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Pillager Fair preview
4th of July celebration at Staples All Veterans Park
14U baseball to state



Color Guard Members of the Motley American Legion Color Guard provided the 21 Gun Salute/Taps at the Fourth of July Program in Staples. More photos from the program, held at Staples All Veterans Park, can be found on pg. 2a and 10a. (Photo by Dawn Timbs)

Wertish tells council that meat cutting facility will not have a high impact

By Mark Anderson
Managing Editor

Minnesota Farmers Union President Gary Wertish came to the July 8 Staples City Council meeting to ease concerns about the meat cutting facility currently being built by the MFU at the Staples Industrial Park.

At the previous council meeting, three citizens raised concerns about odors and other environmental impacts that the facility could cause. One of the local residents who brought up the issue at the previous meeting was also at this meeting and said he still has concerns about the project. The council also received a letter from ag producers in

support of the facility.

Wertish told the council that the facility will be similar to other meat processing plants such as the Pierz locker plant and a meat processing place in Little Falls.

“It’s not much bigger than a lot of the locker plants out there right now,” said Wertish. “At one time they were in most rural communities, a lot have been on Main Streets.”

He said some of the older locker plants are not air-conditioned like these will be.

“We are going the extra mile to address concerns,” he said.

Earlier in the meeting, the council had heard from Public Works Director Scott Grabe, who said there had

been a question about the city’s wastewater plant handling extra waste from the MFU plant.

“From their plans and what we have in our ordinances, it’s pretty clear that we will be able to handle their load,” said Grabe.

Wertish explained that all blood and offal will be contained and shipped out, because it can’t be put into wastewater. He said the manure collected will be sent to farms to use on fields for fertilizer.

He explained some of the facility processes, with animals being delivered in the evenings and kept indoors.

Wertish also addressed

See **CITY COUNCIL** on page 3a



Cardinal Pride sign updated

The highway sign proclaiming the number of state individual champions by Staples-Motley athletic teams has been raised to 75, with the addition of two track and field champions. Turner Beachy, left, won the state pole vault title and Audrey Brownell won the 1,600 meter run. Both athletes are also represented on the team title number, 32, with Beachy being a part of the state wrestling team champions and Brownell on two girls cross country team titles. (Staples World photo by Mark Anderson)

Staples City Council discusses archery hunting in town

By Mark Anderson
Managing Editor

The Staples City council approved changes to their archery hunting ordinance. There are five sections in Wadena County and two in Todd County where the city allows hunting within city limits. City Administrator Jerel Nelsen said hunting is allowed on agricultural lands near Central Lakes College and the Staples Industrial Park.

Only bow and arrow hunting is allowed and hunters must call the city for permission to use the land before hunting.

The new ordinance requires a hunting stand at least six feet tall. Small brush and buckthorn may be removed to create shooting lanes, but not branches larger than one inch in diameter.

A hunter can track a wounded animal if they are still are on public property,

but if they go onto private property, they must ask permission and can not carry their bow onto private property.

Nelsen said if two hunters call for permission to use the same land, he puts them in contact with each other so they can work it out.

“It has worked well so far,” said Nelsen, “if there are problems, nobody’s going to be hunting out there.”

Council member Doug Case had concerns about liability of allowing people to hunt within city limits. He said if the problem is nuisance deer in the city, there are other ways to combat that.

Council member John Jewison said he would have concerns if it was rifle hunting, but he thought archery was okay.

Mayor Ron Murray said hunting on city properties is a common practice with other Minnesota cities.



Backyard blossoms shared

Susan Davis of Staples provided the Staples World with a surprise arrangement of flowers from her backyard gardens. She and her husband, Ron, look forward to growing flowers and vegetables and were enjoying an annual visit with their two sons from Texas.

Weather

2025

This Week's Forecast

	High	Low	Cond.
July 16	64	54	Rain
July 17	72	54	M. Sunny
July 18	71	61	Showers
July 19	75	58	P. Cloudy
July 20	79	62	P. Cloudy
July 21	80	63	Showers
July 22	83	65	Showers

Last Year, 2024

	High	Low	Cond.
July 16	75"	64	M. Sunny
July 17	74	54	Sunny
July 18	79	53	Sunny
July 19	80	56	P. Sunny
July 20	82	60	P. Sunny
July 21	79	64	Rain
July 22	81	65	M. Sunny

Average Temps:
H = 82° Low = 60°

Compiled by
Dale Hausmann,
WCCO's Staples area
Weatherwatcher

Public Notices

Freshwater 9A

City of Staples Valley View 9A

City of Staples Capitol Improvement Plan 9A

Obituaries

Carrie Anderson

Stella Fontenyn

Bruce Haber

Janice Johnson

Maryann Petersen

Pamela Resch

Peggy Thorn



Fourth of July BBQ

Bubba's BBQ catered the Fourth of July picnic lunch in Staples, following the Fourth of July program at Staples All Veterans Park. Attendees also were treated to free Dilly Bars from the Staples DQ.



The Mennis family at paver dedication

Dr. William (Bill) Mennis (far left) and his family made their way to ring the bell at the Fourth of July Paver Dedication at Staples All Veterans Park. Dr. Mennis served as Lieutenant Commander in the U.S. Public Health Service from 1966 - 1968.



Family reunions

A number of people traveled back to Staples over the Fourth of July weekend, visiting with family and friends, while taking in holiday programs and celebrations. Pictured above July 4, enjoying the BBQ lunch at Staples All Veterans Park, are, from left: Bob Swenson, Staples; and his son-in-law and daughter, Royce and Heidi (Swenson) Napolitano of Edmonds, Wash. Heidi noted that she is a 1998 Staples-Motley High School grad.



Fourth of July celebrated at Staples All Veterans Park

Remembering Eldon Miller

Above: Joyce Irene Miller of Cedar Rapids, Iowa, sits near the U.S. Military paver of her late father, Eldon J. Miller, which was dedicated at the Fourth of July Program in Staples. A Staples native, Eldon Miller had served in the U.S. Army during WWII. Pictured below with Joyce Irene Miller (center) are her cousins who were also part of the paver dedication ceremony. At left is Sherry (Miller) Frisk of Motley, and at right is Marilyn (Miller) Holst, of Staples. Sherry's dad, Carroll Miller, and Marilyn's dad, Derald Miller, were brothers to Eldon Miller. (Staples World photos by Dawn Timbs)



A nod to "Dr. John"

Family members of the late Dr. John Gorton rang the bell as his military paver was dedicated during the Fourth of July Program in Staples. Pictured from right are Pete Gorton, John and Sally's son; and Sally Gorton, John's wife. A Doctor of Dental Surgery (DDS), Gorton served from 1966 - 1968 as a Commander in the U.S. Public Health Service.

Motley area law enforcement

Recent reports from the Motley Police Department (MPD) and Morrison County Sheriff's Office (MCSO) included the following:
July 3 - Motley Police issued a citation to Lamont Lee Sydney, 20 for speeding.
July 2 - Motley Police received a report of fraud from a resident at 4th Ave. N., Motley.
July 7 - The MCSO received a report of suspicious activity at Hwy 10 in Cushing.
July 7 - The MCSO received a call from the MN State Patrol reporting a two vehicle accident at the intersection of Hwys 10 and 210 in Motley with one person having sustained a severe cut on their leg. Staples ambulance was called.
July 6 - A Morrison County deputy responded to a report of a harassment incident at the 33000 block of Fir Ln, Motley. Subsequently, Brian James Nightingale, 35, was arrested on a warrant.

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CITY COUNCIL continued from page 1a

Meat cutting facility concerns

the noise of the facility, one of the concerns brought up at the previous meeting. He said CLC has two similar processing units on campus. “It won’t be different than a hospital or a school.” said Wertish.

He addressed the possible traffic impact. On the largest day, with one producer bringing one steer each, it would be 15 trucks going to the facility and a few trucks taking products away.

One of the complaints at the last meeting was about the Long Prairie rendering plant having a bad smell. Although the facility in Staples is meat processing and not rendering, both are owned by MFU.

Wertish told how the Long Prairie facility agreed to take a large number of animals that died during a period of severe heat two years ago. He said that overloaded their lagoon system and caused a bad smell in the city.

“We are spending another five to seven million on the Long Prairie plant to address odors,” said Wertish.

He reminded the council that the Staples facility will have no lagoons, everything will be contained inside the buildings and the offal will be shipped out, some of it to the Long Prairie facility.

After Wertish spoke, one of the Staples residents who brought up concerns said

he wasn’t convinced by the promises made by the MFU.

Steve Hinson, whose home is a little over a half mile from the facility, said he is still worried about air quality because his daughter has a respiratory condition, which is a reason they moved away from Long Prairie.

He said when the MFU built the rendering plant in Long Prairie, the city also thought they could handle the extra waste created, but ended up having to add on to their wastewater processing facility at taxpayer expense.

The council also received a letter from local agriculture producers and supporters, giving support to the Farmers Union project. The letter was signed by 16 people.

The letter pointed out the USDA certification giving local restaurants and other markets a chance to use locally sourced meat. They also pointed out that local high schools have received funding to have a meat cutting curriculum.

The letter stated “It will bring careers, opportunity to provide consumers with local meat products, community growth and much more. As local producers and supporters, this is a critical business that expands our potential to educate, feed and build this community around its strong agricultural roots.”

Staples Police report

Recent reports taken by the Staples Police:

June 22, Staples Police were called by a property owner who said people were on his property. Police found that river tubers were lost.

June 22, Staples Police were called to a domestic assault on 6th St NE. A teenager was assaulting her mother and grandmother.

