



Wednesday, February 10, 2021

Staples, Minnesota

\$1

Heart display

Cathy Perish with the Staples Public Library's "I Love to Read" month theme is Stories from the Heart. (Staples World photo by Dawn Timbs)

Staples World

Weather

This Week's Forecast			
	High	Low	Cond.
Feb. 10	-1°	-15°	P. Cloudy
Feb. 11	-6	-20	P. Cloudy
Feb. 12	-8	-22	M. Cloudy
Feb. 13	-4	-21	M. Cloudy
Feb. 14	-2	-15	Sunny
Feb. 15	7	-5	P. Sunny
Feb. 16	10	-4	P. Cloudy

Last Year, 2020			
	High	Low	Cond.
Feb. 10	25°	11°	Cloudy
Feb. 11	26	19	M. Cloudy
Feb. 12	22	-8	Cloudy
Feb. 13	-6	-25	Sunny
Feb. 14	0	-19	Sunny
Feb. 15	15	11	P. Sunny
Feb. 16	16	-2	Sunny

Average Temps:
H = 25° Low = 6°
Total Snow:
For week: 0"
For year: 32.25"

*Compiled by
Dale Hausmann,
WCCO's Staples area
Weatherwatcher*

Public Notices

Todd BOA: **9A**

Obituaries

David Jay
Barry Klemek



Thank you for subscribing!



Committed love

Robin and Pam Collins of Staples have been married 43 years, their love continuing to grow stronger even as they've faced health challenges over the years. Pam has battled Type 1 Diabetes since she was 24 years old and Robin

suffered a stroke this past August, which left him with limited use of his left side. Through it all, they've been there for each other; and neither one of them can imagine life without the other. (Staples World photo by Dawn Timbs)

Love prevails through it all

By Dawn Timbs
Staples World reporter

It's not always easy to keep love alive, even in the best of circumstances. So, how do couples who've been faced with difficulties such as chronic illness make their relationships work?

The Staples World caught up with two married couples recently who were willing to share their love stories...Robin and Pam Collins; and Graeme and Shannon Badger.

Although each is unique, their stories share some similarities. Both of their meetings were unexpected,

a spark felt early on, with marriage vows spoken within a year's time.

At some point their paths led them to Staples, which was a culture shock to at least three people in the story. And, in recent years, both marriages have been challenged by the affects of stroke.

Through it all, their relationships have remained intact, with the embers of love still glowing.

Robin and Pam Collins
"Boy, is he good looking," Pam remembers thinking to herself when she first saw her future husband, Robin, at a bar in Peoria, Ill.

Todd County improving efficiency of vaccine process

By Karin L. Nauber
Todd County correspondent

The Todd County Board of Commissioners heard a COVID-19 situation update from Health and Human Services Director Jackie Och at their Feb. 2, 2021 meeting.

An updated weekly vaccination schedule being set up from Community Health Manager Katherine Mackedan, MPH was also presented.

Mackedan said they will hopefully now know on Fridays what the amount of vaccine they will be receiving.

This will allow them to schedule vaccinations for Wednesdays between noon and 4:30 p.m. They will have a support staff of nine handling phone calls to schedule an appointment by calling 320-732-4500. Noting that the on-line scheduling did not work out very well.

Och said, "Last week we asked for a large quantity of vaccine and got a very small quantity."

She said they're hoping this new way of scheduling will be their new weekly

process.

Commissioner David Kircher asked how they could be sure that the county will get the vaccine needed for the second dose?

Mackedan said that they have received about 180 second doses and have those safety stored in the freezer. She said that when a person comes to get vaccinated, they are scheduled for their second dose 28 days later.

"What is the risk if no second dose is given?" further questioned Kircher.

Mackedan said there was no real risk but a matter of vaccine efficacy. The first dose gives about 50 percent protection while the second dose bumps that up to 95 percent.

She said she was very optimistic that the county would be receiving the needed second doses.

Commissioner Gary Kniesl shared some of the frustrations that he's heard that getting the vaccination or, as was the case, not being able to get it.

Och said that their focus was to keep the vaccine they receive for the people

The two chatted a bit that evening, and then about a month later their paths crossed again at the Poison Apple Discotheque.

Pam was the first to make a move, she shared, adding that she called Robin at his work to invite him over for dinner. She'd deliberated whether or not to make the call. "This was the mid-'70s," Pam said, adding that women just didn't do that sort of thing back then.

Robin said he was "stunned...flabbergasted" at receiving the call and told the young lady that he'd get back to her.

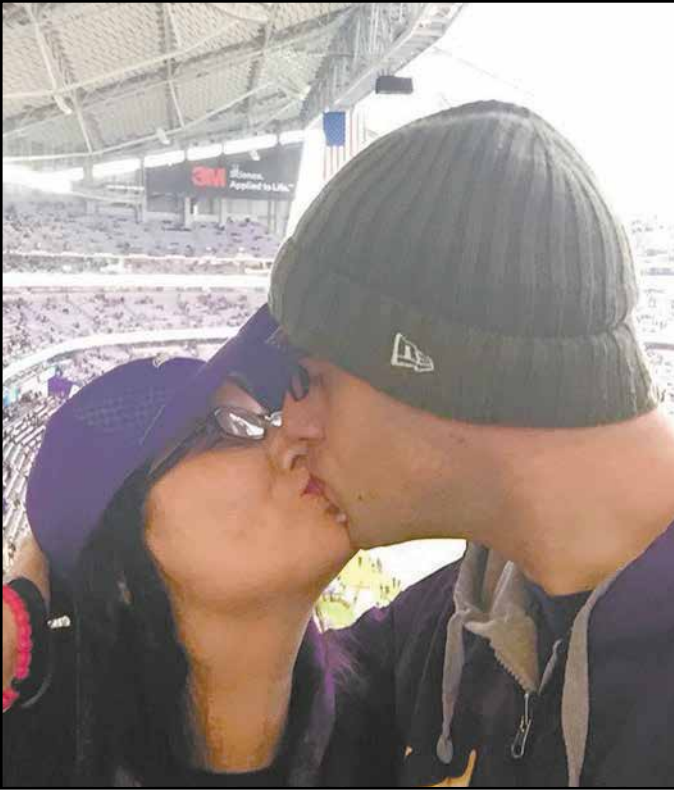
See **COLLINS** on page 10a

Race to the library

This February, the Staples Public Library is challenging all students to see how many visits they can make to the library during February, "I Love to Read" month.

Each time a student visits, they get a sticker to put on a cutout car. Prizes will be given to participants.

This event is sponsored by the Staples Friends of the Library.



Favorite date

Shannon and Graeme Badger of Staples, pictured three years ago at a Vikings game at U.S. Bank Stadium in Minneapolis, can't think of a more fun and romantic date than cheering on their favorite football team together. (Submitted photo)

Shared interests lead to love

Graeme and Shannon Badger

Thanks to the online game Yahoo Texas Hold'em, a small-town Minnesota girl and a boy from East London, England, tied the knot.

Staples native Shannon (Christensen) recalled how she met Graeme Badger while playing the game in 2006. They had an instant connection, even though they couldn't see or hear each other.

"I believe it was fate," Shannon says of their encounter.

Back then, there wasn't a photo to see what people looked like, Shannon said. "Just the Avatar people."

She went on to explain

that while playing the game there was a box where players could text messages to each other. She loved Graeme's sense of humor. Not only was the British guy funny, "you could tell he was really genuine," she said.

Graeme recalls that they had a lot of similar interests from the start of their correspondence, including music. "We both loved Cold play," he said.

Oh yes, Shannon agreed going on to recall the long-distance phone conversation where Graeme sang one of their favorite Cold play songs to her, "Till King dom Come." "I really liked

See **BADGER** on page 10a

Council denies lot reduction

By Mark Anderson
Managing Editor

At their Jan. 26, 2021, city council meeting, citing a possible cost of \$80,000, the Staples City Council declined to approve a request to reduce assessments on two properties.

The request had been made by Luke Patton and Greg Ziegler, who said that the special assessments on two lots in the Valley View subdivision are more than

the value of the lots.

At the council meeting City Administrator Jere Nelsen said he had checked with City Attorney Joe Krueger, who said if they reduce assessments on these two lots, it could possibly trigger future requests for reducing assessments on all of the lots, including those that've already paid the assessments. That scenario could cost the city up to \$80,000.

See **CITY** on page 10a



Recalls train accident

Sarah Walker of Deer Creek stopped by the Staples World recently to search the archives for an article pertaining to a 1991 incident where she was struck by a train in Staples.

She recalled walking across the tracks near the depot in Staples the morning of Aug. 14, en route to the community center from her home on the south side of town. She didn't see the train that struck her, leaving her with multiple injuries. Walker spent nearly six months in the hospital, she said.

During that time, Walker said she felt God holding her hand and saying, "Honey, you're gonna be all right," Walker said, going on to say she believed God was letting her know there was a reason she was still alive. Since the accident, Walker said she quit drinking and seeks to help save other lives by telling her story. (Staples World photo by Dawn Timbs)

Woman struck by BN train at Staples

A pedestrian was injured early Wednesday morning when she was struck by a train at the Burlington Northern Depot in Staples.

Sarah Walker, believed to be 27 years old, was walking north, reportedly headed to the Staples Community Center, when the accident happened about 7 a.m.

The victim suffered multiple wounds, including a scalp laceration. She was taken by Staples ambulance to the United District Hospital, where she was still in emergency room treatment at press time.

According to Clem Schwichtenberg, Staples police officer on the scene, members of the train crew reported seeing her walking toward the crossing and blowing the train whistle in an attempt to stop her. The train was slowing to make its normal crew change at the depot.

Crew members said their was no response to their warning whistles.

The crew members included Mike McMahon, engineer, and Bob Beauto, conductor, both from the Twin Cities.

The accident was witnessed by at least one BN worker at the depot. Crews separated the train to allow ambulance personnel to reach the victim. Several BN workers attempted to treat the victim prior to the arrival of the ambulance crew.

