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Brownell second at state cross country
Thomas Eskelson recalls Fawn Lake upbringing
Staples priest charged with criminal sexual conduct
Staples World counts 2.8 billion page views



Wednesday, November 5, 2025

Staples World

Staples, Minnesota

\$1²⁵

Two Veterans Day programs at The Nest

Staples-Motley School District will host two Veterans Day programs on Tuesday Nov. 11, inviting veterans and the public to come to the school for the first program with elementary school students, stay for lunch and attend the second program after lunch with middle/high school students.

Sacred Heart Area School is also hosting a Veterans Day Program on Nov. 11, with their program starting at 11 a.m. at the school.

The Staples-Motley programs will be held at The Nest, the new gym at the high school/middle school. The elementary program starts at 11 a.m.

The middle/high school program is at 12:45.

Dale Mueller, will be the guest speaker for the program. Originally from Milaca and now living in Verndale, Mueller joined the U.S. Army Reserves in 1984. He served as a Spec 4 mortar gunner for four years and was acting E-5 squad leader. Mueller was discharged in 1990.

Mueller is a board member of the Staples All Veterans Park Board. He works at Trident Seafoods in Motley, is a member of the Motley American Legion, after belonging to the Bertha American Legion.

The ceremony will also



Spec 4 Dale Mueller

include a dedication of new pavers to be placed at the Staples All Veterans Park.

Treats on the Streets held in Staples

The annual "Treats on the Streets" event in Staples on Halloween was another success, with over 200 children visiting participating businesses. The event is held in early afternoon after school to help keep children safe. Below: Little dressed up visitors at the Staples World newspaper. (Photos by Janice Winter)



Happy Veterans Day

"A hero is someone who has given his or her life to something bigger than oneself." -Joseph Campbell

thank you

for your service, protection and support

Threat made at SMHS was a prank

The Staples Police Dept. received a call for service from Staples-Motley High School at 3:15 p.m. Oct. 29, regarding a terroristic threat.

According to their report, Staples Police made contact with the reporting party, who advised that an older student had made threats and was walking around the school.

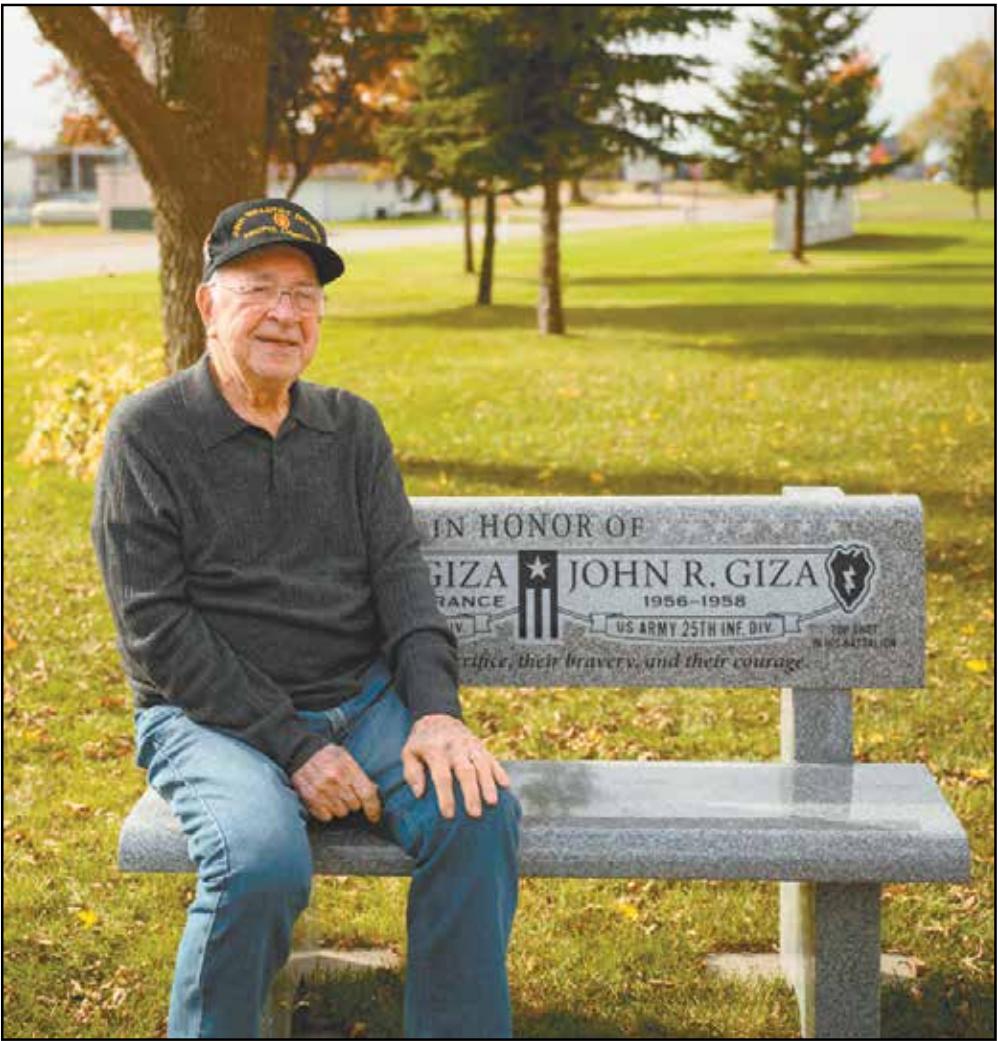
An officer stopped and spoke with the subject who stated it was just a joke and he would never threaten anyone. The subject was advised of the seriousness of this and of the consequences. Contact was also made with both the school and the subject's mother, who were advised of the situation.

Community invited to Christmas chorus practices

Calling all community members. You are invited to come and sing with the Staples Area Mens Chorus and the Staples Area Women's Chorus to participate in the Community Christmas concert on Saturday December 13.

The joint chorus practices will be held in the Staples-Motley high school

See **CHORUS** on page 10a



Memorial bench recently installed

The Giza family recently purchased a granite memorial bench for the All Veterans and Community Park in Staples, as a tribute for U.S. Army veterans John F. Giza and his son John "Jack" R. Giza, both of Staples.

John F. Giza, a WWI veteran, served in France in 1918 as part of the U.S. Army 82nd Inf. Div.; and John R. Giza served from 1956-1958 as part of the U.S. Army 25th Inf. Div.

Photographer Joanne (Giza) Gilligan, daughter of Jack, shared these photos and noted that this was a surprise gift from the family for her father. "He's hinted that he'd love a bench at the park, so we went ahead and made that happen," she said. Joanne went on to say that her father takes great pride in his military service, as did her grandfather. She also noted that her grandfather, John F. Giza, is the one who started Giza Plumbing and Heating in Staples. (Photos courtesy of Joanne Gilligan Photography)

Weather

2025

This Week's Forecast

	High	Low	Cond.
Nov. 5	50	31	Sunny
Nov. 6	49	38	Cloudy
Nov. 7	40	26	P. Cloudy
Nov. 8	35	21	Snow Showers
Nov. 9	33	23	P. Cloudy
Nov. 10	33	23	P. Cloudy
Nov. 11	42	30	M. Cloudy

Last Year, 2024

	High	Low	Cond.
Nov. 5	45°	37	Cloudy
Nov. 6	44	27	Cloudy
Nov. 7	48	27	M. Sunny
Nov. 8	54	30	Sunny
Nov. 9	48	34	Cloudy
Nov. 10	44	35	M. Sunny
Nov. 11	43	32	Sunny

Average Temps:
H = 42° Low = 27°

Compiled by
Dale Hausmann,
WCCO's Staples area
Weatherwatcher

Public Notices

Villard 9A

Todd BOA 9A

Todd Property Tax Homestead Notice 9A

Todd County Commissioners 9A

Obituaries

Garry Carpenter

Rodney Enberg

Kenneth Johnson

Tory Rochat

Richard Sampson

Local boy makes good

Thomas Eskelson rises above poverty to become a lawyer and linguist, serving in the U.S. Air Force during the Vietnam War

By Dawn Timbs
Staples World reporter

When he saw a picture of his third grade teacher featured in a Staples World article this past January, 79-year-old Thomas Eskelson said it triggered a desire to travel back to the place of his childhood.

He's called Denver, Colo. home for decades, but Thomas has never forgotten the family farm in Fawn Lake Township where his folks, Edward and Ione, raised their six children, or the one-room school house he attended south of Staples. Yep, the one where Miss Hanson made such an impression on him as a third grader.

"She was very pretty," Thomas said during a stop at the Staples World this past September to do some family research. "My dad would joke that one day I might marry her," Thomas laughed.

Of course, he's been happily married to Leslie Reingold for many years, and according to that article he read in his home-

town paper a while back, Miss Phyllis Hanson is now Mrs. Paskewitz, a last name she acquired not long after teaching in District 98, where Thomas attended country school. When he learned his favorite teacher was still living in the Staples area, Thomas thought it would be fun to meet up with her during his trip to Minnesota and down memory lane.

It was a trip he was taking with his wife, Leslie, and companion/caregiver James Austin. In addition to seeing Miss Hanson, Thomas hoped to visit his folks' graves, find his father's obituary in the 1955 newspaper archives, and see some other meaningful places from his childhood.

First stop was the Staples World on 4th St. NE, where he sifted through old newspapers and shared stories from his life along the way.

"My parents were very poor," Thomas said of the Eskelsons, who at one time lived on a 240-acre farm in Fawn Lake Township. He recalled that they had five Guernsey cows on the farm

and would sell the milk to help make ends meet. Thomas had three sisters - Emma, Cynthia (Cindy) and Theresa (Tracy); and two brothers - Robert (who died at 17 days old) and Stephen.

As it became increasingly difficult to support his family by farming, Thomas's dad headed west to Washington State, where he worked on the atomic bomb at the Hanford site. While there, he was exposed to high levels of uranium and later suffered from uranium poisoning, which ultimately led to his death at age 60.

Thomas recalled talking with his dad as they stood together in the barn yard at the family farm. "My dad told me he was dying," Thomas said, his eyes tearing up at the memory. He was just seven years old.

At that point, the Eskelsons moved into Staples, where Ione and the children lived in the back of the Milton-Chapin Feed Store. Thomas's dad resided at the Mary Rondorf Home until his death shortly after, on July 29, 1955. Thomas remembers his dad's coffin being weighted down with lead to shield people and the environment from uranium poisoning.

As an eight-year-old, and the oldest son, Thomas felt responsible for the family. He was given a job at the Mary Rondorf Home washing dishes. He initially earned seven cents/hr., later having his pay raised to 15 cents/hr.

When he was 13, his mother remarried. "Raymond Koppes," Thomas says, pointing to a name in his father's obituary, a good friend who'd served as a pallbearer at Edward's funeral. "I stood up for them at the wedding," he went on, adding that he thought highly of his step-dad.

As Thomas continued reading the archives and sharing stories, it was clear that the Catholic Church played a significant role in his life.

