

Inside this issue:

Burn injuries from campfire accident
Car and buggy accident near Bertha
Sports regular seasons come to an end
'Divas and Desserts' from Women's Chorus



Thirteen for Halloween The Staples Senior Citizens held their Halloween party at the Staples Community Center Oct. 15 in the Senior Citizens Room. Thirteen seniors dressed up for the occasion. Left to right: Mary Wetzels, Jenny Braun, Joyce Mohler, Gloria Marden, Sue Peterson (back), Carol Coulter, Amy Lindstrom, Mariann Riewer, Lois Kniesl, Dorothy (Tutti) Moris, Jeannie Huebner, Linda Christensen and Viretta Neidhardt. The seniors enjoyed a meal from the Staples Nutrition Center. (Staples World photo by Janice Winter)

Staples looking at utilities rate increase

By Mark Anderson
Managing Editor

The City of Staples is proposing a five percent utilities increase for 2026, which would increase the average bill of city residents about \$10 per month.

At the Oct. 14, 2025 Staples City Council meeting, Public Works Director Scott Grabe said a five percent electric increase is in line with the city's 2023 rate study. He said the rate to purchase power is going up and they also need to adjust for inflation.

Water and sewer rates are also expected to increase around five percent. Grabe said this is the first rate increase for those services since a small increase in 2021.

The \$10 per month increase includes electric, water and sewer for the average home. The city's electrical users include all homes south of Warner

Road.

The council will vote on the rate increase resolutions at the next city council meeting on Oct. 28, 2025.

Street projects

Grabe told the council that the state has so many projects listed on the intended use plan, they're asking cities to remove projects that aren't needing to be done in 2026. He said the city is keeping their 4th St. project on the list but removing the project on the southwest portion of the city because they wouldn't have the capacity to do both projects at once. Grabe said they will put that back on the list for 2027.

State funding for the projects was originally supposed to be announced in August, but still isn't out.

Evaluation

The council submitted a summary of the closed meeting where they evaluated the performance of

City Administrator Jerel Nelsen. The summary stated that Nelsen is fully successful in the 10 areas they rated.

"He meets minimum performance standards on a regular basis and is an important and valuable contributor who should continue to strive for performance excellence, specifically in the areas of problem solving, communication and leadership" the summary stated.

In other news, the council

- Approved road closure on 4th St. NE for Holiday Parade of Lights on Saturday, Nov. 29, at 5:30 p.m.
- Approved bingo request from Sacred Heart Catholic Church.
- Approved request to transfer gambling permit to Ducks Unlimited Spring Migration Chapter. The same permit had been issued to Ottertail Ducks Unlimited.
- Learned that the Dower

See **STAPLES** on page 10a

School district long range planning finding common themes

By Mark Anderson
Managing Editor

The Staples-Motley School District is in the middle of a long term planning study that is looking at future education and workforce needs, in order to develop a facilities plan to meet those needs.

At the Oct. 6 school board meeting, Jason Splett of ICS, the consulting company for the school's recent construction projects, updated the board on their continuing exploration of future school building needs. They have completed staff surveys and had many one on one sessions with community members such as business people and other stakeholders. An online public survey was also open at the time of the meeting. As of the Oct. 6 meeting, Splett said they have 134 completed surveys but would like more.

Staff input

Splett said some of the positive things the staff pointed out included supportive staff, recent facility improvements and community partnerships. They also noted improved communication from the school and they liked the building of a positive culture.

They also identified challenges, including aging and inadequate facilities, large class sizes and staffing shortages. Budget and funding issues prevent the school from developing more diverse programs.

The survey found that the staff believes there is a more positive community perception over the past five years. They pointed to better communication and transparency, plus success in athletics and activities giving the school a positive image in the community.

Education changing

The school board was asked if they had any input into the study so far.

Board Chair Mary Freeman suggested the school decide what they can promote as their education.

"We can't offer everything, what are we academically good at?" said Freeman.

She noted that current classrooms don't always have a teacher standing in front giving a lecture. "As everything modernizes and changes, we have to keep up with that," said Freeman.

Superintendent Shane Tappe agreed, saying that modern education is "how do you create collaboration and relationships," said Tappe, "we have to be willing to adjust and change with it."

Tappe said the school is focusing more on job-related education. He pointed to new internships with Lakewood Health System. The school is also expanding CTE (career and technical education) offerings because now 40 to 50 percent of students enter the workforce out of high school, much more than a few years ago. Tappe said the school facilities need to align with industry standards so students can learn needed skills.

"Students have to be well-rounded, but there are areas where they need hands-on training so they can enter the workforce prepped and ready to go," said Tappe.

The school is coordinating with local businesses and industries to host a career exploration event

See **SCHOOL** on page 10a

Weather

2025

This Week's Forecast

High Low Cond.

Oct. 22 48 30 M. Sunny

Oct. 23 54 32 Sunny

Oct. 24 61 38 M. Sunny

Oct. 25 62 50 M. Sunny

Oct. 26 57 48 Cloudy

Oct. 27 53 42 Showers

Oct. 28 48 38 Showers

Last Year, 2024

High Low Cond.

Oct. 22 74° 47 M. Sunny

Oct. 23 60 50 Sunny

Oct. 24 55 34 Cloudy

Oct. 25 52 32 Sunny

Oct. 26 55 42 Sunny

Oct. 27 58 47 M. Sunny

Oct. 28 61 50 Cloudy

Average Temps:

H = 50° Low = 34°

Compiled by

Dale Hausmann,

WCCO's Staples area

Weatherwatcher

Public Notices

Todd Planning Commission 9A

Todd Commissioners 9A

Statement of Ownership 9A

Obituary

Kathy Larson



Halloween scene in the pines

Thanks to the efforts of Albert Collison, Staples, a number of large and colorful Halloween characters are on display at 8th St. NE, just north of Warner Rd. (Staples World photo by Dawn Timbs)

Lakewood Health System recognized by Minnesota Hospital Association

Forty teams and individuals from across the state were recognized by the Minnesota Hospital Association (MHA) recently for their work to strengthen health care in Minnesota. Presented during MHA's annual meeting, these awards honor efforts that advance sustainability, quality and safety, and innovation in the state's hospital and health systems. MHA also recognized hospital volunteers, trustees and state lawmakers for their dedication to supporting the health of Minnesota communities.

Lakewood Health System, Staples, received two recognitions: one for Innovation in Patient Care and the other for Sustainability. Per the MHA:

• In the heart of rural Minnesota, where every mile matters and every minute saves lives, Lakewood Health System's Emergency and EMS teams redefined stroke care with bold innovation and seamless teamwork to reduce turnaround times and greatly speed up medical intervention. This extraordinary commitment to continuous improvement in emergency care is delivering life-changing outcomes to the communities that need it most.

• Lakewood Health System set out to improve the setting and care experience for their cancer center. The Lakewood team sustainably designed a new cancer center that provides elevated patient services in a setting that overlooks a natural wetland on the hospital's campus.

"These awards highlight the dedication of Minnesota's hospital and health system staff, trustees and partners to improving the health of our communities," MHA President and CEO Dr. Rahul Koranne said.



Accepting awards

Pictured above, from left: Lisa Bjerga, president and CEO of Lakewood Health System and Jamie Nordick, director of oncology services, accepted the award for Sustainability. Below, from left: Lisa Bjerga, president and CEO; Angie Paavola, manager of hospital quality, risk management, and regulatory services; and Justin Gunderson, director of emergency and trauma services, accepted the award for Innovation in Patient Care. (Submitted photos)



"Their efforts are improving patient outcomes in communities across our region, supporting care-

givers, and preparing our health system for challenges ahead."



Artists at work

The Staples-Motley Cardinals tennis team offered face painting at Motley's Fall Fest Oct. 11. Above, Corlynn Tappe, 11, of Staples paints a football on the face of Finlay Craig, eight. Lower photo, Athena Dukek, 12, of Motley receives a colorful butterfly design from Alissa Neznik of Staples. The annual Fall Fest is sponsored by the Motley Community Events Organization. (Staples World photos by Dawn Timbs)



Celebrating fall in the Motley community



Scarecrow sighting

Dressed as a scarecrow, Gaven Christensen of Staples added to the festive atmosphere at Motley's Fall Fest Oct. 11. He's pictured with his grandparents, Richard and Elaine Hafften of Staples. The annual festival, sponsored by the Motley Community Events organization, was held at the Motley Fairgrounds and featured games, competitions, food and music.



