



Wednesday, May 20, 2020 Staples, Minnesota \$1

Memorial Day 2019 remembered

Memorial Day 2020 is cancelled, but Evergreen Hill Cemetery will still have flags and flowers

Weather

This Week's Forecast
High Low Cond.

May 20	76°	57°	M. Cloudy
May 21	77	58	Sunny
May 22	70	57	Showers
May 23	81	58	P. Cloudy
May 24	74	52	Thunderstorms
May 25	74	53	Sunny
May 26	72	53	Showers

Last Year, 2019			
High Low Cond.			
May 20	50°	41°	Cloudy
May 21	65	44	M. Sunny
May 22	51	43	Rain
May 23	54	48	Cloudy
May 24	68	50	Cloudy
May 25	60	52	M. Cloudy
May 26	71	38	Sunny

Average Temp.:
H = 65° Low = 42°
Week total rain: .03"
Year total rain: 2.90"
Very dry:
Over 5" below avg.

Compiled by
Dale Hausmann,
WCCO's Staples area
Weatherwatcher

Public Notices

Todd P & Z: 8A

Obituary

Hazel Knudson



End of the school year

Throughout the week of May 17, students at Staples-Motley High School returned books, instruments and other school-owned items at a drop-off site near the SMHS front entrance. Members of the Class of 2020 also picked up their caps and gowns which will be worn at an outdoor graduation ceremony June 5 (details still to be determined). Above, from left: Cadee Carlson and Lexi Beach, seniors at SMHS, hold up the academic sashes they will wear at graduation.

Below, paraprofessional Shelli Rau retrieves books used by the girls this past semester. Things went fairly well, the girls said of having to finish their senior year by way of distance-learning. They are both looking forward to continuing their education this fall. Beach will be attending Aveda Institute in Minneapolis; and Carlson has been accepted at Alexandria Technical & Community College with plans to study psychology. (Staples World photos by Dawn Timbs)



COVID-19 cases up to 73 in Todd County

As of May 18, Todd County has 73 lab confirmed cases of coronavirus (COVID-19). Local transmission of the virus is occurring.

This follows the pattern of the total number of cases doubling every week. On May 4, there were 15 confirmed cases in Todd County and it reached 38 on May 11.

Confirmed cases in other local counties are 27 in Morrison, 10 in Cass and 5 in Wadena County. Crow Wing County has 30 confirmed cases.

On May 13, Governor Walz announced the next phase of the COVID-19 response in Minnesota.

The governor signed new executive orders that:

- Extends the peacetime emergency declaration until June 12, 2020.
- Ensures workers can raise concerns regarding the safety of their work environments without fear of discrimination or retaliation. It also protects work-

ers from loss of income if they refuse to work under unsafe or unhealthy conditions.

- Strongly encourages Minnesotans at greatest risk of serious illness to continue staying home except to engage in necessary activities. Those at-risk include anyone 65 and over, any individual living in long-term care facility, and any aged individual who has an underlying medical condition.
- Extends the temporary closure of bars, restaurants, barber shops, salons, and other public accommodations until June 1.
- Discourages unnecessary travel. Minnesotans are encouraged to stay close to home and are strongly discouraged from engaging in unnecessary travel.
- Allows gatherings of 10 or less for social, civic, community, faith-based, leisure, or recreational purposes while still maintaining 6 feet of social dis-

tancing.

- Allows retail stores to open if they have a social distancing plan and operate at 50% occupancy. Additional guidance, including a template plan and checklist for businesses, is available on DEED's website at mn.gov/deed/safework.

Outdoor recreation guidelines remain in place and can be reviewed here: <https://www.dnr.state.mn.us/aboutdnr/covid-19-outdoor-recreation-guidelines.html> Public and private campgrounds remain closed to recreational camping.

The following COVID-19 hotlines are available to answer questions:

School & Child Care questions
651-297-1304
1-800-657-3504
Weekdays: 8 a.m. to 6 p.m.
Weekend: 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.
Health questions
651-201-3920
1-800-657-3903



Weekly video chat

Chamber Board President Rachel Johnson speaks at one of the weekly Chamber Coffee Talks. (Staples World photo by Mark Anderson)

Chamber moving forward with new board

By Mark Anderson
Managing Editor

Summer festivals are being cancelled or changed because of social distancing guidelines because of the COVID-19 pandemic. The Staples Chamber of Commerce is moving ahead with either hiring a director or coordinator in time to plan Staples Railroad Days in August.

At the weekly chamber video conference, Board President Rachel Johnson gave an update on what has been going on with the organization. When Motley decided to form their own committee, Johnson said they changed their name and got new members for the board. Besides Johnson, chamber board members are Jordan Goodwater, Mary Greenwaldt, Chris Etzler, and Sandy Knosalla.

The board developed a strategic plan and organizational chart, but they are not yet decided on whether to hire an executive director or hire a coordinator for Railroad Days and other events. "We're delaying planning by a few weeks and waiting for guidance from state and health officials," said Johnson.

If it looks like Railroad Days will be able to be held, Johnson said the coordina-

tor or director will be hired.

The chamber also hosts Treats on the Street and a Sip and Savor fundraiser. Their annual meeting was canceled this year, but Johnson said they might hold it again next year.

Johnson said the chamber's main focus will be on business advocacy, member services, events, finance and tourism. She said they will coordinate with LEAP and Discover Staples to make sure their goals are getting accomplished and make sure services don't overlap.

Besides the weekly coffee talk videoconferences, the chamber sends out weekly emails and updates the digital sign on 2nd Ave. NE.

Marketing updates

LEAP Marketing and Tourism Coordinator Renee Kroll also gave an update during the chamber videoconference. "We are still trying to promote what is available for local businesses," said Kroll, but they are also turning some of their funding to helping locals affected by the COVID-19 crisis.

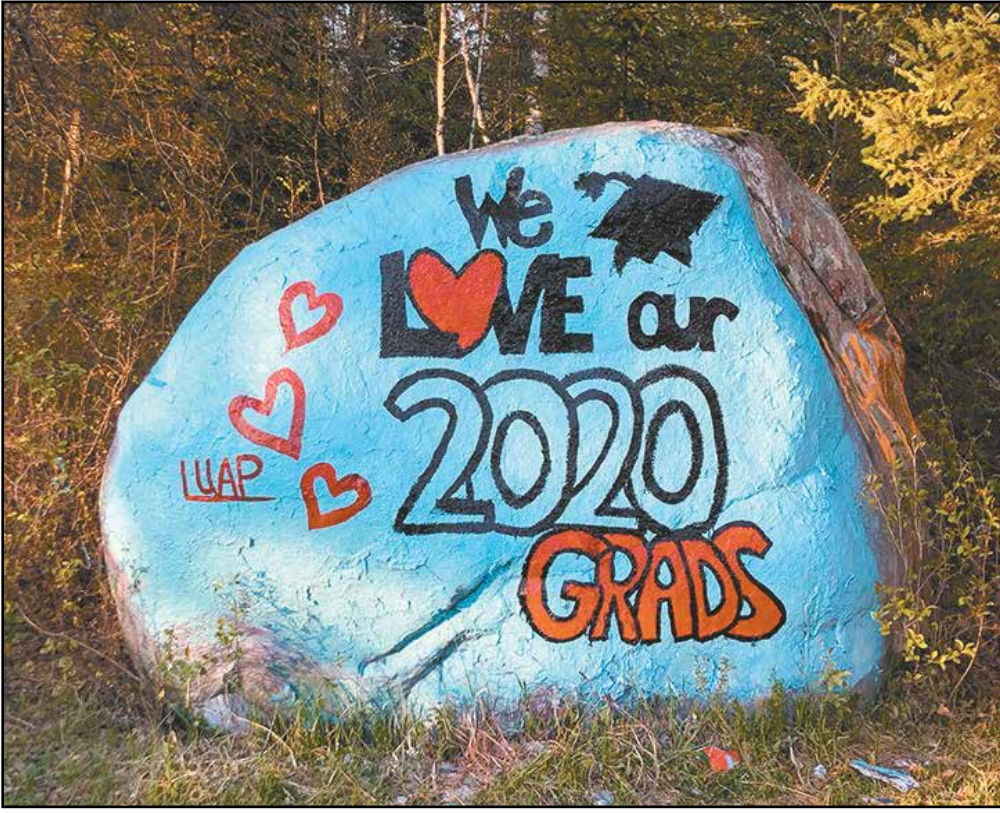
The marketing committee is now giving out masks to community members

See **CHAMBER**
on page 3a

Temporary Hour Change: Starting Monday May 4th 2020

In Coordination with Wadena County Public Health- Friendly Rider's Hours for Dispatching are Monday - Friday 8:00a.m. to 4:30p.m. Friendly Rider will be closed Saturdays.

218-631-5730
WWW.FRIENDLYRIDER.COM



Rock on, 2020 graduates

The rock along Hwy 64 north of Motley, near mile marker 5, was recently painted by Ty and Kelly Peterson of Leader in honor of 2020 graduates who are experiencing a very different end to their senior year due to COVID-19. The Petersons lost their son Paul, a mem-

ber of the 2020 class at Staples-Motley High School, a few months ago in a tragic snowmobile accident. He had planned to attend his father's alma mater, The University of Minnesota, in the fall. (Submitted photo)

City of Motley carrying on business during pandemic

By Dawn Timbs
Staples World reporter

For the second time since the outbreak of COVID-19, the Motley City Council held their regular monthly meeting by way of a call-in conference.

Mayor Al Yoder once again chaired the meeting, held May 11, at city hall. The other council members (Pat O'Regan, Steve Johnson, Jace Carlson and Amy Hutchison) participated via phone.

Others physically present at the meeting were the city's department heads: Fire Chief Brad Olson, Police Chief Jason Borash, City Clerk/Treasurer Curt Bryniarski, and Public Works Director Bruce Brotherton. Reports were given by all.

Fire Chief Olson reported a total of seven calls for the month of April. He also mentioned that the department had cleaned up their roster list and were needing to hire additional firefighters. In a roll call vote, the council approved accepting applications, along with interviewing and hiring potential firefighters.

Police Chief Borash reported a total of 71 calls for the month of April, which is down from what it normally is. He noted that he had been called from home once. Chief Borash anticipates that the number of calls will be up in May.

Borash also informed the council that the police department had been awarded a \$2,000 grant from the Staples Motley Area Community Foundation. It will go toward funding a new solar radar sign along Hwy 10, across from BRICKS Travel Center in Motley. The department will pay the remainder of the cost, somewhere

around \$500 - \$600, he said.

In other matters the council:

- HEARD that the planning and zoning commission meeting for May had been cancelled. They hope to meet again in June.

- APPROVED adding Curt Bryniarski, City Clerk/Treasurer, as a co-manager of the Wellhead Protection Plan, along with Bruce Brotherton, Public Works Director. Lacey Smieja's name (former city clerk/treasurer) will be taken off.

- APPROVED paying Phil Bjerga \$6,675 to tear down the house located next to city hall and haul it away. The city purchased the house in recent months. Previously, the council had discussed having the fire department burn it, but decided against that as Highway 10 would have to be blocked off during the burn and depending on the direction of smoke, it could be hazardous.

