



Wednesday, July 28, 2021

Staples, Minnesota

\$1

Swan Valley quilters

Leader area women who continue the 60 year quilting tradition at Swan Valley Lutheran Church, Linda Johnson, Janine Wells; row two, Deb Shake, Betty Johannes; row three, Patti Harris; row four, Sandy Smith, Becky Roelofs; row five, Linda Michalson; row six, Diane Haehnel and JoAnn Lund. See story below.
(Staples World photo by Dawn Timbs)

Parking lot plan approved by school board

By Mark Anderson
Managing Editor

The Staples-Motley School Board approved a \$2,273,216 property tax increase to repave all the parking lots on school property. The vote was at the July 19 school board meeting.

The board used tax abatement financing, which identifies parcels in the district that would be sufficient to cover the annual debt service of the project, but the tax is applied to all properties in the district. The estimated tax impact on a home valued at \$125,000 would be \$52 per year. That is the median value of a home in the district, homes valued at a higher rate will pay a

larger amount and homes valued less than the median will pay a lower amount. The tax will be applied for four years to pay for the project.

A public hearing about the project brought several questions from the public. It was learned that the school parking lots are falling apart and have not been paved for a number of years, except for a portion to enlarge the elementary school parking lot.

The board also approved a 10 year plan for Long Term Facilities Maintenance (LTFM). They approved a request for proposals for a guaranteed energy savings contract. Both items are part of the building plan.

Activities

Superintendent Shane Tappe said the district will continue with the policy of no activity fees for students. He said it is helping with increased numbers in activities, especially at the middle school level.

Activities Director Josh Lee played a video for the board from the Minnesota State High School League's Why We Play program. The Staples-Motley schools are participating in the program, which Lee said

See **SCHOOL** on page 3a

Snook's life transformations are basis for new book about Vietnam, PTSD

By Mark Anderson
Managing Editor

Several crossroads in Mike Snook's life could have taken him in the wrong direction that would have ended in disaster. But each time someone or something helped him choose a new path that transformed his life.

First it was Jerry and Maryann Riewer who pulled him out of poverty and allowed him to graduate from Staples High School in 1966. He then went into the U.S. Army and to the Vietnam war. Despite a good business career, he suffered from post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) after Vietnam. A chance encounter during a visit back to Vietnam helped him start on a new path away from alcoholism towards being a Born Again Christian.

Snook and his wife Lori are now missionaries with REAP Worldwide, part of the Dave Roever ministry. He also maintains connections to the people of Vietnam.

Snook has written a new book about his struggles with PTSD and his journey to his current life. It is called "Vietnam Abyss - A Journal of Unmerited Grace." He has donated a copy to the Staples Library and to the Staples World.

Barefoot beginning

Snook got his first big break when he was 15 years old. He had gotten in trouble after he quit school at Deer Creek and stole a pair of shoes from the local bowling alley. He got caught and was sent to jail, so his brother went to the local baseball coach, Jerry Riewer, to help get him out.



Reunited back in Staples

Maryann and Jerry Riewer, with Mike Snook and wife Lori, when they visited downtown Staples on July 14. The Riewers reminisced with Snook about bringing him to Staples to turn his life around and finish high school. (Staples World photo by Mark Anderson)

"Why did he steal the shoes?" asked Riewer. "Because he was barefoot," the brother answered. "I thought that was a pretty good reason to take the shoes," said Riewer.

Snook's mother was raising eight children on welfare and didn't have the resources to give them all the necessities. So Riewer brought Snook to the new home he was starting in Staples. His wife Maryann was nine months pregnant with their first child, but she never questioned the decision to bring in a troubled youth at the exact time they were starting their own family. Jerry remembers her saying "I see so much good in Mike, but he's going

down the wrong road."

Snook started school in Staples and lived with the Riewers for two years until he graduated in 1966.

"My whole life changed when I moved in," said Snook. "I had no reputation here, I was just Jerry Riewer's kid."

He learned there was more to living than he had experienced. Maryann left notes around the house to remind Snook to do chores or get himself ready for school. The note might say "sweep the floor" or "be sure to change your socks." Snook said it was incredibly helpful because he didn't know those were things that people did every day. "I had to learn all that," he said.

He participated in football, wrestling and track. He joined the Thesbian Society and scored the most points in the history of the school.

Jerry said he was more strict with Snook than any of his own kids.

For example, the Staples football team rules said players had to be in by 9 p.m. the night before a game. When Snook came home at 9:03 one night, Jerry told him to let the coach know he had broken training rules. The next day Snook told coach Webb that he had been three minutes late. While Jerry and Mike thought this would likely be

See **SNOOK** on page 12a

Leader ladies share love of quilting, camaraderie

By Dawn Timbs
Staples World reporter

For nearly 60 years, a group of Leader area women have gathered to make quilts, forming lasting friendships along the way.

Hundreds of quilts have been lovingly stitched by these gals, with many donated to people in need and to local graduates.

"We have seven graduates this year," said JoAnn Lund, a longtime member of the group which currently meets at Swan Valley Lutheran Church in Leader. Their quilts have also been given to first responders, children with cancer, women's shelters and victims of fire. Occasionally, these handmade quilts can be purchased, such as at the church's annual garage sale.

"Most of the material is donated," Deb Shake shared,

adding that they do purchase some of it on occasion, especially when it comes time to make the special quilts for graduates. You can find really nice material at thrift stores, Shake added.

Every once in awhile the ladies get a special request with an order, such as the one they received from a machine shop in Pequot Lakes to make a Harley Davidson-themed quilt.

Janine Wells, another group member, holds up a quilt she recently sewed, with a design featuring both the Green Bay Packers and Minnesota Vikings. It's a wedding gift for her niece, Kristen (a Packers fan) and Kristen's fiancé, who cheers for the Vikings, Wells shared.

She enjoys the creative aspect of quilting, Wells said. "It's like putting a puzzle together," she added.

Yes, there is great sat-

isfaction in seeing the finished product, but there is also the camaraderie they all enjoy along the way.

During the winter months, the women get together every Wednesday to work on their quilts. As they sew, they catch up on each others' lives, sharing stories and laughter. "It's a real community," says JoAnn Lund, the group's designated cook. "I make sure they have enough energy to get these quilts finished," she laughs.

Linda Johnson has been a member of the quilting group since its beginning. In fact, hers is one of the names on a quilt block hanging in the church that lists all original members. Other names include Lucille Sowers, Esther Jordahl, Ruth Chapman, Gerry Lohse, June Dawson,

See **QUILTERS** on page 12a



Pine tree wildlife

A nuthatch looks out from a tree at Pine Grove Park in Staples. (Staples World photo by Mark Anderson)

Public Notices

Todd Planning: **9A**

Obituaries

Richard Bolduc
Ruth Gronlund
Richard Lorentz
Francis Moriarity
Kenneth Stracek



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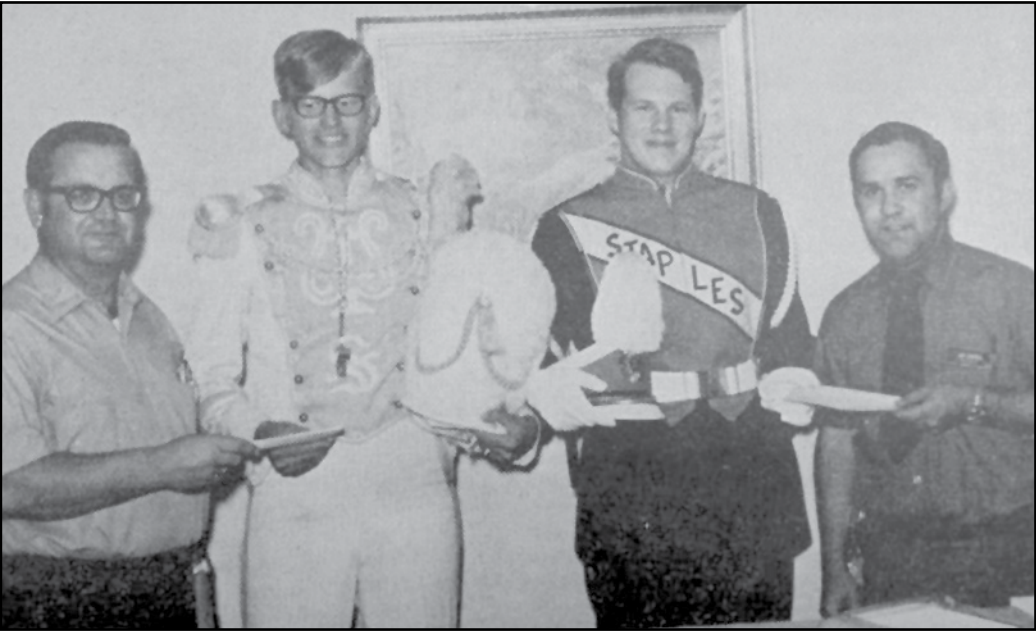
Staples World
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12 noon Fridays

Looking back

75 Years Ago - 1946

• July 25, 1946 - Coming down to the World office early Thursday morning, a little excited, just waiting for time to pass, and also doing his work, Forrest Van Dorn was called to the telephone. He did not say a great deal but looked worried. Finally he left the office in a hurry. He rushed his wife to the Staples Municipal hospital, and there a little after one o'clock this afternoon, a baby girl weighing 7 pounds and 3/4 ounces was born to

Compiled by Dawn Timbs



Mystery photo

Hello readers. This week's archive photo is from our July 22, 1971 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.

their league play for 1971 in great style this past week. In their play for the pennant they finished in 2nd place behind Pequot Lakes. Motley went into the tournament Tuesday against Pillager. With Dougie Shequen pitching and Ned DiGiovanni catching, Motley eliminated Pillager 11 to 6. Leading the Motley hitters were Doug Shequen and Jimmie Albrecht each with a triple and a single. Jimmie's triple coming with the bases loaded. Collecting two singles were Mark Frisk and Ned DiGiovanni. • July 29, 1971 - Five members of the Golden Gophers 4-H Club of Staples received high rates in the 4-H Dress Revue conducted last weekend at the annual Wadena County Fair. They included Diane Fraser, Paula Dravis, Mary Lauer, Alvelda Monness and Kathy Lauer. Leaders of the 4-H club are Mrs. Roman Radniecki and Mrs. David Anderson. • July 29, 1971 - Another \$1,572.04 was realized this week by interested individuals and band members to raise the total to date to \$6,703.63 to send the 108-member Cardinal Marching Band to the parade of the National Convention of Veterans of Foreign Wars in Dallas, Texas, Aug. 17.

25 Years Ago - 1996

• July 25, 1996 - Police in Wadena early this week had no suspects in custody following the discovery early Saturday of a woman's body in a crawl space in the basement of her home. The body of 27-year-old Shauntai Johnson of Wadena was found in her home at 212 Irving Ave. Southwest. Police Chief Lane Waldahl said her body was found in the basement of the house. As of late Monday, no one was in custody in the case. • July 25, 1996 - Aldrich is not going to be just for cheese any more. The Aldrich Cheese Mart, which has been offering a limited lunch menu for the past several weeks, is expanding. Beginning this week, the store that has been noted for many years for its cheese offerings, will also offer pizza, burritos, and a vari-

ety of hot sandwiches. "We've been number one in cheese in Minnesota. Now we want to be number one in sandwiches," said Jan Gregory, one of the store's co-owners. • July 25, 1996 - The Lamp-lighter's production of "The Beauty and The Beast" will be held July 25 - 28, at the Centennial Auditorium in Staples. • July 25, 1996 - Nancy Hess has received the Employee of the Month Award for June. Nancy is a veteran of 26 years with the bank. She is an Assistant Vice President and works in New Accounts. "Nancy is the best!" was stated in her nomination.

10 Years Ago - 2011

• July 28, 2011 - After serving his country for four and a half years, including a full deployment in Iraq, Chris Holst ended his stint in the

U.S. Army with a 21-hour drive from New York to Staples. What he didn't know was that at the end of his long drive, a group of patriots would be waiting to escort him on the last stretch from Motley to Staples, to honor his service. Chris' parents Chuck and Carol Holst and their Patriot Guard friends waited by their motorcycles in Motley to form a parade along Highway 10 and out at the Holst home south of Staples, where they held a celebration with family and friends. • July 29, 2011 - The Rotary Youth Leadership Award (RYLA) Camp was recently held on the University of Minnesota, Crookston campus. Jaci Jeziorski from Cushing and Aaron Carter from Staples were sponsored by the Staples Rotary Club.



Mystery solved

Last week's mystery photo, published in the July 22, 1971 edition of the Staples World, featured the new Junior Miss Motley, Terry Hall (center), with her attendants, Debbie Gallagher (left) and Debbie Griffith (right). The article noted that Hall is a 10th grader at the Motley Public School and the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Arthur Farwell. First Attendant Gallagher is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Ronald Gallagher; and Second Attendant Griffith, the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Vivien Griffith. A total of 12 contestants vied for the Miss Motley title, with the coronation held at opening ceremonies of the annual Morrison County Fair in Motley.

Motley High School grad Kelly Boldan, now of Willmar, correctly identified all. Thanks for participating in our Mystery Photo.