The Eskelsons were devout Catholics. They attended St. Isidore's in Moran Township before they moved into Staples, at which time they attended Sacred Heart Catholic Church.

Fr. Falque, the priest at Sacred Heart, was very good to him, Thomas said, noting that he'd arranged for Thomas to attend boarding school (St. Lawrence) in Mt. Calvary, Wisc. "Fr. Falque paid the tuition," he said.

While he was in high school, Thomas learned Latin in order to help serve communion at services. He later learned several other languages, including German, Greek, Vietnamese and Spanish.

Thomas went on to share that after high school, he attended St. John's University in Collegeville, earning a Bachelor's degree in Philosophy, with a minor in Psychology. Then in 1969, he joined the U.S. Air Force and qualified to be a linguist. During his training, he spent one year in the U.S. learning N. Vietnamese prior to his service during the Vietnam War. In all, he spent 6,000 flight hours on planes similar to the 707. He flew 2,000 hours in the Boeing RC-135M reconnaissance aircraft. Thomas recalled flying the longest



Researching family history

Thomas Eskelson, seated at right, points to his father's obituary that he found in the Aug. 4, 1955 edition of the Staples World this past September. He's pictured with his wife, Leslie Reingold, and companion/caregiver James Austin. The trio

had traveled from Denver, Colo., to Minnesota, with the purpose of visiting relatives and friends in the Staples area, where Thomas spent his childhood. A stop at the local newspaper was also on their list. (Staples World photo by Dawn Timbs)



Country school reunion

Phyllis (Hanson) Paskewitz, left, formerly known as "Miss Hanson" when she taught at a country school south of Staples in the 1950s, enjoyed a visit at her Staples home from Thomas Eskelson of Colorado this past September. Eskelson had been a third-grader during 'Miss Hanson's' time at the school and had thought very highly of her. (Staples World photo by Dawn Timbs)



Precious memories

Fawn Lake Township native Thomas Eskelson, now of Denver, Colo., shared this family photo from the late 1940s, taken most likely at his farm south of Staples. He's pictured as a toddler with his dad, Edward Eskelson, and his sisters Cindy (left) and Emma.



Gone too soon

Edward John Eskelson, a pioneer resident of Fawn Lake Township, died at the age of 60, after suffering uranium poisoning. His son, Thomas, was only eight years old at the time of his father's death. He recently returned to Staples from Colorado, hoping to find his father's obituary during a stop at the Staples World, which he did.

Perhaps it was the kick in the pants Thomas needed. Who knows? But what is clear is that the young boy from Fawn Lake township, despite hardship and hurdles that would have kept the best of 'em down, went on to make something of himself and achieve great things in this world.

Thomas thinks back to times on the farm with his father, memories that end far too soon. "He was a great dad," Thomas says. No doubt, if the elder Eskelson would have lived to see his son's story unfold (in spite of not marrying Miss Hanson), he would have been very proud. Very proud indeed.

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Happy Veterans Day

Staples priest charged with criminal sexual conduct

Bishop Patrick Neary of the Diocese of St. Cloud was notified on Oct. 7 that Father Aaron Kuhn, a priest of the diocese, was charged in Stearns County with one count of third-degree criminal sexual conduct involving an adult.

Bishop Neary has placed him on full administrative leave, effective immediately. Father Kuhn was removed from active ministry in June 2024 when the bishop was first made aware of a report of sexual misconduct. Father Kuhn's priestly faculties were then restricted.

Father Kuhn underwent professional evaluation and subsequent residential treatment. Following diocesan protocols, upon completing treatment in December 2024, Father Kuhn was assigned to the Chancery offices, assisting with administrative work of the diocesan Tribunal and Office of Canonical Affairs in St. Cloud. A safety plan and precepts were put in place and continue to be monitored. Bishop Neary was notified in October 2024 that a report had been made to authorities after Father Kuhn entered treatment. The diocesan Crisis Response Team held parish meetings following the ini-

tial report in June.

Father Kuhn was ordained to the priesthood June 16, 2007, at St. Mary's Cathedral in St. Cloud. Father Kuhn served as parochial vicar at St. Mary's Cathedral, St. Augustine Parish in St. Cloud and Christ Church Newman Center from June 2007 to July 2010; studied for Canon Law Licentiate at Catholic University, Washington, D.C., from July 2010 to 2013; served as pastor of St. John the Baptist, Bluffton, and St. Ann, Wadena; from July 2013 to January 2025, and pastor of St. Joseph, Bertha; St. Hubert, Blue Grass; Assumption of Our Lady, Menahga; St. Michael, Motley; and Sacred Heart, Staples; from June 2021 to January 2025.

The diocese is cooperating with authorities and encourages all victims of abuse to come forward. Bishop Neary asks that people keep everyone affected by this situation in prayer.

Contact information for victim advocates and county officials to whom abuse can be reported is available online at: <https://stdcio.org/about/safe-environment/how-to-report-abuse>.

Todd Cty. court Oct. 22

The following cases were heard before Judge Daniel A. Benson in Seventh District Court in Todd County October 14, 2025.

Curtis Ray Burrows, Staples. Loud music. Sentenced. Local con-

finement (90 days, stay 0 yr 0 mo 89 days for 1 yr credit for time served: 1 day). Unsupervised probation, 1 yr. Fine \$100. Fee \$75.

Joshua Aaron Dummprope, Staples. Loud vehicle exhaust. Sentenced. Fine \$200. Fee \$75.

Motley area law enforcement

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

Oct. 24-Morrison County deputies responded to an accident at the 31000 block of Lakeview Dr., Cushing. James Leslie Pratt, 66, was arrested for driving under the influence.

Oct. 26 - A Morrison

County deputy responded to a report of fire at 3684 270th St., Cushing.

Oct. 28 - The MCSO received a report of property damage at 3684 270th St., Cushing.

Oct. 22 - The MCSO called out Motley Fire and Rescue for a two vehicle accident with no injuries at 124th St. SW and State Hwy 64 SW, Motley. Traffic control was requested.

Staples Library events Nov.-Dec.

Staples Library – For more info contact: Cathy Perish -Phone: 218-894-1401

Hours: MON. 10 - 6, TUE. 1 - 8, WED. 10- 6, THU. 1 - 8, FRI. 1 - 5, SAT. 9 - 12

Tech Time

First Wednesday of each month, 10:00 a.m. to Noon

Trouble understanding your laptop, iPad, Kindle or other electronic device? Would you like to download books from the library website or use eBooks, but aren't sure how? Tech help will be available the first Wednesday of each month from 10:00 to Noon. Registration is required. For teens or adults.

Mobile WorkForce Services

First Wednesday of each month, 2:00 to 4:00 p.m.

Get help with online applications, resumes, career exploration, interviewing skills, unemployment applications and other resources. Stop and visit with Scott the first Wednesday of every month from 2:00 to 4:00 p.m.

Preschool Storytime

Wednesdays, Nov. 19 and Dec. 17, 10:30 to 11:30 a.m.

Join us in Reading Roundhouse for singing, playing, and other age appropriate activities and crafts. We will engage their curiosity, while developing important literacy skills. For preschoolers. Limit 10. Registration is required. Sponsored by the Staples Friends of the Library.

Doug Ohman presents Name that Town

Thursday, Nov. 20
6:00 to 7:00 p.m.

Journey throughout the state of Minnesota with photographer and storyteller Doug Ohman as he explores towns and villages.

The program will focus on the rich history of various cities and towns and include interesting stories relating to the town names. For teens and adults. This program was made possible with Arts & Cultural Heritage Funds from Minnesota's Clean Water, Land, and Legacy Amendment.

Pinecone Crafts

Saturday, Nov. 22, 10:00 to 11:00 a.m.

Create a couple pinecone crafts. We will show you how to make a decorated Christmas tree, reindeer, and a downhill skier. These easy and adorable kids' pinecone Christmas ornaments are so fun to make with your kids and look cute on the Christmas tree. Ages 10 and up welcome.

Holiday Gingerbread Houses

Thursday, Dec. 4, Anytime 5:00 to 7:00 p.m.

Create your own gingerbread house using frosting, candies and graham crackers. Stop in during scheduled hours and put together your own Gingerbread House. All supplies will be provided. Stop in anytime during the event to build your gingerbread house. For ages 5 to 10. Cookies to decorate for ages 3 & 4. Registration is required. Limit 50. Sponsored by the Staples Friends of the Library.

Holiday Flute & Guitar

Thursday, Dec. 11, 5:00 to 6:00 p.m.

A mix of styles from flutist Julie Johnson and guitarist Jeff Lambert-enjoy holiday music at the library! For all ages. This program was made possible with Arts & Cultural Heritage Funds from Minnesota's Clean water, Land, and Legacy Amendment.

75 YEARS Ago - 1950

• Nov. 9, 1950 - light fall of snow fell in this area Wednesday night and most of the day with the result that it is believed that the snow is finally here to stay for the winter months.

The temperature has been cool although there has not been any below zero weather in these parts as yet.

• Nov. 9, 1950 - Some thief broke into the Leader Cooperative creamery last Saturday night.

He entered through a north window and stole between \$15 and \$20 in cash.

The sheriff from Walker was called to investigate the robbery but did not find any clues. He is still work-

- O -
Compiled by
Dawn Timbs
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ing on the case and hopes to find evidence that will lead to the arrest of the guilty party within a short time.

• Nov. 9, 1950 - For sale: Good Used Refrigerators. Both gas and electric. \$40 and up. Jenkins Appliance.

• Nov. 9, 1950 - Thanksgiving Turkeys for sale. Hens 12 to 18 lbs. Tom's up to 28 lbs. Dressed at the farm. Also oven dressed birds. Place your orders early. Mrs. Chas. Cruse, Motley.

• Nov. 9, 1950 - 40 acres 2 miles From Staples, \$500. 80 acres 4 miles from Staples, \$600. See E. W. Beeson, 3 1/4 miles west of Staples.

• Nov. 9, 1950 - Dressed Geese and Capons for Thanksgiving for sale. Mrs. Mel Ash, Verndale. Phone 25-F-8.

• Nov. 9, 1950 - Pie Social and entertainment, Thomastown Hall, Saturday evening, Nov. 11. Sponsored by Thomastown Farm Bureau. Everyone welcome.

• Nov. 9, 1950 - Monday evening, Oct. 30, Mr. and Mrs. Burle Force entertained the Motley high school's football squad and guests in their home. Several games were played. Howard Sklenicka won the apple dunking contest, but Bud Welle out did him in eating them. Bud won the door prize for guessing the total number of points the team made this season which was 221.

50 YEARS Ago - 1975

• Nov. 6, 1975 - More than 100 people gathered at the Community Center in Staples Saturday evening, following the return of the Staples cross-country team from the state meet at the University of Minnesota. The team took third in state, a feat which hadn't been accomplished before in the many years of cross-country running here.

Coach Jerry Riewer introduced the runners and thanked all the fans for their support during the season, and at the district, regional and state meets. Parents of runners also were introduced, as well as the cross-country cheerleaders.

• Nov. 6, 1975 - There was a great turnout at the May Town Mob 4-H Halloween party Thursday, Oct. 30.

