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Gaven's Geeks at Polar Plunge
SMHS speech team wins at PL
Brandt reaches 1,000 points, Larson 500 rebounds
Wrestling team wins battle of state champions



Wednesday, February 4, 2026

Staples World

Staples, Minnesota \$1²⁵

Pedestrian struck by vehicle in Staples

A 28-year-old Wisconsin man sustained life threatening injuries after being struck by a vehicle while he was in the roadway at the intersection of Hwys 10 and 210 in Staples Jan. 26. The incident took place shortly after 9 p.m. and the road conditions were dry. According to the Minnesota State Patrol, a 2020 Jeep Cherokee, driven by Susan Marie Horstmann, 55, of Staples, was westbound on Hwy 10 when it struck the pedestrian, Tyler James Schreck of New Richmond.

Horstmann was wearing a seatbelt and alcohol was not suspected in her case. Schreck was transported to the St. Cloud Hospital with life-threatening injuries. Whether alcohol was suspected in his case is pending, the report said. Through investigation, police found that the party was intentionally attempting to be struck by the vehicle. The party involved is alive and in stable condition. There were no violations on the part of the motorist.

Fourth Street bids come in below projection

By Mark Anderson
Managing Editor

Bids for the huge 4th Street NE project came in more than a million dollars less than the original assessment. Blombeck Construction of Eagle Bend is the low bidder, with subcontracting work going to local companies, Ideal Construction and J&J Construction. The Staples City Council learned that the swimming pool at the Staples Commu-

nity Center will continue to be open as the locker rooms undergo a complete rehab project. City Administrator Jerel Nelsen told the council that demolition of the locker room will start this week and the project will continue until early May. The other part of the project will be the technology upgrade, which will start after the new locker rooms are finished. Power outage Nelsen updated the council on the nearly 30 minute power outage on the evening See **STAPLES** on page 3a

Fun basketball exhibition

Staples-Motley youth basketball players displayed their skills in a half time program at the varsity girls game on Jan. 29. The K-3 players did dribbling exercises and played a shooting game, below. (Photos by Mark Anderson)



Weather

2026

This Week's Forecast

	High	Low	Cond.
Feb. 4	23	19	Cloudy
Feb. 5	40	24	Cloudy
Feb. 6	27	11	P. Sunny
Feb. 7	28	17	M. Cloudy
Feb. 8	31	25	Cloudy
Feb. 9	37	21	Cloudy
Feb. 10	31	17	

Last Year, 2025

	High	Low	Cond.
Feb. 4	5°	-6	P. Sunny
Feb. 5	17	0	M. Sunny
Feb. 6	9	2	Cloudy
Feb. 7	12	-2	Cloudy
Feb. 8	18	10	Cloudy
Feb. 9	12	-2	M. Sunny
Feb. 10	0	-9	Sunny

Average Temps:
H = 23° Low = 4°
Do you recall?
Feb. 2, 1996:
-50 below, 7 days with
temps between -30 &
-50 degrees

Compiled by
Dale Hausmann,
WCCO's Staples area
Weatherwatcher

Public Notices

City of Staples 9A

Leader Hall Board 9A

Meadowbrook 9A

Evergreen Hill Cemetery 9A

Obituaries

Bethel Birchacek

Joann Drajna

Kenneth Hudalla

SEDA recommends selling Staples industrial building

By Mark Anderson
Managing Editor

The Staples Economic Development Authority (SEDA) found out the value of the city-owned industrial building and came to a conclusion that selling the building could be best for the city, to keep businesses in town and possibly build a new building if it is sold. Staples City Administrator Jerel Nelsen said an appraisal of the building showed the value to be \$647,000. He said that would be a starting point for a sale although Wadena County has it appraised at \$826,000. The building currently is being rented by Accura Tooling and Lakewood Health

System. Austin Redemske, owner of Olander Tooling and Machining, approached the SEDA with the idea that they would like to buy the building. Redemske was at the meeting and said his business is growing and is in need of space right now. They would rather buy than build a new building. Tom Seely, owner of Accura Tool & Engineering, said he would work with Olander Tooling to rent from them instead of the city. Nelsen said if a similar building were built today, it would cost \$3 million for a 15,000 square foot pre-fab metal structure, while a pole structure building would cost less to build. He

said the rental income for the building was \$68,000 in 2023 and \$51,000 in 2024. With one unit empty right now, the income would go down to \$38,000 per year. Nelsen said the building is currently in need of \$20,000 in repairs. SEDA Board member Shane Tappe said the original cost of the building has been paid off after 31 years of businesses paying rent. Staples Mayor Ron Murray asked if the city needed that much space any more and suggested they look at building a smaller building if they decide to sell this one. After discussion, Tappe said "We don't want to scare business out of town,

we want to keep as many in town as we can," and offered a motion to start the process of selling the building. The board approved the motion. The sale price would include a 31 acre lot behind the building, with a portion of that buildable and the rest wetland. Murray asked about selling just the building and retaining the lot for the possibility of another building in the future. Nelsen said sewer and water would be a challenge, but it could be an option. He also said about 25 acres could be sold as hunting land. SEDA Director Nelsen said the city has See **SEDA** on page 3a

Gaven's Geeks takes the Polar Plunge in March

Fundraiser for Special Olympics is Feb. 7, Staples

By Dawn Timbs
Staples World reporter

Over the course of 14 years, Gaven's Geeks Polar Plunge Team has raised \$76,623 for Special Olympics. They hope to raise even more prior to the Polar Plunge event at Breezy Point March 7.

The team gets its name from Gaven Christensen of Staples, a Staples-Motley alum and longtime competitor at Special Olympics. Now 30, Gaven was a teen when his team was formed in 2012.

It was Gaven's dad, Ken Christensen of Staples, who started the team, ini-

tially called Gaven's Gangsters. The next year they called themselves Gaven's Grannies, with everyone dressing according to the various themes.

Then in 2014 the name was changed to Gaven's Geeks and its remained that way ever since.

Except for three or four years, the Brainerd area Polar Plunge has been held at Breezy Point. Gaven's grandparents, Richard and Elaine Hafften of Browerville, recalled that during COVID, the Polar Plunge was a virtual event held at Holst Acres in Staples. The Christensen family was so appreciative of the Staples

Fire Department who filled up the big tank with water for the event.

Gaven's Geeks has been a family fundraising project since day one. Grandma Elaine shared a photo album with the World that chronicles the past 14 polar plunges. Included are photos of Gaven, his parents, Ken and Becky Christensen, younger twin brothers Brayden and Bentley Christensen, grandparents, aunts, uncles, cousins, and numerous friends, all of who've been on board to show their support for Special Olympics.

Although some people show their support solely

with financial donations, there are quite a few that plunge the chilly waters each year. The first year, there were five or six jumpers, Grandma Elaine recalled, adding that they raised \$1,216 in 2012. They gained plungers since that time, as well as increased donations for this good cause. Elaine went on to share that she was the oldest one to 'take the plunge' in 2014. "I was 71," she said, adding that she asked Dr. Sarah Israelson if she could do that. Dr. Israelson gave her approval, and then decided to take the plunge as well. The team raised \$15,757.70 that year, their largest fundraiser to date.

Along the way, the twins took over the event planning, with Brayden now serving as the person in charge.

At the center of Gaven's Geeks is Gaven himself, who continues to share his enthusiasm for Special Olympics and inspires all who know him. "He loves this event," Grandpa Richard said, adding, "If everybody could be as happy as Gaven, the world would be a better place. He's taught me a lot...he's taught me to be a better person."

The Gaven's Geeks Fundraiser for Special Olympics will be held Saturday, Feb. 7, 4 - 8 p.m., at Becks Burger Co., 119 3rd St. NE, Staples. The event includes Music Bingo from 4 - 6:30 p.m. and a silent auction, 7 - 8 p.m. To donate online, visit <http://plungemn.org/team/05ssh-gavensgeeks>



Team still going strong

Members of the Gaven's Geeks team are gearing up for their 15th Polar Plunge for Special Olympics event March 7, at Breezy Point. Their fundraiser event will be held Saturday, Feb. 7, at Beck's Burger Co., Staples. Pictured above, from left, are the Christensen brothers, Brayden, Crookston; Gaven, Staples; Bentley, Duluth. (Submitted photo)



The start of the team

Gaven's Geeks Polar Plunge Team was formed in 2012. Pictured, from left, are Gaven Christensen of Staples, his twin brothers Brayden and Bentley, and his dad, Ken Christensen. (Submitted photo)



Taking the plunge

Members of the Gaven's Geeks team are pictured at a previous Polar Plunge event at Breezy Point. Pictured taking the plunge, from left, are Gaven Christensen's aunt, Jennifer (Christensen) Ganner, Big Lake; and his dad, Ken Christensen, of Staples. (Submitted photo)

Motley area law enforcement

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

Jan. 27 - Motley Police and Morrison County deputies attempted to locate a suicidal male with a handgun. The subject's vehicle pinged just east of Motley at Hwy 10 and Hwy 210. Officers were unable to locate the vehicle.

Jan. 27 - Motley Police received a call from Unity Bank in Motley with a complaint of fraud.

Jan. 25 - Motley Police and Morrison County deputies responded to a report of a civil dispute at the 100 block of 1st Ave. N., Motley.

Jan. 23 - Motley Police responded to a crash at Hwy 10 and Beaulieu St., Motley. The crash was caused by a vehicle traveling the wrong way.

Jan. 23 - Motley Police assisted a woman with getting her vehicle off the traf-

fic lane in the intersection of Hwy 10 and Hwy 210 in Motley. The officer pushed the vehicle into a parking lot with his squad car.

Jan. 22 - Motley Police assisted a stalled motorist at Hwy 10 and Azalea Rd., Motley.

Jan. 21 - Motley Police assisted MN State Patrol at a vehicle roll over on Hwy 10 west. According to the report from state patrol, the 2008 Toyota Tacoma, driven by Randolph Jacob Olson, 68, of Menahga, was westbound on Hwy 10 near MP114, when it entered the ditch and rolled. Olson was transported to Lakewood Health System Hospital in Staples with non-life threatening injuries. Olson's passenger, Deborah Lynn Olson, 66, was not injured. The road condition was snow/ice. Assisting at the scene were Motley FD, Staples PD and Todd County Sheriff's deputies.



