



Staples World

Wednesday, June 2, 2021

Staples, Minnesota \$1

Kick up your heels

Staples-Motley Elementary students kicked their shoes off for a fun event during the elementary track and field day on May 27. See more photos on page 7. (Staples World photo by Mark Anderson)

Learning from nature

By Mark Anderson
Managing Editor

A classroom without walls or roof is starting in the Staples area, where students will learn from experiencing nature and practicing life skills.

Kirsten Rude is starting Organic Roots Schoolhouse at a forested site near Oylen, about 15 miles north of Staples.

On a typical school day, students will spend most of their time outdoors.

"Being outside is good for you and good for your soul," said Rude.

She hopes to recruit around 10 students between the ages of kindergarten through sixth grade. There will be technology available for students to learn and do research, but Rude said that is not a feature of her school, most learning will take place through nature.

"Authentic learning is the goal," she said.

Rude was a teacher in St. Cloud for eight years but after a while she found that there are many things a teacher can't do in a school setting.

"I wanted to do more with education," she said. "I wanted a different dream, I was wanting to get into nature."

So she began looking into creative teaching systems. She was inspired by forest schools that are popular in the United Kingdom. The outdoor learning movement is also growing in the United States, but is not as common as in Europe. Rude's research inspired her to look into what she can do in Minnesota.

Rude and her husband Eric, a software designer,

started looking for a place where she could start a forest school. They found the place near Oylen, along the Crow Wing River. The home there was used as a summer cabin and is much smaller than the home they were living in, but it also has 34 acres of forest and river land. Rude saw a lot of possibilities in the property and also saw some positives to downsizing and keeping the family closer together. They plan to add a shop building and will move another building to the property to be a schoolhouse that can be used to gather and for days with inclement weather.

On May 17, Rude gave a demonstration of what her school will be like, using her three sons, Harrison, Henry and Hudson, and inviting some friends, Reed Aaron, Shelby and Ryan Malikowski.

Rude guided the seven children through a typical forest school lesson that revolved around the topic of camouflage. They started learning types and purposes of camouflage, then talked about specific animals, mimicry, and how camouflage is used by both predators and prey.

Following the lesson, Rude gave the students time to talk with each other about it, asking the students to "show what you know". She then introduced an "invitation to play" segment where the students could do creative projects based on the lessons. There was a picnic table filled with wood, sticks, bark, moss animal figurines, twine, glue, paint, crayons and paper. Rude

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Waving in the breeze

A red dress waves in the breeze along Highway 64 in Leader. Three dresses have been hung there by Domita DeWald, a member of the Dakota tribe, who

is trying to help raise awareness of the thousands of missing and murdered Indigenous women. (Staples World photo by Dawn Timbs)

Red dresses in Leader raising awareness of Indigenous women

By Dawn Timbs
Staples World reporter

Three red dresses hang from trees on the west side of Highway 64, not far from Leader. On a windy day, they sway with the breeze, as if to greet passers by.

Domita DeWald hung them there recently, on land she and her husband, Garry DeWald own. A member of the Dakota tribe, Domita said the red dresses are a symbol of missing and murdered Indigenous women, of which there are thousands each year. Many of these cases are never investigated.

"I'm trying to help bring awareness to this epidemic of the Indian people," Domita said, adding that it's mainly Native American

women who are affected. She went on to say that she'd recently watched a story on the news that reported six percent of the population in Montana is Native American. Of that six percent, nearly 30 percent have been murdered.

Although nobody she knows is part of the missing and murdered statistics, it still feels close to home.

Domita grew up in southern Minnesota, on the Prairie Island Indian Reservation. For many years she lived with the Dakota people on a reservation in South Minneapolis.

She and her husband moved to the Leader area about 17 years ago, after Garry's dad passed away and they inherited some

land. "No, he's a white guy," Domita laughed when asked if Garry was also part of the Dakota tribe. It was a bit of a culture shock at first, Domita said of rural living, but now she'd never want to move back to Minneapolis. "I love it here," she said.

Although not currently living on a reservation, Domita stays in touch with her family and visits them at least once a month. One of her nieces shares her passion for the plight of their people and recently participated in the 'Missing Murdered Indigenous Women's March' in Washington.

Domita went on to say that the Native American population has continued to

See **DRESS** on page 10a



Learning on a log

Ryan Malikowski, Harrison Rude and Shelby Malikowski have some answers to a question at Organic Roots Schoolhouse, while sitting on log chairs. (Staples World photo by Mark Anderson)

Local counties lagging in COVID-19 vaccinations

Area COVID percentages similar to Twin Cities

By Mark Anderson
Managing Editor

While 64 percent of adult Minnesotans have been vaccinated against the COVID-19 virus, the four counties in the Staples-Motley area are still well below that figure.

Todd County has the lowest percentage, with 40 percent of the population over age 16 receiving at least one vaccination shot. Minnesota's Mayo Clinic has stated that a much higher percentage of vaccinations will be needed to provide herd immunity in the overall population.

"It's not clear if or when

the U.S. will achieve herd immunity," stated a Mayo Clinic news release, "However, the FDA-authorized COVID-19 vaccines are highly effective at protecting against severe illness requiring hospitalization and death due to COVID-19. Even if it isn't currently possible to stop transmission of the COVID-19 virus, the vaccines are allowing people to better be able to live with the virus."

A total of 7,686 county residents have received one shot, with 7,143 who have completed their vaccine series.

Wadena County has 48 percent vaccinated, with

5,132 total. Cass County is at 49 percent and Morrison County 46 percent.

Cook County, the Grand Marais/North Shore area, leads the state with 80 percent of adults vaccinated. It also has the lowest number of total cases in the state, 168, and is the only county with zero deaths from COVID-19. Olmstead County, the Rochester area, has 76 percent of residents vaccinated. Hennepin County, the Minneapolis area, has 73 percent vaccinated.

Infections

Morrison County has the area's highest percentage See **COVID** on page 3a

Weather

This Week's Forecast

	High	Low	Cond.
June 2	75°	52°	Showers
June 3	80	57	M. Sunny
June 4	87	61	Sunny
June 5	86	60	Sunny
June 6	83	57	P. Cloudy
June 7	78	57	Showers
June 8	80	57	P. Cloudy

Last Year, 2020

	High	Low	Cond.
June 2	77°	57°	M. Cloudy
June 3	80	57	Sunny
June 4	79	56	Sunny
June 5	80	55	Sunny
June 6	78	45	M. Sunny
June 7	82	60	M. Cloudy
June 8	99	76	Cloudy

Average Temps:
H = 74° Low = 52°
No rain

Compiled by
Dale Hausmann,
WCCO's Staples area
Weatherwatcher

Public Notices

CLC: 9A



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