They went on a hayride that started at 8:30 and afterwards there was games played and bobbing for apples.

There was a pot luck lunch served afterwards. - Reporter; Sandy Lucas.

• Nov. 6, 1975 - A surprise housewarming party was given by many relatives and friends Saturday evening for Mrs. Bettylou Irwin with 45 attending. A social evening was enjoyed and a bounteous lunch served later in the evening. Mrs. Irwin received gifts. Relatives and friends from Melrose, Cedar, Princeton, East Grand Forks, were among those present.

• Nov. 6, 1975 - Dr. Jon Theurer of Staples has been named the Most Improved Golfer of the year at the Terrace Golf Club of Staples for 1975.

A handsome, personalized certificate from Golf Digest Magazine, America's largest circulation golf publication, was presented to Theurer by Club manager,

Looking back



Mystery photo

Hello readers. This week's archive photo is from 2007. 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.

Larry Werder.

Dr. Theurer received this award by virtue of his fine performance in club tournaments this past summer. He was on the winning men's league team, D.J.'s Men's Wear, for the second year in a row. He won the first D.J's classic, won his flight in the club tournament and won a weekly best-ball tournament in September.

• Nov. 6, 1975 - An announcement was made today by Mrs. Lorraine Holm that Holm's Cafe (formerly Hi-Ho Cafe on Highway No. 10 in Staples) will re-open for business Friday, Nov. 7.

Mrs. Holm will again manage the cafe, which has facilities available for banquets and parties.

• Nov. 6, 1975 - A drive to raise funds for new band uniforms for the Cardinal Marching Band at Staples high school is now underway, according to information released today by Mrs. Darlene Sadusky and Larry Correll , co-chairs of the Band Booster Club.

25 YEARS Ago - 2000

• Nov. 9, 2000 - This year's national observance of Veterans Day on Saturday holds special significance for the nation's Korean War veterans.

Fifty years ago, U.S. soldiers were part of the United Nations forces pitted against the North Kore-

ans, who had invaded the southern half of that country in June, 1950. Shortly after Thanksgiving, 1950 after the UN forces had pushed the Koreans into the northern reaches of the Korean peninsula, Chinese forces entered the war and drove the mostly U.S. and southern Korean troops back south.

"We were doing what they call a strategic withdrawal," veteran Ken LeVasseur of Staples said. A paratrooper with the 187th Airborne Regimental Combat team, a unit of the 11th Airborne Division, LeVasseur had been part of the forces that occupied Pyongyang, The North Korean capital.

• Nov. 9, 2000 - Greg Wegscheid of Staples shot a 15-point buck during the opener of deer hunting season. Wegscheid was hunting his own property and said he has shot many deer in his years of hunting but none as big. The buck weighed in at 195 pounds.

• Nov. 9, 2000 - Dan Meyer, formerly of Staples, shot a 215 pound, 10 point buck with a 24-inch wide set of antlers on Saturday, the opener of the 2000 firearms deer season. Meyer was hunting with family members south of Aldrich.,

• Nov. 9, 2000 - The Pillager Huskies football team captured the school's first section title last week by

defeating the Bertha-Hewitt Bears in the Section 6A championship at the Fargo Dome. The Huskies came from behind to down the Bears 19-15.

Friday night Pillager will host Warren-Alvarado-Oslo in the first round game of the State Class A Football Tournament. It will mark the first time a Pillager football team has competed at a state tournament.

10 YEARS Ago - 2015

• Nov. 5, 2015 - Charlie Poulton, Staples, shared his story of joining the U.S. Army before the Vietnam era and retiring after 34 years of service. He now acts as a veterans coordinator with Lakewood Health System and is a member of the Staples All Veterans Park Board.

• Nov. 5, 2015 - Tours of Motley's new water treatment plant, located at the corner of 3rd Ave. So. and Cemetery Rd., were held Oct. 29.

A number of people were in attendance to learn more about how the facility works, and to enjoy refreshments in celebration of the completed project.

John Graupman, engineer with Bolton & Menk, Inc., said of the project, "The plant has been up and running since May and Bruce Brotherton has been running it very well."



Mystery solved

Last week's mystery photo published in the Oct. 6, 1988 edition of the Staples World featured Staples dentist Dr. Peter Brenny showing members of Boy Scout Troop 61 a type of filling used in cavities. The group toured the dental office as an informational session to help them work towards a merit badge in den-

tristry. Scouts, from left, included Mike Donner, Luke Page and Matt Page.

Mike Koppes of Staples recognized Dr. Peter Brenny, as did Glenda Grunwald, who said, "It reminds me of him (Brenny) back in the day." Thanks for participating in our mystery photo.





Quote of the week

“The willingness with which our young people are likely to serve in any war, no matter how justified, shall be directly proportional to how they perceive the veterans of earlier wars were treated and appreciated by their nation.”
— George Washington

More than 2.8 billion page views for the Staples World

By Mark Anderson
Staples World

In last week’s school board story, the Staples-Motley School District mentioned hitting 1 million page views online, so we started looking at how many page views the Staples World gets. We don’t track what people do with their newspaper at home, but there have been studies that can help us make an estimate. We sell around 1,400 newspapers every week. Studies show that an average newspaper is read by more than one person, some estimates are two to seven people per newspaper. I’ll use the low number of three, making it realistic that 4,200 people look at the newspaper each week. A page view online is any photo, story or page that a person visits, the equivalent in a newspaper would be any photo, story or page a person looks at. A “page view” would also count anyone looking at it more than once, so we can add a few more to the minimum counts. We have 10 to 14 pages every week, but for this count

let’s go with the average number of 12 pages, to account for people looking at a page more than once. We usually have at least six elements on each page, counting stories, photos and ads. Often it is many more, but for this exercise I will go with a low estimate of eight, allowing for people looking at a photo more than once. So the number of readers times the number of pages times the number of stories/photos/ads on each page equals 403,200 views per week. We print 52 newspapers each year so that equals 20.97 million “page views” per year. Our newspaper has been in existence for 135 years, so that extrapolates to 2.83 billion page views in our history, and that is a fairly low estimate. Those billions of views are woven together into a fabric that criss-crosses the people of our community in countless ways throughout our history. **A better experience** For the past 30 years, the tech people have been telling the world that newspapers will no longer be

relevant in the future. In reality, studies show that the healthiest communities are still the ones with a strong local newspaper presence. Social media posts often lack context and are missing pertinent information that is in every newspaper story. Every story we write tells who, what, where and when, with many of them getting into why and how. Newspapers still do the vast majority of original news reporting that social media ends up repackaging for free. Everything posted on social media is an ad, not news. The posters are trying to promote themselves, their organization or their ideas, with no third party to determine what is real, what is true and what is important. Newspapers still have the overriding goal of only printing facts, with reasoned opinions labeled as opinions. **Social media is not your friend** With recent mergers and acquisitions, the five richest men in the world now control virtually all of our

national media and social media. They are using their platforms to manipulate the national conversation, win elections and tell people what they should be thinking. Do you think the world’s richest men care about our community? No, they are doing this to gain power and gain wealth. This is the system that many people have bought into, despite social media becoming a massive failure in many areas, with as much misinformation as valid information. It has divided people more than it brings them together. Meanwhile they are stealing your data so they can leverage it for themselves. If you play their game, you will not end up winning. The school district is concentrating their marketing on social media, which they need to do because of all the misinformation that spreads online. But they shouldn’t forget that the traditional newspaper is still more relevant and more important to the community. Other than the calculations made in this story, we are not stealing your data.

Letter to the Editor

COPD impacts many people

On November 13, 2025 at 5:15 p.m., we will be Walking with a Doc at Lakewood Health System Hospital, Staples to get healthy and practice the importance of exercise with COPD, along with other chronic diseases. November is COPD Awareness Month. As someone who’s impacted by COPD, I want to increase awareness and help educate the public about the importance of early diagnosis, risk factors for developing COPD and the need for increased research. COPD is comprised of several conditions, including chronic bronchitis, emphysema and the statistics are sobering. The COPD affects more than 30 million Americans, approximately half of those people are not aware they have the disease. COPD is the third leading cause of death (excluding COVID-19) worldwide. One in every eight adults over the age of 45 has COPD. It might even be you. COPD can be caused by genetics, irritants like smoke or pollution, yet awareness of the disease’s symptoms, methods to reduce risk and disease management remains poor. Symptoms include; breathlessness, fatigue and chronic cough. Many people with undiagnosed COPD believe that their exercise fatigue is related to getting older, but

that’s not the case. Breathlessness is not a normal symptom of aging. COPD is (currently) incurable, but with the right diagnosis and treatment, there are many things people with COPD can do to breathe better, enjoy life and live for many years. Early diagnosis is crucial. COPD in 2023 was 1.61 times more prevalent among adults living in rural areas, compared to those living in metropolitan areas. The SOAR Act, will benefit all supplemental oxygen users, but it’s critically important to those who live in rural areas, like me. Supplemental oxygen suppliers and equipment become more scarce the further you live away from a large city. Much of the current oxygen equipment on the market prevents patients from leaving their homes for long periods of time, making life difficult for those who must travel long distances to access care, see family or just run errands. With your help, we can spread the word about COPD, chronic lung disease awareness, prevention and treatment. Show your support for COPD and help elevate the disease as a public health priority. For more information about COPD and how to get involved with COPD Awareness Month activities, visit copdfoundation.org

Lisa Hall, COPD Foundation
State Captain and Advocate

Many of us may have known what it’s like to live in the shadow of an older, an unusually successful, or a very talented sibling. Or perhaps one that was more boisterous, who had what is sometimes euphemistically called “a big personality.” Sometimes the accolades or attention might have seemed to be disproportionately directed toward that sibling, instead of toward us. From time to time we might have felt just a bit left out, or under-appreciated. If trees had emotions, perhaps that’s how the tamarack would feel. During those weeks in the fall when Minnesota forests and roadsides are ablaze with bright colors seemingly everywhere, out in the hinterland swamps and low, damp places the tamarack is barely noticed as it its color, too, begins to turn. To say that the tamarack is overshadowed would be an understatement. As the curtain begins to rise on the fall foliage transformation, this unique conifer’s needles are still green, much like the needles of other conifers—like spruce, balsam, and pine—which unnoticed by most have been shedding some of their



