

Inside this issue:

Thanksgiving meal served
Tattoo shop raises cancer funds
Special Olympics bowling
LAPS support



Appreciating the Heavy Equipment program

The Staples Trails Committee attended the Central Lakes College Fall Celebration, to present the CLC Heavy Equipment Operation & Maintenance program with a plaque for their role in building the Legacy Arboretum. CLC fall graduates included (not in order) Stuart Atkinson, Evan Bauman, Jack Christofferson, Zander Collins, Alyosha Frick, Dawson Gearey, Joel Helland, Tristan Hunt, William Johnson, Eric Linder, Grahm Linderholm, Sebastian Martin, Micah Pick, Ian Plummer, Cody Reps, Jacob Roskowiak, Aiden Rydell, Logan Salmela, Hunter Schmitt, Hunter Vad and Iyan Welch. Trails committee members included Tim Rice, Mark Anderson, Lisa Fontaine, Lisa Bjerga and Ron Murray (presenting plaque to Joel Helland) CLC staff include John Maleski, Andy Anderson, Mike Kuklok, Michael Sams, Brandon Schneider and Dean Welle.

CLC programs meaningful to speaker Mertens

By Mark Anderson
Managing Editor

“You’ll be able to flourish anywhere you go all across the U.S., you could go anywhere right now,” Nick Mertens told the Central Lakes College Heavy Equipment graduates at their Fall Celebration on Nov. 26.

Mertens, the guest speaker at the program, could back that up with how the program has helped him in his job and the many CLC graduates he has met on construction jobs throughout the country.

Mertens said he has been aware of the CLC programs his whole life. His grandfather graduated from CLC and many other family



Proud of CLC connection

Nick Mertens speaks at the Central Lakes College Fall Celebration for the Heavy Equipment program. (Staples World photo by Mark Anderson)

Frost presents vision for outdoor park market

By Mark Anderson
Managing Editor

An outdoor gazebo with food markets, crafts and many other small businesses is the next idea for the Batcher Block, according to building owner Colleen Frost.

Frost presented her vision to the Staples Economic Development Authority at their Nov. 25 meeting.

“We need little villages built,” Frost told the SEDA board, “This will be a year-round travelers’ rest.”

The idea is to use the lot next to the Batcher Building and the lot that was recently formed by tearing down the Ron’s Musical building.

Frost said she is writing grants and collecting sponsors to put this plan into action and she asked for support from the SEDA.

The Staples Planning and



Next step for Batcher Block

Colleen Frost shows plans for her outdoor gazebo and market for the Batcher Block in Staples, handing materials to SEDA Board member Shane Tappe, left, Economic Development Director Lucas Wakefield, center, and Mayor Ron Murray. (Staples World photo by Mark Anderson)

Zoning Commission had also looked at the plan and determined it is in line with city zoning requirements.

SEDA exceeds some goals, comes up short on others

By Mark Anderson
Managing Editor

Housing and social vibrancy are ahead of predictions, while business development and marketing are still needed to meet the goals of the Staples Economic Development Authority (SEDA).

At the Nov. 25 SEDA

meeting, Staples Economic Development Director Lucas Wakefield graded each of the goals developed by the board in their strategic plan, last updated in 2023. He found that seven of the eleven goals have been met or exceeded, while four are not on track.

The strategic plan divided goals into three

broad categories, called pillars. The first pillar, a thriving economy, had a goal of developing five businesses along Highway 10, a goal that has been met. A goal of at least one new industrial business by 2028 has been met, with Stacker 3D Printing and the Minnesota

See **SEDA** on page 3a

Weather

2025

This Week's Forecast

	High	Low	Cond.
Dec. 3	11	-9	P. Cloudy
Dec. 4	16	13	Cloudy
Dec. 5	27	6	Snow
Dec. 6	11	-7	Cloudy
Dec. 7	8	-1	P. Cloudy
Dec. 8	23	14	Snow
Dec. 9	29	17	Cloudy

Last Year, 2024

	High	Low	Cond.
Dec. 3	24°	7	M. Cloudy
Dec. 4	33	12	Cloudy
Dec. 5	9	0	Sunny
Dec. 6	30	14	Cloudy
Dec. 7	39	30	M. Sunny
Dec. 8	38	31	Cloudy
Dec. 9	32	16	Cloudy

Average Temps:

H = 28° Low = 13°

Compiled by

Dale Hausmann,

WCCO's Staples area

Weatherwatcher

Public Notices

Villard 9A

City of Staples 9A

Thomastown filing 9A

Todd County Commissioners 9A

Obituaries

Eileen Avery

Robert Dvorak

Patrick Helling

Ethel Lovelace



Snowfall on Sixth Street

The first real snowfall of the season hit the area Thanksgiving weekend, making travel difficult for motorists and keeping plows busy. Sixth Street NE in Staples,

above, was quiet late afternoon Nov. 29. (Staples World photo by Dawn Timbs)



Tattoo shop raises \$5,000 at cancer benefit



Trantina, Brainerd. In center photo, Trantina receives a tattoo from Nordin. In lower photo, front from left, are cancer survivors Lorree Shereck and Barb Dvorak. In back are tattoo artists Arnie Dvorak (Barb's son) and Chris Nordin. (Submitted photos)



A recent benefit at One Life Tattoo Studio in Brainerd raised \$5,000 for the Zachary Johnson Kids With Cancer fund. Dozens of people in attendance, including several from the Staples area, received flash tattoos designed by the shop's artists Branden Noetzel (owner), Arnie Dvorak (2012 Staples-Motley High School grad) and Chris Nordin.

Pictured in top photo, from left: Barb (Ziegler) Dvorak, Pillager; Lorree Shereck, Motley; Kristi Kunz, Staples; Kelsey Hales, Motley, Chelsee Shereck, Motley; Sara

Dr. Don Hughes is newest family medicine physician at Lakewood Health System

Lakewood Health System, Staples, welcomes Dr. Don Hughes, family medicine physician, to its primary care team.

Originally from Lime Springs, Iowa, Dr. Hughes obtained his undergraduate degree from Cornell College and received his medical degree from the University of Iowa College of Medicine. He completed his residency at the University of Iowa Hospitals and Clinics. Dr. Hughes is a member of the American Academy of Family Physicians and the American Board of Family Medicine

As a family medicine physician, Dr. Hughes cares for patients of all ages. He has a



Dr. Don Hughes

special interest in teaching and mentoring students and resident physicians. As part of his practice, Dr. Hughes performs flight physicals for Federal Aviation Admin-

istration (FAA) pilots.

"I'm excited to join Lakewood because of their excellent reputation, quality care and amazing medical providers. I hope to add to and compliment all that, as well as get the opportunity to once again practice alongside my son (Dr. Chris Hughes)."

Dr. Hughes is married to his wife, Cathy, and they have three adult children and four grandchildren. They enjoy spending time with them and taking part in many outdoor activities.

To schedule an appointment with Dr. Hughes, please call 218-894-1515. He will be seeing patients in our Staples clinic.

CLC in running for Aspen Prize

The Aspen Institute named Central Lakes College as one of the 200 institutions eligible to compete for the \$1 million Aspen Prize for Community College Excellence, the nation's premier recognition of high achievement and performance among two-year colleges. The 200 colleges were selected based on their student outcomes data, including retention, completion, transfer, and bachelor's attainment rates. Started in 2010, this is the ninth cycle of the Aspen Prize.

"This recognition from the Aspen Institute underscores the power of community colleges to change lives," said Dr. Hara Charlier, President of CLC. "Our college's mission has always been to build futures for our students. This recognition reflects the dedication of our faculty and staff, who work every day to ensure that every student has the opportunity to succeed—in the classroom, in their career and in life."

Together, these 200 colleges represent the breadth and diversity of the community college sector. They are located in urban, rural, and suburban areas across the country and serve anywhere from a few hundred students to tens of thousands. Some of these colleges focus primarily on workforce programs, while others focus on transfer

and bachelor's attainment or a combination of the two.

"The Aspen Prize rewards colleges that achieve the kind of outcomes that actually matter to students—completing college degree programs that, in turn, lead to lifelong success," said Josh Wyner, executive director of the Aspen Institute College Excellence Program. "Aspen Prize winners offer a powerful message: Community colleges can deliver the kind of life-changing education that makes the American Dream real."

Community colleges educate nearly six million students. Yet community college student outcomes fall short in both the rate at which students graduate and the percentage of students who achieve success after graduation. The Aspen Prize process identifies and celebrates community colleges that demonstrate that achieving stronger outcomes is possible, providing a roadmap of effective practices and strategies for other colleges to follow.

The 200 eligible colleges have been invited to submit an application and participate in a rigorous review process that will culminate in the naming of the Aspen Prize winner in spring 2027. Over the coming 20 months, the colleges that apply for the Aspen Prize will be assessed based on

(1) student outcomes data, ranging from student transfer and completion rates to employment and wages after graduation and (2) whether they have engaged in scaled practices that led to high and improving student outcomes.

"Among these 200 colleges are some really special places that deliver strong and improving outcomes for students across the board," Wyner said. "Our job over the coming 20 months is to gather a lot more data and work with a deep bench of field experts to assess which of these 200 stand out so we can not only honor them with a monetary award, but drive attention to the most effective field practices that other colleges can replicate."

This is the first time since the inception of the Aspen Prize that 200 colleges are eligible to apply, growing from 150. This year, in addition to publicly available federal data, over 600 colleges authorized the use of National Student Clearinghouse data on their institution's degree completion, transfer, and bachelor's attainment rates for full- and part-time students.

The full list can be accessed on the Aspen Prize homepage.

To read more about the selection process, visit aspn.prize.

Motley area law enforcement

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

Nov. 24 - Motley Police received a report of property damage at 1180 Hwy 10 S., Motley.

Nov. 24 - Motley Police received a call from a Motley resident who reported being scammed out of \$12,000 from her bank account.

Nov. 24 - Motley Police issued Tristan Sampson, 22, of Motley a citation for not having his dog licensed

by the city.

Nov. 24 - Motley Police received a complaint from a resident at the 100 block of Eldredge St. E., Motley that his neighbor's dog repeatedly comes into his yard and defecates. Motley Police left a message with the dog owner that they need to keep the dog on their own property.

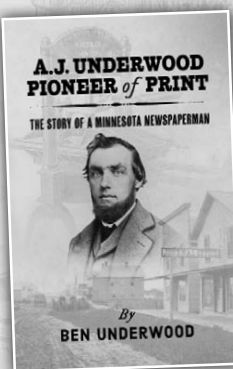
Nov. 23 - Motley Police received a report of garbage scattered all over the road at the 100 block of Mill Pond St., Motley. The public works department was notified and they said they would take care of it.

Nov. 21 - Motley Police and Morrison County deputies responded to a report of two semi trucks crashing into BRICKS Travel Center in Motley.