JCI Staples attends virtual state convention

Five members, chapter, receive awards



Ashley Hanson



Adam Vance



Paige Lenk

Several members of JCI Staples attended the virtual JCI MN Annual All State Convention recently to celebrate successes of 2020.

Members in attendance were 2021 Chapter President Ashley Hanson, Immediate Past President Paige Lenk, State Delegate Megan Haber, Treasurer Adam Vance and general member Alyssa Vanderhoof.

The individual and chapter awards were as follows:

- Adam Vance was named runner up in the 'First Timers' program. Vance also received a presidential medallion from JCI MN President Gwendolyn Labovitch.
- Megan Haber received a presidential medallion and the bronze Outstanding State Delegate award.
- Ashley Hanson received the bronze Outstanding Jaycee Award for fourth quarter of 2020 and the Gold Outstanding Jaycee of the Year award.
- Josie Longbottom,



Megan Haber

Chapter Secretary for 2021, received the silver Outstanding New Jaycee of the Year award.

- Paige Lenk received the gold Outstanding Chapter President award, the Les Farrington Memorial award, the Charles Kulp and the JR Memorial award. In addition, Lenk was awarded with a gold key for her devotion as the JCI Staples Chapter President.
- Libby Mumm, Lenk's daughter, was the recipient



Josie Longbottom

of a Helping Hands award.

JCI Staples also received multiple awards including the Silver Public Relations Program, Most New Member Adds, bronze Outstanding Chapter, Outstanding Annual Report and first place in the Parade of Chapters.

For information about how to join JCI Staples, contact Ashley Hanson, 2021 Chapter President, at 218-838-7622.

Police reports, Motley area

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

Jan. 28 - Feb. 3

Jan. 19 - Feb. 3 - The MPD issued speeding citations to Adam Reed, 26; Tyler Gregerson, 27; Nick Bueckers, 39; River Demars, 22; Stephanie Strandberg, 28; Alexander Varouhas, 33; Romi Stone, 38; Sidney Ropp, 22; Calvin Ondigi, 26; Caden Neubauer, 19; Scott Tolzmann, 33; Alexander Perepechkin, 18; Nicholas Raber, 23; Kayla Vitti, 28.

Feb. 3 - The MPD issued a citation to Anthony Hanson, 40, for tires extending beyond fenders and bumper height.

Feb. 3 - The MPD issued a citation to Sammi Barlow, 36, for allowing her Rottweiler dog to run at large.

Jan. 30 - The MPD issued a citation to Brianna Sandy, 24, for expired registration on her vehicle.

Jan. 28 - The MPD arrested Angela Rach, 45, for driving while intoxicated.

Jan. 28 - The MPD issued a citation to Jared Borchert, 34, for driving with a revoked license.

Feb. 2 - The MCSO received a report of a possible assault at the 35000 block of Aztec Rd. in Motley that occurred back in November of 2000.

Vaccines for age 65 and up in Todd County

Todd County Health & Human Services is currently scheduling Todd County residents aged 65 and over for COVID-19 vaccine appointments. Residents who would like to schedule an appointment should call 320-732-4500, and press option 1, on Fridays between the hours of 12 p.m. and 4:30 p.m. Understand that there is limited vaccine available each week.

Todd County HHS will be communicating information on vaccine availability using the radio (KEYL/KSKK), local newspapers, and the Todd County COVID-19 vaccine website: <https://www.co.todd.mn.us/vaxinfo/>

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>.

COVID-19 numbers stay even

COVID-19 infections have been falling since December in the local area, but numbers from the past week show the virus is still spreading in the area, and the numbers have increased in a few spots.

Todd County had the same weekly total as the

previous week, 14 new cases. Cass County had 15 new cases, up two from the previous week. Morrison's weekly total increased to 21, up from 13, and Wadena County had fewer cases, seven, after recording 14 the previous week.

Crow Wing County, the Brainerd area, doubled their weekly total to 82 new cases, after recording 41 the previous week.

Statistics by zip code were released Feb. 4, showing six new cases in the Staples zip code. Motley had two, Pillager two, Wadena seven, Long Prairie four, Browerville one and Vernadale zero.

Statewide, the numbers are also remaining lower, although there are still more new cases per day than when the state issued stay at home orders in May.

The number of deaths from COVID-19 in Minnesota is now at 14 per day over the past week.

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E: lori.nienow@isd2170.k12.mn.us

Looking back

75 YEARS Ago - 1946

• Feb. 7, 1946 - Dr. C. H. Reichelderfer, who suffered a heart attack a week or more ago, and was confined to the Long Prairie hospital for several days, has returned to Staples, and is again at his office. He still maintains his usual office hours of 10 to 12 in the morning, and 2 to 4 in the afternoon, with the hours of 4 to 5 being devoted to refractions (eye tests) each day except Saturday.

• Feb. 7, 1946 - The Twelfth point of the Scout Law, "A Scout is Reverent,"

Compiled by
Dawn Timbs

"He is reverent toward God, he is faithful in his religious duties, and respects the convictions of others in matters of custom and religions" is the Scout Law which will open the festivities of Staples Troop 61 in the observance of Boy Scout Anniversary week, Feb. 8 - 14.

The observance will open in Staples on Sunday, Feb. 10, when all Scouts are expected to attend church services. The Catholic Scouts will attend Sacred Heart church at either of the morning masses; and the Protestant Scouts will go in a body to the Methodist church, where Rev. E. C. Mead will deliver a special sermon to the Scouts.

• Feb. 7, 1946 - The annual meeting of the stockholders of the Farmers Co-op Store was held in the school auditorium Saturday afternoon, with a good crowd in attendance. Vernon Waite and A. H. Henwood were re-elected as directors.

Following the meeting, a movie was shown, Miss Hayes of Superior, circulation manager of the co-op paper "The Co-op Builder" gave a talk. The Field man for this territory, Abe Jonas of Sebekka, was also present.

The Secretary's report showed that the past year had been a good one and they anticipate a much better year in 1946 due to more room in the new store for the enlargement of stock.

50 YEARS Ago - 1971

• Feb. 11, 1971 - David E. Winter, son of Mr. and Mrs. Dwaine Winter, Staples, recently enlisted in the U.S. Army, it was announced today by SFC Ron Goodrich, the Army Recruiter at Brainerd.

Winter is presently attending Army Basic Training at Fort Campbell, Kentucky. After completing this training, he will be trained in the Army's Medical Care and Treatment Field at Fort Sam Houston, Texas. He is a 1970 graduate of Staples high school.

• Feb. 11, 1971 - David Uhrich was awarded Best Actor by the Wartburg Players for his part as Christopher Wren in "The Mousetrap," a mystery by Agatha Christie.

Uhrich also had a part in the Shakespeare production, "Much Ado About Nothing," which was presented in October.

David is the son of Mr. and Mrs. William Uhrich, Staples. He is a 1970 graduate of Staples high school and a freshman at Wartburg College.

• Feb. 11, 1971 - Staff Sergeant Gordon P. Opheim, son of Mr. and Mrs. Emil Opheim, Motley received his fourth award of the U.S. Air Force Commendation Medal at Aviano AB, Italy, from Lieutenant General Richard H. Ellis, vice commander-in-chief, U.S. Air Forces in Europe. Sergeant Opheim, a personnel specialist, was decorated for his outstanding performance of duty. He has completed a tour of duty at Tan Son Nhut AB, Vietnam. The sergeant is a 1953 graduate of Motley high school.

25 YEARS Ago - 1996

• Feb. 8, 1996 - A Staples Motley Middle School student has been suspended following a knife incident last week on a bus.

According to school authorities, an 8th grade



Mystery photo

Hello readers. This week's archive photo is from our Feb. 8, 1996 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.



Mystery solved

Last week's mystery photo, published in the Jan. 28, 1971 edition of the Staples World, featured the Roger Bienusa family who had moved back to Staples. A report from Mrs. Effie Moon, the Welcome Wagon hostess, mentioned that there was one new family in the Staples area - Mr. and Mrs. Roger Bienusa from the Twin Cities area. They have two boys and five girls. Mr. Bienusa works for McCourtney Plastics in this city. He was a former Staples resident and worked in the cities for 15 years before moving here with his family.

Todd Hoemberg of Staples identified Roger and Sharon Bienusa, along with their "first handful of children they had." Pictured, from left, are Gloria, Patrick, George, Beverly (on lap), Sharon (mom), Roger (dad), Kathleen, Colleen and Linda (on lap). He noted that they had five more children after this photo was taken: Roger, Jr.,

Jelene, Ronald, Heather and AJ. Hoemberg, went on to say that he is the significant other of Heather Bienusa.

Janice Johnson of Staples also correctly identified Roger and Sharon Bienusa, adding that they were family friends for years. She thought the baby might be AJ, one of the youngest of their children. Judy Wolak of Staples correctly identified the parents, as well as daughters Colleen and Linda. Mike Koppes of Staples correctly identified Roger and Sharon, as well as their children Colleen, Beverly and Patrick. He recalled that Roger, Sr. had grown up in Staples, moved to the Twin Cities area for awhile before returning to Staples to work at RKO Tool, he believed. Kevin Roline of Nevis correctly identified the Bienusa parents, as well as several of their children. Thanks for participating in our Mystery Photo.

Firemen were called out again about 11 a.m. Saturday, Feb. 3, to a chimney fire at the Frank Odell home just north of Staples in Thomastown Township. A chimney fire resulted in a cracked flue in the chimney. That fire call also came in sub-zero temperatures.

10 YEARS Ago - 2011

• Feb. 10, 2011 - About \$3,000 was raised through ticket sales and donations for early childhood programs at the "Savor the Moment" event Saturday night at the Landmark Inn, Staples. Presented by the Staples Motley Early Childhood Coalition, the "Savor the Moment" event was a chef's challenge for education.

• Feb. 10, 2011 - Lynn Peterson, Staples Motley High School activities director, dean of students and

boys basketball head coach, was placed on paid administrative leave Tuesday.