Letter to the Editor

Our turn to protect children

Have you had your COVID vaccine yet? Do you know students may have to wear face masks to school again this year? Do you know why? Last year our kids wore masks to protect adults. Adults were the most likely to get COVID and have severe symptoms. This year, our kids will be wearing masks to protect themselves from unvacci-

nated adults. And the new strains of COVID appear to be more transmissible and more severe. Have you had your COVID vaccine yet? If you have not, are you willing to accept the fact that you bear part of the responsibility for further outbreaks and for our kids having to wear masks again? Last year our kids wore masks for us. Please, this year get your vaccine for them. N.J. Elvine Staples, Minn



Third at state "Rodeo"

LeRoy Rentz, Wadena, finished third at the state "Rodeo" competition held in St. Cloud July 9-10. He received his certificate from the MN Public Transit Association. Rentz is a bus driver for Friendly Rider, Wadena. (Submitted photo)

Driver wins state award

Friendly Rider bus driver LeRoy Rentz recently placed third in the statewide bus rodeo competition held in St. Cloud. The rodeo is a series of tests for drivers on different every day driving skills. The 33rd annual state competition was hosted by the Minnesota Public Transit Association in St. Cloud July 9-10. "All of us at Freindly Rider are very proud of LeRoy's accomplishment," said Randy Jahnke, Wadena County Transit Director. "I wanted to congratulate him on the best finish of any Friendly Rider driver." Drivers had to navigate through about 15 different obstacles that pertain to every day driving including backing into a corner L shape, distance from a curb, pre/post trip inspection to name a few. Rentz is not a stranger

to driving a bus, school bus or big rig. He began truck driving with his dad. Following high school graduation, he detoured to serve in Vietnam. After the military he again began trucking to support his family. After driving for over 50 years, he endured several setbacks, including his semi truck, which was paid for, burning up and a company he was employed with going bankrupt. He was out of work for two years, before accepting a job as a substitute bus driver at Wadena-Deer Creek schools. He worked part-time driving school bus and became a part-time driver for Friendly Rider in 2011. Rentz has since then become a full-time position with Friendly Rider. -Some information provided by Wadena Pioneer Journal

SCHOOL continued from page 1a

Tennis coach needed

involves "inside-out coaching." "It focuses on education-based athletics and activities," said Lee. "It is going away from the goal to win only, and into a purpose of lifelong learning." The board reviewed a list of coaching assignments for fall activities. So far no coach has been hired for girls tennis. The board approved a dissolution of the pairing with Verndale for tennis, as there are currently no Verndale students participating in tennis. The other fall sports will have most of the same coaches. Football: Head Coach Chris Kappler, assistants Nick Schultz, Kermit Klefsaas, Paul Mithun and Carl Larson. Volleyball: Head Coach Gretchen

Bestland, assistants Cy Bestland, Ben Bestland and Kelly McCarty. Cross country: Head Coach Bruce Fuhrman, assistants Steve Jennissen and Tony Spandl. Fall play and school musical directors have not been determined. Student Council advisor is Lorna Klefsaas and yearbook advisors are Jill Schneider and Lorna Birkholtz. Handbook changes The board approved the 2021-22 school handbooks with minor changes to fit with Minnesota School Board Association (MSBA) policies. The board also approved a new student medication policy with MSBA revisions and recommendations from school nurses.

TCHC named a top 2021 workplace

Tri-County Health Care was named a 2021 National Standard Top Workplace by the Star Tribune. Along with this designation, Tri-County Health Care was included in The Star Tribune's Top Workplaces publication which reaches over one million digital and print readers in the upper Midwest. The Top Workplaces publication recognizes companies in Minnesota based on employee opinions measuring engagement, organizational health and satisfaction. The analysis included responses from more than 76,000 employees at Minnesota public, private and nonprofit organizations.

The rankings are based on survey information collected by Energage, an independent company specializing in employee engagement and retention. "We're dedicated to building a culture that contributes to the physical, emotional and overall well-being of our entire team," said Teresa Johnson, Tri-County Health Care Chief Human Resources Officer. "That commitment played a major role as a healthcare leader during the COVID-19 pandemic. By earning this recognition for the third year in a row, it demonstrates the impact of our culture on the sustained success of our organization." Tri-County Health Care is devoted

to a culture of ownership that values integrity, ownership, empathy, innovation, humility and joy. All employees have the opportunity for paid values and culture training in addition to a comprehensive benefits package that offers flexibility and a healthy work-life balance. To qualify for the Top Workplaces publication, a company must have more than 50 employees in Minnesota. Nearly 3,000 companies were invited to participate and rankings were composite scores calculated purely based on employee responses.

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Letters to the Editor

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Pairing agreement timelines

Last week’s paper included a letter to the editor that contained several misstatements that I would like to address. Let me state first that it is not my intent to rehash tissues from 34 years ago. The people that were anti pairing still are, and facts won’t override emotions for them. Not everyone in the area was here in 1987 though so, I am clarifying a few things for them.

I was on the school board when the pairing took place but I have been to a lot of places and done a lot of things over the years, so I looked a few things up to make sure I had the correct information.

The letter insinuated that the “two boards put together a pairing agreement without the public knowing about it.” The pairing agreement was voted on in October of 1987. The Staples Worlds, beginning in August of 1987, are filled with arti-

cles on public meetings regarding a possible pairing between the two districts. As part of the information gathering process, citizens, school board members, and school administrators visited several paired school districts to gather information on the success of those endeavors. There is a picture in the paper of last week’s letter writer sitting at a meeting in the Atwater/Grove City school district offices.

I remember having to move our school board meetings because of the large number of residents attending the meetings and also having capacity crowds at the informational meetings. Summarizing then, the public was aware, and involved, three months before a pairing agreement was reached. I will add here that one of the many things discussed in this process was a pairing with Pillager. I was on the committee that met with members of the Pillager School District, and they were not interested in a pairing arrangement with Motley.

Last week’s letter would lead one to believe that the Motley district went from a pairing arrangement with Staples right to consolidation. That was not the case. I did not live here then, but again going over news articles from the time, the Motley Board ended the pairing agreement. The articles from that time period on judge’s decisions, staff resignations, financial status, and student enrollment will give you great insight into fact over fiction on Motley’s decision to make it as a stand-alone school district. You may find it interesting to note who was on the school board then too. I encourage you, online or in-person, to research for yourself what took place before the consolidation vote.

I continue to enjoy watching the success of my grandchildren and the children of friends and family in the Staples-Motley School District.

Greg Frisk
Motley, Minn

Study on immigrants, embracing community in rural Minnesota

By Whitney Oachs, Elizabeth Gehlen, Josiah Moore & Ryan Redmer
Hubert H. Humphrey School of Public Affairs
Center For Rural Policy and Development (ruralmn.org)

This spring, my classmates and I at the Hubert H. Humphrey School of Public Affairs completed a capstone thesis project investigating outreach and inclusion efforts among rural Minnesota government officials and community leaders. In partnership with Center for Rural Policy and Development, the Minnesota Council on Latino Affairs, the Council for Minnesotans of African Heritage, and the Council for Asian-Pacific Minnesotans, we focused our research on four rural Minnesota communities with a documented increase in immigrant and refugee populations.

Earlier in the pandemic, the MN Council on Latino Affairs (MCLA) conducted a qualitative survey on Latino perspectives in 2020. The study found that translation services, education, healthcare, social services, taxes, and housing access were among the most pressing issues affecting rural Latinos. There are literally hundreds of ethnicities and languages represented in Greater Minnesota, and the MCLA report provides important insights into the needs and concerns of rural immigrant, refugee and BI-POC communities. Despite differences across ethnicities and identities, the experience of Latino Minnesotans provides an important proxy for investigating immigrant and refugee needs more broadly.

Our capstone research team decided to investigate the local government side of diversity and inclusion outreach. We could then compare these findings with MCLA’s survey results.

Our research would involve speaking with twenty government officials and community leaders in four cities across rural Minnesota: Austin (Mower County), Pelican Rapids (Otter Tail County), Willmar (Kandiyohi County) and Worthington (Nobles County).

Interviewees included city council members, school officials, county administrators, city mayors, and police chiefs.

Social cohesion and cultural bias

In our conversations with local officials, we found that white residents’ perceptions of local immigrant and refugee groups were especially affected by how recently that immigrant group had arrived coupled with racial/ethnic bias, but multiple interviewees also cited that attitudes toward immigrant and refugee groups have shifted in a positive direction over time. In three of the four cities we studied, Latino groups were the first to migrate to those communities and have therefore “better assimilated” into the surrounding culture. Inter-

viewees cited newer groups, such as Somali and Karen, have had a “harder time” getting involved and integrated into each town.

Government outreach attitudes and barriers

While some government officials saw specific outreach to immigrant and refugee communities a necessity, others opposed the notion that any one group should receive “special treatment.” One official in Austin made it clear that specific outreach to immigrant and refugee groups is an important element of government purview, which is reflected in the city’s welcome center and honorary city council seat. In comparison, an official in Worthington stated that it was up to the various immigrant communities to express their needs to local leaders:

“If you don’t tell us what the shortcomings are, we won’t know that there are shortcomings. So, I’m not shy about putting the responsibility back on other individuals that they need to step up and work with us.”

Language and communication

Language and translation were by far the most frequent issue cited in interviews. Because it is expensive to translate government documents, all four cities face barriers in effective communication with populations speaking English as a second language. Given the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, the necessity for translation and/or improved communication only increased. In order to distribute materials in readable languages, cities either allocated additional resources to translation or partnered with local meat-packing employers who have translators on staff. The problem with increasing resources put toward translation is the myriad spoken languages present in each town. For many Latinos even, Spanish is the second language after their native/Indigenous tongue. As such, it is impossible for any city to translate and disseminate documents in every language or to the correct groups.

Representation in government

Although representation within the government remains a challenge for rural communities everywhere, some communities have adopted intentional systems for fostering diverse input into government decisions. The officials brought up three perceived barriers to representation in government (whether for elected or staff positions) for immigrant and refugee groups:

Lack of community interest, which was found among both BIPOC and white residents. Officials cited a gap in immigrant and refugee community interest in government involvement, as well as the needed collaborative action required by local governments to effectively provide for these communities.

A skills mismatch leading to a lack of diversity in employment. Discrepancies between worker qualifications and traditional hiring requirements make it difficult for local governments to consider BIPOC individuals for public positions.

Overburdened BIPOC community leaders. Finally, individual community leaders who are involved in government decisions quickly become overtaxed when stuck representing their entire demographic, despite being just one person.

Rural housing deficit

Greater Minnesota has a well-documented housing deficit, due largely to the inability for municipalities to attract developers. With the cost of materials skyrocketing, and the profit-margin for building much lower in rural areas, cities are struggling to provide not just traditional housing, but housing that meets the different needs of the immigrant and refugee communities. As one Austin City Councilmember succinctly stated:

“Housing is the biggest challenge for refugees. It is easier for someone who has been in America longer to get a house or to get an apartment compared to a refugee who just moved here... [M]ost immigrants who moved to Austin have multi-generation families. You know, they have a family of more than four and more than five. So with housing or apartments built in Austin before they had all those refugees and immigrants, it’s all one or two bedrooms or a small house.”

Moving Forward

Rural immigrants and refugees are assets to the communities they live in. These residents provide population density, fill employment gaps, and infuse their new homes with their culture, cuisine, and young people. Without immigrants and refugees, Austin, Pelican Rapids, Willmar, and Worthington would all likely report the same kind of population and economic decline present in smaller cities that have not experienced in-migration.

What our conversations found, though, was that the most successful instances of community cohesion and outreach exist in areas where resources, public-private partnerships, and community voices are all successfully integrated. From Austin’s honorary city council seat, to the welcome centers which connect new migrants with social and translation services, there are many instances of promising policies which serve to promote equity, inclusion and togetherness.

Nevertheless, the problems associated with adapting to a new and growing community is not painless, and disagreements on the best path forward exist among even the most well-intentioned community leaders. This report focused on outreach and inclusion efforts on the part of government officials, but there is still room for further research on the strengths and challenges identified in the interviews. Some of those questions for further research include:

What can rural cities do to maximize partnerships with local organizations?

What targeted investments can be made in smaller Minnesota communities to expand their capacity to perform immigrant and refugee inclusion work?

How can the state government invest in immigrant and refugee inclusion in smaller communities where private-sector investment capacity is less robust?

How can a commission build the capacity and consensus necessary to create a strategic plan for inclusion that a city council will carry out?

How can inclusivity-focused commissions communicate with one another and learn from the strategies employed in other Greater Minnesota cities?

How can smaller communities develop formal partnerships with clearly defined roles in order to better serve their immigrant and refugee communities?

Do JBS, Hormel, Jennie-O, and West Central Turkeys have the capacity to ramp up their investments in providing services for their workforce and the greater immigrant and refugee community?

The task of thinking through immigration’s impact on the social fabric of Greater Minnesota and fully addressing the community needs that arise from these changes is a complicated yet pressing issue. Local governments have the ability to build community through embracing difference, though this can only occur through significant government investment and community collaboration. While the sample cities discussed in this report have all worked to make immigrants and refugees feel welcome, there is more that can and should be done in communities across rural Minnesota.