Nov. 24 - Morrison county deputies responded to a complaint of shooting at the 30000 block of White Pine Cir., Cushing.

Nov. 23 - Morrison County deputies assisted state patrol with a crash at Hwy 10 W and Hwy 210 in Motley.

Nov. 22 - A Morrison County deputy issued a speeding citation to Eric James Aguilera, 32.



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Staples expects water, sewer grants to come through

By Mark Anderson
Managing Editor

The Staples City Council is moving forward with the complete reconstruction of 4th Street NE, from the Staples Community Center to Warner Road. They set a public hearing for 7 p.m. on Tuesday, Dec. 23, to consider the project.

Staples Public Works Director Scott Grabe said he was informed that the city has met point requirements for water and sewer projects to get on the state funding list. The point system depends on age and condition of infrastructure. The city had qualified for the water grant for this project, but had not been approved for the wastewater portion because the new wastewater treatment facility in the city prevented more points from being given.

The council approved a feasibility report for the project and called for the public hearing.

During the meeting, some City Hall lights began flickering. A snow storm was blowing outside and council members asked Grabe if that was a concern. Grabe said the slight flickering is most likely caused by the transmission lines bringing electricity to the Staples power grid, so it was not something they could

work on locally. Grabe said during a snowstorm, the most common issue is the weight of the snow pushing a tree or branch onto an electrical line.

In other news, the council

- Updated personnel policies to align with the new Minnesota Paid Leave law.
- Approved data practice policies, one for members of the public and one for data subjects, with updates on data requests. The policies include how to make a data request and how the city will respond to the request.

- Approved accepting a grant from Sourcewell to develop a city-wide data inventory. The grant will help the city hire a summer intern to scan city records and put them into a searchable database. City Clerk Tara Greer is in charge of the project. Council member John Jewison said the time spent on this project will not be wasted because it will save time on the back end, with city employees able to find paperwork much quicker.

- Received report from Staples Public Works Commission, which showed the environmental footprint for the city's electric generation to be 43 percent carbon-free.

SEDA continued from page 1a

Housing booming in Staples, exceeding SEDA goals

Farmers Union meat processing facility coming to town, but Wakefield said that is kind of a mixed result, because the SEDA goal was more geared for a larger business with more employees.

The second pillar, residential growth, has met all goals, including having 30 new housing units and 15 new single-family homes by 2028. The goal of rehabilitating 15 homes was exceeded with the help of the Small Cities Development Program housing grant that helped fix up 31 homes. A goal of marketing to new and potential residents is not on track, said Wakefield, but he felt it was achievable by 2028.

The third pillar, social vibrancy, met goals of an enhanced trail system with new hiking trails at the Legacy Arboretum and more trails scheduled to be built in the coming spring at CLC's Ag and Energy Center farm. An unmet goal is developing a trail head for the Legacy Bike Trail. Progress is being made on more bike trails to Dower Lake and Lakewood Health System.

Marketing for the econ-

omy and for social vibrancy has not been met by the SEDA, but Wakefield said many of those goals are being undertaken by Discover Staples and the Staples Chamber of Commerce.

A goal of four new businesses downtown has technically been met, but Wakefield said this is not a successful category because "we've lost as many as we've gained," he said.

This was Wakefield's last SEDA meeting, as he announced he is stepping down from his position in December.

Ciy Administrator Jerel Nelsen thanked Wakefield for all the work he put into the community.

"He's been a breath of fresh air," said Nelsen, "he has been challenging the status quo and I think that's healthy for the community."

Wakefield said "Thanks for trusting me in this role, it's been a pleasure to work with the people of Staples I wish everyone here the best."

The city updated the economic development director's job description and are posting the job to find a replacement.

investigated a call about a verbal domestic incident.

Nov. 19, Staples Police investigated a suicide threat. Police spoke with the party and determined she was not suicidal.

Nov. 21, Staples Police investigated possible violation of a restraining order.

Nov. 21, Staples Police assisted a driver who struck a deer and drove into the ditch on Highway 210. Police gave driver and child a ride to town, where a friend can pick them up.

Nov. 21, at 7:29 p.m., Staples Police took multiple reports of a loud explosion sound around 6th Street SE. Police searched the area for possible source of the sound.

Nov. 24 - Staples Police are investigating a theft of multiple Milwaukee tools stolen from the work site at 901 Prairie Ave NW.

Staples Police report

Nov. 16, Staples Police were called to an accident on Highway 10 and 305th Ave., east of Staples. Three people with possible injuries, airbags deployed.

Nov. 16, Staples Police were notified of a suicide threat. Caller said a person was making threats on social media about wanting to set himself on fire rather than deal with family. Caller informed police that they contacted the person and everything is fine.

Nov. 17, at 7:23 p.m., Staples Police responded to Warner Road bridge, where a caller said there appears to be a fire on the river shoreline. A second caller said a fire was visible across the river. Staples Police assisted Staples Fire Department to control the fire. It appeared to have started from a campfire.

Nov. 18, Staples Police

75 YEARS Ago - 1950

- Dec. 7, 1950 - David Peterson, four-year-old son of Mr. and Mrs. Howard Peterson of 603 Sixth Street North, broke his left wrist in a fall to the ground while playing outside on Nov. 28.
- He was taken to the Staples Municipal hospital where the break was reduced, his wrist placed in a cast, and where he remained for a short time. He is now at home and progressing satisfactorily.

- Dec. 7, 1950 - Sam St. Pierre, son of Dr. and Mrs.

- O -
Compiled by
Dawn Timbs
- O -

E. A. St. Pierre of Staples, has written his parents that he is now in Korea, and has been there for quite some time. Sam is a member of the United States Navy, and has been in service for more than three years.

- Dec. 7, 1950 - The home of Mr. and Mrs. Joe Vuklich on Roosevelt Avenue in Staples, was damaged by fire Sunday afternoon while the family was away from home.

The exact cause of the fire is unknown, but it is believed to have started from an overheated stove.

The Staples fire department responded in record time, and but for their timely arrival, the entire structure would have been consumed by the blaze.

- Dec. 7, 1950 - Don't delay! If you want that wonderful Schlamp fur coat for Christmas don't miss the final showing in Staples this year of beautiful Schlamp Furs - Tuesday, Dec. 12 at Mae's.

You'll be proud of the Schlamp label in YOUR COAT...the label that stands for the finest in furs in the entire Northwest...and prices are low, for example: Northern Back Muskrat, \$295, tax included.

- Dec. 7, 1950 - Lost: Reward for return of pink earring lost Saturday. Phone 789.

- Dec. 7, 1950 - Motley Rockets opened their 15-game basketball schedule on Nov. 23, against a good Sebek team. Final score was 43 - 30.

On Friday night the Rockets again tasted defeat at the hands of Hewitt when they went down to the tune of 40 to 28. Richard Thomson led Motley with 15 counters with D. Frisk doing a good job on defensive work.

50 YEARS Ago - 1975

- Dec. 4, 1975 - Several local businesses are sponsoring Free Shows at the Staples Theatre. They include "The Ghost and Mr. Chicken" Dec. 6; "Angel in My Pocket" Dec. 13, and "Pinocchio in Outer Space" Dec. 20. All shows rated G.

- Dec. 4, 1975 - The Motley town basketball team, playing this year for the Ten-Hi Liquor Store, has three consecutive victories under their belts. The season opener for the Staples Area League was played at Deer Creek, and the second game at Browerville, and the third game at home with Clarissa.

- John Beckner and Kevin Swecker led the team to a 54-52 victory over Rod's Liquor with 17 points



Mystery photo

Hello readers. This week's archive photo is from 1997. 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

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.

apiece. Leon Trout was the high scorer in the Clarissa game with 34 points. The game which ended in a 96-65 victory also saw action by the rest of the players: Steve Zetah, Mark Bettis, Phil Trout, Dave Holmberg, Marlin Frisk and John Bishop.

- Dec. 4, 1975 - The Staples "A" and "B" Wrestling squads both captured championships at the second annual Staples Jaycee Invitational Mat Tourney held in Staples Auditorium last Friday and Saturday.

Coach Don Dravis' Varsity wrestlers showed their might as they successfully defended their title by scoring 189 points and came through with seven individual champions.

The "B" team event of the tournament was conducted in dual meet fashion and Coach Leifermann's crew defeated Underwood, Parkers Prairie and Benson for their championship.

- Dec. 4, 1975 - The Staples Arts Council held their annual election at a meeting last week.

Mrs. Sally Gorton was elected chairperson of the council for the coming year, succeeding Dick Donat.

Dr. Rick Weber is vice-chairperson, with Mrs. Marian Stone as secretary and Mrs. Stan Carlson as treasurer. Mark Evans and Homer Clark were elected to three year terms on the Board of Directors.

Mrs. Linda Thompson and Mike Blessing also serve on the Board of Directors, along with past chairperson, Richard Donat.

- Dec. 4, 1975 - The Staples World received the coveted "Blue Ribbon" designation by the National Editorial Foundation this week for the second consecutive year.

25 YEARS Ago - 2000

- Dec. 7, 2000 - Texas prison authorities were scheduled to execute convicted killer Daniel Hittle late Wednesday.

Hittle, 50, was expected to be the 39th murderer executed in Texas this year.

Hittle, formerly of Motley and Staples, killed a police officer and four other people in a November, 1989,

shooting spree in a Dallas suburb.

Prior to that, he had killed his mother and father in a 1973 killing at their farm home north of Motley.

Sentenced to life imprisonment, he served about 11-1/2 years and was on parole in Texas at the time of the 1989 murders.

He was convicted for the death of Police Officer Gerald Walker, 48, a 17-year veteran of the Garland, Texas police force.

- Dec. 7, 2000 - The Staples Motley girls grabbed a big lead early and cruised to a 58-28 win Friday night over Swanville to open the 2000 - 2001 girls basketball season.

Against Swanville, the girls got even scoring with Laura Warn and Michelle Honek each getting 11 points and Emily Waldahl adding 10 points.

- Dec. 7, 2000 - A 7-point game at halftime quickly turned into a rout as the Staples Motley Cards claimed a 65-35 victory over Perham Tuesday night in the first game of the cage season for the Staples Motley boys.

Senior Brad Moore, getting his first varsity start,

scored 13 points to lead the Cardinal scoring. Jeff Brever, the only other senior on the squad, added 12 and some of the niftiest ball handling seen since last season. Danny Lund added 10.

- Dec. 7, 2000 - Lyndsay Hoemberg, daughter of Mark and Sara Hoemberg of Staples, is the recipient of the first Coca-Cola First Generation Scholarship Award. Hoemberg is one of only 15 students in Minnesota selected for the award that is funded by The Coca-Cola Foundation and Minnesota Private College Fund.