Mike Rahn

old, rusty brown needles, but retaining enough green ones to deserve their label of “evergreen.” As aspen, birch, maple, ash, oak, and other deciduous trees and shrubs cease producing chlorophyll and their leaves begin to change color, change comes to the tamarack, too. But it’s more subtle than the glowing oranges and reds of maples, and the bright golden yellow of aspens, which catch our eye as their leaves flutter and tremble in even the faintest breeze. (So pronounced is this aspen characteristic that one of Minnesota’s two native aspens has the Latin species name *tremuloides*, which means “to tremble.”) The tamarack, just like the more familiar evergreen conifers, has needles rather than leaves. These turn from a soft green to golden yellow, described as “smoky gold” by that much-esteemed wilderness advocate and sage of the Canoe Country, Sigurd Olson. To that I would add “glowing gold,” especially when a stand of tamaracks is illuminated by a low-angle sun in early morning or evening. The factors that contribute to the tamarack’s lack of visibility in early fall are two-fold. Tamaracks are overshadowed by the brightness and sheer volume of colors, until time, wind, and precipitation have stripped the leaves from most trees and their shrubby understory. But another invisibility factor may remind us of that familiar mantra of the

real estate agent: “location, location, location.” Tamaracks are most common and abundant where most other trees could not survive more than briefly. They are trees of wet places, like damp swamp margins, and peat bogs, those glacial ponds that gradually fill up over hundreds or thousands of years with decaying vegetation, where the water table is generally not far below one’s feet, and the soil acidic. Despite harsh conditions that would be daunting to any other tree, tamaracks can live to more than 150 years; a few that are alive today could have been seedlings when our forefathers signed the Declaration of Independence. The tamarack’s favored places are not widespread ecological niches over much of our state. The exception is northern Minnesota, where such areas are more prevalent naturally, and where man’s penchant for draining wetlands to convert them to other uses has been less felt. I most often come in contact with stands of tamarack when I am in “backcountry,” seeking out places where an upland bird hunter might find grouse and woodcock. Not that these birds favor habitats where the tamarack thrives. But it’s not rare for the aspen, alder, and birch mix that is favored habitat for grouse and woodcock to be somewhere in the vicinity of the beaver ponds, wooded swamps, and boggy areas where tamarack will be found. Though the tamarack reproduces through

seed-bearing cones, and has needles rather than leaves to capture sunlight for the photosynthesis that nourishes it, and produces oxygen for other life, it is not a member of the pine, spruce, or balsam families, the conifers that dominate our boreal forest. The tamarack is a larch; in fact, the only member of that tree family that is native to Minnesota. Unlike those other above-named evergreen conifers, as fall progresses the tamarack will eventually shed all of its needles. From a distance it may then look like nothing so much as a dead pine or spruce. But the tamaracks will seemingly rise from the dead again in spring. If you’d like to read a truly lyrical ode to the tamarack’s uniqueness, and its special place in the North Country environment, look up the chapter entitled Smoky Gold in the book of nature essays The Singing Wilderness, authored by Sigurd Olson. Because he lived and explored in the canoe country and northern border lakes region of our state, few people other than a trained forester could be expected to know the tamarack better. And probably no one could be better equipped to wax poetic about it. Olson aptly described the tamarack’s contribution to the brilliance of autumn as “a benediction before the coming of the snows.” If you hurry, perhaps you can still catch that benediction.

Staples World

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Letter to the Editor

SNAP cuts hurting rural communities

As the government shutdown continues, Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) benefits for November are being withheld. One in eight Americans rely on SNAP for their food. Nationwide, 42 million people—including 16 million children, 8 million senior citizens, and 4 million people with disabilities—will face difficult decisions about how to feed themselves and their families when their benefits are no longer accessible. Refusing to fund SNAP will create a hunger crisis for our neighbors who are already

doing their best to stretch their dollars as far as they can. Nonprofits such as food banks and pantries cannot even hope to offset a reduction in SNAP benefits, as SNAP provides nine meals for every one distributed by food banks. The USDA has a contingency fund to ensure SNAP remains funded; however, these funds are not being released. Will you contact your senators and representatives and urge them to work with the USDA to release the contingency funds and ensure millions of Americans will be able to continue feeding themselves and their families?

Audra Espinoza
Policy Manager
Center For Rural Affairs



Author Marcie Rendon at the Staples Public Library

Marcie R. Rendon, a citizen of the White Earth Nation, recently gave a program at the Staples Public Library.

Best-selling author of “Where They Last Saw Her” and acclaimed author of the “Cash Blackbear” crime series, her most recent book is “Broken Fields”. This program was made possible with Arts & Cultural Heritage Funds from Minnesota’s Clean Water, Land and Legacy

Amendment.

The next program event will be held Thurs., Nov. 20 at 6:00 p.m. when Doug Ohman will talk about “Name That Town,” a book about his journey throughout the state of Minnesota exploring towns and villages. The program will focus on the rich history of various cities and towns and include interesting stories relating to that town’s name. (Submitted photo)

Mark Your Calendar

- Nov. 6**

‘WALK WITH A DOC’ Thursdays at 5:15 p.m., at Lakewood Health System’s main campus in Staples. Meet at the main entrance. For more information about this free program, visit <https://walkwithadoc.org/join-a-walk/locations/staples-minnesota>
- Nov. 7**

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.
- Nov. 11**

EXPERIENCE STRENGTH AND HOPE AA GROUP MTGS IN STAPLES are held at the Church of Christ, 27343 490th St., Tuesdays, 7 - 8 p.m. For info., call Dan at 218-640-7228.
- Nov. 18**

FREE EVENT - ‘STRESS & THE BRAIN: RAISING RESILIENT KIDS,’ FEATURING NATIONAL EXPERT ERIN WALSH will be held Tuesday, Nov. 18, at Faith Lutheran Church, 430 12th St. NE in Staples. Supper, 5:30 - 6 p.m.; Speaker, 6 - 7:30 p.m. All are welcome. Hosted by Staples Motley Beyond Poverty.

Menu

Senior Nutrition Program

Call mornings (218-979-4118) the Friday before to reserve next week’s meal(s) and for current suggested donation info. LSS Meals - traditional older adult menu. Menu is subject to change.

LOCATED AT: Staples Hi-Rise Apartments, 615 4th St. NE, Staples. Seniors welcome to dine-in at 11:00 a.m., if meal is reserved.

Staples 218-979-4118

LSS meals include bread (various kinds), marg. and 1% milk.

Nov. 10 - Nov. 14

MONDAY - Country fried chicken, cream gravy, mashed potatoes, peas, sugar cookie.

TUESDAY - Beef stew, sliced carrots, apple dump cake.

WEDNESDAY Scalloped potatoes w/ham, whole kernel corn, tropical fruit cup, peanut butter cookie.

THURSDAY - Beef bell pepper casserole, mixed veggies, pumpkin bar.

FRIDAY - Asian chicken, white rice, green beans, fortune cookie.

wk46



Which witch is which?

A coven of witches gathered at Mid Minnesota Federal Credit Union as the whole group observed Halloween by dressing the part. Left to right: Becky Bollingberg, Mary Greenwaldt, Shellie Hobson, (a prop witch), Terri Kobliska, Lorree Shereck and Jenny Hanes. (Submitted photo)

Lakewood Health System earns prestigious 2025 USA Today Top workplace Award

Lakewood Health System, Staples, recently announced earning the prestigious 2025 USA TODAY Top Workplaces award for the fifth year in a row. Other Top Workplace awards earned this year include: Employee Well-Being Top Workplaces, Woman-Led Top Workplaces, Top Workplaces for Appreciation, and Professional Development Top Workplaces.

The Top Workplace awards honor organizations with 150 or more employees that have created exceptional, people-first cultures. This year, more than 42,000 organizations were invited to participate. The winners are recognized for their commitment to fostering a workplace environment that values employee listening and engagement. USA TODAY showcased the winners online and at the National Awards Summit in Las Vegas.

The winners are determined by authentic employee feedback captured through a confidential survey conducted by Energage, the HR research and technology company behind the Top Workplaces program since 2006. The results are calculated based on employee responses to statements about Workplace Experience Themes, which are proven indicators of high performance.

“Lakewood employees take a great deal of pride in the exceptional care they deliver to our patients and residents, as well as the strong reputation this creates within the community,” said Lisa Bjerga, Lakewood President and CEO. “This award is a testament to our employees’ commitment and engagement around not only our patients, but their teams and the community as a whole. We are honored to receive this award and are committed to continuing to build on our culture of excellence.”

“Earning a USA TODAY Top Workplaces award is a testament to an organization’s credibility and commitment to a people-first culture,” said Eric Rubino, CEO of Energage. “This award, driven by real employee feedback, is more than just a recognition - it’s proof that your employees believe in the organization and its leadership. Job seekers and customers look for this trusted badge of credibility and excellence. It signals a company that values its people, and that kind of culture resonates in today’s competitive market.”



Last day at nutrition site

Luann Braford, center, celebrated her last day as the Staples Nutrition Site manager on Halloween, Oct. 31. She received cards and gifts from clients and noted she will continue to drop by to visit. Luann has served as the nutrition site manager for seven years and is retiring.

Below: Rhonda Rude, Luann, dressed as the character Sarah from the movie “Hocus Pocus” and Bobbe Braford, as the “runaway bride.” (Photos by Janice Winter)



Let us join hands to give tribute to all those who fought for the honour of our nation....

Happy Veterans Day



DEADLINE

for all classified ads and copy is 12 noon Friday

For the Staples World

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

Wreath Class

Tues., Nov. 18 arrive 2 - 7:00 p.m.

CENTRAL LAKES COLLEGE, Staples Campus Assembly Rm.

\$25 Pay at door with cash or check

Tammy Rick,

218-296-2795 for info.

Bring gloves and pruners if you have them. Plan for about an hour to complete your wreath.

CLC CENTRAL LAKES COLLEGE

CLC | Ag and Energy Center Living Legacy Gardens

Special Treats and Gifts for the holidays... Annual

Bazaar & Bake SALE

Sat., Nov. 8 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Motley United Methodist Church 847 3rd Ave. S, Motley

Lunch Served SHOP HOMEMADE: *Lefse

*Pies *Cookies *Bars

*Muffins *Breads

*Candy *Jam *Jelly

Local Crafters

SPECIAL HANDMADE ITEMS

*White Elephant Treasures

Motley United Methodist Church, sponsor

YOU CAN'T BUY HAPPINESS, BUT YOU CAN BUY BOOKS. AND THAT'S KIND OF THE SAME THING.

Find Happiness at the BOOK SALE!

1-5 p.m. Friday, Nov. 14

9 a.m.-noon Saturday, Nov. 15

Bag Sale Nov.17-22

Staples Public Library 122 6th St. NE, Staples

Friends of Staples Public Library GREAT RIVER REGIONAL LIBRARY

All proceeds support library programs.

WREATH SALE



STAPLES LIONS/FFA NEW DESIGN \$25

Contact: Staples Host Lions Blaine 218-296-1163 Henry 218-820-0125 FFA Becky 218-397-2562 (land line)

Or any Staples Host Lions, Staples 93' Lions or FFA member

STEVENS COUNTY

STEVENS COUNTY HOUSING & REDEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY OFFICE SUPPORT SPECIALIST POSITION

GENERAL OVERVIEW OF POSITION

Perform receptionist duties, greet the public, screen and direct telephone calls. Word processing, basic bookkeeping, provide clerical support for HRA staff.

WAGE RANGE

Hiring range: \$22.33 - \$30.01, depending upon qualifications.

BENEFITS

Generous monthly benefit plan contribution of \$875/month toward health, dental, vision, life, Short-term and Long-term Disability, Hospital, Critical Care, Accident Insurance and 7.5% Employer contribution into a Retirement Plan. 4 weeks annual PTO.