For a full report on the study, go to ruralmn.org

City solutions

It wasn’t that long ago, “Grandma in the Hood” stated her thoughts about a property in her neighborhood. She got results by letting the City of Staples know her concerns. There are alternate resolutions to the problem of unsightly property than a new law. Mr. Case can do the same, complain to the city via newspaper, be neighborly and help them or set a trap for the rat.

I thought there was already a law about “every household has to have a garbage company or plann for garbage removal,” a law that says “your grass can’t be higher than a foot,” and a

curfew for minors.

I don’t mind three trucks in town, at least we have a choice. I don’t mind the 10 o’clock curfew, there isn’t much else for kids in town anyway. I don’t mind the city buying tax forfeited property if they have a plan or it keeps the city looking better.

I do mind an increase to my city bill which seems to be going up by leaps and bounds. I thank the city for trimming the trees on the power lines, the place to drop off grass trimmings and tree branches and providing a Clean-up Day. I am pleased that when the new water plant is operational, we will not get that awful sewer smell. I am also

pleased that the streets are plowed in a timely manner after a snow storm.

If the city decides to take on an extra job of garbage control, they consider garbage and recycling services and the fact when our container is removed (changed) some companies charge a removal fee. I hope they think of the other guy, they are local people who depend on our business.

This is a post script ... I thought it very tricky of the school board to put a referendum before the people when they could have done it without a vote at all.

Gladys Salthe
Staples, Minn

Celebrating our heroes

By U.S. Senator Amy Klobuchar

Earlier this month, I spent the Fourth of July with Minnesotans in Aurora, Gilbert, Ely, and Duluth. Across our state, we walked in parades, shared meals at picnics, and watched incredible fireworks--celebrating the great American experiment in democracy as it entered its 245th year.

Our democracy has persisted because of the bravery of our nation’s servicemembers and veterans.

Minnesotans have fought for our country going back to the ridges of Gettysburg, where the First Minnesota Volunteer Infantry stood up for the idea of a more perfect union, to the beaches of Normandy, fighting not just for our democracy but for democracies all around the world, to the hills of Korea to the muddy fields of Vietnam and to the sands of Afghanistan and Iraq.

When we celebrate the birth of our country, we must also celebrate the heroes who defended it--and still defend it to this day.

I have always believed that when we ask our young men and women to fight in defense of our nation, we make a promise that

we will give them the resources they need to do their jobs. We also promise to take care of them when they return home.

By protecting the health and safety of active servicemembers, we can prevent injuries that cause long-term illness and disabilities. That’s why one of my priorities in the Senate is ensuring they have the resources and equipment they need to carry out their missions as safely as possible. We also need to better support National Guard Members and Reservists who continue to serve us at home and abroad.

When our servicemembers signed up to serve, they didn’t have to wait in line--and when they come home, they shouldn’t have to wait in line for the benefits they’ve earned. That’s why I’m fighting to make sure that our veterans get health care when they need it, have their disability claims processed, and access their G.I. benefits.

As a nation and as a state, we have an obligation to wrap our arms around those who serve and sacrifice for us. I am committed to continuing to ensure that we fully repay the sacrifices our veterans have made for all of us, in wars past and present.

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Letters: Readers are encouraged to express their views by writing letters to the editor. Letters are verified for authenticity, so please include a name, address and phone number. Only the author's name and city will be published. Letters may be edited for spelling and grammar errors, libel, length and other factors. Private thanks, solicitations and libelous letters will not be published. Letters are printed on a space available basis. The editor reserves the right to reject letters.

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

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

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

Note to Advertisers: Advertisers should check their ad following first publication. This newspaper shall not be liable for failure to publish an ad or for the typographic error or errors in publication except to the extent of the cost of the ad for the first day's insertion. Adjustment for errors is limited to the cost of that portion of the ad wherein the error occurred. The publisher reserves the right to cancel any advertisement at any time.

Member: Minnesota Newspaper Association, National Newspaper Association, Heartland Market Group, MCAN Advertising



Buttercoat to hold Record Release Show in Staples Aug. 1

Andrew Nelson and his band Buttercoat will perform at the Music in the Park Series in Staples on Sunday, Aug. 1, at 7 p.m. Opening that day will be funk band Mach Duck.

It's a Record Release Show for Buttercoat, fronted by Staples native Andrew Nelson, who sings lead and plays keyboard for the band. Nelson also wrote all of the music and lyrics included on the new vinyl record which will be available for sale at the concert.



Bringing pop, funk

Andrew Nelson and Buttercoat will perform at Music in the Park Series in Staples on Sunday, Aug. 1, at 7 p.m. (Submitted photo)

Magazine JamSphere went on to describe the record's rhythmic groove and Nelson's intuitive use of chordal changes.

Opening band Mach Duck features the same players that are in Buttercoat, as well as Andrew Hilde, on trumpet; and performances by Cassandra Johnson, Jessica Vines, Dylan Boehmer and Andrew Okland.

The Music in the Park Concerts are held in the Northern Pacific (NP) Park on Sunday evenings at 7 p.m. and will run through August 8. Bring your lawn chair. For more information on the Music in the Park series, check out www.staples-motleyarts.org.

Northern Pacific (NP) Park is located at 625 6th St. NE. Go north on 6th St. at the junction of Hwys 10 and 210 and go six blocks. In case of rain, the concerts will be moved to the Staples Community Center.

The Music in the Park Series is funded by the Staples Host Lions Club. The Series is organized by the Staples Motley Area Arts Council, with the assistance of the City of Staples.

Birthday bags for food shelves

The Staples-Motley Women of Today will assemble birthday bags to be distributed at local food shelves. The public is invited to help with the project on Sunday, Aug. 8, starting at 2 p.m. at Pine Grove Park, Staples.

Attendees are welcome to bring any items for the birthday bags, including cake mix, frosting, candles, packaged plates, napkins and cards. These bags will be distributed to families to celebrate birthdays.

The birthday bag event will also include children's activities if attendees want to bring children.

For more information, contact Nicky Anderson, call or text 507-381-0786.

JOIN US FOR THE FIREMEN'S TURKEY BBQ FUNDRAISER!

SCANDIA VALLEY SUMMERFEST

-SATURDAY, AUGUST 7TH-

9AM	LINCOLN LADIES AID BAKE SALE (UNTIL SOLD OUT)
10-4PM	CRAFT/VENDOR SALE CONTACT GLORIA @ 218-575-2806 OR GLOFISHTRAP@BRAINERD.NET
11-4PM	TURKEY BBQ: ADULTS \$10 / KIDS \$5 KIDS ACTIVITIES SCANDIA VALLEY FIRST RESPONSE TEAM'S ICE CREAM FUNDRAISER PETTING ZOO HORSE RIDES BEER GARDEN RAFFLE TICKETS MUSIC
10PM	FIREWORKS IN THE PARK

SCANDIA VALLEY TOWN HALL
3518 320TH ST. CUSHING INFO: 218-851-2185
SUPPORT YOUR LOCAL FIRE DEPARTMENT!

Staples Area Church Directory

Staples Staples Alliance 1512 8th St. NE, Staples 218-894-2891 Pastor Zach Jones Sunday Worship 9:30 a.m. Sunday School 11:00 a.m. WEDNESDAY AWANA 6:00 p.m. Assembly of God 914 3rd Ave. NE, Staples 218-894-1081 Pastor Roy Miles Small Groups (Bible classes for all ages) 9:30 a.m. Morning Worship Service 10:30 a.m. Children's Church (Kids start in main worship service) 11 a.m. Prayer Meeting 5 p.m. WEDNESDAY Sonlight (Kids ages 4 yrs.-6th grade) After school to 5:30 p.m. Youth Group (Teens, 7th-12th grade) After school to 5:30 p.m. Church of Christ 27343 490th St., Staples 218-894-2609 Pastor Barry Klein Facebook Live Bible School (youth and adult) 9:30 a.m. Sunday Worship 10:30 a.m. WEDNESDAY: Teen Youth/Adults Bible Study 7-8 p.m. First Congregational Church, UCC firstconuccstaples@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 Church 218-894-2296 Pastor Fr. Gabriel Walz Youth and Young Adult Ministry Coordinator: Monica J. Simmons 218-414-0081 cell/text MASS: Thursday and Friday 8:30 a.m.. Saturday 5:00 p.m.. Sunday 8:30 a.m.. Seventh Day Adventist 421 Dakota Ave. SE, Staples 218-894-0033 Saturday Worship 9:30 am. Sabbath School 10:45 a.m.. Thomastown Covenant 15940 251st Ave., Staples 218-894-3923 Pastor Scott Jorgenson Sunday Worship 10:30 a.m.. WEDNESDAY NIGHT YOUTH 6:30 p.m.	Trinity Lutheran 1000 4th St., NE, 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 9:00 a.m.. Communion 1st and 2nd Sunday of 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: Joe Reigstad SUNDAY Church Worship Gathering 10:00 a.m.. YouTube Channel 10:00 a.m.. WEDNESDAY Community Meal 5:30 p.m.. Family Night 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.	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 and 10:30 a.m.. facebook live 9 a.m.. WEDNESDAY Youth Group 6:00-8:00 p.m.. St. John's Lutheran 497 3rd Ave. S, Motley 218-352-6399 Pastor Vicar Paul Koehler Sunday School and Bible Class 8:30 a.m.. Sunday Worship 9:30 a.m.. St. Michael 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, Motley 218-352-6466 Pastor Greg Leslie www.motleyumc.net Sunday Worship Service 9:00 a.m.. Monday AA meeting 8:00 p.m.	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.. Sunday 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 Sunday School 8:30 a.m.. Worship Service 10:00 a.m.. Prayer Meeting 5 p.m.. WEDNESDAY Night Life Groups 6:30-8 p.m.. Hope Chapel Alliance 18126 County Road 7, Verndale 218-445-5643 or 218-472-3316 Pastor Neal Malcore Sunday Worship 9:00 a.m.. Sunday School 10:30 a.m.. WEDNESDAY Family Night 5:30 p.m.. Immanuel Lutheran Church of Bartlett Township (LCMS) 17097 460th St., PO Box 37, Verndale Pastor Robin Fish Sunday Worship 9:00 a.m.. WEDNESDAY Bible Study 6:30 p.m.. Verndale United Methodist 10 3rd Ave. SW, Verndale 218-445-5108 Pastor Jill Pawlowski Sunday Worship 9:00 a.m.. Central United Methodist 5 miles N on Cty Rd 26 (Nimrod tar) Pastor Chuck Horsager, 218-639-4225 Sunday Worship 9:00 a.m.. Sunday School 10:30 a.m.. Leaf River Township The Old Country Church Leaf River Twp., Wadena County Rd. 6 Info. 218-837-5690 . Open by arrangement
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Mark Your Calendar

July 28
'PENNY BINGO' PARTY FOR SENIORS will be held Wednesday, July 28, at the Staples Community Center, beginning at 2 p.m. (a new time). Bingo, refreshments served, reconnect with friends. For more information, call Arlene at 218-894-2254.

July 29
STAPLES SERENITY AA GROUP MTGS are held at the Staples Assembly of God Church on Tuesday and Thursday evenings beginning at 7 p.m. Masks required. For more info., 320-874-0979.

July 31
GROWLER'S GATHERING IN LEADER at the Bear's Den Saturday, July 31. Parade

at 1 p.m.; Growler's competition at 2 p.m.; pig races; entertainment by Nashville singer Tim Hadler; fireworks at dusk. Something for all ages.

August 2
AA GROUP MTGS IN MOTLEY are held at the United Methodist Church, 847 3rd Ave. S., on Mondays at 8 p.m.

August 3
RUBY'S PANTRY is held on the first Tuesday of each month at the parking lot of Central Lakes College in Staples beginning at 6 p.m.

OLD TIME DANCE is held the first Tuesday of every month at the Wadena VFW. For information, call 218-639-0132.

"Daily Prayer"

Fr. Gabriel Walz, Sacred Heart Church, Staples, St. Michael Church, Motley

"The apostles gathered together with Jesus and reported all they had done and taught. He said to them, 'Come away by yourselves to a deserted place and rest a while.' People were coming and going in great numbers, and they had no opportunity even to eat. So they went off in the boat by themselves to a deserted place" (Mark 6:30-32).

The Greek word we translate as "apostle" literally means "one sent on mission." In this short passage, the apostles have just returned from mission and Jesus pulls them away to a place of "rest." It is like when Elijah the prophet sought God's presence in the wind, earthquake and fire, but only in the "quiet" was He found (1 Kings 19:12-13). Do you take time to "be still and know that [He is] God" (Psalm 46:10)? How can you hope to lead someone else to a place you do go yourself? So, be sure to take time for daily prayer.

Our benevolent God has a beautiful Plan in which we are all given some part. Through our fidelity in discerning that part and living it joyfully,

He accomplishes far greater and more beautiful things than we could ever imagine on our own. But we cannot begin being faithful to a Plan we know nothing about. So, as those first apostles began their mission from and returned to their Lord, so should we remember that mission does not precede our relationship with Him, but proceeds from it and returns us to Him.

Now more than ever, the world needs Him in whom we find our hope. Be sure that you are spending time with Him in prayer each day so you can be prepared to do great things.

