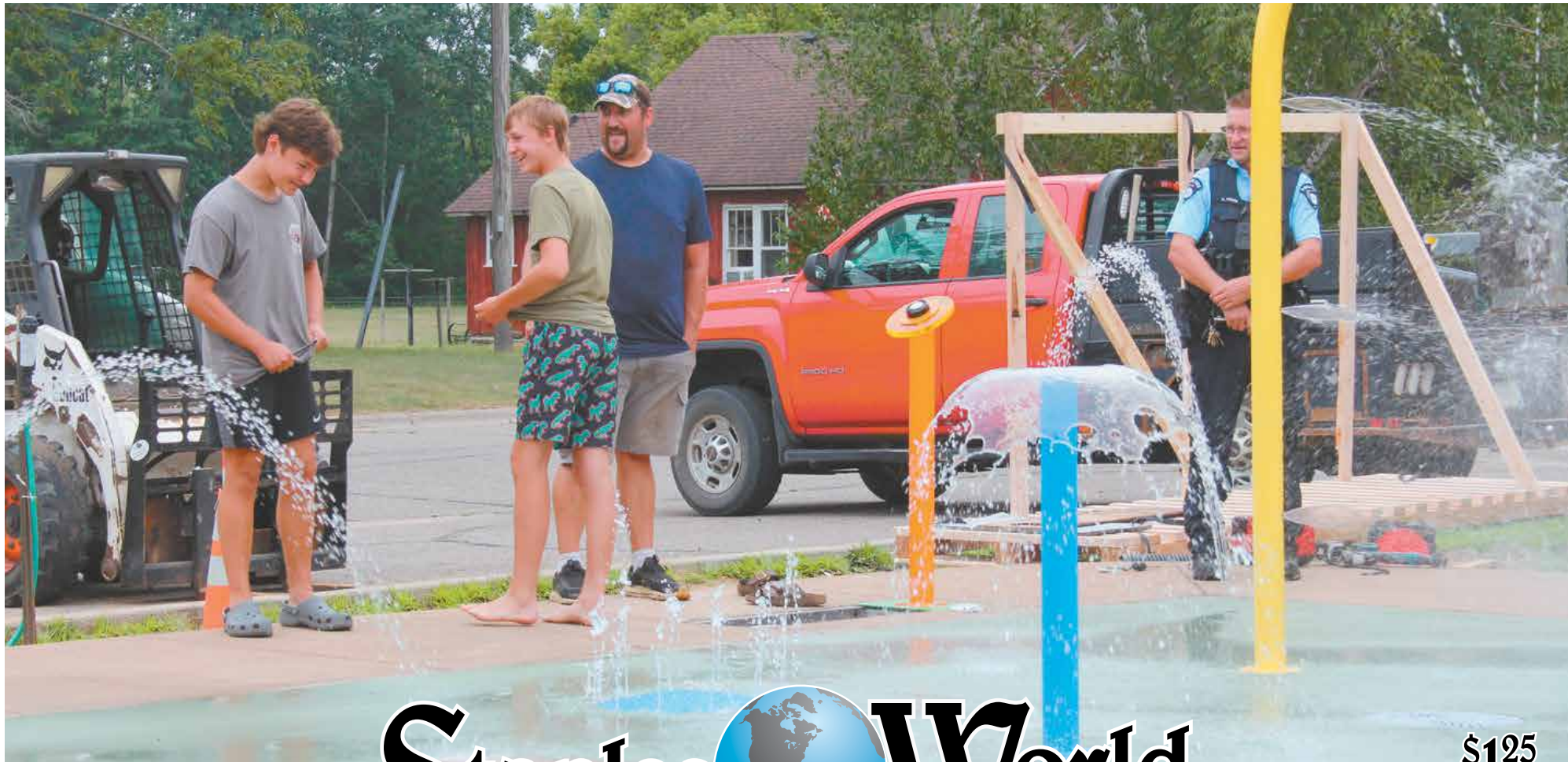


Inside this issue:

Little Red Caboose Variety Show
SEDA new housing survey
Scandia Valley Summerfest held



Wednesday, August 5, 2026

Staples World

Staples, Minnesota

\$1²⁵

Splash pad engaged

The new splash pad at Converse Park in Motley is nearing completion. Pictured above on July 30, from left, Ben Stevens, Breckan Kobliska, Motley's Maintenance Asst. Bryan Stevens, and Motley Police Chief Al Yoder. The crew had helped put together the special features of the splash pad that day. (Photo by Dawn Timbs)

Railroad Days has a plan

The Aug. 22 celebration will still be downtown as more than 30 events will be held to make another edition of Staples Railroad Days, despite construction concerns.

Staples Railroad Days will be held the week of Aug. 17-23. Because of major reconstruction on 4th Street NE, the event planners were not sure what would be available for this year's celebration. At the July 28 Staples City Council meeting, Jordan Goodwater of Discover Staples told the council about this year's event and requested road closures for Saturday activities.

A major change is the route of the Railroad Days Parade held Saturday morning. This year's parade will start on 3rd Ave. NE at the corner of 2nd Street NE, where the parade lineup will gather. The route will go east on 3rd Ave., then north on 5th Street NE, ending at Michigan Ave.

The parade registration tent will be at the corner of Summit Ave. NE and 2nd Street NE, near the school baseball fields.

Another big change is the five kilometer walk/run race. Goodwater said it will utilize the Legacy Bike Trail and the new Legacy Ag Trail at Living Legacy Gardens.

The annual street dance will be Saturday evening, hosted by B&B's Sports Bar and Grill, which will block 2nd Ave. NE for the night of the dance.

The rest of the schedule will be similar to previous years, with fireworks on Friday, Aug. 21 at the Staples Airport, and downtown vendors and shows on Saturday, Aug. 22. The downtown locations of some features will be changed, but the main area will be centered from the four way stop at 2nd Ave. NE and 4th Street NE.

Stay tuned in the coming weeks for more preview stories and a full schedule of events.

Ballot set after local election filings

After the local election filing period ended July 28, the Motley City Council has three candidates for two seats, while the Staples-Motley School District and Staples City Council have the exact number of candidates as seats open.

In Motley, April Skeesick-Larson filed for mayor, while Pat O'Regan, Konrad Alexander and Matthew Horstmann filed for city council positions, making three candidates for two council positions.

This also creates a seat switch, because Skeesick-Larson is currently a council member and O'Regan is currently mayor. Alexander is a former mayor and Horstmann is a new candidate who is on the planning and zoning board. Current council member Elizabeth Blackburn did not file for her current seat.

With three seats open on the Staples-Motley School District, Chandler Trout, Kevin Trierweiler and Kyle Reese where the three people who filed. Trout and Reese are current board members. School Board chair Ryan Wright did not file to keep his seat.

For Staples City Council, Mayor Ron Murray filed for his seat again with no challengers. Staples has three candidates to fill the three city council seats, Colleen Frost, Roy Miles and Mary Jo Goff. Goff and Miles are currently on the council and Frost is a new candidate who is on the planning and zoning board. Current council member Blake Gerard did not file again for the council.

Arboretum event

One year after officially opening, the Legacy Arboretum is planning to show off many new features during Railroad Days.

The arboetum will host an open house from 6-7 p.m. on Wednesday, Aug. 19, to allow visitors to view the new pavillion, picnic tables, benches, sculpture, and sign that have been placed since the grand opening during last year's Railroad Days celebration.

Visitors are welcome to meet the arboretum's weekly hiking club at 6 p.m. on Wed., Aug. 19, or come any time to view the new features.

Gaida charged with forgery, misconduct

By Mark Anderson
Publisher

Todd County Treasurer and Auditor Denise Gaida has been charged with forgery and misconduct by a public official. The charges stem from Gaida filing documents that transferred property owned by her deceased brother to herself and her mother.

Gaida's first court appearance is scheduled for Sept. 22. She is still holding her position at Todd County and is on the ballot for her same seat in the Nov. 3 election.

In a complaint filed by the State of Minnesota and Todd County, Gaida is charged with three counts: aggravated forgery for signing a document as another person, a second count of forgery for filing that document, and a third count of misconduct of a public officer for filing the document while knowing it is against

the law. The first two counts are felony charges, the third is a gross misdemeanor.

According to the complaint, Gaida's brother passed away in September of 2024. Thirteen days after his death, Gaida filed a quit claim deed with the Todd County Recorder.

A quit claim deed changes the name of the owner of a property. It is often used as a way to transfer property, usually between family members.

In Gaida's case, the deed was dated six weeks before the death of her brother. The deed transferred two parcels of land owned by her brother to Gaida and her mother as joint tenants. One parcel was a residential property in Browerville and the other was 21 acres on the edge of Browerville. Gaida notarized the deed in spite of the fact that the deed benefited her.

Todd County Sheriff's Office began investigating

the document in February, 2025. The investigator collected other signatures of Gaida's brother and sent them to a handwriting expert to compare with his signature on the deed in question. The experts said they noticed discrepancies in the signatures.

According to the complaint, the investigator obtained a search warrant to look at Gaida's Todd County computer. While her computer was being examined, Todd County Sheriff Michael Allen reported a phone call from Gaida in which she indicated she was made aware that she broke the law by notarizing the document. During that phone call, Gaida allegedly told Allen that her mother had obtained the quit claim deed from her brother's security box. She claimed she did not know it was illegal to sign the deed.

However, bank records

See **GAIDA** on page 10a

Josh Wood is new Activities/Community Ed. Director

By Dawn Timbs
Staples World reporter

Josh Wood, the new Activities/Community Education Director at Staples-Motley introduced himself to the school board July 21, at their regular meeting.

Wood, who began his new job July 1, said he was still trying to find his footing and was grateful for all of the help he'd received so far. The board extended a warm welcome to him at their meeting.

In a later conversation with The World on July 22, which happened to be his 32nd birthday, Wood shared that he's a St. Cloud native and 2012 graduate of Apollo High School.

He's passionate about sports, especially baseball, Wood said. Although hockey was his first sport, which he started playing when he was three or four years old, Wood said his focus turned to baseball later on.

"I started playing when I was 11," Wood shared of baseball, adding that he played throughout high school and later while attending colleges in Grand Rapids and Valley City, N.D. where he majored in psychology and history.

He's coached baseball



Happy to be here

Josh Wood is the new Activities/Community Ed. Director for Staples-Motley School District #2170. His office functions out of The NEST, located at Staples-Motley Middle/High School, at 3rd St. NE in Staples. (Staples World photo by Dawn Timbs)

his entire adult life, Wood said, noting his work with the St. Cloud Crush and at a Christian school in Florida, where he worked for three years.

Wood first became acquainted with Staples-Motley after coaching Cardinal baseball player Colbe Tappe. From there he

See **WOOD** on page 10a

Weather

2026 This Week's Forecast			
	High	Low	Cond.
Aug. 5	80	59	M. Sunny
Aug. 6	85	61	Sunny
Aug. 7	88	57	Sunny
Aug. 8	84	60	Showers
Aug. 9	83	58	M. Sunny
Aug. 10	83	61	M. Sunny
Aug. 11	83	60	P. Cloudy

Last Year, 2025			
	High	Low	Cond.
Aug. 5	76°	62	M. Cloudy
Aug. 6	79	61	Rain
Aug. 7	82	64	M. Sunny
Aug. 8	80	65	Showers
Aug. 9	78	64	Sunny
Aug. 10	70	61	Sunny
Aug. 11	78	58	M. Sunny

Average Temps:
H = 80° Low = 58°

Compiled by
Dale Hausmann,
WCCO's Staples area
Weatherwatcher

Public Notices

Wadena County **9A**
Becker **9A**
Freshwater **9A**

Obituaries

David Kajer
Judy Knosalla

Splash pad in Motley closer to completion

By Dawn Timbs
Staples World reporter

Converse Park in Motley will soon be the place to go on hot summer days, with the new splash pad that's in the works.

Bruce Brotherton, Motley's Public Works Director, said that there is still some work to be done, but the splash pad is nearing completion. It's a project that the city's park committee has been planning for about 10 years.

Along the way, several people and organizations have helped make the splash pad a reality.

Brotherton credited Mike Case, from C & K Ready Mix, with the idea for the splash pad being

in the shape of Minnesota. Following that, Brotherton gave the idea to Waterplay who designed the layout with the features, then Brotherton and Bryan Stevens, maintenance assistant, plotted it on the ground using the GPS on their locator.