Family photo op

The Kruger family of Carver enjoyed attending the Motley Fall Fest Oct. 11, at the Motley Fairgrounds. Pictured are Matt Kruger, holding Josephine, three; and

Emily Kruger, holding Charlie, one. The Krugers were in the area visiting relatives. (Staples World photo by Dawn Timbs)



Cozy autumn scene

Marinell Philipp of Motley has decorated her yard at Beaulieu St. with a number of colorful autumn and Halloween decorations, many of which are illuminated at night. (Staples World photo by Dawn Timbs)

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For the Staples World

Motley area law enforcement

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

Oct. 10 - Motley Police and a Morrison County deputy responded to a report of a verbal dispute at the 900 block of Hwy 10 S., Motley.

Oct. 14 - A Morrison County deputy responded to a report of harassment

at the 1900 block of Ridge Rd., Motley.

Oct. 14 - The MCSO received a report of a vehicle accident at Hwy 210 and 57th Ave. SW in Motley. A male subject had hit a tree, was out of the vehicle and bleeding from his head. Motley Fire was paged.

Oct. 13 - The MCSO received a report of property damage at the 35000 block of Aztec Rd., Motley.

Oct. 11 - The MCSO received a report of a one-vehicle roll over at 37146 Bugle Rd., Motley.

Oct. 9 - Morrison County deputies arrested Jarred Joseph Schwab, 31, on a warrant arrest.

Oct. 9 - The MCSO received a report of suspicious activity at the 2200 block of 330th St., Motley.

Oct. 9 - The MCSO received a report of theft at the 2300 block of Ridge Rd., Motley.

Small towns, big change

Fraud schemes steal taxpayer money

By Jon Spayde
IQ Magazine Initiative Foundation

Grassroots teams in Hackensack and Milaca show how small towns can turn ideas into lasting change

A decade ago, Hackensack, with a population of about 300, was in the civic doldrums. Located in Central Minnesota’s lake country, the town lacked the public amenities that could attract tourists and lake-home owners. The were no childcare facilities, no community center, no dog park. The surface of its municipal tennis court had buckled so severely it was unplayable. The town looked and felt run-down, tired, even defeated.

Today, Hackensack has come alive. A colorful sign welcomes visitors approaching from the south on Highway 371. Hang a left on Murray Avenue toward Birch Lake and you’ll see the revamped tennis courts, an expanded basketball court and a new pickleball court surrounded by an even newer wind-blocking screen.

Thriving Communities implemented in MN towns

From the Initiative Foundation

The Initiative Foundation’s Thriving Communities program (previously known as the Healthy Communities Partnership) has worked with 80 cities, six counties and, in the greater St. Cloud area, eight core neighborhoods since the late 1990s to plan for healthy, vibrant futures. A snapshot of past participants and their accomplishments:

LITTLE FALLS: The community team helped to develop the Shoppes of Little Falls—a retail incubator where as many as two dozen local vendors display their products under one roof. The team also addressed park improvements and economic development work to make industrial sites shovel-ready.

For the love of ducks

By Kim Kobersmith
The Daily Yonder

Judges decided the winner of the 2025 Federal Duck Stamp contest on Friday, September 19th. I watched the livestream, along with about 1,700 other fans. James Hautman’s acrylic painting of three Buffleheads in flight rose above the other 289 entries to capture first place. The image will grace the 2026-2027 Duck Stamp.

Jim and his two brothers, Joe Hautman and Bob Hautman, are legendary in the duck stamp art world. It is Jim’s record-breaking 7th win. Joe has won six times and Bob, three. In 2015, the three notably claimed first, second, and third places in the contest. Between them, they have painted artwork for over 50 state and federal conservation stamps.

The Federal Duck Stamp has a vaunted history. The



idea to sell an annual stamp for funding the purchase of wetlands came from Jay N. “Ding” Darling, a famous cartoonist and former chief of the Biological Survey, a precursor of the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service.

Due to its longevity, its role as the federal government’s only art contest, and the high caliber of artistic

By Mike Wiener
State Representative

Minnesota has been here before. When the Feeding our Future program first launched, the idea was noble; ensure children in need did not go hungry. Instead, it became the largest fraud case in state history, with more than \$250 million stolen through fake invoices, falsified rosters, and rubber stamped approvals. And feeding our future is not an isolated story. Minnesota has a disturbing track record of handing out taxpayer money with minimal oversight - and only uncovering the fraud after the money is gone.

Now, the state is preparing to roll out Paid Family Medical Leave or (PFML) and the Sick and Safe Leave Time (ESST) mandate. Both sound compassionate on paper. But the reality is that these programs are built on the same shaky foundations that enabled past fraud. Unless lawmakers put the brakes on PFML before it begins, Minnesota could be staring down the next billion dollar scandal.

A system ripe for abuse: The PFML program will move billions of taxpayer dollars every year. Employees will be able to claim partial wage replacement for up to 20 weeks of leave. To qualify, all they need is a doctor’s note or certifica-

tion of need. This is precisely the kind of documentation that can be fabricated, exaggerated, or bought.

We’ve already seen what happens when State agencies rely on self-reporting and trust without verification. During the pandemic, criminals use stolen identities to drain unemployment insurance. In feeding our future, state officials ignored red flags because the paperwork looked incomplete. PFML opens the door to exactly the same types of abuse:

- false medical claims for stress, back pain, or caregiving responsibilities.
- collusion with providers willing to sign off on non-existent conditions.
- double dipping, with people collecting PFML benefits while working off the books.
- identity theft, where fraudsters file claims using stolen social security numbers.

Meanwhile, the ESST mandate shifts programs onto employers. While not a state administered fund, ESST creates plenty of opportunities for abuse at the workplace level. Employees can simply call in sick or claim “safe time” without consequences, leaving businesses to cover wages and lost productivity. That’s not fraud on the taxpayer, but it’s fraud against Minnesota’s jobs Creator many of whom are already strugg-

gling under high taxes and regulations.

The cost of getting it wrong:

Lawmakers say PFML will cost more than a billion dollars a year in benefits, funded by a new payroll tax. If even 10% of the claims are fraudulent, a conservative estimate given Minnesota track record, hundreds of millions could be lost annually. That’s more than enough to erode trust, drive up payroll taxes further, and destabilize the very fund workers are counting on.

Worse, every dollar stolen through fraud is a dollar that does not go to a family with a legitimate need. The people who lose most are not just the taxpayers footing the bill, but also the honest Minnesotans who will find the program insolvent when they actually need it.

The bottom line:

Minnesota leaders claim PFML in ESST are about compassion and family values. But compassion without accountability is an invitation to corruption. Our state cannot afford another feeding our future.

If the legislature truly cares about helping families, it must either halt PFML before billions are lost or at a minimum delay the rollout until strong safeguards are written into law and funded. Anything less is reckless - and the taxpayers will once again be left holding the bag.

Cities can be designed for families, health

By Rae Bennett
Bluezones.com

Modern parenting is often described as a juggling act: work, childcare, meals, health, transportation, and play all with little to no margin for error. For parents, it’s not always about having too much to do, but too few places that are designed to help.

We’ve designed cities and suburbs where caregiving happens behind closed doors, where the burden falls almost entirely on individual households. Public spaces for caregiving are either missing or inaccessible. What would it look like to shift the norm and design public places that actively support parents, families, and multigenerational life?

In the world’s longest-living communities (known as blue zones), family life isn’t so isolated. In fact, it’s often shared. These regions, from Okinawa to Nicoya to Ikaria, are living examples of how the built environment can help carry the weight of care, not add to it.

Parenting in Public

The modern parenting experience in most U.S.

cities is deeply privatized. Kids are driven to separate activities. Play happens behind backyard fences. Grandparents often live far away from grandchildren, and spontaneous support from neighbors is rare.

And yet, many of the stressors parents face (including isolation, lack of child-friendly transit, unsafe streets, and inaccessible green spaces) aren’t private problems at all. They’re design problems.

As noted by CityLab, good parenting doesn’t happen in a vacuum. It happens more easily when homes are close to playgrounds, when sidewalks are safe and shaded, and when kids have spaces to explore that don’t require constant supervision. It happens when public space is designed with families, not just individuals in mind.

What Blue Zones Teach Us

In blue zones regions, the phrase “it takes a village” isn’t a parenting mantra. It’s an operating system.

In Okinawa, Japan, moai social groups are formed to provide lifelong companionship and mutual care, helping parents and elders alike.

In Sardinia, Italy, multigenerational homes are common, and children grow up with their grandparents just down the hall.

In Nicoya, Costa Rica, daily life flows around the town square: a space for connection, safety, and play, with no admission fee.

These are not high-tech solutions. They are slow, human-scale designs that make caregiving a shared, visible part of daily life. They reflect the Power 9 principle of Loved Ones First, the idea that longevity and well-being are deeply connected to how we care for and prioritize family.

Shared Burden, Shared Space

Redesigning public space through a family lens doesn’t require massive overhauls. It starts with asking: Does this place make life easier or harder for someone pushing a stroller? Is there seating where a parent can rest while watching a toddler play? Are there benches near playgrounds where grandparents can gather? Can kids move around safely without needing to be chauffeured?