- HEARD that someone is interested in taking the steel off the roof of the above-mentioned house and putting it on another building. The council proceeded to approve this request, pending the city attorney's approval. The council also approved selling the chain-link fence at that property for \$50 on a first-come, first-serve basis.

- HEARD from Bryniarski that the city owes property taxes on the house they purchased located at 264 Hwy 10 S. According to the Morrison County Auditor-Treasurer's Office, the city missed the cutoff date for changing the property's classification from Residential Non-Homestead to Exempt. There are two parcels on that property, with the tax amounts being \$954 and \$120.

The council asked Bryniarski to ask whether that

might be waived. In a later correspondence, Bryniarski said he inquired about this, but was told by Jean Popp, Morrison County Assessor, that because they missed the classification deadline, the city would need to pay these taxes for 2020. Next year, they will be classified as exempt and will not have to pay taxes on that property.

- APPROVED a request from Holiday station in Motley that they be allowed to extend their parking lot area behind the store, which is situated near the city's dog park and tennis court. Holiday will tar that area (including the city's property) and in exchange be able to use it for parking. Brotherton noted that they would leave a strip of grass between the parking area and the dog park.

- POSTPONED the city wide garage sale and will wait until June to set a new date.

- APPROVED liquor license renewals for Motley Discount Liquor: Off-sale; Y-Knot Package Liquor: Off-sale (pending application packet); Bremer's Bar, Inc.: On & Off-sale, including Sunday; and Ten-Hi, Inc.: On & Off-sale, including Sunday. Orton's Holiday opted not to renew for 3.2 Malt Liquor Off-sale.

- APPROVED waiving the interest due on the assessment for the 2012A Street Project at the property owned by Ronald and Carol Kramer on Morrison St. East in Motley, if they pay the remaining balance of the assessment, \$7,697.61, within 10 days.

- LEARNED that both June Fest and the Motley Fair have been cancelled for this year, due to COVID-19. Both plan to be back on schedule in 2021.

- SET next regular council meeting for Monday, June 8, 6:30 p.m.



Celebrating their 90th birthdays

The Motley Police, Motley Fire Department and the city's public works department drove by and waved at Swede Halverson and Bruce Quinn (pictured below, left to right respectively) at their 90th birthday party held May 15. Quinn turned 90 that day and Halverson was celebrating a belated birthday. The party was attended by a few of their friends from Motley United Methodist Church (many wearing masks and all trying their best to observe social distancing) and held in the back yard of Mill Pond resident and church friend Liz Curren. In addition to catching up with friends they hadn't seen since the onset of COVID-19, the 'birthday boys' enjoyed coffee and cupcakes, as well as blue skies and warm temperatures. (Staples World photos by Dawn Timbs)



No Memorial Day services in Motley

Due to the coronavirus pandemic, the Motley American Legion will not be hosting Memorial Day programs this year. This includes Bridgeman Cemetery, Motley Public Cem-

etry and Poplar Cemetery.

Commander Tom Ladwig said there has been talk of a virtual online prayer service being held that day, but nothing had been confirmed as of May

17. Commander Ladwig said that the governor has opened up cemeteries to the public, but that social distancing should still be observed and visits spread out through the weekend.

Law enforcement reports, Motley area

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

May 13 - The MPD issued a citation to Paul Ross, 60, for failing to use a turn signal.

May 12 - The MPD issued a speeding citation to Khalid Alhumaidi, 28.

May 9 - The MPD issued a citation to David Fisher, 53, for driving on public property without permission. Fisher, who had driven his vehicle to the top of the sledding hill in Motley, stated that he had been cooped up due to the COVID-19 and was just looking to have some fun. He had not noticed the signs prohibiting vehicles until after he got stuck. The MPD observed a considerable amount of damage had been done to the hill and that there was a considerable amount of sod that was now missing which will cause the hill to erode easily.

May 8 - The MPD responded to a report of an assault at the 400 block of Pine Ave., Motley. The suspect, Bruce Micheal Praska, 30, was arrested for 5th degree assault and booked into the Morrison County Jail.

May 8 - The MPD issued a citation to Lew Plonty, 86, for failing to maintain a single lane while driving on Hwy 10 near Cushing.

May 8 - The MPD was advised by the Brainerd Police Department that a stolen vehicle from their city had been seen in Motley. The MPD located the vehicle parked behind Big Boyz Tire and Truck in Motley. Contact was made with the registered owner who stated she would come and pick up the vehicle. There was a strong smell of marijuana coming from the vehicle, the report noted.

May 8 - The MPD issued a speeding citation to

Declan Bernardin, 20.

May 13 - The MCSO issued citations to Brittany Tonsager, 27, for speeding, and for driver possession of marijuana over 1.4 grams and possession of drug paraphernalia.

May 13 - The MCSO issued speeding citations to Blake Mortensen, 32; Lynn Newton Rice, 64.

May 11 - The MCSO received a complaint from a resident at 320th Street in Cushing that vehicles have been driving at higher rates of speed by his residence. He stated that it is mostly on weekends and evenings that this is happening and he is concerned about pedestri-

ans and pets walking along 320th St.

May 10 - The MCSO arrested Brittany Lee Nelson, 35, on an active felony body only warrant out of Morrison County. Nelson had been stopped after the deputy observed her vehicle cross the center line and make several other traffic violations at the 34000 block of Hillcrest Drive in Motley. After her arrest, the MCSO found drug paraphernalia and what appeared to be the actual product in Nelson's vehicle. She was transported to the Morrison County Jail without incident.



New vest for K9 Ranger

Cass County Sheriff's Office K9 Ranger, handled by Deputy Truitt Buckhouse, will receive a bullet and stab protective vest thanks to a charitable donation from the non-profit organization Vested Interest in K9s, Inc. K9 Ranger's vest is sponsored by Kathleen Clark of West Burke, Vt. and will be embroidered with the sentiment, "This gift of protection provided by Vested Interest in K9s, Inc." Delivery is expected within eight to ten weeks. (Submitted photo)

"HEY MINNESOTA! LET'S READ TOGETHER!"



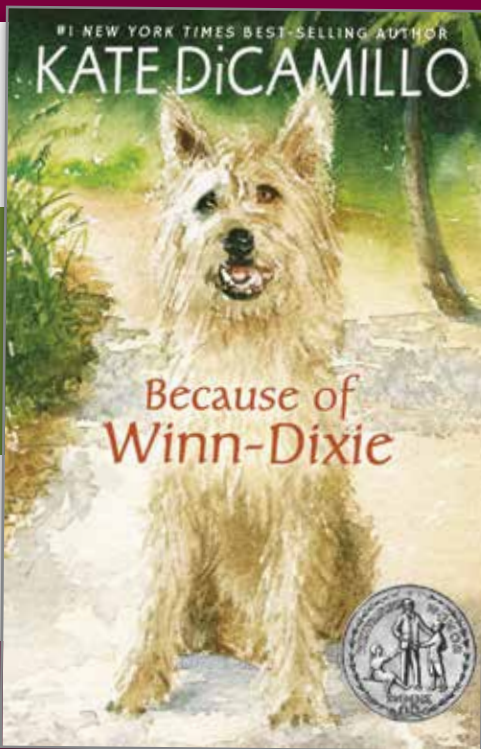
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Looking back

75 Years Ago - 1945

• May 24, 1945 - Mr. and Mrs. Ed Ingebritson of southwest of Staples, have received a letter from their son, Sgt. Orville Ingebritson, stating that he has been released from a German Prison camp, and expects to return home for a furlough within a short time.

Sgt. Ingebritson was taken a prisoner in February, 1943, and his parents had last heard from him in January of this year. His letter stated that he was well, and thoroughly enjoy-

- O -
Compiled by
Dawn Timbs
- O -

ing normal food again, and he told them to "have plenty of good home cooked food on hand" as he planned to eat them out of house and home the first week."

He has two brothers who are in military service. Pvt. Harry in Texas and Corporal Leland stationed in Wyoming.

• May 24, 1945 - Mr. and Mrs. Elmer Howard, living in East Orton township northwest of Staples, lost their home by fire Tuesday morning. The fire is of undetermined origin as there was no fire in any of the stoves. However, it is thought that it might have started from spontaneous combustion.

• May 24, 1945 - Movies showing at the Staples Theatre May 25 - 31 included: 'The Three Caballeros,' a Disney Cartoon feature; 'Doughgirls'; double feature 'Jungle Women' and 'Rosie the Riveter'; and 'This Is the Life,' with Donald O'Connor and Peggy Ryan.

50 Years Ago - 1970

• May 28, 1970 - Seven members of the Class of 1971 at Staples high school were initiated into membership of the National Honor Society during the Cap and Gown Day ceremonies last Friday. They are Julie Bredemeier, Rhea Weber, Ronald Salber, Julie

Miller, Steve Van Buren, Audrey Dickman and Guy Doud.

• May 18, 1970 - The Staples City Band will begin its regular summer schedule with a rehearsal Wednesday, June 2 at 7 p.m. The first concert is slated to be June 10. Any adults interested in playing in the City Band is asked to contact Vernon Drake or Mark Evans.

25 Years Ago - 1995

• May 25, 1995 - Despite a setback in the first round of a legal fight, a local businessman is continuing his battle for recovery of losses in a Jan. 1, 1993 fire that destroyed his business building.

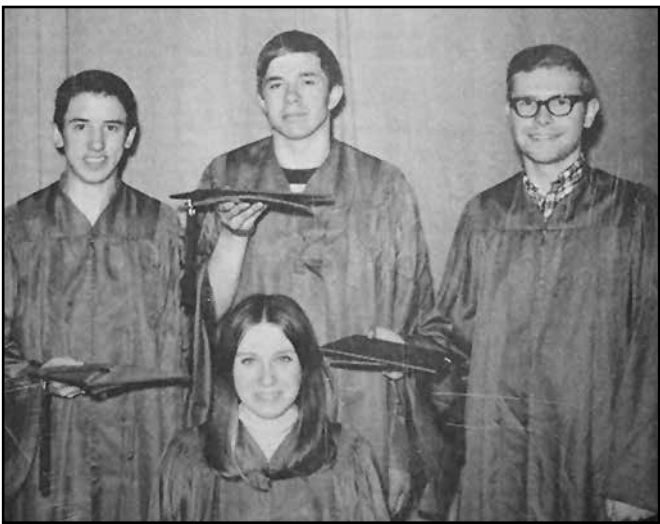
Donovan Stern, owner of Donovan's Lanes, and his insurance company were locked in a court battle much of the month of March, with a Hennepin County jury eventually ruling in favor of the insurance company.

Since then, Stern's attorneys filed a motion for a new trial, a motion that was denied by the judge who presided over the trial. The attorneys are now preparing an appeal motion to the Minnesota Court of Appeals.

The lawsuit hinges on the cause of the fire that destroyed the popular bowling alley, restaurant and lounge in Staples in the early morning hours of New Year's Day, 1993.

Stern's insurance company, Summit Fidelity and Surety Company, has refused to pay any claims. The company contends that the fire was purposely set.