Hot meal enjoyed on a chilly night

Dozens of people enjoyed meatballs, mashed potatoes and gravy, vegetables, bread, dessert and more at the Church of Christ in Staples Jan. 27. Temperatures were below zero outside, but inside the fellowship hall, people were warmed by the delicious meal and conversations with other folks.

The free community meal, sponsored by Care Ministry and prepared and served by church volunteers, is offered on the fourth Tuesday of the month by participating churches. The next Care Ministry meal will be offered Feb. 24, at Staples Assembly of God Church. (Staples World photos by Dawn Timbs)



Staples World

The Staples World office,
224 4th St. NE, is
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deadline is Friday, noon.
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SEDA continued from page 1a

Utility easement on 4th Street

received 18 applications for the city’s open Economic Development Director position. The application period closes Feb. 10.

In other news, the SEDA approved applying for a utilities easement on SEDA property on 4th Street NE, where the judicial ditch crosses 4th Street NE.

The board also learned that the rent for Stacker 3D is paid up and they will continue to use city industrial building space.

STAPLES continued from page 1a

City looks at emergency shelter

of Jan. 16, the coldest day of the year with temperatures well below zero. He said in this case, a transformer at the Verndale substation was out. That unit is owned by Minnesota Power, one of the electricity suppliers to the City of Staples.

Nelsen said with that incident, the city is looking at how to find a safe place for people if there is a longer power outage on a sub-zero day. He said one idea was to have people without power go to Central Lakes College, which uses Todd-Wadena Electric Cooperative, not the city energy system. He said they are working on how to contact someone at CLC in case of emergency and how to send the message to members of the community if needed.

Fire department update

Staples Fire Chief Cole Yungbauer gave the council an update on their 2025 year. He said there were 87 total calls, down a little

from recent years. Of those calls, 12 were structure fires and 11 were vehicle crashes. They also responded to 12 mutual aid calls from other communities. Fifteen calls were false alarms.

He said the crew logged more than 1,990 hours of training plus 110 hours of community outreach.

Yungbauer said they hired two new firefighters to fill vacancies and still have openings for two more firefighters. He said it is a nationwide issue that fire departments are not getting as many people to join as in the past.

Fire department assistant chiefs are Blake Gerard, Scott Meech, Brandon Brusewitz and Wayne Story. Captains are Kyle Karolus and Robbie Lang. Firefighter of the Year award was given to Gerard and the Chief’s Award was given to Karolus.

The council approved \$45,000 from the Staples Relief Association to purchase fire equipment.

75 YEARS Ago - 1951

- Feb. 1, 1951 - Lloyd Goodrich, farmer living 11 miles north of Staples in the Oylen vicinity, is mighty proud of a Holstein cow in his herd.
- The cow has given birth to four calves within 13 months. Twins were born to the cow on Dec. 29, 1949, and on Jan. 17, 1951, twin calves were born to the same cow.
- Lloyd stated that this is increasing his fine herd a lot sooner than he had planned, and he is very pleased with the two sets of twin calves.
- Feb. 1, 1951 - Five young men from Staples were

- O -
Compiled by
Dawn Timbs
- O -

inducted into military service on Jan. 29. They left from Long Prairie that day for induction into the armed forces.

Those from Staples who went into service were: Dale M. Chapin, Thomas Jr., Laurence B. Denny, Elmer Baier, and Harry Palava.

- Feb. 1, 1951 - The warming house of the northside skating rink was broken into sometime Monday night, with the result that some of the candy bar, some gum and about one half case of pop were taken.
- Pat Loftis, who is caretaker for the warming house, discovered the robbery about 3:30 o’clock Tuesday afternoon when he went there to start the fire for the skaters.
- Feb. 1, 1951 - Cpl Benjamin F. Dezell, 30, son of Mrs. Bertha Dezell, was wounded Jan. 13, in Korea, the department of defense reported last night.
- Corporal Dezell received head and abdomen wounds while serving with army forces near Seoul. He is recovering in an army general hospital at Tokyo.
- Cpl. Dezell was a former resident of Staples and attended the Staples schools. He moved with his mother to Duluth several years ago.

50 YEARS Ago - 1976

- Jan. 29, 1976 - The Staples Chapter of the Future Farmers of America have named six senior girls to vie for the honor of their 1976 Chapter Sweetheart.
- Warren Kahler, chapter advisor, said that the members chose Nan Bendson, Rose Goeden, Jane Olander, Melanie Fuller, Judy Salber and Sue Becker as the candidates.
- Coronation ceremonies of the FFA Sweetheart are being planned for March.



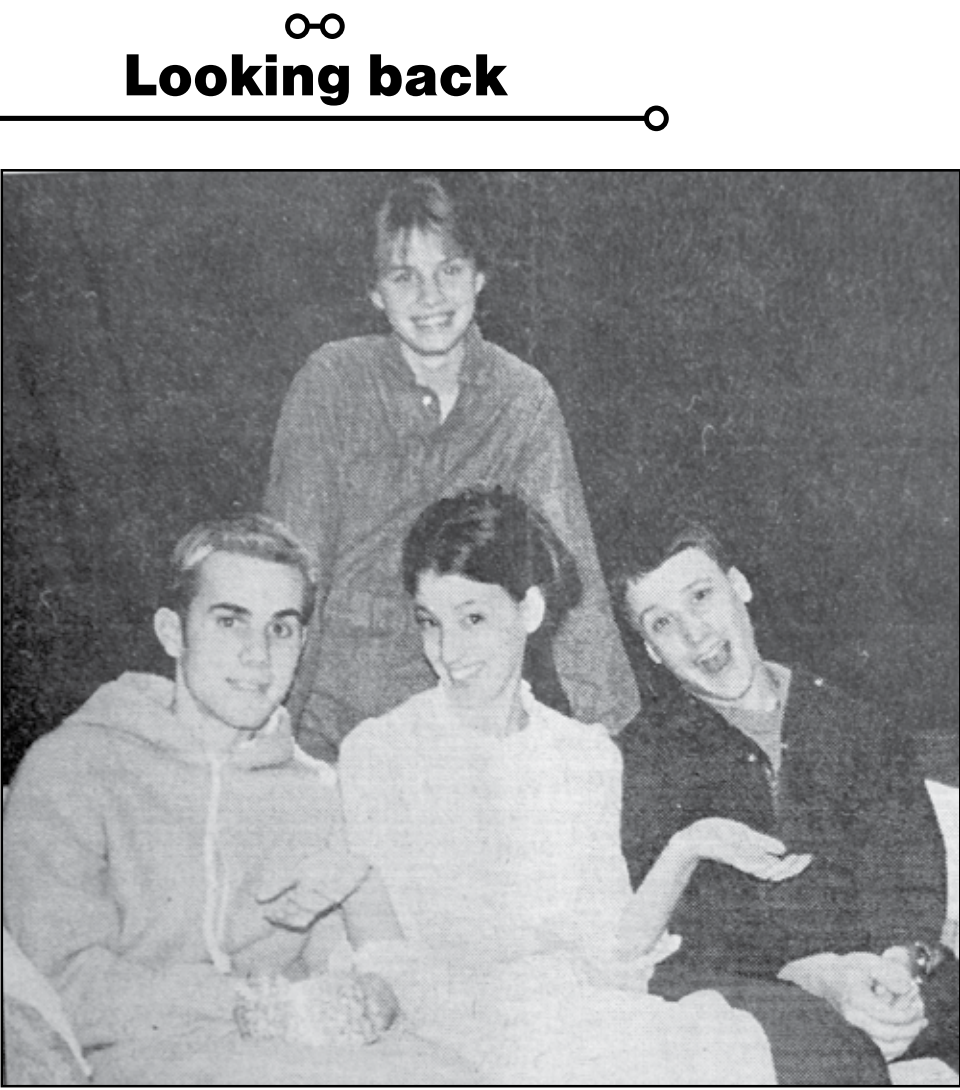
Mystery solved

Last week’s mystery photo published in the May 4, 1967 edition of the Staples World featured a few students and faculty following a special retirement program for Esther Bottemiller, first grade instructor at Staples Elementary. Student participants at the program included, from left: Jerry Mertens, Dawn Harper, Brian Baustian and Greg Kaler. In back, from left, are Miss Bottemiller and Mrs. W. E. (Marion) Stone.

James Nichols of Staples recognized Mrs. Stone, who was his 4th grade teacher, but thought Esther Bottemiller was 5th grade teacher Mrs. Peterson.

Nichols, a 1972 Staples High School grad, went on to share that, “Correct or not, I remember going to Mrs. Peterson’s farm north of Motley for a field day picnic. My 6th grade class was the last year for the Lincoln (non-graded) Grade School. Mr. Norm Card was our 6th grade teacher and we enjoyed catching passes from him during recess. It seemed like he could throw the football a whole block. He was also instrumental in pushing me to start wrestling. One of my best memories.”

Thanks for participating in our mystery photo.



Mystery photo

Hello readers. This week’s archive photo is from 2001. 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.