Simple features like shaded plazas, low-risk play areas, clean bathrooms, and walkable streets can radically shift the experience of parenting from one of stress and vigilance to one of joy and relief.

Designing communities for families also means designing for everyone. When we build places that work for young children and aging adults, we are often creating spaces that feel better for every generation in between.

A Public Health Solution

Easing the pressure on parents isn’t just about convenience; it’s a public health issue. Chronic stress, loneliness, and lack of physical activity all take a toll on parents and children alike.

In blue zones regions, where people routinely live past 90 with vitality, the environment is the intervention. That means we don’t need to invent new solutions. We need to look at what already works and build toward it.

If we want families to thrive, we need to design like it.

Rae Bennett is a creative strategist with a background in branding, content strategy, and community storytelling.

StaplesWorld

Established in 1890. USPS 518-760
©2025 RMM Publications
Published Wednesdays by RMM Publications
Office located at 224 4th Street NE
Periodicals postage paid at Staples, Minnesota 56479.

Mailing Address: P.O. Box 100
Telephone: 218-894-1112 - Fax: 218-894-3570
Toll Free: 1-888-894-1112
www.staplesworld.com - E Mail: editor@staplesworld.com
Deadline: 12 noon, Friday
Official Newspaper for:
City of Staples, Todd County,
Staples-Motley School District,
Freshwater Ed. District and area townships.

Letters: Readers are encouraged to express their views by writing letters to the editor. Letters are verified for authenticity, so please include a name, address and phone number. Only the author’s name and city will be published. Letters may be edited for spelling and grammar errors, libel, length and other factors. Private thanks, solicitations and libelous letters will not be published. Letters are printed on a space available basis. The editor reserves the right to reject letters.
The deadline is 12 noon, Friday. Opinions expressed on this page do not necessarily represent the views of this newspaper.
Printed at Quinco Press, Lowry, MN

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Publisher.....RMM Publications LLC
Owners Rick Gail, Mike Kremer, Mark Anderson
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Advertising Rep.....editor@staplesworld.com
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Subscription Rates:
Local: (Todd, Wadena, Morrison, Cass Counties) \$53 per year
Website: \$50 per year
Minnesota: \$58 per year - Out of State: \$63 per year
Foreign: on-line only - Student Rate: (Sept. through Apr./in-state) \$43
There is a \$5 charge for address change from local to out-of-state.

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Quote of the week

“Always concentrate on how far you have come, rather than how far you have left to go. The difference in how easy it seems will amaze you.”

– Heidi Johnson

Staples Area Women’s Chorus presents ‘Divas and Desserts’ Oct. 26



To kick off the start of their musical season, the Staples Area Women’s Chorus (SAWC) is hosting their annual Divas and Desserts concert at the Staples Alliance Church on Sunday, Oct. 26, at 2 p.m. Under co-directors Rob Freelove and Brianna Robertson, the chorus will perform a variety of fun music, served with cheesecake, coffee and apple cider. Attendance is

free and open to the public; free will donations are welcome. All funds raised at this event will go toward commissioning a piece to honor former member and president of the chorus, Joyce Anderson. The SAWC hopes to debut this piece at their 2026 Our Voice Our Song event. If interested in supporting this project, reach out to a chorus member.

The Staples Area Women’s Chorus is beginning their 49th season and looks forward to a wonderful year of making music for their community together. They will be part of the Community Christmas Concert Dec. 13 and will be hosting Our Voice Our Song on Feb. 28, 2026.

‘Trunk or Treat’ in Staples and Motley

‘Trunk or Treat,’ a fun, safe, trick-or-treat experience, will be held Friday, Oct. 31, at the Staples Alliance Church, 1512 8th St. NE from 4 - 5:30 p.m.; and at the Motley United Methodist Church (UMC), 847 3rd Ave. S, from 4 - 6 p.m.

In addition to the churches, many businesses in both Staples and Motley will be participating in this annual ‘trick-or-treat’ event during their regular hours. Look for an orange pumpkin in the windows of participating businesses.

Trunk or Treat is a safe way for children to go trick-or-treating. In Motley, all members of the community are invited to participate, by decorating a table, wearing

a costume or setting up a game.

Meatball SUPPER
Swan Valley Lutheran Church,
Hwy 64, Leader, MN
Sat., Nov. 1
Meatballs, Mashed Potatoes,
Gravy, Squash, Coleslaw,
Corn, Dessert, Beverage
•Quilt Raffle
FREE WILL OFFERING
Serving 4:30 to 6:30 p.m.
w44-45p



Feierabend honored by MFU with education award

Central Lakes College Meat Cutting & Butchery Instructor Jess Feierabend has been named 2025 Post-Secondary Educator of the Year by the Minnesota Farm Bureau Federation.

He will be recognized at the Minnesota Farm Bureau Federation Awards Banquet on Nov. 21. Feierabend is also invited to participate in the American Farm Bureau Federation’s 107th Annual Convention in Anaheim, CA in January.

“I am deeply grateful for this recognition and humbled to be selected among

so many dedicated and talented educators,” Feierabend said. He was nominated by the Todd County Farm Bureau.

Cory Detloff, CLC Director of Ag & Energy and Farm Business Management, added “Jess has a real passion for helping students, both in the lab and on a personal level. He’s built incredible relationships with local farms and businesses, and this award is a reflection of the impact he’s making every day.” (Submitted photo)

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 Meal - traditional older adult menu. Menu is subject to change.
NEW location: Staples Hi-Rise Apartments, 615 4th St. NE, Staples. Seniors welcome to dine in, if meal is reserved 11 a.m.

Staples 218-979-4118
LSS meals include bread (various kinds), marg. and 1% milk.
Oct 27-31
MONDAY - Chicken & dumplings, green beans, diced pear cup, cheesecake brownie.
TUESDAY - Beef pastry turnover, sliced carrots, rice pudding.
WEDNESDAY Diced turkey/gravy, mashed potatoes, stuffing, whole kernel corn, diced peach cup.
THURSDAY - Meatloaf, baked potato, broccoli, applesauce cup.
FRIDAY - Potato crunch fish fillet, mashed sweet potatoes, mixed veggies, tartar sauce, snickerdoodle cookie.
wk44

Mark Your Calendar

- Oct. 23**
STAPLES AREA FARMERS MARKET Thursdays, 2 - 5 p.m., in the clinic patient parking lot at Lakewood Health System’s main campus in Staples.
‘WALK With A Doc’ Thursdays at 5:15 p.m., at Lakewood Health System’s main campus in Staples. Meet at the main entrance. For more information about this free program, visit <https://walkwithadoc.org/join-a-walk/locations/staples-minnesota>
WADENA WHIRLWAYS SQUARE DANCE GROUP DANCING Thursday, Oct. 23, 7 - 9:30 p.m., at St. Michael’s Church, 280 1st Ave. S., Motley. Brad Neutz, caller. For info., 612-743-3480.
- Oct. 24**
WOMEN’S OPEN AA RECOVERY MEETING Fridays in person, 10:30 a.m., Motley Free Methodist Church (lower level), 33 Wellwood St. E. Motley. All women welcome.
Oct. 25
FREE COMMUNITY BREAKFAST Saturday, Oct. 25, 9 - 10:30 a.m., at Motley United Methodist Church, 847 3rd Ave. S., Motley.
Oct. 26
CELEBRATE RECOVERY GROUP MEETINGS Sundays, 6 p.m., at Motley Free Methodist Church, 33 Wellwood St. E., Motley.

- Oct. 28**
CARE MINISTRY FREE MEAL Tuesday, Oct. 28, 4:30 - 6 p.m., at Trinity Lutheran Church, 1000 4th St. NE, Staples. St. John’s Lutheran in Motley assisting. The free meals are held on a monthly basis to promote fellowship, connection and nourishment.
EXPERIENCE STRENGTH AND HOPE AA GROUP MTGS IN STAPLES Tuesdays, 7 - 8 p.m., at Church of Christ, 27343 490th St., Staples. For info., call Dan at 218-640-7228.
WADENA COUNTY REPUBLICANS Monthly meeting on Tuesday, Oct. 28, 7 p.m., at the Wadena VFW. Come early to eat and visit with like-minded people.

Flu and COVID-19 vaccinations now available at Lakewood

Flu and COVID-19 vaccinations are now available at all Lakewood Health System clinic locations during regular business hours, Monday through Friday.

Everyone six months and older is eligible for flu and COVID-19 vaccinations. FluMist and high-dose flu vaccine options are available to those who qualify. Lakewood is only offering the Moderna COVID-19 vaccine this year.