Mark Schmitz, Superintendent of Staples Motley Schools, said the action was taken pending investigation of allegations against Peterson. Schmitz would not comment on the nature of those allegations citing data privacy laws.

• Feb. 10, 2011 - Ron and Betty Starke of Motley have been married for nearly 54 years. They met as teenagers in 1949, at the local roller skating rink and were married about eight years later. Over the years, they've shared a number of good times and experienced some tough situations as well. Through it all, they've remained the best of friends and look forward to spending another Valentine's Day together.

COUNTY continued from page 1a

Regular flu numbers down

not been hearing anything about the flu.

Mackedanz said that the precautions being taken to prevent COVID-19 are helping to keep the "regular" flu numbers down.

"People are washing their hands and wearing masks. I don't think I've been sick once in the last nine months," she said.

In other news:

• **Approved:** One-Day On Sale 3.2 Malt Liquor License for Swanville/Sobieski Lions on Long Lake in Burnhamville Township effective February 27, 2021.

• At the commissioner's meeting on December 1, 2020, it was approved to hire a health education coordinator. The board approved the hire of applicant Sergio Aguilera to fill this open position. The start date to be determined.

• **Approved:** To hire Tyler Winkels for part-time road deputy, starting February 3.

• **Approved:** Reappointing Jennifer Crider as District 2 Representative, Al Loken as District 4 Representative and acknowledge the at-large #2 position remains vacant for the Parks and Trails Board.

• The 2021 Todd County budget for the support of Todd-Wadena Community Corrections has been approved at \$548,848. It was approved to transfer the allocated funds.

• The Facilities Department has been using an S-10 pickup for their department's daily tasks which is included in the County Motor Pool vehicle group. This S-10 unit has well-served the department's needs since 2010 and is in dire need of replacement due to safety concerns.

The board approved designating a Chevrolet Colorado that is in the existing motor pool to resolve the immediate safety concerns and best use of the county's vehicles.

• **Approved:** To purchase four (4) 2021 Chevrolet Traverses from North Country GM for a total of \$114,123.80. Three other vehicles in the motor pool will be sold at auction. They're high mileage Chevrolet Impalas.

Auditor/Treasurer Denise Gaida explained the larger amount was because last year they did not purchase any vehicles. They set aside approximately \$55,000 per year for new motor pool vehicles to keep a rotation.

Last year's funds were rolled into the 2021 budget.

• **Set:** 2021 spring road meeting for April 5, 2021 at 9 a.m. in the county board room.

• **Approved:** AFSCME Health and Human Services contract agreement. Highlights included in the agreement; no change to health insurance premium cost sharing, a 2 percent general wage increase for 2021 and eliminating the sick leave bonus.

• **Approved:** AFSCME Public Works contract agreement with the same highlights to the agreement as above.

• Held a closed session to develop or consider offers or counteroffers for the purchase or sale of real or personal property.

After the regular meeting and closed session, the board held a short work session to discuss a proposed change to the Emergency Closing policy.

• Gaida noted that township elections will be on March 9, 2021, with the absentee voting opening on February 5. The Staples-Motley School District will be voting on their question on April 13, 2021.

• Coordinator Chris Pelzer said they have received 15 applications for the newest round of grant funds for businesses and non-profits. Applicants have until February 19, 2021, to get an application in.

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TODD COUNTY Grant Relief Program for Small Business and Non-Profits

Jan. 19, 2021: The Todd County Board of Commissioners approved the Todd County Grant Relief Program for Small Businesses and Non-Profits.

The Minnesota Legislature and Governor previously passed legislation authorizing funding to Minnesota counties to distribute relief grants to local businesses and non-profits impacted by an executive order related to the COVID-19 pandemic.

The grant program is for small businesses and non-profits directly or indirectly affected by EO 20-99 or other executive orders causing closures by the COVID-19 pandemic. The application form and program guidelines have been posted on the Todd County website under the Business Resources page, located at

https://www.co.todd.mn.us/business-resources.

The information can also be found on the Todd County Economic Development page, located at

http://www.toddcountymn.gov/

The Todd County Grant Relief Program Guidelines explain the required documentation, eligibility criteria and where to send the applications. Grants will be awarded to eligible businesses and non-profits who meet the criteria of the application and provide all supporting documentation. Grant amounts are listed on the application and are subject to change based on need and availability of funds. Previous grant awards are required to be disclosed but do not disqualify an organization from applying. Grant funds awarded must be used for operational expenses incurred during the COVID-19 pandemic.

The application period is January 19, 2021 through February 19, 2021. Applications received will be reviewed and based on funding available; those found eligible will be approved on or before March 2, 2021.

For questions regarding the grant program or grant application, contact Rick Utech, Todd County Economic Development Corporation, 320-732-2128 or by email: rick.utech@co.todd.mn.us.

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School building issues exceed current budget

By Shane Tappe
Staples-Motley School Superintendent

It's no secret why Staples and Motley are great places to live, work and play. Our beautiful natural landscape makes it easy to enjoy the great outdoors. We work together to support each other in good times and bad.

Hard work is in our DNA. Major employers in a variety of industries such as Lakewood have put down roots because of our rich history, scenic beauty and strong public schools. Staples-Motley graduates have long been integral to the local workforce pipeline that local companies depend on.

Staples-Motley schools remains committed to delivering a quality education while striving to keep our students healthy amidst this pandemic.

As part of our ongoing Continuous Improvement Plan (CIP), we have reviewed how our aging facilities have impacted education quality.

Education has changed drastically since 1935, when the oldest portion of our Middle/High School was built. Today, our buildings' average age is 50. They require major updates and improvements to address deferred maintenance issues, safety and air quality and to keep up with today's educational best practices. Diligent maintenance has helped us address issues as they emerge, but there are needs that exceed current maintenance budgets.

That's why our school board has proposed a \$64.4 million plan for voters to consider on April 13, 2021. The investment plan will renovate and expand our existing elementary and middle/high school buildings to make them into an early education through grade 6 and grades 7-12 facilities, respectively.

The plan will greatly extend the life of our buildings' energy systems by updating existing HVAC, mechanical and air quality systems. Expanded career and technical education (CTE) spaces will allow for more robust agriculture, culinary arts and industrial education curriculums. Larger orchestra, band, choir and practice rooms give students richer fine arts opportunities. Improved safety and security measures will complement larger classrooms featuring collaborative and one-on-one spaces.

All told, the community-led plan will save the district approximately \$324,000

annually in operational expenses. A residential home in our district with a median value of \$125,000 would see an estimated tax increase of \$23.50 per month beginning in the 2022 tax year. The state's Ag2School Tax Credit would pay for approximately 14.4 percent of the project's total cost.

If voters reject the referendum, the board has already approved a more piecemeal Plan B for \$14.5 million. This plan only addresses a portion of the most significant infrastructure needs, such as air quality, heating and roofing updates. It will not result in educational improvements inside the classroom, nor will it address all of the district's deferred maintenance needs. A residential home in our district with a median value of \$125,000 would see an estimated tax increase of \$12.67 per month beginning in the 2022 tax year. Limited funding sources to make these improvements mean taxpayer investment only completes about 20 percent of the needs identified in district building assessments. This board-approved Plan B would require additional investments in the near future.

Planning for our district's long-term vision through CIP began well before the pandemic. Although facility improvements are just one pillar to support the CIP's Cardinal Commitments, historically low interest rates and a highly competitive construction economy punctuated by the pandemic put us in a good position to better manage the cost of these high-value projects.

I am proud of the progress our school board leaders have made since our communities turned down a referendum in May 2019. They re-engaged our district's facilities committee about the best way to move forward that reflects our communities' priorities established in the CIP.

In the past year, dozens of one-on-one meetings and a scientific phone survey have taught us even more of what our community deems most essential. From parents, teachers and community members, to students and alumni, I am grateful to everyone who has been involved in this community-shaped plan.

Between now and Election Day, I encourage you to visit our website, SMTIMEtoRise.com. There you will find details on the plan, need and process, plus how to vote. Recognizing that many questions will arise between now and April 13, feel free to contact me at shane.tappe@isd2170.k12.mn.us or 218-894-5400.

Quote of the week

“Girls are the future mothers of our society, and it is important that we focus on their well-being — Miriam Makeba

Family prosperity must be our mandate in 2021

By Anne Mosle and
Trene Hawkins

How will our children remember 2021?

It will be the first anniversary of a global pandemic many predicted, but for which our nation was woefully unprepared. It will be the first year of the Biden-Harris presidential administration. And it will be a moment for policymakers to start fresh and get it right – on our health, our economy, and crucially, on supporting our nation's families. This can be the year we scale up solutions that embrace a culture of health and expand family prosperity. Access to good jobs, education, health and whole-family well-being are the foundations of family prosperity – as is an inclusive, expansive definition of family that honors the many ways in which we live and care for one another.

Well before the pandemic, we needed to do better for all families. Our nation continues to perpetuate systemic health and wealth disparities along race and gender lines, intensifying at their intersections. We see it in the devastating, disproportionate blow COVID-19 dealt to working women forced to leave the workforce at record rates, often due to the child care crisis – with mothers of color most affected.

One of the greatest barriers to family prosperity is the false narrative of “rugged individualism” and meritocracy. Our nation must realize that the well-being of families depends on our capacity to listen and learn from their lived experiences and expertise – not judge them. Working parents with a child at home are 41 percent of the workforce. With many schools only open virtually and dwindling child

care options, we must assert that breadwinning and caregiving are compatible responsibilities. Leaders in state houses, Congress, and the White House can change this narrative by embracing data-driven solutions that change outcomes for families, economies, and communities.