- Jan. 29, 1976 - The 1974 Grand Torino Elite, belonging to Mr. and Mrs. Harold Kane of Staples, was stolen and heavily damaged while they were visiting in Chicago.
- Mrs. Kane told the World that she and her husband went to Chicago last Thursday to visit their son-in-law and daughter, Rev. James Martin, who is pastor of the United Church of Christ there. The purpose of the visit was for the christening of their granddaughter.
- Mrs. Kane had the vehicle parked in front of the parsonage of the church and it was stolen late Thursday evening or early Friday morning. The vehicle was recovered by Chicago Police Sunday afternoon in an area about 3 1/2 miles from where it was stolen.
- Mrs. Kane reported that it cost them \$873.83, just to get their new car repaired enough to drive it home, plus the repairs that still must be made.
- Jan. 29, 1976 - Revival meetings will be held at the Staples Assembly of God Church starting Sunday, Feb. 1, and continuing through Friday, Feb. 6.
- The evangelists will be Rev. and Mrs. W. L. Serdahl of Wolf Point, Montana. “It will be old time gospel singing and preaching from the Word of God,” stated Pastor William Hamblin, local pastor, who invited the public to attend these services.
- Jan. 29, 1976 - Richard Hegre will be the chairman for the program of the Staples Rotary Club during the month of February. He will be assisted by Robert Pederson and Dr. Raymond O. Garland.
- Meetings of the Staples Rotary Club are held each Monday, 6 p.m., at Holm’s Cafe.
- Jan. 29, 1976 - Fire did some damage at the Cyril Beach residence, located about four miles south of Staples early Thursday morning, Jan. 22.
- The members of the Staples Fire Department were called to the scene about 7 a.m.
- Leo Fahnlander, fire chief, reported that fire broke out in the wall behind a wood burning barrel stove, causing the damage.
- Jan. 29, 1976 - Edwin B. Perry and Gary Schimpp have been named co-chairmen for the parade to be held in Staples this summer, following action by the Board of Directors of the Staples Chamber of Commerce at a recent meeting.
- The Staples Chamber of Commerce Bicentennial parade will be held Thursday, July 1.

25 YEARS Ago - 2001

- Feb. 1, 2001 - Coming soon to a grocery store in Verndale.
- That could be a headline one day very soon as the new Verndale Grocery is taking shape and about to re-open.
- Hired last month to take over the management of the store were Jim and Betty Jo Nichols of Staples, both familiar faces to Staples area residents.
- Jim had managed the Orton’s convenience store in Staples for 12 years and Betty Jo has been a waitress in Staples since 1987.
- Feb. 1, 2001 - Janet Jacobson recently joined Lakewood Health System in the new Human Resource Director position.
- Jacobson received a Bachelor of Arts degree

from Metropolitan State University in St. Paul and became certified as a professional in human resources (PHR) in 1997.

She was employed by Guardian Angels of Elk River as their Director of Human Resources for eight years.

- Feb. 1, 2001 - Mary Shaffer of the Staples Motley High School Speech Team finished first in Creative Expression in the Brainerd Invitational Speech Contest Jan. 27. Shaffer performed an original “mini drama” about a director auditioning potential cast members for a play.
- Each of the three judges ranked Shaffer first in her section and awarded her almost perfect ratings of 99, 100 and 99 percent.
- Feb. 1, 2001 - Gene Mattila, the Staples Motley High School cross country coach, has been named the recipient of the 2000 Midwest Region Coach of the Year award for boys cross country.
- The award is from the National Federation of State High School Associations. Its Midwest Region includes Minnesota, Kansas, Missouri, Nebraska, North and South Dakota.
- Mattila has coached the Staples Motley Cardinals since 1995 and has taken his boys team to the state cross country run every year he has coached.

10 YEARS Ago - 2016

- Feb. 4, 2016 - The Staples Motley High School 2016 Sno Daze candidates were announced Jan. 28, at Centennial Auditorium. Seniors selected were Brady Smith, Dylan Metz, Sarah Daly, Josie Erickson, Kylie Bendson, Obed Lozano, Tatum Williams and Shawnda Minoletti, Shawn Trantina and Tyler Johnson.
- Feb. 4, 2016 - Husband and wife duo Brian & Sheralyn Barnes, joined by bass player James Dungan-Seaver, will present a concert at the United Methodist Church in Motley Sunday, Feb. 14, at 2 p.m., as part of the Staples Motley Area Arts Council’s regular season. The show is underwritten by Unity Bank.



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Letter to the Editor

American dictator

No President, No King. We have a dictator. He said so himself, nobody can change him. Only he himself could change while he is in office. We used to have a government of the people, for the people, by the people. Now we have a dictator.

BJ Hendricks
Motley, Minn.

Doing more with what we have locally

By Deb Brown
SaveYour.Town

I've never liked the phrase "doing more with less." It gets tossed around so often that it sounds noble, but it usually feels like a scolding. It implies people aren't working hard enough or wringing every drop out of their already-limited time, energy, and budgets. It piles guilt on top of fatigue. That phrase comes straight out of a scarcity mindset. Rural and under-resourced communities, in particular, have been told to "do more with less" for generations — usually without any real structural support behind them. No wonder it sounds more like blame than inspiration.

Doing more with what we have

What if we shifted the focus to doing more with what we have? It's a small change in language, but a big change in power. Instead of staring at what's missing, we start seeing what's already in our hands.

Doing more with what we have means:

- Honoring what already exists — the people, stories, skills, culture, spaces, and

relationships right here.

- Leading with creativity and connection, not cuts and sacrifice.
- Seeing communities not as broken, but as full of untapped strengths and possibilities.

This mindset invites us to look at our current resources differently — to start from abundance. It rejects the tired message that "if you just cared more, you'd work harder," and replaces it with, "you already have powerful tools — let's use them in new ways."

What it looks like in practice

This is where the Idea Friendly approach shines. It means fewer rigid meetings and more hands-on experiments. Fewer long committee discussions and more quick conversations on back porches, in coffee shops, and at the park. It means everyone can contribute in small, meaningful ways.

We don't have to wait for someone to rescue us with more money, more people, or more stuff. We can use what we already have — together — in ways that respect our work, celebrate our gifts, and build steady, lasting change.

What's on the menu for winter birds?

When we decide to invite others for dinner, we naturally ask ourselves what menu choices they're likely to find appealing. Are they "omnivorous"—do they eat meat, in other words—or are they vegetarian? Do they have special dietary needs; food allergies, perhaps? Do they have health issues that dictate foods they should avoid? The answers to such questions are likely to shape any meal that we plan and prepare.

Inside the Outdoors



Mike Rahn

The menu process has some parallels when it comes to the birds or other wild creatures we might hope to see at our feeders in winter. The foods we choose to provide will have an impact on what is attracted to come and dine outside our windows.

To stretch the dinner guest metaphor a bit farther, there may be foods we choose not to serve, in order to avoid attracting competitive, aggressive, or over-abundant wild creatures that can "spoil the party." House sparrows, starlings, and squirrels come immediately to mind. This is prejudice, to be sure, but—since we're footing the feed bill—it's a prejudice we may feel entitled to!

Following are some thoughts on several of the most common and popular of winter wildlife feeder foods, courtesy (mostly) of the Audubon Society, and the Cornell Laboratory of Ornithology; the latter being perhaps the country's premier bird research center.

Food item #3 on the Audubon list happens to be my #1. It's common suet, which is nothing more than the whitish, hard fat found near the loins and kidneys of cattle and sheep. If you're a vegetarian, and recoil from the thoughts of obtaining and feeding backyard wildlife with an obvious byproduct of the meat processing industry, all well and good. But suet is one of the most life-supporting of winter foods. It can be a calorie-rich, high-energy fuel source when the energy drain of winter on tiny bodies is greatest, and high-energy food sources like insects are least available.

While suet is technically defined as the fat from cattle or beef, it's also found in the same loin-and-kidney areas of large wild mammals, like deer. When a deer kill is made—here in Minnesota, most often by an Eastern gray wolf—birds will be among the scavenging members of the clean-up crew; birds as large as eagles, vultures, and ravens, or as diminutive as jays and chickadees.

I remember a time when a person could go into a butcher shop, or to the meat department of a grocery store, ask for these "trimmings," and get them for free. But perhaps because winter bird feeding has become an industry in itself, it was probably inevitable that those who have the supply—the butchers—would realize that demand—that's us—is easily convertible into revenue. Suet is not particularly expensive compared to other things found in meat departments, but it's no longer free.

Suet feeders can be fancy and expensive, or as simple as an onion bag containing a suet lump suspended from a branch; or a scrap piece of wood to which a "pocket" of wide-mesh wire hardware

cloth is fastened to hold the suet.

One reason I place suet so highly is for its great appeal to the several woodpecker species that winter with us: the downy, hairy, red-bellied, and the crow-size pileated woodpecker. After the woodpeckers, other birds that are especially drawn to suet are the white-breasted and red-breasted nuthatches, chickadees, and blue jays. Others, cardinals among them, can be found at suet feeders on a less frequent basis.

Both Audubon and the Cornell Laboratory of Ornithology rated sunflower seed at #1. The most useful to the widest variety of winter birds is the black-oil sunflower seed. This is due both to its high fat content—like suet—and to its thin shell, which is easy for most birds to crack. Cornell also recommends the striped sunflower variety, with its tougher shell, if you're trying to discourage consumption by less-fancied species like the ubiquitous house sparrow. Birds with stronger seed-cracking bills, like the jays, cardinals, and grosbeaks, have no trouble with the striped variety, nor should a nuthatch, or a tufted titmouse.

Nyjer, or thistle seed, is as tiny as a sunflower seed is large and robust. It is especially appealing to the finches, including goldfinches, and their larger relatives the purple and house finches, as well as the less commonly seen pine siskins and redpolls. For a seed this tiny, it's best to have a specialized feeder. This could be a tube-type feeder with holes that are tiny enough to prevent an avalanche of seeds spilling out, or a fine mesh "thistle sock," to which birds can cling and pull seed through the mesh.

Safflower is another option. Like the striped

sunflower, it has a thicker shell that makes it less appealing to house sparrows, squirrels, and starlings, but a favorite of cardinals with their powerful bills. Grosbeaks, chickadees, and native sparrows all will also consume safflower seeds.

Besides foods packaged and sold as single varieties, it's common to find mixtures of several types of feed. It stands to reason that a good blend will probably appeal to a wide variety of birds. But some blends are undesirable, made up of mainly of "filler" seeds that are unappealing to wild birds, or at least to birds that are common to Minnesota. This is especially true at the lower end of the price spectrum.

According to Audubon, one of the better mixtures includes a blend of sunflower seed, cracked corn, white proso millet, and peanut hearts. Other blends may be good, too. Buying at bird specialty stores is probably a smart move when seeking out quality seed blends. But be aware that some components of a blend—cracked corn and peanut hearts, for example—may also be appealing to squirrels and house sparrows, creatures that may be low on the "highly sought" list for some who feed winter wildlife.