Both sides in the dispute hired their own fire investigators and claim to have found the cause of the fire. Stern's attorney said the cause of the fire was an electrical problem, somewhere in the back of the bar in the lounge area of the building. Attorneys for the insurance company, however, produced testimony from their fire investigators that the fire originated in the bowling alley entrance to the



Mystery photo

Hello readers. This week's archive photo is from our May 21, 1970 edition. Do you know who these people are and perhaps the context of the photo? 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.

building. Their argument was that someone applied an accelerant to the carpeted floor just inside the entrance and set the fire.

Officially, the fire has been ruled to be "undetermined" by the local and state fire investigators. Staples Fire Chief Doug Case and the state Fire Marshal investigated the fire. "The fire department position is that the cause of the fire is undetermined but not suspicious," Case said after the trial.

• May 25, 1995 - Fourteen people with a total of 325 years of collective service experience are retiring from the Staples Motley school district. They include Dave Christenson, 9 years; Frank Leidenfrost, 29 years; Jack Nelson, 26 years; Don Droubie, 27 years; Don Dravis, 32 years; Naomi Stone, 33 years; Amy Leidenfrost, 28 years; Virginia Hegre, 25.5 years; Clarice Wise, 27 years; Corrine Adamietz, 20 years; Dolores Manning, 25 years; Kay Mergens, 15 years; Mary Dravis, 15 years.

• May 25, 1995 - Stan Edin, currently the president of the Brainerd Staples Regional Technical College, is retiring after 32

years in local education.

10 Years Ago - 2010

• May 27, 2010 - The race for the state Legislature in House District 11B, which includes all of Todd County and several precincts in eastern Douglas County, took an unexpected turn last week with the incumbent announcing she will not be seeking re-election.

State Representative Mary Ellen Otremba (DFL-District 11B) announced May 19 that she will not be running for re-election.

Instead the 14-year veteran of the state legislature plans to retire from the Minnesota House of Representatives at the end of her seventh term in office.

Amy Hunter, Staples, announced her candidacy for the 11B House of Representative seat last week, just after the news was received that Rep. Otremba was retiring.

Mary Franson, from Alexandria, is the endorsed Republican candidate for the House 11B seat.

• May 27, 2010 - Sixty-six people, 63 of them members of the Staples Motley High School Class of 2010, shared in over \$81,000 in scholarships presented May 19 by the Staples Motley Dollars for Scholars chapter.

Roger Houselog, president of the local Dollars for Scholars group, presided over the annual event as emcee.

• May 27, 2010 - Unity Bank in Motley declared May 28 to be 'Jerry Wendorff Day,' in recognition of Wendorff's retirement. An open house with coffee and cake would be served from 9 a.m. - 4 p.m., the ad stated.

• May 27, 2010 - Members of the 'Table of Knowledge' coffee clutch group chatted with Star Tribune columnist Jon Tevlin recently at the Burger King in Staples. Tevlin, a 1976 graduate of Staples High School, was back in town to work on an upcoming column about the state of small towns in Minnesota. Joining Tevlin for coffee were Dr. Duane Lund, Lee Jenkins, Greg Leifermann, Orv Meyer, Tom Kajer, Wendel Toedter and Jack Wilson.

Motley correctly identified all. Koppes mentioned that he's been a part of the Staples Sportsmens Club and on an archery league in the past, which is where he knew these men from.

Brian Bates of Staples identified all except Ackley, whom he guessed to be Donald Hagenson. Kevin Roline of Nevis (formerly of Staples) correctly identified Wilson and Goff, but mistook John Reese for Cleveland and Norm Card for Ackley. Thanks for participating in our Mystery Photo.

CHAMBER continued from page 1a

Businesses scrambling for grant money

who are working in service jobs to protect them and the people they are serving.

She said one request for masks has come from the food shelf.

Staples Economic Development Director Melissa Radermacher said the Batcher Building project is not on the most recent list proposed by the Minnesota House of Representatives. The list was pared down because state budget forecasts are much lower from the COVID-19 crisis.

Todd County Development Commission Director Rick Utech said the county is having meetings to work on business plans to reopen. "We are spending time helping businesses, we are going to see some businesses go under because of this, no two businesses are alike."

Utech said 47 percent of businesses that have applied for stimulus funding have received money. "A lot of people want the grant money, but it is hard to come by," said Utech. He said the Region Five area has accounted for \$6.4 million in allocations. He said some of the grants still have funds remaining, so businesses should apply.

Business update

Christine Tollefson, owner of A Daughter's Love care services in Staples, said "The long term care people are getting really beat up" by the COVID-19 crisis. Her own business is only having essential staff come in.

"We're working our tails off to do more cleaning and extra everything," she said. "There are so many people in the community that need us but are keeping their loved ones at home, they are scared of getting this."

To make up for this, Tollefson said they are sharing their training, knowledge and skills with care givers who are keeping their loved ones at home to be safe. They can also help by preparing meals or providing other remote services.

"Send out a prayer for Lakewood and A Daughter's Love and everyone in the care industry," said Tollefson.

Staples City owned land could be sold

By Mark Anderson
Managing Editor

needed for that purpose.

In other business, the council:

• Approved gambling permit for Knights of Columbus to hold a raffle.

• Approved supporting fire department grant submission to Sourcewell innovation funding for fire hose testing equipment, along with other fire departments in Todd and Wadena counties.

• Approved allowing Lakewood Health System to improve the crosswalk from the care center to the Dinosaur Park to help connect generations. Lakewood will pay for it with a grant.

• Approved refunding a portion of on sale liquor licenses for businesses that were closed because of state stay at home orders.

• Learned that the City Wide Cleanup is postponed until fall.

Wind spreads grass fire

The Wadena County Sheriff's Office, Staples Fire Department, Staples Ambulance, Sebeka Fire Department and the Nimrod DNR Fire Station were called to a grass fire on May 14, at Section 35 of Lyons Township.

As emergency personnel responded to the scene, they saw heavy smoke visible for several miles. A Wadena County Sheriff's Deputy arrived on scene and saw multiple persons attempting to put the fire out, which was out of control due to windy conditions.

The deputy spoke with the property owner, identified as Kami Anez, 50, of Willmar. Anez stated she was at the cabin when two juvenile males came running up to her and indicated they had poured some gas on a pallet to burn it then lit it on fire. They stated the fire quickly burned out of control due to the windy conditions.

The fire was eventually extinguished with no loss of life and no structures destroyed.

Staples Police report

On May 4, Staples Police received a report of a suspicious check. Police spoke with the complainant and determined they were having mental health issues. Police advised the family on what they needed to do to get him help.

On May 4, Staples Police were requested by Vernale Police to assist with searching a house for a suspect wanted for domestic assault. The suspect was located in the house

and was arrested.

On May 6, at 12:37 a.m., Staples Police located a runaway juvenile who had snuck out of the house and was running away from home. The juvenile stated that he was suicidal and having difficulties at home. Police brought the subject home and advised the parents of the situation.

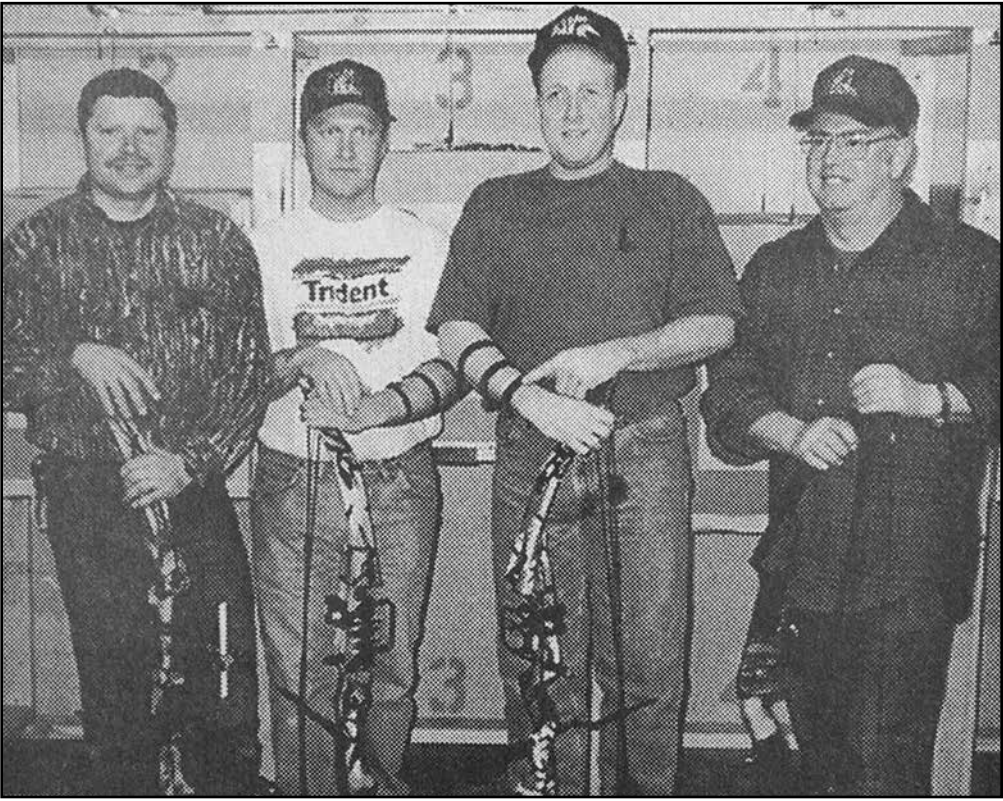
On May 6, Staples Police assisted the Staples Fire Department and Todd County Sheriff's Office

with a fire east of Staples.

On May 6, Staples Police received a report of a hit and run accident on the 200 block of 4th Street NE. The complainant was parked in front of the post office and a black colored car backed into them. A male exited the vehicle and yelled at the complainant and then left the scene.

On May 8, Staples Police received a report of a dog bite which occurred on the 300 block of 7th Street NE. The dog owner was cited for being in violation of the city ordinance regarding dog at large.

On May 9, Staples Police received a report of suspicious activity on the 300 block of 4th Ave. NE that occurred at 1:30 a.m. The complainant stated someone was ringing their doorbell and knocking on the door but then left.



Mystery solved

Last week's mystery photo, published in the May 4, 1995 edition of the Staples World, featured members of the Patriots, the first place team in the Staples Sportsmens Club's winter archery league. Pictured, from left, are Randy Wilson, Butch Cleveland, Mark Goff and Barry Ackley. The Patriots scored 5,985 points in the winter-long season.

Brenda Cleveland, Kris Taylor and Mike Koppes, all from Staples; and Linda (Kowalski) Bartylla from

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NOTICE
Water Main Flushing

The City of Staples Water Department will be flushing water mains throughout the City as needed, **May 26 - 29, 2020**. You may experience cloudy water during this time. If this occurs, allow the cold water to run until it clears.

Learning and changing how the health system works

By Tim Rice
Lakewood Health System President and CEO

Governor Walz issued an executive order allowing elective surgical procedures to be performed effective May 11. This order does not mean we will be rushing carelessly into doing surgeries at Lakewood Health System. The COVID-19 pandemic requires thoughtful planning to ensure patient and employee safety. It also requires us to have detailed plans in place if there are variations in the number of COVID-19 cases.