Hoemberg, a first year biology major at the College of Saint Benedict, received the \$5,000 four-year renewable scholarship for demonstrating high academic standing and community involvement.

10 YEARS Ago - 2015

- Dec. 3, 2015 - Dr. Christine Albrecht, family practice physician at Lakewood Health System in Staples, recently received the Rural Physician Associate Program's (RPAP) Preceptor Achievement Award.



Mystery solved

Last week's mystery photo published in the Nov. 15, 1984 edition of the Staples World featured Andrea Schimpp and Rick Anderson, Staples High School seniors, practicing their "royale aires" in preparation for the SHS Madrigal Dinners the first weekend in December. After a brief absence, the Madrigals, under the direction of Stan Carlson, returned that year.

Carmen Schimpp of Staples recognized her daughter, Andrea, and Rick Anderson. She has fond memories of the Madrigal dinners, Carmen said.

Anderson honored by MFU

From Minnesota Farmers Union

Minnesota Farmers Union (MFU) honored Carol Anderson with the Service to Rural Communities award during a Nov. 22 awards program.

Anderson has been the executive director of Community Development of Morrison County for more than 30 years. She is chair of the MFU Executive Committee. Anderson serves on the Rural Finance Authority Board and the Governor's Workforce Development Board. She and her husband, Steve, farm in Benton County.

"Carol grew up in a Farmers Union family and cares deeply about rural Minnesota," said MFU President Gary Wertish. "In her role with Community Development of Morrison County, she has worked to attract and retain employers in rural Minnesota and to develop systems to support employees. She has been instrumental in the Minnesota Farmers Union work to rebuild local meat processing infrastructure, including development of Farmers Processing + Meats in Staples. She is an invaluable member of our state executive committee, and I value her counsel."

"I am very honored to

receive this award from Minnesota Farmers Union," Anderson said. "It's so rewarding for me to bring the skills I have to Farmers Union to build upon those who came before me in the organization. Together

we are taking Minnesota Farmers Union to the next level."

The 84th annual Minnesota Farmers Union State Convention was Nov. 21-23 in Minneapolis.



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Happenings in Staples

By Ron Murray
Staples Mayor

Hello everyone and welcome to winter: It has been a long time since I last wrote an update. A lot has happened and so much to be thankful for in Staples.

Our trails committee was present at the CLC heavy equipment class graduation on Wednesday 11/26 and presented the class with a plaque of appreciation for the work they did on the legacy arboretum trail off airport road. That was a great time. The class is also planning on laying the ground work next summer on another connecting walking trail at the Ag center and legacy gardens that will add to the current one.

As you read this, the Pine Grove Park Christmas light display is going on and I encourage everyone to go out and drive thru this spectacular event. A great deal of work goes into that project each year from engaged local citizens. The 2nd annual Christmas light parade also was a success. The committee working on the Centennial Performing arts auditorium renovation project, consisting of local engaged citizens, is moving along on plans. Construction happening in town, some outside and some inside but next spring you will see some activity up in the north end of town in the Valley View development with 14 twin homes being constructed and a waiting list of potential people to move in. Also next spring, The Highway 10 corridor in Staples is taking on a new look again after the removal of two homes and the upcoming construction of the new MMFCU building. There has been discussion at the city council about the now vacant former Taylor funeral home building. It is in our back yard and sits on a prominent corner. No final decisions have been made.

Our local community center is moving forward with some big improvements that will give the center a new facelift in the locker rooms and showers. We now have a new boiler for the pool and center which gives us a much better and reliable system. The center is busy with pickle ball players and volleyball teams. The outside facelift will occur next summer with new handicapped entrance. And to top it all off, we are anticipating replacing all the fitness exercise equipment along with the other improvements. Very exciting.

Over the summer there was a great turn out for the 4th of July event at the Veterans Park with over 250 in attendance. The railroad days was another success and Music in the Park had a great line up of entertainment. That is even planned go longer next year.

Another very cool happening occurred when I was driving by the Timberlake hotel, outside was this big coach bus with “world ballet” on the outside. I stopped and visited

with the people who were world renowned ballet Performance Company that was staying in Staples but performing in Brainerd. They all spoke Russian and so I was not making any headway until one gal, the only gal, spoke English and we had a lovely conversation about what they do annually. Also in late summer, we got new banners hung on the light poles on Hwy 10. That was a nice addition to the highway and many thanks to the city crew and the MN DOT for assisting in getting them up safely.

We are moving forward with the anticipated and delayed 4th street project. It is expected to begin around the time school gets out and completed before school starts in the fall. The project details and particulars are now in action and more should be coming out after the first of the year on specific timelines so I will be sure to keep you updated.

Our fall sports again did very well. Ronnie Noska made it to state tennis tournament again and Audrey Brownell excelled in cross country with state medalist honors. The football team made it deep into playoffs again as well. Colbe Tappe made the all-star team as well. Much to be proud of.

Our Thanksgiving holiday meal event was a success again as well. Volunteers and those enjoying the meal demonstrated smiles all around. On November 19, the area LAPS had an open house to give tours and show the new addition of an ultrasound machine to be used with expectant mothers. We have a new business in town, the Hive House, a women’s sober living home in Staples. Wishing them well in their pursuit of helping women. We lost an old building but gained some nice green space downtown and plans for renovating the space into a very friendly and inviting gazebo and vendor space for attraction of people to stop in Staples.

On a sad note, we received the resignation letter from our Economic development director Lucas Wakefield. We appreciate all his hard work and input towards a better Staples. We wish him and his wife Anna all the best.

As you can read, we have a lot of things going on that would not happen if we did not have citizens and local people who feel passionate about making Staples a better place and if any of this sounds interesting you could consider joining in on the fun. Our community has very active and involved service organizations that do a great deal for Staples. As a last note, I was able to spend a few hours in the plow truck on the night of our first big snow here in town and I gained even more respect for our crew. We get the most feedback about snow plowing.... Please make it respectful and a few compliments always helps. Until next time, take care and have a blessed advent and Christmas season.

Quote of the week

“When the winds of change blow, some build walls, others build windmills.”
— Chinese proverb

Indoor markets helping small towns thrive

Liz Stewart
Center for Rural Affairs

Nebraska native Lisa Anderson spent much of her adult life living in Arizona before returning to her home state. Unfortunate circumstances brought her back, but fondness, familiarity of home, and the opportunity to contribute to her community sparked her desire to stay.

While Lisa was helping care for her ill mother, her parents’ commercial garden sat untouched. After her mom died, Lisa wanted to start gardening with her dad as a way to share his passion for planting and keep her mother’s memory alive.

Lisa’s temporary visit turned into a permanent stay in her hometown of Lyons, and she began taking produce from the family garden to sell at seasonal farmers markets. Last year, she opened her own business in Lyons, Nebraska in an effort to provide local representation of growers and makers.

Inspired by her friend Danelle Myer, who owns and operates One Farm Market in Logan, Iowa, Lisa put a twist on the idea of an indoor farmers market and opened Logan Valley Market in October, 2024.

The market hosts 12 to 15 vendors who sell their products in-store each Wednesday through Sunday.

With her business’s one-year anniversary coming up, Lisa is planning additional ways to highlight different vendors, includ-

ing Valley to Valley Market Days, a monthly showcase market within Logan Valley Market. This showcase will take place on one Sunday or Saturday per month. Visitors can reach out to Lisa at loganvalleymarket@gmail.com before planning their trip.

“I want to handpick vendors and new makers to really focus on bringing their products to light,” Lisa said. “This monthly market will be an opportunity to give exposure to makers in the area who may not have anywhere else to go to sell their goods.”

To successfully launch this new idea, Lisa has been working with the Center for Rural Affairs. Angelyn Wang, local foods associate with the Center, is helping her with vendor education and training.

“Working with Lisa this season has been incredibly inspiring,” said Angelyn. “So much is ready and waiting to happen in this part of the state and Lisa is just beginning to tap into the local farmers, food producers and craftspeople who are looking for access to markets and special events. I’m so excited about the work she has put into this market, and I look forward to seeing it flourish in the coming seasons.”

Both the monthly and weekly markets will feature vendors who sell cottage food items, jellies, jams, handcrafted stone and resin jewelry, crocheted items, soaps, lotions, candles, produce from area farms, and more.

Lisa also hopes to highlight legacy farms at her market. Coming from a long line of area gardeners and farmers, she values the history of the region and the people who helped make it what it is today.

“I love the small town feeling of going to a coffee shop and seeing local farmers, those legacies, visiting with each other, having known each other for so long,” Lisa said. “Those relationships started with their dad’s dads, and there’s something so enriching about being part of that and seeing all these meaningful generational relationships.”

Whatever shape the market takes, Lisa is committed to sharing and honoring the stories of local legacy farms.

“The bond that keeps rural Americans together is the history of being neighbors,” said Lisa. “Political divides, religious differences, none of that matters. In the city, you don’t know your neighbors, but here you do. Families live in the same place for 80 years or more; that’s a commitment to our livelihood.”

Lisa hopes her dedication to the area’s history, featuring familial tie-ins at her store will get customers excited about shopping there and learning about the founders of the region.

“I just want to show how grateful I am for the community we have here and share their stories,” Lisa said. “Those small town connections are important. I hope to keep building on that within the community.”

Advocating for rail passengers

By Jim Mathews
President & CEO
Rail Passengers Association

Passenger rail advocates have a lot to be proud of in 2025. A few highlights of success:

- Filed a brief to the Surface Transportation Board – the Federal economic regulator of railroads – arguing that any decision in its Union Pacific proceeding that would weaken passenger priority over freight would thwart the will of dozens of Congresses dating back half a century. The brief, filed at the invitation of the STB as a “non-party reply” to the briefs of the parties in the two-year-old late-trains case between Union Pacific and Amtrak over chronic Sunset Limited delays, your Association asked the Board to hold UP accountable for consistently and repeatedly violating

Amtrak’s 52-year-old legal right to priority over freight traffic.

- Joined with 22 state and regional rail organizations to defend the Federal Railroad Administration from another round of firings that would further delay work on several rail projects of national significance, threatening the 2025 construction season at a time of increased economic fragility in the U.S.
- Hit back against the FRA’s decision to disband its working group on Confidential Close Call Reporting Systems (C3RS), a working group that we were a part of, appearing in multiple national media outlets to argue that the move represented a big step backwards for rail safety.
- Submitted its surface transportation reauthorization legislative priorities to the House Transportation & Infrastructure Subcommit-

tee on Railroads, Pipelines, and Hazardous Materials. The document outlined a slate of policies to extend current investment levels in rail and expand America’s fleet of modern equipment.

- Hit back against the U.S. DOT’s decision to dissolve the Rail Safety Advisory Committee (RSAC), arguing that the committee plays an essential role in bringing rail industry voices representing operators, workers, passengers and shippers into a single room, and it is capable of producing valuable work.