REQUIREMENTS

High school diploma and one-year clerical experience or an equivalent combination of training and experience.

EMPLOYMENT VARIABLES

Applicants subject to criminal background and credit checks. Typical schedule is 30-32 hours/week; Some evenings may be required. Some travel within the county may be required.

DEADLINE: 4:30 p.m., Wednesday, November 12, 2025

To apply visit: <http://www.co.stevens.mn.us>. ADA accommodations available. Stevens County HRA is an EOE.

Hello World

ONLINE BIRTHS REMOVED
AT THE REQUEST OF LAKEWOOD
HEALTH SYSTEM.

DEE CARLSON is 90!



Sat., Nov. 22,
2 - 5 p.m.
Short Program at 2:30
Holst Acres
29075 Todd Line Road,
Staples. NO GIFTS.

DEADLINE
for all classified
ads and copy is
12 noon Friday

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 Sontlight (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 27345 49th 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.....218-894-2296 info@marysac.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 Jason Jeresek 218-894-0033 Saturday Worship.....9:30 am. Sabbath School.....10:45 a.m. Thomastown Covenant 15940 251st Ave., Staples.....218-894-3923 Pastor Scott Jorgenson Sunday Worship.....10:30 a.m. WEDNESDAY NIGHT YOUTH.....6:30 p.m. Trinity Lutheran 1000 4th St., NE, Staples.....218-894-2372 Pastor Vicar Paul Koehler Sunday Divine Service.....9:00 a.m. Sunday School and Bible Class.....10:30 a.m. United Methodist 310 5th St. NE, Staples.....218-894-2248 Sunday Worship.....10:30 a.m. (Nursery Available for Sunday Worship)	Aldrich Balsamund Lutheran 19350 490th Street, Aldrich Janet Edman 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.lincolnfree.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.....9:00 a.m. 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 1st St. & Birch, Motley.....218-894-2296 info@marysac.org Fr. Aaron Kohn Fr. Gabriel Walz MASS..... Saturday.....4:00 p.m.	St. Michael 280 1st Ave S, Motley.....218-894-2296 Rev. JC Duncan, 218-632-7314 Rev. Rick Aubol, 218-632-7310 Rev. Greg Sauer, 218-632-7319 Sunday.....10:30 a.m. (May - Nov.) Saturday.....4:00 p.m. (Dec - April) United Methodist 847 3rd Ave. S. Lane, Motley.....218-352-6466 Pastor Greg Leslie www.motleyumc.net Sunday Worship Service.....10:00 a.m. Monday AA meeting.....8:00 p.m. Oylen Oylen Alliance City Rds. 7 and 9, Oylen 218-472-3440 or 218-472-3316 Pastor Neal Malore Sunday School.....10:00 a.m. Sunday Worship.....11:00 a.m. Pillager First Lutheran Church Pastor Matthew 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 94 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 Julie Anderson 218-746-3748 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 Pastor 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 Ultran 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 VerndaleLLC@gmail.com Pastor Amos Self.....218-371-7189 Tahna Rurup, Connections & Media Pastor Tyllan 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 Malore 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, 520-260-4952 Sunday Service.....9:00 a.m. Bible Study.....10:30 a.m. St. Frederick Catholic Church 20 Mason Avenue NW Verndale.....218-894-2296 info@marysac.org Rev. JC Duncan, 218-632-7314 Rev. Rick Aubol, 218-632-7310 Rev. Greg Sauer, 218-632-7319 MASS: Saturday.....6:00 p.m. St. Hubert Catholic Church Bluegrass.....218-894-2296 info@marysac.org Rev. JC Duncan, 218-632-7314 Rev. Rick Aubol, 218-632-7310 Father Greg Sauer, 218-632-7319 Sunday Service.....10:00 a.m. (Dec. - April) Saturday.....4:00 p.m. (May - Nov.) Leaf River Township The Old Country Church Leaf River Twp., Wadena County Rd. 6 Info: 218-837-5690 Call first. Wadena St. Helen's Episcopal Church 22 Dayton Ave. SW, Wadena, MN 218-631-3928 Sunday Worship.....10:00 a.m. St. Ann's Catholic Church 514 1st Street SE, Wadena(218) 631-1593 Rev. JC Duncan, 218-632-7314 Rev. Rick Aubol, 218-632-7310 Father Greg Sauer, 218-632-7319 Mass: Sunday.....10 a.m.
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Pastor Carl Larson, Faith Lutheran Church, Staples

- ¹Make a joyful noise to the Lord, all the earth.
²Serve the Lord with gladness; come into His presence with singing.
³Know that the Lord is God. It is He that made us, and we are His;
we are His people, and the sheep of His pasture.
⁴Enter His gates with thanksgiving, and His courts with praise.
Give thanks to Him, bless His name.
⁵For the Lord is good; His steadfast love endures forever,
and His faithfulness to all generations. Psalm 100

Psalm 100 is one of the great expressions of thanksgiving in the Bible. It calls us to realize that we belong to God and need to praise Him for His goodness, mercy and truth. It was in the summer of 2008, that I wrote a chapter for a book, Paradigms for Ministry, on Psalm 100, and in that chapter I shared how I was struck by a phrase that speaks of expressing thanks in a tangible, willing way: "Serve the Lord with gladness". But there have been times in my life that my service to God has been more grudging than gladness. And it's during those times that I do what I consider my duty, but I'm not always happy about it. The 20th Century Scottish theologian Oswald Chambers put his finger on that kind of unthankful attitude when he wrote: "The will of God is the gladdest, brightest, most bountiful thing possible to conceive, and yet some of us talk of the will of God with a terrific sigh - 'Oh well, I suppose it is the will of God,' as if His will were the most dreadful thing that could befall us. . . ."

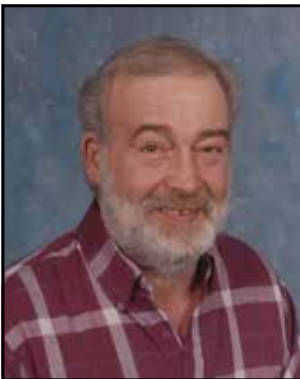
Chambers continued, "We become spiritual whiners and talk pathetically about 'suffering the will of the Lord. Where is the majestic vitality and might of the Son of God?'"

We are now beginning the month of November, a time of year often characterized by multi-colored falling leaves, the final days of a bountiful harvest and a noticeable change in daily temperatures. But, at this time of the year, let us also

remember that true thankfulness is more than being grateful for what we possess. Let's remember that thankfulness is an attitude that permeates our relationship with the Lord, so that we may "Serve the Lord with gladness".

"Gracious God, we give You thanks for the love we have received from You and from those who love You. We give thanks for those who love and care for us, who give us a place of belonging, value us for who we are. We give thanks for the valued people that surround us here today, and for the many gifts that are shown in our churches, in our schools and in our communities. We give thanks for those who speak and those who do, for those who dream and those who find ways of bringing the dreams to life, for those who make and those who clean up, for those who are always before us and those we all too often forget. We give You thanks that we're part of this group of people and are able to offer our abilities and insight. Dear God, we ask that You guide and direct us, showing us new ways that we can serve You and Your creation. For the gifts we have received and the opportunity to give in return we thank You. We pray this in the name of Jesus, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen."

(Prayer from the 2014 Presbyterian Church of Aotearoa New Zealand)



Garry Carpenter

Garry Carpenter, 79, of Staples, passed away October 26, 2025, at the Little Falls Care Center.

Memorial Services were held November 4, at 11:00 a.m. at the Motley Free Methodist Church.

A private burial will take place at a later date at the Minnesota State Veterans Cemetery in Little Falls.

Those who knew him believe that his love for family gave him the strength to fight his battles for so many years.

Arrangements were by the Brenny Family Funeral Chapel, Staples.

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Richard Sampson

Richard A. Sampson, 86, formerly of Motley, passed away peacefully October 27, 2025, in Brainerd.

A Memorial Service was held October 31, at 11:00 a.m. at the Motley Free Methodist Church in Motley.

Interment was at Motley Public Cemetery.

Richard was born January 5, 1939, to Peter and Christine Sampson in Ayer, North Dakota. He married the love of his life, Pearl H.C. Hoeck, on August 16, 1958, in Motley, where they made their home and raised their family.

Richard worked for the El-Ray in Motley for 41 years and later drove truck for Holiday for 15 years. After retiring at age 75, he continued to stay active as caretaker at Clearwater Estates, where he enjoyed helping others and keeping things running smoothly.

He and Pearl were longtime members of St. John's Lutheran Church in Motley. Richard will be remembered for his strong work ethic, kind heart and deep love for his family.

He is survived by three children, Sherri Lee (James) Johnson of Motley, Steven Peter Sampson (Jeff Raposa) of Denver, CO and Jill Marie (David) Moen of Ottertail; six grandchildren; 10 great-grandchildren; one sister, Ila (Al) Moga of Independence, WI; one brother in-law, EV Evanson of Shoreview, along with many nieces and nephews.

Richard was preceded in death by his beloved wife, Pearl; one son, Timothy Richard Sampson; parents; three sisters, June McElroy, Rose Anderson and Alta Evanson and one brother, Gordon (Yvonne) Sampson of Motley.

He leaves behind a legacy of dedication, faith and love that will be cherished by all who knew him.

Arrangements were by the Brenny Family Funeral Chapel, Baxter:

w46c A00006B2025NV05

Kenneth Johnson

Kenneth L. Johnson, 91, Staples, passed away October 29, 2025.

Funeral services will be held at 11 a.m. on Friday,

November 7, at the Motley Free Methodist Church. Visitation begins at 10 a.m.

w46x A00006B2025NV05

Rodney Enberg

The funeral service celebrating the life of Rodney Enberg will be held at 11:00 a.m. on Friday, November 7, at the Staples Alliance Church. Visitation will be held at the church on Thursday, from 4:00 to 7:00 p.m. and will resume on Friday from 9:30 a.m. until the time of the service.

Burial will be at 2:00 p.m. in the Minnesota State Veterans Cemetery near Little Falls.

Rod, 77, passed away unexpectedly on October 29, 2025, at the Lakewood Health System Hospital in Staples.

Rodney "Rod" Craig Enberg was born to Donald and Helen (Houwman) Enberg on April 24, 1948, in Aitkin, where he also attended school.

Rod served his country in the U.S. Army as part of the 82nd Airborne, beginning in 1967 until his honorable discharge in 1969.

Rod married Denise Cartie and they were blessed with three children Paul, Shae and Jaron. After receiving his watch-making degree, Rod owned and operated Enberg Jewelry in Aitkin. A few years later he worked on the Trans

Alaska pipeline as a fabricator until 1982. He started logging and operating the sawmill that he built, continuing to build his logging business near Motley. He then married Lynn Tholl. Selling timber, wood shavings and mulch, he eventually turned the business into one of the most successful logging businesses in Minnesota. He listened to private landowners and worked with State forestry policy makers. He received recognition several times, notably in 2022, when the MN Sustainable Forestry Initiative (SFI) presented him with the MN Logger of the year award. Rod was an avid outdoorsman, spending his free time hunting and fishing. He also loved singing and enjoyed theatre. He was a member of the American Legion, MN Loggers Education Board and was a former Timber



Producers Association President.