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), annual flu and COVID-19 vaccinations are recommended for everyone six months and older, with few exceptions. Vaccination is especially important for those who are at higher risk of developing serious complications from the flu or COVID-19. People with higher risk include, but are not limited to:

- Adults 65 and older

- Pregnant people
 - Young children
 - Those with: Cancer, Asthma, Heart disease and stroke, Diabetes, Chronic kidney disease, HIV/Aids
- Flu and/or COVID-19 vaccinations are available by walk-in at any Lakewood clinic location during regular business hours, Monday through Friday. They can also be scheduled by calling 218-894-1515.

**The Staples World office, 224 4th St. NE, is open every weekday, 8 a.m. - noon.**

- For afternoon availability, call 218-894-1112.

Regular advertising and copy deadline is Friday, noon.

The office closes at noon on Friday.





A-1 4-H Club officers for 2025-26

Pictured, from left, are the A1 4-H Club officers selected for the 2025-2026 year: Cody Meacham, treasurer; Avery Freie, vice president; Liz Perish, president; Callie Perish, reporter; Claire Perish, secretary. The club typically meets on the second Sunday of the month at 2 p.m., at Zion Lutheran Church in Browerville. (Submitted photo)

Obituary

Kathy Larson

The funeral service celebrating the life of Kathy Larson of Verndale, will be held at 11:00 a.m. on Monday, October 27, at the Thomastown Covenant Church in rural Verndale with Pastor Scott Jorgenson presiding. Visitation will be held at the church on Monday, from 9:30 a.m. until the time of the service. Burial will be in the church cemetery in Thomastown Township. Kathy passed away unexpectedly of natural causes at the age of 66 years on Saturday, October 18, 2025, at her home in Verndale. Arrangements with the Schuller Family Funeral Homes & Cremation Services, Wadena, MN. (www.SchullerFamilyFH.com).

w44c A00006B2025OT22

Hello World

ONLINE BIRTHS REMOVED AT THE REQUEST OF LAKEWOOD HEALTH SYSTEM.

Staples Area Church Directory

Staples
Staples Alliance
1512 8th St. NE, Staples 218-894-2891
Jonny Olson, Associate Pastor
Sunday Worship 9:30 a.m.
Sunday School 11:00 a.m.
WEDNESDAY
AWANA 6:00 p.m.

Assembly of God
914 3rd Ave. NE, Staples 218-894-1081
Pastor Roy Miles
Small Groups (Bible classes for all ages) 9:30 a.m.
Morning Worship Service 10:30 a.m.
Children's Church (Kids start in main worship service) 11 a.m.
Prayer Meeting 5 p.m.
WEDNESDAY
Sonlight (Kids ages 4 yrs.-6th grade) After school to 5:30 p.m.
Youth Group (Teens, 7th-12th grade) After school to 5:30 p.m.

Church of Christ
430 12th St. NE, 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@marysacc.org
Rev. JC Duncan, 218-632-7314
Rev. Rick Aubol, 218-632-7310
Rev. Greg Sauer, 218-632-7319
Mass: Sunday 8:30 a.m.

Seventh Day Adventist
421 Dakota Ave. SE, Staples
Pastor Joshua Jeresek
218-894-0033
Saturday Worship 9:30 a.m.
Sabbath School 10:45 a.m.

Thomastown Covenant
15940 251st Ave., Staples 218-894-3923
Pastor Scott Jorgenson
Sunday Worship 10:30 a.m.
WEDNESDAY NIGHT YOUTH 6:30 p.m.

Trinity Lutheran
1000 5th St. NE, Staples 218-894-2372
Pastor Vicar Paul Koehler
Sunday Divine Service 9:00 a.m.
Sunday School and Bible Class ... 10:30 a.m.

United Methodist
310 5th St. NE, Staples 218-894-2248
Sunday Worship 10:30 a.m.
(Nursery Available for Sunday Worship)

Aldrich
Balsamlund Lutheran
19550 490th Street, Aldrich
Janet Eckman SMA 218-837-5831
jre227@yahoo.com
Sunday Worship 8:30 a.m.

Cushing
Bethany Lutheran
25430 Bison Rd. Cushing, MN
230-749-2140
Pastor Carl Larson
www.bethanylutherancushing.org
Sunday Worship 9:00 a.m.
Communion 1st and 2nd Sunday of each month

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www.lincolnefree.org
Facebook Lincoln E Free
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Senior Pastor: Don Reigstad
SUNDAY
Church Worship Gathering 10:00 a.m.
YouTube Channel 10:00 a.m.

Cushing Baptist
26298 Bear Rd., Cushing
Pastor Dan Holmes 320-749-2583
Sunday School 9:30 a.m.
Worship 10:30 a.m.
WEDNESDAY
Bible study 7:30 p.m.

Leader
Swan Valley Lutheran
Leader 218-397-2470
Sandy Knight, Synodically Authorized Minister of Word and Sacrament
Sunday Worship 9 a.m.
January - July 11 a.m.
July - January

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

Motley
Motley Free Methodist
33 Wellwood St. E
Motley 56466 218-352-6888
Jim Johnson, Senior Pastor
Casey Reynolds, Assistant Pastor
Sunday Worship 9:00 and 10:30 a.m.
facebook live 9 a.m.
WEDNESDAY
AWANA 4:00-5:30 p.m.
Youth Group 6:00-8:00 p.m.

St. John's Lutheran
497 3rd Ave. S, Motley 218-352-6399
Pastor Vicar Paul Koehler
Sunday School and Bible Class 8:30 a.m.
Sunday Worship 9:30 a.m.
St. Michael Catholic Church
1st St. and Birch, Motley 218-894-2296
info@marysacc.org
Fr. Aaron Kuhn Fr. Gabriel Walz
MASS:
Saturday 4:00 p.m.

St. Michael
280 1st Ave S, Motley 218-894-2296
Rev. JC Duncan, 218-632-7314 Rev. Rick Aubol, 218-632-7310 Rev. Greg Sauer, 218-632-7319
Sunday 10:30 a.m. (May - Nov.)
Saturday 4:00 p.m. (Dec - April)

United Methodist
847 3rd Ave. S. Lane, Motley 218-352-6466
Pastor Greg Leslie
www.motleyumc.net
Sunday Worship Service 10:00 a.m.
Monday AA meeting 8:00 p.m.

Oylen
Oylen Alliance
City Rds, 7 and 9, Oylen
218-472-3440 or 218-472-3316
Pastor Neal Malcore
Sunday School 10:00 a.m.
Sunday Worship 11:00 a.m.

Pillager
First Lutheran Church
Pastor Mathew Sundquist
717 River Street S, Pillager, MN
218-746-3775
Sunday Worship 9:30 a.m.
Sunday School, 2nd and 4th Sundays 8:30 a.m.

Casino Assembly of God
Pastor Dan Johnson
N. of Motley, Hwy. 64, E. on Cty 34 to Cty. 104.
Phone 218-746-3839
Sunday School 9:30 a.m.
Worship 10:30 a.m.
Sunday Worship 7:00 p.m.
WEDNESDAY 7:00 p.m.

First Baptist
903 River Street South, Pillager
Pastor Jake Anderson
218-746-3768
curious@fbcpillager.com
Worship Gathering 10:00 a.m.
Connection Point 9:30 a.m.

Hewitt
Church of the Nazarene
114 Front Street, P.O. Box 146 Hewitt, MN
218-924-2028
Jim and Linda McGaffey, Pastor
Sunday School 9:30 a.m.
Sunday Worship 10:45 a.m.
WEDNESDAY PRAYER 7:00 p.m.

Trinity Lutheran Church (LCMS)
524 Front Street, PO Box 116, Hewitt, MN
Pastor Robin Fish
Sunday Worship 10:30 a.m.

Hewitt Community Church
Hwy. 210, Hewitt, MN
Pastor Kenneth Uhren
Sunday Worship 10:30 a.m.

Verndale
Verndale Alliance
109 NW Brown Street, Verndale, MN 56481
218-445-5619
Senior Pastor Tony Stanley
Youth Pastor Joe Ward
Sunday Worship 9:30 a.m.
Sunday Bible Fellowship Classes 11-11:45 a.m.

Family Life Church
402 NE Clark Drive, Verndale 218-445-5568
VerndaleFLC@gmail.com
Pastor Amos Self 218-371-7189
Tahna Rurup, Connections & Media Pastor
Tillman Phagan, Kid's & Food Shelf Pastor
Ryan Wolfenden, Youth Pastor
SUNDAY
Youth Prayer 9:20 a.m.
Worship Service 10:00 a.m.
Prayer Meeting 5 p.m.
WEDNESDAY
Life Groups 6:30 p.m.