That in all things, God may be glorified.

The Staples area Church Directory is sponsored by these businesses:

Longbella Drug Store "The Prescription Store" 2nd Ave., Staples • 218-894-2242 Motley and Pillager	Ernie's Food Market Groceries - Gas - Convenience - more Staples, MN 218-894-1072	Staples Veterinary Clinic "Complete Animal Care" Staples, MN 218-894-1775	Mid-Central National Bank Fully insured to \$250,000 Staples, MN 218-894-3900
Central Building Supply Hwy. 10 West, Staples, MN 218-894-3794	Staples World Your community newspaper since 1890 224 4th St. NE, Staples, MN 218-894-1112	Tower Pizza Pizza, Pasta, Salads, Sandwiches Staples, MN 218-894-3299	Staples True Value "Just Ask Rental" Open 7 days a week. Staples, MN 218-894-3263

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

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

DON'T FORGET!!!!

The deadline for classified ads, display ads, garage sale ads, letters to the editor and news items for the Staples World is:

Friday, noon

Hello World

Student Achievements

BIRTHS REPORTED AT LAKE-WOOD HEALTH SYSTEM HOSPITAL IN STAPLES INCLUDED:

Born to Gina and Jamason DeWald of Staples, a baby boy, Charlie Glenn weighing eight pounds, 12 ounces on July 16, 2021.

Born to Stephanie and Brent Sterriker of Long Prairie, a baby boy, Benjamin Huck weighing six pounds, five ounces on July 18, 2021.

Born to Marlene and Darren Kelley of Backus, a baby boy, Everhett Darren weighing eight pounds, 12 ounces on July 19, 2021.

Much Appreciated

The Sacred Heart Area School rummage sale committee thanks everyone who helped make this year's rummage sale a huge success.

Thank you members of the Staples-Motley High School (SMHS) football team for your time, youth and strength. Also, thank you workers who worked many hot June days to set up for the sale, to the folks who donated to the sale and certainly area shoppers who shopped the sale in spite of the heat and humidity. It takes a great community effort all around for something of this scale to succeed.

The original chairpersons and committee members have been hosting this rummage sale for 16 years...

CONCORDIA COLLEGE, MOORHEAD, has announced it's Second Semester Dean's List for the 2020-21 academic year. To qualify, students must carry a minimum of 12 semester credits and have a grade point average of at least 3.7 on a 4.0 scale. Local students named include:

- Zachary Strickland, Motley
- Samantha Svendsen, Staples

very successful years, however, we are older and certainly more tired. We felt the Sacred Heart School rummage of 2021 would be our last sale and even advertised it as such. But then, some younger blood stepped forward and said they would chair and host the sale. The tradition continues. The torch is passed. ALLELUIA!

So, mark your calendars, save your "stuff" and watch for notices concerning the rummage sale the last weekend in June, 2022.

Once again a Sacred Heart-felt thank you to the Staples and surrounding communities from the 2021 rummage sale committee.

Becky Hasselberg
Staples, Minn.

Obituaries

Kenneth Stracek

Kenneth Stracek, 74, of Sauk Centre, passed away June 16, 2021.

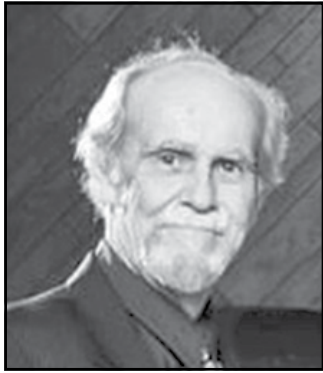
Memorial services will be held on Sat., July 31, 11:00 a.m. at the Iten Funeral Home in Browerville. Visitation will be at 10:00 a.m.

Burial will be held at the Minnesota State Veterans Cemetery in Little Falls on August 2, at 3:00 p.m.

Kenneth Thomas Stracek was born July 31, 1946, to James and Adeline (Prokes) Stracek in Staples where his family farmed in Moran and Ward townships. Ken enlisted in the U.S. Army in 1967 and proudly served in Vietnam where he earned a Bronze Star. He was honorably discharged in 1972. Ken married Susan Hamilton on August 24, 1978, after knowing each other for just three days.

While living in Browerville, they adopted their daughter, Shanda in 1984. The family moved to Long Prairie in 1999. After Shanda graduated they moved to Melrose, then settled at Riverside Manor in Sauk Centre.

Ken enjoyed many hobbies including word search puzzles, painting, making wood crafts and collecting baseball cards. He enjoyed oldies music, Western and action films and camping at the lake. In Browerville he spent time outside caring for his front yard, garden and flower beds. Ken was



happiest when doing things for others and loved doting on his family. He was also a dog lover and adored spending time with his "grand puppies" Milhouse and Agnes.

Ken is survived by his wife, Sue; one daughter, Shanda (Alex) Franzen of Minneapolis; one brother, Gary (Rita) Stracek of Browerville; six nieces and nephews: Sharon Crider, Clarissa, Teresa (Dave) Hoglund, Champlin, Mary (Tom) Schmitz, Wadena, Steve (Lisa) Stracek, Esko, Robert (Nicole) Stracek, Staples and Melissa Birkholtz, Staples.

Ken is preceded in death by his parents; one infant sister, Lois; two uncles, William Prokes and George Prokes and one great-niece, Amanda Crider.

Arrangements with the Iten Funeral Home, itenfuneralhome.com.

w31c A00006B2021JY28

Ruth Gronlund

Ruth Gronlund, 87, passed away July 17, 2021, at The Meadows of Wadena Senior Living, in Wadena, under the compassionate care of Knute Nelson Hospice.

Funeral services were held July 22 at St. John Lutheran Church in Wadena, with Pastor Stephen Meltzer presiding.

Burial was in Green Lawn Cemetery, Verndale.

Ruth was born April 24, 1934 to Heinrich "Henry" and Helene (Panknin) Berg in Schernow, Germany, near the Oder River. This area was given to Poland after WWII and the family had to leave. A rural home was found west of Berlin with a relative; however, it was in the Soviet zone and no one was allowed to leave. A clever trade was made with a woman who wished to live in the country with her children, so Ruth's parents moved the family into Berlin until their migration number came up. At the age of 17, Ruth's family had the opportunity to move to America: Park Rapids. Not knowing much English, school was quite difficult for Ruth and her sister, Elfriede. The support of the staff, students and community was always a fond remembrance for Ruth.

Ruth was united in marriage to Walter Raymond Gronlund on June 4, 1954, at the First Baptist Church in Park Rapids. They made their home and raised their family in Verndale, where Ruth was well known for baking beautiful wedding cakes. Ruth was a talented pianist and organist. She served as church organist at



Redeemer Ltheran Church in Verndale and Immanuel Lutheran Church in Bartlett Township. She taught piano lessons for many students. Ruth also did the bookkeeping for Walt's G & L Service station, which he purchased in 1952. Ruth enjoyed knitting, crocheting, cooking, participating in a homemaker's group and her church circle. Her greatest joy was spending time with family and friends.

Ruth is survived by one daughter, Nancy Helen Gronlund, of Grayslake, IL; one son, David Walter (Mary) Gronlund, of Verndale; two grandsons, Corey David and Ryan Walter; one sister, Elfriede (Harry) Rebigier; along with many brothers and sisters-in-law, nieces, nephews and friends.

Ruth was preceded in death by her husband, Walter, on March 8, 2010; parents, Henry and Helene and in-laws, William and Hilda Gronlund.

Arrangements are with the Schuller Family Funeral Homes & Cremation Services, Johnson-Schuller Chapel, Wadena, www.SchullerFamilyFH.com.

w30c A00006B2021JY28

Francis Moriarity



Francis (Frank) M. Moriarity, 81, of Saint Bonifacius, passed away July 19, 2021.

Memorial services were held July 26 at Huber Funeral Home, Mound.

Frank was born in Staples November 22, 1939. He graduated from Staples High School in 1957 with machine shop training along with machine trades. Frank was a tool maker for most of his working years. He married Marjorie Erbe on Sept 5, 1959. The couple have three sons, Mark, Aaron and Craig (Marisha). Frank has

one daughter, Jody (Brad) Farber, from a previous marriage; 14 grandchildren, 12 great-grandchildren and three great-great-grandchildren.

He loved his family and provided well for them. In later years he became involved with old vintage bicycles and had a host of close friends in the bike business. He will be greatly missed by all.

Arrangements by Huber Funeral & Cremation Services, Mound Chapel, www.huberfunerals.com.

w31p A00006B2021JY28

Richard Lorentz

Richard (Dick) Anthony Lorentz, 78, of Walker and formerly of Staples passed away July 23, 2021, peacefully at Saint Mary's Essential Hospital in Duluth.

A celebration of life will be held Friday, July 30 at Sacred Heart Catholic Church in Hackensack with Father Timothy Lange officiating.. Visitation will be held one hour prior to ser-

vices. Mass of Christian Burial will be held a 4 p.m.

Inurnment will be in the MN State Veterans Cemetery at Fort Ripley near Little Falls at a later date.

Arrangements by Northern Peace Funeral Home, Walker. Online condolences for the family may be left at www.northernpeace.com.

w31c A00006B2021JY28

SHS Class of 1980 reunion

The Staples High School Class of 1980 will hold their 41st reunion on Friday, Aug. 20 and Saturday, Aug. 21, in Staples during Railroad Days. These are new dates, due to Railroad Days being held a week earlier than past years.

The celebration begins Friday at Timbers Restaurant & Event Center. Social hour at 6 p.m., followed by dinner and a brief program at 7 p.m. Classmates are asked to, "Come dressed in your '80s outfits" that evening.

An informal gathering will take place on Saturday at Pine Grove Park Picnic Shelter, beginning at 6:30

p.m. "Bring your own beverage and a snack if you wish."

To register online, go to www.SHS1980.classquest.com. Deadline to register is Aug. 1.

For information about the reunion, email 1980reunionshs@gmail.com, or call Lisa Essington DesMarais at 218-851-9220. Information is also available at Facebook: Staples High School 40th Class Reunion (Class of 1980).

Class members are encouraged to make lodging reservations early at Timberlake Hotel in Staples: 218-895-1300.



60th Anniversary CELEBRATION
FOR
Larry and Linda Paskewitz
Sun., Aug. 8, 1 - 4 p.m.

*Turtle Lake Cabin
38683 281st Ave.,
Browerville, MN 56438*
*Please join the children of
Larry and Linda Paskewitz in
celebrating their 60th wedding
anniversary. Light refreshments
will be served. The couple have
requested no gifts.*

w31-32p

We would like to extend a heartfelt Thank You!

to all who came to help Clyde Mertens celebrate his retirement July 18.

It was a beautiful day, awesome turn out and he is blessed with a great family and many wonderful friends.

Thanks for all the support, cards and gifts.

w41p



ALL ABOARD!

Ride the Rocky Railway @ VBS 2021

Staples Alliance Church
August 8-12 6:00-8:00 PM

Register online at www.staplesalliance.org

w30-31c

abortioncounters.com

w10-14p



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Rep. for Fergus Falls Monument Co.

Call 218-445-5685 or 218-640-2341

Thank You

STAPLES MOTLEY AREA COMMUNITY FOUNDATION
Building from Within, Creating for Tomorrow

for sharing in our community vision and for your generous contribution supporting the **Staples-Motley Athletic Hall of Fame Event and Cardinal Pride sign.**

Your support will help us honor our athletic legacy and demonstrate the pride of our schools and communities.

The Staples-Motley Athletic Hall of Fame Committee

"Time fades everything... except what we collectively value and choose to recall"



Staples World

DEADLINES
Newspaper deadline for copy and advertising: 12 noon Fridays



Tumbling and cheering

A large number of area students participated in the Community Education tumbling and cheering programs this summer.

Pictured are some action shots from both programs. (Staples World photos by Mark Anderson)



Running in the park

Staples-Motley cross country camp brought out some veterans and new runners ready to learn the sport.

Summer shooting

Staples-Motley boys and girls practiced trapshooting on July 21.



Help Wanted: Violence Prevention Coordinator/ Victim Advocate

Hands of Hope Resource Center announces a 40 hour-per-week opening for a community educator/victim advocate position in our Long Prairie office. **Duties** would include providing advocacy services for victims of domestic violence, sexual assault, child abuse and general crime as well as providing school presentations and other community education in Todd and Morrison counties.

Preference given to applicants who are bilingual, have a background in psychology, criminal justice, social work, education or other related field, those with experience in public speaking, and familiarity with social media platforms. Relevant work experience will be considered, and additional training will be provided.

Send cover letter and resume BY AUGUST 11 to:
Hiring Committee

Hands of Hope Resource Center
PO Box 67, Little Falls, MN 56345

Applications will also
be accepted via email to:

advocates.hands of hope@gmail.com
EOE



cl30-31c

*Are you looking for a job that is rewarding?
Do you have a care giving personality,
or want to make a difference
in our older adult population?*

If you answered "yes" to any of the above,
look no further! Come, work for
Central Todd County Care Center.

We are expanding our family. We are welcoming

Certified Nursing Assistants to our TEAM.

Night shift hours currently available from 10:00 p.m.-6:30 a.m.

