used minimally within our department. However, with the pandemic, changes have been made on a state and national level that has increased the use and billing of telehealth in our field. As far as the Behavioral Health Home program, which is overseen by the Minnesota Department of Health, we have been given special variances to use telehealth versus in-person visits. As part of our program, face-to-face meetings are required, but at this time we can conduct telehealth visits to meet this requirement. While this is a great way to increase access, availability, and safety, I find it difficult to not actually meet a person I am working with. It's important to establish a relationship with patients, and this can be more difficult when we are unable to meet in person. However, some people prefer this approach as it can be less intimidating.

Another change I have observed recently is the additional stress COVID-19 is having on people regarding mental health. We are starting to see an increase in pandemic-related stressors such as finances, anxiety, and loneliness in recent months as the stress of COVID-19 moves from an acute (short, immediate) stressor into a chronic (long-lasting) stressor. Referrals to mental health are up, as well as the severity of symptoms.

2. What are some of the biggest challenges you've faced?

I think the first initial challenge was in March,

when my office space became part of the COVID-19 clinic area. I had to re-locate my office, my computer, etc. At that time, we weren't sure for how long, so I moved a few items. Fast forward a few months, and I needed to get all my items out of my former office and completely re-locate. It felt good to be settled and no longer feel like I was "homeless/displaced". While this may seem like a small and minute challenge, it speaks to the sense of unknown and uneasiness we all felt this past spring. This did turn out to be a positive change as I have been able to work closely with the behavioral health team and develop strong working relationships. This is an example of a positive change that can result from what is initially a challenge.

Another challenge was running a new program at Lakewood and trying to get it established during a pandemic. The Behavioral Health Home officially became a program in September 2019, and much of the early months were spent marketing the program both internally and externally. When COVID-19 hit, we had to re-focus this energy into different ways of marketing the program.

I think more recently the biggest challenge is helping people cope with a pandemic while having to cope with it myself. I recently went to a webinar training that talked about trauma, and how as mental health providers, we often work with people who have been exposed to trauma. Rarely have we, as providers, been exposed to the same trauma. However, right now, we are all experiencing COVID-19 and its impact. This can help me, as a provider, have increased empathy and understanding of what our patients are experiencing but also reinforces the importance of needing to take care of myself, so I can be present and able to help others.

3. How do you feel the Lakewood staff, as well as their patients, have adapted to the situation?

I continue to be impressed by the human capacity to adapt. If you had told me in January 2020 that wearing face masks, daily screening, and social distancing would become the norm, I would have not been able to comprehend this. However, after nine

months, we as humans and as Lakewood employees, have adapted and this has simply become the norm. For the most part, patients are receptive and understanding of these protocols and have easily adjusted. Staff have adjusted as well. We have been doing daily temperature checks since March, and recently moved to using computers to screen staff. Again, this is just the new norm and part of our daily routine.

4. As you've had to make adaptations, what things have worked? What haven't?

I think overall, many of the changes we have made have worked. And if they didn't at first, we adapt again. That is one of the things I have witnessed at Lakewood - the evolution of problem-solving as circumstances have changed - we continue to adapt, and this has been effective.

5. How do you feel about being at high risk, on the front lines of exposure to the virus?

I don't really consider myself at "high risk" due to the nature of my work. I feel very safe at work wearing my mask and eye protection, and trust that due to screening at the entrances, my exposure here is low. I do think that working in the spring, during the initial stay at home order, was both a blessing and a stressor. It was nice to be able to go to work during that time and still have some sense of normalcy. However, it was very stressful at that time dealing with the unknown, the daily changes to protocol, and carrying the fear of the virus.

6. Are there other things that come to mind?

One of the things I have been doing here at Lakewood Health System is writing a Monday Motivator to help staff with morale. Recently, I shared this one:

I have spent a lot of time reflecting on the past year. I recently came across this saying and it connected with me: "This year I won, failed, cried, laughed, loved but above all I learned".

And this is so true. I have learned a lot about myself, the world, our community, the human spirits' ability to persevere, and how much we have the capacity to adapt. As we enter a new year, I encourage you to reflect on the last year.

2020 will go down in history as "unprecedented"; what can you learn from this year?



Amanda Mithun, behavioral health therapist

Hit and run report

The Wadena County Sheriff's Office is requesting the public's assistance in locating a vehicle that was involved in a hit and run in the early morning hours of Dec. 21 on Wadena County Road 26 north of the intersection of 220th Street, west of Oylen and south of Nimrod. The vehicle left the roadway and struck a power pole.

The Sheriff's Office is looking for a mid-2000's model maroon Chevrolet Tahoe or Suburban. The vehicle will have severe damage to the front and rear end. The vehicle will be missing a running board, handle to the rear gate, and will also have broken out tail lights. The airbags were reportedly deployed.

If you have any information about this incident, contact the Wadena County Sheriff's Office at (218) 631-7600 and reference case number 20018920.

Thank You
to Our Loyal Customers

Merry Christmas
and wishes for a very
Happy New Year!

A photograph of three women standing in front of a white G&T Sanitation truck. The women are Kara Brockpahler, Rita Nolte, and Eva Ehrent. The truck has "G&T SANITATION" and the phone number "832-5846" on its side.

G & T Sanitation

Sebekka, MN

218-837-5846

A small graphic of Santa Claus in a red suit, holding a gift, with snowflakes around him.

LIGHT UP
THE MIND

January 2 - February 27
Adult & Teen Winter Reading Program

Light up your mind with great books
and make reading a habit this winter!

Stargazing graphic with a starry night sky and a telescope.

Reading graphic with an open book and a lamp.

Lighthouse graphic with a beam of light.

Register
for your
chance
to win!

A book cover for "Light Up the Mind" by the Wadena County Library.

Another book cover for "Light Up the Mind" by the Wadena County Library.

Win prizes and virtual badges
by registering at your library or
online at griver.beanstack.org

The logo for the Wadena County Library.

Thanks to the St. Cloud Friends of the Library for supporting the Winter Reading Program.