Last May, Brotherton and Stevens installed the drainage pipe for the splash pad, and employees with Posterick Renovations of Foley did the underground work.

Most recently, George Heller and his crew from Verndale did the concrete work, with city staff (Brotherton, Stevens and Police Chief Al Yoder) installing the final features and spray nozzles.

Next steps include connecting electricity to the splash pad, as well as pouring sidewalks and doing landscaping.

Once it's complete, the splash pad will be open to the public during the hours of operation, which still need to be established.

The splash pad was made possible by a number of entities including funding from the city and 10 percent funds; Sourcewell in Staples, which funded sidewalks; C & K Ready-Mix, Staples, which donated cement; Brichacek Electric, Motley, which donated electric; a monetary donation from the Motley Lions; and a discounted labor rate from George Heller.



Getting things set up

City of Motley employees were at work July 30, installing the final special features at the new splash pad at Converse Park. From left, Bryan Stevens, Maintenance Asst.; Bruce Brotherton, Public Works Director; Al Yoder, Police Chief. (Staples World photo by Dawn Timbs)



The big splash!

After installing one of the final pieces at the new splash pad in Motley July 30, city employees (and others) made sure the feature with the big splash of water worked. From left, Bryan Stevens,

Maintenance Assistant; Breckan Koblika, Ben Stevens, Bruce Brotherton, Public Works Director; Al Yoder, Police Chief. (Staples World photo by Dawn Timbs)



Time for dessert

Members of the Trantina family of Motley enjoyed ice cream cones at the Scandia Valley Summerfest Aug. 1. From left, Ella, Finnley, Barb and Jason. Grand-

ma Barb noted that Finnley will be three years old on Sept. 3. Ella and Jason Trantina are Finnley's aunt and uncle. (Staples World photo by Dawn Timbs)



Farm Safety

Look up for power lines

BE AWARE.
Keep equipment clear of power lines and poles.

- KNOW WHAT TO DO** if you encounter a power line while operating farm machinery. It could save your life.
- **CALL FOR HELP** – Call 911 as soon as possible and keep the area clear until help arrives.
 - **DRIVE TO SAFETY** – If you can do so without risking your machinery or damaging utility infrastructure, drive at least 40 feet away.
 - **EMERGENCY EXIT** – If the vehicle is on fire or you must exit for other safety reasons, jump clear so that no part of your body touches the equipment and ground at the same time, and land with feet together. Hop to safety in small steps to avoid electric shock by breaking the current's path.

Great River Energy—Powering what's possible

Agrilite Electric Cooperative • Arrowhead Cooperative, Inc. • BENCO Electric Cooperative • Brown County Rural Electrical Association • Cooperative Light & Power • Dakota Electric Association • East Central Energy • Federated Rural Electric Association • Goodhue County Cooperative Electric Association • Itasca-Mantrap Cooperative Electrical Association • Kandiyohi Power Cooperative • Lake Country Power • Lake Region Electric Cooperative • McLeod Cooperative Power Association • Meeker Cooperative • Mille Lacs Energy Cooperative • Minnesota Valley Electric Cooperative • Nobles Cooperative Electric • North Itasca Electric Cooperative, Inc. • Redwood Electric Cooperative • Runestone Electric Association • South Central Electric Association • Stearns Electric Association • Steele-Waseca Cooperative Electric • Todd-Wadena Electric Cooperative • Wright-Hennepin Cooperative Electric Association

greatriverenergy.com



Enjoying Scandia Valley's Summerfest

Dozens of people stopped by Scandia Valley Aug. 1, for their annual Summerfest celebration. Above, people enjoy a delicious BBQ turkey dinner at the fire hall which included baked beans, sweet corn and coleslaw. Below, children have

fun at the petting zoo. Other activities included a bounce house, horse rides and arts and crafts show, with a variety of vendors. (Staples World photos by Dawn Timbs)



Todd Cty. court report

JULY 29, 2026
Long Prairie Police
Starlyn Rances Acevedo Guzman, Long Prairie. Driving after revocation. Fine \$200. Fee \$85
Joel Gomez Rosario, Long Prairie. Driving without a valid license for vehicle class or type. Fine \$100. Fee \$85.
Wesly Rafael Monero Aquino, Long Prairie. Driving after revocation. Fee \$200. Fine \$85. Driver must carry proof of insurance. Fine \$200. Operating vehicle with expired registration. Fine \$30.
Joshua John Jr. Pfaff, Clarissa. Windshield tinted or glazed. Fine \$50. Fee \$85.
Delgin Manuel Sena Mendez, Long Prairie. Driving without a valid license for vehicle class or type. Fine \$100. Fee \$85.
Todd County Sheriff
Kayleen Marie Broetzmann, Staples. Speed 70/55. Fine \$60. Fee \$85.
Austin Aarik Dreger, Sauk Centre. Window restrictions - Tint too dark. \$50. Fee \$85.
Bryan Fulgencio Rosario, Long Prairie. Driver must carry proof of insurance when operating vehicle. Fine \$200. Fee \$85. Driving after revocation. Fine \$200. Careless Driving. Fine \$100.
Brody Claude Kircher, Burturm. iquor consumption by person under 21. Fine \$100. Fee \$85.
Emma Sophia Meyer, Swanville. Operate vehicle with expired registration. Fine \$30. Fee \$85.
Calvin Wayne Miterwai, Long Prairie. Driving without a valid license for vehicle class or type. Fine \$100. Fee \$85. Driver approaching intersection fails to yield right of way. Fine \$50.
Joel Padilla Martinez, Detriot Lakes. Driver must carry proof of insurance. Fine \$200. Fee \$85
Ross Richard Perish, Eagle Bend. Waste Management - Place motor vehicle fluid in or on land. Fine \$200. Fee \$85.
Eric Seamus Steen, Melrose. Driving after revocation. Fine \$200. Fee \$85.
MN Dept. of Natural Resources
Jose Rafael Becerra Montanez, Long Prairie. Fish and Game, Take fish without a license. Fine \$100. Fee \$85.
John Paul Krieger, Prior Lake. Extra line. Fine \$50. Fee \$85.
Anyelo Matos De Leon, Long Prairie. Fish and Game, Take fish without a license. Fine \$100. Fee \$85.
Daniels Jose Naranjo Ayala, Long Prairie. Fish and Game, Take fish without a license. Fine \$100. Fee \$85.
Gregory Lyle Swenson, Gaylord. Watercraft - Lifejacket required for child under 10. Fine \$25. Fee \$85.
Meghan Dora VanAlst, Verdale. Wireless Communication Device. Fine \$50. Fee \$85.
MN State Patrol
Seth Micheal Kern, Eagle Bend. Speed 70/60. Fine \$40. Fee \$85.
Anthony Caesar Arias, Little Canada. Speed 80/70. Fine \$40. Fee \$85.
Jonathan Joesph Fausey, Berryville, VA. Speed 80/70. Fine \$40. Fee \$85.
Pacifique Gisubizo, Appleton, WI. Speed 80/70. Fine \$40. Fee \$85.
Dustin James Hansen, Mapleton, ND. Speed 89/70. Fine \$60. Fee \$85.
Jennifer Ann Koetter, Swanville. Speed 70/60. Fine \$40. Fee \$85.
Dereck William Laundrie, Saint Paul Park. Speed 84/70. Fine \$50. Fee \$85.
Isaiah Klarwlue Manneh, Fargo, ND. Speed 99/70. Fine \$100. Fee \$85.
Thomas Richard Meyer, Saint Francis. Speed 80/70. Fine \$40. Fee \$85.
Jancarlo Munoz, Willmar. Hands-Free law. Fine \$50. Fee \$85.
Donavan Randy Pawlicki, Osakis. Tires extending beyond fenders. Fine \$50. Fee \$85
Window tint less than 50% light transmittance. Fine \$50. Suspended object. Fine \$40. Cracked windshield. Fine \$40
Dylan Alexander Peterson, Cottage Grove. Speed 85/70. Fine \$60. Fee \$85.
Jeremy Roger Schwieters, Melrose. Speed 86/70. Fine \$60. Fee \$85.
Bradley D. Stahl, Haxtun, CO. Seat belt required. Fine \$25. Fee \$85
Jason Lambert Weimer, Fort Worth, TX. Speed 80/70. Fine \$40. Fee \$85.
The following cases were heard before Heidi L. Hovis, Seventh District Court in Todd County July 9, 2026.
Daniel Joseph Duncanson, West Saint Paul. 2nd degree DWI, refuse to submit to chemical test. Blood or Urine. Sentenced. Supervised probation, 2 yr. Local Confinement (364 days, Stay 0 yr 0 Mo, 334 days for 2 yr credit for time served 3 days. Fine. \$800. Fee \$75. Driving after revocation. Dismissed. Possession legend drugs. Dismissed.
The following cases were heard before Heidi L. Hovis, Seventh District Court in Todd County July 14, 2026.
Vickie Lynn Johnson, Eagle Bend. Fish and Game - Lend borrow or transfer a license tag or seal. Fine \$200. Fee \$85.
Juana Ambriz Ambriz, Long Prairie. Instruction permit violation (18 yr or older). Fine \$25. Fine \$75
Breanna Jo Jasmer, Staple. Careless Driving. Sentenced. Supervised probation 1 yr. Local Confinement (90 days, Stay 0, Yr 0, Mo 90 days for 1 year). Fine \$200. Fee \$75. Underage drinking and driving. Dismissed. Speed 44/30. Dismissed.
Scott Jordan Keplin, Staples. Cannabis open package - possess in motor vehicle. Fine \$50. Fee \$75.
Blake Earl Thurstin, Baxter. Disorderly Conduct. Continued. Unsupervised probation, 6 mo.. Assault 5th deg-inflict or attempt bodily harm Dismissed
The following cases were heard before Meriel B. Lester is, Seventh District Court in Todd County July 22, 2026.
Jailys Rodriguez Amador, Long Prairie. 3rd degree driving while impaired. Dismissed. 3rd degree driving while impaired - Alcohol content greater than .08 within 2 hours. Sentenced. Local confinement 364 Days, Stay 0, Yr 0, Mo 361 Days for 2 yr credit for time served: 3 days. Supervised probation, 2 yr. Fine \$400. Fee \$175. Driving without a