Hope Chapel Alliance
18126 County Road 7, Verndale
218-445-5643 or 218-472-3316
Pastor Neal Malcore
Sunday Worship 9:00 a.m.
Sunday School 10:30 a.m.
WEDNESDAY
Family Night 5:30 p.m.

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

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

Central Community Church
5 miles N on Cty Rd 26 (Nimrod tar)
Pastor James Middendorf, 320-260-4952
Sunday Service 9:00 a.m.
Bible Study 10:30 a.m.

St. Frederick Catholic Church
20 Masden Avenue NW
Verndale 218-894-2296
info@marysacc.org
Rev. JC Duncan, 218-632-7314 Rev. Rick Aubol, 218-632-7310 Rev. Greg Sauer, 218-632-7319
MASS: Saturday 6:00 p.m.

St. Hubert Catholic Church
Bluegrass 218-894-2296
info@marysacc.org
Rev. JC Duncan, 218-632-7314 Rev. Rick Aubol, 218-632-7310 Father Greg Sauer, 218-632-7319
Sunday Service 10:00 a.m. (Dec. - April)
Saturday 4:00 p.m. (May - Nov.)

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Leaf River Twp., Wadena County Rd. 6
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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
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I certify that the above statements made by me are correct and complete.
Mark Anderson, Managing Editor

"Autumn"

Pastor Barry Klein, Staples Church of Christ

How often are we drawn to Ecclesiastes 3:1, "There is a time for everything and a season for every activity under the heavens." As we go on in life, we become more and more aware of "the seasons of life." Each year, God gives us the four seasons of the year. In Minnesota, we're given the blessing of Spring, Summer, Autumn and Winter being delightfully distinct in a way that isn't there the further south you go. As of the writing of this devotion, tinges of change from the late Summer into the early Fall is an additional internal creation design of helping us to move slowly from one season into another. This is in contrast to if it all happened in the one day on the calendar that marks the change. I had the opportunity to again climb the Itasca State Park fire tower towards the end of the ten-mile Wilderness drive. Once again, you get the 360-degree panoramic view out into miles and

miles of foliage. The greatest experience I have had on the top of the tower is when the colors are at their peak in late September and early October. It reminds me of a sea of colored marshmallows. I have wondered if people get their idea of fireworks from God's fireworks of colors in the autumn trees. Seasons of our lives don't always develop and transition slowly. The unexpected in our lives of a loved one's sudden death or a surprise medical diagnosis or a point-blank change in finances can catch us off guard suddenly. It can knock us off our equilibrium. Many of you have been there. Maybe you have heard people say many times in those losses, "I don't know how people make it that don't know Jesus." The good news in the changing seasons of life is, you don't have to wait for a crisis without Jesus. You can know Him right now if you don't know Him personally. Read Acts 8:26-39.

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Volleyball team enters tough section tournament

The Staples-Motley volleyball team lost their final regular season match against Hawley on Oct. 14, finishing the season with a 7-19 record. This placed them as the 14th seed in Section 6AA. They will open the playoffs at the third seeded Pequot Lakes on Tuesday, Oct. 22, at 7 p.m. The winner of that match will play either Foley or Osakis in their bracket. The section has five of the top 21 ranked teams in the state,

so each match will be a high level game.

Against Hawley, the Cardinals were facing the second ranked team in the state. They struggled in the first set but were more competitive in the next two.

Team results

Staples-Motley 0, Hawley 3; 4-25, 12-25, 11-25

Annie Schlosser: Assists-3, Kills-1, Digs-1

Izzy Becker: Aces-1, Assists-1, Digs-25

Katelyn Schotzko: Assists-3, Digs-2

Addie Potter: Assists-1, Kills-1, Blocks-1

Abby Brichacek: Kills-2, Blocks-1, Digs-1

Hannah Cole: Blocks-2, Digs-3

Clara Maros: Kills-3, Digs-3

Kyleena Rudlang: Kills-2, Blocks-2, Digs-3

Pam Lawrence: Digs-7

Chloe Trantina: Digs-9

Mariah Sullivan: Digs-1

Carlson, Beachy lead offense in 43-13 win

Beau Carlson and Turner Beachy made a lot of big plays both running and receiving, leading the Staples-Motley football team to a 43-13 win at Pelican Rapids on Oct. 15.

This ends the regular season with a 7-1 record for the Cardinals. The Cardinals open the section playoffs on Tuesday, Oct. 21, at home against Wadena-Deer Creek at 6 p.m. The winner of that game will likely travel to Holdingford on Saturday, Oct. 25, with the game to be played at 2 p.m.

Against Pelican Rapids, the Cardinals made a lot of big plays, but also hurt themselves with penalties.

In the first quarter, Carlson and Beachy carried the team down to the one yard line and Colbe Tappe scored the touchdown. They missed the two point attempt to go up 6-0.

In the second quarter, Beachy turned the corner to score on a 28 yard touchdown run. Eli Rutten passed to Evan Schultz for the two

point conversion and a 14-0 lead.

Pelican Rapids started developing a good passing game, but Rutten intercepted a long pass attempt.

Carlson and Beachy made big runs to get inside the five yard line and Carlson finished the drive with a touchdown run. Cayden Niesen kicked the extra point for a 21-0 score.

Pelican Rapids started passing again and scored to make the score 21-6.

Tappe and Rutten made nice runs to get good field position with less than two minutes to go in the half. Luke Bjerga banged a first down run up the middle to the two yard line and punched it in for a touchdown on the next play. Niesen kicked the extra point for a 28-6 lead.

Niesen received the second half kickoff and ran it to the PR 44 yard line. Rutten passed to Beachy on a 34 yard connection, but the team failed to punch it in.

When Pelican Rapids got the ball, they had a bad snap into the end zone that resulted in a two point safety for Staples-Motley.

On the first play after the free kick, Carlson had a 50 yard touchdown run where he ran to the right, cut back, weaved through defenders and high-stepped to avoid tacklers into the end zone.

Pelican Rapids started driving again but Tappe leaped to intercept a pass in the middle of the field.

After Tappe converted a fourth down run, Rutten scrambled on a passing play and found Beachy uncovered for a 20 yard touchdown and a 43-6 lead.

Pelican Rapids made a long drive by mostly passing the ball and ended up with a touchdown, making the score 43-13.

In the fourth quarter, Cooper Tappe made an interception in the end zone to preserve the final score at 43-13.

Cardinals race at HOL

The Staples-Motley cross country teams had a good showing in the always tough Heart O Lakes Conference meet. The girls finished fifth and the boys were sixth. The race was held at Breckenridge/Wahpeton.

In the girls race, Audrey Brownell won her third straight conference individual title, the first one as the final Mid State Conference race and last year in the HOL meet. This was another comfortable run with Brownell winning by 11 seconds.

The girls team is getting healthy and they had a strong group to fill the five scoring spots, with Aleea Holst, Elise Trif, Suhaila Mikhaeil and Lizzie Kroll running good races.

In the boys race, Andrew Dobson was the top finisher with Garrett Bjerga, Gabriel Kroll, Reed Leach and Jackson Odden as the other varsity scorers.

Girls results

Perham 24, Barnesville 85, Breckenridge 91, Hawley

107, Staples-Motley 134, Park Rapids 135, Lake Park-Audubon 201, Frazee 208, Dilworth-Glyndon-Felton 233, Pelican Rapids 291

1. Audrey Brownell 18:31, 25. Aleea Holst 20:57, 29. Elise Trif 21:09, 38. Suhaila Mikhaeil 21:56, 41. Elizabeth Kroll 22:23, 49. Madelyn Kist 23:44, 60. Aubrey Vogle 25:34

Junior varsity: 40. Cydney McGree-Schmidt-bauer 32:30

Boys results

Perham 19, Hawley 69, Park Rapids 80, Breckenridge 155, Dilworth-Glyndon-Felton 155, Staples-Motley 180, Frazee 195, Pelican Rapids 207, Lakre Park-Audubon 215, Barnesville 225

23. Andrew Dobson 18:18, 24. Garrett Bjerga 18:22, 40. Gabriel Kroll 19:22, 44. Reed Leach 19:46, 49. Jackson Odden 20:14, 50. Alex Leach 20:15

Junior varsity: 34. Seth Cossentine 20:37

Jr. High: 21. Brayden Moore 14:17, 24. Kai Bestland 15:56



Aubrey Vogle

State tennis matchups set

Ronnie Noska will play in the state tennis tournament starting Thursday, Oct. 23, at the Reed-Sweatt Tennis Center in Minneapolis. Her first match is at 8 a.m. against Emma Siert of Lake City. The winner of that match will play at noon against either the third seeded Nellie Larson of St. Paul Academy or Addison Fahey of LeSueur-Henderson.

Noska finished the season with a 23-4 record and was ranked 10th in the state. Six of the top ten are also in the 16-person singles tournament.