Addressing one of the greatest gaps in support for families across the nation – the aforementioned child care crisis – is one way to make this shift. The solution: follow the lead of All Our Kin, which partners with family child care businesses. These small, home-based child cares are run by and serve families facing the greatest barriers to accessing child care. All Our Kin offers bilingual (English and Spanish) services including business and education training, peer-networking, zero-interest loans and grants, and marketing and referrals. The result? A triple win: providers succeed and contribute to the economy, parents can work knowing their children are safe and learning, and children receive the foundation for success. Families and small businesses know what they need: scaling up funding for and solutions to the child care crisis can not only increase rates of family prosperity, but do so in a way that dismantles discriminatory systems and uses public resources equitably and effectively.

We also must expand policies that keep families physically and economically safe right now: specifically, paid family and medical leave policies. In California, an additional 6 million workers can now safely take paid family leave and know their jobs will be there when they return, thanks to a new law that enforces job-protected paid leave for workers (including adoptive or foster parents)

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Local boards contact info

- Staples-Motley School Board**

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Bruce Lund, Vice-Chair
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218-894-2202

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218-894-2288

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- Shane Tappe, Superintendent**
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218-894-5400 x 3004

Staples City Council

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cetzler@ci.staples.mn.us

Roy Miles
rmiles@ci.staples.mn.us

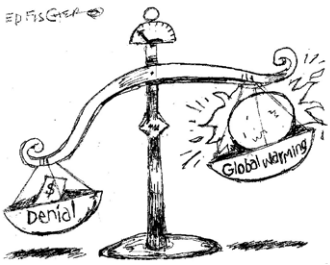
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The path forward for U.S. politics

By Lee H. Hamilton

With the handoff of power from one president to another, we enter this new phase of our national life in deep distress. We are divided and polarized, struggling to communicate reasonably with one another, and seemingly unable to find common ground on basic issues. Yet the path forward is neither new nor, really, difficult. We all know what needs to happen. We just need to do it.

To heal as a nation, we need to return to our traditional ways of doing business. We need to rediscover our skills at negotiation

and compromise. We must rekindle our understanding that many people contribute to our progress as a nation and that no one has an exclusive on wisdom. And perhaps more than anything, we need to reassure ourselves that we have the confidence and ability to solve our problems. We have done it in the past. We can do it again.

I count myself among those who believe that President Trump's misconduct should not be ignored, that healthy democracies hold public officials accountable for their actions and do not just sweep them under the rug in the name of moving on. Representative democracies cannot function if political leaders try to overturn the results of a free and fair election when they do not like the result.

At the same time, though, we badly need to focus on the tasks of governing. And by “we,” I mean all of us. Most of us will not have much impact on the future of Social Security or finding ways to provide affordable health care to every American, but we do bear responsibility for making our own little corner of the country work. We can look around our neighborhood, our community, our region, or our state and do our best to make our system lives up to its promise.

For starters, this means that we resolve our differences without resorting to violence or trying to overthrow the system. Our representative democracy has its faults, but over the long sweep of our history it has served us well, evolving as public understanding evolves. In our system, we work to reform it, not to jettison it altogether.

Binding up our wounds will take recognizing that we can work together to resolve our differences. We will be helped on this score by electing principled, practical and pragmatic leaders. I have had the privilege in my time in politics of watching hundreds (if not thousands) of elected officials and their staff commit to making the U.S. a better country. This is our historic norm, and I want to see it function again: with a return to the business of governing. We want our representatives to disagree on policy grounds not because of where they went to

school or where they live or what they look like and then negotiate, legislate and find a way forward. You don't always get results if you're involved in public life, but you should strive to reach them. And if you fail the first time, it should be the norm that you move on and come back another day to try again or to correct what went wrong.

The truth is, we cannot solve our problems without talking to each other, and talking, talking and talking. That's why we need leaders who are pragmatic about what they can achieve and are skilled and experienced in the arts of compromise and consensus building. And we need citizens who expect their elected representatives and the media they consume to level with them, tell them uncomfortable truths, explain the facts, repudiate conspiracy theories and put forward workable policies for a complex, ever-changing country.

We face tough problems. And while Americans do not expect miracles, they do expect their leaders to work together to solve them. That is how we move forward. The Jan. 6, insurrection was a very dark moment in our history. We have a long way to go to move past it, but we have a chance to revitalize our democracy by showing that it can work to improve the lives of all Americans, regardless of their beliefs. We have done it in the past. We can do it again.

Lee Hamilton, Senior Advisor for the Indiana University Center on Representative Government. Was a 34 year member of the U.S. House of Representatives.

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The deadline is 12 noon, Friday. Opinions expressed on this page do not necessarily represent the views of this newspaper.

Fairness: The Staples World tries conscientiously to report fairly and accurately. If you feel we fall short of this objective at any time, please direct your complaint to the manager whose name appears on this page.

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Staples-Motley Middle School Honor roll

Motley-Staples Middle School honor roll, Semester 1:

A Honor Roll

Grade 8: Grant Bestland, Estella Bock, Jack Carlson, Sawyer Ferdon, Laken Hines, Olivia Lorber, Jessica Lundquist, Axel Mertens, Peyton Mithun, Corinne Olson, Olivia Opheim, Benet Robinson, Miranda Schotzko, Alexander Schultz, Skyler Self, Jade Storry, Benjamin Tyrrell, Heidi Zimmerman

Grade 7: Summer Anderson, Ava Birkholtz, Abby Brichacek, Owen Carlson, Isabelle Dobson, Elijah Grewaldt, Arina Imgrund, Avery Japke, Walker Johnson, Jorja Kobliska, Skye Larson, Raina Mikhaeil, Cecily Moe, Alexis Opelia, Andrew Paklonsky, Riley Reese, Elijah Rutten, Annie Schollosser, Colbe Tappe, Livia Trif

Grade 6: Corben Berg, Allison Dukowitz, Maria Halvorson, Bella Hines, Thomas Johnson, Caden Kramer, Justin Olson, Preston Pierce, Carter Sarbaum, Evan Schultz, Logan Serich, MariaJose Stumbo, Chloe Trantina, Tyson Turner,

Gracie Wolpert, Daniel Zimmerman

Grade 5: Gage Bjerga, Andrew Black, Beau Carlson, Bryson Dumpprope, Roman Engebretson, Kain Erickson, Jacob Faulkner, Ryan Heifort, Molly Hoemberg, Lyndon Laney, Clara Maros, Maci Mithun, River Munger, Maira Qureshi, Lydia Roelofs, Alyce Scheler, Paxton Sharpe, Scarlet Stracek, Daisie Strassburg, EmiLynn Sullivan, Brooklyn Winter, Kalee Winter

B Honor Roll

Grade 8: Sophie Albie, Payton Allen, Jacob Becker, Gavin Chenoweth, Dustin Converse, Jaden Johnson, Emma Lamke, Ellen Lange, Dylan Lawrence, Naila Mikhaeil, Brianna Mitchell, Arabella Moore, Steven Petrich, Aliza Qureshi, Isreal Ritter, Dillan Robben, Logan Robben, Nathaniel Rubink, Hayden Rutherford, Abigail Simon, Bradyn Smith, Kristofer Taylor, Kiera Zivrovic

Grade 7: Elliot Allen, Sadye Anderson, Turner Beachy, Luke Bjerga, Audrey Brownell, Charles Dabbs, Emmalee Dobson, Eli Dumpprope, McKenzie

Fletcher, Gage Foss, Cameron Ganyo, Adrian Gomez, Jameson Harvey, Isaac Jares, Peyton Jares, Josie Jennissen, Conner Kuhns, Noah Larson, Pamela Lawrence, Isaac Long, Carson Mertens, Rylee Mielson, Giselle Polknow, Nathaniel Seamann, Dravyn Smith, Skyla Teply

Grade 6: Brooke Benson, Emersen Bettis, Leighton Bettis, Ayden Blue, Josiah Burton, Gavin Cowles, Joshua Cushing, Lillian Czechowicz, Lily Davis, Jacob Hansen, Maddock Harvey, Jasmine Isley, Jocelyn Lenk, Philip Rapp, Sophie Schlosser, Landon Thotland-Quenzer, Kylie Wenzel

Grade 5: Jayci Borash, Adalyne Brenny, Connor Buss, Kylee Chenoweth, DaMarius Coon, Andrew Dobson, Jada Ellingsen, Lexi Fishman, Jesus Gallardo, Guage Holst, Jaida Holst, Jasmyne Hove, Ayden Hovland, Carter Kist, Karter Lynch, Alexzanda Markie, Jadalynn McKenna, Keira Mevissen, Landon Moench, Brodey Page, Ally Pesola, Brooke Reisenauer, Caleb Ritter, Vance Vejtas, Haydn Ziegler.

Staples-Motley High School Honor roll

Staples-Motley High School honor roll, Semester 1:

A Honor Roll

Grade 12: Emmet Anderson, Beatrice Bonazza, Rose Han, Oliver Lund, Torri Nienow, Elizabeth Noble, Libby O'Neil, Adam Oberlander, Ava Scheider, Cole Winkels

Grade 11: Drew Berg, Brooke Converse, Adriana Dickey, Andria Dolezal, Bo Erholtz, Abby Jares, Siver Klefsaas, Addison Lorber, Cassidy Radueg, Jaden Stangle, Jadyon Vogel

Grade 10: Briana Bendson, Topanga Braith, Lucas Brownell, Nicole Carter, Emily Case, Rafael Caudillo, Riley Dabbs, William Dolezal, Bronte Enyart-Martinez, Camry Ferris, Isabelle Halvorson, Caitlin Jasmer, Jayce Kobliska, Georgia Kruchten, Hailey Larson, Landon Mertens, Thien Nguyen, Allison Olander, Ashley Robben, Aften Robinson, Isaiah Schul-

tz, Trinity Seamann

Grade 9: Camden Anderson, Isabel Birkholtz, Alex Black, Addisyn Cichos, Destiny Dukowitz, Tiana Gonzalez, Genevieve Groetsch, Emali Jimenez-Kloeckle, Gaberial Koval, Amery Lorber, Sabina Moe, Adam Nienow, Jr., Lauren Rutten, Andrew Salcido, Brayden Salcido, Eli Smith, Odin Trif, Ashlyn Vogel, Bailey Weiland