June 23, Staples Police assisted MN DNR with capturing a bald eagle.

June 23, Staples Police were called to a property damage report. A patio window was shattered.

June 23, Staples Police responded to a driving complaint of a reported dark colored SUV operating on Hwy 10 with no lights, traveling eastbound. Police conducted a traffic stop on the vehicle and later collected \$300 cash bail, as the driver had an active warrant out of Stearns County.

June 23, Staples Police were called for a black Suburban parked by the dumpster at Casey’s, after the store was closed. Police conducted a traffic stop on the vehicle, and arrested the driver, Zackry Meidinger, for driving after cancelation - inimical to public safety. Meidinger was transported to the Todd County Detention Center without incident.

June 24, Staples Police received a report of harassing communication.

June 24, Staples Police were called to Lakewood Health System (LHS). MN State Patrol arrested a person from an accident in Cass County. The person handed an ER tech something that looked like fentanyl.

June 24, Staples Police took a report of a person staying at the Staples Depot for the last six days.

June 25, Staples Police located a subject sleeping on railroad property, near the east side of the depot. Police learned that the subject was homeless and without a phone. Police will check to see if assistance is available for the subject to Fargo, to a homeless shelter.

June 25, Staples Police received a report of a boat and trailer missing from a home. Security camera shows the boat being pulled by a pickup.

June 25, Staples Police received a report of a person hanging out at the LHS Hospital. Police were

able to get the party a ticket to Grand Forks.

June 26, Staples Police assisted with a car fire on 4th St. NE. Police extinguished electrical wiring and fire department arrived the scene.

June 27, Staples Police received a call about a person who dropped off a child at Lincoln Model School park. Subject stated the child is sitting at picnic table, had walked up to couple houses and then went back to picnic table to sit. The male party that dropped him off is circling around. It appeared that another male party was passed out in a red Ford. Police were unable to locate child or driver. Police received a wave from other party in red vehicle.

June 29, Staples Police were called to a disturbance. Police assisted person in getting a ride closer to Brainerd.

July 1, Staples Police received a call about a semi truck that drove through a yard on 2nd St SW, and pulled down a cable or phone line.

July 2, Staples Police took a report of a male party selling fake gold in a parking lot on 2nd Ave. NE.

July 2, Staples Police received a report of a male party seen on a ring camera on 4th St. NE. The subject was seen hiding between houses and a neighbor’s shed.

July 3, Staples Police took a report of an intruder at a home on 5th St. SE. Person came in through the window to the bathroom. Home is missing medications, money and mail.

July 4, Staples Police took a report of a male chasing a female down the road on Dakota Ave. SE, yelling at the subject.

July 5, Staples Police received a ping from a crash detection on a cell phone, coming from a bridge on Wilderness Dr. Police found phone on the side of the road, there was no crash and the phone’s owner was contacted.

July 5, Staples Police responded to a possible forced entry on 6th St NE. Window damage was found, along with possible blood splatter.

July 5, Staples Police assisted a subject with a ride to the depot to attempt to purchase a train ticket to Mississippi.

75 YEARS Ago - 1950

• July 20, 1950 - For Sale - 1936 Buick Sedan. Clean and in good running order. Good tires. Price \$150. Inquire at the World Office.

• July 20, 1950 - Motley continued its winning streak in the Northern Pine League by defeating Leader Sunday by a score of 12 to 5.

• July 20, 1050 - Staples VFW softball team handed the REA team of Brainerd one of the worst beatings they have had this year, when the local team played at Brainerd on Tuesday evening, July 18. The final score was 12 to 1 for the Staples aggregation.

- O -
Compiled by
Dawn Timbs
- O -

Behind the supreme pitching of Stan Borle, the Staples team easily conquered the REA team. Dick Benson, behind the bat, held up his end of the game in a fine manner.

• July 20, 1950 - Test Your I.Q. - 1. Does President Truman have a middle name? 2. What is the capital of Iraq? 3. What is the record for the most bases stolen by a baseball player during a single inning? 4. Who invented the safety pin? 5. Which president of the U.S. had eight sons and six daughters?

• July 20, 1950 - Five Staples Boy Scouts will go to Camp Clyde near Merrifield the week of July 30 to Aug. 5, where they will be under the direction of a provisional Scoutmaster for the week.

The five Scouts making the trip include John Carlson, Dale Sorenson, Roger Haugen, Kent Carlson and Robert Vanderhoef.

• July 20, 1950 - The Nimrod coop store was broken into Wednesday night, July 12, by burglars who gained entrance through a rear window by breaking the glass.

The safe was broken into and a total of \$192 was taken. A number of cartons of cigarettes were also taken in the burglary.

Herb Salo of the store always checks the doors and windows before closing and everything was in order when he did this that evening.

Sheriff Gus Tullgren of Wadena was summoned to investigate the burglary and he stated that it looked like the work of experts. The plan was so concealed that no one heard them working in the store.

50 YEARS Ago - 1975

• July 17, 1975 - Peggy Finn, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. William Finn, Staples, walked off with the fourth runner-up honors in the Miss Minnesota Teenager pageant held last Saturday evening at Augsburg College Minneapolis.

Miss Finn competed against 27 other girls from communities throughout Minnesota. Candidates were judged on scholastic ability, poise, personality, beauty and leadership.

“It was a real honor and I was deeply thrilled as this is an experience that I will never forget,” the Staples beauty stated upon her return home.

Miss Finn will be a senior at Staples high school this fall, where she is active in many organizations and will serve as president of the Student Council during the 1975-76 school term.

• July 17, 1975 - Wayne Haglin and Al Lauer were recognized at the recent 1975 agriculture Education Workshop for 20 years of service to agricultural education. The workshop was held in Moorhead and sponsored by the University of Minnesota.

• July 17, 1975 - Nine young men from Staples captured first or second placings in the District 3 Governor’s Track Meet held at St. Cloud State College last Saturday.

By virtue of their placing, they now qualify for the state meet, which will be held at Fergus Falls July



Mystery photo

Hello readers. This week’s archive photo is from 1959. 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.

19.

Advancing to the Governor’s State Track Meet will be Lynn Dyer, Mike Thelen, Dave Randgaard, Terry Carlson, Chris Longbella, Steve Randgaard, Bob Sikora, Don Ziegler and Bruce Crocker.

• July 17, 1975 - Pat Miller, owner of Icon Studio, Staples, received two Gold Merit awards at the photo showing at the convention of the Minnesota Professional Photographers Association. The event was held at the Radisson South, Minneapolis, June 15 - 17.

One of the photos to receive a Gold Merit Award was of Eric Walthall, son of Mr. and Mrs. Tony Walthall of rural Staples. The other photo subject was Loretta Lovelace of rural Staples. The pictures were displayed first at the convention at the Radisson South in Minneapolis, and later in the window at Dj’s Men’s Wear in Staples.

• July 17, 1975 - Ninety-six members of the Cardinal Marching Band of Staples, under the direction of Larry Correll, will be appearing in their final two parades of the summer marching season next week.

Sunday, July 20, the Cardinal band will travel to Detroit Lakes to participate in the annual Detroit

Lakes Water Carnival Parade that afternoon.

Then Wednesday morning, July 23, the Cardinal musicians will load on buses in Staples and travel to Minneapolis to participate in the Torchlight parade of the Minneapolis Aquatennial, which begins at 8:30 p.m.

Correll said that he is pleased with the band’s performance this year as they won a first place in Winnipeg and a second placing in the Brainerd parade.

25 YEARS Ago - 2000

• July 20, 2000 - Filing for office in a state election often requires local people to drive to St. Paul to file with the Secretary of State’s office. Not so this year for Wayne Hoeffert of Staples, who filed for the state Senate District 11 seat and never left home. Hoeffert filed the papers last Friday by mail, with the help of Staples postmaster Roberta Brinkman. Hoeffert, who has the backing of the area Republican party, is seeking the state senate seat now held by Dallas Sams of Staples.

• July 20, 2000 - Ashlee DeLeon, age 16, daughter of Richard and Brenda (Jenkins) DeLeon of Motley, has been selected as a state finalist in the Miss Minne-

sota American Coed Pageant to be held Aug. 12 - 14 at the City Center Marriot Hotel in Minneapolis.

• July 20, 2000 - Warren Mertens of Motley, who guided the Central Lakes College baseball team to national prominence this spring, has been named Coach of the Year in the Northern Division of the Minnesota Community College Conference.

Mertens led the Raiders to 29 wins in 39 games and the team finished eighth in the national Division III finals held in Batavia, N.Y. in May. It was the highest finish ever by a baseball team from the Brainerd college.

• July 20, 2000 - You are invited to a gathering to celebrate Dr. Ray Garland’s retirement from Dentistry. Sunday, July 30, 2 - 5 p.m., at Staples Alliance Church. No Gifts Please.

10 YEARS Ago - 2015

• July 16, 2015 - Houses and vehicles sustained damage as hundreds of trees were toppled by a storm that swept through the area on July 12, around 7 p.m.

The National Weather Service reported winds of up to 80 miles per hour, along with funnel clouds and tornado touch-downs in multiple areas.



Mystery solved

Last week’s mystery photo published in the July 10, 1975 edition of the Staples World featured, from left, Harold Moffett, Phil Lindaman and Warren Noetzelman, following the Staples Open Tennis Tournament. Lindaman defeated Moffett 12-10 for the championship.

It was reported that the title match was a very close and intense match throughout. Lindaman defeated Tom Wolhowe and Noetzelman enroute to the championship match and Moffett defeated Clyde Japke and Tom Gray before

meeting Lindaman.