When we aren't enjoying winter activities out-of-doors, seeing birds congregating and feeding outside our windows can be one of the more day-brightening experiences during the depths of a Minnesota winter. More information on the subject of feeding them can be found at these web sites:

<https://www.allaboutbirds.org/news/types-of-bird-seed-a-quick-guide/#sunflower>

<https://www.audubon.org/magazine/top-10-foods-winter-bird-feeding>

Congress must address immigration

By Lee H. Hamilton

It's obvious that America is deeply divided over immigration. President Donald Trump has been adding new restrictions and deporting immigrants that he describes as a threat. Trump's critics see his actions as racist and a rejection of basic American principles.

The divide is on stark display in the daily news, where Trump demonizes immigrants and their supporters while protests spread against Immigration and Customs Enforcement. Minneapolis, where federal officers recently killed two U.S. citizens, one a mother of three and the other an intensive care nurse, has looked like a war zone.

It shouldn't be this way. Trump may be fanning the flames, but Congress also bears responsibility. It's no secret that America's immigration system is broken. Our laws haven't been updated in 40 years, despite massive changes in the economy and technology. Congress and its leaders, both Republicans and Democrats, keep kicking the can down the road. Their inaction plays into Trump's hands.

The New York Times editorial board put it well in a recent analysis: "Instead of an immigration policy calibrated to the needs of the country, both Americans and immigrants are being let down by a set of outdated laws inconsistently enforced by underfunded agencies. Chaos has been a predictable result."

America has fought over immigration from its beginning. In 1798, Congress passed the Alien and Sedition Laws, which targeted foreigners for spreading threatening ideas. The Know Nothing Party of the mid-1800s and the Ku Klux Klan of the 1920s grew powerful on anti-immigrant rhetoric. A surge in immigration at the turn of the 20th century produced a backlash that led to strict limits. One of my first votes in Congress was for legislation that overturned those restrictions.

Politicians who oppose immigration claim that immigrants bring crime, drive down wages and rely excessively on government aid. None of those claims are true. As the Times points out, immigrants are "America's rocket fuel," powering economic growth and cultural achievement. Our aging population and low birth rates mean we need immigration to keep the economy humming. Immigrants drive innovation and work hard-to-fill jobs in health care, technology, hospitality and agriculture.

Of course, this doesn't mean immigration should be without restrictions. As the Times argues, we must secure our borders and make reasonable efforts to prevent people from working here illegally. At the same time, Congress should legislate an orderly expansion of legal immigration. Our current system, which favors family unification, should give way to an approach that encourages immigration where it's most needed.

We also need humane policies for the estimated 11 million immigrants who are here illegally, many of whom were brought as children. Immigrants who have worked hard, stayed out of trouble and made productive lives should have a path to citizenship.

Mass deportation is cruel and unworkable. Government officials say they are targeting criminals, but news media have documented numerous deportations of people with no criminal record, and even of citizens. Aggressive tactics by ICE officers and Trump's threats to deploy the military against protesters show a disturbing disdain for individual rights. In Minneapolis, a Star Tribune editorial states, "strangers with guns have metastasized in spaces where daily life should be routine and safe. It feels like a military occupation."

This is another area where Congress should play a role. Congressional oversight of the executive branch is a key feature of our system of checks and balances. If federal agents are violating the rights of the people, Congress should hold the agencies accountable. As a Washington Post editorial notes, the administration has gutted the Homeland Security Department civil rights office that's supposed to investigate abuses; consequently, the need for independent oversight "has become irrefutable."

Meanwhile, the chaos and divisions show that the need to fix our outdated immigration system has become more urgent than ever. It's past time for Congress to roll up its sleeves and get to work.

Quote of the week

“Peace is not about victory; it is about the painful process of learning to live with our differences.”
— Rabbi Jonathan Sacks

Quote of the week

“We must tell the truth, not just to power — but for the powerless.”
— Christiane Amanpour

Farmers pushing for specialty crop funding

By Heather Close
The Rural Blog

U.S. farmers and farming advocates are pushing lawmakers to draft bills that include additional aid for specialty crop growers and include wording that allows for the year-round use of 15% ethanol-blended gasoline (E15), write Pro Farmer editors for Farm Journal.

Many specialty crop growers were disappointed with the Trump administration's 2025 aid package, which allocated \$11 billion for row-crop farmers and \$1 billion for specialty crop farmers. Specialty crops in-

clude fruits, veggies, nuts, nursery crops, Christmas trees and maple syrup.

Specialty Crop Farm Bill Alliance co-chair Cathy Burns told Nicole Heslip of Brownfield Ag Network, "Specialty crops account for one-third of crop sales in the U.S., and we have the same harmful headwinds that the rest of agriculture is experiencing."

Burns suggested "5 billion in relief would help alleviate some of the unprecedented economic challenges facing growers from labor, input costs, lost markets, and unfair competition from competitors," Heslip writes.

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

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

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

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

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Mark Your Calendar

Feb. 5
‘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>

Feb. 6
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.

Feb. 8
CELEBRATE RECOVERY GROUP MEETINGS Sundays, 6 p.m., at Motley Free Methodist Church, 33 Wellwood St. E., Motley.

Feb. 10
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.

Economic Alliance looking for new director

The Economic Alliance, the economic development corporation that serves Wadena County, is looking for a new Executive Director. The current director, Hope Williams, has been named the new Economic Development Director for the City of Detroit Lakes. She will be with the Economic Alliance until Friday, Feb. 6.

Raye Ludovissie, the President of the Economic Alliance Board of Directors, says that this presents an opportunity for the organization to think strategically about its growth. “The Wadena County Economic Alliance Board is grateful for all the hard work Hope has poured into it. As president I have worked closely with Hope and have watched her take the reins of what Wadena County needs. She has been instrumental in

getting the SBDC set up for our area, developing a positive reputation throughout the county, taking point on potential developments in the county, and helping people understand the “ins and outs” of starting their own business. She is leaving a strong foundation for us to build upon to make Wadena County the best place to do business.”

A transition plan is in place to ensure that the Economic Alliance continues its service to the businesses and communities throughout Wadena County. The Board of Directors has begun its search for a new Executive Director, with applications being accepted until Feb. 27, 2026. In the interim, Ludovissie and other members of the Board of Directors will be dividing the work previously done by Williams.

High school seniors invited to apply for \$1,000 scholarships in engineering and manufacturing technology fields

Attention graduating high school seniors: Scholarship opportunities are now available for students planning to pursue post-secondary education in engineering or manufacturing technology fields. Eligible students can apply for \$1,000 scholarships to help support their studies and career development in these dynamic industries.

The Lakes Area Manufacturers Alliance (LAMA) scholarship fund began

with a generous contribution from Reggie Clow in memory of his father and the company’s founder, Everett Clow. The fund was quickly supported by LAMA member companies in partnership with the Initiative Foundation, having raised over \$90,000 in pledges.

The scholarship fund addresses manufacturers’ need for skilled employees. These high-tech jobs are highly sought after and of-

fer excellent pay and benefits. You can learn more about LAMA and the Scholarship fund by visiting our website <https://www.midwestmanufacturers.com/lama/> or contact Deborah@lakesareamanufacturers.org for more information.

The scholarships are open to seniors graduating this year who are committed to enrolling in a college, university or technical school with a focus on engineering or manufacturing

technology. To be eligible, students must currently reside in Aitkin, Cass, Crow Wing, Morrison, Todd or Wadena counties and have a minimum GPA of 2.0 (C grade) on a 4.0 scale.

The application process is straightforward, and winners will be selected based on academic achievement, career goals and a demonstrated interest in these important sectors. Deadline to apply is March 31, 2026.

Irrigation program sign-up started

Local Soil and Water Conservation Districts (SWCDs) and the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) offices are now accepting applications for the Minnesota Irrigation Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCPP). The sign-up period runs through Feb. 27, 2026.

The Minnesota Irrigation RCPP provides financial and technical assistance to producers interested in improving irrigation efficiency and adopting conservation practices that protect groundwater resources. Through this program, farmers can receive support for practices such as

irrigation water management, variable rate irrigation, soil moisture monitoring, and related improvements that help reduce water use while maintaining or improving crop productivity.

Groundwater is the primary source of drinking water for communities across Minnesota. By improving irrigation efficiency and nutrient management, participating producers play a critical role in protecting local water resources while strengthening the long-term sustainability of their operations.

Eligible applicants include produc-

ers with irrigated cropland located within participating project areas. Applications will be ranked and selected based on established criteria, available funding, and conservation benefits.

Producers interested in applying are encouraged to contact their local SWCD and NRCS offices as early as possible during the sign-up period to discuss eligibility and application requirements.

For more information or to apply, contact Todd Soil and Water at 320-732-2644

Entrepreneurs on tap returns for third year

The Brainerd Lakes Area Economic Development Corporation (BLAEDC) and the North Central Small Business Development Center (SBDC) at Central Lakes College are proud to announce the return of Entrepreneurs on Tap for its third consecutive year. What began as a new way to meet entrepreneurs where they are has quickly grown into one of the region’s most anticipated business networking and learning series.

Entrepreneurs on Tap blends practical business education with meaningful connection, all in welcoming, locally-owned settings

across Crow Wing County. Each event features a focused “Topic on Tap,” facilitated discussion, and networking opportunities. The result is an approachable, high value experience designed for real world small business owners navigating real world challenges.

“Entrepreneurs on Tap has become something special,” said Katie Hepner, Regional Director of the North Central SBDC. “It brings people together across industries, experience levels, and communities. Heading into our third year, we’re seeing small business owners return month after month because

the conversations are honest, useful, and grounded in what it actually takes to run a business.”

The Spring 2026 series continues the tradition of rotating locations to increase access and highlight local businesses. All events are held from 5 p.m. to 6:30 p.m.