B Honor Roll

Grade 12: Alex Brings, Preston Butler, Dylan Cameron, Haley Cichos, Evan DeChaine, Hannah DeWald, Jenna Dvorak, Daija Halvorson, Brooke Heldman, Heidi Lombard, Vanessa Lozano, Jordan Lundquist, Tate Maciej, Charlize Martin, Katherine Michel, Alexander Morlock, Jessica Schimpp, Bradyn Siewert

Grade 11: Morgan Becker, Chandler Braith, Lyle Brownell, Abby Dukowitz, Elizabeth Dukowitz, Owen Hageman, Brent Hansen,

Francesca Hanson, Liam Harvey, Allison Knosalla, MayKayla Lambert, Grace McLennan, Sarina Petralia, Joshua Schimpp, Klaire Storry, William Thew

Grade 10: Grace Allen, Veronica Barnes, Luke Bates, Grace Bendson, Keegan Bestland, Michael Brown, Keegan Harvey, Sarina Huepenbecker, Parker Hurtig, Corrine Japke, Caleb Jasmer, Grace Jennissen, Cyril Johnson, Blake Knudson, Seth Larson, Nathaniel Ritter, Madden Roberts, Meghan VanAlst

Grade 9: Keller Anderson, Madalynn Beto, Kyan Burton, Gabrielle Case, Kenzie Erickson, Brooke Hansen, Macy Knudson, Benjamin Long, Zachary McIlravy, Elliana Moulton, Gabriel Ritter, Amy Rollins, Kaitlin Schaefer, Kyra Stangle, Aiden Stevens, Steffany Sullivan, Cole Tetlie, Carson Trantina, Olivia Vogt.

Update septic systems through Todd County

Todd County is taking advantage of the Clean Water Partnership Loan Program offered by the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency for updating existing septic systems. This program is available to anyone who wants to update their failed, old or undersized septic system.

The loan dollars are available to applicants on a first come, first served basis. Applicants apply directly through the Todd County Planning & Zoning office. All complete applications will be accepted as long as the request is to replace an existing septic system and they are not currently delinquent on their property taxes.

This is how the system works:

- Property owner submits an application and a \$100.00 application fee
- Todd County receives a cost estimate (to track available funds), design and permit

fee from the contractor

•Septic system gets installed and inspected

• Contractor submits a copy of the bill to Todd County

• Todd County pays the contractor directly

• Property owner pays back the loan at 1.5% interest added directly to property taxes. Up to 10 years to pay off the loan

Todd County Planning and Zoning also has limited cost share funds for failing system systems available for landowner's who meet the low income thresholds.

If you are interested in learning about either of these programs or would like an application, please contact Todd County Planning and Zoning by calling 320-732-4420.

Mark Your Calendar

February 17

STAPLES ALL VETERANS AND COMMUNITY PARK ASSOCIATION BOARD MEETING Wednesday, Feb. 17, 5:30 p.m., Timbers Restaurant and Event Center. The public is invited to attend. The meeting will be in person and via Zoom. With the continuation of Covid-19, masks are required when entering, moving about within the building and upon leaving. If attending by Zoom, contact Bob Hamann at 218-894-3139 for information.

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Todd County Health & Human Services

is currently scheduling Todd County residents aged 65 and over for COVID-19 vaccine appointments.

Residents who would like to schedule an appointment should call 320-732-4500, and press option 1, on Fridays between the hours of 12 p.m. and 4:30 p.m.

Understand that there is limited vaccine available each week. Residents are encouraged to call in on Friday afternoons to verify the status of Todd County's vaccine clinic schedule.

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- Carpenter/Laborer/Welder

GRADING:

- Excavator Operator
- Utility Operator

ASPHALT / PAVING:

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

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- Excavator Operator
- Pipelayer
- Topman

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Staples World

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Hello World

BIRTHS REPORTED AT LAKEWOOD HEALTH SYSTEM HOSPITAL IN STAPLES INCLUDED:

Born to Riley and Tyler Hodgden of Menahga, a baby boy, Jacob Matthew weighing seven pounds, five ounces on January 28, 2021.

Born to Megan and Daniel Alfano of Pillager, a baby boy, Maverick Ryder weighing eight pounds, three ounces on February 1, 2021.

Born to Nicole and Jake Zellgert of Browerville, a baby girl, Kali Ann weighing eight pounds, 13 ounces on February 1, 2021.

Born to Amber Hedin and Jesse Kenyon of New York Mills, a baby boy, Byron Harvey weighing seven pounds 13.6 ounces on February 1, 2021.

Born to Moriah and Neil Meech of Sebeka, a baby boy, Parker Reino weighing eight pounds on February 4, 2021.

David Jay

David Joseph Jay, 86, of Greencastle, Indiana, passed away January 27, 2021, at home with family at his bedside.

A private Celebration of Life will be held in Perham, during the summer.

"Dave" was born in Dilworth to Norbert "Bud" and Doris Jay on August 15, 1934. He graduated from Staples High School. He married Sally Baloun on November 21, 1953 in Staples. He worked for many years as the Area Manager for Intercity Gas before he retired. He was involved in the Knights of Columbus, where he served as Grand Knight and was given an Honorary Lifetime Mem-

bership.

Dave is survived by his children, Catherine McK-eithen of Maple Grove, Susette (Dominic) Schmidt of Sparta, WI, Pam Jay (wife of David Jay, Jr.) Glenwood, IA, Patricia (Richard) Kaste of Greencastle, IN, Gregory (Barbara) Jay of Cloverdale, IN and Jennifer (Steve) Lien of Greencastle, IN; numerous grandchildren and great-grandchildren; two brothers, Bud (Jan) Jay and Ralph Jay and one sister, Doris "Sissy" Jennisen, all residing in Minnesota.

Dave is preceded in death by his wife, Sally Jay and one son, David Jay, Jr.

The family of David Jay wishes to extend our sincere



thanks to Dr. Keith Landry, Hart to Hart Hospice with these wonderful caregivers, Jennifer, Rachael, Julia, Lynn, Hanah, Angie and Tammi.

w6c A00006B2021FB10

Barry Klemek

Barry Klemek, 59, of Hewitt passed away after a year-long battle with cancer with family by his side at his home February 2, 2021, under the tender care of Lakewood Health System Hospice.

A celebration of life memorial service was held Feb. 9 at the United Methodist Church in Hewitt with Pastor Ken Uhren presiding. Honorary Urn Bearers were his grandchildren.

Burial will be held at a later date in Calvary Cemetery, Wadena.

Barry was born to Max Jr. and Mary Lou (Henn-agir) Klemek on July 29, 1961 in Browerville. He attended high school at Bertha-Hewitt and graduated in 1980. Barry married Robin Ann Laust on Dec. 6, 1980, in Hewitt. For over 30 years, he worked at Lund boats in New York Mills. He worked in numerous departments and made many friends. The last eight years, Barry worked for the United States Postal Service as a city carrier based out of Wadena, but traveling to help in Brainerd, Park Rapids, Perham, Little Falls, Long Prairie, Staples and Sauk Centre.

He loved fishing with his family, even catching a few "big ones" over the years. He shared his love of hunting with his dad, brother and children and had a few trophies in his collection. He was smart, loving and an excellent cook. He was also known for his quick wit, great sense of humor and ready smile. He will be deeply missed by his family



and friends especially by his six grandchildren with whom he spent as much time as possible with as their devoted "Papa."

Holding Barry's memory close in the their hearts are his wife, Robin of Hewitt; three children, Matthew Klemek of Bertha, Megan (Eddie) Dolezal of Bertha and Michael (Ashley) Klemek of Deer Creek; six grandchildren, Max Klemek, Lauren, Alexa, Claire and Rylee Dolezal and Ryan Klemek; father, Max Klemek, Jr.; one brother, Larry (Marilyn) Klemek of Bertha; one sister, Karen (Paul) Walgren of Clarissa; along with a host of family, friends and neighbors.

Preceding Barry in death were his mother, Mary Lou; father-in-law, Charles Laust; brother-in-law, Earl "Chip" Laust and sister-in-law, Brenda Laust.

Arrangements were by the Schuller Family Funeral Homes & Cremation Services, Domian-Anderson Chapel, Bertha, www.SchullerFamilyFH.com.

w7c A00006B2021FB10

Staples Area Church Directory

Staples

Staples Alliance
1512 8th St. NE, Staples 218-894-2891
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, Staples 218-894-1081
Pastor Roy Miles

Small Groups (Bible classes for all ages) 9:30 a.m.
Morning Worship Service 10:30 a.m.
Children's Church (Kids start in main worship service) 11 a.m.
Prayer Meeting 5 p.m.
WEDNESDAY
Sonlight (kids ages 4 yrs.-6th grade) After school to 5:30 p.m.
Youth Group (Teens, 7th-12th grade) After school to 5:30 p.m.

Church of Christ
27343 490th St., Staples 218-894-2609
Pastor Barry Klein

Facebook Live
Bible School (youth and adult) 9:30 a.m.
Sunday Worship 10:30 a.m.
WEDNESDAY
Teen Youth/Adults Bible Study 7-8 p.m.

First Congregational Church, UCC
firststrongouccstaples@gmail.com
204 5th St. NE, Staples 218-894-2571

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

Faith Lutheran
430 12th Street. NE., Staples 218-894-1546
Pastor: Carl Larson

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 218-894-2296
Church

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, Staples 218-894-2372
Rev. Robin Collins
Sunday Divine Service 9:00 a.m.
Sunday School & Bible Class 10:30 a.m.

United Methodist
310 5th St. NE, Staples 218-894-2248
Pastor Greg Leslie

Sunday Worship 10:30 a.m.
(Nursery Available for Sunday Worship)
Sunday School (for grades K-12 and adults) 9:15-10:15 a.m.

Aldrich

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 56443
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 Wellwood 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
Cty. Rds. 7 and 9, Oylen
218-472-3440 or 218-472-3316

Pastor Neal Malcore
Sunday School 10:00 a.m.
Sunday Worship 11:00 a.m.