Rod was a joy to be around with his witty sense of humor. Using his creative gifts, he pursued many interests. He was generous and encouraging, always ready to take on the world with a can-do spirit. He had unbelievable perseverance and grit. Rod loved to work, and if there was anything he didn't do well it was sitting around.

Preceding Rod in death were his parents, Donald and Helen; and former wife, Lynn Enberg (2020).

Surviving Rod are his children, Paul (April) Enberg of Verndale, Shae (Jim) Gaulke of Hillman and Jaron (Heather) Enberg of Littleton, Co; step-sons, Mark (Cecilia) Tholl, Jason (Melissa) Tholl and Justin Tholl; nine grandchildren, three great-grandchildren; one brother, Gary (Jackie) Enberg of Aitkin; nephews, Joe Enberg and Chris Enberg; special friend Denise Baumgart; along with a multitude of neighbors, friends and customers.

Honorary casket bearers will be Eva Gaulke, Micha Enberg, Eli Enberg and Luke Enberg.

Serving as casket bearers will be Trevor Enberg, Tanner Enberg, Colton Gaulke and Hayden Gaulke. Arrangements are with the Schuller Family Funeral Homes & Cremation Services serving Wadena, Verndale, Bertha and surrounding communities in MN. (www.SchullerFamilyFH.com).

w46c A00006B2025NV05

Tory Rochat

It is with heavy hearts that we announce the passing of Tory Michael Rochat , 28, on October 4, 2025.

Join us in celebrating Tory's life on November 8, at 11 a.m. for a service at the Assembly of God Church in Staples, as we honor the unforgettable impact he made on our lives.

Tory was born September 25, 1997 to Julia Burton in Minneapolis. He was raised in Staples by Julia and Jay Rochat where he graduated high school in 2016. From a young age, Tory was known for his kindness, compassion, intelligence and unwavering support for others. He was a gentle soul, always thinking of others and protecting their feelings.

Tory's higher education journey began at St. Cloud State University in 2017. During this year, he met the love of his life, Kortni Cloud. Driven by his dreams, he transferred to the University of Minnesota Twin Cities campus where he earned a bachelor's degree in statistics with a minor in computer science in 2021. During his time at the U of M, Tory joined the Alpha Tau Omega Fraternity, serving as the scholarship chairman and later the executive vice president. He found fulfillment by serving others and building lifelong bonds. Recently, Tory returned to school and was in his third year of pursuing a second



bachelor's degree. He was an avid learner who was always striving for personal growth. One of his proudest memories was hearing someone introduce him as "the smartest person they knew."

Professionally, Tory spent his whole career at SPS Commerce. He began in customer support, quickly earning recognition for dedication and hard work. He was promoted to software engineer, respected for his intelligent and educational gifts. Tory's love for learning extended beyond work. He was always eager to challenge others to board games and was often the person to beat at family game nights. He excelled at ping pong, bean bags, darts and was always "down to try anything."

Tory's warmth and generosity touched everyone he met. He built incredible relationships and was always there to support

friends and family by being generous with his heart and time. As the oldest of three children, he cherished time with his brother, Griffin and sister, Riley. Tory lived a full and rich life through experiences and relationships. He cherished his relationships with Kortni, his cousin Kirstie Gottfried and his two best friends, Daniel Ennis and Tyler Johnson. Tory's infectious laugh and sense of humor brought people together and his passions for cooking, travel and music enriched his life. He loved exploring new places, taking on challenges, camping in national parks and attending music festivals. Tory practiced PLUR-peace, love, unity and respect-making everyone feel welcome and valued. He often complimented strangers, always making sure they felt heard and understood.

Above all, Tory will be remembered for his kind soul, warm hugs, endearing smile and dedication to high personal standards. Tory was a beautiful soul who left his earthly form too early and will be missed by many. His legacy lives on in the hearts of those who knew him. He believed in the good in people and would love for us all to make PLUR - peace, love, unity and respect - a conscious part of our daily lives in his honor.

w45-46p A00006B2025OT22

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Brownell places second at state cross country

Audrey Brownell finished in second place at the Minnesota State Cross Country Meet on Nov. 1 at the University of Minnesota golf course in Falcon Heights.

It was expected to be a two person race, with Brownell from Staples-Motley and Margaret Duffy from St. John's Prep as the two heavy favorites. After a solid lead pack formed for the first half of the race, the two favorites emerged and pulled away for the last mile.

Brownell's strategy was to stay close to the other favorite for the first part of the race. A pack of a dozen runners exchanged the lead for the first mile, with Brownell crossing the mile split in third place at 5:50.

Just before the two mile mark, with a little more than a mile to go, Brownell and Duffy started pulling away and within a minute they were well beyond the rest of the pack. They raced together for about half a mile before Brownell started falling back a little and ended up in second place.

Six time state qualifier

Brownell has qualified for the state cross country meet every year from 7th-12th grade, earning four individual medals in the last four years, including the state title last year. She has lowered her time each year and was on four



teams that finished in the top three in the state.

Audrey Brownell state finishes

- 2020 (no official state meet, Brownell was 7th in the section in 20:22, team

ranked 1st in state)

- 2021 13th, 19:39 (team 1st place)

- 2022 7th 18:59, (team 3rd)
- 2023 2nd 18:31, (team 2nd)

- 2024 1st 18:17, (team 7th)
- 2025 2nd 18:14



State titles commemorated with trophies

The 2020 cross country season ended without an official state meet during the pandemic year, with the Staples-Motley boys and girls teams both ranked number one in the state. The Staples-Motley Athletic Hall of Fame committee is counting these as state titles, much like in the days before state playoffs, the teams ranked number one at the end of the season were awarded the state championship.

These state titles will now be commemorated in the school trophy case with two new trophies constructed by Mike Hajek of the Athletic Hall of Fame

committee, and Staples Precision Metalcraft, who fabricated the signs.

Pictured on the boys team trophy, from left, coach Tony Spandl, Head Coach Bruce Fuhrman, Logan Robben, Lyle Brownell, Emmet Anderson, Grant Johnson, Isaiah Tabatt, Tanner Robben, Sam Jennissen, Luke Brownell, Dillan Robben and coach Steve Jennissen.

Pictured on the girls trophy below, from left, Abby Brown, Addisyn Cichos, Addison Lorber, Kyanna Burton, Ashley Robben, Aften Robinson, Audrey Brownell, Naila Mikhael and Arabella Moore.



Audrey Brownell, far left, at the start of the 2025 state cross country meet. (Staples World photos by Mark Anderson)



Past state champion honored by hall of fame

At their Sept. 27 induction ceremony, the Staples-Motley Athletic Hall of Fame honored Ashley Robben, who's been battling leukemia for the past two years, Robben is a former high school state track champion with the 4 by 800 relay team, pictured above, and was on two cross country state championship teams. Emcee Phil Corbett talked about the sports community rallying around Robben. Her teammate Kyanna Burton, right, was also at the ceremony.



State medals restored

Dave and Charlie Sowers were honored at the Staples-Motley Athletic Hall of Fame ceremony on Sept. 27 with state wrestling medals and tournament charts to replace their medals that were lost in a fire. Dave, left, won the 1976 state title at 98 pounds with a pin in 1:55 against Rick Kriewall of Blue Earth. Charlie, right, was second in the 132 pound division in 1973. He defeated Jeff Nelson of St. James in the semifinal, but lost his title match 2-1 in overtime against Bob Schandle of Burnsville. Their family home burned in December of 1977, with everything lost, including all of their medals that were displayed in the kitchen. This year the Athletic Hall of Fame committee created new medals for them and presented them on stage during the induction ceremony held Sept. 27. The committee also recreated the state tournament chart for their weight brackets to go along with the medals. (Staples World photos by Mark Anderson)

Soccer results

Soccer games wrapped up the season at Staples Motley Elementary School Oct. 26.

Results include:

1st Grade - 3rd Grade Division:

Oct. 11

Ace Hardware Tornadoes, 5; Hubbard's Hardware Thunder, 7

Japke's Flooring Hurricanes, 6; Central Building Supply Lightning, 3

Oct. 18

Japke's Flooring Hurricanes, 0; Hubbard's Hardware Thunder, 11

Central Building Supply Lightning, 6; Ace Hardware Tornadoes, 7

Oct. 25

Ace Hardware Tornadoes, 4; Japke's Flooring Hurricanes, 2;

Hubbard's Hardware Thunder, 3; Central Building Supply Lightning, 3

4th Grade - 6th Grade Division:

Oct. 11

Monte Azul Blasters, 13; JT's Handyman Kickers, 1

Jon's Family Food Sliders, 0; Holst Acres Smashers, 9

Oct. 18

Monte Azul Blasters, 8; Holst Acres Smashers, 1

JT's Handyman Kickers, 5; Jon's Family Food Sliders, 4

Oct. 25

Holst Acres Smashers, 6; JT's Handyman Kickers, 7

Jon's Family Food Sliders, 0

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SW 2024 changed wk # 3



Todd County Board of Commissioners

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE TODD COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS HELD OCT. 7, 2025

Call to Order

The Todd County Board of Commissioners met in the Commissioner's Board Room in the City of Long Prairie, MN on the 7th day of October, 2025 at 9:00 a.m. The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Byers. The meeting was opened with the Pledge of Allegiance. All Commissioners were present.

Approval of Agenda

On motion by Noska and second by Denny, the following motion was introduced and adopted by unanimous vote: To adopt the agenda as presented with addition of item 4.8 Hire Seasonal Office Support Specialist II - Cynthia Wardien and 13.2 Separation Agreement for Employee #3145.

Consent Agenda

On motion by Becker and second by Neumann, the following motions and resolutions were introduced and adopted by unanimous vote:

To approve the Todd County Board of Commissioner's Meeting Minutes for September 16, 2025 as presented.

To hire Angela Johnson as a full-time Deputy Auditor-Treasurer at Grade F/6, Step A \$25.46 per hour with a start date to be determined.

To approve the hire of Maria Vazquez Botello to fill the open Administrative Assistant II - Bilingual position. Grade D/4, Step A at \$21.83/hr. Start date: TBD

To approve the hire of Laura Daland to fill the open Social Worker position. Grade I/9, Step E at \$35.85/hr. Start date: TBD

To hire Danielle Johnson to fill the open Payroll and Benefits Specialist Position, Grade H/8 Step K, \$39.22/hr. Start Date TBD

GAMBLING PERMIT – BROWERVILLE SPORTSMAN CLUB

WHEREAS, the Todd County Board of Commissioners are establishing their approval for a Gambling Permit for the Browerville Sportsman Club through this resolution;

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Todd County Board of Commissioners approve a Gambling Permit for the Browerville Sportsman Club to hold a raffle event at the Clarissa Ballroom in Eagle Valley Township at the address 19281 Kotter Road, Clarissa, MN on March 1st, 2026.