Noetzelman downed Gray to capture the third place trophy of the tournament.

Ron Amundson, Dr. V. James Thompson, Rev. Paul Lundborg and Ron Peterson also participated in the tourney, which was sponsored by the Staples Men’s Tennis League.

Brian Bates of Staples correctly identified all, but thought Warren’s first name was Bob. Thanks for participating in our mystery photo.

Most life begins in water; ours too

It's widely accepted that the first creatures on Earth made their homes in water; in Earth's oceans, to be precise. Only after many different forms of life swam or drifted about in these oceans did life emerge to dwell on land, and eventually conquer the skies.

Whether you are a Darwinist who believes that life evolved by genetic variations and natural selection, or one whose faith leads you to Creationism and intelligent design—each creature crafted by a higher power—you can accept the premise that life originated in water.

And, whether your beliefs are informed purely by science, or by faith, there's no debate about when humans entered the picture. We came last. This is the order both by biblical interpretation—on the sixth of seven days, according to Genesis—and by scientists who study the history of Earth's life forms in the fossil record, some evidence said to date back more than three billion years.

As contrary as it may seem, even today most life originates in water, in one way or another. Most creatures have not given up their dependence on water during at least some stage of their development and life.

Most obvious are the fishes, which are among the things that most attract us to water at this season of the year. Most fish spend their entire lives in water, the few exceptions being such

species as the mudskipper, wooly sculpin, lungfish, and several others that can spend extended periods out of water.

More surprising in their water-dependence are some creatures that we interact with regularly in our own on-land existence. Insects, for instance. Many that we're familiar with in their adult forms grow and mature under water, and as adults bear little resemblance to their immature aquatic self. But few of us see them when they're immature, because that stage of life—sometimes by far the longest stage—is spent among the rocks or sediments of lakes, rivers, or streams; feeding, moving about, and doing their best to avoid being eaten. Just a few of the many species whose life unfolds under water are the dragon flies, damsel flies, mayflies, caddis flies, and of course, mosquitoes.

We see them when they emerge from the water and transform from unhand-some, crawling nymphs, larva, or pupae, into flying adults. It's as flying adults that they mate and reproduce, a stage of life that can be extremely fleeting; measurable in hours, days, or—like the dragonfly—perhaps weeks. Following mating, the females will lay their eggs in an aquatic environment—lake, stream, or pond, depending on the species—and the cycle begins again.

Caddis and mayflies are especially important to fly fishermen, who—to fool and catch fish—imitate them on small, lightweight hooks adorned with various combinations of animal hair, bird feathers, thread, yarn, wire, and tinsel. These insects come in sizes ranging from miniscule, to some that are measurable in inches.

Caddis are emerging right now on some of our

lakes and streams. One species or another will likely be present through summer and fall. The same appearance variability holds true also for mayflies. Some have already come and gone, while others will continue to emerge as summer progresses. Dragonflies and damselflies have appeared, too.

Another class of creatures that begins life in a watery environment before making a dramatic transformation is amphibians. These include frogs, toads, and salamanders, all of which develop from an egg into a streamlined swimmer with gills—just like the fishes—and only later transform into crawlers and jumpers that breathe air through lungs, on land. It's a transformation every bit as unlikely and dramatic as that of aquatic insects that leave the water for another life in the air.

We might not think of mammals as making such dramatic transitions as the amphibians and aquatic insects. But, in a way, we do. Mammals—including humans—spend the period of gestation inside their mother's womb in a protective watery environment, the amniotic sac. During this time we do not breathe through our developing lungs, but receive oxygen and nutrients delivered to us through an umbilical cord. In the moments after birth, we and other mammals take our first breaths, and oxygen delivery shifts from the no-longer-needed umbilical cord, to direct respiration of air through our lungs.

Birds and reptiles also live in a liquid environment before they mature, break through their egg's shell, and officially enter the world. They are surrounded before birth by a fluid-filled sac that provides hydration

to the unborn, and acts as a shock absorber. Their egg's shell is gas-permeable, meaning that its pores are large enough to allow the passage of gases without the life-giving fluids inside seeping out. This allows oxygen to enter the egg and diffuse into the embryo's blood vessels, while allowing carbon dioxide to exit the shell.

It's a concept that reminds one of Gore-Tex, the waterproof fabric that has microscopic pores to allow moisture to evaporate from our bodies, while keeping rain out. The same for breathable fishing waders, which have pores that allow moisture—sweat, if you will—to exit, while preventing the water in which we're wading from entering and drenching us.

Many of Earth's terrestrial insects—such as ants, bees, wasps, and grasshoppers—are not aquatic at any stage of their life; not like the dragonfly, mayfly, or caddis that spend most of their lives under water. But terrestrial insects, too, have a vital relationship with water before birth. A specific and critical water balance must be maintained to support the developing insect, or it will perish in the egg.

Terrestrial insect eggs contain what to us seem extremely minute amounts of moisture. But the amounts are no less critical for their tiny volume. These eggs have one or more protective layers that retard drying out; an outer shell, called a chorion, and a membrane called the serosa that surrounds the insect embryo and acts as a barrier against moisture loss while it is developing.

Whatever the creature, from insect to man, water is a common denominator of new life; now, just as in the beginning.

Quote of the week

“You are never too old to set another goal or to dream a new dream.”

— C.S. Lewis

Crafters are small town entrepreneurs

Deb Brown and Becky McCray
saveyour.town

You can boost creativity while building community with co-crafting events such as “crafternoons,” hacker or maker days. These are events where crafters/makers/or hackers gather together and do their thing. Sometimes they are a one-off event, and many times they happen on a regular schedule.

From tech enthusiasts to crafters, scientists to garage tinkerers, at these kinds of events, novices and experts of all ages come together to showcase what they've made and share what they've learned.

Your local library is often the place to find crafting events for kids and adults. Your senior center, churches, and gathering spaces are also places to look for crafters.

Why are crafters important to economic development?

They create special and unique items that machines can't replicate. Many items are handmade.

They bring different ideas and techniques to the market and can help to keep

traditional skills alive.

Items made locally help keep money in town instead of going to some big name-less corporation.

Jewelry, photo frames, and refrigerator magnets are just a few crafting possibilities.

To help crafters work together and sell their products, we can:

- invite them to be pop-ups at events,
- join online groups to find them, and
- give them places to sell their things.

Working together can also help them learn from each other and come up with new ideas. By supporting crafters, we can help them keep doing what they love and make the economy better.

Who is a crafter?

Potters, Quilters, Painters, Sculptors, Musicians, Cooks, artists of all kinds. Your makers also include all sorts of high tech and low tech, like 3D printing and plasma cut metal signs, but also blacksmiths. Search your town and your nearby town names on Etsy, Kick-starter, and eBay.

And then host your own Pop Up Party.

Rural disaster help

By Heather Close
The Rural Blog

When extreme weather hits a rural community, elderly residents often struggle the most to recover. To help prepare for a natural disaster, smaller towns need to understand their residents' needs and capitalize on their strong community ties to overcome challenges. Lori Hunter, a sociologist who studies rural issues at the University of Colorado, offers tips on how communities can support their senior residents after the storm has passed.

Understanding your town's population makeup and preparation is key. “Rural areas have higher percentages of older adults, a group that is more likely to have chronic health problems that make experiencing natural disasters especially dangerous,” Hunter explains. “Friends, family and neighbors in rural areas can help [seniors] develop disaster response plans to ensure older residents have access to medications

and medical treatment and that they have an evacuation plan.”

Rural communities tend to have stronger social ties that can help older residents work through recovery demands. “Those social connections can help reduce older adults' vulnerability when disasters strike,” Hunter adds. “Following severe flooding in Colorado in 2013, social connections helped older adults navigate the maze of paperwork required for disaster aid, and some even provided personal loans.”

Supporting overall health for rural seniors can also mitigate a disaster's long-term impact. “Rural communities and local groups can also help build up older adults' mental and physical health before and after storms by developing educational, social and exercise programs,” Hunter writes. “Better health and social connections can improve resilience, including older adults' ability to respond to alerts and recover after disasters.”

Big Ag's corporte culture of indifference

By Brad Trom
Dodge County, Minn.

A corporate culture of indifference permeates America. A crash earlier this year that resulted in the death of 43 dead pigs near our family farm in Dodge County, is illustrative of this indifference. Disposal of the dead pigs was easy. Within hours, the euthanized pigs were added to dead boxes or composting stations in area swine factory farms, heaped a little higher with pig piles of dead pigs.

Years of corporate conditioning has created this culture of indifference. Thanks to decades of corporate propaganda, a corporate culture of indifference encourages farmers to look away, as thousands of small farmers are forced out of business. In the transition to a corporate nation, multinational giants such as Hormel, JBS, Smithfield, Tyson and others, have created a closed system that is only open to those farmers willing to construct a facto-

ry farm to industry specifications. Only those farmers who construct a large industrial facility capable of holding several thousand animals are given access to the corporate marketplace. Tethered to multinational corporations through a series of contracts, multinational corporations have successfully created a corporate network of contract growers that extends deep within America's rural areas. In the wake of this fundamental change, thousands of independent farmers and farm families have been forced off the land.

Twenty years ago, as my family and other neighbors fought installation of the largest factory farm in the State of Minnesota at the time, the Minnesota Farm Bureau Foundation published a pamphlet titled “When an Activist Group Comes to Town: Protecting Your Community from Unwanted Division.” The surprisingly detailed guide purports to offer advice to “local governments and communities in addressing

controversies caused by rural economic development.”