If you do not have the Certification but are interested in becoming a Certified Nursing Assistant, don't hesitate to reach out. Our company offers outstanding benefits, including a new starting wage of \$20/hour plus shift differentials and experience pay, affordable Medical Insurance with a Health Savings Account which \$3,000 a year is given by the Care Center; 401K with 4% Care Center match; clothing allowance, daycare reimbursement, scholarships, etc.

To hear more or
if you would like to
sit down and visit, contact

Amanda at 218-756-3636 ext. 12
or email arickbeil@ctcccinc.com

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



cl30ffc

Place your Classified Ad

for only **\$9⁸⁵/wk.**

Your ad will appear Wednesday in the

Staples World

and online at www.staplesworld.com

Mailing address for checks:
Staples World
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Staples, MN 56479



Payment must accompany the order.
Use form below or click on www.staplesworld.com

Deadline: Friday at Noon

Classified Ad Order Form

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Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Classification # _____

Cost of Ad

First 15 words for one week **\$9.85**

Add for number of words over 15 _____ x 25¢ = _____

OR First 15 words for three weeks **\$25.00**

Add for number of words over 15 _____ x 25¢ = _____

Add \$5 for bold type and/or CAPITALIZED

indicate which word(s) is/are to be bold or capitalized

Add \$10 for Blind Box _____

TOTAL enclosed _____

Card of Thanks and *In Memoriam* are 20¢ per word with no minimum.

Number of words _____ x 20¢ = _____

TOTAL enclosed _____

Please check your ad the first day.
Refunds or credit will not be given for errors brought
to our attention after the second publication.
We are not responsible for errors due to
illegible copy or missing punctuation.

Your ad will be printed as you write it.
Please print clearly, one word per space.

Use additional paper
if necessary.
Thank you for your order!

Please mail completed form and check payment to:
Staples World, Box 100, Staples, MN 56479

NOTICES

107 Notices

DROP OFF for scrap
metals and appliances **ends**
Sept. 1, 2021 at CARDS,
Warner Rd., Staples. 26tfc

SERVICES & EMPLOYMENT

205 Help Wanted

POTATO HARVEST HELP WANTED

JCP Farms is immediately
accepting applications for work
now until approx.
the first week of October.
Women, men, and students
welcome to apply.
All types of work available.
Air conditioned facilities.

APPLY IN PERSON AT:

JCP Farms ~ John Petron
25461 County Rd. 5
Long Prairie, MN 56347
from 8 a.m. - 4 p.m.
320-732-3789

cl29ffc

208 Storage

**COUNTY ROAD 2
STORAGE, STAPLES:** Under
new management. **If**
you are currently renting
from this location or are
interested in renting, con-
tact Sue, 520-465-8115 or 218-
296-1101. 30-33p

FOR RENT

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

HELP WANTED:

Staples-Motley School District is taking
applications for Special Education
Paraprofessionals; 7 hours per day.

Multiple positions MAY be available
at the start of the 2021-22 school year.
Applicants must have a 2 year degree OR ParaPro Certification.

Submit applications to:

District Office, 905 4th St. NE, Staples, MN 56479

EOE

cl31-33c

\$1,500
sign-on Bonus!

Machinist / Mold Tool Maker

Tool Maker preferred, but not mandatory.

Diploma required. 40+ hrs./ week, 5:30 a.m.-3:00 p.m.,
Monday through Thursday; and 5:30-9:30 a.m. Fridays.

Wages/ benefits include: Medical and Dental Ins.
Competitive wages based on experience and ability.

Interest/ Questions, call 218-894-3142

ALUDEC, USA

3991P

CENTRAL TODD COUNTY *Care Center* Housekeeping and Laundry

Full-time position is available in our
Environmental Services Department.

Hours: 7:00 a.m. - 3:30 p.m., plus every other weekend
Applicants must be at least 16 years of age.

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



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

Central Todd County Care Center is located in Clarissa, MN

cl30ffc

Classifications

NOTICES

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

SERVICES & EMPLOYMENT

201 Business
Opportunities
202 Childcare
Providers
203 Childcare
Wanted
205 Help Wanted
206 Positions
207 Equipment
for Rent

208 Storage
209 Business
Services
210 Animal Care/
Supplies
211 Work Wanted

FOR SALE

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

VEHICLES

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

WANTED TO BUY

501 Miscellaneous
502 Livestock

REAL ESTATE

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

GARAGE SALES

701 Garage Sales
702 Flea Market/
Crafts

209 Business Services

Your major appliance
parts source. Parts for all
major brands. One day ser-
vice, **Staples True Val-
ue**, Staples. 218-894-3263.
26tfc

REAL ESTATE

602 Apartments for Rent

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

**RAMSEY APART-
MENTS, STAPLES (50+).** 2
bdrm. non-smoking, owner
lives on site. No pets. 218-
894-1532. 31tfc

FRONTIER TOWNHOMES

FOR RENTAL INFO CALL
218-296-5031
Under new ownership

We are accepting
applications for 2 and 3
bedroom townhomes in
Staples, a community
you can get attached to.
Rent based on income.
Now professionally
managed by

BRUTGER
EQUITIES, INC.
Income guidelines apply.



GARAGE SALES

701

**ANNUAL GARAGE
SALE:** Swan Valley Luther-
an Church, Leader. **Thurs.,
July 29 - Fri., July 30, 8
a.m.-5 p.m., Sat., July
31, 8 a.m.-2 p.m.** A lot of
clothes, handmade quilts,
toys, books, furniture and a
lot of misc. 30-31p

BIG CRAFT SALE:
Bertha Community Center,
**Thurs., July 29, 8:30 a.m.-
5 p.m., Fri., July 30, 8:30
a.m.- 5 p.m., Sat., July
31, 8:30 a.m.-1 p.m.** Ev-
erything you need for sew-
ing will be on sale: **Donna
May's Crafts** is selling out
her business. Potholders,
handbags, aprons, pillows,
all at reduced prices. Also,
listen to good music while
you shop. 31p

**MULTI-FAMILY GA-
RAGE SALE:** 27088 130th
St., Staples North of CLC.
**Fri., July 30, 8 a.m.-5 p.m.,
Sat., July 31, 8 a.m.-noon.**
31c

MULTI-FAMILY SALE:
Trinkets and treasures,
kitchen supplies, high chair,
Disney clothing (children -
adult), hand tools. Warner
Rd. to County Rd. 32 (ALL
TAR roads). Follow the bal-
loons. **Thurs., July 29, 9
a.m.-5 p.m., Fri., July 30,
9 a.m.-noon.** 31p

MOVING SALE: Living
room furniture, bed frames,
China cabinet, toys, Christ-
mas décor, a whole lot more.
Everything must go. 28904
County Rd 26, Browerville,
by Sylvan Shores resort and
3 mi. east of Don and
Dave's Store. **Thurs., July
29 - Sat., July 31, 8 a.m.-5
p.m.** 31p

**HUGE MULTI-FAMILY
SALE:** **Thurs., July 29 -
Sat., July 31, 8 a.m.-4 p.m.**
Furniture, kitchenware,
adult - kids brand name
clothing. 132. Harrison St.,
Motley. 31p

**MULTI-FAMILY YARD
SALE:** **Thurs., July 29 -
Fri., July 30, 9 a.m.-5 p.m.**
Furniture, dressers, dishes,
vacuum cleaner, a lot of old
books, scrapbooking sup-
plies, tools, compound bows,
a lot of misc. 4 mi. west of
Staples on Hwy. 10, 237th
Ave., Staples, mi marker
#104. 31p

GARAGE SALE: **Fri.,
July 30 - Sat., July 31, 9
a.m.-2 p.m.** West of Motley
Cemetery. Dog crate, youth
hunting boots, bathroom
sink, vanity, youth golf club
set, household items, bed
frame. 33815 Timberland
Road, Motley. 31p

It's GARAGE SALE TIME!

Staples World

Advertising Deadline for your
GARAGE SALE...

*Staples World deadline...**noon FRIDAY**
(Published on Wednesday)



**ALL GARAGE SALE ADS
MUST BE PAID FOR
AT THE TIME
OF PLACEMENT**

\$9.85 first 15 words
25¢ each additional word

Garage Sale line ads are published
in the Staples World classified pages,
under the
Garage Sale heading and online.

A box ad can be purchased at the
regular classified display rate (\$13.60 pcd)
Cash or Check only.
Must be paid for at the time of placement.



DON'T FORGET!!!!

The deadline for classified ads, display
ads, garage sale ads, letters to the editor
and news items for the Staples World is:

Friday, noon



MCAN

Minnesota Classified Advertising Network



EMPLOYMENT

LICENSED PRACTICAL NURSE

New London-Spicer Schools. MN Licen-
sure required. For more info or to apply
visit: nls.k12.mn.us/employment. EOE.

COMMERCIAL APPLICATORS

Competitive wage and benefits, meal
allowance, paid lodging. Traveling posi-
tion for railroad vegetation control, 60-80
hours/week. RAW (Cooperstown, ND)
888/700-0292 info@rawapplicators.com
www.rawapplicators.com

AUCTIONS

HIGHWAY 59 AUCTION SERVICE

Slayton Minn. Equipment and Machinery
Consignment. August 9, 2021; 10:00. Now
taking consignment! Fair commissions!
Call Jess Donkersloot: 507/370-1912
today! Website: auctionzip.com

ONLY \$279 to reach a statewide audience of 1.7 million readers!!! **1-800-279-2979**

MISCELLANEOUS

FREON WANTED:

We pay \$\$\$ for cylinders and cans. R12
R500 R11 R113 R114. Convenient. Cer-
tified Professionals. Call 312/291-9169
or visit: RefrigerantFinders.com

AT&T WIRELESS

Two great new offers! Ask how to get
the new iPhone 11 or Next Genera-
tion Samsung Galaxy S10e on us with
AT&T's Buy one, Give One offer.
While supplies last! Call 855/332-0464

THE COVID CRISIS

has cost us all something. Many have
lost jobs and financial security. Have
\$10K In Debt? Credit Cards. Med-
ical Bills. Car Loans. Call National
Debt Relief! We can help! Get a FREE
debt relief quote: Call 844/205-5439

MISCELLANEOUS

DONATE YOUR CAR

truck or boat to Heritage For The
Blind. Free 3-day vacation, tax de-
ductible, free towing, all paper-
work taken care of 844/220-9501

THE GENERAC PWRCCELL

A solar plus battery storage system.
Save money, reduce your reliance on
the grid, prepare for power outages
and power your home. Full installation
services available. \$0 Down financ-
ing option. Request a free, no obliga-
tion quote today. Call 888/913-5895

DISH NETWORK \$64.99

for 190 Channels! Blazing fast inter-
net, \$19.99/mo. (where available.)
Switch & get a FREE \$100 Visa gift
card. FREE voice remote. FREE
HD DVR. FREE streaming on ALL
devices. Call today! 855/562-4309



PUBLIC NOTICE
REGARDING
REQUEST FOR
PROPOSALS FOR
GUARANTEED
ENERGY SAVING
CONTRACT BY
INDEPENDENT
SCHOOL DISTRICT
#2170
(STAPLES-MOTLEY
PUBLIC SCHOOLS)
STATE OF MINNESOTA

Independent School District #2170 is issuing a request for proposals to select a qualified provider to provide energy conservation measures pursuant to Minnesota Statute 123B.65. The District intends to negotiate a contract with the provider deemed best suited to meet the needs of the District. Details of the request for proposal can be obtained from the Staples-Motley Public School District Office. The District Office is located at 905 5th Street NE, Staples, MN 56479. The contact for this project is Mr. John Regan, Business Manager. Responses to the request for proposal are due in the Staples-Motley School District Office by 2:00 p.m. (Central Standard Time) on August 13, 2021.

Mary Freeman
School District Clerk

31pnc

TODD COUNTY
PLANNING
COMMISSION
215 1st Ave. South,
Suite 103
Long Prairie, MN 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, August 5, 2021 at 6:00 p.m.** in the Commissioners meeting room, Historic Courthouse, 215 First Ave. South, Long Prairie, MN to consider the following applications.

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

Questions? Phone 320-732-4420 or Email toddplan.zone@co.todd.mn.us

Agenda

- Call to Order.
- Introduction of Plan-

ning Commission Members.
•Approval of the July 1, 2021 Planning Commission meeting minutes.
1.Lakes Gas Co.- Joe Deters: Section 29, Long Prairie Township
Site Address: 23844 County 10, Long Prairie. PID: 18-0034700
1) Request for Conditional Use Permit for 18,000 Gallon Bulk storage tank in Shoreland- RD Zoning (Lake Charlotte).
2. JSL Properties-James Martin: Section 34, Ward Township
Site Address: 25924 County 18, Browerville. PID: 26-0049700
1) Request for Conditional Use Permit for 100 ft by 40 ft addition for additional Lumber Storage for business in R-10 Zoning
3. Greystone Golf Club: Section 27, Kandota Township
Site Address: N/A US 71, Sauk Centre. PID: 14-0026001
1) Request to plat 3.15 Acres into a single riparian lot in AF-2 and Shoreland- RD Zoning (Sauk Lake)
4. Change to Section 6.03B of Todd County Planning and Zoning Ordinance
1) References to Section 7.13 which does not exist, needs to change to Section 7.15 Subdivision/Plat Provisions.
5. Change to Section 6.04B of Todd County Planning and Zoning Ordinance

1) Discrepancy of multiple homes/guest cottages in Shoreland zoning
6. Change to Section 6.04C of Todd County Planning and Zoning Ordinance
1) Addition to commercial uses to include Wedding/Event Centers
7. Change to Section 9.04B of Todd County Planning and Zoning Ordinance
1) Adjustments in wording of railroad cars, cargo containers, and semi-trailers as storage units.
8. Change to Section 6.03E of Todd County Planning & Zoning Ordinance
1) Increase maximum allowable peak height of accessory structures in Shoreland Zoning.