Spring 2026 Schedule and Topics

- Feb. 11 at Jack Pine Brewery in Baxter | Topic on Tap: Answer Engine Optimization
- March 18 at Snarky Loon Brewing in Jenkins | Topic on Tap: Business Tax Prep Basics
- April 8 at Cuyuna

Brewing Company in Crosby | Topic on Tap: Employee Training Resources

- May 6 at Up North Social in Crosslake | Topic on Tap: Preparing for Tourism Season

Entrepreneurs on Tap is open to aspiring entrepreneurs, startups, and established small business owners alike. Whether someone is refining an idea or scaling an operation, the series offers relevant insights, trusted guidance, and a chance to connect with peers who understand the realities of running a business in Crow Wing County.



Snowy January Preschool Storytime

It was a snowy day for Preschool Storytime held at the Staples Library in January. Each month children are invited to the library for a fun time of stories, songs, crafts and snacks. Call the library at 218-894-1401 to sign up for the next

PreSchool Storytime to be held Weds., February 18 at 10:30 a.m. The library is located at 122 6th St NE, Staples.

Above: Bjorn, Rhett and Syllas LaBlanc and Alida Hanson. (Submitted photo)

Fridays with a Forester for woodlands landowners

By Gary Wyatt, University of Minnesota Extension

Join University of Minnesota Extension foresters to discuss some of the key issues and questions around forest and woodlands facing Minnesota landowners.

These online sessions will be very informal, open to the public and free of charge. Each session will start with a brief presentation, followed by a discussion framed around participants’ questions on the topic. Each Zoom session will be from 9 a.m. to 10 a.m.

The 2026 topics and presenters are listed below:

- Feb. 13: Stewardship strategies for resilient forests - Anna Stockstad
- Feb. 20: ParSci summary from 2025 and what’s coming in 2026 - Angela Gupta and Hana Kim
- March 20: Disturbance and woodland stewardship - Eli Sagor
- March 27: Recognizing, preventing, and

managing oak wilt - Grace Haynes

- April 10: Management considerations to enhance forest habitat for birds - Peter Dieser
- April 17: Get ready for tree seed collection in spring (Scouting & ParSci) - Kira Pollack
- April 24: Growing and selling wood: Production forestry on private lands. - Eli Sagor
- Feb. 27: Climate ready trees for windbreaks and silvopasture - Gary Wyatt, Angie Gupta, and Kira Pollack

To learn more about each topic and sign up for these Zoom sessions, register at this link: z.umn.edu/Fridays2026

Recordings from all sessions in the series will be made available on the Extension YouTube page: z.umn.edu/Fridays

There is no session on March 13 because the forestry team will be at the MN Family Woodland Conference in Collegeville.

Menu

Senior Nutrition Program
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. Menu is 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 218-979-4118 Feb. 9 - 13

MONDAY - Chicken/dumplings, green beans, diced pear cup, wh bread, marg., cheesecake brownie, 1% milk.

TUESDAY - Chicken broccoli rice casserole, sliced carrots, Gala apple, dinner roll, marg., 1% milk.

WEDNESDAY - Meatloaf, baked potato, broccoli, applesauce cup, sour cream, marg., wheat bread, 1% milk.

THURSDAY - Diced turkey/gravy, mashed potatoes, stuffing, whole kernel corn, diced peach cup, dinner roll, marg., 1% milk.

FRIDAY - Potato crunch fish fillet, mashed sweet potatoes, mixed veggies, wheat dinner roll, marg., tartar sauce, snickerdoodle cookie, 1% milk.

wk7

Needing/Wanting a Granite Memorial FOR YOUR FAMILY?

I can help!
Diane M. Hahn
30 years serving our area!

Rep. for Fergus Falls Monument Co.
Call 218-445-5685 or 218-640-2341

Make a Difference in Your Community!

Volunteer for City of Staples Boards and Commissions

The City of Staples is inviting passionate residents to get involved and help shape our community’s future by serving on key volunteer boards and commissions. We currently have the following openings:

- **Parks & Recreation Advisory Board**
- **Planning & Zoning Commission**
- **Public Works Commission**
- **Charter Commission**

These rewarding volunteer roles provide a meaningful way to contribute to local decision-making, support community projects, and influence the direction of Staples for years to come. Appointments are made by the City Council.

If you’re interested in applying or would like more details about the responsibilities, time commitment, or application process, contact Staples City Hall at (218) 894-2550 or visit our official website at staples.govoffice.com for the application form and additional information.

w7c

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ST. PAUL FEBRUARY 13-14

CINCH WORLD RODEO

GRAND CASINO ARENA

PHEASANT FEST & QUAIL CLASSIC
Presented by **FEDERAL**

FEB. 20-22
MINNEAPOLIS CONVENTION CENTER

Be a part of the much-anticipated 2026 National Pheasant Fest & Quail Classic. The annual national convention and outdoor trade show focuses on wildlife conservation, upland game bird hunting, bird dogs, wildlife habitat management, pollinators and more!

Motley School Faculty/ Staff reunion May 1

A Motley School Faculty/ Staff Reunion will be held Friday, May 1, at Pine Ridge Golf Course in Motley, from 4 - 9 p.m.

The reunion is open to all faculty, staff, school board members, etc., who worked at the school building in Motley at any time (Motley Elementary, Motley High

School, or Motley Staples Middle School). It will be a time of fun and reminiscing.

For information about the meal cost and to RSVP by April 1, text 218-296-1461 or email madsonb60@yahoo.com. Spouse/significant others welcome.

Hello World

ONLINE BIRTHS REMOVED
AT THE REQUEST OF LAKEWOOD
HEALTH SYSTEM.

Obituaries

Bethel Brichacek

Bethel Brichacek, 95, of Browerville passed away January 15, 2026 at Central Todd County Care Center in Clarissa.

Memorial services were held January 23 at Christ The King Catholic Church, Browerville.

Burial was at the church cemetery.

Bethel Marie Shannon was born to Edgar and Mary Shannon at home on Christmas Day, 1930 in Leader. She had four older brothers, Orville, Walter, Vern and David.

She attended country school in Leader and graduated from Motley High School in 1947. She attended Teachers Training in Staples and taught in various country schools in Todd County.

Bethel married George Brichacek on June 9, 1949, at St. Michael's Catholic Church in Motley. To this union six children were born: Bradley, Rickey, Kerry, Kristi, Lonnie and Kimberly.

Bethel enjoyed playing Tripoli, sewing, embroidery and baking homemade Long Johns which were a family favorite. She was a member of the



Todd County Homemakers, Moran Mixers and served on the council at the Colonial Terrace in Clarissa. She was a member of Christ the King Catholic Church in Browerville.

Bethel is survived by one son, Rickey (Marilyn); three daughters, Kerry (Denny Finn), Kristi (Ken) Biermaier and Kimberly (Ken) Wuollet; one daughter-in-law, Patricia; 18 grandchildren; 38 great-grandchildren and 12 great-great-grandchildren.

She was preceded in death by her husband, George of 69 years and two sons, Bradley and Lonnie.

w7c A00006B2026FB04

Kenneth Hudalla

Kenneth William Hudalla, 84, of Rice, passed away January 27, 2026, at St. Cloud Hospital.

Mass of Christian Burial was held February 2 at Sacred Heart Catholic Church in Sauk Rapids, with Father Thomas Knobach officiating.

Burial was at St. Joseph Catholic Cemetery in Clarissa.

Ken was born September 17, 1941, in Iona Township to William and Marie (Brown) Hudalla. In his early 20's, he joined the Army National Guard and for six years, he proudly served his country. Kenneth married his beloved wife, Karen Sumey, on April 24, 1965, at St. Isidore Catholic Church in Moran Township. Before settling in Rice in 1976, Ken and Karen moved around the state, living in Fargo, Brainerd, Duluth, Moorhead and Champlin. Ken was a dedicated manager for the United Parcel Service (UPS) for 31 years before he retiring at age 53. He was a devout member of Sacred Heart Catholic Church in Sauk Rapids.

Ken liked being on the water, especially on his pontoon surrounded by family. One of his passions in life was farming and taking care of his land. His favorite places to be were on his farmland in Clarissa and Missouri. He spent countless hours dedicated to the land and caring for the nature around him. Ken was a determined, brave, intelligent and decisive soul who was always unfailingly



prepared for whatever came at him. He loved spending time with his family, grandchildren and siblings, whom he was always proud of.

Ken is survived by his wife of 60 years, Karen of Rice; two sons, Michael (Noelle) of Staples and Chad (Marie) of Dayton; one daughter, Jodi (Chris) Belair; four grandchildren, Brooke, William, Addison and Amelia; four siblings, Gordy of Anoka, Deb Coffin of St. Michael, Bruce of Blythedale, MO and Tama Davis of Columbus, OH and one sister-in-law, Kitty of Gainesville, GA.

He is preceded in death by his parents; one daughter, Julie, on January 4, 2016; one son, Thomas, on April 25, 1968 and one brother Doug, on October 18, 2004.

Obituary, Guest Book, and video tribute available online at www.williamsdingmann.com.

Arrangements were by Williams Dingmann Family Funeral Home in Sauk Rapids.

w7c A00006B2026FB04

Joann Drajna

Joann Drajna, 76, Staples/Browerville area, passed away January 25, 2026 St. Williams Living Center in Parkers Prairie

Mass of Christian Burial was held January 29 at the Sacred Heart Catholic Church in Staples.

Joann Mary Jambor was born March 30, 1949, to Albert and Mary Anne Jambor in Algona, Iowa. They moved to the family farm in Moran Township in 1951, where they welcomed her brother Leo and sisters Roseanne and Carol.

Joann attended elementary and high school in Staples graduating in 1967. She married Allan Drajna on October 20, 1967. Together they welcomed two sets of twins: Jim and Janet and Dean and Darin. They later divorced.

Joann worked as a food service aid for Staples Public School for several years, retiring to care for her aging parents and her blind sister, Roseanne.

She enjoyed cooking, canning, sewing, embroi-

dering, traveling, writing letters, playing bingo and especially visiting with family and friends.

In 2014 she moved to St. Williams Living Center in Parkers Prairie where she remained until she died.