Pillager

First Lutheran Church
Pastor Matthew Sundquist
717 River Street S, Pillager, MN
218-746-3775

Sunday Worship 9:30 a.m.
Sunday School 10:30 a.m.

Casino Assembly of God
Pastor Dan Johnson
N. of Motley, Hwy. 64, E. on Cty 34 to Cty. 104.
Phone 218-746-3839

Sunday School 9:30 a.m.
Worship 10:30 a.m.
Sunday Worship 7:00 p.m.
WEDNESDAY

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.

"We All Have a Ministry!"

Submitted by Pastor Roy Miles
Staples Assembly of God Church

An old man was on a cruise ship. He was very ill and laid up in bed. As he lay there he heard a splash and a rush of feet and yelling, "Man overboard!" As the man lay there, he struggled with a desire to help and yet realized his inability. His eyes fell upon his lantern. With a great effort, he moved his lantern to his little window, wishing he could do more. After his recovery, he found out from the sailors that the only way they were able to rescue the man in the darkness of the sea was by a beam of light shining on the sinking man's hand.

Don't look at what you cannot do. Take what little you do have and work with that. We ALL have something we are good at doing. Even a smile is a ministry.

This story reminds me that the little I can do, can be used by God in miraculous ways. He is the only one who truly gives us strength to do anything. Amazingly, the apostle Paul, who we consider to be a great missionary, made the following statements:

I Corinthians 2:3-5 (NKJV)

"I was with you in weakness, in fear, and in much trembling. And My speech and My preaching were not with persuasive words of human wisdom, but in demonstration of the Spirit and of power, that your faith should not be in the wisdom of men but in the power of God."

II Corinthians 12:9-10 (NKJV)

"And He said to me, 'My grace is sufficient for you, for My strength is made perfect in weakness.' Therefore most gladly I will rather boast in My infirmities, that the power of Christ may rest upon me. Therefore I take pleasure in infirmities, in reproaches, in needs, in persecutions, in distresses, for Christ's sake. For when I am weak, then I am strong."

I Corinthians 1:25 (NKJV)

"Because the foolishness of God is wiser than men, and the weakness of God is stronger than men."

—Author Unknown

Happy Birthday!
Best Wishes to
Emmitt,
6 years old, Feb. 9



THANK YOU...

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the Staples Motley Community Foundation and Mike Gold, the person who nominated me, for the Duane R. Lund Lifetime Achievement Award. I am not sure I deserve such an award, but I am extremely humbled to be recognized in the name of Duane Lund, who hired me for my first job as a teacher in Staples.

It was May of 2004, when I was serving on what was then the Staples Community Foundation Board, that I approached Duane to see if he would support our naming an award after him. He was delighted and the first award given in his name for outstanding contributions to our community was given to him.

I would also like to thank all the sponsors who continue to keep the awards program alive and well in our communities. I asked Duane what made him most proud of his life in Staples and he responded by saying, "Seeing our kids and young people succeed."

My wife and I have lived in Staples for over 45 years. The Staples and Motley communities are great places to live surrounded by great people. We are proud to call this area our home.

Sincerely,
Ray Gildow

w7p

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Cardinal boys BB play conference games

The Staples-Motley boys basketball team had two close Mid State Conference games this past week, falling 53-46, against Aitkin on Feb. 2 and 72-63, to Park Rapids on Feb. 4.

The Cards were hampered with injuries in the two games. In both games, they found themselves down by ten at halftime and were unable to narrow the margin by the end of the game.

Against Aitkin, Sivert

Klefsaas was the only Cardinal with a hot hand, scoring on drives, the free throw line in the first half and from outside in the second half. He finished with 27 points and was the only player in double figures.

Against Park Rapids, Chandler Braith kept the Cardinals in the game early by scoring 10 first half points. Klefsaas hit five, three pointers in the second half to bring the team back, but Park Rapids hit late

free throws to keep the lead. Some of the reserves stepped up in the game against Park Rapids, with Dakota Hennigar and Hunter Miller getting quality playing time.

Team results

Staples-Motley 63, Park Rapids 72

Scoring: Sivert Klefsaas 18, Isaiah Schultz 14, Chandler Braith 12, Dom Gomez 6, Dakota Hennigar 6, Hunter Miller 5, Lyle Brownell 2

BB action

Left, Dominick Gomez launches a three pointer. Below, Isaiah Schultz tips a pass and races after it for a layup. (Staples World photos by Mark Anderson)



Close finish for Cardinal girls in competitive conference game

The Staples-Motley girls basketball team had a close, exciting matchup against Park Rapids, ending up losing the lead in the final minute to fall 72-68 on Feb. 2. They followed that game with a low-energy performance at Pequot Lakes on Feb. 5, falling 69-25.

The Park Rapids game was a matchup between two similar style teams, young teams filled with freshman and sophomores, fast-paced offenses, tight person-to-person defenses and two new head coaches.

"This contest was close the entire time and when we appeared to be gaining the momentum in the waning minutes with a slight lead, we missed a couple of free throws, while the Panthers connected on a 3-point basket to regain the lead in the final minute," said Coach Bruce Furhman.

"Aften Robinson and Lauren Rutten stepped their defensive game up for

us tonight, as we had them on their quickest players. Haley Cichos has become an offensive threat in any of the five positions we put her in. We like to see her in the five position at times, as opposing players are not sure how to actually guard her," said Furhman.

"Alli Olander has been impressive off the bench to fill in wherever we need her. She does a great job of being game ready, focused and ready to contribute. She and Allison Knosalla are very interchangeable, yet with different skills sets, which we are fortunate to have on this team," said Furhman.

"Our girls are in very good shape and the wearing of a mask no longer affects us very much. When the coaches met after the contest, we both agreed that there will be a huge rematch coming in the Staples-Motley gym on March 16, as this one may not

quite be settled yet."

Against Pequot Lakes, the Cardinals struggled from the opening tip.

"I honestly didn't recognize our team once we began play and how we seemed to fold," said Furhman.

The coach said the team had a good week of practice, so the poor game was not expected.

"Unfortunately, this can happen. Whatever can get to us, got us. We simply move forward and do not dwell there."

Team results

Staples-Motley 68, Park Rapids 72
Scoring: Lauren Rutten 17, Aften Robinson 15, Haley Cichos 12, Allison Knosalla 11, Alli Olander 8, Tabettha Allen 6

Staples-Motley 25, Pequot Lakes 25
Scoring: Rutten 5, Olander 4, Knosalla 4, Allen 4, Robinson 4, Ashley Robben 2, Cichos 2



Drive to the basket

Sivert Klefsaas gets past the Aitkin defense for a basket.



Jump shot

Lyle Brownell gets a shot off over the defense.

Wrestlers earn three wins

The Staples-Motley wrestling team had two convincing wins at Park Rapids on Feb. 2, defeating the host team and Crosby-Ironton.

On Feb. 4, the Cardinals defeated Paynesville 60-15, but then lost to Holdingford.

Team results

Staples-Motley 60, Paynesville 15

106 Turner Beachy W fall, 113 Aidan Winter W 6-4, 120 Colbe Tappe W 16-0 TF, 126 Owen Winter W ff, 132 Jason Trantina W ff, 138 Dalton Wells L 7-4, 145 Blake Neelan W ff, 152 Conner Dobson W fall, 160 Andrew Salcido W ff, 170 Logen Weite W 12-2, 182 Sam Jennissen L fall, 195 Alex Giza W inj. default, 220 ff, 285 Cole Winkels W ff

Winter holds the spotlight, but cardinals await their cue

This is a quiet time in the northern bird world. Not silent, but definitely quiet here at Minnesota's far northern latitude. One reason is the absence of so many species that have migrated to escape our frigid winter weather. No mallards can be heard quacking to keep their broods in touch and safe. No twitter of wrens that dash about in their hyperactive way. No buzz of ruby-throated hummingbird wings as this most unique of birds glides from blossom to blossom.

The Minnesota winter bird world is depleted, but it's not entirely vacant, or silent. Still with us is the cheerful "chick-a-dee-dee-dee" of the tiny black-capped chickadee, as it visits a feeder for a bite of suet or a sunflower seed. And of course there is the harsh "jeer...jeer" of the handsome but aggressive

blue jay. And if you're lucky you might hear the piercing, high-pitched "cuk...cuk...cuk...cuk...cuk" of North America's largest woodpecker, the handsome, crested pileated that is as large as a raven.

The comparatively fewer birds with us in winter are also less visible because they must be judicious in how they spend their energy. Survival is a matter of budgeting that energy, spending as much time between their feeding forays sheltering in the protection of evergreen trees or shrubbery, their feathers puffed up to trap the little heat their small bodies generate. Little time is spent being conspicuous unless they're on a feeding mission.

Besides not wasting energy unnecessarily being exposed to the elements, our winter birds are not yet spending their energy on some of the things that will be vital to the survival of their kind. Things like claiming and defending a territory for raising their young, and courting a mate to make the promise of those offspring come true.

Not yet, perhaps. Not when we've just been gripped by this winter's most prolonged spell of sub-zero weather. But the transition is not far off. In fact,

in some years—when February is waning, and March is within sight—the first of the songbird suitors will fly to the upper branches of a birch or maple in the first light of sunrise, and let the world know that it's looking for romance.

The bird will be a male northern cardinal, for among the songbirds that winter with us, this is one of the most reliable messengers that alerts us to the imminent arrival of March. And when March is near, can spring be far off? Its song is an unmistakable series of liquid notes that many describe as "cheer...cheer...cheer...cheer...cheer...cheer...cheer...cheer." Wonderfully appropriate for the news the cardinal is bringing.

This vocal display in the high treetops accomplishes two things. It is a statement to other male cardinals that the singer has claimed the neighborhood as its territory. It is also an overture to females within earshot to come and check out the source of those sweet notes as a mate worthy of her attention.