‘Small but mighty’ CLC clay target team climbs to top of division

The Central Lakes College clay target team is proving that talent and teamwork matter more than numbers. Despite having one of the smallest rosters in their division, the Raiders have an incredible seven shooters ranked in the top 25 across the entire league — out of roughly 260 competitors statewide.

“That’s an amazing accomplishment,” said Head Coach Robb Kolodziej. “When you look at the level of competition in this league, having seven shooters in the top 25 is something really special.”

Even more impressive, three CLC athletes — Benjermin Hagenson, Joseph Kreuser and Jacob Williams — are currently tied for second place overall in the league standings. Their consistency and precision have helped lead the Raiders to the top of their division through the first three

weeks of competition.

CLC currently holds a slim lead in their division over Alexandria, with North Dakota State College of Science close behind. As the season enters its final two weeks, the team is preparing to shoot their best to maintain that edge before heading to the state shoot later this fall.

What makes this performance even more remarkable is the team’s size. While NDSCS has 47 shooters and Alexandria 31, CLC has just 19 — meaning every shot counts. League scoring is based on each team’s top 13 shooters, similar to how cross-country team scoring works, giving larger teams an inherent advantage. But CLC’s “small but mighty” squad has risen above those odds.

Within the division, CLC athletes continue to dominate the leaderboard, holding the top six men’s spots

and leading among female shooters as well, including first, fourth, and fifth place rankings.

The season will wrap up with the state shoot hosted by Alexandria, where each team’s top five shooters’ scores will determine the final results. It’s shaping up to be a thrilling finish — and CLC is ready to prove once again that big things come from small teams.

The CLC Clay Target team uses Lakes Area Shooting Sports and Staples Sportsmen’s Club as home ranges, practicing and competing on weekday nights.

Raiders men in the top 10 are Benjermin Hagenson (1), Joseph Kreuser (2), Jacob Williams (3), Caden Sale (4), Lance Klersy (5) and Terran Bursch (6); Della Koep is in the top 25.

Raiders in the top 10 women shooters are Della Koep (1) Allie Tryggeseth (4), and Autumn Schiller (5).



Autumn Schiller of Brainerd shoots as Coach Mark Robideaux, and Terran Bursch look on. (Photo by Jeff Collins)



Shooting straight

Terran Bursch of Brainerd shoots. (Photo by Jeff Collins)



Della Koep from Parkers Prairie aims as Allie Tryggeseth of Pillager waits to reload.

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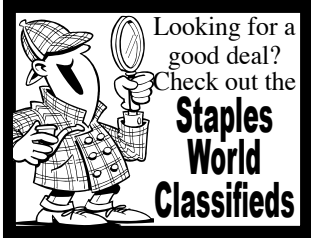
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and advertising: 12 noon Fridays

TCC continued from page 9a

VENDOR NAME	\$ AMOUNT
#17598	\$4,836.00
BUNDY/BETH	2,520.00
DHS - MSOP - MN SEX	
OFFENDER PROG - 462	6,038.80
#17950	2,076.13
LUTHERAN SOCIAL SERVICE	
OF MN - ST PAUL	3,844.62
NORTH HOMES CHILDREN	
& FAMILY SRVS	38,077.90
#15442	2,485.32
#16359	2,242.54
VALLEY LAKE BOYS	
HOME INC	30,504.00
35 PAYMENTS LESS	
THAN \$2,000	25,787.78
Total:	\$118,413.09

On a motion by Becker and second by Neumann, the preceding minutes of the County Board meeting held September 16, 2025 were duly approved by unanimous vote at the Todd County Board of Commissioners at the Regular Board Meeting held on October 7, 2025.

Witness my hand and seal:
/s/ on file: Bob Byers,
County Board Chairperson
/s/ on file: Denise Gaida,
Todd County Auditor-Treasurer
44pnc

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SERVICE DIRECTORY

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PLUMBING & HEATING
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218-894-2284
WWW.CALLGIZA.COM

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Cell 218-838-0581 Home Office 218-894-0151
RESIDENTIAL AND LIGHT COMMERCIAL ELECTRICAL INSTALLATIONS

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218-575-2222
•Septic System Installation
•Camera Inspection, Tank Pumping and Cleaning
MN State Certified
6685 330th St., Cushing, MN. 56443

H&R
Electrical Services for
•Residential
•Commercial
•Industrial
218-296-2461
Mike Rollins 218-296-2461
hrelectrcofstaples@yahoo.com
Licensed, Bonded & Insured • Over 30 years experience

Ultimate Septic Service LLC
David Odden - Owner/Operator
Services:
•Septic Pumping •Jetting
•Emergencies
Call **USS** for all your septic pumping needs!
218-296-1137
ultimatesepticservice@gmail.com

PAUL DRAKE TREE SERVICE
•General •Lot Clearing
•Storm Damage Clean Up
•Stump Grinding •Brushing
•55 ft. Bucket Truck
218-894-2871

LPS Inc.
Long Prairie Sanitation
Long Prairie, MN
218-631-3101 888-878-5578

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PROFESSIONAL

*SERVICE DIRECTORY*SERVICE DIRECTORY*SERVICE DIRECTORY*SERVICE DIRECTORY*SERVICE DIRECTORY**SERVICE DIRECTORY*SERVICE DIRECTION

Sellnow Law Office, P.A.
Thomas H. Sellnow*
sellnowt@sellnowlaw.com
Jason R. Sellnow
sellnowj@sellnowlaw.com
218-894-4618 • 133 4th St. NE, Staples
229 Central Ave., Long Prairie
320-732-1919 • Toll free: 877-297-1125
*Thomas Sellnow is a Real Property Law Specialist certified by Real Property Section of Minnesota State Bar Association.
• Probate and Trusts
• Estate Planning • Family Law
• Real Estate • Business Law
• Title Insurance • Elder Law
• Personal Injury • Auto Accidents
www.sellnowlaw.com

CONSTRUCTION

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Phil Bjerga
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Septics • Waterlines • Trenching • Basements • Retaining Walls
Landscaping & Site Preparation • Backhoe & Skid Loader Work
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Equipment, Buildings, Driveways, etc. • Snow Plowing & Removal

IDEAL CONSTRUCTION LLC
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Staples, MN 56479
218-894-3105
Asphalt Paving • Granite Products • Excavating • Driveways
Roads • Parking Lots • Site Prep • Gravel • Rock • Black Dirt
Fill • Peat • Ponds • Demolition • Hauling • Landscaping
Recycled Concrete and Asphalt

Statema Backhoe Service, LLC
MPCA CERTIFIED SEPTIC SYSTEMS
•FREE ESTIMATE FROM DESIGN TO INSTALLATION
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Site Prep • Basements • Waterlines • Driveways • Landscaping • Black Dirt • Gravel • Construction & Abandonment of Manure Pits • Fill Dirt
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NOTICE
LAKE SHORE
AERATION WARNING
LAKE SHAMINEAU

Open water along the shore with thin ice around the edge on the South shores of Lake Shamineau starting November 2025 and early months of 2026. For inquiries contact 320-309-3783.

43-45pnc

NOTICE
LAKE SHORE
AERATION WARNING
LAKE SHAMINEAU

Open water along the shore with thin ice around the edge on the West shores of Lake Shamineau. Starting November 2025 and early months of 2026. For inquiries call 218-821-1470.

44-45pnp

TODD COUNTY
PLANNING
COMMISSION
215 First Ave. South
Suite 103
Long Prairie,
Minnesota 56347
320-732-4420
toddplan.zone@co.todd.mn.us

PUBLIC NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that the Todd County Planning Commission will hold a public hearing on **Thursday, November 6, 2025 at 6:00 p.m.** in the Commissioners meeting room, Historic Courthouse, 215 First Ave. South, Long Prairie, MN to consider the follow-

ing applications.

NOTE: This meeting is again being held in-person and the public is encouraged to attend, and 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? Phone 320-732-4420 or Email toddplan.zone@co.todd.mn.usAgenda

- Call to Order
- Pledge of Allegiance
- Introduction of Planning Committee Members and process review
- Approval of agenda
- Approval of October 2, 2025 Planning Commission meeting minutes
- The applicant is introduced
- Staff report
- Applicant confirms if staff report accurately represents the request
- Correspondence
- Site Visit Review
- Public Comment
- Board review with applicant, staff, and public

1. Donniel Robinson: Section 28, Moran Township

Site Address: 40324 County Rd., 21, Browerville, MN 56438

PID: 19-0029102.

1. Request to build a 60’ x 120’ building to grow Cannabis indoors as a licensed microbusiness, according to Statue, in AF-2 Zoning District.