rie. Liquor - Consumption by person under 21. Fine \$100. Fee \$85.
Bryan Fulgencio Rosario, Long Prairie. Must Carry proof insurance when operating vehicle. Fine \$200. Fee \$85. Driving after revocation. Fine \$200. Careless Driving. Fine \$100.
Frank Clifford Walter III Meagher, Swanville. Liquor - Consumption by person under 21. Fine \$100. Fee \$85.
Emma Sophia Meyer, Swanville. Operate vehicle with expired registration. Fine \$30. Fee \$85.
David Micheal Pogreba, Cushing. Speed 65/55. Fine \$40. Fee \$85.
Alexis Raya Carrillo, Long Prairie. Driving without a valid license. Fine \$100. Fee \$85.
Stephanie Ann Tubman, Minneapolis. Speed 80/65. fine \$60. Fee \$85.
MN Dept. of Natural Resources
Dairol Matos Ferreras, Long Prairie. Game and Fish - Must have license or proper paperless in personal possession. Fine \$25. Fee \$85.
Wesly Rafael Monero Aquino, Long Prairie.
Game and Fish - Must have license or proper paperless in personal possession. Fine \$25 Fee \$85
Adam James Waldorf, Osakis. Fail to display valid registration on motorize watercraft. Fine \$25. Fee \$85
Randy Jay Wilmes, Little Falls. Failure to notify commissioner of transfer of watercraft ownership. Fine \$25. Fee \$85
MN State Patrol
Catherine Bridget Mchugo, Mission, TX. Speed 65/55. Fine \$40. Fee \$85.
Landon Carter Cage Moench, Staples. Seat belt required. Fine \$25. Fee \$85
Lexi Anne Bosek, Glenwood. Hand Free Law. Fine \$50. Fee \$85
Christopher John Cocheril, Alexandria. Speed 80/70. Fine \$50. Fee \$85.
Lisa Marie Crooker, Minneapolis. Speed 64/55. Fine \$40. Fee \$85.
Jay Zion Davron Davis, Tampa FL. Speed 80/70. Fine \$40. Fee \$85.
Resat Dzemailiji, Moorhead. Speed 79/70. Fine \$40. Fee \$85
Alex Blake Ernest, Bismarck, ND. Speed 83/70. Fine \$50. Fee \$85.
Johnnathan Joseph Fausey, Berryvilla, VA. Speed 80/70. Fine \$40. Fee \$85.
Bernnie E. Gingerich, Bertha. Windshield tinted or glazed. Fine \$50. Fee \$85.
Pacifique Gisubizo, Appleton, WI. Speed 80/70. Fine \$40. Fee \$85.
Stephanie Monique Gregoire, Eden Prairie. Speed 85/70. Fine \$60. Fee \$85.
Dustin James Hansen, Mapleton, ND. Speed 89/70. Fine \$60. Fee \$85.
Lacy Jay Johnson, Long Prairie. Speed 70/60. Fine \$40. Fee \$85.
Jamie Mora Navarro, Long Prairie. Speed 65/60. Fine \$40. Fee \$85.
Chester Chadwell Nelson, Little Falls. Speed 65/60. Fine \$40. Fee \$85.
Donavan Randy Pawlicki, Osakis. Tires extending beyond fenders. Fine \$50. Fee \$85
Window tint less than 50% light transmittance. Fine \$50. Suspended object. Fine \$40. Cracked windshield. Fine \$40
Dylan Alexander Peterson, Cottage Grove. Speed 85/70. Fine \$60. Fee \$85.
Jeremy Roger Schwieters, Melrose. Speed 86/70. Fine \$60. Fee \$85.
Bradley D. Stahl, Haxtun, CO. Seat belt required. Fine \$25. Fee \$85
Jason Lambert Weimer, Fort Worth, TX. Speed 80/70. Fine \$40. Fee \$85.
The following cases were heard before Heidi L. Hovis, Seventh District Court in Todd County July 9, 2026.
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The following cases were heard before Heidi L. Hovis, Seventh District Court in Todd County July 14, 2026.
Vickie Lynn Johnson, Eagle Bend. Fish and Game - Lend borrow or transfer a license tag or seal. Fine \$200. Fee \$85.
Juana Ambriz Ambriz, Long Prairie. Instruction permit violation (18 yr or older). Fine \$25. Fine \$75
Breanna Jo Jasmer, Staple. Careless Driving. Sentenced. Supervised probation 1 yr. Local Confinement (90 days, Stay 0, Yr 0, Mo 90 days for 1 year). Fine \$200. Fee \$75. Underage drinking and driving. Dismissed. Speed 44/30. Dismissed.
Scott Jordan Keplin, Staples. Cannabis open package - possess in motor vehicle. Fine \$50. Fee \$75.
Blake Earl Thurstin, Baxter. Disorderly Conduct. Continued. Unsupervised probation, 6 mo.. Assault 5th deg-inflict or attempt bodily harm Dismissed
The following cases were heard before Meriel B. Lester is, Seventh District Court in Todd County July 22, 2026.
Jailys Rodriguez Amador, Long Prairie. 3rd degree driving while impaired. Dismissed. 3rd degree driving while impaired - Alcohol content greater than .08 within 2 hours. Sentenced. Local confinement 364 Days, Stay 0, Yr 0, Mo 361 Days for 2 yr credit for time served: 3 days. Supervised probation, 2 yr. Fine \$400. Fee \$175. Driving without a

75 YEARS Ago - 1951

• Aug. 2, 1951 - Mr. and Mrs. Pat Miller left Monday morning for Grand Forks, N.D., where Mr. Miller will be employed by the Northern Pacific for the next two weeks. While there, they will be guests of his brother and sister-in-law, Mr. and Mrs. Reed Miller and family.
• Aug. 2, 1951 - The biggest fair in the history of Motley is in the offing with the big event scheduled to open on Monday, Aug. 6, and continue for three days, terminating the night of Aug. 8. Officials of the fair association state that they have made all plans for the largest fair in the history of Motley, and they have spared no time, effort or cash in bringing to the people of Motley, Staples, Leader and other vicinities some of the very best enter-

- O -
Compiled by
Dawn Timbs
- O -

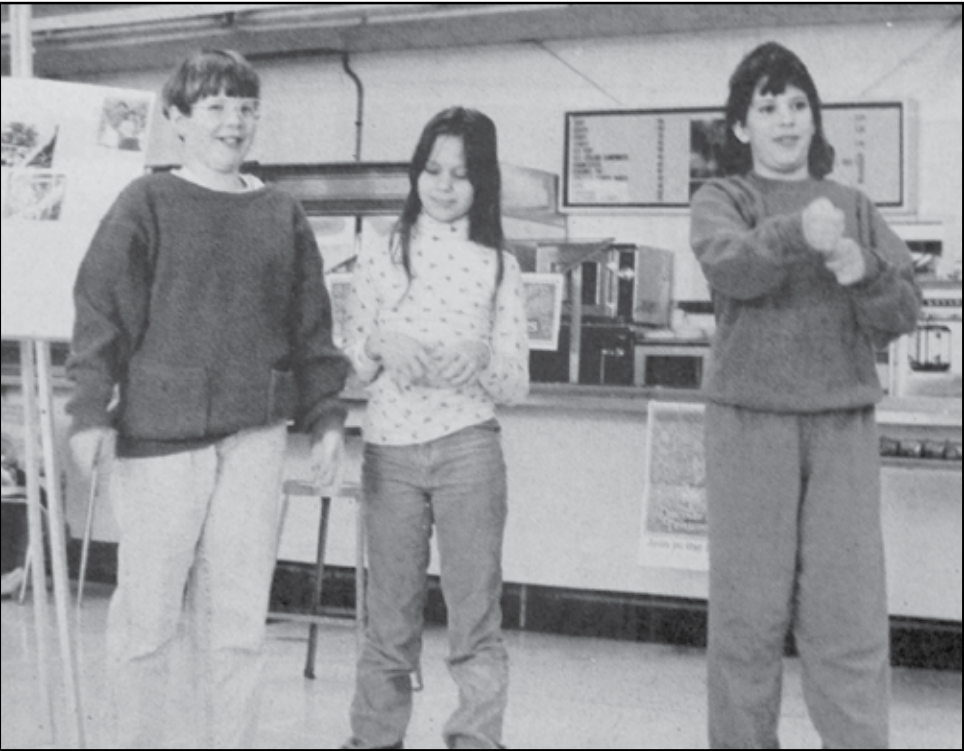
tainment obtainable.
Featured on the midway this season will be the Art B. Thomas carnival company. They have rides galore, having added several new rides for the children this year.
• Aug. 2, 1951 - All eight dens of the Staples Cub pack were represented at their family picnic held at Pine Grove Park in Staples Monday evening, July 30.
Cubmaster Rev. J. M. Amundson stated that the picnic was well worth the effort expended by the Den Mothers and others to make the first affair a success.
After the picnic supper, baseball was the entertainment for the Cubs. Which team won the game has not



Mystery solved

Last week's mystery photo published in the July 24, 1986 edition of the Staples World featured brothers Blaine (left) and David Joerger displaying trophies they won at the Red River Valley Open tennis meet at Fargo. Blaine won the 10 and under singles while David was second in the 12 and under singles event. The boys were coached by their dad, Joe Joerger.
Judy Wolak of Staples recognized Blaine and David, noting that both were accomplished basketball players at Staples-Motley High School and college. She also noted that the brothers have both been inducted into the Staples-Motley Athletic Hall of Fame - Dave in 2020 and Blaine in 2023.

valid license. Dismissed.
The following cases were heard before Laura Moehrlle, Seventh District Court in Todd County July 21, 2026.
Cassie Lee Riedel, Eagle Bend. Disorderly conduct. Sentenced. Local confinement 90 days, Stay 0, Yr 0, Mo 88 for 1 yr credit for time served: 2 days. Unsupervised probation 1 yr. Fine \$100. Fee \$75.
Tate Duane Deters, Belgrade. Liquor consumption by person under 21. Fine \$100. Fee \$75. Open Bottle Law. Dismissed.
Samual Joseph Roggenkamp, Motley. Driving after revocation. Continued. Unsupervised probation, 6 Mo. Fine \$50. Fee \$50. Driver must carry proof of insurance when operating vehicle. Dismissed.
JULY 15, 2026
The following cases were heard before Heidi L. Hovis, Seventh District Court in Todd County July 7, 2026.
Juan Sevastian Ambriz Hernandez, Long Prairie. Driving after revocation. Fine \$150. \$75. Sentenced.
Kellen Ruiz Gomez, Long Prairie. Disorderly Conduct. Continued. Local Confinement (3 days, Stay 0 Yr 0, Mo 0 Days credit for time



Mystery photo

Hello readers. This week's archive photo is from 1990. Do you know who these people are and perhaps the context of the photo? Do you have a memory to share? Email your answers and where

been decided as yet, but the Cubs did enjoy their evening of entertainment.
• Aug. 2, 1951 - Leo Hasler, former resident of Staples, and also a former Red Owl store manager here, purchased the stock and equipment of the Red Owl supermarket in Staples with the change in title becoming effective as of July 31.

50 YEARS Ago - 1976

• July 22, 1976 - The Motley Free Methodist Family Camp will be held at Motley, July 24 - Aug. 1. Day and evening services for all ages area planned. There

you're from to dtimbs@staplesworld.com by Friday, or call 218-894-1112. The answers will be published in next week's paper, as well as a new mystery photo.

will be a sports program and special things for children and youth.
Rev. H. E. Hegstrom, Evangelist of the Church of the Nazarene, who has pastored in both the United States and Sweden, will be the special speaker. The Floyd Dalzell family, well known musical group from Thief River Falls, will be in charge of music and singing.
Dr. Victor Macy, for many years a Missionary to Africa and producer of several films will be the missionary speaker.
• July 22, 1976 - The Brainerd Community College Summer Theatre department proudly presents its Bicentennial salute in the form of a one man play, "Clarence Darrow."

The production will be performed by Guy R. Doud, veteran actor who has appeared in over 30 college, community and area productions. Doud performed a cutting of the play at the Teachers of English State Convention in Willmar. Bob Dryden, head of the Brainerd College Theatre dept., is the play's artistic director and producer.
Doud, a 1971 graduate of Staples, received his degree from Concordia College, Moorhead. He is an instructor at Brainerd High School. Guy is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Jess Doud of this city.
• July 22, 1976 - Mrs. Catherine Dyer was honored on her 98th birthday, July 10, at the home of her daughter-in-law, Mrs. Margaret Dyer. Afternoon callers were Mr. and Mrs. Floyd Walker, Mrs. Lloyd Breckenridge and Scott, Mr. and Mrs. Norm Wilhelmson and son, Pat, of Staples; Mr. and Mrs. Dave Wroblieskie and three children of Linton, N.D.; her granddaughter, Mrs. Chuck Erickson, great grandsons, Steve and Jed Erickson and Mrs. Charles Erickson and friend, Judie, of Detroit Lakes; and Mr. and Mrs. John Pyle, a granddaughter, of St. Cloud.

• July 22, 1976 - Dennis and Cheryl Tyrrell of Browerville, have been named as the Outstanding Young Cooperator Couple for District 16 of the Northern Division of Mid-American Dairymen, Inc.
The Tyrrells were among 16 district winners in the Division who were chosen for top achievement in dairy farm operations and community and leadership activities.
The Tyrrells operate Oak Crest Farm, Inc., a 960 acre farm in partnership with Dennis' father, Howard. They have 150 head of dairy livestock and milk approximately 76 Guernseys, 50 of which are registered. Dennis, age 26, received many 4-H and FFA awards and is very active in numerous farming organizations.
Both the Tyrrells are active in their church and each has been recognized by the National Honor Society.
• July 22, 1976 - The traditional tent circus of yester-

year lives on! Dailey Bros. wild-animal circus, one of America's oldest circuses, will set up its huge spread of canvas in Staples behind Miller's True Value store for one day only, Friday, July 23, to present a day of unparalleled circus entertainment.
This visit of Dailey Bros. circus to staples is sponsored by the Staples Jaycees, a portion of the proceeds from all circus tickets sold before circus day will be allocated to the Jaycees for use in the charitable activities.
Circus chairman Huck Holst announced this week that advance-sale tickets are now on sale for the low price of \$1.75 for children and \$2 for adults.