Adjournment –
Next meeting:
September 2, 2021

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

31pnc

EXHIBIT A
NOTICE OF INTENT TO ISSUE BONDS TO
FINANCE PROJECTS INCLUDED IN THE
DISTRICT’S TEN-YEAR FACILITY PLAN

INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 2170
(STAPLES-MOTLEY)
STATE OF MINNESOTA

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the School Board of Independent School District No. 2170, State of Minnesota (the “District”), adopted a resolution (the “Resolution”) on July 19, 2021, stating the intention of the School Board to issue General Obligation Facilities Maintenance and Tax Abatement Bonds (the “Bonds”). The Bonds will consist of a Facilities Maintenance Portion and a Tax Abatement Portion. The total principal amount of the Facilities Maintenance Portion of the Bonds shall not exceed \$9,470,000 pursuant to Minnesota Statutes, Section 123B.595 and Chapter 475, as amended. The total principal amount of the Tax Abatement Portion of the Bonds shall not exceed \$2,315,000 and will provide funds to finance the construction of and improvements to parking lots at the Staples-Motley Elementary School and the Staples-Motley Middle/High School and related financing costs. The proceeds of the Facilities Maintenance Portion of the Bonds will be used to fund the costs of the following projects at the District’s facilities as included in the District’s ten-year facility plan approved by the Commissioner of Education and related financing costs:

- Health & Safety projects, including indoor air quality, fire safety and asbestos removal and encapsulation

The total amount of District indebtedness as of July 1, 2021, will be \$1,305,000. If the proposed Facilities Maintenance and Tax Abatement Bonds were issued after that date, the total indebtedness of the District at that time would be \$13,090,000.

Dated: July 19, 2021

BY ORDER OF THE SCHOOL BOARD



School District Clerk
Independent School District No. 2170
(Staples-Motley)
State of Minnesota

31pnc

CITY OF STAPLES
Summary Financial Report

The purpose of this report is to provide a summary of financial information concerning the City of Staples to interested citizens. The complete financial statements may be examined at Staples City Hall at 122 6th St NE. Questions about this report should be directed to the City Clerk at (218) 894-2550

Revenue and Expenditures for General Operations
(Governmental Funds)

	Total 2019	Total 2020	% Increase or (Decrease)
Revenues:			
Property Taxes	\$ 1,267,662	\$ 1,026,789	-19.00%
Special Assessments	104,369	106,712	2.24%
Licenses and Permits	132,040	146,101	10.65%
Intergovernmental Revenues	1,928,368	1,743,579	-9.58%
Charges for Services	27,816	29,628	6.51%
Fines and Forfeits	21,714	19,709	-9.23%
Investment Earnings	129,227	95,558	-26.05%
Miscellaneous	643,388	584,471	-9.16%
Total Revenues	\$ 4,254,584	\$ 3,752,547	-11.80%
Per Capita	1,418.19	1,250.85	-11.80%
Expenditures:			
Current:			
General Government	\$ 461,522	\$ 439,230	-4.83%
Public Safety	929,023	1,025,646	10.40%
Streets and Highways	453,116	423,118	-6.62%
Economic Development	483,503	402,909	-16.67%
Parks and Recreation	193,496	157,309	-18.70%
Airport	83,209	61,917	-25.59%
Debt Service:			
Principal	489,000	505,000	3.27%
Interest and Other Charges	332,510	213,210	-35.88%
Capital Outlay	1,212,658	434,376	-64.18%
Total Expenditures	\$ 4,638,037	\$ 3,662,715	26.63%
Per Capita	1,546.01	1,220.91	26.63%
Total Long-term Indebtedness	\$ 7,891,782	\$ 9,180,294	16.33%
Per Capita	2,630.59	3,060.10	16.33%
General Fund & Special Revenue Funds Unrestricted			
Fund Balance - December 31	\$ 576,670	\$ 1,023,909	77.56%
Per Capita	192.22	341.30	77.56%

CITY OF STAPLES
STATEMENT OF NET POSITION
PROPRIETARY FUNDS
December 31, 2020

	Enterprise Funds				
	Light	Water	Community Center	Sewer	Total
ASSETS					
Current assets:					
Cash and investments	\$ 1,945,581	\$ 513,989	\$ 219,498	\$ 642,966	\$ 3,322,034
Restricted cash	157,806	-	-	-	157,806
Accounts receivable, net	302,043	65,631	204	71,280	439,158
Due from other funds	-	-	-	-	-
Receivables from other governmental units	-	-	-	487,669	487,669
Taxes receivable	-	-	525	-	525
Inventories	130,319	39,810	-	-	170,129
Prepaid expenses	21,354	9,353	5,205	12,775	48,687
Total current assets	2,557,103	628,783	225,432	1,214,690	4,626,008
Non-current assets:					
Capital Assets:					
Net capital assets	2,996,610	4,773,506	288,926	8,700,041	16,759,083
Total assets	5,553,713	5,402,289	514,358	9,914,731	21,385,091
DEFERRED OUTFLOWS OF RESOURCES					
Pension plan deferments - PERA and OPEB	44,532	14,169	5,358	6,144	70,203
Total assets and deferred outflows of resources	\$ 5,598,245	\$ 5,416,458	\$ 519,716	\$ 9,920,875	\$ 21,455,294
LIABILITIES					
Current liabilities:					
Accounts payable	\$ 174,750	\$ 10,409	\$ 10,757	\$ 788,780	\$ 984,696
Accrued interest payable	-	12,191	-	-	12,191
Due to other funds	-	-	-	-	-
Deposits	149,980	3,000	-	-	152,980
Current portion notes payable	134,772	128,000	-	-	262,772
Total current liabilities	459,502	153,600	10,757	788,780	1,412,639
Non-current liabilities:					
Severance/vacation payable	49,197	30,832	3,569	34,091	117,689
Net pension and OPEB liability	379,668	126,880	97,509	118,534	722,591
Notes payable	1,153,856	663,000	-	2,071,038	3,887,894
Total non-current liabilities	1,582,721	820,712	101,078	2,223,663	4,728,174
Total liabilities	2,042,223	974,312	111,835	3,012,443	6,140,813
DEFERRED INFLOWS OF RESOURCES					
Pension/OPEB plan deferments-PERA/OPEB	28,749	9,277	10,776	6,946	55,748
NET POSITION					
Net investment in capital assets	1,707,982	3,982,506	288,926	6,629,003	12,608,417
Restricted for debt service	162,382	-	-	-	162,382
Unrestricted	1,656,909	450,363	108,179	272,483	2,487,934
Total net position	3,527,273	4,432,869	397,105	6,901,486	15,258,733
Total liabilities, deferred inflows of resources and net position	\$ 5,598,245	\$ 5,416,458	\$ 519,716	\$ 9,920,875	\$ 21,455,294

CITY OF STAPLES
STATEMENT OF REVENUES, EXPENSES AND CHANGES IN FUND NET POSITION
PROPRIETARY FUNDS
For the Year Ended December 31, 2020

	Enterprise Funds				
	Light	Water	Community Center	Sewer	Total
REVENUES					
Charges for services	\$ 3,022,762	\$ 591,530	\$ 27,698	\$ 617,275	\$ 4,259,265
Miscellaneous	282,168	43,990	-	-	326,158
Total operating revenues	3,304,930	635,520	27,698	617,275	4,585,423
OPERATING EXPENSES					
Personal services	537,392	190,820	140,171	198,556	1,066,939
Professional fees	43,637	14,299	1,452	12,238	71,626
Utilities	15,049	36,246	41,647	70,817	163,759
Rent	11,027	-	-	-	11,027
Purchase of energy	1,652,583	-	-	-	1,652,583
Other services, supplies and repairs	143,784	87,345	63,733	120,757	415,619
Insurance	9,873	5,193	2,592	8,367	26,425
Franchise fee expense	149,006	-	-	-	149,006
Depreciation	130,731	160,971	28,781	104,753	425,236
Total operating expenses	2,693,082	494,874	278,776	515,488	3,982,220
Operating income (loss)	611,848	140,646	(251,078)	101,787	603,203
NON OPERATING REVENUES (EXPENSES)					
Property taxes	-	-	42,990	-	42,990
Intergovernmental revenue	-	-	126,400	-	126,400
Interest and investment revenue	38,967	9,386	5,192	10,939	64,484
Miscellaneous revenue	2,284	152	-	101,482	103,918
Operating grants and contributions	897	318	204	3,611,825	3,613,244
Interest expense	(33,632)	(28,256)	-	(2,142)	(64,030)
Total non operating revenues (expenses)	8,516	(18,400)	174,786	3,722,104	3,887,006
Change in net position before transfers and special items	620,364	122,246	(76,292)	3,823,891	4,490,209
Capital distributions	(1,631)	-	-	-	(1,631)
Transfers in	12,161	8,036	11,848	7,555	39,600
Transfers out	(40,000)	(20,000)	-	-	(60,000)
Change in net position	590,894	110,282	(64,444)	3,831,446	4,468,178
Net position - beginning	2,936,379	4,322,587	461,549	3,070,040	10,790,555
Net position - ending	\$ 3,527,273	\$ 4,432,869	\$ 397,105	\$ 6,901,486	\$ 15,258,733

CITY OF STAPLES
STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS
PROPRIETARY FUNDS
For the Year Ended December 31, 2020

	Enterprise Funds				
	Light	Water	Community Center	Sewer	Total
CASH FLOWS FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES					
Receipts from customers	\$ 3,288,068	\$ 616,862	\$ 43,238	\$ 437,160	\$ 4,385,328
Payments to suppliers	(2,055,870)	(145,503)	(106,679)	(203,311)	(2,511,363)
Payments to employees	(559,184)	(196,406)	(144,601)	(202,293)	(1,102,484)
Net cash provided (used) by operating activities	673,014	274,953	(208,042)	31,556	771,481
CASH FLOWS FROM NONCAPITAL FINANCING ACTIVITIES					
Property taxes and credits	-	-	42,990	-	42,990
State aids	-	-	126,400	-	126,400
Operating transfers (to) other funds	(40,000)	(20,000)	-	-	(60,000)
Net cash provided (used) by noncapital financing activities	(40,000)	(20,000)	169,390	-	109,390
CASH FLOWS FROM CAPITAL AND RELATED FINANCING ACTIVITIES					
Revenue note proceeds				2,071,038	2,071,038
Principal payments on revenue note	(131,776)	(127,000)	-	-	(258,776)
Miscellaneous non operating income	2,283	152	-	101,482	103,917
Interest payments on revenue note	(33,632)	(29,675)	-	(2,142)	(65,449)
Proceeds from operating grants and contributions	897	318	204	3,611,825	3,613,244
Payment of interfund loan	-	179,232	-	(179,232)	-
Acquisition and construction of capital assets	(45,678)	-	(184,849)	(5,010,055)	(5,240,582)
Net cash provided (used) by capital and related financing activities	(207,906)	23,027	(184,645)	592,916	223,392
CASH FLOWS FROM INVESTING ACTIVITIES					
Transfer in	12,161	8,036	11,848	7,555	39,600
Interest received	38,967	9,386	5,192	10,939	64,484
Net cash provided by investing activities	51,128	17,422	17,040	18,494	104,084
Net increase (decrease) in cash	476,236	295,402	(206,257)	642,966	1,208,347
Cash and investments at beginning of year	1,627,151	218,587	425,755	-	2,271,493
Cash and investments at end of year	\$ 2,103,387	\$ 513,989	\$ 219,498	\$ 642,966	\$ 3,479,840
Cash and investments	\$ 1,945,581	\$ 513,989	\$ 219,498	\$ 642,966	\$ 3,322,034
Restricted cash	157,806	-	-	-	157,806
Total cash and investments at end of year	\$ 2,103,387	\$ 513,989	\$ 219,498	\$ 642,966	\$ 3,479,840
Reconciliation of operating income to net cash provided by operating activities:					
Operating income (loss)	\$ 611,848	\$ 140,646	\$ (251,078)	\$ 101,787	\$ 603,203
Adjustments to reconcile operating income to net cash provided by operating activities:					
Depreciation	130,731	160,971	28,781	104,753	425,236
Pension and OPEB related activity	(30,109)	(11,269)	(6,060)	(11,226)	(58,664)
Change in assets and liabilities:					
Accounts receivable	(6,474)	(17,393)	56	(18,061)	(41,872)
Due from other governmental units	-	-	15,838	(160,531)	(144,693)
Taxes receivable	-	-	(354)	-	(354)
Inventories	(15,918)	(9,926)	-	-	(25,844)
Prepaid expenses	(3,170)	620	27	348	(2,175)
Accounts payable	(9,006)	5,622	3,116	6,997	6,729
Deposits	(13,205)	-	-	-	(13,205)
Severance payable	8,317	5,682	1,632	7,489	23,120
Net cash provided (used) by operating activities	\$ 673,014	\$ 274,953	\$ (208,042)	\$ 31,556	\$ 771,481

**NOTICE OF
PUBLIC SALE OF
TAX-FORFEITED
LANDS
FRIDAY, AUGUST 13,
2021. 10:00 a.m.**

Todd County
Commissioner board
room in the
Historical Court House
215 1st Avenue S
Long Prairie, MN 56347

New Tax-forfeited parcels and a few repriced parcels will be on auction.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, that the parcels described in the List of Tax-Forfeited Land that is contained herein shall be sold to the highest bidder at public sale. The sale will be governed by the provisions of Minn. Stat. § 282.01 and by the resolution of the Todd County Board of Commissioners authorizing such sale. The resolution reads as follows:

BE IT RESOLVED, that all parcels of tax-forfeited land listed on the List of Tax-Forfeited Land be classified as nonconservation land; that the basic sale price of each parcel on List of Tax-Forfeited Land, that is on file with the Clerk of the County Board, be approved and authorization for a public sale of this land be granted, pursuant to Minn. Stat. § 282.01; that the sale will be held at 10:00 a.m., Friday, August 13, 2021, by the Todd County Auditor/Treasurer at the Commissioner board room in the Historical Court House, for not less than the basic sale price; and that all sales shall be full payment or on the terms set forth on the List of Tax-Forfeited Land.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the conditions and terms of the public sale shall be as described in the list of Tax-Forfeited Land contained here-in and approved by the Todd County Board of Commissioners.