Under the direction of Corrine Neissess, our vice president of nursing, we have put together a surgery and outpatient resumption team consisting of Corrine, anesthesia, our medical directors and surgery representatives. They have been meeting and communicating regularly to make sure everything is in place before proceeding.

Throughout this whole crisis we have remained open and available to handle emergent surgical cases that arise. However, many elective cases had to be postponed starting in mid-March and are still waiting to be done. So, we now need to evaluate the urgency of each person's situation to determine the order and timing of these surgeries.

The governor's decision will be debated by some who will say it is too early. But in a crisis like this, there will always be differing opinions. From our standpoint, the decision by

the governor in March to temporarily stop elective surgeries has given us time to obtain sufficient personal protective equipment. It has allowed us time to develop surge plans. It has improved testing capabilities as well as the validity and accuracy of the testing. It has allowed us to implement safety protocols, including employee and visitor screening. Basically, it has given us time to work everything out operationally, so we are prepared for whatever level of COVID hits and can start providing care again in the meantime. And we couldn't have done it without you. The donations of masks and equipment you have provided have allowed us to be ready earlier than anticipated. Thank you.

The planning and decisions we are making are not just focused on today, this week or this month. The pandemic will change how healthcare – and many industries – operate permanently. We are thinking innovatively about the future and asking questions about what care practices should be in place going forward to be sure we are providing the safest care every time. Years ago, the term "universal precautions" (the use of protective supplies like gloves and gowns) didn't even exist. But through research and time, these are now standards in healthcare, because they are proven to be a safer way to practice medicine; look how far we've come. Today is no different. We are making changes and decisions that will affect us well into the future.

This is much more than just doing surgeries again. It is about learning and changing how the health system works so you are always safe. That has always been our goal and today is no different. So even though the executive order states we can start May 11, we didn't plan on having a significant increase in activity that week, by design. We will start when we are ready and know that we have it hardwired into our daily processes. I wish you could sit in on the meetings where this is all discussed. The passion and commitment these staff members and providers have for the community and patients is incredible.

Lakewood is not the only place I get to see that passion and dedication in action. I see these same qualities in area teachers, city workers, county government, business owners, the media – the list goes on and on. I know I missed some groups here, but the point is our area has a lot of special people who really care and make a difference every day. The communities that have these kinds of people who are there for each other in times of crisis are the communities that really stand out. It's easy to be critical and get drawn into the things that are not perfect. But if we take a moment to look at the positive changes being made and focus on the real community heroes who are doing the work every day, our rural area has a lot to be proud of. Because you know we can count on each other.



Our response will determine our future

We don't have Italian opera stars singing from our balconies, but we do have polka bands in Minnesota. I heard one story about a polka band setting up outside a nursing home and letting residents open their windows to hear the happy tunes.

I have to smile when I see some of the ways small towns around the country are coping with the nationwide coronavirus shutdown.

What I once would have called empty gestures now mean a great deal to those who take part in them, as we confirm our shared humanity in the face of a global crisis. So keep up the good work, even as many of our systems are recovering from critical hits.

Locally, we have seen a great response to the coronavirus crisis. The school district has gone far beyond their duty to provide free food to every student who asks for it. People have come together to support local restaurants. As I walk through town, I appreciate all the house decorations and sidewalk art giving out positive messages.

That is a good start, because this crisis will change the way we do things for years to come. It is up to us to shape our future so that people will remember the crisis as a fulcrum for positive

change, not as a depressing episode to fear.

The Staples Chamber of Commerce is one group that is focused on positive change. Just a few months ago, they were losing their director and were without a functioning board. They decided to reconstitute the board and are now community leaders with their weekly online videoconferences that update the local needs and responses to the coronavirus pandemic.

The other big local response was the Staples Motley Area Community Foundation, which created an emergency fund for businesses in need. Their grants were \$2,000 that went to many local businesses and should be enough to pay some bills to keep them open for another month.

Small towns are in a unique position that we can quickly change the way we do things. Some of that is by necessity, because we only have a few leadership positions and when they change, it leads to community-wide change. But it is also because small towns tend to be close-knit and are able to come to a consensus on decisions that benefit everyone.

Other small towns have created telethons, merchandise sales, virtual services and creative curbside service in response to the crisis. Some places have redirected services to provide for vulnerable seniors.

As we start trying to reopen while staying safe, give us suggestions on what our community should be doing differently. Let us know what works to get you through this hard time for everyone. If it turns out to involve a polka band, I'll be there to share the joy.



By Mark Anderson
Editor

Graduation quotes

“Many of life’s failures are people who did not realize how close they were to success when they gave up.”

— Thomas A. Edison

Conversation Starter of the Week

Tell me two things you have missed during this time of distance learning?

Brought to you by Todd County CAD

Time to be vigilant, not cavalier

By Mark Anderson
Managing Editor

Everyone feels the frustration of the stay at home order, and we all dream about throwing off the shackles and return to a regular life. But health experts are warning us that the worst is yet to come, coronavirus will surge in this area some time this summer. Everything we have been doing up to now has been practice for when the surge hits.

When the stay at home order started in Minnesota, almost all the coronavirus cases were in the metro area. After hearing about virus explosions in Italy and New York City, we expected it to get here a lot faster. Despite a few of outbreaks like in Worthington and St. Cloud, most of the outstate counties still have low or manageable numbers that are rising slowly.

So on one hand, it seems our statewide social distancing practices have worked amazingly well, we haven't become a hotspot and it has saved lives. On the other hand, it seems that the outstate areas didn't need to close down all our restaurants and

hair salons so soon. We could have put other safety measures in place before going straight to a complete lockdown.

So it is understandable that people in rural communities pushed back against the stay at home orders. If a business can open up safely and follow the strict guidelines, they should be allowed to do it.

That topic was brought up at the Staples City Council meeting on May 12, when a council member advocated for the city to pass a resolution that would allow businesses to defy the state's stay at home order.

A couple of other cities in Minnesota have passed such a resolution. I don't know what their motivation was, but some of the sentiment has been coming from people who are fed up with the stay at home orders and want to throw it all away. When it was brought to the Staples City Council meeting, the idea was coupled with theories about an individual's right to take risks and catch the virus if they wanted. That is an example of the wrong motivation for allowing businesses to open.

It was unfortunate that those comments came from a former police officer. I'm sure no police officer would ever listen to someone saying they have a right to drive recklessly, just because they don't mind the risks involved. We have traffic laws because it endangers everyone on the road, not one driver at a time. Similarly, we have social distancing rules because of the risk to the community as a whole, not to a few individuals who feel reckless and don't feel like following health guidelines.

The request to the Staples council to defy the state orders was also coupled with a theory that Minnesota's coronavirus response is flawed because the state is implementing rules copied from other states, with few modifications to fit our state. That theory was then used to imply that none of the stay at home orders make sense.

There are legitimate criticisms of the state's coronavirus response, but it has nothing to do with a fictional cabal of states implementing the exact same system without care for their citizens. I don't mind that the theory was

brought up, but that nobody else on the council refuted it, they just accepted it and turned the conversation towards a less confrontational solution.

There is only one good way to get through this crisis, by continuing with social distancing and limited contact the best we possibly can. If we start injecting harmful theories into legitimate conversations about how to open up safely, it is sure to erode our response to the coronavirus. If we fail, the stay at home orders will come back and I doubt anyone will follow them again. But that also means schools will have to go back to distance learning and we won't have fall sports to watch.

The people who are so cavalier that they think they don't have to follow the rules are risking the lives of our elderly population and are prolonging the recovery before we can get back to normal. Rural areas are actually lucky, we had low risks of catching this deadly virus and we are now more prepared for when it does hit. Let's not throw that away.

Letter to the Editor

Transparency needed in power board

Have you ever wanted to change something? Most of us have. The upcoming Crow Wing Power Board Elections are coming up and we definitely need some changes there.

There continues to be a lot of questions at CWP. Does the upcoming mining project have individual royalties for anyone? Are there Non Disclosure Agreements (NDA) being offered for hush agreements? Why are long term, faithful employees being pushed out? Why are there still parts of the

monthly meetings closed to folks, including one board member? Why don't the minutes have ALL the information from the meetings?

These three folks: Bryan McCulloch, Gary Bakken and Loren Beilke, have promised to get answers. Please vote for them in the upcoming election. You can and should vote in all districts, not just yours. Let's bring honesty, transparency, fiscal responsibility and accountability back to Crow Wing Power. For more information go to www.cwppaccountability-group.com

John Ward
Baxter, Minn.



StaplesWorld

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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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There is a \$5 charge for address change from local to out-of-state.



Todd County seeks input on pandemic

The Todd County Commissioners are asking residents to take part in a survey regarding the latest Executive Order and the impact this has on businesses within Todd County. The Board of Commissioners want to support local businesses, while also recognizing the need

to protect the health and well-being of the citizens of Todd County. Your participation and input are very important and appreciated as the Board of Commissioners continue to make decisions during the COVID-19 pandemic. The survey can be found

on the Todd County website homepage under quick links titled "Todd County Citizen Survey" at www.co.todd.mn.us or you can access the survey directly at <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/TCBusinessesResponses>. Responses are requested by May 22.

Cancellations in the Staples-Motley area

Due to the coronavirus outbreak, the following events/activities have been cancelled:

- The Lake Shamaineau Association Spring meeting, originally scheduled for May 23, has been canceled due to the coronavirus. A future 2020 meeting

has not been scheduled and will be determined later this summer. *These are the events that the Staples World has been made aware of. For other updates, call a representative of the entity in question directly.*

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Staples World

Staples World

Staples World early deadline for May 27 issue is Thursday, May 21, 4 p.m. in observance of Memorial Day.

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STATEPOINT CROSSWORD
THEME:
ACTORS AND ACTRESSES

- ACROSS
- "Flowers in the ____"
 - Emergency responders
 - Peacock's pride
 - Life force in Sanskrit
 - Doctor Dolittle, e.g.
 - Happen again
 - Freudian topic
 - In a fitting way
 - *Hopkins' Lecter to ____'s Starling
 - *McGillis' Charlie to ____'s Maverick
 - Unagi
 - Undesirable row
 - Stuff in a tray?
 - The Tramp's love interest
 - Hairy vertebrate
 - "Best ____ schemes o' mice an' men"
 - Be inclined
 - City in Belgium
 - Debussy's "Clair de ____"
 - D'Artagnan's weapon, pl.
 - Speed on water
 - "This ____," on a box
 - The Chapin School, e.g.
 - Ä
 - Post-roller coaster ride state
 - The Coen brothers' "True ____"
 - ____ Diego
 - Deuce topper
 - Lamb's mother
 - *Clark's Rhett to ____'s Scarlett
 - *John's Danny to ____'s Sandy
 - Continually annoy
 - Matterhorn, e.g.
 - Cooler climate conifer
 - Do like phoenix
 - Tiger's peg
 - "My Own Private ____"
 - Thou ____, or you have
 - Bajillion years
 - Article of faith

- DOWN
- 2020 Easter mo.
 - Not kosher
 - Meal in a shell
 - Occupied, two words
 - El Chapo's organization
 - "What ____ Happened to Baby Jane?"
 - *Billy's Harry to ____'s Sally
 - Investor's asset
 - ____Guarani languages
 - Liberal pursuits
 - Archipelago unit
 - Bovine hangout
 - Posterior, anatomically speaking
 - Fill with optimism
 - Basketball target
 - Two heads are better than one, e.g.
 - *Keaton's Annie to ____'s Alvy
 - Sweating room
 - Hinduism follower
 - *Knightley's Swann to ____'s Sparrow
 - *Cameron's Fiona to ____'s Shrek
 - List of options, pl.
 - Ancient Greeks' assembly area
 - Pretend, two words
 - ____ ex machina
 - Doe, e.g.
 - Sales pitch
 - Smallest at the clothing store
 - Second person of be
 - Lighted by twilight
 - Related on mother's side
 - Avoid, as in taxes
 - Designer Bradley
 - Osiris' wife
 - One third of a three-piece suit
 - Welcoming sign
 - A Flock of Seagulls' hit, 2 words
 - Soreness
 - "____, humbug!"
 - *Kate's Rose to ____'s Jack
 - "Some Like It ____"

Staples World

Staples World early deadline for May 27 issue is Thursday, May 21, 4 p.m. in observance of Memorial Day.