For 58 years, we’ve been telling the story of passenger rail...mobilizing a grassroots movement to improve and expand intercity and regional passenger trains and transit. Our work...your work...is important. Frequent, reliable trains make communities wealthier, safer, more accessible, and more productive.

University of Minnesota

Construction makes up one in every 20 jobs in Minnesota. Peter Hilger, who leads the construction management program in the College of Continuing and Professional Studies, answers questions about how the construction industry is changing and how the University of Minnesota is helping meet workforce needs.

Q: How is the construction industry changing across Minnesota?

Hilger: If it is possible to have both feet on the gas and hovering closely over the brake at the same time, that would best describe the current construction industry climate. The demand for labor stemming from the COVID crisis remains high and has not reached pre-pandemic lev-

els in certain sectors. Coupled with the overall labor shortage, immigration concerns have driven away a significant section of the construction labor pool. Despite this, Minnesota has a strong labor market. The Minnesota Department of Employment and Economic Development projects a 7.6% labor growth rate for the industry through 2032, compared to only 4.6% for all other industries. The labor shortage has also boosted wages to an average of \$85,000 in 2024, which is about 16% higher than in other industry sectors in Minnesota.

That said, the fear of slipping into a recession has firms worried about their backlog. Uncertainty in interest rates, immigration policy, market stability, and reliable government data keep the industry’s foot ready to depress the brake.

Q: Where do you see the most exciting career opportunities emerging in construction?

Hilger: Innovation. It’s just a matter of time. Drones and robots are increasingly common in the community for deliveries, at airports and even on construction sites. And the applications of artificial intelligence are just now barely touching the industry in terms of usable applications. The industry needs smart people to design and implement these solutions, as it has historically lagged behind other industries in technological innovation.

Q: Does Minnesota have the workforce to meet modern construction needs?

Hilger: No, construction still suffers from the “dirty jobs” syndrome, and it takes a special person to want to work in the field. Despite rising pay, which is higher on average than in all other industry sectors measured, the industry still struggles to meet demand. The labor shortage forces

construction costs upward, too, leading to lengthy and delayed schedules. In my view, Minnesota has a very strong and reliable workforce, thanks in large part to union training facilities and robust technical training programs. We just need more to fulfill demand.

Q: What are the biggest challenges impacting the industry today?

Hilger: Labor and market uncertainty. What is on economists’ minds, and my mind as an educator, is revisiting a 2008 Great Recession scenario that is largely a manufactured outcome. When you have an economy that wildly changes the rules of engagement—from cancelling large infrastructure or energy projects midstream to the wide swings in tariffs—planning becomes extremely difficult. We need to get back to a steady state, where project planning can account for less uncertainty in future market supply, demand, and pricing.

Q: How does your work at the University of Minnesota help support our state’s construction economy?

Hilger: I tell anyone who asks that I am in the workforce development business, with a side hustle in construction management training—and now, a new Real Estate minor and certificate program. For over 15 years, since the Great Recession, we have been able to place nearly 100% of our students into industry positions upon graduation. The really interesting part is that the jobs are so varied across the entire industry. It is really easy to find a personal niche, whether in the field or in an office, whether for a construction company, a subcontractor or supplier, as an owner’s representative, or even into parallel sectors like software development tied to industry needs. As boomers retire, we are developing their replacements.

StaplesWorld

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

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Breast milk donor site opens at Longbella Drug by Lakewood - Plaza location

Longbella Drug by Lakewood announces its Plaza location (1210 US Hwy. 10 – Staples) is now a breast milk donation site in partnership with the Minnesota Milk Bank for Babies.

The new drop-off donor site provides a local, convenient location for approved breast milk donors to contribute life-saving nourishment for medically fragile infants across Minnesota and the Upper Midwest.

“Having a milk depot right here in Staples makes it easier than ever for families to give back in such a meaningful way,” said Nan Hanson, Lakewood Health System OB manager. “It’s not just for Lakewood patients; any approved donor in the area can drop off their frozen milk here.”

Longbella Drug by Lakewood was chosen for its central location, extended hours and ability to safely store frozen milk until it is transported to the Minnesota Milk Bank for Babies in Roseville. Once it reaches its destination in Roseville, all donated milk is carefully tested, pasteurized and distributed to hospitals and families in need.

“We’re honored to be part of something that helps so many,” said Tanner Roberts, PharmD, retail pharmacy operations manager for Longbella Drug by Lakewood. “It’s rewarding to know that by providing this service locally, we’re helping infants in NICUs across Minnesota get the best possible start.”

This new depot also offers Lakewood families an opportunity to give back once they’ve established their own milk supply.

“For moms who have experienced a strong milk supply or even overcome challenges of preterm delivery, donating milk can be a way to pay it forward,” said Amy Monson, Obstetrics RN and certified lac-



Happy to serve

Pictured: Tanner Roberts, Longbella Drug by Lakewood manager, with Nan Hanson, Lakewood OB manager, and Amy Monson, Lakewood OB RN and certified lactation consultant.

tation consultant at Lakewood. “This is another way our patients can help other families.”

Looking ahead, Lakewood hopes to expand its involvement with the Minnesota Milk Bank for Babies and eventually offer additional support programs for families who need donor milk locally. “This is just the first step,” Hanson said. “Our end goal is that every baby who needs milk has access to it, close to home.”

To become a milk donor, complete the form at www.mnmilkbank.org/donate-milk. After approval, donors must schedule a time to drop off their labeled, frozen milk at the depot site during business hours.

For more information about Lakewood’s new milk depot or to schedule a drop off time, contact Lakewood’s lactation department at 218-894-8846.



MMFCU gets input on new building

MidMinnesota Federal Credit Union held an open house on Nov. 19 to talk about their new building being planned for Highway 10 and to get input from the public about what works well at their current building. They also asked about what people would like to see at the new building. Branch Manager Terri Kobliska said the credit union was built in the current

location because that was where the re-routing of Highway 10 was being planned at that time. The highway took a different route instead and they are going back onto the highway with their new plans. Construction is expected to start in the spring. (Staples World photos by Mark Anderson)



MMFCU employees at open house

MidMinnesota Federal Credit Union employees at the open house included, from left, Cody Einerson, Terri Kobliska, Loree Shereck, Jenny Hanes, Lexi Pa-

tynski, Shelby Barrett, Shellie Hobson, Tom Kuppick, Matt Ratchenski and Mary Greenwaldt.



Thankful to serve

A number of community members (including a few families) enjoyed serving at the free Thanksgiving dinner offered at Timbers Event Center in Staples Nov. 27. The traditional holiday meal was sponsored by CARE Ministry and Discover Staples, with dozens of people served at two different seatings. Members of the Odden family of Staples were among the roster of Thanksgiving volunteers. Pictured from right are Kathy Odden, her son-in-law Blaine Quast, daughter Kyra (Odden) Quast, and grandson Keller Anderson. “Our family appreciated the experience, which was enjoyable and gratifying,” Kathy Odden shared. (Submitted photo)

Mark Your Calendar

Dec. 4

‘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>

Dec. 5 - 7

LIGHTS IN THE PINES will be held at Pine Grove Park in Staples Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays, 5 - 8 p.m., through December. Free will donation.

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.

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

Dec. 9

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.

Marlene's 3-Day Annual Christmas Sale
Christmas Trees and Gift Ideas!

Something to “spruce” up your home before, during and after the Holidays! Variety of Decorative Styles... and other fun, misc. items!

Weds., Dec. 10, 11 a.m.-6 p.m.
Thurs., CLOSED
Fri., Dec. 12, 10 a.m.-6 p.m.
Sat., Dec. 13, 9 a.m.-4 p.m.
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At Junction of Hwy 10 & 210 (stoplights), go North 11 blks., East side of street.
Look for welcome signs!

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Walking Tacos

12 noon - 3 p.m.

Saturday, Dec. 6

St. John's Lutheran Church, Motley
497 3rd Ave. S

Lunch with Santa

Get Your Picture taken with Santa!

Ho, Ho, Ho!

Lunch with Santa event will be held at St. John's Lutheran Church from noon to 3 p.m. Pictures can be taken with Santa.

Hosted by Motley Lions Club

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4 Butcher's Cut Top Sirloins (5 oz.)
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Obituaries

Robert Dvorak

Robert Dvorak, 88, of Clarissa, passed away November 20,2025 at the Wadena Hospital.

A memorial service will be held December 5 at the Iten Funeral Home in Browerville at 2:00 p.m. Visitation will be held one hour prior to the service at the funeral home.

Arrangements are with the Iten Funeral Home of Browerville.

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Eileen Avery

With full hearts and deep gratitude for her long and beautiful life, the family of Eileen May (Roscoe) Avery, Little Falls, announces her peaceful passing on November 23, 2025, at the age of 94.

Eileen was a woman of remarkable grace, kindness and quiet strength - qualities that shaped every chapter of her life and touched everyone who had the privilege of knowing her.

A Mass of Christian Burial was held November 29, at Sacred Heart Church in Staples.

Born to Joseph and



Blanche Roscoe in 1931, Eileen grew up in a close-knit family that instilled

her values of loyalty, compassion and hard work. These values remained the foundation of her life and guided the way she treated others with gentleness, understanding and unwavering love.

Eileen possessed a rare ability: she listened. She truly heard people, especially her four children. Her kitchen table, living room and even her phone line were often places where worries were lifted, joys were shared and hearts were steadied. Her children knew she was their safe

place, their constant and their fiercest advocate.

She had an eye for beauty and style in her home, wardrobe and in the world around her. Eileen carried herself with elegance and quiet grace, a combination that made her presence comforting and inspiring.

A gifted musician, Eileen was an accomplished saxophone soloist who shared her love of music with her husband and children. She also had a special love for the piano - often sitting down to play while others gathered around to sing. Those moments of shared music filled her home with joy, harmony and a sense of togetherness that her family will always cherish.

In 1951, Eileen married Tom Avery, beginning a partnership of love, humor and devotion. Their marriage was a testament to commitment - two people building a life side by side, balancing strength with tenderness and facing challenges with unity and grace. Together, they created a family rooted in loyalty, compassion and connection.

Her greatest joy came from being a mother and grandmother. She poured her heart into her family, guiding them with strength, patience, celebrating their achievements and offering comfort in difficult times.

Eileen is survived by three daughters, Deb (Howard) Oslund, Sue (Leo) Flosi and Mary (Jim) Wiczek; nine grandchildren and 22 great-grandchildren. Her love, strength and gentle presence will live on through each of them.

She is preceded in death by her parents; one brother, Gary (Shirl) Roscoe; one sister, Norma (Merle) Montgomery; one son, Keith (Zelda) Avery and one great-grandson, Martin Strom.

Eileen leaves behind a legacy of love, beauty and quiet grace - one that will continue to resonate in the hearts of all who knew her.