2. Off Grid Recovery Community Inc.: Section 18, Bartlett Township
Site Address: 48650 County 23, Verndale, MN 56481

PID: 01-0018200

1. Request a CUP to grow up to 5,000 sq. ft. of cannabis in a secured area, to host onsite cannabis events, and operate an onsite thrift store all located in AF-1 Zoning District.

3. Sexton Family Cabin, LLC.: Section 25, Birchdale Township, Big Birch Lake

Site Address: Angus Trail, Grey Eagle, 56336

PID: 03-0059500, 03-0060200 and 03-0060500

1. Request to Create Sexton BBL Legacy, a 2.92-acre, one lot Plat by combining lots in Recreational Development Shoreland Zoning District.

Adjournment.

**Next meeting:
December 4, 2025**

All persons interested are invited to attend said hearing or submit a letter to be heard on these matters. All correspondence must include name, mailing address and be received 48 hours before the date and time of the hearing.

Todd County Board of Adjustment
Jim Pratt, Chair

44pnc

MINUTES OF THE
SPECIAL BOARD
MEETING OF THE TODD
COUNTY BOARD OF
COMMISSIONERS HELD
SEPT. 16, 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 16th day of September, 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.

Call to Order

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

Consent Agenda

On motion by Becker and seconded by Denny, the following motions were introduced and adopted by unanimous vote:

To approve the Todd County Board of Commissioner’s Meeting Minutes for August 28 and September 2, 2025 as presented.

Accept the resignation of Intern Nathan Benning effective 7/30/2025.

Accept the resignation of Deputy Camden Terwey effective 8/28/2025.

Hire Chad Lenk for the FT Deputy position start date 9/21/2025 at a rate of pay of \$28.48 Grade 10 Step 1.

To approve a one day Dance License for Saukinac Campground at the address of 21914 Bay Loop, Sauk Centre, MN in Kandota Township effective September 27th, 2025.

Auditor-Treasurer

On motion by Neumann and seconded by Noska, the following motion was introduced and adopted by unanimous Roll Call vote: To approve the Commissioner Warrants number (ACH) 404065 through 404096 in the amount of \$17,369.04 and (Regular) 59202 through 59232 in

the amount of \$106,380.79 for a total of \$123,749.83.

On motion by Noska and seconded by Denny, the following motion was introduced and adopted by unanimous Roll Call vote: To approve the Health & Human Services Commissioner Warrants number (ACH) 806823 through 806874 and (Regular) 713375 through 713417 for a total of \$101,811.91

On motion by Denny and seconded by Becker, the following motion was introduced and adopted by unanimous Roll Call vote: To approve the Health & Human Services SSIS Warrants number (ACH) 601791 through 601809 and (Regular) 518600 through 518624 for a total amount of \$118,418.09.

Long Prairie Hockey Association

On motion by Noska and seconded by Denny, the following motion was introduced and adopted by unanimous vote: To reaffirm the LPHA Lease Agreement with the presented terms and conditions.

MIS

On motion by Denny and seconded by Noska, the following motion was introduced and adopted by unanimous vote: To approve hiring Deb Warner for the MIS Specialist position starting at grade H, step D at \$32.28 starting 09/17/2025.

County Sheriff

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

A RESOLUTION ESTABLISHING SUPPORT FOR THE TODD COUNTY SHERIFF’S OFFICE TO SEEK FUNDING FROM SOURCEWELL FOR IMPACT FUNDING
WHEREAS, Sourcewell is providing Impact Funding for Public Safety; and

WHEREAS, the Todd County Sheriff’s Office is in need of new portable radios, in the interest of public safety.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Todd County Board of Commissioners approves the Sourcewell Impact Fund Application submitted by the Todd County Sheriff’s Office; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that Todd County Board of Commissioners fully supports the Todd County Sheriff’s Office in submitting a Impact Funding application to Sourcewell to request financial support in the amount of \$50,000 for portable radios from Motorola.

On motion by Becker and seconded by Neumann, the following motion was introduced and adopted by unanimous vote: Approve the purchase of the Flock Safety LPR camera system includes 4 mounted cameras for the price of \$12,000.

On motion by Denny and seconded by Noska, the following motion was introduced and adopted by unanimous vote: Approve the purchase of 5 radars from Stalker for the price of \$12,884.50 paid for by our Forfeiture Fund.

Solid Waste

On motion by Denny and seconded by Neumann, the following motion was introduced and adopted by unanimous vote: To award the bid for the west drainage improvement to Diversified Foundation for \$20,607.00.

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

A RESOLUTION ESTABLISHING MARKET PRICE FOR THE SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT TAX

WHEREAS, the solid waste management tax requires political subdivisions to identify by resolution a market price if the political subdivision: and subsidizes the cost of service at a facility; and;

WHEREAS, the political subdivision will be liable for the solid waste management tax based only on the market price amount identified through this resolution; and;

WHEREAS, the market price is identified in the state statutes as the “lowest price available in the area” and;

WHEREAS, Todd County has performed research to identify the lowest price available in the area;

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, the County of Todd declares a market price of \$82.00 per ton at the Morrison County Land-fill.

On motion by Noska and seconded by Becker, the following motion was introduced and adopted by unanimous vote: Award the bid to MN Tarp and Liner for tarp system in the amount of \$8,000.00.

Planning & Zoning

On motion by Noska and seconded by Denny, the following motion was introduced and adopted by unanimous vote: Adopt the findings of the Planning Commission and approve the preliminary plat of Brown Bear North Preliminary Plat with no conditions.

On motion by Denny and seconded by Noska, the following motion was introduced and adopted by unanimous vote: To adopt the findings of the Planning Commission and grant the CUP for parcel 13-0032601 to establish a sawmill operation with the conditions below.

1. Hours of operation shall be restricted to 7:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. CST, Monday through Saturday.

2. Operation of the sawmill shall be conducted within a permitted structure.

3. Outdoor storage of products shall be allowed but shall be conducted in compliance with Section 9.01B of the Todd County Planning and Zoning Ordinance.

4. There shall be no loading or unloading of materials within the road right of way.

5. The engine powering the sawmill shall include the use of a muffler.

6. Applicant shall abide by all other applicable federal, state, and local standards.

Health & Human Services

On motion by Becker and seconded by Denny, the following motion was introduced and adopted by unanimous vote: To approve the amendment of BAF 20250902-05 to the correct resignation date of 8/28/2025.

Administration

On motion by Noska and seconded by Denny, the following

motion was introduced and adopted by unanimous vote: To authorize the adoption of the LELS-Records Coordinators/Administrative Specialists Collective Bargaining Agreement for 2025-2027.

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

A RESOLUTION ESTABLISHING SUPPORT FOR SEEKING FUNDING FROM SOURCEWELL FOR COMMUNITY IMPACT GRANT FUNDS

WHEREAS, Sourcewell is providing Community Impact Grant Funds for Cities and Counties in Region Five; and;

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that Todd County Board of Commissioners approves the Sourcewell Community Impact Grant Funding application submitted by Todd County Administration; and;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That Todd County Board of Commissioners fully supports Todd County Administration in submitting a Community Impact Grant Funding application to Sourcewell to request financial support for in the amount of \$50,000.00 for county projects.

On motion by Neumann and seconded by Noska, the following resolution was introduced and adopted by unanimous vote:

A RESOLUTION ESTABLISHING SUPPORT FOR SEEKING FUNDING FROM SOURCEWELL FOR COMMUNITY MATCH FUNDING

WHEREAS, Sourcewell is providing Community Match Funds for Cities and Counties in Region Five; and;

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that Todd County Board of Commissioners approves the Sourcewell Community Match Funding application submitted by Todd County Administration; and;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That Todd County Board of Commissioners fully supports Todd County Administration in submitting a Community Match Funding application to Sourcewell to request financial support for in the amount of \$40,000.00 for county projects.

On motion by Noska and seconded by Becker, the following motion was introduced and adopted by unanimous vote: Approve requested compensation bank pay-out for Employee #951.

On motion by Denny and seconded by Becker, the following motion was introduced and adopted by unanimous vote: Approve the MOAs regarding Paid Family and Medical Leave (PFML) for the corresponding bargaining agreements.

On motion by Neumann and seconded by Noska, the following motion was introduced and adopted by unanimous vote: Approve MetLife as the PFML vendor with a two-year rate guarantee (2026 and 2027).

County Auditor-Treasurer's Report

The County Auditor-Treasurer reported that the absentee voting will be opening on September 19th for the Upsala and Wadena Deer Creek special school elections this November. Attended several committee meetings and conference events.

County Coordinator's Report

The County Coordinator reported attending Policy, Paycom, Sourcewell grant, Expo walkthrough, interviews, personnel, dept head, AMC Conference and mental health town hall meetings.

County Commissioner's Report

The Commissioners reported on meetings and events attended.

Commissioner Becker attended the TWCC meeting that included discussion of a potential merger with OtterTail, and the AMC Conference.