Information about the sale of tax-forfeited land in Todd County can be obtained at the office of the County Auditor/Treasurer, Todd County Courthouse, 215 1st Avenue So, Suite 201, Long Prairie, Minnesota, 56347. Telephone: (320) 732-4469, or online at: <https://www.co.todd.mn.us/divisions/property-records/auditor-treasurer/>

31-32pnc

**MINUTES OF THE
MEETING OF THE
TODD COUNTY BOARD
OF COMMISSIONERS
May 18, 2021**

Call to Order

The Todd County Board of Commissioners met in the Commissioner's Board Room in the City of Long Prairie, MN on the 18th day of May, 2021 at 9:00 a.m. The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Becker. The meeting was opened with the Pledge of Allegiance. All Commissioners were present except Commissioner Kircher being absent.

Approval of Agenda

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

Consent Agenda

On motion by Kneisl and seconded by Neumann, the following motions and resolutions were introduced and adopted by unanimous vote:

To approve the Todd County Board of Commissioner's Meeting Minutes for May 4, 2021 as presented.

To approve a One-Day Dance License for the T.J.'s on Diamond Point, Inc for July 3, 2021 at 12867 Bayview Drive, Sauk Centre, in Birchdale Township.

To approve an On Sale Wine License including strong beer for Donald Panitzke dba Rainbow Lodge at the address of 20576 Banks Trail, Sauk Centre, in Kandota Township effective June 1, 2021 through March 31, 2022.

To approve hiring Travis Moller to fill the vacant Public Works Summer Help position for FY 2021.

To promote Jacob Nosbush to Land Use Planner effective May 24, 2021.

To approve the promotion of Sheri Greenwaldt to fill the open Nursing Supervisor position.

To hire Emmitt Winkels, Seasonal Recreational Assistant for the Sheriff's department.

To hire Anthony Harden, Seasonal Recreational Assistant for the Sheriff's department.

Auditor-Treasurer

On motion by Neumann and seconded by Erickson, the following motion was introduced and adopted by unanimous Roll Call vote: To approve the Commissioner Warrants number (ACH) 401218 through 401257 in the amount of \$17,163.60 and (Regular) 54776 through 54821 in the amount of \$29,736.54 for a total of \$46,900.14.

On motion by Erickson and seconded by Kneisl, the following motion was introduced and adopted by unanimous Roll Call vote: To approve the Health & Human Services Commissioner Warrants number (ACH) 801629 through 801694 and (Regular) 707795 through 707849 for a total amount of \$82,866.41.

On motion by Neumann and seconded by Erickson, the following motion was introduced and adopted by unanimous Roll Call vote: To approve the Health & Human Services SSIS Warrants number (ACH) 600393 through 600404 and (Regular) 516328 through 516363 for a total amount of \$83,346.31.

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

**APPOINTMENT OF
MAGGIE
LEVERICH-WOLD TO
THE HOUSING AND
REDEVELOPMENT
AUTHORITY BOARD
OF TODD COUNTY**

WHEREAS, the Todd County Board of Commissioners of Todd County, Minnesota held a duly authorized special meeting on the 12th day of September, 1972; and

WHEREAS, at said meeting a resolution was passed and adopted declaring the need for a Housing and Redevelopment Authority in Todd County, Minnesota; and

WHEREAS, the current term for Donna Schneekloth on the Todd County HRA Board expired on September 18, 2020 and Maggie Leverich-Wold has expressed her desire to fill the new term for this vacant position.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, pursuant to the provisions of the Municipal Housing and Redevelopment Act of the State of Minnesota, the County Board of Commissioners of Todd County, Minnesota, hereby appoint the one person hereinafter named to serve as Commissioner of the Housing and Redevelopment Authority of Todd County, Minnesota, and to serve for a period of five

years as hereinafter stipulated:

Maggie Leverich-Wold - May 6, 2021 through September 18, 2025

**University of
Minnesota Extension -
Todd County**

Elizabeth Quillo, SNAP-Ed Educator of Health and Nutrition Programs provided a program update to the County Board.

Ditch/Ag Inspector

On motion by Erickson and seconded by Kneisl, the following motion was introduced and adopted by unanimous vote: Acting as Ditch Authority, set the date of the first CD41 Hearing for June 29, 2021 at 7:00 p.m. The meeting is to be held at a future determined location.

Solid Waste

On motion by Kneisl and seconded by Neumann, the following motion was introduced and adopted by unanimous vote: To authorize the Solid Waste Director to sign for acceptance of Widseth's proposal of Hydro and Survey Services.

Planning & Zoning

On motion by Erickson and seconded by Kneisl, the following motion was introduced and adopted by unanimous vote: To approve the purchase of a Ford Ranger from Dan Welle Chevrolet in the amount of \$6,584.

On motion by Neumann and seconded by Erickson, the following motion was introduced and adopted by unanimous vote: To approve the preliminary plat for Sunrise Estates with the 11 proposed conditions.

On motion by Neumann and seconded by Erickson, the following motion was introduced and adopted by unanimous vote: To approve the preliminary plat for Dismas Acres with the five proposed conditions.

On motion by Kneisl and seconded by Erickson, the following motion was introduced and adopted by unanimous vote: To grant the Conditional Use Permit with four proposed conditions for Samuel Bontrager on parcel 07-0023300.

On motion by Neumann and seconded by Erickson, the following motion was introduced and adopted by unanimous vote: To approve the rezoning of the SW ¼ of the SW ¼, Section 10, Kandota Township from AF1 to AF2 with no conditions.

**Health & Human
Services**

On motion by Neumann and seconded by Kneisl, the following motion was introduced and adopted by unanimous vote: To approve the rates to provide nursing, PT, OT and ST visits of \$180 per visit and HHA/HM rate of \$75 per visit or hour effective June 1, 2021.

Jackie Och, HHS Director and Katherine Mackedanz, Community Health Manager provided an update to the County Board on the COVID-19 situation and vaccination availability for county residents.

Administration

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

**ADOPTION OF TODD
COUNTY TELEWORK
POLICY**

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

WHEREAS, the Todd County Board of Commissioners and policies subcommittee have had an opportunity to review the policy put forth in the Personnel Policy Section 8.11 Telework Policy and find the implementation to be in the best interest of the sound administration of the County;

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, the Todd County Board of Commissioners adopts the attached Todd County Telework Policy as part of the Todd County Personnel Policy and directs the County Coordinator to begin administration of said policy as of May 18, 2021 and;

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

**County Auditor-
Treasurer's Report**

The County Auditor-Treasurer reported that the first half Real Estate tax payment collections are steady.

**County Coordinator's
Report**

The County Coordinator provided an update to preparations for the final phase of removing the county's capacity limits.

**County
Commissioner's
Report**
Commissioner Neumann

reported that a position of Sauk River Watershed Manager will be open for applicants/appointment soon.

Adjourn

On motion by Neumann and seconded by Kneisl, the meeting was adjourned for the month of May, 2021.

COMMISSIONER WARRANTS	
Vendor Name.....	\$ Amount
BIG STONE THERAPIES, INC.....	\$2,315.44
MORRIS ELECTRONICS.....	2,946.15
MOTOROLA.....	4,262.00
RINKE-NOONAN CORP LTD.....	2,210.00
SHI CORP.....	3,060.00
STAPLES WORLD.....	2,574.99
VIKING GARAGE DOOR CO.....	3,325.42
WIDSETH SMITH NOLTING INC.....	2,965.00
78 PAYMENTS LESS THAN \$2,000.....	23,241.14
Total.....	\$46,900.14

HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES WARRANTS	
Vendor Name.....	\$ Amount
V #16734- COST EFF HEALTH INS.....	\$2,155.85
V #15827- COST EFF HEALTH INS.....	3,309.85
DHS- SWIFT.....	3,953.40
RURAL MN CEP INC.....	11,480.65
WILLIAMS DINGMANN FAMILY FUNERAL - LONG PRAIRIE.....	7,000.00
V #16730- COST EFF HEALTH INS.....	2,044.02
115 PAYMENTS LESS THAN \$2,000.....	52,922.64
Total.....	\$2,866.41

Vendor Name.....	\$ Amount
#16413.....	\$2,236.80
#16713.....	2,040.00
#15998.....	3,645.46
DHS- MSOP- MN SEX OFFENDER PROG.....	6,091.50
DHS- ST PETER RTC- 472.....	9,982.00
#14593.....	3,742.80
GERARD TREATMENT PROGRAMS.....	3,871.80
HOLISTIC FAMILY EDUCATION SRVS.....	5,696.77
NORTH HOMES CHILDREN & FAMILY SRVS.....	4,703.32
NORTHERN PINES MENTAL HLTH CTR INC.....	2,500.00
#16668.....	3,883.80
STEP.....	5,932.44
PAYMENTS LESS THAN \$2,000.....	29,019.62
Total.....	\$83,346.31

On a motion by Erickson and seconded by Neumann, the preceding minutes of the County Board meeting held May 18, 2021 were duly approved by unanimous vote at the Todd County Board of Commissioners at the Regular Board Meeting held on June 1, 2021.

Witness my hand and seal:

Barbara Becker,
Todd County Board
Chairperson

Denise Gaida, Todd County
Auditor-Treasurer

31pnc

Staples World

DEADLINES

Newspaper deadline for copy and advertising: 12 noon Fridays

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Newspapers across the country are fighting for YOUR right to that information. *That's our job.*

Keep public notices public.
Keep them in newspapers.
Support your local newspaper.

• SOURCE: 2011 Readership Survey by National Newspaper Association.

Freshwater Education District

**MINUTES
FRESHWATER ED.
DISTRICT #6004
BOARD MEETING
6/24/2021**

Meeting held in person and virtually as permitted under Minn. Stat. 13D.021

Called to Order by Chair VanDenheuvel at 5 p.m.

Roll Call- Board: R. VanDenheuvel- Bertha-Hewitt; K. Howard- Menahga; C. Funk- Sebek; C. Wolf- Long Prairie-Grey Eagle; B. Tumberg- Wadena-Deer Creek; S. Veronen-Verndale. Absent: R. Thalmann- Henning; B. Lund- Staples-Motley; J. Hillmer- Browerville. Supt: D. Fjeldheim- Sebek. FED- E. Weber, J. Anderson and S. Thiel.

Adoption of the Agenda- MOTION BY Veronen and seconded by Tumberg to approve the agenda as modified. VOTE-U/C

Presentation by Weber, Ex. Director on the completion of Ex. Directors 20/21 goals.

Old Business-

MOTION BY Funk and seconded by Wolf to approve the 3/24/2021 minutes as duly noted of changes in the SY Calendar. VOTE-U/C

MOTION BY Veronen and seconded by Tumberg to acknowledge receipt and review of 4/14/21 and

5/12/2021, Supt. minutes as presented. VOTE-U/C

Business & Finance- MOTION BY Tumberg and seconded by Howard to approve the 4/24/2021 - 6/21/2021 voucher claims as presented. VOTE-U/C.

The following Resolution is hereby MOVED BY Funk and seconded by Wolf: To recognize and gratefully accept the following donations as identified: MN National Bank, Sauk Centre - \$155. VOTE on adoptions of this Resolution was as follows; ABSTENTIONS: None. AYE: VanDenheuvel, Howard, Funk, Wolf, Tumberg, Veronen. NAY: None. ABSENT: Thalmann, Lund, Hillmer. WHEREUPON said Resolution has been declared duly adopted.