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
Teleconferencing:
Toll-free: 844-855-4444, after the greeting, use Code 8742383#
No internet needed. Join us for a time of praise, prayer and Bible study.

914 3rd Ave. NE, Staples 218-894-1081
Pastor Roy Miles
Discipleship Classes 9:30 a.m.
Sunday Worship 10:30 a.m.
Evening Prayer 6:00 p.m.
WEDNESDAY
Wednesday times are for Sept. - May
Sonlight (Kids Program) 4:00 - 5:30 p.m.
Youth Group 4:00 - 5:30 p.m.

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

First Congregational Church, UCC
firstconguccstaples@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
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 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 10:45 a.m..
Sabbath School 9:30 a.m.

Thomastown Covenant
15940 251st Ave., Staples 218-894-3923
Sunday School 9:15 a.m..
Sunday Worship 10:30 a.m..
WEDNESDAY 7:00 p.m.

Trinity Lutheran
1000 4th St., NE, Staples 218-894-2372
Rev. Robin Collins
Sunday Divine Service 9:00 a.m..
Sunday School & Bible Class 10:30 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
320-749-2140
Pastor Carl Larson
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 St., Cushing 218-575-2449
www.lincolnefree.org Facebook Lincoln E Free
Office Hours: Mon.-Thurs., 9 a.m.-2 p.m.
Senior Pastor: Donald Reigstad
Pastor: Jim Brown
Youth Coordinator: Joe Reigstad
SUNDAY
Sunday School for all ages 9:00 a.m..
Worship Gathering 10:00 a.m..
WEDNESDAY
Praise & Prayer 4:30 p.m..
Kids' Club 6:00 p.m..
Jr./Sr. Forge Youth Group 6:00 p.m.

Cushing Baptist
26298 Bear Rd., Cushing
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.

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

Motley

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

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

St. Michael
1st St. and Birch, Motley 218-894-2296
Pastor Fr. 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 Cty 34 to Cty. 104.
Phone 218-746-3839
Sunday School 9:30 a.m..
Worship 10:30 a.m..
Sunday Worship 7:00 p.m..
WEDNESDAY 7:00 p.m.

First Baptist
903 River Street South, Pillager
Pastor Jake Anderson
218-746-3768
curious@fbcpillager.com
Worship Gathering 10:00 a.m..
Connection Point 9:30 a.m..
(serving coffee and donuts)

Hewitt

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

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

United Methodist Church
Hwy. 210, Hewitt, MN
Pastor Kenneth Uhren
Sunday Services 10:30 a.m..
Verndale School 9:30 a.m.

Verndale

Verndale Alliance
109 NW Brown Street, Verndale, MN 56481
218-445-5619
Senior Pastor Tony Stanley
Heath Belknap, Pastor of Student Ministries
Sunday Worship 9:30 a.m..
Sunday Bible Fellowship 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
Discipleship Classes 9:00 a.m..
Prayer 9:20 a.m..
Coffee / Fellowship 9:30 a.m..
Worship Service 10:00 a.m..
Celebrate Recovery 6-8 p.m..
WEDNESDAY
6:00 p.m.Meal 6:30 p.m.Groups

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

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

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

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

Check with your church to be up-to-date on service options. Most are adapting to remote services.

"Beauty of Brokenness"

Pastor Barry Klein, Staples Church of Christ

I'm in my study as I reflect upon these thoughts. I have next to me an incredible piece of woodworking in the shape of a cross. The jigsaw intricacies of it cause a person to take unhurried time to look at it three dimensionally. There are actually three identical crosses put together with two spacers.

The prominent Scripture in white letters on the front is from John 11:26a: "I am the resurrection and the life." Each of those letters are individually cut with the jigsaw. On the base of the cross, this man also included: Faith - Hope - Love. Jesus is above the John 11:25a Scripture with three angels below that Scripture.

Even as I am attempting to describe this cross, I am not doing it justice.

The craftsman of this cross had many struggles. They were struggles of brokenness. (I hope we realize that none of us are exempt from brokenness.)

May I share a confession? There are times when I'm drawn to the cross by his brokenness, but in other

times, I'm wondering if I will even keep it. In clearer moments, I grow in the former and find judgmental pride in the latter.

Thank you for being patient with me.

I had the privilege of officiating his funeral 12 years ago.

Let's close with the second half of John 11:25 which goes on to say by Jesus, "The one who believes in me will live, even though he dies." This is all being shared in the midst of Lazarus' death. Jesus is talking with Lazarus' sister, Martha. Jesus was close friends with Lazarus, Mary and Martha. He goes on to say in the next verse (26) "and whoever lives and believes in me will never die. Do you (Martha) believe this?" Martha's confession hopefully is an encouragement to each one of us to process in our own lives. May her John 11:27 confession be ours as she says, "Yes, Lord, I believe that you are the Christ, the Son of God, who was to come into the world."

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Staples, MN 218-894-1775

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218-894-3794

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218-894-1112

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Hello World

BIRTHS REPORTED AT LAKEWOOD HEALTH SYSTEM HOSPITAL IN STAPLES INCLUDED:

Born to Tahna and Jason Rurup of Verndale, a baby girl, Adaiah Jay weighing eight pounds, five ounces on May 8, 2020.

Born to Valerie Rardin and Jacob Toth of Brainerd, a baby girl Grace Lynn weighing six pounds, 12 ounces on May 11, 2020.

Born to Jessica and Thomas Evans of Long Prairie, a baby girl, Paisley Madelyn weighing eight pounds, four ounces on May 11, 2020.

Born to Barbara Kenyon and Matthew Meyer of Browerville, a baby boy Jack Thomas weighing six pounds, six ounces on May 12, 2020.

Born to Alexis and Edward Blashack of Bertha, a baby girl, Catherine Siena weighing seven pounds, eight ounces on May 12, 2020.

Born to Sandy Granados Marquez and Juan Gonzalez of Staples, a baby boy Osman Jadel weighing seven pounds, 13 ounces on May 13, 2020.

Born to Kayla Hamilton and Dan Sprau of Pequot Lakes, a baby girl Raevyn Louise weighing six pounds, five ounces on May 14, 2020.

Born to Brooke and Marcos Gomez of Verndale, a baby girl Briza Quinn weighing six pounds, eight ounces on May 14, 2020.

SHS Class of 1980, reunion postponed

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the Staples High School Class of 1980's 40th reunion has been postponed.

Originally scheduled to take place this coming August during Railroad Days, the reunion events have been rescheduled for Railroad Days 2021. The events will include:

- o Friday, Aug. 27, 2021 - Dinner and brief program at Timbers Restaurant & Event Center in Staples, beginning at 6 p.m.
- o Saturday, Aug. 28, 2021 - Informal gathering at Pine Grove Park's kitchen shelter in Staples.

A 'Save the Date' postcard with the new dates will be mailed to all classmates in the near future.

Student Achievements

LONNA DILLE, Staples, graduated from Boise State University on May 9, with a Master of Social Work (MSW) degree.

JULIA FINK, Staples, recently graduated cum laude from Minnesota State University, Mankato, with a Bachelor of Science degree in Dental Hygiene.

BROOKE JACKSON, Staples, recently graduated from Minnesota State University, Mankato, with a Bachelor of Arts degree in Film and Media Studies.

TATUM WILLIAMS, Staples, was recently named to the Spring Dean's List at the University of Jamestown, North Dakota. To qualify, students must maintain a semester grade point average of 3.50 or better.

Nolte family farms achieve water quality certification

By Jim Lahn,
Area Certification Specialist
North Central Minnesota
MAWQCP Area

Tim and Rita Nolte and much of their family are all involved in the management of their farming operation near Sebeka.

As they care for their cow/calf herd and their pasture, hay and row crop fields, they also care for the land and water.

Because of their decisions to farm in a manner that protects water and soil resources, the Nolte farms are now Water Quality Certified in the Minnesota Ag Water Quality Certification Program (MAWQCP).

Their farming operation joins the 850 Water Quality Certified farming operations in Minnesota's unique, five-year-old program that recognizes farmers' efforts to protect the state's water quality.

Water Quality Certified farming operations adopt a system or combination of conservation practices on the land – conservation practices that are suited



Farm family receives certificate

The Nolte farms, located near Sebeka in Wadena County, are now Water Quality Certified in the Minnesota Ag Water Quality Certification Program (MAWQCP). Pictured, from left, are Rita Nolte, Tim Nolte, Eric Nolte, Katie Hock-

ett, Jacob Nolte, Eva Ehner, Anne Oldakowski, Asst. Manager, Wadena SWCD (Soil & Water Conservation District), Dan Ehner, Jim Lahn, MAWQCP Area Certification Specialist. (Submitted photo)

for that particular soil type, topography and type of farming operation.

Here's how Tim, Rita and family achieve this

goal:

- The great majority of the Noltes' land is in long-term perennial pasture and hay, with many of these fields established to perennial vegetation for longer than a 10-year period. The result is that the soil is protected from erosion by wind or water and little to no soil sediment or nutrients are delivered to streams, lakes and wetlands.
- The Nolte family practices rotational grazing as they often move their cow-calf herds between different paddocks (smaller pasture areas); this prevents over-grazing. In the river bottom pastures, they are careful to use flash grazing, which allows their cow/calf herd only limited, temporary access to water in the river. On their Nolte home farm adjacent to the Red Eye River, they have a livestock watering system with water supplied by a well. In this way, the cow/calf herd has an alternative water source other than the river.
- Many grassed filter strips and riparian buffers (forested areas) are maintained along the river, streams and water bodies on the Nolte farmland. This perennial vegetation along the water's edge traps soil sediment and nutrients before they enter the water.
- On the few fields where row crops are grown, only spring tillage is practiced and the time period between spring tillage and planting is kept to a minimum. This "crop residue cover" (stalks and stubble from the harvested crop) is on the soil surface in the fall, winter and into

spring and protects the soil – reducing soil erosion and slowing down runoff water. The Noltes also plant fields to winter rye grain, which serves as a cover crop, protecting the soil from erosion where corn silage is chopped and also preventing the loss of nutrients in the soil.