25 YEARS Ago - 2001

• Aug. 2, 2001 - A young man from Staples is headed to Brazil, where he is planning to spend the next year seeking converts and bringing a Christian message to college students and anyone else he meets.
Scott Moore, a 1997 Staples Motley High School graduate who just graduated from Minnesota State University, Moorhead, is embarking on a year-long mission for the Campus Crusade for Christ.
Scott is headed to Fortaleza, in northeastern Brazil, a country that is roughly the same size as the United States.
• Aug. 2, 2001 - To think that Staples native Dana Hasselberg didn't really consider coming to The Birchmont this year until the last minute.
Hasselberg, about to enter her second year at Bradley University in Illinois, had the upset of the week in the Ladies Championship Division last Friday, July 27, defeating two time defending Minnesota State Amateur champion Claudia Pilot 2-up.

Also advancing to the championship match was Brenda Williams of Minnetrista, Minn., a 1-up winner over Anne Fraser of Deerfield Beach, Fla. Williams, on Saturday, defeated Hasselberg 3-1 to win the coveted Birchmont title.
• Aug. 2, 2001 - Shawn and Fran O'Rourke are the owners and managers of the new Giovanni's restaurant which opened to the public on Wednesday. They have both worked for several years in the Giovanni's in Brainerd and are now partners in the Staples restaurant.

10 YEARS Ago - 2016

• July 28, 2016 - Nearly 50 children ages 7-18 are participating in Prairie Fire Children's Theatre's production of "A Midsummer Night's Dream" sponsored by the Staples Motley Area Arts Council. Two directors lead the children through a week of learning lines, songs and dances at rehearsals culminating in two public performances on July 29, at Centennial Auditorium, Staples.

Quote of the week

“Vision without execution is hallucination.”
— Thomas Edison

What do game bird surveys really tell us?

Like other wildlife management agencies across the country, the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (DNR) periodically gathers and eventually shares data on the status and abundance of certain game birds and animals that we hunt. The data gathering is done at specific times of year, determined by the game species, and by the survey techniques developed over the years for that particular creature.

The DNR is responsible for the dual missions of stewardship of these game populations, and providing recreational opportunity to its constituents; namely us. Being able to estimate wildlife abundance and determine safe harvest limits is a natural consequence of this responsibility.

In April and May, field staff drive rural roads in sectors of the state where ruffed grouse are found. They stop at pre-determined intervals and carefully listen for the booming, thump-like sounds of male ruffed grouse “drumming,” a sound that begins slowly and accelerates to a rapid tempo. The sound is made by the compression of air as a male grouse beats its wings in a mating display to attract a female grouse, and is audible at distances of a quarter to a half mile. By counting the number of drumming grouse heard on these fixed listening routes, an estimate of the status of the species’ breeding population—up, down, or unchanged—is made, based on the number of male drummers heard in one year versus another. This survey has been done in this manner by the DNR since 1949.

As useful as this survey may be, it’s not a perfectly exact science. Wind and precipitation can affect the distance at which a drumming male can be heard. Then, too, there can be variability in hearing sensitivity—sometimes significant—from one listener to another. A male ruffed grouse may momentarily pause its drumming when disturbed, perhaps by the approach of a potential predator. Each listening stop is only four minutes in length. Still, it seems this survey technique is the best tool biologists have for estimating relative ruffed grouse abundance. This year that number is reported down very slightly on a

statewide basis.

During the month of May, after the return of waterfowl from wintering grounds to the south of us, DNR personnel conduct low-level aircraft flights and on-the-ground observation to count ducks and geese. For obvious reasons, on-the-ground counting is more labor and time-intensive, but also more complete and precise. On selected wetlands there is both in-flight and boots-on-the-ground counting. A comparison of both methods on the same territory yields a “correction factor,” a mathematical formula that is then applied to the broader aerial counting data. This, in turn, leads to the DNR estimating the statewide abundance of each of the counted waterfowl species, as it has in this manner since 1968.

The results of this waterfowl population estimating process can inform the Minnesota DNR’s season length and bag limit setting process. More specifically, the setting of harvest limits by species, based on their relative abundance as reflected in survey data, while taking into account any perceived need for special protection. In practice, with the number of licensed waterfowl hunters declining in Minnesota, the DNR has gradually liberalized harvest rules in hopes of retaining existing and recruiting new waterfowl hunters. This liberalization is reflected in such things as more generous bag limits for some birds, expanded shooting hours, an earlier season starting date, and a special early teal season. Now under consideration by the DNR is a proposal to allow hunters the choice between traditional, species-based harvest restrictions, and a three-duck limit of birds of any species or sex. Under this approach, no identification of species or sex—with its accompanying shooting restraint—would need to be exercised by the hunter. The DNR is currently accepting comments from the hunting public on this concept, one that is a definite departure from current waterfowl management strategy.

In early to mid-August, trained observers drive rural Minnesota roads and count the number of pheasants seen per 100 miles driven. This “roadside count,” as it’s called, is conducted on 150 or more 25-mile routes within six sub-regions of the state’s primary pheasant range. As with other wildlife surveys, this too is a sampling—not an exhaustive count—comparing the number of birds seen during the survey from one year to the next. Its purpose is to gauge the direction in which the state’s pheasant

population is trending. This survey has been conducted by the Minnesota DNR since 1955.

As with the ruffed grouse survey, certain variables can affect the accuracy of the roadside pheasant count. These include weather conditions that cause birds to be less active and visible, human disturbance, and delayed brood maturity that results when pheasant hens re-nest after losing their initial clutch of eggs before hatching. Still, despite any shortcomings, this survey helps DNR wildlife managers estimate the relative year-to-year abundance of this popular game bird, information useful in setting pheasant hunting seasons and bag limits.

There is a conceptual and qualitative difference between the August roadside pheasant count and the spring ruffed grouse and waterfowl breeding bird surveys. While pheasants observed along rural roadsides in August are not exactly “a bird in the hand” as predictors of fall hunting success, they are an indicator of the pheasant population in the post-breeding, post-nesting period. This is significant.

The August survey takes place when some of the greatest dangers to pheasants are behind them. Yes, pheasants young or old will always be fair game for predators, subject to collisions with vehicles, etc. But behind them are the dangers to hen and eggs during the incubation period; dangers that range from nest predation, to grass fires, to untimely field mowing. Also behind most pheasant broods now is the danger to newly-hatched and fledgling chicks from spells of cold, wet weather, to which such birds are especially vulnerable. Conversely, when the ruffed grouse and waterfowl surveys are done earlier in the year, nesting-related and “just-hatched” dangers still lie ahead. Both can have large impacts on fall populations.

So what do these surveys and the numbers they generate tell us? They are as much a suggestion as a statement. They are reasonable estimates of game abundance. Experienced hunters know that in the best of times, or in the worst of times, there is variability in game abundance from one place to another. There is variability from one woodland to another, from this marsh to that marsh, and from one pheasant slough to another. As always, hunters who can identify the best habitat, and who best understand the habits of the game they seek, will have the best odds of tangible success.

Collaborative spirit at Central Lakes College

By Erich Heppner
Central Lakes College
Interim Dean of Staples
Campuses

Twenty years ago, I arrived in Staples for the first time, eager to start the Heavy Equipment Program. At the time, I expected to earn my degree in two years and move on to find a job with a contractor. But as I became more involved on campus and in Staples, my heart began to change, and I developed a strong passion both for higher education and for this community. Since then, I’ve dedicated my career to serving Central Lakes College and the people who make this campus and community extraordinary.

Recently, I was honored to be given the opportunity to serve as the Interim Dean of the Staples Campuses. I do not take this assignment lightly, as I know our institution’s history and have a deep appreciation for the men and women who established the Staples AVTI in 1959, and even earlier, with our beginnings in the



school district in 1950. One thing that is clear to me from the shared history of our campus and surrounding communities is that the common thread of our past successes has always been the collaborative and can-do spirit that exists here. I bring that same collaborative approach to this role, along with a willingness to roll up my sleeves in service to our students and our community.

I am very proud of the programs that we offer at our Staples Campuses. These career and tech programs train our students for high-dollar blue-collar jobs that are in demand more than ever. I believe that the pursuit of education in all

its forms is valuable, but I am proud to promote programs that do not saddle our learners with unnecessary debt and, in a very short turnaround, provide our graduates with high-paying, family-sustaining wages. Whether a student chooses our Diesel Technician, Heavy Equipment Operator, Machine Tool Technology, Meat Cutting & Butchery, Practical Nursing, or Robotics programs, you can rest assured that we will do everything possible to help our students build futures that would otherwise be out of reach.

Perhaps you know someone who is ready to explore how the college in their own backyard can change their life for the better. Perhaps you are that person. Either way, my ask of you is that you help us promote our Staples Campuses to your family, friends, and neighbors.

If you would like to visit about the opportunities at Central Lakes College or have thoughts on how we can be better partners, please do not hesitate to drop me a line.

Find Treasure Within

Common sense isn’t so common anymore

By Frank Odell

Good morning. I’d like to speak today about Common sense. Or as historians now refer to it...

“a lost civilization.” Somewhere between smart phones and smart thermostats, common sense quietly packed its bags, muted the group chat, and moved to a cabin with no Wi-Fi.

And honestly? I don’t blame it. But I do wonder if common sense didn’t just disappear. Maybe... we stopped listening. And if I may step on holy ground for a moment—

Scripture has always had a word for common sense. It’s called wisdom. And according to Book of Proverbs, “Wisdom cries aloud in the streets... but the simple keep going.” Which sounds suspiciously like rush hour traffic.

We live in the age of artificial intelligence. Which is fascinating—because we’re running dangerously low on the natural kind. We have smart phones. Smart cars.

Smart refrigerators. I have a refrigerator that can tell me when I’m out of milk. But I still open it... stare inside... close it... and reopen it like something new might have appeared. That’s not intelligence.

That’s hope with a handle. We have a generation that can troubleshoot a

drone... but cannot troubleshoot a disagreement... We can launch satellites into space— but can’t merge politely in traffic... Apparently parallel parking is harder than parallel universes.

Well, as Book of James might remind us—.....“If any of you lacks wisdom, ask God.”...Notice it doesn’t say,....“If any of you lacks Wi-Fi.”

Common sense used to say,.... “If it’s hot... don’t touch it.” ...Now we need warning labels.....“Caution: Contents may be hot.”...Yes. It’s soup. Not ice cream.....“Do not iron clothes while wearing them.”....At this rate, we’ll soon have labels that say:....“Caution: Gravity applies.”

And someone will still test it.....Which reminds me—

God wrote ten clear commandments on stone tablets.

And humanity’s response was essentially:....“Are you sure?”.....Common sense says:....Don’t step off the cliff.

Faith says:....Trust the One who designed gravity.

Common sense once whispered,.... “Calm down.”....Now outrage has a microphone.....We don’t disagree anymore.

We detonate.....We don’t discuss.....We declare....We don’t debate.....We delete.

Social media has given everyone a platform—.... and apparently removed everyone’s filter....We have instant opinions,....immediate indignation,....and zero investigation.

It’s reaction without reflection....Volume without virtue.

Confidence without competence....And yet the Apostle Paul—yes, the same fellow who wrote letters from prison without Wi-Fi—said in Epistle to the Ephesians, “Speak the truth in love.”...That requires both courage and control—.... two things rarely found in a comment section.

Remember when “I’m sorry” was a complete sentence?

Now it’s: ...“I’m sorry you were offended.”...That’s not an apology....That’s a verbal shrug.

Common sense says: If you spill the milk... clean it up....The Gospel says something even deeper:...Confess it.

Own it....Receive grace. Grow from it.....Grace doesn’t eliminate responsibility.

It empowers it.

Now, before I sound like I churn my own butter and resent electricity—

Let me confess....Last week I spent ten minutes searching for my phone. I used the flashlight on my phone... to look for my phone. Common sense was present....It was just on coffee break.

And spiritually speaking, we do the same thing.

We search for peace... while ignoring prayer.

We search for purpose... while avoiding obedience.

We search for truth... while muting conviction.

Common sense isn’t about being brilliant....It’s about being balanced.....It’s asking: ...Is it true?....Is it kind?....Is it wise?

Maybe common sense isn’t so common anymore

because it requires something radical:

Humility....And humility doesn’t go viral.

But here’s the good news—Wisdom is not lost.... It’s available....It doesn’t need an update....It doesn’t require a charger....It doesn’t need a password you’ll forget in three days.... It simply asks us to slow down....To listen.

To examine our hearts before we examine everyone else’s.

Common sense might not just stake a comeback.... It might look suspiciously like godly wisdom. And until then— If your refrigerator tells you you’re out of milk— Believe it. And if your conscience tells you you’re out of character— ... Listen to it.