GAMBLING PERMIT – SWAVILLE INNOVATIVE SCHOOLS PROJECT

WHEREAS, the Todd County Board of Commissioners are establishing their approval for a Gambling Permit for the Swanville Innovative Schools Project through this resolution;

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Todd County Board of Commissioners approve a Gambling Permit for the Swanville Innovative Schools Project to hold a raffle event at the Shattuck's Hub Supper Club in Burnhamville Township at the address 30905 County 13, Burtrum, MN on November 30th, 2025.

To approve the hire of Cynthia Wardien to fill the open Seasonal Office Support Specialist II position at \$20.97/hr. Start date: TBD

Auditor-Treasurer

On motion by Becker and second by Denny, the following motion was introduced and adopted by unanimous Roll Call vote: To approve the September 2025 Auditor Warrants number (ACH) 905348 through 905405 in the amount of \$736,328.64 (Manual) 1124 through 1132 in the amount of \$97,052.27 and (Regular) 245032 through 245226 in the amount of \$1,107,678.86 for a total of \$1,941,059.77.

On motion by Noska and second by Denny, the following motion was introduced and adopted by unanimous Roll Call vote: To approve the Commissioner Warrants number (ACH) 404097 through 404130 in the amount of \$102,315.52 and (Regular) 59233 through 59281 in the amount of \$45,822.88 for a total of \$148,138.40.

On motion by Neumann and second by Becker, the following motion was introduced and adopted by unanimous Roll Call vote: To approve the Health & Human Services Commissioner Warrants number (ACH) 806875 through 806945 and (Regular) 713418 through 713482 for a total of \$91,033.92.

On motion by Noska and second by Denny, the following motion was introduced and adopted by unanimous Roll Call vote: To approve the Health & Human Services SSIS Warrants number (ACH) 601810 through 601819 and (Regular) 518625 through 518645 for a total amount of \$80,896.82.

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

ASSESSMENT PAYMENT TERMS FOR COUNTY DITCH 42 TILE REPAIR PROJECT

WHEREAS, the Todd County Board of Commissioners have approved and authorized a repair project on County Ditch 42 as a result of public meetings held on May 22, 2023, January 16, 2024, May 7, 2024 and May 21, 2024 with BA#20240521-16 adopted to commence the project, and;

WHEREAS, the Todd County Board of Commissioners has the authority to set unique payment terms by Resolution due to the size and scope of the repair project in place of the standing policy approved via board resolution #20130806-13, and;

WHEREAS, the Todd County Board of Commissioners desires to ensure that ditch assessments are as minimal of a hardship to landowners as possible while defining a clear expectation of terms for the landowners, and;

WHEREAS, the County Ditch 42 tile repair project is completed and all contracted expenses have been accounted for, and;

WHEREAS, Minnesota Statute 103E.611 depicts the processes necessary to place these assessments onto the tax rolls and application of any penalty/interest payments received.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Todd County Board of Commissioners acting as the Todd County Ditch Authority does hereby approve the County Ditch 42 tile repair project Assessment collection of \$74,417.63 as a lump sum assessment and directs that any assessments not paid in full within the 60-day window set forth by the Todd County Auditor-Treasurer be placed onto the tax rolls beginning with Taxes Payable 2026 granting a 10 year repayment term with 2% interest added.

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

COUNTY DITCH MAINTENANCE ASSESSMENTS

FOR TAXES PAYABLE 2026

WHEREAS, the Auditor-Treasurer's office along with the County Ditch Inspector have been proactively working on improving the cash flow balances within Fund-40 County Ditches on an annual basis to maintain positive cash flow, and;

WHEREAS, recommendations for the July 2024 through June 2025 assessment cycle were discussed at the County Board Worksession on September 16, 2025, and;

WHEREAS, Minnesota Statute allows for the Ditch Authority to approve maintenance fund assessments on a yearly basis without incurring the expense of a public hearing if statute requirement criteria have been met, and;

WHEREAS, it is the goal of the County Board to transition from the past practice of collecting after spending to maintaining a revolving collection comparative to expense trends and to keep assessments occurring as close to real time as possible for the potential property owners affected.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Todd County Board of Commissioners in their capacity as the Todd County Ditch Authority hereby approves the Maintenance Fund/Ditch Assessments for the 2026 Tax Payable Year as a one-year repayment period without interest applied per the attached list.

Hands of Hope Resource Center

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

October 2025 Domestic Violence Awareness Month Proclamation

WHEREAS, domestic violence is a pervasive issue that affects individuals across all communities, regardless of age, gender, race, religion, or socioeconomic status, and;

WHEREAS, the devastating consequences of domestic violence extend beyond the immediate victims, impacting families, children, workplaces, and entire communities, and;

WHEREAS, every person deserves to live free from fear and abuse, and it out collective responsibility to support survivors, hold perpetrators accountable, and prevent future violence through education and advocacy, and;

WHEREAS, Domestic Violence Awareness Month provides an opportunity to raise public awareness, honor survivors, remember those lost to violence, and recommit to ending abuse in all its forms, and;

WHEREAS, domestic violence impacts millions of people each year, but it can be prevented. It requires the unified voice and strength of local organizations, advocates, law enforcement, healthcare providers, and community leaders working to build a culture where violence has no place, and;

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that communities stand together against abuse, support survivors, and promote healthy, respectful relationships so that every individual has the opportunity to live free from violence, and;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Todd County Board of Commissioners does hereby proclaim October 2025 as Domestic Violence Awareness Month, knowing that each of us has a role in supporting survivors, fostering healing, and preventing domestic violence in Todd County.

County Fee Schedule - Public Hearing

Todd County is in the process of building the County Fee Schedule to be implemented for 2026 and is required by MN Statute to hold a public hearing to gather any public input on the proposed fees. Notice of this public hearing has been published in the Todd County Newspapers the weeks of September 22 and 29, 2025 and also posted on the County Website. Public hearing and discussion was held with no public input received in oral or written comment.

Public Works

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

FINAL PAYMENT AUTHORIZATION – 2025 PAVEMENT MARKING MAINTENANCE CONTRACT

WHEREAS, the contract with Sir Lines-A-Lot, LLC for the 2025 Pavement Marking Maintenance Contract known as CP 77-25-03 located on various routes in Todd County, has in all things been completed, and;

WHEREAS, construction work on this contract was scheduled and completed in 2025 with the value of the total work certified being \$183,431.22, and;

WHEREAS, partial payments amounting to \$173,770.48 have been previously been made to the

contractor as work progressed, and;

WHEREAS, it has been determined that \$9,660.74 still remains to be paid to Sir Lines-A-Lot, LLC.

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

On motion by Becker and second by Noska, the following motion was introduced and adopted by unanimous vote: Approve the attached Engineering Services Agreement from Wideth for the Bridge R0405 Replacement Project.

Ditch/Ag Inspector

On motion by Becker and second by Neumann, the following motion was introduced and adopted by unanimous vote: Acting as Ditch Authority, approves the County Ditch Inspector signing a contract with Todd Carry - Lakes Area Blasting, for services detailed in his Quote for Maintenance of Lateral 7 and Branch of Lateral 7, Branches 1, 2, 3, & 4 of Lateral 9 on County Ditch 41.

County Sheriff

On motion by Noska and second by Denny, the following motion was introduced and adopted by unanimous vote: To appoint Kyle Drum as an alternate representing Todd County on the Central Minnesota Emergency Services Board Regional Advisory Committee, Owners and Operators Committee and User Committee.

Solid Waste

On motion by Neumann and second by Becker, the following motion was introduced and adopted by unanimous vote: To award the bid to Oberg Fence in the amount of \$35,196.

Health & Human Services

On motion by Becker and second by Denny, the following motion was introduced and adopted by unanimous vote: To approve the funding request for the 2025 Criminal Justice Mental Health Summit.

On motion by Denny and second by Noska, the following motion was introduced and adopted by unanimous vote: To approve the funding request for the Sheriff's Office purchase of LPR cameras.

Administration

On motion by Denny and second by Becker, the following motion was introduced and adopted by unanimous vote: To approve the Separation Agreement for Employee #3119 to be signed by the Board Chair and County Coordinator.

On motion by Noska and second by Denny, the following motion was introduced and adopted by unanimous vote: To approve the Separation Agreement for Employee #3145 to be signed by the Board Chair and County Coordinator.

County Auditor-Treasurer's Report

The County Auditor-Treasurer reported attending committee meetings and reminded of the upcoming real estate tax payment deadline on October 15, 2025.

County Coordinator's Report

The County Coordinator reported attending interviews, UofMn research project preparation, energy audit walkthrough, Facilities, Safety, MACA, Paycom, Personnel, Policy and Initiative Foundation meetings. Reminded of the Comprehensive Plan meeting this evening at 6pm. Extended thanks for Verna Toenyan for her years of service to Todd County.

County Commissioner's Report

The Commissioners reported on meetings and events attended.

Commissioner Becker attended the Extension and MRC Annual meeting with discussion on legislative priorities and our delegates to this committee group.

Commissioner Denny has attended regular meetings including extension and personnel.

Commissioner Noska has attended regular meetings including HRA.

Commissioner Byers attended regular meetings including Opioid, Personnel, Facilities, Safety, Personnel, and Policy meetings.

Commissioner Neumann attended the Sauk River Watershed, Rainbow Rider, Planning Commission, MRC. Discussion was also held regarding a violation concern within his district and awareness for repair.

Recess

On motion by Denny and second by Becker, the meeting was recessed until October 21, 2025.