- The Noltes "use as little commercial fertilizer as possible" in efforts to reduce their input costs.

They practice proper nutrient management as they choose their fertilizer and livestock manure application rates, following University of Minnesota recommendations which protect water quality. The Nolte family uses good pest management techniques, correctly using herbicides only to control weeds in their row crop fields and thistles in their pastures.

This system of conservation practices is effective in protecting our water and soil resources, which is a high priority to the Nolte family. In Tim's words, "Our whole lives revolve around trees and grass and cows; without good clean water, it's all for nothing."

"Congratulations to the Nolte family for their decisions to practice conservation and for receiving their Water Quality Certified Farm sign in late September 2019," said Jim Lahn, the program's Area Certification Specialist, who works with the program in 11 counties in north central Minnesota.

"I thank the Nolte family for participating in this program," Lahn went on, "It's an excellent way for farmers to consider new Conservation Practices and also tell the story of the good things they do to protect water quality."

Obituary



Hazel Knudson

Hazel Marie Knudson, 87, passed away peacefully at Lakewood Health Care Center, Staples on May 12, 2020 from complications of Alzheimer's Disease.

Hazel was born in Grand Rapids on May 29, 1932, to Elmer and Lois Martinson. She married Kenneth Knudson, a Korean War Veteran, in 1950 in Grand Rapids. The couple lived in Texas before settling in Arizona. They were

involved in the Lutheran Church and Happy Trails community in Arizona.

Hazel is survived by three sons, Ron, Jeff and Doug; one daughter, Sharon and several grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

She is preceded in death by her husband, Ken and two sons, Mike and David.

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

w21c A00006B2020MY21



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Farm operators and owners throughout Minnesota are eligible to be involved in the Minnesota Ag Water Quality Certification Program. Producers interested in learning more can contact their local Soil & Water Conservation District office or Jim Lahn at 218-457-0250.

Staples World

Staples World early deadline for May 27 issue is Thursday May 21, 4 p.m. in observance of Memorial Day.



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Public Notices

TODD COUNTY PLANNING COMMISSION
 215 First Ave. South,
 Suite 103
 Long Prairie,
 Minnesota 56347
 Phone 320-732-4420
 Fax 320-732-4803
 Email toddplan.zone@co.todd.mn.us

PUBLIC NOTICE
 Notice is hereby given that the Todd County Planning Commission will hold a public hearing on **Thursday June 4, 2020 at 6:00 p.m.** in the commissioners meeting room, **Historic Courthouse, 215 First Ave. South, Long Prairie, MN, or via phone conference call** to consider the following applications.
 Please email or phone in your wish to be included if the meeting is not allowed to be open to the public: 320-732-4420 toddplan.zone@co.todd.mn.us
Agenda
 •Call to Order.
 •Introduction of Planning Commission Members.
 •Approval of the May 2020 Planning Commission meeting minutes.
 1. **Dean Blanchard:** NE4 NE4 EX S 330 feet of Section 29 of Villard Township. Site Address: 30075 470th Street. PID: 25-0029901.

1) Request for temporary family living on this site.
 2. **Joe Gingerich:** Part of NW4 NE4 of Section 33 in Reynolds Township. Site Address: 19191 County 10, PID: 20-0036502
 1) To establish a sheet metal fabrication retail sales and metal machine shop.
 3. **Joseph J. Bontrager:** SE4 SW4 of Section 20 in Eagle Valley Township. Site Address: 17849 352nd Ave. PID: 07-0023500.
 1) To establish a sheet metal sales and retail greenhouse sales.
 4. **Jason Korblich:** NW4 Lying E'ERLY of Hwy 71 in Section 6 of Hartford Township. Site Address: 32376 US HWY 71. PID: 12-0006501.
 1) To open a previous existing gravel pit to be used for fill soil only, no screening or crushing at this site.
 All persons interested are invited to attend said hearing and be heard on these matters. If unable to attend, all correspondence must include name, mailing address and be received 48 hours before the date and time of the hearing.

Todd County Planning Commission
 Michael Wiener,
 Chairperson
 21pnc

NOTICE VILLARD TOWNSHIP REQUEST FOR BIDS

The Township of Villard is accepting quotes for the following:
 •New paving on Spruce Road that consists of 5,410 ft. x 22 ft. wide paving of three (3) inches; mill off existing paving and reuse for base. Add additional three (3) inches of Class 5, one (1) foot paving step out at approaches and mailboxes; three (3) foot wide shoulders on each side of Spruce Road with Class 2. Class 5 will need to match new pavement at approaches.
 Send quotes to:
 Mary Trantina Koenig,
 Villard Township Clerk
 31836 Timberlane Road
 Staples, MN 56479
 218-640-6115

All bids must be received by 5:00 p.m. Monday, June 8, 2020, at which time the quotes will be reviewed and awarded at the Villard Township regular meeting.

Mary Trantina Koenig
 Clerk, Villard Township
 21pnc

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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
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 Musical
308 Miscellaneous
310 Health/Beauty
311 Firewood
312 Christmas Trees
313 Computers/Office Equip.
314 Farm Services
315 Camper Trailer

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

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NOTICES

100 Events/Announcements
101 Card of Thanks

The Family of Delores Manning would like to express our sincere thanks and appreciation for the many acts of kindness and sympathy shown to us following the death of our mother. We also send our gratitude to the staff in the memory care unit of Lakewood Health System Care Center, Staples where Dolores made her home for the past two years. Special thanks to the Brenny Family Funeral Chapel staff and Pastor Barry Klein who showed us kindness and compassion during this difficult time.

Sue and Dale Adams
Pam and Joe DuBay
Tim Manning
Deb and Peter Fink
21p

SERVICES & EMPLOYMENT

205

Help Wanted
TODD COUNTY EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY: Todd County is looking for reliable, service oriented individual to serve the citizens of Todd County in full-time capacity for the following position: **Deputy County Recorder.** To learn more about this opening and how to apply visit the official Todd County website at www.co.todd.mn.us or <https://www.governmentjobs.com/careers/cotoddmn>. Questions can be directed to Todd County Administration, 320-732-6155. 21c

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First review of applications: Noon on May 29, 2020.

Please send Letter of Application, Resumé and References to:

Lori Murdock, Director of Special Education
Freshwater Special Education
2222 Industrial Drive, Wadena, MN 56482
Phone: 218-631-3505 Ext 1042,
lmurdock@fed.k12.mn.us

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Contact Patti Twardowski,
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Contact us for options available to apply.
Business Hrs: Mon.-Fri., 8 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

HELP WANTED

Public Works Seasonal Employees - Mowers

The City of Staples is accepting applications for seasonal employees-grass mowers (June - August). General duties include: mowing and trimming of all City property, lots, and ponds; mowing of properties declared grass nuisances; streetscape maintenance and weeding, storm pond maintenance assistance; mulching, weed spraying, fertilizing, tree trimming and removal and other duties as directed by the Public Works Director.

Rate of pay: \$11.00/hr to \$12.00/hr, 10-40 hours/week as needed.

Job description and application available at:

www.staples.govoffice.com

or by contacting **Scott Grabe**
at the City of Staples, 218-894-2550.

Application deadline is Friday, May 29, 2020.

EOE



Central Todd County Care Center

Certified Nursing Assistants

We are searching 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.

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Contact Amanda Rickbeil, arickbeil@ctcccinc.com
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We are accepting applications for 2 and 3 bedroom townhomes in Staples, a community you can get attached to. Rent based on income. Now professionally managed by
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Income guidelines apply.

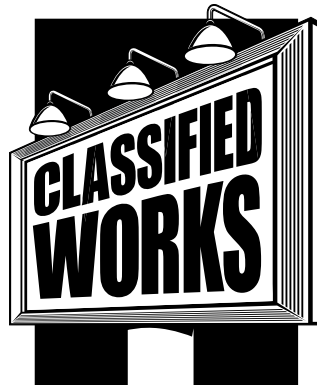
GARAGE SALES

701

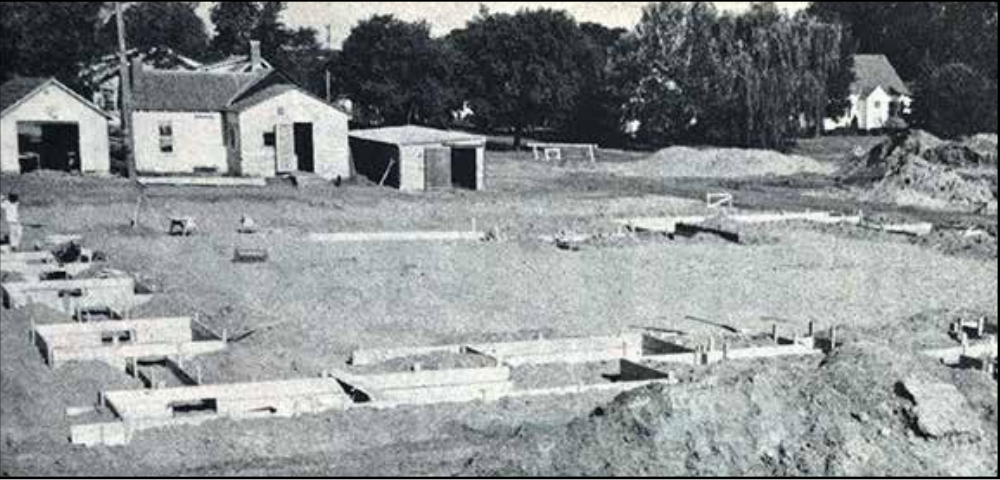
HUGE PERENNIAL PLANT SALE: 49430 305th Ave. S, Staples. Sat., May 23-Mon., May 25, 8 a.m. - ? Many varieties of perennials: Hostas, Day Lilies, Bleeding Hearts, Lilacs, more. Includes many private selections that have never previously been offered. 3 mi. east of Staples on Hwy. 10. Watch for signs. ssw20-w21p

SIX SASSY SISTERS SALE, Sensational Friends and Neighbors: Fri., May 22-Sat., May 23, 8 a.m.-6 p.m. Three sales: 6440 59th Ave. SW, Leader, 5675 Koon Road SW, Leader and 7170 64th St. SW, Staples. **Worth the trip!** w20-w21p

Staples AG MISSIONS SALE
914 3rd Ave. NE, Staples
•Weds., May 20, 4 p.m.
•Thurs., May 21-Fri., May 22, 8 a.m.-7 p.m.
•Sat., May 23, 8 a.m.-noon
Compound bow, new tackle box, karaoke machine, 2 toddler beds, golf clubs w/bags, shop lights, nice selection 2XL-3XL women's clothing, etc.