Quote of the week

“Superstition is foolish, childish, primitive and irrational — but how much does it cost you to knock on wood?”
— Judith Viorst

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Bestland plays ‘Cinderella’

Brynn Bestland of Staples played the role of Cinderella in the musical, “Into the Woods” performed recently at the Pequot Lakes Community Theatre. Bestland, a 2026 Staples-Motley High School graduate, will be attending Minnesota State University Moorhead this fall. (Submitted photos)

Little Red Caboose Variety Show is Thursday, Aug. 20

The Little Red Caboose Variety Show is back again to kick off the Railroad Days festivities with a showcase of local talent. It will be held on Thursday, Aug. 20, at the Centennial Auditorium in Staples with the show starting at 7 p.m. Doors open at 6:15 p.m.

This year’s show boasts newcomers and favorite acts, all local talent. Newcomers to the show include the Wadena Whirlwinds Dance Troop, Andrew Capistrant, Dancers Nikki Paskewitz and Brian Sterriker, Meredith and Molly Hoemberg, and a new band - The Chris J. O’Brien Trio.

Returning favorites include music by the Staples Area Men’s and Women’s choruses, Gary and Dawn Timbs, Sarah Kroll, Nathan Beard, Lamp Camp Players doing Improv, the Little Moran River Band as well as many more.

Proceeds from the show will benefit Lamplighter Community Theatre’s summer Lamp Camp, a performance arts camp featuring singing, dance and drama which gives children and young adults ages eight to 18 a great learning experience in all three of those areas. The other half goes to the Staples Area Men’s Chorus and their Real Men Sing choral festival which gives young male singers and their directors a full day of educational experiences with choral clinicians and male singers from all age groups...from junior high to high school to college and adult choruses...and culmi-

nates in a mass chorus concert that evening.

Tickets can be purchased at the door, or for a two dollar discount, they are available in advance at the Staples World office, Hubbard Hardware and Ace Hardware in Staples, or online at www.staplesmen.org.

Co-hosts for the Little Red Caboose Variety Show are the Staples Area Men’s Chorus and Lamplighter Community Theatre. Sponsors include the Staples Motley Area Community Foundation, Lakeland Public Television and the Five Wings Arts Council.

The co-hosts say, “So, join us in supporting your local organizations and enjoy some fantastic local talent. See you there.”

Menu

Senior Nutrition Program, Staples
Staples: Call mornings (218-979-4118) the Thursday before to reserve next week’s meal(s) and current suggested donation info. LSS Meals - traditional older adult menu (subject to change).
LOCATED AT: Staples Hi-Rise, 615 4th St. NE, Staples. Seniors welcome to dine-in at 11:00 a.m., with meal reservations.

- **Staples Site: 218-979-4118.**
- **Motley Site: 218-824-3820.**
- August 10 - August 14**
- Monday** - Beef hamburger/bun, baked beans, green beans, ketchup, mustard, lime yellow/pears, 1% milk.
- Tuesday** - Chicken baked herb, rice pilaf, mixed vegies, dinner roll, marg., chocolate pudding/topping, 1% milk.
- Wednesday** - Smothered chopped steak, mashed potatoes, sliced carrots, applesauce cup, marg., sour cream, wheat bread, 1% milk.
- Thursday** - Scalloped potatoes w/ham, whole kernel corn, tropical fruit cup, wheat bread, marg., peanut butter cookie, 1% milk.
- Friday** - Beef lasagna, peas/carrots, hot spiced apples, dinner roll, marg., vanilla wafers, 1% milk.

Mark Your Calendar

August 6

‘WALK WITH A DOC’ Thursdays at 5:15 p.m., at Lakewood Health System’s main campus in Staples. Meet at the main entrance. For more information about this free program, visit <https://walkwithadoc.org/join-a-walk/locations/staples-minnesota>

August 7

WOMEN’S OPEN AA RECOVERY MEETING Fridays in person, 10:30 a.m., Motley Free Methodist Church (lower level), 33 Wellwood St. E. Motley. All women welcome.

August 9

MUSIC IN THE PARK - FREE Featuring Eric E. Sunday, Aug. 9, 7 p.m., at Veterans Park in Motley. Sponsored by Staples Motley Area Arts Council.

CELEBRATE RECOVERY GROUP MEETINGS Sundays, 6 p.m., at Motley Free Methodist Church, 33 Wellwood St. E., Motley.

August 11

EXPERIENCE STRENGTH AND HOPE AA GROUP MTGS IN STAPLES Tuesdays, 7 - 8 p.m., at Church of Christ, 27343 490th St., Staples. For info., call Dan at 218-640-7228.

August 12

FREE COMMUNITY PICNIC - SPONSORED BY MOTLEY FREE METHODIST CHURCH Wednesday, Aug. 12, 5 p.m., at Converse Park in Motley.

August 19

STAPLES ALL VETERANS AND COMMUNITY PARK ASSOCIATION BOARD MEETING Wednesday, Aug. 19, 5:30 p.m., in the lower level of Lakewood Health System, 49725 County Rd 83, Staples. Public invited. To attend via Zoom, contact Bob Hamann at 218-894-3139.



Local talent featured at show

The Little Red Caboose Variety Show features local talent performing many different styles of entertainment. (Staples World photos from 2025 show)



THE STAPLES AREA MEN’S AND WOMEN’S CHORUSES *present:*

For All The Saints - A Reunion and Community Christmas Concert

YOU ARE INVITED TO PARTICIPATE IN OUR 2026 REUNION CHRISTMAS CONCERT, on SATURDAY DECEMBER 5th, 2026 at the STAPLES MOTLEY LEGACY GYMNASIUM

If you are an alumnus of any of the school districts in our area, we invite you to become a part of this multi-community, multi-generational event! Simply scan the QR code and complete the questionnaire as directed. This will give us your music history details and your email so we can connect with you regarding the specifics as we start planning our next

Reunion Christmas Concert
Thank you and we look forward to working together for a GREAT Concert!





New solar array at Motley’s WWTP

The Wastewater Treatment Plant (WWTP) in Motley is home to a new solar array. It was designed and installed recently by Wolf Track Energy (www.wolf-trackenergy.com). Seventy-percent of the solar array was funded by the Minnesota Department of Commerce Solar on

Public Buildings Grant, and the other 30 percent will be reimbursed by the Federal Energy Tax Rebates Program. When it’s up and running, the solar array will produce electricity and help offset electric costs at the WWTP in Motley. (Staples World photos by Dawn Timbs)

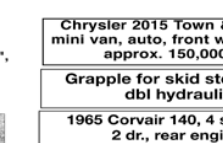
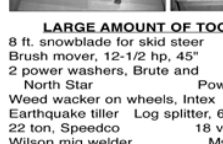
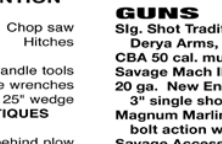


AUCTION

Located from Motley, Hwy. #210 to Hwy. #64, north approx. 5 mi., east on Hwy. #34 approx. 6-1/2 mi. east, 1 mi. north to 11002 45th Ave. SW, Pillager 56473 -OR- from Pillager, north on Hwy 1 to Hwy. 34, west approx. 3 mi. to 11002 45th Ave. SW, long driveway. Follow signs on:

Saturday, August 8, 2026

SALE TIME: 10:00 A.M. RESTROOMS AVAILABLE LUNCH ON GROUNDS

 2003 Pontiac Vibe, AWD, auto., 259,000 mi.	 2003 Pontiac Vibe, front wheel drive	 184 IH gas tractor Belly mower, fits 184 IH	 30' 5th wheel dbl. duels, flatbed trailer
 1989-90 fixer upper, truck, Top Kick, fuel inj.	 8' x 6', 5' x 3" trailer	 AMF Crestliner, 16', w/Shore-Lander trailer, 35 p hp Evinrude motor, Minn Kota trolling motor	 Fish House, Ice Castle , 14'
 Antique upright "Victoria", crank start, records	 Chrysler 2015 Town & Country mini van, auto, front wheel drive, approx. 150,000 mi.	 Grapple for skid steer, 6 ft., dbl hydraulic	
 1965 Corvair 140, 4 sp, as is, 2 dr., rear engine		 MANY MORE ITEMS TOO NUMEROUS TO MENTION	
LARGE AMOUNT OF TOOLS 8 ft. snowblade for skid steer Brush mover, 12-1/2 hp, 45" 2 power washers, Brute and North Star Weed wacker on wheels, Intex Earthquake tiller Log splitter, 6-1/2 hp, 22 ton, Speedco Wilson mig welder Misc. tires 20 ton press, Central Metal ban saw Floor model drill press Scrap iron Older DeWalt tools Bauer 20 v ratchet, metal sheet Tool boxes, some older U.S. General 5 ft. tool box X 44" Echo chainsaw, Elko chainsaw 10 hp Coleman generator, 6250 PowerMate Welding rods		OLD MACHINERY / ANTIQUES IH steel wheeled wagon Steel drag Walk behind plow HOUSEHOLD Entertainment center Carnival glass Blue Ball canning jars FISHING Ice auger Fish Trap fish house, Scout Minn Kota trolling motor, 55	
GUNS Sig. Shot Tradition 410 ga, 3" RIA, Derya Arms, Turkey, new in box CBA 50 cal. muzzle loader, w/scope Savage Mach II 2250 single shot 20 ga. New England Arms 12" pump, 3" single shot 223, w/scope Magnum Marlin Model 917V 17 HMR bolt action w/scope Savage Access 21-250 bolt action Wetherby Van Guard 7 mm Remington mag. Antique XL single shot shotgun, 46568, ga? New England Arms single shot Pardon SBI 3", 20 ga. Springfield Model 15 22 single shot bolt 410 Harrington Richards HR 3" H&R 20 ga. single shot Topper Model 88, 3" 12 ga. single shot 3" Topper Model 88		TRANTINA AUCTIONS. TERMS: CASH OR GOOD CHECK. Nothing to be removed until settled for. Settlement must be made by completion of auction. Everything sold "AS IS." You are responsible for your items after making a purchase. Driver's license or proper ID is required to register. Statements made by auctioneer at auction take precedence over any printed material. Purchases in excess of \$5,000 must be accompanied with a bank letter of credit. NOT RESPONSIBLE FOR ACCIDENTS.	

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Hello World

ONLINE BIRTHS REMOVED
AT THE REQUEST OF LAKEWOOD
HEALTH SYSTEM.

Obituaries

Judy Knosalla

Judy Kaye Knosalla, 78, passed away July 22, 2026, in Little Falls following two years of pulmonary fibrosis.

A celebration of life service will be held August 10 at Faith Lutheran Church, 430 12th St NE, Staples, at 11:00 a.m. with Reverend Stephen Meltzer officiating. Visitation will begin one hour prior at 10:00 a.m. and a meal will be served following the service.

Interment will take place at MN State Veterans Cemetery near Camp Ripley at 3:00 p.m.

Judy was number eight of nine children born to Theodore and E. Frances Negaard in St. Cloud on March 8, 1948.

Judy graduated in 1966

from Tech High School. She went on to work in the banking industry in Minneapolis, St. Cloud and Staples. While working at Northwest Bank in St. Cloud, she met the love of her life, Larry Knosalla. They married on June 24, 1972. After Larry graduated from college, while working at DeZurik, they started their family. Amy was born in 1975, Kari was born in 1977 and after moving to Staples to start a new business in 1978, Penny was born in 1979.

Judy enjoyed crafting as a young mother; making dresses and costumes for her girls, who were her pride and joy. She loved to shop, especially for others. She also spent many years teaching Sunday School at Bethlehem (St. Cloud) and Faith Lutheran (Staples) churches. Before retiring, she faithfully served as secretary at St. John's Lutheran Church (Wadena) for 20 years.

She cherished every grandbaby, snuggling them close in her rocking chair and as they grew, loved spending time blowing bubbles, doing puzzles and playing games, especially cards.

Judy is survived by her devoted husband, Larry; three daughters: Amy (Mike) Verlennich, Kari (Adam) Judd and Penny (Steve) Statema; 20 grandchildren, Nikolas, Izak, Gabrielle, Izabella, Jediah,



Judah, Ezra, Anastasia, Zebulun, Zofia, Elijah, Eliya, Enoch, Elizabeth, Ariella, Eleanor, Noah, Hanna, Emma and Laura; one great-grandchild; one brother, Roger (Gail) Negaard; two sisters, Joyce Baird and Janell (George) Sweet; five sisters-in-law, Pat Negaard, Joan Negaard, Linda (Ed) Stamper, LuAnn Miller and Bunee Amble.