Joann is survived by one daughter, Janet (Jim) Becker; two sons, Jim Drajna, and Darin (Special Friend, Jenny) Drajna; two granddaughters, Samantha (Lewis) Becker and Kimberly (Fiancé Kyle) Becker; four great-grandchildren, Roxy, William, Arthur and Theodore Becker; one brother, Leo Jambor; two sisters, Roseanne Jambor and Carol (Bruce) John and several nieces, nephews and cousins.

Joann was preceded in death by her parents; grandparents; one infant son, Dean Drajna; one great-grandson, Raymond Becker and one nephew, Jason Jambor.

Arrangements were by Iten Funeral Home of Browerville.

w7c A00006B2026FB04

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
Church.....218-631-1598
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 a.m.
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

Balsamlund 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.
July - January.....11 a.m.

Maple Hill Lutheran
Sandy Knight, Synodically Authorized Minister of Word and Sacrament
Leader.....218-397-2470 (Rural Pine River)
Worship and Sunday School.....9:00 a.m.

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
280 1st Ave S, Motley.....218-631-1598
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 Malcore
Sunday School.....10:00 a.m.
Sunday Worship.....11:00 a.m.

Pillager

First Lutheran Church
Pastor Mathew Sundquist
717 River Street S, Pillager, MN
218-746-3775
Sunday Worship.....9:30 a.m.
Sunday School, 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.
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 Ulhren
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 Malcore
Sunday Worship.....9:00 a.m.
Sunday School.....10:30 a.m.
WEDNESDAY
Family Night.....5:30 p.m.

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

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

Central 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.....218-631-1598
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.....218-631-1598
info@marysacc.org
Rev. JC Duncan, 218-632-7314 Rev. Rick Aubol, 218-632-7310 Father Greg Sauer, 218-632-7319
Sunday Service.....10:30 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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Eye of the Cardinal

Avandre Brandt is almost touching the logo as he embodies the Cardinal spirit, hitting a long three point shot late in the game against Perham. (Staples World photos by Mark Anderson)

Brandt reaches 1,000 points and Larson 500 rebounds in big win

Avandre Brandt and Noah Larson hit milestones as they led the Staples-Motley boys basketball team to a 65-55 win against Perham on Jan. 27. Brandt scored 29 to reach 1,000 career points and Larson had nine rebounds to reach 500 for his career. The win moved the Cardinals into third place in the Heart O Lakes Conference and towards the top of Section 8AA for play-off seeding. Staples-Motley then lost 67-55 to conference leader Pelican Rapids on Jan. 29, and lost to Pequot Lakes the next day, 65-52.

The Cardinals had lost to Perham by one point in their first meeting this year, so they played with confidence this time. Larson got inside baskets to get the team off to a good start. They battled throughout the first half, but Perham hit a lot of three pointers to take the lead by halftime. In the second half, Brandt took over offensively, with Perham unable to stop him from driving to the basket for lay-ins or free throws. He made 11 of 13 free throws in the game. Late in the game, Josiah Burton tipped in a missed shot to tie the score and Carter Sarbaum made a three pointer to give the Cardinals a lead. After Brandt hit a free throw and drove in for a score, Eli Rutten made a steal on defense and Brandt pulled up for a deep three pointer that gave the team a 56-49 lead with three minutes to go. Brandt and Rutten both made free throws to seal the win.

Against Pelican Rapids and Pequot Lakes, the Cardinals were competitive against two of the top teams in the area, but eventually ran out of firepower and lost both games by double digits.

With the win against Perham, the Cardinals briefly bumped up to the position of the top seed in Section 8AA, where the team was placed this year after being in Section 7AA the previous two years. Technically, Staples-Motley was rated lower than Dilworth-Glyndon-Felton, but they have a win against them this year, so they would become the top seed. With the two losses, they dropped to the third seed in the section. With nine games remaining in the regular season, three teams are in the range for the top seed, with three more teams who have won games



final part of the season and section tournament.

Staples-Motley has a rematch with DGF on Feb. 13 and plenty of more games to be played, including conference rematches with Breckenridge and Pelican Rapids, plus a big game at Pillager on Monday, Feb. 9.

Team results

Staples-Motley 65, Perham 55

Scoring: Avandre Brandt 29, Eli Rutten 16, Carter Sarbaum

7, Noah Larson 7 Josiah Burton 6

Rebound leaders: Larson 9, Burton 7, Brandt 6, Rutten 3, Sarbaum 3

Assist leaders: Rutten 5, Conner Kuhns 3, Brandt 3

Steals leaders: Burton 2, Rutten 2, Brandt 2

Staples-Motley 55, Pelican Rapids 67

Scoring: Brandt 15, Rutten 15, Burton 8, Kuhns 7, Larson 5, Sarbaum 5

Rebound leaders: Larson 8, Burton 6, Brandt 6, Rutten 4

Steals leaders: Rutten 2



Clearing space

The defense can't touch him as Noah Larson pulls down one of his 500 career rebounds.

Staples-Motley wins battle of champions

The Staples-Motley boys wrestling team won a battle of defending state champions on Jan. 29, with a 38-26 win at Watertown-Mayer/Mayer Lutheran, last year's Class AA state champion team.

On Jan. 30, the Cardinals won the Heart O Lakes Conference tournament, with six individual champions out of the 13 weights.

Since winning their state title last year, WM/ML lost a few of their stars to graduation, but still have plenty of firepower, including three wrestlers ranked number one in Class AA. Meanwhile, Staples-Motley has replaced the seniors they graduated with quality wrestlers at every weight, although they had several starters out for this match as they are still working to get healthy by the end of the season.

For the second week in a row, Caden Kramer faced a defending state champion and nationally ranked wrestler. He got the first takedown of the match, but gave up the next two to go down 12-5.

Staples-Motley fell behind 26-15 before winning

the last four weights with three falls and one technical fall to pull out the win.

At the HOL Conference meet, Staples-Motley entered multiple wrestlers at several weights, but only one per weight counts in the team scores

Garrett Bjerga, Caden Kramer, Gage Bjerga, Elijah Greenwaldt, Colbe Tappe and Adrian Gomez were conference champions, with Cooper Tappe, Riley Reese and Reece Headley placing third. A few of new faces on varsity, Jayden Rogers, Liam Jennissen and Philip Rapp, all earned conference medals, as did Andrew Dobson and Jude Thompson.

Team results

Staples-Motley 38, Watertown-Mayer/Mayer Lutheran 26

107 Garrett Bjerga W 16-0 tf, 114 Jude Thompson L fall, 121 Caden Kramer L 12-5, 127 Camrik Tappe L fall, 133 Cayden Neisen L 8-5, 139 Gage Bjerga W fall, 145 Elijah Greenwaldt W 14-4, 152 Beau Carlson L 17-2 tf, 160 Cooper Tappe L 5-2, 172 Riley Reese W fall, 189

Luke Bjerga W fall, 215 Zach Tabatt W 16-0 tf, 285 Adrian Gomez W fall

Heart O Lakes Conference tournament

Staples-Motley 233, Perham 213, Dilworth-Glyndon-Felton 145, Frazee 137, Pelican Rapids 87, Barnesville 86, Park Rapids 33

107 Gt. Bjerga 2-0, 1st place; Jayden Rogers 2-1, 2nd place

114 Andrew Dobson 2-2, 4th place; Thompson 2-2, 5th place

121 Kramer 2-0, 1st place 127 Liam Jennissen 0-2, 5th place

133 Jackson Odden 1-2, 4th place 139 Gg. Bjerga 3-0, 1st place

145 Greenwaldt 3-0, 1st place 152 Cooper Tappe 3-1, 3rd place

160 Colbe Tappe 2-0, 1st place 172 Reese 3-1, 3rd place;

Seth Cossentine 1-2, 5th place 189 Reece Headley 3-1, 3rd place

215 Tabatt 1-2, 4th place 285 Gomez 2-0, 1st place; Philip Rapp 1-2, 4th place

Tureson wins at Osakis

Anika Tureson scored three pins to win her weight bracket at the Osakis Girls Wrestling Invitational on Jan. 30. Other Cardinals bringing home hardware were Isabelle Dobson, who placed fifth, and Leah Greenwaldt in third place. Maddie Kist and Jocelyn Vogt both had two wins in the tournament to advance to the top eight.

As a team, Staples-Motley placed 8th out of 21 teams.

In the championship match against a wrestler from Hopkins, Tureson scored a takedown and had a two point near fall in the first period, then earned a reversal in the second period and turned it into a pin to win the title.

Greenwaldt had a 17-0 technical fall win in her third place match and Dobson scored a first period pin in her fifth place match.

Team results

Third annual Osakis Girls Invitational

106 Isabelle Dobson 3-1, 5th place; Yarethzy Lopez Montanez 1-2

112 Leah Greenwaldt 3-1, 3rd place 118 Lilly Czechowicz 0-2

124 Maddie Kist 2-2 130 Jocelyn Vogt 2-2

136 Kalee Winter 0-2 170 Anika Tureson 3-0, 1st place

190 Aubrie Houchin 0-2

Cardinals play close game

The Staples-Motley girls basketball team had a halftime lead, but lost 44-29 against Osakis on Jan. 29. The Cardinals also lost to conference leader Frazee 67-23 on Jan. 27.

Against Osakis, late in the first half, Chloe Larson got fouled going in for a layup, made the basket and made the free throw to put the Cardinals ahead 18-15 at halftime. In the second half, they ran into a cold spell early and Osakis picked up the pace offensively. When Staples-Motley cut the score to single digits late in the game, they had another cold spell to fall back again.

Team results

Staples-Motley 29, Osakis 44

Scoring: Chloe Larson 12, Sophia Luna 6, Clara Maros 5, Pam Lawrence 4, Hannah Cole 2



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The Minnesota Department of Agriculture is hiring temp. intermittent Surveyors (Ag Technicians) for the 2026 Spongy Moth Trapping Survey season. \$20.51/hr. + mileage reimbursement. View job post (Job I.D. 91599) & apply online through March 2nd: <https://mn.gov/mmb/careers>. MDA is an equal opportunity employer & provider. Questions: 651/201-6692 or natasha.northrop@state.mn.us

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SW 2024 changed wk #3



**NOTICE
BARTLETT TOWNSHIP
ELECTION
ABSENTEE BALLOTS**

Bartlett Township residents needing an Absentee Ballot for the township election on March 10, 2026 should contact the Clerk at 218-640-3176 between February 6 and March 8, 2026.