Arrangements were by the Brenny Family Funeral Chapel, Staples.



Ethel Lovelace

In loving memory of Ethel Lovelace, 85, formerly of Motley, who entered into rest November 20, 2025 in Browerville.

A Celebration of Life will be held Tuesday, Dec. 9 at the Motley Free Methodist Church with Pastor Jim Johnson officiating.

Ethel (Terry) was born February 4, 1940, the youngest daughter of Alexander and Martha Estelle (Frazier) Rencountre at Ft. Thompson, South Dakota.

Terry was a proud member of the Lower Brule Sioux Tribe. She was raised in South Dakota and attended Rapid City schools. She married Ron Lovelace on May 31, 1958 in Tupelo, Mississippi. They had three children, Robert, Lorretta and Michael. Ron was in the Air Force when they met and their children were born while he was an active member of the military.

Terry and Ron lived in several states before returning to the family farm near Browerville. Wherever they lived Terry adapted and cared for her family. They stayed on the farm from 1965 to 1975. Terry taught herself how to sew, garden and canned much of the produce from the garden. She had a busy life on the farm, helping with re-modeling the barn into a grade “A” dairy and cleaning the milking equipment daily. During haying season her job was driving the tractor pulling the hay bailer. She would do whatever was needed for the farm, all the while keeping her family fed.

In 1975 they sold the farm and purchased a semi truck becoming over-the-road truck drivers. They continued trucking for 38 years, retiring in 2013. Terry loved to tell stories of their many adventures throughout the United States. They were together for 61 years when Ron passed in 2019. Theirs was a love story. Terry missed Ron every moment since his passing; it was like there was no Terry without Ron. Now, they are together again.

Ethel (Terry) is survived by one daughter, Lorretta (Kevin) Ely of Stratton, NE; three younger sisters, Jeanne (Tom) Grissom of Rapid City, SD, Linda (Shannon) Horton of Salina, OK and Karen (Bob) Guess of Demorest, GA; six grandchildren; nine great-grandchildren and many nieces and nephews scattered across the USA.

Ethel was preceded in death by two beloved sons, Robert and Michael Lovelace; parents; three brothers and three sisters.

In lieu of flower, consider donating to the local “Meals On Wheels”.

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Patrick Helling

Patrick Stephen Helling, 41, of Fergus Falls passed away November 17, 2025 at Sanford Medical Center in Fargo.

A Celebration of Life will be held Friday, Dec. 5 from 1 to 3 p.m. at Bethel Lutheran Church, 702 W. Alcott Ave., Fergus Falls.

Patrick was born November 13, 1984 to Craig and Vicki Helling in Fosston.

He was a 2003 graduate of Staples Motley High School.

He is survived by his wife, Amy; one son, Gradie; parents; two sisters, Mia Helling and Kylee Jordahl and one brother, Tyler.

Arrangements provided by Olson Funeral and Cremation in Fergus Falls.

w50p A00006B2025DC03

Hello World

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Staples Area Church Directory

Staples Staples Alliance 1512 8th St. NE, Staples.....218-894-2891 Jonny Olson, Associate Pastor Sunday Worship.....9:30 a.m. Sunday School.....11:00 a.m. WEDNESDAY AWANA.....6:00 p.m. Assembly of God 914 3rd Ave. NE, Staples.....218-894-1081 Pastor Roy Miles Small Groups (Bible classes for all ages).....9:30 a.m. Morning Worship Service.....10:30 a.m. Children's Church (Kids start in main worship service).....11 a.m. Prayer Meeting.....5 p.m. WEDNESDAY Sonlight (kids ages 4 yrs.-6th grade).....After school to 5:30 p.m. Youth Group (Teens, 7th-12th grade).....After school to 5:30 p.m. Church of Christ 27343 490th St., Staples.....218-894-2609 Pastor Barry Klein Facebook Live Bible School (youth and adult).....9:30 a.m. Sunday Worship.....10:30 a.m. WEDNESDAY: Adult Bible Study.....6:30 p.m. Faith Lutheran 430 12th Street. NE., Staples.....218-894-1546 Pastor Carl Larson Sunday Worship Service.....9:00 a.m. Sunday School and Coffee Fellowship.....10:05 a.m. Sacred Heart Catholic Church 310 4th St. NE, Staples.....218-894-2296 info@marysacc.org Rev. JC Duncan, 218-632-7314 Rev. Rick Aubol, 218-632-7310 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 Worship.....9:30 am. Sabbath School.....10:45 a.m. Thomastown Covenant 15940 251st Ave., Staples.....218-894-3923 Pastor Scott Jorgenson Sunday Worship.....10:30 a.m. WEDNESDAY NIGHT YOUTH.....6:30 p.m. Trinity Lutheran 1000 4th St., NE, Staples.....218-894-2372 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, Staples.....218-894-2248 Sunday Worship.....10:30 a.m. (Nursery Available for Sunday Worship)	Aldrich Balsamund Lutheran 19550 490th Street, Aldrich Janet Eckman SMA.....218-837-5831 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. Communion.....1st and 2nd Sunday of each month Lincoln Evangelical Free 1354 320th Street, Cushing, MN 56443 Phone: 218- 575-2449 www.lincolnefree.org Facebook Lincoln E Free Office Hours: Tues. - Thurs., 9 a.m. - 12 p.m. Senior Pastor: Don Reigstad SUNDAY Church Worship Gathering.....10:00 a.m. YouTube Channel.....10:00 a.m. Cushing Baptist 26298 Bear Rd., Cushing Pastor Dan Holmes.....320-749-2583 Sunday School.....9:30 a.m. Worship.....10:30 a.m. WEDNESDAY Bible study.....7:30 p.m. Leader Swan Valley Lutheran Leader.....218-397-2470 Sandy Knight, Synodically Authorized Minister of Word and Sacrament Sunday Worship January - July.....9 a.m. January - January.....11 a.m. Maple Hill Lutheran Sandy Knight, Synodically Authorized Minister of Word and Sacrament Leader.....218-397-2470 (Rural Pine River) Worship and Sunday School.....9:00 a.m. Motley Motley Free Methodist 33 Wellwood St. E Motley 56466.....218-352-6888 Jim Johnson, Senior Pastor Casey Reynolds, Assistant Pastor Sunday Worship.....9:00 and 10:30 a.m. facebook live.....9 a.m. WEDNESDAY AWANA.....4:00-5:30 p.m. Youth Group.....6:00-8:00 p.m. St. John's Lutheran 497 3rd Ave. S, Motley.....218-352-6399 Pastor Vicar Paul Koehler Sunday School and Bible Class.....8:30 a.m. Sunday Worship.....9:30 a.m. St. Michael Catholic Church 1st St. and Birch, Motley.....218-894-2296 info@marysacc.org Fr. Aaron Kuhn Fr. Gabriel Walz MASS: Saturday.....4:00 p.m.	St. Michael 280 1st Ave S, Motley.....218-894-2296 Rev. JC Duncan, 218-632-7314 Rev. Rick Aubol, 218-632-7310 Rev. Greg Sauer, 218-632-7319 Sunday.....10:30 a.m. (May - Nov.) Saturday.....4:00 p.m. (Dec - April) United Methodist 847 3rd Ave. S. Lane, Motley.....218-352-6466 Pastor Greg Leslie www.motleyumc.net Sunday Worship Service.....10:00 a.m. Monday AA meeting.....8:00 p.m. Oylen Oylen Alliance City. Rds. 7 and 9, Oylen 218-472-3440 or 218-472-3316 Pastor Neal Malkore Sunday School.....10:00 a.m. Sunday Worship.....11:00 a.m. Pillager First Lutheran Church Pastor Mathew Sundquist 717 River Street S, Pillager, MN 218-746-3775 Sunday Worship.....9:30 a.m. Sunday School, 2nd and 4th Sundays.....8:30 a.m. Casino Assembly of God Pastor Dan Johnson N. of Motley, Hwy. 64, E. on Cty 34 to Cty. 104. 218-746-3839 Phone.....218-746-3839 Sunday School.....9:30 a.m. Worship.....10:30 a.m. Sunday Worship.....7:00 p.m. WEDNESDAY.....7:00 p.m. First Baptist 903 River Street South, Pillager Pastor Jake Anderson 218-746-3768 curious@fbcpillager.com Worship Gathering.....10:00 a.m. Connection Point.....9:30 a.m. Hewitt Church of the Nazarene 114 Front Street, P.O. Box 146 Hewitt, MN 218-924-2028 Jim and Linda McGaffey, Pastor Sunday School.....9:30 a.m. Sunday Worship.....10:45 a.m. WEDNESDAY PRAYER.....7:00 p.m. Trinity Lutheran Church (LCMS) 524 Front Street, PO Box 116, Hewitt, MN Pastor Robin Fish Sunday Worship.....10:30 a.m. 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.	Family Life Church 402 NE Clark Drive, Verndale 218-445-5568 VerndaleFLC@gmail.com Pastor Amos Self.....218-371-7189 Tahna Rurup, Connections & Media Pastor Tillman Phagan, Kid's & Food Shelf Pastor Ryan Wolfenden, Youth Pastor SUNDAY Youth Prayer.....9:20 a.m. Worship Service.....10:00 a.m. Prayer Meeting.....5 p.m. WEDNESDAY Life Groups.....6:30 p.m. Hope Chapel Alliance 18126 County Road 7, Verndale 218-445-5643 or 218-472-3316 Pastor Neal Malkore Sunday Worship.....9:00 a.m. Sunday School.....10:30 a.m. WEDNESDAY Family Night.....5:30 p.m. Immanuel Lutheran Church of Bartlett Township (LCMS) 17097 460th St., PO Box 37, Verndale Pastor Robin Fish Sunday Worship.....9:00 a.m. WEDNESDAY Bible Study.....6:30 p.m. Verndale United Methodist 10 3rd Ave. SW, Verndale 218-445-5108 Pastor Jill Pawlowski Sunday Worship.....9:00 a.m. Central Community Church 5 miles N on Cty Rd 26 (Nimrod tar) Pastor James Middendorf, 320-260-4952 Sunday Service.....9:00 a.m. Bible Study.....10:30 a.m. St. Frederick Catholic Church 20 Mason Avenue NW Verndale.....218-894-2296 info@marysacc.org Rev. JC Duncan, 218-632-7314 Rev. Rick Aubol, 218-632-7310 Rev. Greg Sauer, 218-632-7319 MASS: Saturday.....6:00 p.m. St. Hubert Catholic Church Bluegrass.....218-894-2296 info@marysacc.org Rev. JC Duncan, 218-632-7314 Rev. Rick Aubol, 218-632-7310 Father Greg Sauer, 218-632-7319 Sunday Service.....10:00 a.m. (Dec - April) Saturday.....4:00 p.m. (May - Nov.) 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 Rev. Rick Aubol, 218-632-7310 Father Greg Sauer, 218-632-7319 Mass: Sunday.....10 a.m.
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“The Big Three”

Pastor Barry Klein, Staples Church of Christ

We experience them in our local church worship services. We experience them in our Tuesday Lakewood Care Center, Pines and Manor services. We experience it at our Sunday Lakewood 2 p.m. Care Center services. What are we talking about? Prayer, Scripture and Song.