In reality, the publication addresses only one type of rural development—industrial-size animal feedlots aka “factory farms.” Their own corporate propaganda acknowledges that factory farms (referred to as “expanded farms” by the industry) are often blamed for driving ‘family’ farmers out of business.”

“When an Activist Group Comes to Town” characterizes those who oppose factory farms as “activists,” a reference to farm families like mine who have been on the land for generations, and “outside special interests,” a subtle reference to the Land Stewardship Project (LSP), a Minnesota nonprofit that works with communities to promote sustainable agriculture. Fighting installation of corporate factory farms next to intergenerational family farms, LSP became increasingly involved in legal battles as residents faced off against multinational corporate giants, industry lobbyists and corporate attorneys.

As corporate agriculture strips wealth from rural communities, a corporate culture of indifference turns a blind eye to the environmental impact of corporate factory farms—thrift of groundwater resources by water-intensive industrial operations, contamination of waterways with high nitrates and other pollutants, and pollution of the air with dangerous methane, ammonia, hydrogen sulfide and other dangerous emissions which contribute to climate change. To those involved in this abusive form of corporate agriculture, it's just the “smell of money.”

Today's corporate rhetoric targets immigrant laborers working inside corporate factory farms and corporate meat processing facilities—the very same laborers ushered into rural areas by multinational giants. With threats of deportation, this is nothing more than a corporate power play to instill fear in today's immigrant laborers.

In order to promote the

StaplesWorld

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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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FREE PRESS
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FREE PEOPLE

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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.

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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.

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Red Letter Band at Music in the Park July 20



The next free concert at Music in the Park is the Red Letter Band, who will play Sunday, July 20, 7 p.m., at Northern Pacific Park in Staples.

This Minnesota band plays classic country and original songs that have topped the Inspirational Country Music (ICM) charts out of Nashville. In 2014, their debut single, "Bring Me" climbed to No. 2 on the ICM charts. The Band's second release "All Abandoned" quickly followed suit also reaching a No. 2 spot on the January 2015 charts. Later in 2015, "Love Will Stay" hit the top 10 earning The Red Letter Band a nomination for 2015 ICM Band of the Year.

In May 2016, RLB's song "Going Home" reached No. 1 on the ICM charts (their fourth top ten single). They were nominat-

ed once again for 2016 Band of the Year and 2016 New Artist of the Year. Power Source Magazine has given rave reviews to The Red Letter Band and believes they are one of the top up and coming artists in the nation.

The full-scale, family friendly, professional sound of The Red Letter Band delivers high-quality, classic country along with a first hand opportunity to hear original music from this nationally acclaimed Minnesota artist that is ministry focused.

Audience members are reminded to bring their own lawn chairs or blankets. In case of rain, events are held at Faith Lutheran Church or at Centennial Auditorium at Staples-Motley High School. both in Staples.

Menu

Senior Nutrition Program

Call on mornings the Friday before to reserve next week's meal, and for current suggested donation info. *LSS Meal; traditional older adult menu. Menu is subject to change.*

Staples 894-2556

Meals include bread (specific kind noted), marg, and 1% milk.

July 21 - July 25

Monday - Beef chili macaroni casserole, green beans,

California veggie blend, wheat bread, sugar cookie.

Tuesday - Scalloped chicken, green peas, sliced carrots, wheat dinner roll, blonde brownie.

Wednesday - 11 a.m. - BINGO at the Staples Community Center: Bring your pennies. Congregate Meal in the Senior's Room: Diced turkey/gravy,

mashed potatoes, stuffing, whole kernel corn, red Delicious apple, dinner roll.

Thursday - Meatloaf, mashed potatoes, brown gravy, broccoli, fresh orange, wheat bread.

Friday - Potato crunch fish fillet, mashed sweet potatoes, mixed veggies, wheat dinner roll, tartar sauce, snickerdoodle cookie.

Pillager Fair runs July 17-19 Parade, exhibits, ATV races, fireworks, more

The 126th Cass County Fair in Pillager will be held Thursday, July 17 - Saturday, July 19.

On the agenda are contests, food booths, fireworks, horse judging, ATV races, music and a host of other activities for people of all ages, including a medallion hunt with a \$1,000 prize.

Many favorite events are on this year's Pillager Fair roster, as well as some new ones. Some of the events are listed below:

Thursday

'Set-up day.' Commercial vendors and competition exhibitors will be setting up. Clues for the medallion hunt will be posted each morning at 9 a.m. at the Community Center.

Food booths open at 10 a.m. Stop by the Community Center (at the fairgrounds) for Cash Bingo, starting at 7 p.m.

Friday

It's 'Judging Day' on Friday.

Stop by at 9 a.m. for breakfast (food booths will be open) and visit the horse judging arena and exhibit booths as well.

At 10 a.m. vendor booths open, tours of the day care will be offered, and the History Building also opens. Starting at 11 a.m., the area with the inflatables opens

up (Froggy Hops Inflatable Jumpers!); and at 3 p.m., the Beer Garden opens.

The Kiddie Tractor Pull will be held at 5 p.m. (registration at 4:30 p.m.) and Cash Bingo starts at 7 p.m. in the Community Center. From 7 - 11 p.m., enjoy Karaoke & DJ by Tina.

Saturday

Saturday is 'Family Fun Day.'

From 7 - 10 a.m., the Pillager Boy Scouts will sponsor a pancake breakfast. Horse Judging will be held from 8 a.m. - 5 p.m.; and the Color Splash Family Dash starts at 8 a.m., at the Pillager School.

At 10 a.m., be sure to take in the annual parade, which travels downtown Pillager along River Street. Later, young people will want to hitch a ride on the Pillager Fair Express.

Need your vehicle washed? From 11 a.m. - 5 p.m., the Pillager Wrestling Association will hold their 'Car Fundraiser Wash' at 224 River St. S., Pillager.

For those who like contests, Texas Hold 'em will begin at 1 p.m.; and a horse-shoe tournament at 2 p.m.

A 'History Harvest' takes place at he History Center from 1 - 8 p.m. This is an opportunity to be a part of collecting and preserving the

memories of the Pillager area. Bring your historical items to the History Center to be captured digitally for our collection. These include photos, community memorabilia, written stories, artifacts and collectibles.

Don't miss the ATV Races at 6 p.m.; or the fireworks, which begin at 10 p.m. "Gig-foot" Band will perform from 8 p.m. - midnight. The inflatables will be open from 11 a.m. - 10 p.m.

Throughout the day, food booths will be open, as will the exhibition building (from 11 a.m. - 7 p.m.). The fair closes at midnight.

For a more detailed list of events, pick up a Pillager Fair Premium Book at area businesses and at the fairgrounds.

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Mark Your Calendar

July 17

STAPLES AREA FARMERS MARKET Thursdays, 2 - 5 p.m., in the clinic patient parking lot at Lakewood Health System's main campus in Staples.

'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>

July 18

WOMEN'S OPEN AA RECOVERY MEETING Every Friday in person, 10:30 a.m., Motley Free Methodist Church

(lower level), 33 Wellwood St. E. Motley. All women welcome.

July 22

WADENA COUNTY REPUBLICANS MONTHLY MEETING will be held Tuesday, July 22, 7 p.m., at the Wadena VFW. All are welcome.

School board meeting re-scheduled

The Staples-Motley School Board meeting for July 21, 2025 is being re-scheduled to July 28, 2025.

The meeting will be held at 6 p.m. at the Staples-Motley School District Office, 905 4th St. NE, Staples. The full agenda can be seen at the District office and on the School District website, isd2170.org.

The Staples-Motley School Board Work Session Scheduled for August 4 has been cancelled.

minnesota FRINGE

William Shakespeare's *Romeo and Juliet: Lottery Style*

created by Katherine Warnicka

Centennial Auditorium
Staples, MN
Sun. July 20th, 6pm

Approx Run Time: 50 minutes

Free/Pay What You Will!

Sponsored by Lamplighter Community Theatre

A barebones retelling of a Shakespearean classic. *Romeo & Juliet: Lottery Style* is full of unknown possibilities. 5 actors. 5 roles. Different every night. Not even the actors will know who's who until you do!

THE CIRCUS IS COMING TO MOTLEY

Saturday, July 19

MOTLEY FAIRGROUNDS, 149 Front St. W

Circus Day Schedule

9:30 a.m. - Tent Raising & Tour

Everyone is invited to watch the Big Top rise! You'll have the opportunity to tour the grounds and get a behind-the-scenes look at our show! Learn about life on the road and the care our animals receive.

1:00 p.m. - Midway Opens

Pony Rides, Moon Bounce, Giant Slide, Face Painting, Concession Stand and Box Office open up for some extra fun!

2:00 & 4:30 - Circus Performance

Get ready for an amazing show the whole family will love! Each show lasts about 90 minutes.

Advance Tickets: Motley Hardware, Motley City Hall, Holiday Gas Station, Bricks Travel Center. Box Office tickets on site.

Sponsored by: Lions Club of Motley and the Morrison Co. Fair

Family Entertainment
One ring Big Top Circus
Two 90 minute shows

2nd Annual Staples 3M Club Charity --Golf Tournament--

SAT., SEPTEMBER 6

The Vintage Golf Course, Staples

Registration: 9 - 9:45 a.m. (rules meeting) 10 a.m. Shotgun Start

Entry Fee: \$110 per person includes: *Cart, 18 holes and meal
*Team Mulligans (1 ea. player), Team String (36")

*Entry into the longest drive closest to the pin and putting contest

Register by August 29, 2025

•Call Darrell Hoemberg at 218-895-1523 or 218-894-2831

• Online registration: <https://cutt.ly/GrzOYRyn>

ALL PROCEEDS GO TO THE STAPLES AND MOTLEY FOOD SHELVES

*\$600 and custom golf putters for 1st place team •\$300 and custom plaques for 2nd place team
•Custom golf putter for winner of the putting contest
•\$1,000 worth of 3M branded merchandise prizes to be drawn (must be present to win)

Up to 33 teams

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Staples World



Hello World



ONLINE BIRTHS REMOVED
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Carrie Anderson

With heavy hearts, we announce the passing of Carrie Lee Anderson, 47, of Prior Lake, who passed away peacefully on July 1, 2025, at St. Francis Regional Medical Center.