Jan Jares, Clerk
Bartlett Township
7pnc

**NOTICE
LEADER COMMUNITY
HALL MEETING**

The Leader Community Hall Board will meet Thursday, February 12, 2026 at the hall at 7:00 p.m.

Mark Strom, Secretary
6-7pnc

**NOTICE OF
MORTGAGE
FORECLOSURE SALE**

THE RIGHT TO VERIFICATION OF THE DEBT AND IDENTITY OF THE ORIGINAL CREDITOR WITHIN THE TIME PROVIDED BY LAW IS NOT AFFECTED BY THIS ACTION.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN: That default has occurred in the conditions of the following described mortgage:

DATE OF MORTGAGE: July 1, 2003

ORIGINAL PRINCIPAL AMOUNT OF MORTGAGE: \$57,524.00

MORTGAGOR(S): Shawn Habiger, a single person

MORTGAGEE: Washington Mutual Bank, FA

DATE AND PLACE OF FILING: Recorded on July 2, 2003 as Document Number 418965 in the Office of the County Recorder of Todd County, Minnesota.

ASSIGNMENTS OF MORTGAGE: Assigned to: Wells Fargo Bank, N.A. by assignment recorded on December 26, 2006 as Document Number 446443 in the Office of the County Recorder of Todd County, Minnesota.

LEGAL DESCRIPTION OF PROPERTY: Beginning at the Northwest Corner of the Southwest Quarter of Section 11, Township 133 North, Range 34 West; thence Southerly 1070 feet to the point or beginning of the land to be described; thence Easterly 660 feet; thence Southerly 660 feet; thence Westerly 660 feet; thence Northerly 660 feet to the point beginning, Todd County, Minnesota.

STREET ADDRESS OF PROPERTY: 49206 COUNTY 11, ALDRICH, MN 56434

**NOTICE OF
MORTGAGE
FORECLOSURE SALE**

THE RIGHT TO VERIFICATION OF THE DEBT AND IDENTITY OF THE ORIGINAL CREDITOR WITHIN THE TIME PROVIDED BY LAW IS NOT AFFECTED BY THIS ACTION.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN: That default has occurred in the conditions of the following described mortgage:

DATE OF MORTGAGE: April 29, 2025

ORIGINAL PRINCIPAL AMOUNT OF MORTGAGE: \$116,400.00

MORTGAGOR(S): Sondra Mevissen, as an individual

MORTGAGEE: Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc., as nominee for Zillow Home Loans, LLC

DATE AND PLACE OF FILING: Recorded on April 30, 2025 as Document Number A545637 in the Office of the County Recorder of Todd County, Minnesota.

ASSIGNMENTS OF MORTGAGE: Assigned to: PennyMac Loan Services, LLC by assignment recorded on October 17, 2025 as Document Number A548370 in the Office of the County Recorder of Todd County, Minnesota.

LEGAL DESCRIPTION OF PROPERTY: Lots 10, 11 and 12, Block 9, Townsite of Hewitt, according to the plat thereof on file and of record in the office of the County Recorder in and for Todd County, Minnesota.

STREET ADDRESS OF PROPERTY: 408 N MAIN ST, HEWITT, MN 56453

COUNTY IN WHICH PROPERTY IS LOCATED: Todd County, Minnesota.

THE AMOUNT CLAIMED

**NOTICE
EVERGREEN HILL
CEMETERY
ANNUAL MEETING**

Evergreen Hill Cemetery, Staples, will hold their annual meeting Tuesday, February 10, 2026 at 6:15 p.m. at the Staples Community Center.

Election of officers will be held.

Robert Reeck, Secretary
Evergreen Hill Cemetery
7pnc

**FAWN LAKE
TOWNSHIP
BOARD OF AUDIT**

Fawn Lake Township will hold its annual Board of Audit on Monday, February 9, 2026 following the regular monthly meet. Any questions call the clerk at

COUNTY IN WHICH PROPERTY IS LOCATED: Todd County, Minnesota.

THE AMOUNT CLAIMED TO BE DUE ON THE MORTGAGE ON THE DATE OF THE NOTICE: \$24,581.26

TRANSACTION AGENT: None

NAME OF MORTGAGE ORIGINATOR: Washington Mutual Bank, FA RESIDENTIAL SERVICER: Wells Fargo Bank, N.A.

TAX PARCEL IDENTIFICATION NUMBER: 01-0011000

TRANSACTION AGENT'S MORTGAGE IDENTIFICATION NUMBER: None

THAT no action or proceeding has been instituted at law to recover the debt then remaining secured by such mortgage, or any part thereof, or, if the action or proceeding has been instituted, that the same has been discontinued, or that an execution upon the judgment rendered therein has been returned unsatisfied, in whole or in part.

PURSUANT, to the power of sale contained in said mortgage, the above described property will be sold by the Sheriff of said county as follows:

DATE AND TIME OF SALE: April 02, 2026 at 10:00 AM.

PLACE OF SALE: Todd County Sheriff's Office, County Detention Center, 115 Third Street South, Long Prairie, MN 56347.

to pay the debt then secured by said mortgage and taxes, if any actually paid by the mortgagee, on the premises and the costs and disbursements allowed by law. The time allowed by law for redemption by said mortgagor(s), their personal representatives or assigns is twelve (12) months from the

TO BE DUE ON THE MORTGAGE ON THE DATE OF THE NOTICE: \$123,012.38

TRANSACTION AGENT: Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc.

NAME OF MORTGAGE ORIGINATOR: Zillow Home Loans, LLC

RESIDENTIAL SERVICER: PennyMac Loan Services, LLC

TAX PARCEL IDENTIFICATION NUMBER: 35-0016100

TRANSACTION AGENT'S MORTGAGE IDENTIFICATION NUMBER: 100278200006378243

THAT no action or proceeding has been instituted at law to recover the debt then remaining secured by such mortgage, or any part thereof, or, if the action or proceeding has been instituted, that the same has been discontinued, or that an execution upon the judgment rendered therein has been returned unsatisfied, in whole or in part.

PURSUANT, to the power of sale contained in said mortgage, the above described property will be sold by the Sheriff of said county as follows:

DATE AND TIME OF SALE: March 19, 2026 at 10:00 AM.

PLACE OF SALE: Todd County Sheriff's Office, County Detention Center, 115 Third Street South, Long Prairie, MN 56347.

to pay the debt then secured by said mortgage and taxes, if any actually paid by the mortgagee, on the premises and the costs and disbursements allowed by law. The time allowed by law for redemption by said mortgagor(s), their personal representatives or assigns is six (6) months from the date

218-531-0287.

Kelly Miller, Clerk
Fawn Lake Township
7pnc

**NOTICE
MEADOWBROOK
TOWNSHIP
February 2026
Town Board Meeting
and Annual Audit**

Due to the Minnesota State Caucus to be held on February 3, 2026, the Meadowbrook Township meeting will be rescheduled to Tuesday, February 10, 2026 at 7:00 p.m. at the Leader Community Hall. The Annual Audit will also be held immediately following the Town Board Meeting.

Ty W. Peterson, Clerk
Meadowbrook Township
7pnc

date of sale.

TIME AND DATE TO VACATE PROPERTY: Unless said mortgage is reinstated or the property redeemed, or unless the time for redemption is reduced by judicial order, you must vacate the premises by 11:59 p.m. on April 2, 2007

THE TIME ALLOWED BY LAW FOR REDEMPTION BY THE MORTGAGOR, THE MORTGAGOR'S PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVES OR ASSIGNS, MAY BE REDUCED TO FIVE WEEKS IF A JUDICIAL ORDER IS ENTERED UNDER MINNESOTA STATUTES, SECTION 582.032, DETERMINING, AMONG OTHER THINGS, THAT THE MORTGAGED PREMISES ARE IMPROVED WITH A RESIDENTIAL DWELLING OF LESS THAN FIVE UNITS, ARE NOT PROPERTY USED IN AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTION, AND ARE ABANDONED.

MORTGAGOR(S) RELEASED FROM FINANCIAL OBLIGATION ON MORTGAGE: Shawn Habiger

Dated: January 27, 2026

WELLS FARGO BANK, N.A.
Mortgagee

TROTT LAW, P.C.
By: /s/
N. Kibongni Fondungallah, Esq.
Samuel R. Coleman, Esq.
Alexa Marsh, Esq.
Attorneys for Mortgagee
25 Dale Street North
St. Paul, MN 55102
(651) 209-9760
(26-0023-FC01)

THIS IS A COMMUNICATION FROM A DEBT COLLECTOR.

7-12pnc

of sale.

TIME AND DATE TO VACATE PROPERTY: Unless said mortgage is reinstated or the property redeemed, or unless the time for redemption is reduced by judicial order, you must vacate the premises by 11:59 p.m. on September 21, 2026.

THE TIME ALLOWED BY LAW FOR REDEMPTION BY THE MORTGAGOR, THE MORTGAGOR'S PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVES OR ASSIGNS, MAY BE REDUCED TO FIVE WEEKS IF A JUDICIAL ORDER IS ENTERED UNDER MINNESOTA STATUTES, SECTION 582.032, DETERMINING, AMONG OTHER THINGS, THAT THE MORTGAGED PREMISES ARE IMPROVED WITH A RESIDENTIAL DWELLING OF LESS THAN FIVE UNITS, ARE NOT PROPERTY USED IN AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTION, AND ARE ABANDONED.

MORTGAGOR(S) RELEASED FROM FINANCIAL OBLIGATION ON MORTGAGE: None

Dated: January 13, 2026

PENNYMAC LOAN SERVICES, LLC
Mortgagee

TROTT LAW, P.C.
By: /s/
N. Kibongni Fondungallah, Esq.
Samuel R. Coleman, Esq.
Alexa Marsh, Esq.
Attorneys for Mortgagee
25 Dale Street North
St. Paul, MN 55102
(651) 209-9760
(25-1247-FC01)

THIS IS A COMMUNICATION FROM A DEBT COLLECTOR.