This early start has benefits for the cardinal species, for it is one of the songbirds that commonly raises two broods of young in the same year;

sometimes even three. The first brood may get its start in March, the second in late May. The incubation period for the cardinal's clutch of three to five eggs is a brief 11 to 13 days, and birds are fledged—feathered—in about the same amount of time.

Unlike some birds whose incubation duties are shared, only the female cardinal plays this role, though the male has often assisted by delivering nest building materials and food to the female during the nest building process. The male will also care for and feed the fledglings once they have left the nest, allowing the female to go off to begin another nesting cycle.

Having two or more broods in one spring-to-fall breeding season is an evolutionary advantage for cardinals, considering the high mortality of their young—something that is common to most songbirds. If a cardinal survives to adulthood its odds of living longer improve substantially. While three years is a common lifespan in the wild, bird banding data has shown that some rare cardinals can live for a decade, or even more. That's a lot of very welcome "cheer" in the late winter treetops!

Inside the Outdoors



Mike Rahn

NOTICES

107 Notices

St. Jude's Novena: May the most Sacred Heart of Jesus be adored, glorified, loved and preserved throughout the world now and forever. Sacred Heart of Jesus, pray for us. St. Jude, worker of miracles, pray for us. St. Jude, help of the hopeless, pray for us. Say this prayer nine times a day for nine days. On the eighth day your prayer will be answered. Publication must be promised. Thank You. Sacred Heart and St. Jude. GJG 7p

SERVICES & EMPLOYMENT

205 Help Wanted

PART-TIME CASHIER: 30-35 hrs. every 2 weeks. Must be 21-years-old. **Don & Dave's Store**, 218-894-2014. 7-9p

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Newspaper deadline for copy and advertising: 12 noon Fridays



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*Thomas Sellnow is a Real Property Law Specialist certified by Real Property Section of Minnesota State Bar Association.
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**Filed in District Court
State of Minnesota**
January 26, 2021

**STATE OF MINNESOTA
DISTRICT COURT
SEVENTH JUDICIAL
DISTRICT
COUNTY OF TODD
PROBATE DIVISION**

**Court File No.
77-PR-21-69**

In Re: Estate of
Jerald Eugene Cory
Deceased.

**ORDER AND NOTICE
OF HEARING
ON PETITION
FOR FORMAL
ADJUDICATION
OF INTESTACY,
DETERMINATION
OF HEIRSHIP AND
APPOINTMENT
OF PERSONAL
REPRESENTATIVE
IN UNSUPERVISED
ADMINISTRATION
AND NOTICE TO
CREDITORS**

It is Ordered and Notice is given that on the 8th day of March 2021, at 10:45 a.m. a hearing will be held in the above-named Court at 221 First Avenue South, Long Prairie, Minnesota, on petition of Michelle L. Lundquist and Nyrea D. Thielges for the adjudication of intestacy and determination of heirship of the above-named decedent, and for the appointment of Michelle L. Lundquist who resides at 27607 120th Street, Staples, MN 56479; and Nyrea D. Thielges who resides at 8527 Packard Avenue Northeast, Otsego, Minnesota 55330, as personal representative(s) of the estate of the above-named decedent in unsupervised administration, and that any objections thereto must be filed with the Court. That, if proper, and no objections are filed, a personal representative will be appointed to administer the estate, to collect all assets, pay all legal debts, claims, taxes and expenses, and sell real and personal property, and do all necessary acts for the estate.

Notice is further given that ALL CREDITORS having claims against said estate are required to present the same to said personal representative or to the Court Administrator within four (4) months after the date of this notice or all claims will be barred.

Dated: January 26, 2021

Daniel A. Benson
Judge of District Court
Rhonda Bot
Court Administrator
Patty Johnson, **Deputy Court Administrator**

Joseph S. Mayers
Attorney No. 0295747
KELM & REUTER, P.A.
1287 2nd Street North,
Suite 101
Sauk Rapids, MN 56379
320-251-1423

**NOTICE
VILLARD TOWNSHIP
BOARD OF AUDIT**

The Villard Township will hold its annual Board of Audit on Tuesday, February 9, 2021 at 6:45 p.m. immediately followed by the monthly meeting. This meeting will be held at the Eastwood Inn, Motley, MN.

Villard Township Clerk
Mary Trantina Koenig

**TODD COUNTY
BOARD OF
ADJUSTMENT**
215 1st Ave. South,
Long Prairie, MN 56347
320-732-4420

PUBLIC NOTICE
Notice is hereby given that on **Thursday, February 25, 2021 at 6:00 p.m.** the Todd County Board of Adjustment will hold a public hearing in the Commissioner's board room, 215 1st Ave. South, Long Prairie, Minnesota, **or via phone conference call.** Please email or phone your wish to be included in the meeting at **320-732-4420, toddplan.zone@co.todd.mn.us** to consider the following Variance applications:

AGENDA
•Call to Order
•Approval of December 17, 2020 Minutes
•Board introduction and process review
o The applicant is introduced
o Staff Report
o Applicant request if staff report accurately represents the request
o Public Comment
o Board review with applicant, staff, and public

1. Reorganization of the Board:
2. Adoption of the 2021 Todd County Board of Adjustments Business Rules:

3. Alex Klaustermeier: Lot 9, Country Living Estates, Section 31, Gordon Township
Site Address: 11182 Cable Cir, Osakis. PID: 10-0071800
1. Request to decrease Ordinary High Water setback in Shoreland-NE Zoning (Unnamed Lake) from 150 feet to 100 feet for construction of a home with attached garage.

2. Request to increase the maximum allowable peak height for structures within the setback distance from 18 feet to 20 feet 5 inches for construction of a home with attached garage.

3. Request to decrease Ordinary High Water setback in Shoreland-NE Zoning (Unnamed Lake) from 150 feet to 90 feet for construction of an attached deck.

4. Request to decrease Ordinary High Water setback in Shoreland-NE Zoning (Unnamed Lake) from 150 feet to 112 feet for construction of a detached shop.

4. Julie & Bill Berscheid: NW4 NE4, Section 12, Birchdale Township
Site Address: 28807 140th St, Grey Eagle. PID: 03-0008900

1. Request to decrease Ordinary High Water setback in Shoreland-NE Zoning (Pixley Lake) from 150 feet to 119 feet for construction of an attached garage with living quarters above.

2. Request to increase the maximum peak height of structures within the setback in Shoreland-NE Zoning (Pixley Lake) from 18 feet to 26 feet for construction of an attached garage with living quarters above.

**Adjournment.
Next Meeting:
March 25, 2021**

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

Todd County
Board of Adjustment
Bill Berscheid, Chair

**NOTICE
FRESHWATER ED.
DISTRICT NO. 6004
REQUEST FOR
PROPOSALS**

Notice is hereby given that the Freshwater Ed. Dist. No. 6004 of Wadena, MN hereby requests proposals for CTSS Service in Wadena, MN, for students attending a Level IV site until 3 p.m. on February 26, 2021.

All proposals shall be clearly identified as a CTSS Proposal for the Freshwater Education District. The proposals must be presented to the designated contact for Freshwater, Lori Murdock, at the following address:
Lori Murdock
Freshwater Education District
2222 Industrial Drive
Wadena, MN 56482

No formal proposal opening will take place.

Proposals will be evaluated on the criteria as set forth within the RFP. Details/requirements for proposals are available on the Freshwater website **www.fed.k12.mn.us**.

The Freshwater Board reserves the right to reject any or all proposals, waive formalities, and to select the agency and options that best meet the needs of the board and its employees.

Inquiries and clarifications should be directed by telephone or email to Freshwater's contact as follows:

Lori Murdock,
218-631-3505, Ext. 1042
lmurdock@fed.k12.mn.us
Clerk of District #6004
7-8pnc

**NOTICE
BYRON TOWNSHIP
REGULAR MEETINGS**

The regular monthly meetings of Byron Township will be held every third Thursday of each month at 7 p.m. at the Leader Community Hall, unless cancelled due to inclement weather. Then the meetings will be held the following Thursday. Next meeting is Feb. 18, 2021.

Becki Rassler, Clerk
Byron Township

(ABBREVIATED
ADVERTISEMENT)

**TODD COUNTY
2021 BRIDGE
PROJECT
Closing date:
March 9, 2021**

Sealed bids will be accepted until 10:00 a.m., March 9, 2021 by the Todd County Public Works Director/Engineer and County Auditor/Treasurer at 44 Riverside Drive, Long Prairie, Minnesota 56347 for the following construction project:

SAP 077-611-034

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

Loren Fellbaum
Todd County Public Works
Director/Engineer

**Public Notice
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Bo and Hank, an unexpected love story

By Dawn Timbs
Staples World reporter

Dogs and cats aren't supposed to love each other, but someone forgot to tell Bo, our 110-pound mutt, and Hank, our short-haired tom.

Hank and his sister Hazel had made their home with us for a few years before Bo, already up in years, joined our family menagerie.

It seemed Hank sensed that the new furry creature had been rescued just like he and Hazel, and from the start went out of his way to make Bo feel welcome. He rubbed up against the giant pooch at mealtime, his own face moving in rhythm with Bo's chomping, as if to say, "We like to make sure everyone's well fed here."

It wasn't uncommon to see Bo and Hank sharing a drink together at the communal water bowl. In the evenings, when Bo retired to his doggie bed in the living room, Hank would inevitably walk by and rub noses with Bo before retiring to his own spot for the night. Mornings would find Hank and Bo touching noses again as our household began to wake and greet the new day.

They enjoyed two summers together... hanging out on the lawn, sharing a drink at the birdbath, and watching the deer who stopped by for apples that had fallen from our aging tree.

Hank seemed to sense that Bo wasn't feeling too well as the 2020 autumn approached...choosing to stay by Bo's side even as Hazel ran ahead, climbing trees and chasing the red and gold leaves that were blowing in the wind.