Memorial Services will be held at 11:00 a.m. with visitation from 10:00 a.m. to 10:45 a.m. on Friday, July 18 at Ballard Sunder Funeral and Cremation, 4565 Pleasant Street SE, Prior Lake. Pastor Jac Perrin will preside.

Born August 25, 1977, in Ely, Carrie spent her childhood in Motley and graduated from Staples-Motley High School in 1995. She pursued higher education in the Minneapolis suburbs, earning a Bachelor of Science in Business Marketing and a Master's in Business Administration. Carrie was known for her warmth, creativity and boundless compassion.

In 2011, Carrie met Jason Anderson and they married in 2015. They settled in Prior Lake and welcomed their son, Chase, in 2017. Carrie was a devoted mother, always supporting Chase in his activities and planning family adventures.

Carrie had a passion



for life and nature, enjoying boating, gardening and celebrating holidays with her creative touch. She was a vibrant presence, known for her humor, brilliance, and stylish flair. Carrie was selfless, always offering a helping hand and a listening ear to those around her.

Carrie is survived by her husband, Jason Anderson; one son, Chase Anderson; her mother, Marinell Philipp; one goddaughter, Jade Buchwitz; two aunts Linda Hane and Lori Diekoff and one uncle, Forest Skeesick. She is remembered by countless friends and extended family.

Arrangements are by Ballard-Sunder Funeral & Cremation, www.BallardSunderFuneral.com

w30c A00006B2020JY16



Obituaries



Stella Fonteyn

Stella Fonteyn, 79, of Staples, passed away peacefully surrounded by her family at her home on July 7, 2025.

A Funeral Mass was held July 12, 2025, at Sacred Heart Catholic Church in Staples.

Burial was at Evergreen Hill Cemetery in Staples.

Stella was born July 26, 1945 to Henry and Augusta Robben in Long Prairie. She earned her Licensed Practical Nurse (LPN) degree and dedicated 35 years of compassionate care to her work at Lakewood Health System. She was united in marriage to David Fonteyn on February 7, 1970 in Staples and together they built a life centered on faith, family and service.

A devoted member of Sacred Heart Catholic Church, Stella lived her faith in both word and action. She participated in medical mission trips to Africa and the Philippines, offering her nursing skills and loving heart to those in need. At home, Stella's joy came from simple pleasures: sewing, quilting, gardening, fishing, canning, cooking and baking - especially her beloved homemade bread. Most of all, she cherished time spent with her children, grandchildren and great-grandchild.

She is survived by her husband of 55 years, David; three daughters,



Kelly Lingbeek, Brenda (Jason) Borash, Jennifer (John) Vavra; one son, Jamie (Christina) Fonteyn; eight grandchildren, Kaitlin (Zach) Olsen, Andrew (Anastasia) Borash, Breanna (Sam) Hess, Brockten Vavra, Brodie Vavra, and Addison, Jocelyn and Jaidyn Fonteyn; one great-granddaughter, Elizabeth Hess; one sister, Rita (Gary) Stracek; one sister-in-law, Gloria Robben; as well as many nieces, nephews and extended family.

She was preceded in death by one son, Jeff; two daughters, Mary Jo and Mary Kay Fonteyn; parents and two brothers, Raymond Robben and Richard (Stella) Robben.

Stella's warmth, generosity and deep love for her family and community will be dearly missed by all who knew her.

Arrangements were by the Taylor Funeral Home, Staples.

w30c A00006B2020JY23

In Memory of
Mitchell Koppes
12/27/1984 - 7/12/2008

Surround me,
Anchoring me in darkness,
Driving me to wear a heavy shroud,
Never able to see the light,
Endless desire to be anything other than myself,
Staring into an endless void,
Searching to find a path to you.

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
Fr. Aaron Kuhn and Fr. Rick Aubol
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

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.....9 a.m.
January - July.....11 a.m.

Maple Hill 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
Fr. Aaron Kuhn and Fr. Rick Aubol
MASS:
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
Cty. 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 Hwy, Motley, 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 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 Phagon, 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, MN.....218-894-2296
info@marysacc.org
Fr. Aaron Kuhn and Fr. Rick Aubol
MASS:
Saturday.....6:00 p.m.

St. Hubert Catholic Church
Bluegrass.....218-894-2296
info@marysacc.org
Fr. Aaron Kuhn and Fr. Rick Aubol
MASS:
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.

"Traditions"

By Pastor Barry Klein, Staples Church of Christ

I remember years ago on K.T.I.G. radio out of Pequot Lakes, a show entitled, "A Touch of Tradition" by the then radio station manager's wife. We also may remember in the film, "The Fiddler on the Roof," Tevye was heard singing throughout the movie his theme song, "Tradition!" Good and healthy traditions provide a rhythm to life that can help us treasure what is valuable and ground us in what is important.

Take some time to ponder some of your past and present traditions in family, work and leisure. I so enjoy bubbler lights on a Christmas tree. My maternal grandmother in her Litchfield, MN home had them on her live Christmas tree. Every Christmas season we could travel there to see her. Bubbler lights on our tree reminds me of her yet to this day even though she passed about 25 years ago.

Another tradition our family of 17 has is to converge on Paul Bunyan Land each summer. While in the park, we go to the old fashion dress up building to get our picture taken that we then often use in our Christmas letter. Maybe you have fond memories of tradition in your family gatherings throughout the year for various occasions. Maybe your work colleagues have traditions of recogni-

tion for jobs well done or around seasonal celebrations.

Do you have traditions around hobbies or remembering accomplishments of the past? Maybe you have traditions of letter or card writing, Maybe your traditions are about daily routines you have. The list goes on and on.

Like all gifts from God, the gift of traditions needs to be held in gratitude with open hands. Traditions need to stay fresh and purposeful, rather than an end in and of themselves.

Are the traditions you and I have fresh and purposeful to God's glory? God's does give us tremendous rhythm in simply the way He has created the universe right down to each and every breath and heart beat that He continually gives us. We need to thank God regularly for His "traditions" of life-giving and sustaining care.

Do you have "traditions" of being with God's people during the week and on Sundays? What about the traditions of being in God's Word so wonderfully described in Psalm 119? Hopefully, we have traditions of being people-oriented in serving them whenever we can. The wonder of God's engaging mysteries of life feed our godly traditions. Imbibe them well.

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Pamela Resch

Pamela Joyce Resch, 66, of Staples, passed away July 7, 2025 following a long battle with cancer.

A Celebration of Life will be held Thursday, July 24 at the Staples Assembly of God Church at 11:00 a.m. A luncheon will be served after the service.

A private family interment will be held at a later date.

Pam was born June 4, 1959 to William and Peggie Evans in Ft. Rucker, Alabama.

Pam was a talented artist and studied graphic design. She spent her younger adult years in the south, was employed in multiple places but her favorite was waitressing in Folly Beach, South Carolina at the Atlantic House.

Pam moved to the Twin Cities in 1985 where she met Roger Thompson. The two of them were together for 38 years. She enjoyed annual family camping trips, sitting by the fire, sharing family stories, playing various card games and challenging herself on her favorite game shows. She was also quite the gourmet cook.

After Roger's passing



in December of 2024 Pam moved back to the Verndale area in January of 2025 to be closer to her family.

Pam is survived by three sisters, Joni (Mark) Calahan, Deb (Chuck) Tangeman and Alicia (Greg) Johnson, all of Verndale; three brothers, Forest (Rose) Reichel of Royalton, Russ (Ruth) Gibbs of Grand Island, Nebraska and Bill (Pam) Evans of Staples and many neices and nephews.