The importance of two of those three was mentioned in Acts 6:4 as the apostles needed to protect their attention to prayer and the ministry of the Word in the midst of right people caring for widows so that they could be about those two. The apostle Paul affirms prayer to the point of reminding us that we can be in mindful communing prayer all the times in I Thessalonians 5:17. The book of Psalms is replete with reminders of the place of music in praising and thanking God.

Sometimes, we need to experience or imagine the importance of something in its absence. Perish the thought that we would be in a worship service that attempts to eliminate prayer, Scripture and singing. So important are those three gifts from God, that if they were absent, it would be something other than Christian.

Prayer is such an incredible means of communicating with God. We remind our folks from time to time about the four dimensions of prayer in the acrostic **A.C.T.S.**

A is for Adoration of God.
C is our Confessions to God.
T is for our Thanksgivings to God.
S is for our Supplications or requests to God.
Prayer communication with God is life-giving.

Scripture is God speaking to us. Hebrews 4:12 reminds us that “The Word of God is alive and active. Sharper than any double-edged sword, it penetrates even to dividing soul and spirit, joints and marrow; it judges the thoughts and attitudes of the heart.” God’s Word covers everything in the each and universe.

Singing is such a unique expression of deep truths, struggles and hopes. Songs that faithfulness express in melody the realities of God rightfully move and encourage us in ways that speech alone can’t.

Oh, the gift of these three!

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Minnesota's migration has its misfits and its mavericks

As much as we have come to expect unpredictable behavior in ourselves and in our fellow man, we tend to expect instinctive, hard-wired behaviors in wild creatures. Behaviors like mating rituals, or migration in birds, for example. But, as predictable and uniform as such behaviors may be for any wild species as a whole, from time to time we encounter individuals whose behavior is anything but what we expect.

On the Monday before our recent Thanksgiving week blizzard, as I traveled a county road to an appointment for tire service, a tawny brown bird erupted from the roadside gravel. I watched as it caught the wind and accelerated up and over the road, heading toward a harvested grain field on the opposite side. To my surprise, it was a mourning dove, a bird that conventional wisdom tells us should have headed south and left Minnesota many weeks ago.



Mike Rahn

Because the mourning dove is normally among the first of Minnesota's game birds to migrate, our hunting season for them begins on September 1st each year. Their departure is generally well before most other migratory game birds, chiefly ducks and geese, and—not to be overlooked—the snipe-like American woodcock. The fact that the dove season officially runs to the end of November is more or less a moot point, since by that date most northern Minnesota doves have long since left for destinations as far distant as Mexico.

Even more surprising than my late November sighting, a rare mourning dove may defy migratory expectations altogether, and take up residence near a dependably-replenished backyard bird feeder, where it will rely on winter hand-outs intended for the usual complement of year-round songbird residents, like the

finches, chickadees, cardinals, jays, nuthatches, and others.

Even that most common of backyard summer residents, the robin, may sometimes be a migratory maverick. Robins are so dependent on earthworms and insects that they generally could not survive a northern Minnesota winter. But if their secondary food preference of berries and fruits is available, the exceptional robin might remain here for the entire winter.

Not all migratory deviations are about the timing of departure, or the distance traveled toward a southern destination. Some are about navigational error, and where a bird eventually ends up. Also in the week leading up to Thanksgiving, many in the birding world snapped to attention when they learned through the online grapevine of a rare sighting on Lake Bemidji. A sharp-eyed birder from Cass Lake, armed with a high-powered spotting scope, had seen and recognized a duck that is an extremely uncommon visitor to Minnesota.

That bird was of a species known as the common eider. All the more notable in this birder's sighting was the fact that it was a juvenile, whose muted brown-toned plumage resembles hens and juveniles of many duck species. Its stout, oversized, chisel-like bill—able to crack the shells of mussels and crabs—was one of the visual giveaways.

Because the eider nests in Arctic and sub-Arctic regions, and normally winters in frigid, far northern waters along both Atlantic and Pacific coasts, it's equipped by Nature with a cold-defying under-feather layer of superb insulating down. This has traditionally been used in high-quality bedding, comforters, and pillows. "Snuggle down in the eider down" was once a familiar expression. To the bird's good fortune, demand for its down has slackened with today's reliance on synthetic alternatives to keep us warm and cushion our slumber.

Many birders will go to extraordinary lengths to see and add a new species to their "life list," and a number of these avid souls converged on Lake Bemidji

with binoculars, spotting scopes, and telephoto lens-equipped cameras to see the rare bird. Except for a brief sighting on Lake Superior near Duluth in 2014, no common eider had been recorded in Minnesota for almost 60 years. Birds that end up in a location far from where they're normally found are sometimes called "vagrants," a term that is not exactly a compliment, as most of us understand it.

How did this eider, which should have been bobbing in the surf off the Atlantic or Pacific coast, come to be riding the waves on Lake Bemidji? What can cause a migrating bird to go so far off course? There are several possibilities. Weather systems that generate high winds may blow birds off course. A disruption in the earth's magnetic field caused by a spike in solar energy can be a factor. Intense artificial light can disorient birds that migrate at night.

The Lake Bemidji eider is far from unique. Another example is the Eurasian woodcock, which—like our American woodcock—is thought to migrate alone, or in loose flocks, rather than en masse. It's a species distinct from, and significantly larger than, our own North American woodcock. Some populations typically migrate between northern and southern Europe. But occasionally one gets far off course and shows up in North America, where it would be a startling find for any woodcock hunter.

There are more. The Barrow's goldeneye, a duck of the Alaskan peninsula and the Pacific flyway, will on rare occasion be seen in the Midwest in a flock of common goldeneyes, the subspecies that calls our Mississippi Flyway home. Perhaps at some point on its migratory journey from the Aleutian Islands, such an outsider gets separated from its own kind, joins a "foreign" flock, and as a result follows a course and reaches a destination that it normally would not.

In Nature, as in man, sometimes it's reasonable to expect the unexpected. The migration of birds is just one of the ways this point is proved.



Local athletes in Special Olympics

The Central Minnesota Super Heroes Special Olympic bowling team had a fantastic day in Brainerd at the State Special Olympics Bowling Tournament on Nov. 22. In singles competition, Gaven Christensen of Staples received a 1st place medal, Maggie Sundby a 3rd place medal, Brekken Shamp a 3rd place

medal and Megan Lindgren received 6th place. In Doubles competition, Maggie and Brekken received a 1st place medal. The team of Megan and Gaven took home a 3rd place medal. Team coaches are Kerry Lindgren and Bonnie Richter. (Submitted photos)



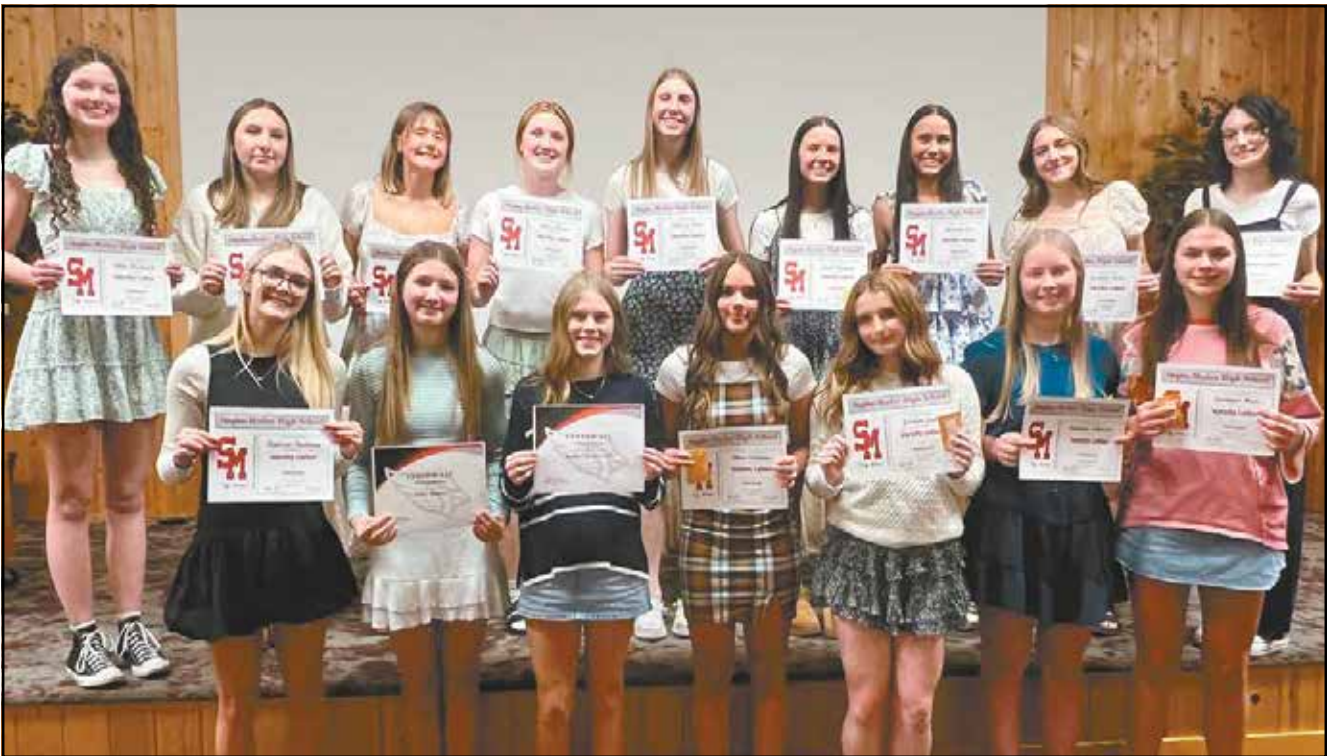
Gaven Christensen and Maggie Sundby



Brekken Shamp



Megan Lindgren



2025 Staples-Motley volleyball awards

Staples-Motley volleyball players received awards at their year-end banquet. On top of their team awards, the Cardinals received the All-State Gold Academic Award with an accumulative GPA of 3.94.