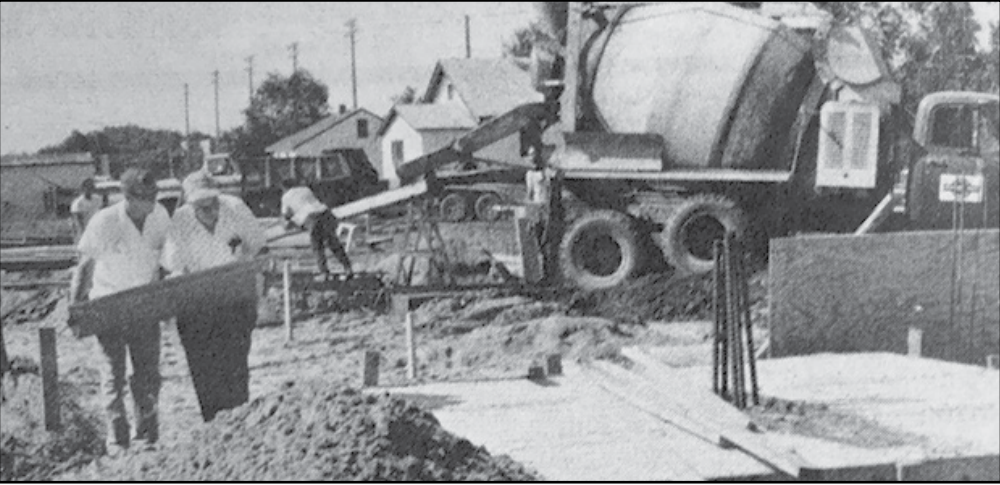


Staples Hi-Rise 50 years old in May



Land purchased, construction underway

June, 1970. The ground area at the construction site of the new Staples Hi-Rise had been filled and leveled by students of the Heavy Equipment class of the Staples Area Vocational-Technical school. Crews from Adolphson and Peterson, Inc., Minneapolis, moved in and began actual construction of the housing project for the elderly in Staples. The initial step was the placing of forms for the foundation. The buiding was to be completed in 365 calendar days. (Archive photo)



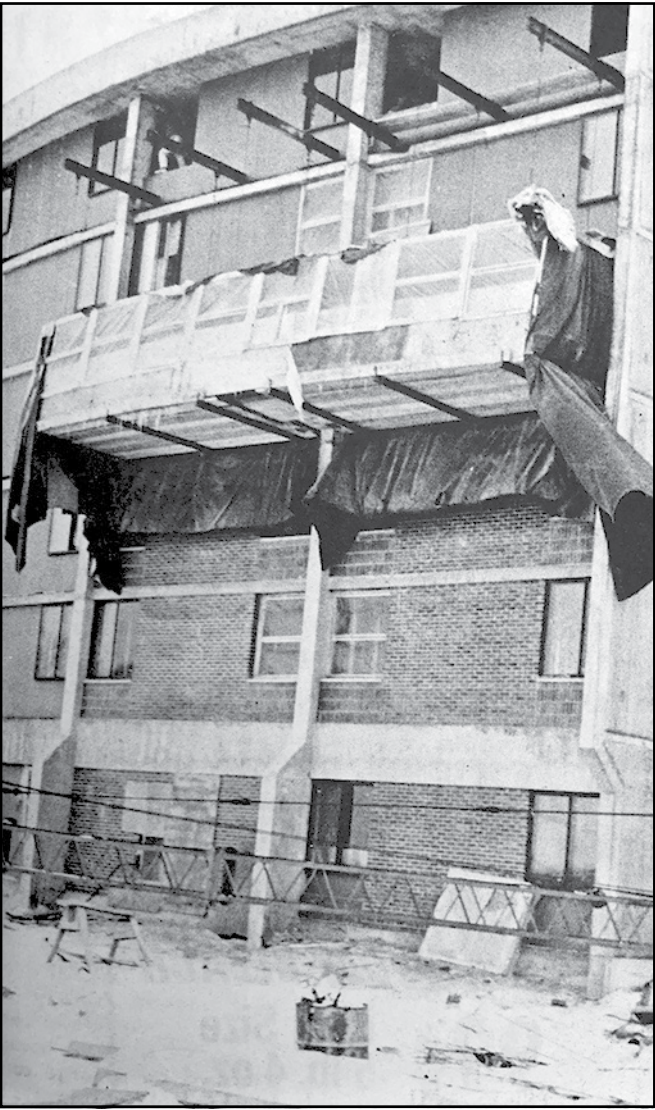
Footings poured

Footings were poured for the new housing for the elderly project in Staples. Looking at the blueprints as the first truckload of cement was poured are Elmer Marr, left, Staples and Harold Wisti, Brainerd, superintendent for Adolphson and Peterson, contractors. Bret Elifrits, Staples is operating the Staples Ready-Mix truck. (SW archive photo)



Bricklayers

Bricklayers started enclosing the structure with the outside facing of bricks and are working from the suspended scaffold. Don Kinsman, Pequot Lakes, left and Don Anderson, Motley work on putting a concrete window ledge in place. (SW archive photo)



Scaffold

A “growth” appeared on the north side of the senior citizen high rise building; the enclosure houses bricklayers and protects them from the elements. It is about 42 feet long with interior measurements of six by eight feet. The swinging scaffold is suspended by cables from the top floor of the building and covers about a half of the width of the structure.. (SW archive photo)



Open

The newly completed Staples Hi-Rise Apartments were ready for moving in. The six story building contains 40 efficiency apartments for single persons, 20 double units for married couples, a two bedroom apartment for the caretaker, a community room with kitchen facilities, a lounge area, craft room, director's office, an office for the executive secretary, laundry room with three washers and dryers, two elevators and garbage compactor. Ample parking is available in the area. The grounds are landscaped and the entire project adds much to the Staples community.

The building was made possible through a \$964,911 grant from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development. (SW archive photo)



Hi-Rise occupied

August 16, 1971 residents began moving into the new Staples Hi-Rise Apartments on North Fourth Street. Mr. and Mrs. John Benedict, left are pictured visiting Mrs. Mary Nelson in her unit on the second floor of the building. Residents had moved into 12 apartments of the 60 unit building with more moving in prior to Sept. 1. Vacancies that exist are apartments for couples and if not filled by couples, the apartments will be rented to single persons upon board approval in order to meet 100 percent occupancy. (SW archive photo)

The Staples Hi-Rise is 50 years old this month, May 2020. The apartment building, named for its innovative six levels, is located at 615 4th St NE.

In the mid-60's the City of Staples - a town with “bootstraps” - was looking ahead to establish an affordable housing program for their citizen's growing needs.

Timeline of the apartment building includes:

- Aug., 1966 - Housing Redevelopment Authority of Staples is established
- Oct. 25, 1966 - Hearing at City Hall to Adopt a Resolution Creating and Establishing a Municipal Housing and Redevelopment Authority
- Feb. 11, 1969 - Resolution that the City of Staples undertake to apply to the federal government and the state government for funds for the acquisition of site and construction of housing units
- April 23, 1969 - Request for Determination and Certification of a workable program for community improvement, granted May 5, 1969
- May 17, 1969 - Entered into a Cooperation Agreement with the City of Staples
- Oct. 1, 1969 - Program Reservation for Low Rent Dwelling Units made by HUD
- Dec. 6, 1969 - Contract acceptance by HUD for Miller-Melby Architects,

Inc.

- April 29, 1970 - Advertisement to Bidders and Release of Contract Documents (Invitation to Bid)
- May 14, 1970 - Staples High Rise Business start date (50 years ago)
- May 27, 1970 - Bids Close at 4 p.m.
- June 22, 1970 - Bid Awarded to Adolphson and Peterson Inc, Minneapolis
- Nov. 5, 1970 - First Funds Requested on Sept. 30, 1970 approved by HUD
- July 31, 1971 - Date of full availability (income limits in 1971: one person - \$3,000 per year; two people - \$3,600 per year)

Excerpt from the Staples World: “In April 1970, three Staples Housing Authority members, B.C. Blessing, Robert Belling and W.E. Stone traveled to Chicago to meet with Regional HUD officials where they were given final approval for the “erection of the housing for the elderly in Staples”. Staples HUD Chairman B.C. Blessing reported that all plans and specifications prepared by the architectural firm of Miller-Melby, Minneapolis, were presented and finalized with approval granted for construction.

Plans included the construction of an 80'x100' building to include 60 rental units and be six stories high. The land was purchased (located across from Lakewood Clinic at that time) and bids for the

building were published April 29, 1970.

Blessing also commented that no applications will be accepted by the Staples Housing Authority from area residents wishing to reside in the building until after Sept. 1, 1970. An announcement will be made concerning the eligibility and accepting of applications at that time.

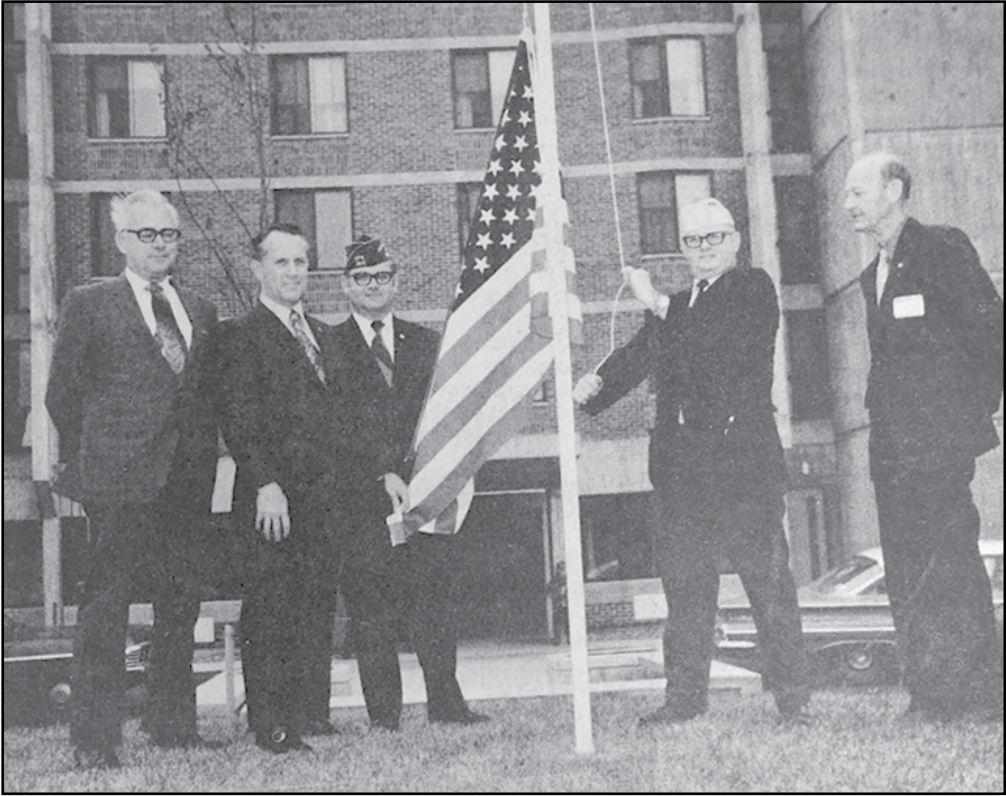
Other members of the local housing authority, besides Blessing and Stone are K.T. Barrett, Robert Batcher and Larry M. Dyer.