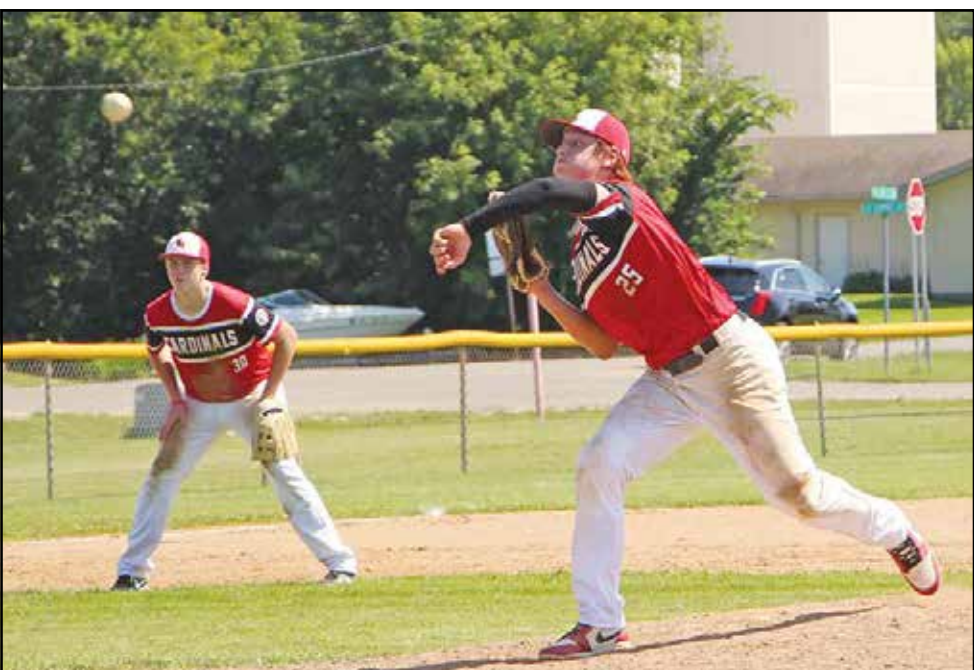
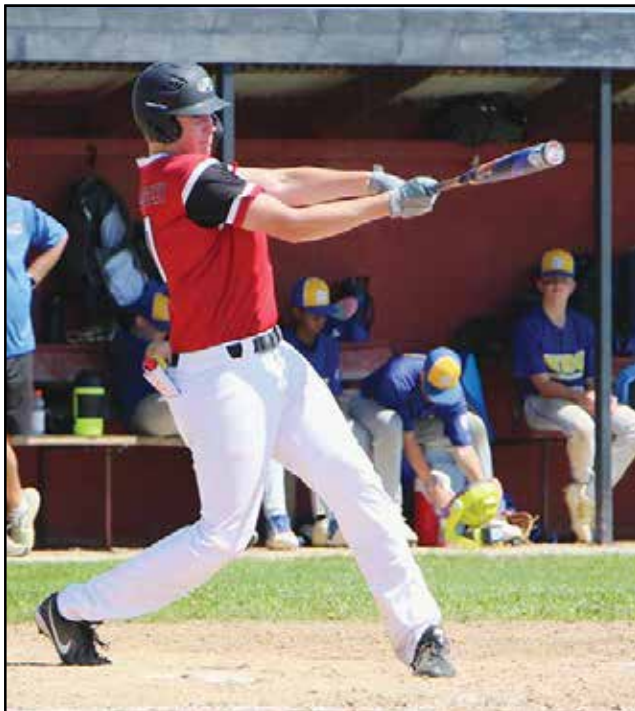
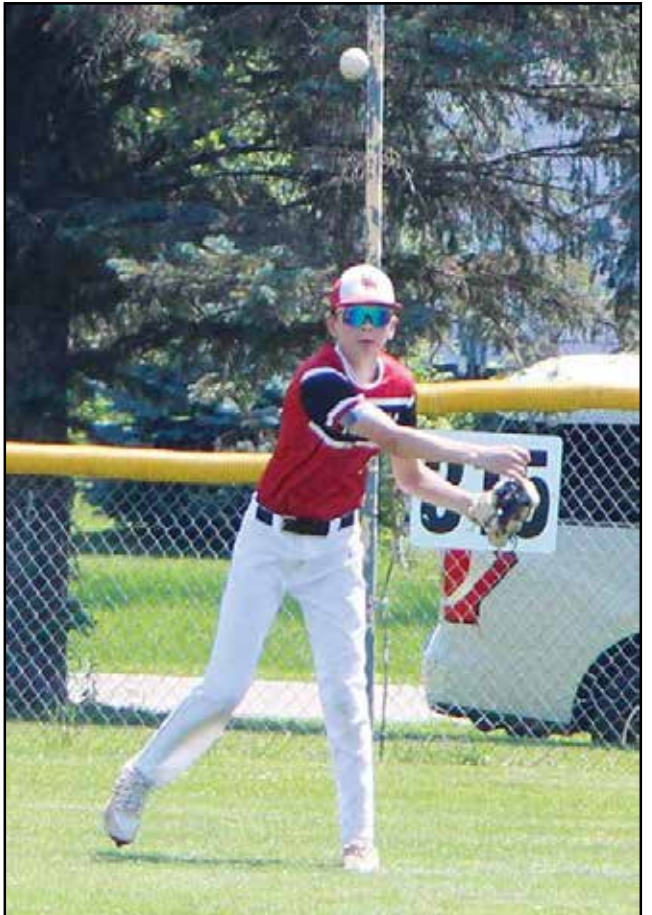
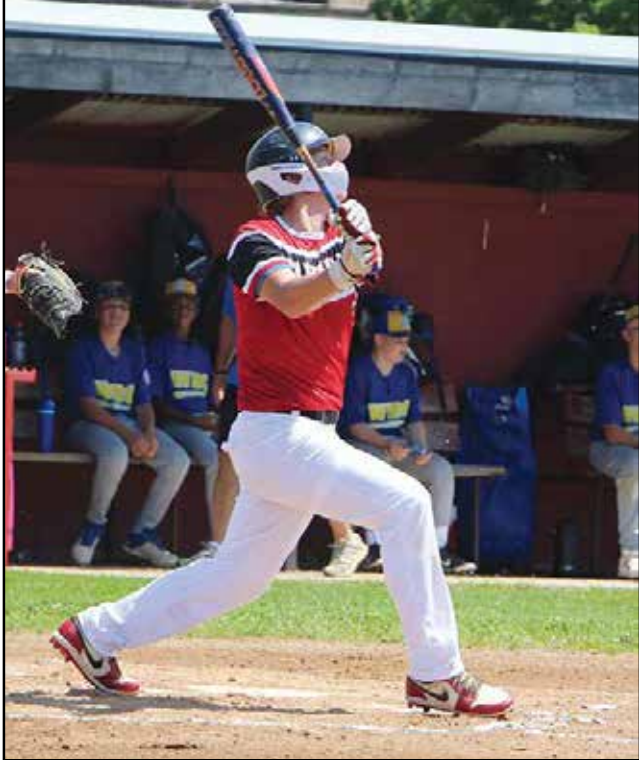
Pam was preceded in death by her parents; one sister, Billi Kay; one brother, Christopher and her significant other, Roger Thompson.

w30p A00006B2020JY23



14U team makes state

The Staples-Motley 14U baseball team advanced to their league's state tournament three straight wins in the Timberline Tournament hosted in Staples. The Cardinals beat Bertha-Hewitt-Verndale in the first game, had a thrilling come-from-behind win against Wadena-Deer Creek in the next round, and beat a tough Park Rapids team in the final. The state tournament will be played this weekend. (Photos by Mark Anderson)





TWO VOLUMES OF PHOTOGRAPHS OF TODD COUNTY BARNs. taken in the early 2000's. The photographs were in two 3-ring binders which contained photographs of barns from each township in Todd County. The binders were borrowed from the Todd County Historical Museum and have not been returned. We would appreciate their return to the museum at 333 Central Ave., Long Prairie, MN 56347. Call 320-533-1447 with information on missing photos. 30x

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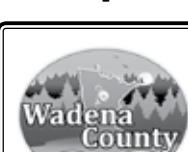
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The Wadena County Sheriff's Office is accepting applications for a Full-time position of a Jailer/Dispatcher and creating an eligibility list that will expire in one year on July 25, 2026.

Minimum Qualifications: Must be at least 18 years old, be in good mental and physical health, including good hearing, must have typing and computer skills.

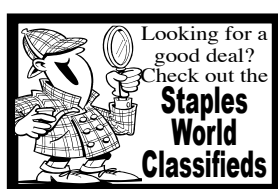
A complete job description is available upon request.

Salary Range: Grade 7, Step 1 \$23.17/hr to Step 10 \$31.58/hr, plus fringe benefits.

Applications are due by July 26, 2025.

HOW TO APPLY: Applications may be obtained from and returned to the Wadena County Human Resources Office, Courthouse, 415 South Jefferson Street.

218-631-7779, by email: hr@wcmn.us, or
on-line at the county website: www.co.wadena.mn.us.
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ing. 30p

GARAGE SALE: Clothing, DVD's, some furniture, a lot of misc. **Thurs., July 17, Fri., July 18, Sat., July 19, 8 a.m.-6 p.m. all 3 days.** AJR Storage, Unit #67, Staples. 30p

GARAGE SALE:
1001 8th St. NE, Staples,
Thurs., July 17, 8 a.m.-
6 p.m., Fri., July 18, 8
a.m.-5 p.m., Sat., July
19, 9 a.m.-1 p.m. Clothing,
home décor, books, toys.
Priced to sell. 30p

SWAN VALLEY LUTHERAN CHURCH
RUMMAGE SALE: Hwy. 64, Leader (13 mi. north of Motley). **Thurs., July 24, Fri., July 25, Sat., July 26, 8 a.m.-5 p.m. each day. *BAKE SALE/ ROOT BEER FLOATS.** 30-31p

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Public Notices

CITY OF STAPLES

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING TO CONSIDER THE REPLAT OF LOTS 1-11, BLOCK 2, VALLEY VIEW NEIGHBORHOOD

NOTICE is hereby given that the City Council of the City of Staples will hold a public hearing at 7:00 p.m. on Tuesday, July 22, 2025, at the Staples City Hall, 122 6th St NE, to consider the replat of Lots 1-11, Block 2, Valley View Neighborhood.

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

30pnc

CITY OF STAPLES, MINNESOTA
NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING
2026 to 2030
CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PLAN

The City of Staples will hold a public hearing on Tuesday, July 22 at 7:05 p.m. at Staples City Hall, 122 6th St NE to present and accept comments on the 2026 to 2030 Capital Improvement Plan. A copy of the draft is available at City Hall, 122 6th St NE.

All interested parties are encouraged to attend the public hearing and provide comments.