She was preceded in death by her parents; five brothers, Ken (Patty), Jim, Ron (Phyllis), Gary and David Negaard; one brother-in-law, Bill Baird and two grandsons, Samuel Judd and Joseph Verlennich.

Those who knew Judy will remember her good nature, cheerful smile, caring heart and dedication to her family and friends. Her thoughtful deeds leave many treasured memories. While her presence in this life will be deeply missed, Judy's love and legacy will live on in the hearts of all who knew her.

Arrangements are by the Brenny Family Funeral Chapel.

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David Kajer

Memorial services for David Kajer will be held Thursday, August 20, 2026 at 11:00 a.m. at Faith Lutheran Church in Staples with Pastor Robert Drake officiating. Visitation will be held beginning at 10:00 a.m. Lunch will be served following the service at the church.

David Shawn Kajer was born January 26, 1964 to Tom Kajer and Madelyn (Saverino) Kajer in New Prague. After his father's divorce and remarriage, he was legally adopted by Lisa Brooker Kajer in 1977. David spent most of his younger years in Staples where he enjoyed working on the family's farm (raising pumpkins and squash), riding bike and learning how to wrestle. When his parents joined a foreign aide project in 1982, he stayed in Staples for his senior year with the Don and Mary Dravis family. He graduated co-valedictorian and attended NDSU to earn a Bachelor of Science degree in Business Administration. When he graduated, he became the manager at the Sioux Falls branch of Western/Allied Building Products. He loved developing quotes but hated doing collections.

David's hobbies included fitness and strength training, canoeing the Crow Wing River, riding motorcycles, running, tennis and hiking. He loved scuba diving and completed his diving certification in Sri Lanka. However, his favorite sport was wrestling, which he enjoyed during high school and was a member of the state wrestling championship team in 1981.

He married the love of his life, Wendy Hom, in 1989. David and Wendy had three wonderful children: Josh, Jordyn and Jaden. David enjoyed hiking with Josh on Superstition Mountain and eagerly encour-



aged him when he sold Boy Scout popcorn. He was always proud of Jordyn's academic diligence and success and loved watching her play softball. He was supportive and smiling when he watched Jaden's skate and snowboarding YouTube videos and enjoyed watching him play baseball.

In 1999, David was diagnosed with Multiple Sclerosis which changed his life, and began his long battle with the disease. He moved back to Staples in 2021, following his divorce. While he was able he enjoyed time at the family cabin, trike rides to Dower Lake and canoe trips. As he became less mobile, he enjoyed his favorite shows, visits from friends and family and his hardy laugh was contagious to all who cared for him.

He is survived by his father, Thomas Kajer; his mother, Lisa Kajer; his biological mother, Madelyn (Gary) Verhaeghe; two brothers, Jason (Adoree) Kajer and Philip (Dawn) Verhaeghe; three sisters, Kristin (Ken) Kajer-Cline, Tanyeale (John Fuchs) Kajer and Margaret (Tony Sheppard) Pearson; three children, Joshua (Ellie) Kajer, Jordyn Kajer and Jaden Kajer; one grandson, Dawson Kajer; Wendy Hom Kajer; and many nieces and nephews.

David is preceded in death by his grandparents, one cousin, Dan Kajer and one aunt, Sister Kathleen Kajer.

Arrangements are by the Brenny Family Funeral Chapel, Staples.

w33c A00006B2026JAU05

Staples Area Church Directory

Staples

Staples Alliance

1512 8th St. NE, Staples218-894-2891

Pastor John Pavlica, Lead Pastor

Sunday Worship 9:30 a.m.

Sunday School11:00 a.m.

Weds., 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 Service10:30 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 Worship10:30 a.m.

WEDNESDAY:

Adult Bible Study6:30 p.m.

Faith Lutheran

430 12th Street. NE., Staples.....218-894-1546

Sunday Worship Service9:00 a.m.

Sunday School and Coffee Fellowship.....10:05 a.m.

Sacred Heart Catholic Church

310 4th St. NE, Staples218-631-1593

Church.....218-631-1593

parishsecretary@marysacc.org

Rev. JC Duncan, 218-632-7314

Rev. Greg Sauer, 218-632-7319

Mass: Sunday.....8:30 a.m.

Seventh Day Adventist

421 Dakota Ave. SE, Staples

Pastor Joshua Jeresek

218-894-0033

Saturday Worship9:30 am.

Sabbath School10:45 a.m.

Thomastown Covenant

15940 251st Ave., Staples.....218-894-3923

Sunday School.....9:15 a.m.

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

WEDNESDAY NIGHT YOUTH6:30 p.m.

Trinity Lutheran

1000 4th St., NE, Staples.....218-894-2372

Pastor Vicar Paul Koehler

Sunday Divine Service 9:00 a.m.

Sunday School and Bible Class...10:30 a.m.

United Methodist

310 5th St. NE, Staples218-894-2248

Sunday Worship10:30 a.m.

(Nursery Available for Sunday Worship)

Aldrich

Balsamlund Lutheran

19550 490th Street, Aldrich

Janet Eckman SMA218-837-5831

jre227@yahoo.com

Sunday Worship.....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.

Communion1st 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

SUNDAY

Church Worship Gathering.....10:00 a.m.

YouTube Channel10:00 a.m.

Cushing Baptist

26298 Bear Rd., Cushing

Pastor Dan Holmes.....320-749-2583

Sunday School9:30 a.m.

Worship.....10:30 a.m.

WEDNESDAY

Bible study7:30 p.m.

Leader

Swan Valley Lutheran

Leader218-397-2470

Sandy Knight, Synodically Authorized Minister of Word and Sacrament

Sunday Worship

January - July9 a.m.

July - January11 a.m.

Maple Hill Lutheran

Sandy Knight, Synodically Authorized Minister of Word and Sacrament

Leader218-397-2470 (Rural Pine River)

Worship and Sunday School9:00 a.m.

Motley

Motley Free Methodist

33 Wallwood St. E

Motley 56466.....218-352-6888

Jim Johnson, Senior Pastor

Casey Reynolds, Assistant Pastor

Sunday Worship.....9:00 and 10:30 a.m.

facebook live9 a.m.

WEDNESDAY

AWANA4:00-5:30 p.m.

Youth Group6:00-8:00 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 Worship9:30 a.m.

St. Michael Catholic Church

280 1st Ave S, Motley.....218-631-1593

Rev. JC Duncan, 218-632-7314

Rev. Greg Sauer, 218-632-7319

Mass: Sunday.....10:30 a.m.

United Methodist

847 3rd Ave. S. Lane, Motley.....218-352-6466

Pastor Jonathan Holland

www.motleyumc.net

Sunday Worship Service.....10:00 a.m.

Monday AA meeting.....8:00 p.m.

Oylen

Oylen Alliance

Cty. Rds, 7 and 9, Oylen

218-472-3440 or 218-472-3316

Pastor Neal Malcore

Sunday School10:00 a.m.

Sunday Worship.....11:00 a.m.

Pillager

First Lutheran Church

Pastor Mathew Sundquist

717 River Street S, Pillager, MN

218-746-3775

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

Sunday School, 2nd and 4th Sundays8:30 a.m.

Casino Assembly of God

Pastor Dan Johnson

N. of Motley, Hwy. 64, E. on Cty 34 to Cty. 104.

Phone218-746-3839

Sunday School9:30 a.m.

Worship.....10:30 a.m.

Sunday Worship.....7:00 p.m.

WEDNESDAY7:00 p.m.

First Baptist

903 River Street South, Pillager

Pastor Jake Anderson

218-746-3768

curious@fbcpillager.com

Worship Gathering10:00 a.m.

Connection Point.....9:30 a.m.

Hewitt

Church of the Nazarene

114 Front Street, P.O. Box 146 Hewitt, MN

218-924-2028

Jim and Linda McGaffey, Pastor

Sunday School9:30 a.m.

Sunday Worship.....10:45 a.m.

WEDNESDAY PRAYER7:00 p.m.

Trinity Lutheran Church (LCMS)

524 Front Street, PO Box 116, Hewitt, MN

Pastor Robin Fish

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

Hewitt Community Church

Hwy. 210, Hewitt, MN

Pastor Kenneth Uhren

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

Verndale

Verndale Alliance

109 NW Brown Street, Verndale, MN 56481

218-445-5619

Senior Pastor Tony Stanley

Youth Pastor Joe Ward

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

Sunday Bible Fellowship Classes 11-11:45 a.m.

St. Hubert Catholic Church

Bluegrass.....218-631-1593

Rev. JC Duncan, 218-632-7314

Father Greg Sauer, 218-632-7319

parishsecretary@marysacc.org4:00 p.m.

Mass: Saturday.....

Leaf River Township

The Old Country Church

Leaf River Twp., Wadena County Rd. 6

Info. 218-837-5690 Call first.

Wadena

St. Helen's Episcopal Church

22 Dayton Ave. SW, Wadena, MN

218-631-3928

Sunday Worship.....10:00 a.m.

St. Ann's Catholic Church

514 1st Street SE, Wadena(218) 631-1593

Rev. JC Duncan, 218-632-7314

Father Greg Sauer, 218-632-7319

parishsecretary@marysacc.org

Mass: Sunday (livestream).....10 a.m.

"Does What We Believe Line Up With God's Word?"

By Pastor Roy Miles, Staples Assembly of God

I would like to share with you that "almost" and "good enough" is NOT good enough. In 2 Timothy 3:16 we read that "All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness."

In a conversation between Paul the apostle and King Agrippa in Acts 26:28, Agrippa said to Paul, "you almost persuade me to become a Christian."

In 2 Timothy 3:7 Paul writes about "always learning and never able to come to the knowledge of the truth."

Here is our list of Truth on what the Bible is:

- All scripture is given by inspiration of God
- Profitable for doctrine
- Profitable for reproof
- Profitable for correction
- Profitable for instruction
- Leads us in righteousness

Question: Is it right to delete or ignore scripture passages that do not line up with our thinking and ideas? What are we learning? Man's ideas or God's?

I would like to challenge all of us to line up with the scripture even if it offends us. That's what reproof and correction is all about. Let's be like those in Acts 17:11, "These were more fair-minded than those in Thessalonica, in that they received the word with all readiness, and searched the Scriptures daily to find out whether these things were so."

One last scripture;

Hebrews 4:12

"For the word of God is living and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the division of soul and spirit, and of joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart."

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For the
Staples World

SEDA in favor of new housing study

By Mark Anderson
Publisher

Alison Medeck of the Economic Alliance of Wadena County told the Staples Economic Development Authority (SEDA) about a housing study proposal she is exploring.

Medeck said Maxfield Research and Consulting has offered to do a full housing study for all of Wadena County and she has asked them to include all of the city of Staples, even though only a portion of the city is in Wadena County. She said this study would be more detailed than the one that the county conducted in 2021. Medeck said housing studies usually are only effective over a five year span, so it is time to do another one anyway.

Medeck said one of the main reasons to do a housing study is the need for student housing for college students. The city of Wadena has MState and Staples has Central Lakes College.

“Minnesota State has student housing concerns and they want to do a student housing project,” said

Medeck, “they would add this to the study.”

The SEDA Board agreed that the city would be interested in the housing study if it includes all of Staples.

In addition, Medeck said the Wadena Housing and Redevelopment Authority has qualified for \$200,000 to be used for housing projects in the county. That amount does not go far in building housing, but Medeck said they could use it to get housing projects started, or another option is that other counties have added funding to their HRA funds.

City expansion

The SEDA discussed expanding the city through housing and through annexation.

City Administrator Jerel Nelsen told the board that they are making plans to start platting housing lots of 2.5 acres or more on land east of the Valley View subdivision. Nelsen said the city owns 60 acres of land in that area, but not all of it is buildable because of wetland.