The open house was held Oct. 17, 1971. B.C. Blessing, chairman of the Staples Housing and Redevelopment Authority, said “The public is invited to inspect the facilities between the hours of 2 and 4 p.m. Refreshments will be served.”

This was the beginning... the rest is history as shown through the progression of photos included within the pages of the Staples World.

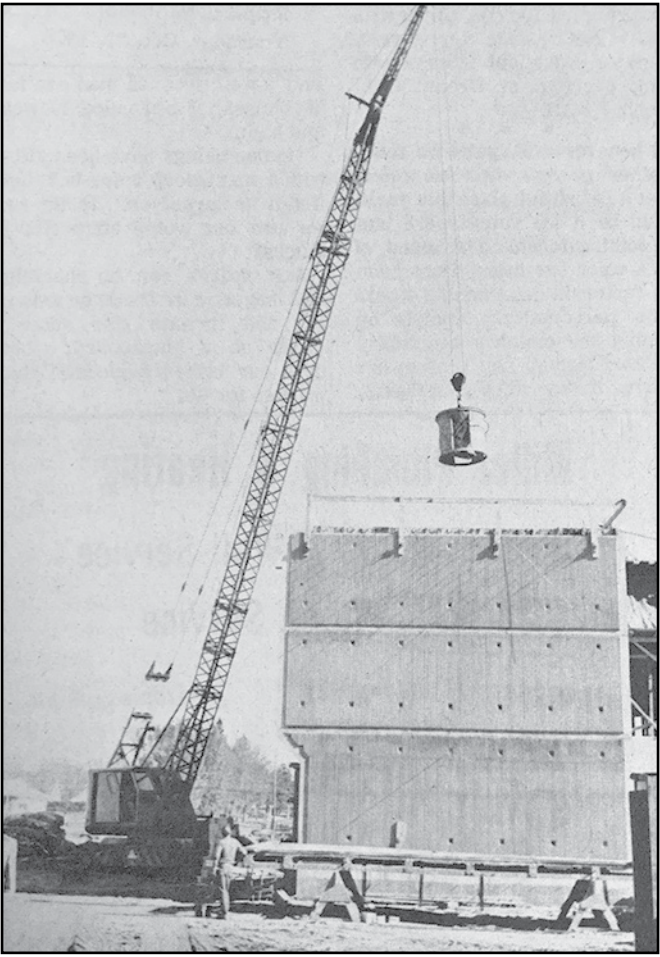
The Staples Hi-Rise remains as a 60 unit apartment building, maintaining affordable housing for residents. Throughout the years, improvements and rennovaions have been completed.

A 50-year celebration will be planned for August, 2020 during the Hi-Rise Community Picnic held during Railroad Days at the Hi-Rise.



Staples VFW presents flag to the Hi-Rise

A 50- star American flag was presented to the Staples Hi-Rise Apartments by the Veterans of Foreign Wars Post #1910 during the open house celebration of the new structure on Oct. 17, 1971. The flag pole was erected on the berm in front of the apartments a week ago and as the open house hours began, Robert Mueller, local Post Commander, made the presentation and the flag was raised. Pictured above at the ceremonies are, left to right, Robert R. Belling, executive secretary of the Staples Housing Authority; B. C. Blessing, chairman of the Staples Housing Authority, V.F.W. Commander Robert Mueller; Robert G. Sellnow and Larry M. Dyer. (SW archive photo)



Construction progress

An 80-foot hoist is shown elevating concrete to the top of the building during the pouring of the fourth floor of the structure. Two more stories will be added, with the pouring of the fourth floor walls and ceiling expected to be completed in about two weeks. (SW archive photo)



CARE Ministry board members

Pictured above at their February meeting are, from left, Pastor Paul Koehler, chair; Joyce Anderson, Ted Lelwica, Pastor Greg Leslie, Jeannie Hajek and

Candice Miles. Monthly board meetings are held at the Assembly of God Church in Staples. (Staples World photo by Dawn Timbs)

Organization spotlight

CARE Ministry

Are you interested in getting involved in a community organization? Perhaps you thought about it in the past, but weren't sure where to start.

Over the next several months, the Staples World will feature information on a variety of organizations in the Staples-Motley area that are always looking for new members. There's bound to be at least one that's a good fit for you.

Be a part of your community! In addition to helping others, most likely you will reap benefits personally. As author Dan Buettner notes in his book, "The Blue Zones," being a part of a community is one element that can lead to people living longer, healthier, happier lives.

1. NAME OF ORGANIZATION

CARE Ministry.

2. WHEN AND WHERE DO YOU MEET? EXPECTATIONS OF MEMBERS?

Anyone can attend any CARE meeting. There are no individual dues and no experience is needed. The only requirement needed is a heart that wishes to help those in need.

The trimester general meeting are the third Tuesday in January, April and September. We meet in the lower level at Lakewood Health System Hospital in Staples from 6:30 - 8 p.m. and the public is cordially invited.

We also hold a board meeting of the directors on a monthly basis at the Assembly of God Church in Staples. The meetings are held at 10 a.m.; the date varies with the directors' schedules. These meetings are also open to the public.

3. HISTORY OF THE GROUP

In 2007, a group of ministers and interested lay people met to discuss ways of coordinating emergency

assistance given to people in need who were not members of any particular congregation.

The primary goal was to help those in need. A secondary goal was to come up with a system that would notify all congregations when help from more than one church was needed. A third goal was to assist the local pastors and hopefully lessen their work load. Another goal was to assist those in need to insure they were utilizing all the sources of help available to them. We also hoped to offer them finance and budget education.

We contacted all the local churches and invited the pastors and their lay representatives to a general meeting. At that meeting the consensus was to continue the idea of forming an organization that would try to achieve these goals. A committee of five was appointed to make recommendations to the entire group. These recommendations included election of officers, meetings, methods of dispensing assistance and financing plus much more were brought to the general members.

In addition, four officers were elected as a Board of Directors who would meet monthly (this number has since grown to seven). It was decided to hold quarterly general meetings (this number has since grown to seven). It was also decided to hold quarterly general meetings (this number has since been changed to three). We also elected to name our organization CARE Ministry, which is an acronym for:

- C - Compassion of Christ
- A - Accountability
- R - Respect
- E - Ecumenical.

The hospital (Lakewood Health System) offered to be the dispensing center

for assistance as its ED (Emergency Department) is staffed 24 hours a day. They also offered to donate the space used for our general meetings and to provide coffee and cookies for us.

People in emergency need of help who come to one of the member churches for help would, after a brief interview, fill out an application and this is then taken to the hospital ED where a gas, grocery or clothing voucher is given. A roster list is kept and these applications and the roster are reviewed by the board of directors at their monthly meeting, and each applicant is prayed for.

We began serving our area in May of 2008. We realize that all communities have citizens in need of assistance, but since we are financed by our area churches, our goal is to serve the people of our area, Staples and Motley.

Presently, applicants with emergency requests are given an application for a \$25 gas voucher, or a \$25 grocery voucher, or a \$25 voucher for clothing from STEP (formerly Thread Shed) or Baby STEP. These applications are filled out at the church, then are taken to the hospital's ED and there receive the appropriate voucher. Larger requests are referred to the CARE Board which meets monthly.

4. MINISTRY EXPANSION

We now see our assistance expanding in a different pattern, one that involves bigger amounts than \$25. We've helped get people's electricity turned back on. We helped another person who had no health insurance get an evaluation at the Mayo Clinic; and we helped a family whose house burned down. We've helped with electricity deposits, fuel expenses

and emergency car repairs.

Each year in August, CARE sponsors a 'Back to School Fair' at Faith Lutheran Church in Staples. Families who can't afford expensive school supplies and such, fill out a request with student information and then go to the 'fair' where they receive a backpack with all the required supplies plus a set of clothing and shoes to begin their school year. They also receive a free hair cut and a healthy snack. Last year (2019), 92 students were served.

In 2009, we began The Great Coat Giveaway project. This is a distribution of new winter coats and a redistribution of near new coats to those facing a winter ahead with inadequate winter clothing. That has been a great success. Last year we distributed 200 coats, but in the past we have distributed as many as 500.

Since 2011, we, along with our member churches, sponsor free monthly community meals, September through May. This too has been very successful. Almost all the area churches have participated in this project. The meals are for those who can't afford the cost of a meal as well as those seeking fellowship and conversation. We have averaged between 100 - 150 people per meal with a high of 250 and a low of 60, which was due to a winter storm.

Due to the recent COVID-19 coronavirus outbreak, the community meals scheduled for March, April and May of this year have been cancelled.

5. CONTACT INFORMATION

For more information, contact board member Ted Lelwica at 218-894-1723 or 218-894-2442.

Memorial Day program postponed until July 4, for now

The annual Staples Memorial Day program at Evergreen Hill Cemetery will not be held this year due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Plans are being made to incorporate the service with a July 4 celebration, depending on what social distancing practices are allowed at that time in Minnesota.

Evergreen Hill Cemetery will be decorated with American flags at the graves of every veteran and the public is invited to drive or walk through

at their leisure. The flag crew was planning to put the flags out on May 18, and leave them up until Memorial Day, May 25.

The American Legion has recommended not holding live Memorial Day programs this year.

The Staples Veterans Park Board is planning to host the July 4 event, which includes the reading of the names of veterans who are on new paver stones at the park. Details will be made public when a decision on the event is made.

Council has differing opinions on reopening strategies

By Mark Anderson
Managing Editor

The Staples City Council approved sending a letter to the Governor of Minnesota to allow rural areas to open businesses safely.

Council member Doug Case asked if the council would consider stating that the city would not interfere if a business wanted to reopen in defiance of state shelter in place orders.

"Main Street businesses are closing, a few businesses won't be able to reopen," said Case. He said the City of Lakefield passed a resolution that stated they won't do anything to hamper reopening. "Do you want to look into some of that?" asked Case.

"We're different than the metro. I'm not advocating doing something contradictory to law, but if we do ..." said Case.

City Administrator Jerel Nelsen said cities could risk losing Local Government Aid (LGA) from the state if they did something like that. It was also brought up that restaurants could lose their license if they reopened against state orders.

Mayor Chris Etzler sug-

gested writing a letter to the governor asking for reopening of rural Minnesota.

Council member Rachel Johnson said the letter should show how rural areas are different. She also did not want to ignore state orders.

"Don't look the other way, it opens it up to breaking rules," said Johnson.

Case said "Some aren't overly concerned, some deathly afraid of it (COVID-19). Accept the risk or stay home, that's what America is about. People are well educated, they don't need to be hand-held."

Council member Thomas Toepper said "Going against the state is going to get the wrong kind of attention, a letter is the right way to do it."

Council member Mary Theurer said places in Wisconsin opened but they didn't follow social distancing rules and it led to a surge in the disease.

Council member Ron Murray said State Senator Paul Gazelka is open to suggestions and said they should talk to our state representatives about the business concerns. "They will get it to the right people," said Murray.



VIRTUAL VISITS

NOW AVAILABLE



lakewoodhealthsystem.com

Life doesn't stop because of COVID-19. With virtual video visits at Lakewood, most appointment types can now be completed from the comfort of your home. Call 218-894-1515 to schedule an appointment or visit our website for more information.