AUDITOR WARRANTS

VENDOR NAME	\$ AMOUNT
CAROLINA SOFTWARE	\$31,592.29
CENTRA CARE	12,714.58
LAKES AREA BLASTING	20,000.00
LIBERTY TIRE	
SERVICES LLC	2,456.05
LINDQUIST/AARON	
AND AMY	23,120.21
LONG PRAIRIE	
SANITATION INC	4,673.25
SHI CORP	74,200.05
STANTEC CONSULTING	
SERVICES INC	38,740.61
STEARNES ELECTRIC	
ASSOCIATION	3,370.50
VERIZON	6,151.05
WIDETH SMITH	
NOLTING INC	5,387.50
23 PAYMENTS LESS	
THAN \$2,000	10,105.42
CARD SERVICES	
COBORNS	3,047.60
FLEET SERVICES/	
WEX BANK	8,344.15
HEALTH PARTNERS	
DENTAL	8,469.54
LENK/WAYNE AND	
JOANN	11,522.60
METRO SALES INC	3,122.47
PETERS LAW OFFICE, P.A.	5,575.00
POPE DOUGLAS SOLID	
WASTE MANAGEMENT	32,049.95
SCR CENTRAL DIVISION	2,739.32
STEP	11,640.33
TODD CO AUD-TREAS	9,509.50
32 PAYMENTS LESS	
THAN \$2,000	16,612.37
AULDS COMMUNICATIONS	2,995.58

AULDS	
COMMUNICATIONS	13,568.11
BLOMBECK CONSTRUCTION	
CO INC	7,100.00
CENTRA CARE	12,714.58
COUNTIES PROVIDING	
TECHNOLOGY	7,240.00
EBSO INC	316,408.00
FOOD EQUIPMENT SUPER	
STORE	3,066.00
FOOD EQUIPMENT	
SUPERSTORE, INC	3,236.00
GALLAGHER BENEFIT	
SERVICES INC	2,000.00
MINNESOTA POWER	16,626.06
MINNESOTA UI	6,233.22
MN DEPT OF FINANCE	8,534.50
MORRIS ELECTRONICS	
INC	15,660.00
MORRISON COUNTY	25,372.36
NORTHERN STAR COOP	2,805.45
OLDCASTLE INFRASTRUCTURE	
INC	24,734.44
PETERSON BROTHERS	
FUNERAL HOME	3,500.00
PRAIRIE LAKES MUNICIPAL	
SOLID WASTE AUTH	93,473.61
SWENSON AGGREGATE	
& CONSTRUCTION	278,901.90
TRANSWEST TRUCKS	168,619.55
WARNER LAW, LLC	4,485.00
WONDERLICH/SCOTT A	9,022.50
68 PAYMENTS LESS	
THAN \$2,000	33,343.20
AULDS COMMUNICATIONS	3,705.15
BIG SWAN LAKE IMPROVEMENT	
ASSOCIATION	8,280.00
BIG SWAN LAKE IMPROVEMENT	
DIST	18,536.25
BRUNN/STEPHEN AND	
CARLA	16,954.85
CENTRAL APPLICATORS	
INC	20,041.09
G S EQUIPMENT INC	6,100.00
GOVERNMENT	
MANAGEMENT GROUP	5,500.00
JOE RILEY	
CONSTRUCTION INC	52,276.60
LAKES AREA BLASTING	14,000.00
MN DEPT OF	
TRANSPORTATION	4,773.32
MOTOROLA	22,439.52
STAPLES ADVANTAGE	5,761.42
THE WEBSTRAUNT	
STORE, LLC	2,149.00
48 PAYMENTS LESS	
THAN \$2,000	26,316.80
ALL OCCASION RENTAL	2,905.00
ARC ELECTRIC SERVICE	3,255.76
BOULDER CREEK, INC	131,320.80
CENTRAL APPLICATORS	
INC	3,427.41
CITY OF BROWERVILLE	70,848.52
QUINLIVAN & HUGHES,	
PA	6,036.60
WEX BANK-SINCLAIR	2,570.60
19 PAYMENTS LESS	
THAN \$2,000	12,024.41
US BANK - CC	12,508.97
MN DEPT OF REVENUE	74,937.92
MN DEPT OF REVENUE	2,982.00
WEX BANK-SINCLAIR	2,381.71
6 PAYMENTS LESS	
THAN \$2,000	4,241.67
TOTAL	\$1,941,059.77

COMMISSIONERS WAR-

VENDOR NAME	\$ AMOUNT
CENTRAL APPLICATORS	
INC	13,862.27
FASTENAL	2,350.09
FRIEDRICH'S TIRE & OIL	
CO INC	13,569.90
HILLYARD	3,319.11
JMD MANUFACTURING	
INC	3,790.05
JOE RILEY CONSTRUCTION	
INC	2,754.00
LITTLE FALLS MACHINE INC	
	8,938.14
LONG PRAIRIE LEADER	2,916.00
METAL CULVERTS INC	43,651.56
NUSS TRUCK &	
EQUIPMENT	8,203.42
ROSSCO EQUIPMENT	
INC	4,000.00
SIR LINES-A-LOT, LLC	4,150.00
STANTEC CONSULTING	
SERVICES INC	3,032.28
SUMMIT COMPANIES	5,030.70
69 PAYMENTS LESS	
THAN \$2,000	28,570.88
Total	\$148,138.40

HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES WARRANTS

VENDOR NAME	\$ AMOUNT
V#18008	\$3,000.00
V18029	2,000.00
KARVONEN FUNERAL	
HOME	3,500.00
V#18005	2,700.00
USPS-POC	5,351.62
9 PAYMENTS LESS	
THAN \$2,000	5,565.57
V# 4106 - COST EFF	
HEALTH INS	2,121.00
RURAL MN CEP INC	14,175.93
TODD COUNTY ATTORNEY'S	
OFFICE	2,150.00
119 PAYMENTS LESS	
THAN \$2,000	50,469.80
Total	91,033.92

VENDOR NAME	\$ AMOUNT
#DHS - MSOP - MN SEX OFFENDER PROG -	
462	\$6,572.00
GERARD TREATMENT PROGRAMS	3,021.90
GREATER MN FAMILY SRVS INC	3,278.73
HEARTLAND GIRLS RANCH	11,139.23
LUTHERAN SOCIAL SERVICE OF MN - ST PAUL	2,818.20
LUTHERAN SOCIAL SERVICE OF MN - ST PAUL	4,514.85
NORTHERN PINES MENTAL HLTH CTR INC	2,225.00
NORTHWOOD CHILDRENS SERVICES	7,447.44
PINE MANORS INC	3,200.00
VILLAGE RANCH INC	29,600.59
27 PAYMENTS LESS	
THAN \$2,000	7,078.88
Total	\$80,896.82

On a motion by Denny and second by Noska, the preceding minutes of the County Board meeting held October 7, 2025 were duly approved by unanimous vote at the Todd County Board of Commissioners at the Regular Board Meeting held on October 21, 2025..

Witness my hand and seal:

/s/ on file: Bob Byers, County Board Chairperson

/s/ on file: Denise Gaida, Todd County Auditor-Treasurer

46pnc

Public Notices

NOTICE VILLARD TOWNSHIP WINTER MEETINGS

Villard Township will hold its monthly Town Board winter meetings from November 2025 through April 2026 at the Eastwood Inn, Motley, MN.

The meetings are held the second Tuesday of the month at 7 p.m.

Mary Trantina-Koenig, Clerk Villard Township

46pnc

NOTICE LAKE SHORE AERATION WARNING LAKE SHAMINEAU

An aeration system will be in operation, west shoreline of Lake Shamineau, lots 34568 and 34524 from cover 2025 to ice out 2026.

Purpose: to prevent shoreline damage due to ice expansion. Please be aware of open water.

45-46pnc

TODD COUNTY BOARD OF ADJUSTMENT 215 First Ave. South Long Prairie, Minnesota 56347 320-732-4420 toddplan.zone@co.todd.mn.us

PUBLIC NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that on **Thursday, November 20, 2025 at 6:00 p.m.** the Todd County Board of Adjustment will hold a public hearing in the Commissioner's board room, 215 1st Ave South, Suite 301, Long Prairie, Minnesota.

NOTE: This meeting is again being held in-person and the public is encouraged to attend. Those who do attend in person can find parking atop the hill on the west side of the Historic Courthouse and enter through the north doors, near the American Flag and monument.

Questions? Call or email 320-732-4420 or toddplan.zone@co.todd.mn.us

- Agenda
- Call to Order
 - Pledge of Allegiance
 - Introduction of Board of Adjustment Members and process review
 - Approval of agenda
 - Approval of October 23, 2025 Board of Adjustment's meeting minutes
 - The applicant is introduced
 - Staff report
 - Applicant confirms if staff report accurately represents the request
 - Site Visit Review

NOTICE OF IMPORTANT PROPERTY TAX HOMESTEAD NOTICE TODD COUNTY

This will affect your 2026 property taxes and eligibility for Property Tax Refund.

Have you purchased or moved into a property in the last year?

Contact your county assessor to file a homestead application if you or a qualifying relative occupy the property as a homestead on or before December 31, 2025.

What is a qualifying relative?

For unoccupied agricultural property, a qualifying relative includes the child, grandchild, sibling, or parent of the owner or owner's spouse.

For occupied agricultural or residential property a qualifying relative also includes the owner's uncle,

aunt, nephew, or niece.

When do I apply? You must apply on or before December 31, 2025.

Once homestead is granted, annual applications are not necessary unless they are requested by the county assessor.

Contact the assessor by December 31, 2025, if the use of the property you own or occupy as a qualifying relative has changed during



Halloween in Staples

Costumed families walk in downtown Staples for Treats on the Streets. (Staples World photos by Janice Winter)

CHORUS continued from page 1a

Chorus practices on Wednesdays

choir room at 8 p.m.; Wednesday, Nov. 5, Monday, Nov. 10, Wednesday, Nov. 19, Monday, Nov. 24, Monday, Dec. 3 and Wednesday Dec. 8. Each practice will last one hour. If you love to sing, the choruses hope you will join us in this community event. For more information or to commit to participate, contact Amanda Mithun at amandamithun@yahoo.com or Tim Rice at timrice513@gmail.com.



Sharing a meal and fellowship

Dozens of people came out on a rainy day to enjoy the community meal at Trinity Lutheran Church in Staples Oct. 28. Volunteers from both Trinity and St. John's Lutheran Church in Motley served scalloped potatoes and ham, baked beans, dinner rolls and a variety of desserts. The free meals are sponsored by CARE Ministry on a monthly basis to promote fellowship, connection and nourishment. (Staples world photo by Dawn Timbs)



3M golf tournament proceeds go to local food shelves

The 3M golf tournament this summer raised \$11,500, which they split evenly between the Staples and Motley food shelves. Pictured above, Frank Leidenfrost of the Staples Food Shelf holds his portion of the donation with Jeff Booth, 3M plant manager. Below, Jodi Reeck of the Motley food shelf poses with the giant check and the logos of the golf tournament sponsors. 3M employees in the top photo, from left, Bob

Stracek, Darrell Hoemberg, Galen Abbas, Dave Crider, Doug Enloe, John Peterson, Frank Leidenfrost, Zach Hillstrom, Jerry Freese, Chris Erickson, Jeff Booth, Donnie Jensen, Joe Baitey, Joel Haverkamp, Reggy Thompson and Scott Hillstrom. They are in a slightly different order in the below photo. (Staples World photos by Mark Anderson)

Featuring National Expert Erin Walsh

STRESS & THE BRAIN: RAISING RESILIENT KIDS

FREE EVENT

Tuesday, November 18th
at Faith Lutheran Church
(430 12th St NE, Staples)

5:30 - 6:00 p.m. **Supper** | 6:00 - 7:30 p.m. **Speaker**

All are welcome to this free event. Prizes available. Child care available.

Hosted by:

Sponsored by:





LAKEWOOD WELCOMES

Taylor Heck, DPM

PODIATRIST

Lakewood is pleased to announce the arrival of on-staff podiatrist, Dr. Taylor Heck. Dr. Heck provides comprehensive foot and ankle care for patients of all ages, with special interests in limb salvaging and sports medicine. In his free time, he enjoys skiing, hiking, golfing, cooking, traveling, and spending time with his wife, Aimee, and their dog. He will be seeing patients at Lakewood's Staples clinic.

TO SCHEDULE AN APPOINTMENT CALL
218-894-8259
LAKEWOODHEALTHSYSTEM.COM