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

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MINUTES
REGULAR
BOARD MEETING
FRESHWATER
EDUCATION DISTRICT
#6004 6/25/25
Wadena, MN

The regular meeting of the Freshwater Education District #6004 School Board was called to order by Chair Rod Huttunen at 5:00 p.m. on Wednesday, June 26, 2025. Board Members Present: R. Huttunen - Sebekka; C. Wolf - LP-GE; B. Tumberg - W-DC; C. Youngbauer - Verndale; J. Hillmer - Browerville; K. Howard - Menahga; R. Wright - S-M; Sup. Supt: S. Vedbraaten - Browerville Admin: E. Weber, J. Wothe, J. Anderson, S. Thiel. Others present: R. Bowman, K. Macheel, J. Osberg

Motion by Tumberg, seconded by Wright, to approve the agenda as modified. Motion carried unanimously. J. Wothe, SPED Director, presented an informational update on SPED Monitoring and the Internal File Review. Supt Weber publicly thanked Jamie and her team for their work on the monitoring process.

Consent Agenda

Motion by Wolf, seconded by Hillmer, to approve the Consent Agenda as presented:

Meeting Minutes: 4/23/25 Regular Board Mtg. 5/14/25 Supt Advisory Mtg. Finance Reports: FY25 Qtr: 4 Voucher Claims: Payments #66138-66415 Mileage Claims paid in April, May and June 2025. Renewals/Agreements (25/26 SY): Children's Therapeutic Services and Supports (Stellher Human Services) E-Rate Services Agreement (E-rate & Educational Services, LLC) Lakes Country Service Cooperative Associate Membership. School Readiness Consultant Agreement (Menahga ISD #821 cmERDC Copy Machine Maintenance & SMART Systems UFARS Agreements School Nutrition Programs (LP-GE, W-DC for ALC/Academies) Region 5 Reciprocity Agreement (ElevatePD Coursework) Wadena County Nursing Services. Policy - First Reading: 400.9L - Payroll Payments, Substitutes & Miscellaneous Pay. 400.10L - Payroll Checks & Direct Deposits. 412 - Expense Reimbursement. 413

Personnel Policies

Personnel Items - 24-25 SY: Decrease in Hours: L. Wright, SR Teacher Decrease in Days: M. Ludovissie, SpEd Program Support Increase in Days: M. Thorp, School Social Worker Resignations (Effective End of 24-25 SY): C. St. Clare A. Moxley, ECSE Teacher M. Thorp, School Social Worker M. Becker, SpEd Para L. Bertram, SLPA R. Nyhus, SpEd Teacher - WALC Leave of Absence Request: K. Harstad, School Psychologist, for 25-26 1 | Page Retirement: L. Hamann, ABE Instructor

Personnel -25-26 SY: Hiring/Changes: J. Severin, SpEd Teacher. Ugstad, SLP T. Eddington, School Psychologist A. Ladwig, SLPA C. Schmidt, ECSE Para H. Burke, ECSE Para S. Johannes, ECSE Teacher Additional Changes: A. Nelson: Reassignment from Payroll III to Payroll II I. Nesland, SpEd Para: Increase in hours J. Schwartz, ECSE Teacher: Increase in hours

Permission to Advetise and Hire: Academies Special Education Paraprofessional ECFE Child Educator - LP-GE (20 hrs/wk) ECFE Parent Educator (20 hrs/wk)

Contracts: ABE Assignments and Wages: L. Hamann, Linda Oman, Lori Hintz, Sandra Opheim, Valeria Gonzalez (Instructors) Rebecca Strahl (Program Support) Employment Agreements (25-26 and 26-27): M. Kaluza, Carl Perkins Coordinator S. McAlister, Director of Education Programs and Evaluations VOTE: U/C

Reports

Superintendent Report: E. Weber Contract talks ongoing with Itinerant Teacher Representatives. 16-member Freshwater PLC team attended Sourcewell Leadership Retreat.

Facilities: Summer cleaning underway

ALC/Targeted Services: 21 Summer programs in session. Early Childhood: Reviewed Spring Enrollment & Parent Evaluations (School Readiness and ECFE)

Technology: FY24 Telecom Access Equity Aid reviewed.

Carl Perkins: FY25/26 budget from MDE pending; TIP mentoring program offers 90% teacher retention

and comprehensive support for new CTE teachers Special Education

Director Report - J. Wothe Academy moving to two Elm Tree Classrooms to meet student needs.

Upcoming Trainings: Paraprofessional (157 registrants). Special Education Update for Teachers (August) CPI Training Finance Report - J. Anderson. Reviewed: 5/31/25 Finance Report Membership Structure & Assessments Summer Program Agreement Summary Business Services Fund Balances. Legislative Finance Updates (MSBA) Preview of PLC Leadership Retreat (full report in August).

New Business

Motion by Tumberg, seconded by Howard, to approve the FY26 LTFM Levy and 10-Year LTFM Plan. VOTE: U/C

Motion by Hillmer, seconded by Wright, to approve the Memo of Understanding with Education MN FED Teacher-Itinerant Group to forego the HTIA bid process in 2025. VOTE: U/C

Motion by Howard, seconded by Tumberg, to approve the MOU with Education MN Freshwater Teacher-Itinerant Group to forego the HTIA bid process in 2025. VOTE: U/C

Motion by Hillmer, seconded by Tumberg, to approve the School Psychologist Services Agreement with IQ Testing Services, LLC - Laurie Fevig for the 25-26 school year. VOTE: U/C

Motion by Howard, seconded by Wright, to designate Eric Weber as the Identified Official with Authority (IOWA) and Sharon Thiel as IOWA to add/remove users for Freshwater Education District #6004-61. VOTE: U/C

Motion by Tumberg, seconded by Howard, to approve the second and final reading of Policy 400.14L - Grow Your Own Stipend/Reimbursement Guidelines. VOTE: U/C

Gifts and Donations

Motion by Tumberg, seconded by Wolf, to accept the following contributions:

\$500 from Long Prairie Lions Club for the Long Prairie Area Learning Center. \$300 from Staples Lions Club for Reading for the Future Roll Call Vote: Ayes: Huttunen, Wolf, Tumberg, Hillmer, Youngbauer, Howard, Wright. Nays: None. Abstentions: None. Absent: VanDenheuvel, Thalmann. Resolution declared adopted.

Motion by Hillmer, seconded by Wolf, to approve the FY25 Revision III Budget & Assessment Manual. VOTE: U/C

Motion by Tumberg, seconded by Hillmer, to approve the FY26 Adopted Budget & Assessment Manual. VOTE: U/C

Motion by Howard, seconded by Wright, to approve the 25-26 Academies Student Handbook. VOTE: U/C

Motion by Hillmer, seconded by Wolf, to approve the second and final reading of Policy 704. VOTE: U/C

Adjournment

Motion by Howard, seconded by Hillmer, to adjourn the meeting at 5:53 p.m. VOTE: U/C

Respectfully submitted,
Barb Tumberg,
Board Clerk

30pnc

Obituaries

Janice Johnson

Janice Johnson, 83, of Staples passed away July 11, 2025. With heavy hearts and deep gratitude for a life beautifully lived, we announce the passing of our beloved mother, grandmother, great-grandmother and friend.

Funeral Services will be held on Monday, July 21, at 11:00 a.m. at Faith Lutheran Church in Staples. Visitation will be held beginning at 9:00 a.m. at the church. Lunch will be served following the service.

Janice was born October 3, 1941, to Leonard and Mary Jane (Burger) Loken. She grew up with a brilliant mind and a compassionate spirit. A proud graduate of Long Prairie High School, she finished at the top of her class - a testament to her sharp intellect and unwavering determination, qualities that remained with her throughout her life.

She married the love of her life, Gary Johnson and together they made their home in the Staples area, where they raised three children. Their home was filled with love, laughter and the values that shaped generations to come.

She had a wit that could light up a room and a heart that embraced everyone she met. To her, there were no strangers - only friends she hadn't met yet. Her warmth and kindness left a lasting impression on all who crossed her path.

She was spunky, sassy and bold - never afraid to speak her mind or stand up for what she believed in. Her vibrant personal-



ity brought energy and laughter to every room she entered and her confidence inspired those around her.

Her greatest joy and purpose in life were her children and grandchildren. She poured her love, time and wisdom into them, creating a legacy of devotion, strength and unconditional love. Her family was her world and she was the heart of theirs.

She loved nurturing the faith of young people as an assistant Youth Religious Education Coordinator. She found great joy in her work at the local floral shop and Greg Larson Sports. She loved following her grandchildren in all of their sporting activities, but she especially loved wrestling.

Cooking and serving others were among her greatest joys. Her kitchen was always open, her table always full and her home a place of comfort and welcome. Whether it was a holiday feast or a simple cup of coffee, she made everyone feel like family.

She built deep, meaningful relationships wherever she went, offering a lis-

tening ear, a helping hand and a loving heart. Her presence was a gift and her absence will be deeply felt.

She was preceded in death by her beloved husband, Gary; parents; mother and father-in-law, Lyle and Sara Johnson and her special nieces and nephews.

She is survived by three loving children:

- Tammy (John) Fritsche
- Kimberly (Joe) Pilgrim
- Michael (Tanya) Johnson

Her 12 cherished grandchildren:

- Jessica (Jeremy) Weinhandl
- Mike Weinhandl
- Jason (Beth) Gustason
- Cory Wilson
- Kara (Sarah) Fritsche
- Tony (LeAnn) Mack
- Raheem (Voss) White
- Beau (Kady) Pilgrim
- Josie (Robert) Jost
- Alyssa (Emjay) Ingersoll
- Maddison (Nathan) Leaderbrand
- Mitchell Vanalst

She was also blessed with 20 "perfect" great-grandchildren, each one a treasure in her eyes. She is survived by her siblings, Shirley Carry, James (Shirley) Loken and David Loken; and her beloved cat, Skittles, who brought her comfort and companionship.