New Business-

MOTION BY Veronen and seconded by Tumberg to approve the ACP MOU between FED and EMFED #7335 for the 21/23 SY as presented. VOTE-U/C

MOTION BY Funk and seconded by Tumberg to approve the continuation of services from E-Rate Ed Solutions for the FY22 as presented. VOTE-U/C

MOTION BY Wolf and seconded by Veronen to adopt the 115 Trust Agrmt., for the Active & Post-Employment HRA plans effective 6/1/2021, as presented. VOTE-U/C

MOTION BY Howard and seconded by Tumberg

to approve the annual Food Service Purchase Agrmt., with ISDs #2155 and #2753 for the 21/22 SY. VOTE-U/C

MOTION BY Veronen and seconded by Tumberg to authorize of the transferring of \$175,000 from the Facility Reserve Acct. to Admin., SpEd, ALC and Tech. VOTE-U/C

MOTION BY Funk and seconded by Howard to approve the FED Empl. Handbook for the 21/22 SY as presented. VOTE-U/C

MOTION BY Tumberg and seconded by Veronen to adopt the 21/22 SY FED ALC Student Handbook as presented. VOTE-U/C

MOTION BY Howard and seconded by Funk to adopt the 21/22 SY FED SpEd Academy Student Handbook as presented. VOTE-U/C

MOTION BY Tumberg and seconded by Wolf to accept the insurance quote from National Insurance Brokers as presented. Roll Call VOTE- ABSTENTIONS: Veronen; AYE: Funk, VanDenheuvel, Wolf, Howard, Tumberg; NAY: None; ABSENT: Lund, Thalmann, Hillmer. Motion was declared adopted.

MOTION BY Tumberg and seconded by Veronen to accept the quote from Arvig for the FY22 Internet Service Agrmt., as presented. VOTE-U/C

MOTION BY Tumberg and seconded by Veronen

to adopt the 22A Budget for FY22 as presented. VOTE-U/C

MOTION BY Howard and seconded by Veronen to res-cind Policy #808 - C19 Face Coverings. VOTE-U/C

Department Reports- Ex. Director: *Update on ALC's current year attendance hours; SS Programs in Member and Out Reach Dist.; FED Safe Learning Plan; FEF received a \$5,000 Innovative Grant.*

Health Benefits Committee: *Reviewed the 5/19/21, Mtg. Minutes*

Personnel Agenda-

MOTION BY Funk and seconded by Wolf to approve the items as follows: Hiring of S. Lowe, K. Boutiette; Increase in Days for T. Gould; Permission to Advertise and Hire for a 3rd Party IEP Billing Clerk and 1.0 FTE SY PK-12 Substitute; Resignation of S. Speckien, E. Warner; Lane Change Request of N. Page; Retirement of B. Johnson; Increase in Hrs. for E. Hibbs, H. Haase, N. Hibbs; Decrease in Hrs. for L. Hubbard, B. Faust; Reassignment of W. Irons; Review and approve of changes to Policy 400.11L, VOTE-U/C

MOTION BY Veronen and seconded by Tumberg to adjourn the meeting at 6:10 p.m.

31pnc

July 13, Staples Police assisted the MN State Patrol with a report of a subject acting suspiciously on

July 16, Staples Police responded to a welfare check at the Staples High Rise. The subject was not doing well medically. The subject was refusing to go to the hospital but he was taken by ambulance to Lakewood Health System emergency room.

July 18, Staples Police responded to the Mill Townhomes for a report of a sex offender on the property and was in violation of his release conditions. Police determined no crime was committed and advised the complainant to contact the property owner to have the subject removed from the property.

The Connecting Entrepreneurial Communities Conference features local success in providing support to entrepreneurs. The City of Staples has a long history of public and private partnerships to achieve its economic development goals. Highlights

Information about the conference is available at https://z.umn.edu/CEC_Conference2021.

Six meetings will be held over a three-day period, two meetings each day. Rural

Cheryal Hills, Executive Director of Region Five Development Commission, said, "In a world of division it's gratifying to see how 100 Rural Women hosts respectful conversations and welcome all types of individual persuasions. The upcoming meetings offer opportunities for women to share stories, lived experiences and perspectives. I am excited to connect with the amazing women of this region who have much to offer."

100 Rural Women are an emerging nonprofit based in northern Minnesota whose mission is to serve and support rural women: identify, connect, and create relationships, models of networking, leadership, mentorship and civic engagement.

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Remembering the past

Linda Johnson has been a part of the quilting group in Leader since it began in the 1960s. A quilt block featuring the names of all original members hangs on a wall at Swan Valley Church. (Staples World photo by Dawn Timbs)

QUILTERS continued from page 1a

Fun and coffee

Margaret Twiton, Alice Granby, Olga Shake, Martha Shequen, Florence Johnson, Julie Granby, Virginia Tiegen, Doris Haag, Irene Williams, Enid Nelson, Blanche Williams and Carol Hulett.

“Carol (Hulett) is now 93, and quilted with us up until last year,” Johnson shared.

In the early years, the women used to meet in each others’ homes to quilt.

They’ve appreciated the central location and extra space available to them these days in the basement of the Swan Valley church.

“We have a lot of fun,” Smith says of their gatherings. As long as they’ve still got material and JoAnn’s got the coffee pot going, there’s no place any of them would rather be on those Wednesday mornings designated for quilting.



Football themed quilt

Janine Wells holds up a quilt she made for her niece Kirsten from Wisconsin, an avid Green Bay Packers fan; and Kirsten’s fiancée, who cheers for the Vikings. The quilt features mascot colors from both teams. (Staples World photo by Dawn Timbs)



Keeping everyone happy

JoAnn Lund is the designated cook for the quilt club gatherings in Leader. Yep, she’s got to help keep them energized. JoAnn says, noting that the women work for several hours at a time. Along with lunch, JoAnn’s known for serving up a joke or two along the way. (Staples World photo by Dawn Timbs)



Picking out thread

Patti Harris (front) picks out thread and other supplies needed as she works on a quilt. In the background is Deb Shake. (Staples World photo by Dawn Timbs)

SNOOK continued from page 1a

Angel from AA brought Snook back from perilous path

a case of “don’t let it happen again,” Snook learned a lesson when the coach said “Well, you’ll have to sit out tonight’s game.”

It was a lesson that both Snook and Riewer still remember to this day.

Before leaving Staples, Snook taught the Riewers’ son John how to ride a bike.

Snook joined the U.S. Army in 1967 and served until 1969, battling through the toughest years in Vietnam.

After the army, Snook had a good career with Western Electric and AT&T for 27 years, then worked at Sprint for 6 years. During that time he went back to college to earn bachelor’s, masters and doctorate degrees.

He married and started a family of his own. He was living the American dream until his demons caught up to him.

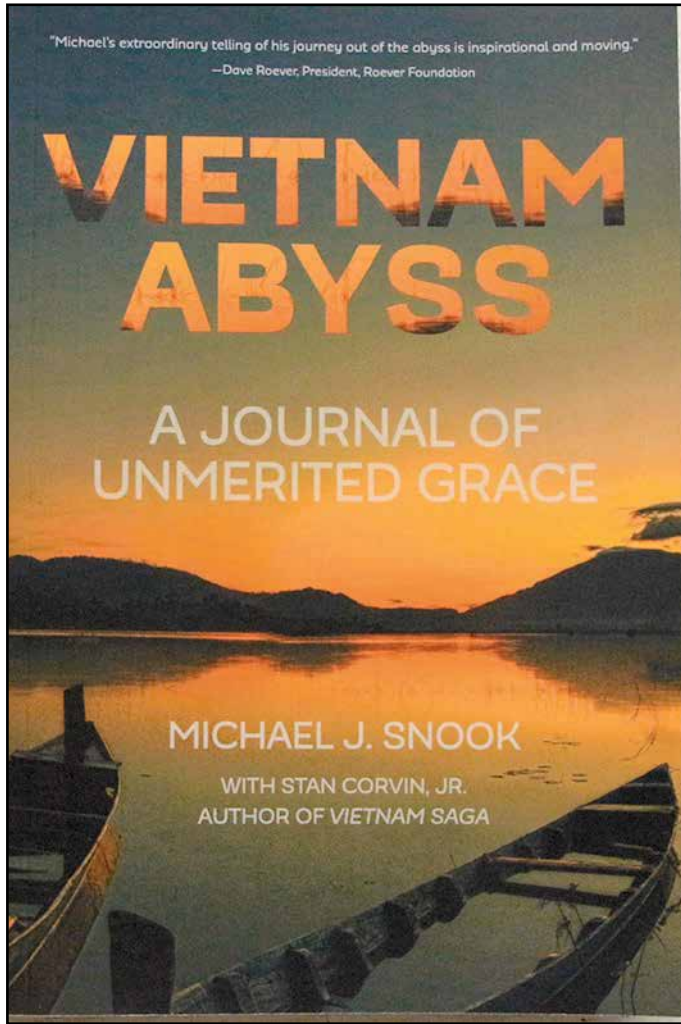
Revisiting Vietnam

Snook got divorced in 1997, with PTSD and alcoholism contributing to the relationship problems. He had spent 18 years sober with the help of Alcoholics Anonymous, but he said “I had a psychotic break.”

Even while he was drinking and suffering from PTSD issues, Snook knew he had a special connection with Vietnam. He had learned the language while in the Army and felt a connection to the people. In his book he says “When I am there, I feel needed, unique, important and useful. I love the country, the language and the people.”

After his divorce, Snook traveled back to Vietnam and “tried to drink myself to death,” he said. “I had a lot of PTSD issues.”

He made a plan to take a boat up the Mekong River and walk off into the jungle, never to return. He even bought a boat ticket and was drinking in a bar before his trip the next day. A Caucasian woman came into the bar, a very unusual sight in 1998, and they started talking. She wouldn’t drink because she was in Alcoholics Anonymous. She didn’t have a place to stay so he allowed her to use the extra bed in his room. The next morning she was gone but had left a note telling him



Exploring Vietnam issues

Mike Snook’s book about PTSD and his return trip to Vietnam. He has donated a copy to the Staples Library and to the Staples World.

she would see him at an AA meeting. She ended it with one of the phrases used in AA: “God works in mysterious ways.”

That note started another transformation in Snook’s life.

“I broke down and started crying,” said Snook. He had been a Buddhist, but that episode started him on a path back to AA and eventually back to Jesus. “Now I am born again,” said Snook.

He now thinks of the woman as an angel sent by God to give him the opportunity to choose life.

Redemption

Snook’s book is mainly journal entries as he struggles with PTSD, his troubled return to Vietnam and his renewed commitment to God.

Now he has transformed his life again and is doing

mission work both in the United States and in Vietnam. In 2009 he was a pioneer teacher for the first Christian school in Vietnam and he is still connected with many of the students there.

He and his new wife Lori are missionaries in the Dave Roever organization (pronounced the same as Riewer). They work with REAP, the Christian arm of the organization. Roever is a Vietnam veteran himself who was burned in an accident during the war.

Lori said “The ultimate healing with any veteran is Jesus.”

One of Snook’s programs is to take veterans back to Vietnam to help them heal. Snook said many veterans still have PTSD that stems from a specific place in Vietnam. When Snook takes them back to see the area

they served, they learn that things have improved and it is now a beautiful country.

“It changes the picture they have of it, and it changes who they are,” said Snook. Many of the veterans had never talked about their Vietnam experience, but they feel the burden lifted after revisiting the country. Some have seen their PTSD symptoms vanish after the trip.

Snook can also help veterans trace their army careers back to suffering from agent orange effects. Some can get disability and back pay when they can show the effects of the agent orange.

Snook still keeps connections with some Vietnamese families they helped bring to Texas. He also sponsored a Vietnamese family who now have one of the most famous singers in the country.

Snook said he has at least one trip to Vietnam left in him, although it is currently not allowed because COVID-19 is spreading there. So instead, Snook has been writing a newsletter from the REAP team and hosts Zoom meetings online.

“Some of the guys don’t have anyone to talk to, the Zoom calls are a lifeline,” he said.

Back to Staples

Snook and his wife Lori currently live in Missouri and visited the Riewers in Staples on July 14.

“Jerry and Maryann stuck their neck out for me,” said Snook. “I will always appreciate them for that.”

Snook has a paver stone at the Staples Veterans Park and was happy to see it during his visit. He also brought his new book to the library.

“God is using me, I have a great life today,” said Snook.

Looking back at the many crossroads in his life, Snook said. “There is always a fork in the road, you have choices every day. We’ve got something to say about our lives. You can always make a conscious decision to choose life.”

“God’s always looked over me,” said Snook. “I have been tested and came out a better person.”

Slight uptick in local covid cases

COVID-19 is still rare in most local communities, but Staples and Long Prairie saw a few more cases when zip code information was released July 22. Staples had five new cases and Long Prairie four during the week.

Browerville and Wadena each had two new cases after seeing zero the previous week.

Other area communities had zero or one new case for the week.



Tying the quilt layers together

The process of ‘tying’ the quilt includes hand stitching the different layers of the quilt together with thread. Pictured above, tying the bottom and top layers of a quilt together are Diane Haehnel (left), Deb Shake (center) and Betty Johannes. (Staples World photo by Dawn Timbs)

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