Bo and Hank rubbed noses one last time the day we had to put Bo down. My eyes were too clouded to see much, but I imagine Hank was perched on the stool by the win-



Four-legged Valentines

Bo (left) and Hank, pets of Gary and Dawn Timbs of Staples, were the best of friends and often showed affection toward one another. (Staples World photo by Dawn Timbs)

dow, watching as our old van pulled out of the driveway for Bo's final ride.

For the next several days we'd find Hank in the big doggie bed, cuddled up with Bo's stuffed bears that still held his scent. He'd look up at us as if to say, "Where's my buddy?"

Then one night we heard a low yowl that cried out for several seconds. It was Hank, perched on the stool and looking out the window, perhaps searching for a sign of his friend. He gave one more yowl before jumping down.

In that moment I believe Hank realized Bo was gone and that hanging out in the place where he used to sleep wouldn't bring him back. His feline heart had been broken.

We're taught early on that dogs and cats are arch enemies. But, I beg to differ because I know that Bo loved Hank and Hank loved Bo. If actions speak louder than words, these two were clearly disciples of St. Valentine.

"I think dogs are the most amazing creatures; they give unconditional love. For me, they are the role model for being alive."
-- Gilda Radner (comedienne)

"There are few things in life more heartwarming than to be welcomed by a cat."
-- Tay Hohoff

Student Achievements

NORTHWEST TECHNICAL COLLEGE, BEMIDJI has announced its Dean's List. To qualify, students must be enrolled for at least 12 credits and earn a minimum of a 3.5 grade point average during the semester. Local students

named include:
• Sawyer Kallroos, Pillager
• Del Eckman, Staples
ST. CLOUD STATE UNIVERSITY has announced its 2020 Fall Semester Dean's List. To qualify, students must

earn a grade point average of 3.75 or higher. Local students named include:
• Krystal Yoder, Motley
• Jacob Siefkes, Pillager
• Jamie Smith, Pillager
• Sarah Marte, Staples.



"One of my special interests is concussion care, especially since it's a very hot topic in sports medicine right now. I enjoy working with young athletes, their coaches and parents to ensure that they can return to school and sports safely."

- Dr. Andrew Zhao

ANDREW ZHAO, MD

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MINNESOTA DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
(MDA) is hiring Forest Gypsy Moth Surveyors (Agricultural Technicians) for the 2021 Gypsy Moth Trapping Survey. View job post (Job I.D. 43491) & apply online through March 2nd at <https://mn.gov/mmb/careers>
MDA is an equal opportunity employer & provider. Questions: 651/201-6692 or gypsy.moth@state.mn.us

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BADGER continued from page 1a

Health issues bring couple closer together

his voice,” she added.
Shannon thinks back to those earlier days, and she can still hear Graeme’s voice singing the chorus of their favorite song:

*For you I’d wait ‘til kingdom come
Until my day, my day is done
And say you’ll come and set me free
Just say you’ll wait, you’ll wait for me*

It didn’t take much convincing on her part to wait for Graeme, who agreed to come to the United States where they could continue their courtship in person.
He arrived in Minnesota in January of 2008, Graeme shared. He recalls the temperature was -40 degrees that day, with a windchill. To top it off, he was only wearing a denim jacket.

But a little cold weather was not about to get in the way of their love, and on April 15, 2008, Graeme and Shannon were married at the Long Prairie Courthouse.

As much as he loved Shannon, Graeme will admit that moving to a small town was a bit of a culture shock. However, he was happy to have been embraced by the Christensen family, and it didn’t take long for him to find a job he enjoyed.

Graeme went on to share that he’s been a baker since the age of 16, honing his craft in England, New Zealand and Australia before immigrating to the United States. Now he is the chief baker at Clark Bakery in Staples.

“We get to taste test some things now and then,” their 10-year-old daughter Chloe chimes in, mentioning the strawberry-rhubarb muffins that have since become her favorite.

Yes, he’s a great guy, Shannon says of her hubby. And even more than his skills as a baker, and even his singing voice, she’s come to appreciate his care for her.

Shannon went on to share that she’d been diagnosed with epilepsy when she was a child. In December of 2016, she underwent brain surgery, with the hopes that she would no longer have seizures. Unfortunately, she suffered a stroke during the surgery, which left her paralyzed on her left side. After nearly

CITY continued from page 1a

Council member: Valley View subdivision finances hurting City of Staples

Some of the lots in the subdivision are taxforfeited properties, which Nelsen said Krueger recommended the city reassess those lots and add it to the price of a lot when it’s sold. Nelsen said if Wadena County does not hold a tax forfeited sale on those properties, the city council could price it in such a way that it would be attractive for people to build homes on the lots.
Council member Doug Case said

the assessments for the \$1.1 million infrastructure cost at the subdivision was making some of the properties “virtually worthless.”

Case felt the entire subdivision is a bad deal for the city and neighboring landowners who’ve already paid assessments. But at the same time, he said other nearby cities also have high assessment costs for lots and if a person wants to build a home outside the city limits, it will cost

a similar amount to put in a water and sewer system.

“The taxpayers are paying for this, it’s a bad thing but I can’t see reducing any of it,” said Case.

The council voted unanimously to deny the request.

Parks and rec

Staples Parks and Recreation Director Tricia Jasmer updated the council on the current happenings. The Parks and Rec Board has an

COLLINS continued from page 1a

They shared faith after they found love

It took him three whole days to return Pam’s phone call, and she was sure she’d messed up somehow.

But, eventually, Robin called her back and accepted the date for dinner at her apartment. Pam recalls being very nervous before the handsome man arrived, and dismayed that her lasagna “turned out like rubber.”

They had a good time, however, and the next time Robin (who at one time had worked as a cook) offered to make the meal...red snapper and a genuine Caesar salad. Pam was impressed.

Suffice it to say, by the time they decided to tie the knot, they agreed to a pre-nup where Robin did the cooking and Pam did they cleaning.

After 10 months of dating, they were married Nov. 19, 1977, at St. John Lutheran Church in Pekin, Ill. This was the church Pam was attending at the time, having been invited by a friend. She in turn invited Robin (who had been raised Catholic) and this would prove to be a turning point in their lives.

Neither one of them had a very strong faith at that time, but Pam remembers asking God to send her a Christian husband, and he sent her Robin. Four years after they were married, the Collins’ were blessed with the birth of their daughter, Megan.

At some point as they grew in their faith, Robin felt called to the ministry. During the 1980 recession, he’d been laid off from his job at Caterpillar, and decided to attend Concordia College in Illinois, later working as Director of Christian Education at a church in suburban Detroit, Mich.

While working at that church, Robin felt called to be a pastor, later attending seminary in Ft. Wayne, Ind. Those were rich years for both of them. Not only did they gain lifelong friends, but Robin felt a confirmation of his life’s calling, and Pam rediscovered her gift of art and began to take watercolor classes.

The first church he served at was in Moorhead, followed by a call to Trinity Lutheran Church in Staples. “I was installed there on Valentine’s Day in 1999,” Robin recalled.

Having grown up in Chicago, Pam wasn’t sure how



Head over heels in love

Less than a year after they met, Pam and Robin Collins had said “I do” at St. John Lutheran Church in Pekin, Ill. They are pictured at the wedding of a relative three months before their own wedding on Nov. 19, 1977. (Submitted photo)

she was going to like Staples. Robin, who’d always resided in larger cities as well, also had reservations “Moorhead was a small town in my book,” he said.

Ultimately, they both came to agree that the move to Staples has been one of the best things to come about.

“God made it work for the good,” Pam said, citing the gift of belonging to a community, serving in a church, and having had the opportunity to do more with her art.

Both Pam and Robin have seen how God has worked in other aspects of their lives as well.

In fact, Pam credits Robin’s strong faith for helping to hold their marriage together. She went on to share that because of her background, she did not know what it meant to commit to something. She assumed that most things in life (including love) could not be lasting. That all changed for her when Robin said, “I love you and I will never NOT love you...I’m here for the duration.”

Robin recalls saying to Pam, “the promises I made to you wen we were married I also made to God...I am not going back on that.”

Both have since come to learn that love is not a feeling...it is doing...it is a verb.

They’ve both had the opportunity to express their love ‘by doing’ since early on in their relationship.

For 40-plus years, Robin has cared for Pam who was diagnosed with Type 1 Diabetes when she was 24 years old.

Then, on Aug. 31, 2020, the tables turned when Robin had a stroke that left him with limited function of his left side.

Pam remembers the helplessness she felt as she stood alone in the parking lot at Lakewood Hospital in Staples, watching as a helicopter carrying her husband flew away. She didn’t know if he would live and it was terrifying.

Because Pam is older than Robin and has diabetes, they always assumed that he would outlive her. “The stroke interrupted that thought process,” Robin said.

Watching her husband go through the stroke, as well as dealing with it as a caretaker, has been one of the toughest experiences for her in their marriage, Pam said. She’s also gained a renewed appreciation for the way he has cared for her so selflessly over the years.

In addition to being a servant to the other, Robin learned in his seminary days the importance of forgiveness and being able to say, “I’m sorry.” Pam agreed, saying, “Marriage is a constant state of forgiveness.”

Just like their move to Staples, the Collins believe that good has come from these medical setbacks. Robin goes on to recite one of his favorite Bible verses from the book of Jeremiah. “For I know the plans I have for you,” declares the Lord, “plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future.”

Their faith in the Lord has been a big factor in keeping their marriage strong.

Not that a little romance doesn’t come in handy as well. Pam recalled the fun they’ve had over the years dancing, even taking ballroom dance classes when Robin was in seminary.

She wishes Robin was a little bit more romantic, going on to say that he’s very matter of fact about expressing his love. He’s not into flowery speeches, or giving her flowers, for that matter.

However, Pam still has a scrapbook Robin put together for her years ago, filled with pictures and a sentimental card addressed to ‘Pammy,’ one of the most romantic things she ever received. It’s a term of endearment he uses on occasion, Pam said, along with ‘Cutie Tootie.’ “Then I respond with, ‘Sweetie Petee,’” she said.

Ah, love. It’s a beautiful thing.

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