Nelsen said the proposal would plat larger lots near 12th Street NE, which is a

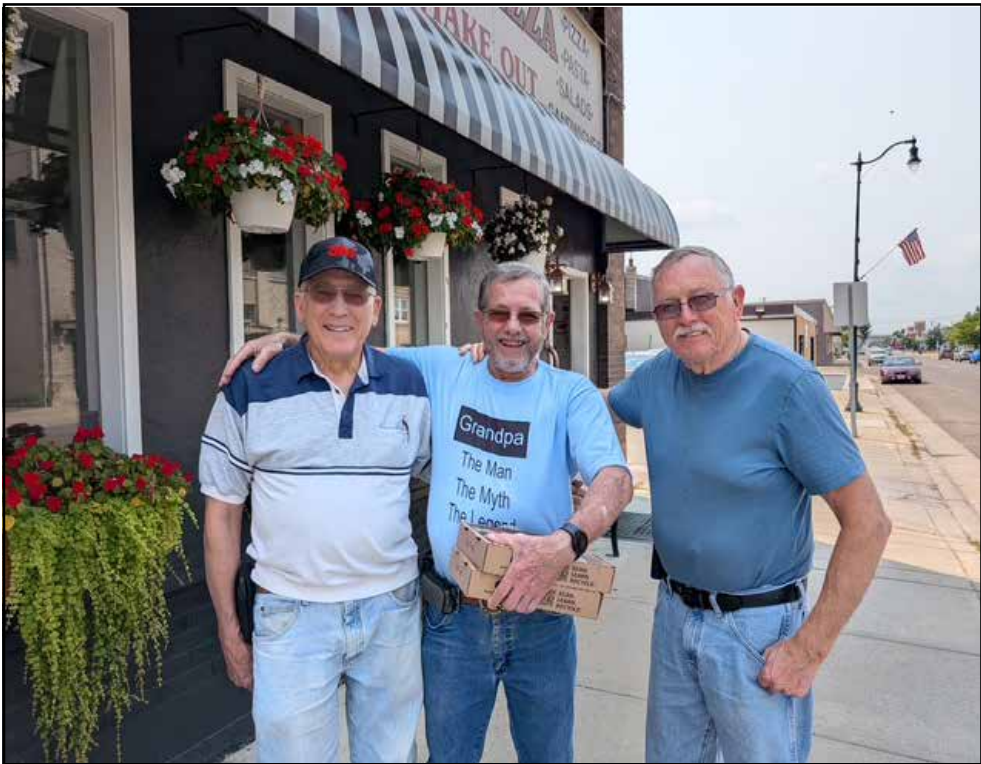
gravel road at that point. The city would not send water and wastewater lines to that site, so anyone building a home would have to have their own well and septic system.

Nelsen showed one map that could be a possibility for home plats. Board member Shane Tappe said they should not cut down trees to build the city street through the new subdivision, he thought people would like to build among the trees on their lots.

Board member Lisa Bjerga said she knows people are looking for larger home lots, but finding 80 acre homes, which is more than what they want.

Tappe agreed that a lot of people are looking for lots of four to five acres, enough to build a home and a shed.

Later in the meeting, the SEDA Board talked about the possibility of annexation of land for the city to expand businesses and for building homes. Board member Doug Case noted that the city currently has very little developable property for businesses or homes.



Work friends reunite

Friends who worked together at 3M in Staples a while back met for lunch at Tower Pizza in Staples July 29, reminiscing about the good ‘ol days and catching up on each others’ lives. From left, Ron Hines, Pillager; Mike Koppes and Roddy Sams, both of Staples. (Staples World photo by Dawn Timbs)

City sells two home lots

By Mark Anderson
Publisher

The City of Staples agreed to sell two lots in the Valley View subdivision to a developer out of the Brainerd area who has promised to build two spec homes on the properties.

The developer offered \$23,000 to purchase the lots, which is about \$4,800 less than the price the city had set of 70 cents per square foot. Council member Doug Case questioned whether they should allow a lower price, asking if they accept this lower offer, would they continue to lower the price for future purchases.

Council member John Jewison said the 70 cents is a starting point, not carved in stone.

Mayor Ron Murray added that if the city rejected this offer and sent a counter-offer, they might lose the sale or they might end up with another offer

with a \$2,000 gain, which wouldn’t be a big difference.

The council voted to approve the sale of the two lots for the price offered.

There are currently 16 homes in the Valley View neighborhood.

CIP

The council approved the city’s Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) that maps out large expenditures in city budgets for the next five years. The biggest items include \$150,000 for street overlays every year.

In 2027, the city has budgeted \$120,000 to extend Park Ave. NE from 3rd Street NE to Airport Road. They also are planning \$225,000 for a new light shop building, \$130,000 for a new digger-derrick truck, and \$100,000 to put underground electric cables on 8th Street NE to replace the above-ground wires.

In 2028, the city plans to upgrade the fire hall

exterior and start more improvements to the Staples Community Center, as the sales tax profits build up. City Administrator Jerel Nelsen said the city is receiving more money from the sales tax than they were anticipating, which will allow them to do the community center projects right away instead of getting bonds and paying interest on it.

In 2029, the city is looking at a new fire pumper truck that would cost \$750,000, and also have listed a park expansion for \$100,000, to expand the Dower Lake Recreation Area. Another far out goal for 2030 is the building of an amphitheater at Northern Pacific Park.

In other news, the council approved a home occupation permit for Jacquelyn Thelen to conduct a dog grooming business at 311 2nd Street NE.

Economic developer position could have new direction

By Mark Anderson
Publisher

With the recent resignation of Economic Development Director Jim Hanson, Staples City Administrator Jerel Nelsen said the city is starting the process of finding a new director.

The Staples Economic Development Authority (SEDA) discussed the position at their July 28 meeting. Nelsen said the company that assists with their search, David Drown and Associates, no longer has a provision to revise the search if the director they find leaves within a year. Nelsen said there may be a search fee of \$3,000 and he will see if the city can get a grant from Sourcewell for that search.

The SEDA Board discussed alternate formats for the economic developer job. Board member Doug Case pointed out that the position started with the school district and was shared by the city and school, with Dick

Donat and Jim Hofer doing the development. He said the school stopped doing it when the Motley and Staples districts combined and the contract went to Freshwater, before the City of Staples took over economic development on their own.

Case wondered if it was possible to partner with Todd County or Wadena County, both of which have a separate economic development organization.

Board member Lisa Bjerga pointed out that another local group, LEAP, also has connections within the community.

Bjerga asked if the economic development position needed to be full time, or if local organizations could assist. She also asked if the position should emphasize housing, pointing out that it has become the biggest need for people coming to the area. She said Lakewood Health System has hired 300 people in the last few years, all of them needing housing in the area.

City Administrator Jerel Nelsen said the position could be split up. He pointed out that there are local people with marketing expertise and others with housing expertise, so it doesn’t have to be the same person doing both aspects of the position.

Nelsen said with the amount of time it takes to hire a new director, it could be September or October before they get a new economic development director. He said if the board wants to reshape the position in any way, they could discuss it at their next meeting and their directions could be used in the interview process.

Essentia Health offering free sports physicals

Essentia Health is now offering sports physicals for high school students preparing for the upcoming athletic season. These exams help ensure student-athletes meet the necessary health requirements for participation in school sports programs.

The sports physicals will be offered from 9-11 a.m. on Thursday, Aug. 6, at the Essentia Health St. Joseph’s-Staples Clinic.

There is no charge for these physicals. Minors must be accompanied by a parent or guardian.

Students are encouraged to complete their sports physicals early to accommodate busy pre-season timelines and ensure they are ready to participate in this year’s sports season.

A sports physical is valid for three years in Minnesota. Forms are available online at mshsl.org.



Lions donate to SPARKS

The Staples Host Lions Club donated \$500 to the SPARKS mentoring program, represented by Rosie Blessing and Justin Thorne. Right is Bob Schafer of the Lions Club.

Todd Cty Sheriff’s report

Recent reports from the Todd County Sheriff’s Office (TCSO) included:

July 23, 2026: Evening hours, TCSO received a 911 call of a one vehicle crash near the intersection of Cty Rd 7 and 301st Ave, Fawn Lake Township. Brody Shaw, 20, of rural Staples, was traveling north on Cty Rd 7, when he lost control of his 2001 Chevrolet truck and rolled. Shaw was able to exit the vehicle with minor injuries. The vehicle sustained serious damage.

Shaw was evaluated on scene by medical personnel. Alcohol is believed to be a factor. TCSO was assisted by Scott’s Southtown, Staples and Lakewood Ambulance Service, Staples.

July 19, 2026: Approx. 9:39 p.m. TCSO responded to an

ATV crash in rural Browerville. The driver of the ATV sustained serious injuries and was transported to the Long Prairie hospital. Assisting were Browerville Fire Dept, Browerville Ambulance. This crash remains under investigation.

July 6, 2026: TCSO responded to a one vehicle rollover on Cty Rd 79, north of Lagos Rd, rural Browerville. Deputies arrived on scene and spoke with a neighbor who witnessed the crash. The driver was a juvenile female from Long Prairie who sustained minor injuries and was wearing a seatbelt at the time of the crash. Browerville Ambulance and Petrie’s Towing assisted on scene.



Lions give to summer rec

The Staples-Motley Summer Recreation program received a \$3,000 donation from the Staples Host Lions Club. Lion Bob Schafer holds the check with Staples-Motley Community Education coordinator Zack Qual.



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Across from the old Staples Theatre marquee



[illegible]



Public Notices

NOTICE BECKER TOWNSHIP AUGUST MEETING

Due to primary election rules Becker Township will hold their August 11, 2026, meeting at 4:00 p.m.

Mary Fitcher, Clerk
Becker Township
32-33pnc

NOTICE WADENA COUNTY BOARD OF ADJUSTMENT APPEAL FOR VARIANCE

Notice is hereby given that on Thursday, the 20th day of August, 2026 at 7:00 p.m., in the Multi-purpose room of the Wadena County Courthouse, located at: 415 Jefferson Street S, Wadena, MN, the Board of Adjustment will hold a public hearing on the application of **Orville and Marjorie Meyer**, for a variance on property located at: **29034 Warner Road, Staples, MN 56479**, and described as S1/2 E1/4 SE1/4 SE1/4, Section 31, Township 134 North, Range 32 West, Thomastown East Township, located in an A-3 General Agriculture District.

Application, if

approved, would allow an additional split of a 1/4 1/4 Section for the purpose of constructing a new home site.

All persons interested are invited to attend said hearing and be heard of this matter. An agenda for the meeting and associated materials can be found on the County website calendar at www.co.wadena.mn.us, scrolling to the bottom of the page, and clicking on the calendar date. Written correspondence must be received by the Wadena County Zoning Office, 415 Jefferson St. S., Room 234, Wadena, MN 56482 by 12:00 P.M. on the day of the hearing in order to be accepted, and must include the full name and address of the person sending the correspondence in order to be accepted for presentation to the Adjustment Board at the public hearing. The correspondence may be submitted in person, by U.S. Mail, or by e-mail to the Zoning Office but it MUST include the required information.

Wadena County
Board of Adjustment
33pnc

Freshwater Education District

FRESHWATER EDUCATION DISTRICT #6004 Board Meeting June 24, 2026 Wadena, MN

MINUTES

The Freshwater Education District Governing Board met in regular session on Wednesday, 6/24/2026, at the FED Admin Office in Wadena. Chair R. Huttunen called the meeting to order at 5:00 p.m.

Board members present: R. Huttunen (Sebekka), B. Tumberg (Wadena-Deer Creek), S. Veronen (Verndale), J. Hillmer (Browerville), R. VanDenheuvel (Bertha-Hewitt), R. Thalmann (Henning), R. Wright (Staples-Motley), and C. Wolf (Long Prairie-Grey Eagle). Absent: K. Howard (Menahga). Supt. S. Vedbraaten (Browerville). FED Admin: E. Weber, J. Anderson, and S. Thiel. Others in attendance: P. Brownlow, R. Bowman, J. Osberg, and A. Wahlun.

The Board approved the meeting agenda and the consent agenda, which included previous meeting minutes, payment of bills, summer Targeted Services/Credit Recovery agreements, personnel actions, FY27 operating contract renewals, and various service agreements.

The Board received reports on district operations, including:

- Summer cleaning projects at district facilities.
- Hail damage to the WALC roof and siding.
- Twenty Targeted Ser-

vices summer programs currently operating.

- SPED service updates, legislative and financial reports.

• Supt. E. Weber expressed his appreciation for the opportunity to serve the Freshwater Education District.

The Board approved the following action items:

- 25-27 Paraeducator/RVR Driver Master Agreement.
- Revisions to Policy 400.13L, effective 7/1/26.
- FY27 budget and assessment manual.
- Memorandums of Understanding with the T-I & Paraeducator/RVR Driver bargaining units.
- FY27 PAWN associate membership agreements.
- Appointment of Ex. Director P. Brownlow and Admin Assistant S. Thiel as (IOWA) for MDE.
- 26/27 Academics and ALC Student Handbooks.
- Transitional Ex. Director contract.
- Authorized bank signers and electronic fund transfer authorizations for Fiscal Year 2027.