Players with their awards, front row from left, Kyleena Rudland: Letter, Most Improved Award; Lucy Maros: Certificate; Kylee Chenoweth: Certificate; Chloe Trantina: Letter; Jocelyn Lenk: Letter; Katelyn Schotzko: Letter; Jasmyne Hove: Letter, FIGHT Award. Row two, Pam Lawarence: Letter, Captain Pin, All-State Academic, Coaches Award, Highest Serving Percentage, Highest Serve Receive Rating; Annie Schlosser: Letter, Captain Pin, All-State Academic, All-Conference, All-Section Team, Team MVP, Most Kills, Highest Kill Percentage, Most Set Assists; Clara Maros: Letter; Addison Potter: Letter; Jada Ellingsen: Letter; Hannah Cole: Letter, Most Blocks; Isabelle Becker: Letter, All-Conference Honorable Mention, Most Digs; Mariah Sullivan: Letter. (Submitted photos)

Pam Lawarence: Letter, Captain Pin, All-State Academic, Coaches Award, Highest Serving Percentage, Highest Serve Receive Rating; Annie Schlosser: Letter, Captain Pin, All-State Academic, All-Conference, All-Section Team, Team MVP, Most Kills, Highest Kill Percentage, Most Set Assists; Clara Maros: Letter; Addison Potter: Letter; Jada Ellingsen: Letter; Hannah Cole: Letter, Most Blocks; Isabelle Becker: Letter, All-Conference Honorable Mention, Most Digs; Mariah Sullivan: Letter. (Submitted photos)

Seats to open for DNR Roundtable

The 2026 Minnesota Department of Natural Resources' Roundtable—an annual gathering of conservation partners focused on discussing fisheries, wildlife, and ecological and water resource topics and encouraging partnerships—will again include a no-cost, open registration opportunity.

The 2026 DNR Roundtable will be held Friday, Jan. 9. The opportunity to register for one of a limited

served slots will open at noon on Monday, Dec. 8 via a registration link on the DNR's Roundtable webpage.

Anticipated topics for the 2026 Roundtable include the science behind fish and wildlife limits, the 75th anniversary of Wildlife Management Areas, balancing management of aquatic vegetation, wake impact research, the future of fair chase and more. Program details will be available closer to the event.

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Public Notices

CITY OF STAPLES
NOTICE OF
PUBLIC HEARING

4th Street NE (CSAH 43)
Street and Utility
Improvement Project

Notice is hereby given that the City Council of Staples will meet in the Council Chambers of the City Hall at 7:00 p.m. on December 23, 2025, to consider the proposed 4th Street NE (CSAH 43) Street and Utility Improvement Project, composed of the making of improvements on 4th Street NE (CSAH 43) from 1st Street NE (US Highway No. 10) to Warner Road NE (CSAH 34) consisting of the replacement of streets, sidewalks, driveway entrances, storm drainage systems, sewer and water services, sewer and water mains, and street lighting, pursuant to Minn. Stat. §§ 429.011 to 429.111.

The area proposed to be assessed for such improvement is composed of the properties abutting these streets and properties directly served via these streets and utilities. The estimated cost of the improvement is \$7,433,843. A reasonable estimate of the impact of the assessment and methodology

used to calculate individual assessments will be available at the hearing. Such persons as desire to be heard with reference to the proposed improvement will be heard at this meeting.

Tara Greer, Clerk
City of Staples

50pnc

FILING NOTICE
THOMASTOWN
TOWNSHIP

Thomastown Township will hold an election of one supervisor for a three-year term and one clerk for a two-year term.

The filing period for these offices opens December 31, 2025 and closes January 14, 2026 at 5:00 p.m. To file for office, contact Sue Walsvik at 218-639-8465.

Sue Walsvik, Clerk
Thomastown Township

50pnc

NOTICE
VILLARD TOWNSHIP

The Villard Township December meeting will be held on Tuesday, December 16, 2025 at 7:00 p.m. at the Eastwood Inn, Motley, MN.

Mary Trantina-Koenig, Clerk
Villard Township

50pnc



LAPS gets support from Trinity Lutheran

Kurt Wilson (center) presents a check on behalf of Trinity Lutheran Church to Lakes Area Pregnancy Support Center Staples, to support providing free limited ultrasound services for pregnant women in our commu-

nity. Receiving check is Center Director PJ Bolstridge, left and Dad's Program Coordinator Bryce Fry, right. (Submitted photo)



Geese and swans filled the sky and the harvested field Nov. 12 near the Staples-Motley Bus Garage north of Staples. (Staples World photo by Janice Winter)

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Todd County Board of Commissioners

MINUTES OF THE
MEETING OF THE TODD
COUNTY BOARD OF
COMMISSIONERS HELD
NOV. 4, 2025

Call to Order

The Todd County Board of Commissioners met in the Commissioner's Board Room in the City of Long Prairie, MN on the 4th day of November, 2025 at 9:00 AM. The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Byers. The meeting was opened with the Pledge of Allegiance. All Commissioners were present with Commissioner Becker absent.

Approval of Agenda

On motion by Denny and second by Neumann, the following motion was introduced and adopted by unanimous vote: To adopt the agenda as presented.

Consent Agenda

On motion by Denny and second by Noska, the following motions were introduced and adopted by unanimous vote:

To approve the Todd County Board of Commissioner's Meeting Minutes for October 21, 2025 as presented.

Accept the resignation of Deputy Tyler Winkles effective 10/24/2025. Accept the resignation of Eric Dahl Seasonal Recreation Assistant effective 10/03/2025.

Accept the resignation of Lukas Duchene Seasonal Recreation Assistant effective 10/01/2025.

Accept the resignation of Emma Drum Seasonal Recreation Assistant effective 08/17/2025.

Hire Andrew Schultz full time Cor-rectional Officer pay rate Grade 6/F Step C \$26.92 per hour start date 11/05/2025.

To approve the hire of Dominik Estrella Becerra to fill the open Administrative Assistant I position. Grade C/3, Step B, \$20.78. Start date: TBD

To approve the hire of Juan Vasquez Garcia to fill the open Resource Navigator/Interpreter position. Grade 5/E, Step A, \$23.58. Start date: TBD

Auditor-Treasurer

On motion by Noska and second by Denny, the following motion was introduced and adopted by unanimous rollcall vote: To approve the October 2025 Auditor Warrants number (ACH) 905406 through 905512 in the amount of \$7,785,599.85 (Manual) 1133 through 1147 in the amount of \$710,776.95 and (Regular) 245227 through 245388 in the amount of \$2,050,247.61 for a total of \$10,546,624.41.

On motion by Neumann and second by Denny, the following motion was introduced and adopted by unanimous rollcall vote: To approve the Commissioner Warrants number (ACH) 404156 through 404184 in the amount of \$13,830.17 and (Regular) 59319 through 59360 in the amount of \$40,085.54 for a

total of \$53,915.71.

On motion by Denny and second by Noska, the following motion was introduced and adopted by unanimous rollcall vote: To approve the Health & Human Services Commissioner Warrants number (ACH) 806992 through 807015 and (Regular) 713533 through 713569 for a total of \$34,044.00.

On motion by Neumann and second by Denny, the following motion was introduced and adopted by unanimous rollcall vote: To approve the Health & Human Services SSIS Warrants number (ACH) 601843 through 601849 and (Regular) 518674 through 518689 for a total amount of \$42,536.41.

On motion by Neumann and second by Noska, the following motion was introduced and adopted by unanimous vote: To approve the attached engagement letter with CliftonLarsonAllen LLP to provide auditing services to Todd County as specified for the years ended December 31, 2025, 2026 and 2027.

Public Works

On motion by Noska and second by Denny, the following resolution was introduced and adopted by unanimous vote:

FINAL PAYMENT
AUTHORIZATION - 2025
GRAVEL SURFACING CONTRACT
WHEREAS, the contract with Swenson Aggregate & Construction, LLC for a 2025 Gravel Surfacing Contract known as CP 25:71, CP 25:85, and CP 25:86 located on County Road 71, County Road 85 and County Road 86 in all things been completed, and;

WHEREAS, construction work on this contract was scheduled and completed in 2025 with the value of the total work certified being \$293,580.95, and;

WHEREAS, partial payments amounting to \$278,901.90 have been previously been made to the contractor as work progressed, and;

WHEREAS, it has been determined that \$14,679.05 still remains to be paid to Swenson Aggregate & Construction, LLC.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Commissioners does here accept said completed project for and in behalf of the County of Todd and authorizes final payment as specified.

MIS

On motion by Denny and second by Neumann, the following motion was introduced and adopted by unanimous vote: Approve purchase of server through CDWG in the amount of \$17,321.00.

On motion by Noska and second by Denny, the following motion was introduced and adopted by unanimous vote: To approve the purchase of a Quantum LTO 9 tape drive from Now Micro using HAVA grant funds.

Solid Waste

On motion by Denny and second by Neumann, the following motion was introduced and adopted by

unanimous vote: Authorize payment to Ideal Construction for the amount of \$5,430.00 for asphalt surfacing.

Administration

On motion by Noska and second by Denny, the following motion was introduced and adopted by unanimous vote: Approve the Organizational Chart change to update the County Recorder's and County Assessor's Organizational Charts to reflect that the Generalist position will be removed from the County Assessor's chart and will no longer be a shared position. The Generalist position will now be shown solely under the County Recorder's Office.

County Auditor-Treasurer's Report

The County Auditor-Treasurer reported the summary of the tax settlement totals collected for 2025 and attended a regional MACATFO training last week.

County Coordinator's Report

The County Coordinator reported attending childcare workgroup, wellness, leadership, AMC District 4, interviews, insurance, mediation and security workgroup meetings.

County Commissioner's Report

The Commissioners reported on meetings and events attended.

Commissioner Denny has attended meetings including GRRL, Prairie Lakes and Mediation.

Commissioner Noska has attended regular meetings with mention that TWCC Director candidate interviews will commence soon.

Commissioner Byers attended TriCap, Personnel, Mediation and other regular meetings.

Commissioner Neumann attended the AMC District 4 meeting where the software woes of HHS remain a top priority for legislative support.

Recess

On motion by Noska and second by Denny, the meeting was recessed until November 18, 2025.