She leaves behind a legacy of love, laughter and faith - a life well-lived and a soul well-loved.

Arrangements are by Taylor Funeral Home, Staples.

w30c A00006B2020JL16

Peggy Thorn

Peggy Rae Thorn, 70, of Verndale, passed away unexpectedly on Sunday, July 7, 2025, while enjoying the great outdoors she loved so much.

A Celebration of Life service will be held at 11 a.m. Saturday, July 19 at the Verndale Alliance Church, 109 NW Brown St. A light lunch will be served following the service. Visitation will be held Friday, July 18, from 4 to 7 p.m. at the church and one hour prior to the service.

Peggy was born June 16, 1955 to Robert and Dorothy Larson in Minneapolis. She was a woman of contagious joy and laughter that bubbled up readily as she embraced every moment of life.

Peggy accepted Jesus as her Savior at an early age. She attended Brooklyn Center Evangelical Free Church with her family where she built many lifelong friendships.

Peggy served on staff at Camp Shamineau in the late 70's where she met her husband, Gary Lee Thorn. They were married in Motley on September 15, 1979. She was a welcoming face in her role at Central Lakes College for 35 years until her retirement in 2023. She lured many students and staff members



into a friendly game of ping-pong, where she surprised everyone with her competitive skill. When Peggy was in the room, you were destined to get pulled into uncontrollable ripples of laughter and pure joy. Peggy was an active and beloved member of the Verndale Alliance Church where she enjoyed youth ministry as well as playing piano, guitar and singing with the worship team. She was ready to help anyone, any time, loved everyone and was ready with a fresh batch of caramel puffcorn for any occasion. Peggy made many memories with her "yada-yada" friends and logged many miles on horseback with her "gallopin' gals." She enjoyed God's great outdoors deer hunting, camping with family at Clubhouse Camp-

ground, kayaking down the river and sitting in her favorite chair at the GPRR: "Gary Peggy River Retreat." Peggy enjoyed baking, especially baking Christmas cookies with family and giving them freely to bless many people.

One of Peggy's greatest earthly joys was spending time with her family. Babies and children were drawn to her bubbly personality, and she was seldom seen at gatherings without a child giggling or sleeping in her arms. Peggy is survived by her husband, Gary of 45 years; one son, Mitch Thorn; four step-children, Gary (Lyle) Thorn, Mark (Gloria) Thorn, Mike (Erika) Thorn and Taunee (Ruth) Thorn; mother, Dorothy Larson; two sisters, Laurel (Tom) Jenson and Amy (Glenn) Widmark and many beloved grandchildren, nieces, nephews and friends.

In lieu of flowers, the family kindly requests that memorial contributions be made in Peggy's honor. These gifts will be directed to support her favorite ministries, continuing the legacy of her faith and compassion.

Arrangements are with the Brenny Family Funeral Chapel, Staples.

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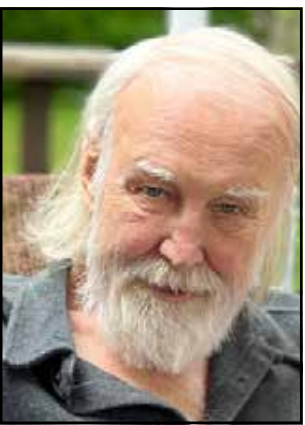
Bruce Haber

Bruce Haber, 73, of Motley, passed away peacefully surrounded by family after a short battle with cancer.

A Memorial Service will be held Friday, July 25 at 11:00 a.m. at the Taylor Funeral Home in Staples. Visitation will be held one hour prior to the service at Taylor Funeral Home.

Bruce was born June 24, 1952, to Norman and Evelyn (Anderson) Haber in St. Cloud. He worked as a journeyman electrician throughout his entire career and was known for his strong work ethic and problem-solving skills.

Outside of work, Bruce had many passions: fishing, hunting, tinkering on projects, listening to records



and collecting coins. His greatest joy was spending time with his family and especially his grandchildren, who meant the world to him.

Bruce is survived by his beloved wife, Eva; one son,

Aaron (Melany) Haber; one daughter, Megan (Paul Williams) Haber; three grandchildren, Ethan Haber, Isla Williams and Luna Haber; two sisters, Nancy (Mike) Baethke and Lynette (Scott) Varner; one brother, Mark (Char) Haber; many nieces, nephews and extended family.

He was preceded in death by his parents; one sister, Marilyn Haber and one granddaughter, Aurora Raven Williams.

Bruce will be deeply missed and fondly remembered for his kind heart, sense of humor and love for life.

Arrangements are by Taylor Funeral Home, Staples.

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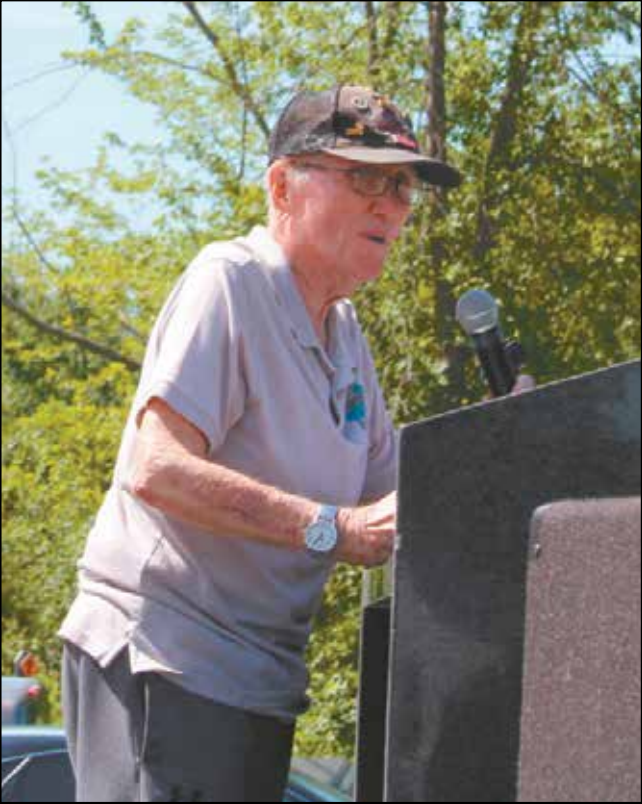
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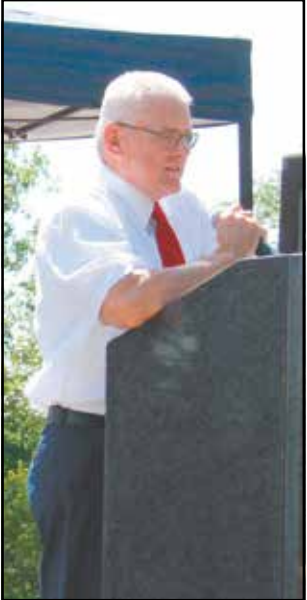
Guest speaker

U.S. Air Force Veteran Al Evans, Motley, was the guest speaker at the Fourth of July Program in Staples. His speech was entitled, “Pride in America.” Evans served a total of 20 years, including during the Vietnam War.



Preparing to ring the bell

Myrna (Rosevink) Thorson (center) and her daughters, Stacy Giermann (left) and Amy Wilkerson, all of the Wenatchee, Wash., area, traveled to Staples for the July Fourth Program. All five of Myrna’s brothers served in the U.S. Military and were having pavers dedicated that day. As each of their names were read, a bell was rung in their honor. The Rosevinks were Staples natives, and Myrna graduated from Staples High School in 1963. (Staples World photos by Dawn Timbs)



Giving the Invocation

Pastor Jim Johnson gave the Invocation at the Fourth of July Program at Staples All Veterans park. Johnson is the pastor at Motley Free Methodist Church.



Bronze sailor dedicated

The ‘Bronze Sailor’ statue at Staples All Veterans Park was unveiled at the recent July Fourth Program. Pictured are Milt Peterson and Wayne Berry, both U.S. Navy personnel. Peterson serves on the park board. U.S. Navy veteran Charlie Crews of Staples had been the one to suggest adding this statue to the park, and had jump-started the project with a \$10,000 donation. Another \$5,000 donation was received by an anonymous donor, and U.S. Navy veteran Loren Morey of Motley gave \$2,000 toward the project. The statue was made by Brodin Bronze, Kimball.



Enjoying the festivities

Roddy and Jan Sams of Staples attended the Fourth of July Program in Staples and enjoyed the BBQ lunch that followed.



Patriotic spirit

Veteran Ron Starke (right) and his wife Betty Starke of Motley sported red, white and blue at the Fourth of July Program at All Veterans Park in Staples. Ron Starke is a member of the Motley American Legion Post #124 which provided the color guard at the program.



Listening to the speech

Judy Evans, Motley, and Jim Vollegraaf, Staples, listened as U.S. Air Force and Vietnam Veteran Al Evans spoke at the Fourth of July Program in Staples. Judy is married to Al Evans, and Vollegraaf is a fellow Vietnam Veteran.

Ringin the bell

Veteran Andrew Schmidt rang the bell during the paver dedication portion of the Fourth of July Program. Schmidt served from 1976 - 1980 as a Hospital Corpsman in the U.S. Navy and the U.S. Marine Corps. He was also a longtime Minnesota State Trooper, known in the Staples area as “Trooper Andy.”



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