As part of the annual organizational business, Chair Huttunen appointed Supt. D. Fjeldheim and S. Vedbraaten as Supervising Supts. effective 7/1/26. The Board also expressed its appreciation to Supt. L. Westrum for his leadership and service.

The meeting adjourned at 5:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Barb Tumberg,
Board Clerk

33pnc



Music in the Park draws crowds

Above, Erik Neznik and Jason Franzen entertain crowds at Northern Pacific Park in Staples for Music in the Park on Aug. 2, sponsored by the Staples Motley Area Arts Council. Below, the July 26 concert by Kevin

Klimek and the Sideliners was moved indoors to Faith Lutheran Church due to extreme heat of over 90 degrees. The Aug. 9 concert will be Eric E. performing at Motley Veterans Park. (Staples World photos by Mark Anderson)



Community effort for arboretum amenities

Trails committee members, hiking club participants and volunteers gathered at the Legacy Arboretum in Staples to put together picnic tables and benches, pur-

chased with a grant from Lakewood Health System at the new pavillion built near the pond by the Staples Rotary Club. (Staples World photo by Mark Anderson)



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• SOURCE: 2011 Readership Survey by National Newspaper Association.

Cushing man sustains unknown injuries in car/train accident

The Morrison County Sheriff's Office reports that on Aug. 1, at approximately 2:31 a.m., they received a report of a vehicle versus train accident on East 6th Street in the city of Randall. According to the Sheriff's Office, 62-year-old James

Pogreba of Cushing was driving on East 6th Street when his vehicle stalled on the railroad tracks. Pogreba was able to get out of the vehicle prior to his vehicle getting struck by an Amtrak train. Pogreba was hit with debris from the

crash and was airlifted to St. Cloud Hospital by Life Link III with unknown injuries. The Morrison County Sheriff's Office was assisted at the scene by Randall Fire and Rescue, Life Link III and Mayo Clinic Ambulance.

WOOD continued from page 1a

New AD looks to expand activities, community education

learned of the job opening for Activities/Community Ed. Director and decided to apply. He's glad he did.

Since coming on board with District 2170, Wood said he's been impressed with not only the school's athletics, but their fine arts as well. Wood went on to note the strong speech and music programs at Staples-Motley.

He hopes to help continue to grow all of the school's activities, as well as programs and classes within Community Education. "Do we need to add things?" Wood wondered. He would love to see more people of all ages get involved with community ed. A new brochure will be coming out soon, with a variety of adult classes offered, Wood said.

When asked what he appreciates most about his work, Wood said he loves helping prepare kids as they start out in a sport, and then seeing the progress they make along the way.

He's looking forward to the start of fall activities and getting to know more students of all ages along the way.

Wood lives in St. Cloud with his wife, Carly, and their son Bo, who's two-and-a-half. "He loves baseball and super heroes," Wood said. They also have a dog named Griffey, which com-

pletes their family.

Wood's office is located at The Nest on 3rd Street NE in Staples. For more information call 218-894-5400 or email activities@isd2170.org.

In other matters the school board:

- APPROVED the resignations of Holton Truax, junior high football coach; Darren Holst, head softball coach; Kristi Larsen, NEST assistant; Noah Larson, NEST assistant; Brian Mitts, MS/HS paraprofessional; Dillen Avenson, MS/HS paraprofessional.

- APPROVED the hiring of Gary Erickson, bus driver; Daniel Pagan, custodian; Lori Miller, MS/HS paraprofessional; Gary Sampson, bus driver.

- APPROVED a resolution to accept grants and donations in the amount of \$5,811.52.

- HEARD the financial report from Ellie Hill, Director of Finance and approved the June disbursements and receipts.

- HEARD a Cabinet Presentation from Joe Brandsma, Technology Director, who noted a major inventory of all IT devices taking place during the summer. He went on to report that there were 950 devices across the school that needed maintenance. The elementary school's devices were complete, and

now they were working on the high school's.

- APPROVED the 2026 Fall Coaches List which includes:

- FOOTBALL coaches Drew Potter, head coach; Paul Mithun, Corey Lawrence, asst. coaches; Steve Jennissen, Jace Thompson, Tony Schotzko, MS coaches

- VOLLEYBALL coaches Gretchen Bestland, head coach; Cy Bestland, Erin Potter, asst. coaches; Katrina Fligge, MS coach

- CROSS COUNTRY coaches Bruce Fuhrman, head coach; Ashley Orth, asst. coach; Allison Vagness, MS coach

- TENNIS Coaches Nicolette Paskewitz, head coach; Katie Noska, asst. coach; Staci Schultz, MS coach.

- APPROVED, in a roll call vote, adopting the fiscal year 2028 Long-Term Facilities Maintenance 10-year plan.

- APPROVED in a roll call vote a resolution calling for school board election in conjunction with the general election on Nov 3, 2026

- HEARD reports from Ryan Koenigs, elementary principal; Debbie Ferdon, MS/HS principal; and Shane Tappe, superintendent.

- HELD a closed session for a performance review for Superintendent Tappe.



Sunset glow from three bench hill

The Legacy Arboretum committee has installed a number of benches and picnic tables in the nature area. This bench is below the little hill near Airport Road. Two more benches were put on

top of the hill for hikers able to get up the incline. This photo was taken as the sky was glowing from the sunset. (Staples World photo by Mark Anderson)

GAIDA continued from page 1a

Auditor/treasurer says document was signed by brother

showed that her brother had not opened the security box since 2006, according to the complaint. Investigators reviewed footage of Gaida and her mother accessing the security box a few days after her brother's death. The footage showed them taking a folded piece of paper from an envelope in the box.

The investigator determined that the quit claim deed that was submitted was a later form that was not in existence in 2006.

Gaida's computer was searched and investigators say they found a quit claim deed in a file. Gaida told them she was looking it up because she was thinking about her own assets after her brother's death.

According to the complaint, Gaida said the document was signed by her brother and she notarized it for him. She said her mother kept the document. She said she didn't know where her mother had it, which is why she told them it was in the safety deposit box. She told investigators

that the document was not forged.

The Minnesota Bureau of Criminal Apprehension closed an investigation of the notary signature after looking into it, finding no crime had been committed.

Looking at Gaida's computer, investigators found quit claim deed forms that were saved a month after her brother's death, including the same type of form that was submitted. They found that a quit claim deed had been filled out on the computer.

The complaint mentions that Gaida's brother had medical debts from having cancer before he died, which could be a motivation to file the quit claim deed so his family wouldn't have to pay his debts using his property.

The complaint was signed by Sheriff Michael Allen and prosecuting attorney Keelan Ryan, a Ramsey County attorney who was appointed for this case to avoid a conflict of interest.



HOMETOWN HIGHLIGHTS
HIGHLIGHTING CHAMBER MEMBER BUSINESSES
Staples AREA CHAMBER

Hometown Highlights is a collaborative feature brought to you by the Staples Area Chamber of Commerce and the Staples World, dedicated to showcasing the businesses, people, and organizations that make our community thrive. Through this ongoing series, we celebrate Chamber member businesses, share their stories, highlight their impact, and help residents connect with the local entrepreneurs who invest in our hometown every day.



STAPLES MOTLEY AREA
Arts Council
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Staples Motley Area Arts Council: More Than 55 Years of Bringing the Arts to Our Communities

For more than five decades, the Staples Motley Area Arts Council (SMAAC) has quietly worked behind the scenes to educate, enrich, and inspire our communities through the visual, literary, and performing arts. As a private nonprofit organization, SMAAC's mission has remained unchanged since its beginning: bringing the arts to the people. Today, SMAAC continues that mission by organizing the popular Summer Music in the Park concert series, hosting a variety of arts-related events throughout the year, and supporting other organizations that create artistic opportunities for residents of all ages.

A Vision That Began in 1969

SMAAC's story began in 1969 when then-Staples-Motley Superintendent Dr. Duane Lund recognized the excitement and energy growing within the community. With many new families and teachers moving to the area, he believed the arts could help unite and strengthen the community. Dr. Lund gathered local residents to form an arts council, and within just ten days, that vision came to life as the Minnesota Symphony Orchestra performed at Dower Lake. The evening concluded with the orchestra playing The Stars and Stripes Forever while fireworks lit up the sky over the lake—an unforgettable moment that marked the beginning of something special.

Throughout the years, dedicated community leaders including Sally Gorton, Stan Carlson, Dick Donat, and many others organized three to four major performances each year. The community welcomed renowned organizations such as the St. Paul Chamber Orchestra, the Minnesota Opera, traveling productions from the Guthrie Theater, community variety shows, and children's theater performances.

Building a Lasting Legacy

During the 1980s, SMAAC helped facilitate the construction of Centennial Auditorium, which was completed in 1991. The auditorium expanded opportunities for local youth to experience and participate in the performing arts and continues to serve the community today through organizations such as Lamplighter Theater. Over the decades, countless volunteers have devoted their time and talents to keeping the arts alive in our communities. Leaders including Stan Carlson, Sally Gorton, Jim Vollegraf, Dawn Timbs, Mary Sperley, and many others have carried the mission forward through their dedication and service.

While it is impossible to recognize every individual who has contributed over the past 55 years, each person has played an important role in creating SMAAC!

Looking Toward the Future

In 2024, Mark Anderson of the Staples World facilitated a community visioning session to better understand what residents would like to see from the arts in the future. The feedback gathered has helped shape SMAAC's current strategic plan. Today's Board of Directors—Mark Anderson, Sherry Frisk, Kevin Olsen, Marlo Corona, Samantha Masog, Janet Kiley, Colleen Frost, and Tim Rice—is building upon that community input while continuing the work started by generations of volunteers before them. One of SMAAC's most exciting initiatives is its partnership with a community-led effort to transform Centennial Auditorium into a true Performing Arts Center. Just as the school district played a vital role in SMAAC's founding in 1969, Staples-Motley Schools continue to be an important partner in this exciting project. The transformation has already begun with significant acoustic improvements and the addition of a new thrust stage which can be seen with the Little Red Caboose Variety Show on August 20th.

Powered by Community Support

A community fundraising campaign to complete the remaining improvements will officially launch this fall. Anyone interested in supporting the Performing Arts Center or the continued work of SMAAC is encouraged to contact any Arts Council board member. Because SMAAC is a nonprofit organization, all donations are tax deductible.

SMAAC operates entirely through volunteers, with every dollar raised going directly back into community programming. The organization's annual operating budget of approximately \$45,000 is made possible through generous financial support from numerous organizations and businesses, including: Five Wings Arts Council, Staples Lions Club, Motley Lions Club, Leader Lions Club, Staples Rotary Club, Staples Motley Community Foundation, Todd-Wadena Electric Cooperative, Operation Round Up, 3M, and Numerous local businesses and individual donors. This broad community support allows SMAAC to continue offering quality arts programming while keeping many events affordable—or even free—for local families.

What Makes Our Communities Special

Although many names and businesses could not be included in this article, that is perhaps the greatest testament to what makes Staples and Motley such remarkable communities. For more than half a century, people have continually come together to support one another, volunteer their time, dream big, and invest in opportunities that enrich the lives of everyone who lives here. Whether through welcoming new neighbors, collaborating across organizations, supporting local businesses, or believing that great things are possible in small communities, the people of Staples and Motley have built a culture where creativity and community thrive together.



staplesartcouncil@gmail.com

SMAAC is currently updating its website. Please like, share, and follow us on our new Facebook page, and email communications. Residents can expect new resources, improved information, and expanded opportunities to stay connected with upcoming concerts, performances, community events, and volunteer opportunities over the coming months. Stay tuned as SMAAC continues its mission of bringing the arts to the people—and helping make Staples and Motley vibrant places to live, work, and create.



LIVE MUSIC IN THE PARK

UNCLE MUSKRAT

AUG 16 7 PM

FREE EVENT

NORTHERN PACIFIC PARK 6TH ST STAPLES MN



MUSIC IN THE PARK LINEUP

Aug 9 - 7pm MOTLEY!
Motley Veterans Park -Eric E.

Aug 16 - 7pm
Uncle Muskrat

Aug 23 - 2pm
Red Letter Band



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Thank You, Staples Ace Hardware!
Your support helps the Staples Area Chamber of Commerce showcase the people, businesses, and stories that make our community special through Hometown Highlights.