AUDITOR WARRANTS
VENDOR NAME \$ AMOUNT

BRAATEN AGGREGATE INC	
	\$3,420.00
CARD SERVICES COBORNS	
	3,370.95
CENTRAL APPLICATORS INC	
	2,206.01
DOUGLAS SWCD	
	73,098.43
FLOCK SAFETY	
	12,000.00
GREAT RIVER REGIONAL LIBRARY	
	86,976.25
HEALTH PARTNERS DENTAL	
	8,830.77
HY-TEC CONSTRUCTION	
	297,288.21
LONG PRAIRIE SANITATION INC	
	6,270.43
MORRISON COUNTY PLANNING AND ZONING	
	2,106.62
PATNODE/VIRGINIA	
	13,430.00
PRAIRIE LAKES MUNICIPAL SOLID WASTE AUTH	
	93,473.61
STEP	
	11,847.73
THIELEN/MARK AND LOU ANN	
	12,750.00

TODD CO AUD-TREAS	9,509.50
TRUENORTH STEEL INC	
	55,980.40
VEOLIA ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES LLC	2,736.38
VERIZON	6,853.53
WIDSETH SMITH NOLTING INC	
	5,642.00
34 PAYMENTS LESS	
THAN \$2,000	21,204.83
ANOKA CO GOVERNMENT CENTER	8,375.00
BIG SWAN LAKE IMPROVEMENT ASSOCIATION	233,334.00
CENTRA CARE	12,714.58
COUNTRIES PROVIDING TECHNOLOGY	9,051.00
FARM-RITE EQUIPMENT, INC	4,835.36
FLEET SERVICES/WEX BANK	8,283.43
GALLAGHER BENEFIT SERVICES INC	2,000.00
LANDWEHR CONSTRUCTION INC	489,618.49
MINNESOTA POWER	7,511.88
MN DEPT OF FINANCE	8,393.00
MORRISON COUNTY	22,307.90
MORRISON SWCD	3,097.57
OBBERG FENCE CO INC	
	35,196.00
PETERS LAW OFFICE, P.A.	4,525.00
REGENTS OF THE UNIV OF MN	52,751.44
SIR LINES-A-LOT, LLC	9,660.74
TODD CO PLANNING & ZONING	
	2,461.25
VARNER/JOE	35,783.50
VERTEX UNMANNED SOLUTIONS, LLC	2,305.99
WATERGUARDS LLC	38,237.25
WEST CENTRAL REG JUVENILE CTR	16,304.00
45 PAYMENTS LESS	
THAN \$2,000	20,789.71
CIPALA/GREGORY	13,304.20
EBSO INC	318,001.00
GOLDEN SHOVEL AGENCY	
	6,654.00
JULIG/JAMES	13,304.20
KANATI LAND MANAGEMENT	
	2,312.50
MAYER/JEFFREY AND CAROL	3,718.86
MINNESOTA POWER	9,643.37
OFFICE OF MNIT SERVICES	
	6,693.25
PHILIP'S REPAIRABLES & COLLISION CENTER	28,382.47
WEST CENTRAL REG JUVENILE CTR	14,054.00
WILLIAMSON/THOMAS	
	15,000.00
ZANDER/JASON AND HEATHER	
	17,329.00
ZASTROW/MARK	7,420.00
38 PAYMENTS LESS	
THAN \$2,000	17,401.18
ARNZEN CONSTRUCTION INC	5,585.33
CENTERPOINT ENERGY	
	6,896.16
G S EQUIPMENT INC	6,000.00
LIBERTY TIRE SERVICES LLC	
	5,247.75
NORTHERN STAR COOP	
	2,734.02
STAPLES ADVANTAGE	2,761.20
TOWMASTER	162,151.00

31 PAYMENTS LESS	
THAN \$2,000	11,384.47
BIG SWAN LAKE IMPROVEMENT DIST.	4,758.95
CITY OF BERTHA	107,451.60
CITY OF BROWERVILLE	
	144,086.18
CITY OF BURTRUM	8,046.49
CITY OF CLARISSA	79,278.72
CITY OF EAGLE BEND	
	140,995.98
CITY OF GREY EAGLE	66,207.94
CITY OF HEWITT	32,815.58
CITY OF LONG PRAIRIE	
	708,669.23
CITY OF OSAKIS	105,213.15
CITY OF STAPLES	430,225.93
CITY OF WEST UNION	3,618.57
REGION V DEVELOPMT COMMISSION	11,263.36
SAUK RIVER WATER SHED DISTRICT	51,898.63
SCHOOL DISTRICT 213	
	358,376.79
SCHOOL DISTRICT 2170	
	703,069.15
SCHOOL DISTRICT 2753	
	1,071,104.00
SCHOOL DISTRICT 486	
	245,622.49
SCHOOL DISTRICT 740	
	63,355.98
SCHOOL DISTRICT 743	
	679,334.77
SCHOOL DISTRICT 786	
	239,003.46
SCHOOL DISTRICT 787	
	622,935.82
SCHOOL DISTRICT 818	
	19,392.72
TOWN OF BARTLETT	23,090.68
TOWN OF BERTHA	31,151.45
TOWN OF BIRCHDALE	
	172,883.53
TOWN OF BRUCE	76,030.06
TOWN OF BURLEENE	21,432.22
TOWN OF BURNHAMVILLE	
	67,665.93
TOWN OF EAGLE VALLEY	
	33,760.26
TOWN OF FAWN LAKE	67,001.61
TOWN OF GERMANIA	22,778.93
TOWN OF GORDON	80,173.21
TOWN OF GREY EAGLE	
	93,486.62
TOWN OF HARTFORD	
	62,165.75
TOWN OF IONA	22,863.77
TOWN OF KANDOTA	46,628.88
TOWN OF LESLIE	68,358.32
TOWN OF LITTLE ELK	22,887.71
TOWN OF LITTLE SAUK	
	52,316.94
TOWN OF LONG PRAIRIE	
	62,588.55
TOWN OF MORAN	31,112.26
TOWN OF REYNOLDS	22,216.03
TOWN OF ROUND PRAIRIE	
	63,856.85
TOWN OF STAPLES	85,143.41
TOWN OF STOWE PRAIRIE	
	40,614.54
TOWN OF TURTLE CREEK	
	25,877.77
TOWN OF VILLARD	99,258.19
TOWN OF WILLARD	44,775.03
TOWN OF WEST UNION	
	22,979.72
TOWN OF WYKEHAM	43,255.32
8 PAYMENTS LESS	

THAN \$2,000	5,879.17
2 PAYMENTS LESS	
THAN \$2,000	2,723.76
MN DEPT OF REVENUE	
	99,944.28
US BANK-CC	9,364.79
MN DEPT OF REVENUE	
	2,734.00
MN DEPT OF REVENUE	
	593,792.20
12 PAYMENTS LESS	
THAN \$2,000	4,941.68
TOTAL:	\$10,546,624.41

COMMISSIONERS WARRANTS
VENDOR NAME \$ AMOUNT

A. COMMISSIONER OF TRANSPORTATION	#8,448.33
LAKES AREA BLASTING	
	2,610.00
LITTLE FALLS MACHINE INC	
	2,757.75
LONG PRAIRIE LEADER	
	3,138.00
STANTEC CONSULTING SERVICES INC	3,032.28
TRISTAR POWER SOLUTIONS	
	2,076.50
WADENA ASPHALT CO	
	2,544.00
ZIEGLER INC	2,592.00
63 PAYMENTS LESS	
THAN \$2,000	26,716.85
Total:	53,915.71

HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES
WARRANTS

VENDOR NAME \$ AMOUNT	
VDHS - SWIFT	\$8,030.19
VENDOR #11481	2,146.30
49 PAYMENTS LESS	
THAN \$2,000	19,631.88
VENDOR #16352	2,000.00
9 PAYMENTS LESS	
THAN \$2,000	2,235.63
Total:	\$34,044.00

VENDOR NAME \$ AMOUNT

#DHS - MSOP - MN SEX OFFENDER PROG - 462	6,360.00
GREATER MN FAMILY SRVS INC	
	4,262.45
MERIDIAN SERVICES INC	
	2,162.94
NORTHERN PINES MENTAL HLTH CTR INC	14,001.38
WEST CENTRAL REG JUVENILE CTR	10,198.00
18 PAYMENTS LESS	
THAN \$2,000	5,551.64
Total:	\$42,536.41

On a motion by Noska and second by Denny, the preceding minutes of the County Board meeting held November 4th, 2025 were duly approved by unanimous vote at the Todd County Board of Commissioners at the Regular Board Meeting held on November 18th 2025.

Witness my hand and seal:
/s/ on file: Bob Byers,
County Board Chairperson
/s/ on file: Denise Gaida,
Todd County Auditor-Treasurer

50pnc

MERTENS continued from page 1a

CLC graduates building projects around the country

members have degrees from the college. He has taken part in the Farm Business Management program and the Heavy Equipment program after getting out of the dairy business.

Mertens now works for Gladen Construction in Laporte, which he said has “been a blast” as he travels to construction projects. He often sees CLC graduates doing the work.

“It’s cool for a small town to be this influential,” said Mertens.

Another speaker at the ceremony, Vice President of Academic and Student Affairs Cheryl Norman, said other CLC programs have learned from Heavy Equipment on how to build a college program.

Two individuals arrested on felony warrants

On November 25, 2025 the Todd County Sheriff’s Office received credible information regarding the location of two individuals with active felony level arrest warrants. The two individuals were identified as Brett Radtke and Robert Radtke.

Acting on this information, deputies obtained a search warrant for the property. Upon serving the warrant, deputies located and arrested both individuals without incident. They are currently in custody at the Todd County Detention Center.



CLC Heavy Equipment diploma ceremony

Heavy Equipment diplomas were handed out by Jon Aga, Assistant VP of Advancement and CLC Foundation Executive Director, and Cheryl Norman, Vice President of Academic and Student Affairs.



Final congratulations

CLC instructors greeted graduates with handshakes and hugs after they received their degrees.

Trail builders honored

Staples Mayor Ron Murray hands a plaque to Heavy Equipment student Joel Helland, to thank the students and program for helping build the Legacy Arboretum this summer. The Heavy Equipment program is also involved in plans to build trails on CLC Ag and Energy land, so walkers can see crop experiments up close.



Brett Radtke



Robert Radtke

The Todd County Sheriff’s Dept. was assisted on scene by the Long Prairie Police Dept.



Snowmobile Safety

Beware of power poles and the wires that hold them in place

SHARE THIS IMPORTANT INFORMATION with family, friends and anyone you know who rides a snowmobile.

SNOWMOBILING underneath power lines can be dangerous. Keep these tips in mind this winter.

- Watch out for power poles and electrical equipment that can be hidden in the snow.
- Slow down, know the area and stay on marked trails.
- Power poles are often anchored with wires extending out from the pole. Avoid snowmobiling directly next to or underneath power lines.
- If you see a downed power line, stay away from it and call 911 to report it. Always assume it is live and can carry currents strong enough to kill.

Great River Energy—Powering what’s possible

Agralite 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



Tracking the magnificent Cardinal

The elusive Central Minnesota Cardinal was spotted in the Legacy Arboretum on Nov. 11, as the final leaves dropped from the lush forest trees surrounding it. The magnificent bird, which has spent many years indoors at the local high school, has finally been returned to its natural habitat, where it will live throughout its days and delight visitors who are lucky enough to happen upon its perch.

It was reported that Staples-Motley Buildings and Grounds Supervisor LeRoy Peterson was seen smuggling the gallant songbird into the woods, its bright, pristine feathers shielded from the elements by a preservative solution. Below, some intrepid close-ups of the vibrant, beautiful creature, triumphantly freed from its cage. (Staples World photos by Mark Anderson)