5-10pnc

**STATE OF MINNESOTA
COUNTY OF TODD
SEVENTH JUDICIAL
DISTRICT
DISTRICT COURT
PROBATE DIVISION
Court File
No. 77-PR-26-90**

Estate of
Carter Dale LaPoint,
Decedent

**NOTICE AND ORDER
OF HEARING ON PETITION FOR FORMAL ADJUDICATION OF INSTACY, DETERMINATION OF HEIRSHIP, APPOINTMENT OF PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE AND NOTICE TO CREDITORS**

It is Ordered and Notice is given that on March 9, 2026, at 10:14 a.m., a hearing will be held in this Court at 221 1st Ave. S, Long Prairie, Minnesota, for the adjudication of intestacy and determination of heirship of the Decedent, and for the appointment Mark L. McCollough, whose address is 5665 240th St., Forest Lake, Minnesota, 55025 as Personal Representative of the Estate of the Decedent in an UNSUPERVISED administration. This hearing will be administrative in which no appearances are necessary Any objections filed will result in a hearing to be set at a future date. Any objections to the petition must be filed with the

City of Motley			
SUMMARY BUDGET STATEMENT			
The purpose of this report is to provide 2026 summary budget information concerning the City of Motley to interested citizens. The budget is published in accordance with MN Statute 471.6965. The budget is a summary document only. The complete budget may be examined at the City Office. The City Council approved the 2026 budget on December 8th, 2025.			
BUDGETED GOVERNMENTAL FUNDS			
	2025	2026	
	ACTUAL	BUDGETED	
Revenues:			
Property Taxes.....	\$429,064	\$428,450	
Special Assessments.....	\$405,933	\$337,687	
Licenses & Permits.....	\$10,337	\$6,330	
State General Purpose Aid.....	\$232,511	\$235,000	
State Categorical Aid.....	\$63,636	\$37,000	
Charges for Services.....	\$90,147	\$85,570	
Fines & Forfeits.....	\$5,051	\$5,250	
Interest on Investments.....	\$20,851	\$17,000	
Miscellaneous Revenues.....	\$13,313	\$47,994	
Transfers from other funds.....	\$207,495	\$246,643	
Total Revenues	\$1,478,338	\$1,446,924	
Expenditures:			
General Government.....	\$262,623	\$281,965	
Public Safety.....	\$269,812	\$283,023	
Streets & Highways.....	\$261,179	\$275,446	
Sanitation.....	\$0	\$0	
Culture & Recreation.....	\$11,423	\$16,335	
Economic Development.....	\$410	\$410	
Debt Service-Principal.....	\$518,000	\$526,000	
Interest & Fiscal Charges.....	\$42,237	\$33,535	
Capital Outlay.....	\$34,500	\$32,500	
Total Expenditures	\$1,400,184	\$1,449,214	

**NOTICE OF
MORTGAGE
FORECLOSURE SALE**

THE RIGHT TO VERIFICATION OF THE DEBT AND IDENTITY OF THE ORIGINAL CREDITOR WITHIN THE TIME PROVIDED BY LAW IS NOT AFFECTED BY THIS ACTION.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN: That default has occurred in the conditions of the following described mortgage:

DATE OF MORTGAGE: July 31, 2015

ORIGINAL PRINCIPAL AMOUNT OF MORTGAGE: \$92,857.00

MORTGAGOR(S): Joel Ambriz Carrillo, a single person

MORTGAGEE: Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc., as nominee for Wintrust Mortgage, a division of Barrington Bank and Trust Co., N.A.

DATE AND PLACE OF FILING: Recorded on August 3, 2015 as Document Number 495310 in the Office of the County Recorder of Todd County, Minnesota.

ASSIGNMENTS OF MORTGAGE: Assigned to: Wells Fargo Bank, N.A. by assignment recorded on September 10, 2019 as Document Number A515937 in the Office of the County Recorder of Todd County, Minnesota.

LEGAL DESCRIPTION OF PROPERTY: The East One Hundred Sixty-Five (165) feet of the South Seventy-six (76) feet of the North Eighty (80) feet of Lot Three (3), Block One (1), Budgett's First Addition to the Village of Long Prairie, Todd County, Minnesota.

STREET ADDRESS OF PROPERTY: 215 6TH ST SE, LONG PRAIRIE, MN 56347

COUNTY IN WHICH PROPERTY IS LOCATED: Todd

Court prior to or raised at the hearing. If proper and if no objections are filed or raised, the Personal Representative will be appointed with full power to administer the Estate, including the power to collect all assets, to pay all legal debts, claims, taxes and expenses, to sell real and personal property, and to do all necessary acts for the Estate.

Notice is also given that (subject to Minnesota Statutes Section 524.3-801) all creditors having claims against the Estate are required to present the claims to the Personal Representative or to the Court Administrator within four months after the date of this Notice or the claims will be barred.

Dated: 1/27/2026

BY THE COURT
Ellen Maas,
Judge of District Court

Kim Peterson
Court Administrator

Attorney for Petitioner
William F. Huefner
Barna, Guzy & Steffen, LTD.
200 Coon Rapids Boulevard,
Suite 400
Coon Rapids,
Minnesota 55433
Attorney License No: 238855
Telephone: (763) 780-8500
FAX: (763) 780-8500
Email: whuefner@bgs.com
7-8pnc

County, Minnesota.

THE AMOUNT CLAIMED TO BE DUE ON THE MORTGAGE ON THE DATE OF THE NOTICE: \$76,613.22

TRANSACTION AGENT: Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc.

NAME OF MORTGAGE ORIGINATOR: Wintrust Mortgage, a division of Barrington Bank and Trust Co., N.A.

RESIDENTIAL SERVICER: Wells Fargo Bank, N.A.

TAX PARCEL IDENTIFICATION NUMBER: 36-0077000

TRANSACTION AGENT'S MORTGAGE IDENTIFICATION NUMBER: 1000312-0001250034-1

THAT no action or proceeding has been instituted at law to recover the debt then remaining secured by such mortgage, or any part thereof, or, if the action or proceeding has been instituted,

that the same has been discontinued, or that an execution upon the judgment rendered therein has been returned unsatisfied, in whole or in part.

PURSUANT, to the power of sale contained in said mortgage, the above described property will be sold by the Sheriff of said county as follows:

DATE AND TIME OF SALE: April 02, 2026 at 10:00 AM.

PLACE OF SALE: Todd County Sheriff's Office, County Detention Center, 115 Third Street South, Long Prairie, MN 56347.

to pay the debt then secured by said mortgage and taxes, if any actually paid by the mortgagee, on the premises and the costs and disbursements allowed by law. The time allowed by law for redemption by said

**NOTICE
PUBLIC HEARING
TO CONSIDER
REZONING
PARCELS
38-0101900 and
38-4012800**

NOTICE is hereby given that the Planning and Zoning Commission of the City of Staples will hold a public hearing at 5:00 p.m. on Tuesday, February 17, 2026, at the Staples City Hall, 122 6th St NE, to consider rezoning parcels 38-0101900 and 38-4012800 from B-1 (Commercial) to R-3 (Multi-Family Residential).

All persons interested are invited to attend this hearing and be heard on this matter.

If you are unable to attend, you can e-mail or mail comments to the City Clerk at tgreer@ci.staples.mn.us. For more information call Tara at 218-541-5004.

Tara Greer, Clerk,
City of Staples

7pnc

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Speech team wins Pequot Lakes tournament

On Jan. 24, the Staples-Motley Speech team braved the sub-zero temperatures to compete in the Pequot Lakes “Not So” Early Bird Tournament. The team won first place, with many individuals having excellent showings.

In the category of Creative Expression, Walker Johnson and Maddock Harvey brought home first and second place respectively. Bella Hines placed fifth in the category of Discussion, and Charlotte Aldrich placed sixth in the

Discussion honor final. In Drama, Brynn Bestland won first place and Raina Mikhaeil placed third, with Lydia Tkalcich placing second and Lexa Graves placing fifth in the honor final. In Extemporaneous Reading, Walker Johnson placed first and Meredith Hoemberg received a red ribbon. In the category of Great Speeches, Tristan Rendon placed second and Raina Mikhaeil placed fifth. In Humor, Caleb Bestland placed fifth and Landon Zeigler placed sixth in the

honor final. Brynn Bestland took second place in the Informative category. Sadye Anderson placed first in the Poetry honor final and Bella Hines received a red ribbon. In the category of Prose, Tristan Rendon took first, Lexi Ann took second, and Jackson Alexander placed sixth, with Caleb Bestland placing third in the honor final. In Storytelling, Maddock Harvey won first place and Jackson Bitzer placed fifth.



Nature goes on in the cold

On the coldest day of the year, Jan. 16, no creatures were visible at the Legacy Arboretum in Staples, but their tracks could be seen traveling all over. (Staples World photo by Mark Anderson)



Speech tournament prizes

With their trophy and prizes from the Pequot Lakes tournament, front row from left, team Captains Raina Mikhaeil, Brynn Bestland and Walker Johnson; row two, Landon Zeigler, Lydia Tkalcich, Angie Paklonsky, Lexa Graves, Ava Davis and Kai Bestland; row three, Alex Tkalcich, Sadye

Anderson, Charlotte Aldrich, Bella Hines, Hayden Anderson and Anna Hurtig; back row, Maddock Harvey, Caleb Bestland, Jackson Bitzer, Jackson Alexander, Meredith Hoemberg, Tristan Rendon, Molly Hoemberg and Lexi Ann. (Submitted photo)



View of the frozen pond

With temperatures dipping to minus 30 degrees, the bench at the Legacy Arboretum was not very comfortable for sit-

ting, but it does still provide a nice view of the pond. (Staples World photo by Mark Anderson)



Taking their shots

Staples-Motley youth basketball players participate in shooting games at half time of the varsity girls game on Jan. 29. (Staples World photos by Mark Anderson)