Commissioner Denny has attended regular meetings and prep work for cannabis meetings.

Commissioner Noska has attended regular meetings, promoted the TCDC Director job opening, TWCC potential merger with OtterTail discussion, and the Fair board set the 2026 dates.

Commissioner Byers attended regular meetings including the AMC Conference and completion of the paving of the new courthouse parking lot location.

Commissioner Neumann attended the CMCOA, AMC Conference with highlights of support to the HHS software necessary upgrades, VRBO commercial classification tracking, and potential data center construction and impacts to the region/state, Millers Bay work group discussion and upcoming topic regarding firearm regulation changes.

Adjourn

On motion by Noska and seconded by Denny, the meeting was adjourned for the month of September 2025.

COMMISSIONERS WARRANTS

VENDOR NAME	\$ AMOUNT
A.W. RESEARCH	
LABORATORIES, INC. ...	\$3,995.00
ARC ELECTRIC SERVICE ...	6,600.13
FARM-RITE EQUIPMENT,	
INC	6,758.12
FRIEDRICH'S TIRE &	
OIL CO INC	4,058.40
KRIS ENGINEERING INC .	45,561.29
LONG PRAIRIE OIL CO	25,172.99
TODD SOIL & WATER	
CONS DIST	7,191.89
56 PAYMENTS LESS	
THAN \$2,000	24,412.01
Total:	\$123,749.83

HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES

VENDOR NAME	\$ AMOUNT
V#17992 - Cost Eff	
Health Ins.	\$4,101.65
V#16675 - Cost Eff	
Health Ins.	4,346.28
DHS - SWIFT	23,109.22
FRESHWATER EDUCATION	
DISTRICT #6004	23,429.00
INNOVATIVE OFFICE	
SOLUTIONS, LLC	2,270.50
79 PAYMENTS LESS	
THAN \$2,000	42,561.82
11 PAYMENTS LESS	
THAN \$2,000	1,993.44
Total:	\$101,811.91

See **TCC** on page 8a

WADENA COUNTY OWNED ON-LINE LAND SALE				
SEPTEMBER 24, 2025 - OCTOBER 24, 2025				
https://www.publicsurplus.com/sms/wadenacore.mn/list/current?orgid=1062975				
ADDITIONAL FEES AND TERMS OF THE SALE ARE AS FOLLOWS				
Recording Fee: \$46.00STATE DEED TAX: .33% OF PURCHASE PRICE ** ADMINISTRATION FEE: \$ 100.00**PUBLIC SURPLUS FEE: TBD				
SPECIAL ASSESSMENT DISCLAIMER				
IT IS THE BUYERS RESPONSIBILITY TO CONTACT THE MUNICIPALITY WHERE THE PROPERTY IS LOCATED TO SEE IF THERE ARE ANY OUTSTANDING SPECIAL ASSESSMENTS THAT MAYBE "REASSESSED" TO THE PROPERTY AFTER IT IS PURCHASED				
LAND LOCKED PARCELS				
IT IS THE BUYERS RESPONSIBILITY TO CONTACT THE ADJACENT LAND OWNER AND/OR PETITION THE TOWNSHIP IN WHICH THE PROPERTY IS LOCATED TO ESTABLISH AN EASEMENT FOR ACCESS				
**For More Information Please Contact Missy Lund @ 218-631-7785 or missy.lund@wcmn.us				
ITEM #	TOWNSHIP/CITY	DESCRIPTION	PROPERTY ADDRESS	MINIMUM BID
LEAF RIVER TWP				
#1	05.008.4010 & 05.009.3040	SECT-08 TWP-135 RANG-35 20.00 AC - PT SE1/4 SE1/4 TRACT A' 100-1 BEG AT SE COR OF SAID SEC 8; THN WSTLY ALG TH S LI OF SD SEC 8 627'; THN IN A NTHLY DIRECTION PARALLEL WITH THE E LINE OF SAID SEC 8 FOR A DIST OF 1287'; THN ESTLY PARALLEL WITH THE S LI OF SEC 8 TO THE E LI THEREOF; THN IN A STHLY DIRECTION ALONG THE EAST LI OF SAID SEC 8 TO THE POB; EXC PT CONVEYED TO CNTY FOR RD **AND** SECT-09 TWP-135 RANG-35 36.00 AC - 36 A OF SW1/4 SW1/4 EXC BEG AT THE SE COR OF SAID SW1/4 SW1/4; TH WTLY ALNG THE S LI OF SW1/4 SW1/4 200'; THN NTHLY PARALLEL WI E LI OF SAID 40 TO A POINT 165'S & 20'W FROM THE NE COR OF SAID SW1/4 SW1/4; THN WSTLY PARALLEL WI THE N LI OF SAID 40 180'; THN NTHLY PARALLEL WITH THE E LI OF SAID 40 TO THE N LI OF SAID SW1/4 SW1/4; THN ESTLY ALNG THE N LI OF SAID 40 TO THE NE COR THEREOF; THN STHLY ALNG THE E LI OF SAID SW1/4 SW1/4 TO POB	12214 200TH STREET - WADENA **THESE 2 PARCELS ARE SOLD - TOGETHER**	\$250,000.00
#2	05.016.2035	SECT-16 TWP-135 RANG-35 2.30 AC - THAT PT OF N1/2 NW1/4 DESC AS FOLLOWS: BEG AT A PT ON THE N LI OF SAID SEC 16 SAID PT BEING 1167' ESTLY FRM THE NW CORNER OF SAID SEC 16; THN IN A STHLY DIR PARALLEL WITH THE W LI OF SEC 16 400'; THN IN AN ESTLY DIR PARALLEL WITH THE N LI OF SEC 16 250'; THN IN A NTHLY DIR PARALLEL WITH THE W LI OF SEC 16 400' TO THE N LI OF SAID SEC 16; THN IN A WSTLY DIR ALNG THE N LI OF SAID SEC 16 TO POB		\$4,000.00
RED EYE TWP				
#3	10.019.1020	SECT-19 TWP-137 RANG-35 10.00 AC - E1/4 OF NE1/4 NE1/4		\$7,500.00
WADENA CITY				
#4	22.006.1050	SECT-06 TWP-134 RANG-35 5.43 AC - THAT PT OF THE SW1/4 NE1/4 LYING NTHLY OF A LI DESC AS FOLLOWS: COMM AT THE NW CORNER OF SW1/4 NE1/4; THN S 00' 29'29"W ON AN ASSUMED BEARING ALNG THE W LI OF SW1/4 NE1/4 9.37' TO POB OF SAID LI; THN S 89' 28'35"E 51.60'; THN SESTLY ON A TANGENTIAL CURVE CONCAVE TO THE SW HAVING A RADIUS OF 1500' & A CENTRAL ANGLE OF 27' 10'07" FOR AN ARC DIST OF 711.27'; THN S 62' 18'28"E 656.08' TO THE E LI OF SW1/4 NE1/4 & SAID LI THERE TERMINATING *SUBJ TO EASEMENT		\$25,000.00

11-14-2025

WADENA COUNTY TAX FORFEITED ON-LINE LAND SALE				
SEPTEMBER 24, 2025 - OCTOBER 24, 2025				
https://www.publicsurplus.com/sms/wadenacore.mn/list/current?orgid=1062975				
ADDITIONAL FEES AND TERMS OF THE SALE ARE AS FOLLOWS				
ASSURANCE FEE: 3% OF PURCHASE PRICE (as per Minnesota Statute 284.28, Subd. 8) **STATE DEED FEE: \$ 25.00 **RECORDING FEE: \$ 46.00				
STATE DEED TAX: .33% OF PURCHASE PRICE ** ADMINISTRATION FEE: \$ 100.00PUBLIC SURPLUS FEE: TBD				
SPECIAL ASSESSMENT DISCLAIMER				
IT IS THE BUYERS RESPONSIBILITY TO CONTACT THE MUNICIPALITY WHERE THE PROPERTY IS LOCATED TO SEE IF THERE ARE ANY OUTSTANDING SPECIAL ASSESSMENTS THAT MAYBE "REASSESSED" TO THE PROPERTY AFTER IT IS PURCHASED				
LAND LOCKED PARCELS				
IT IS THE BUYERS RESPONSIBILITY TO CONTACT THE ADJACENT LAND OWNER AND/OR PETITION THE TOWNSHIP IN WHICH THE PROPERTY IS LOCATED TO ESTABLISH AN EASEMENT FOR ACCESS				
**For More Information Please Contact Missy Lund @ 218-631-7785 or missy.lund@wcmn.us				
ITEM #	TOWNSHIP/CITY	DESCRIPTION	PROPERTY ADDRESS	MINIMUM BID
MEADOW TWP				
#1	07.032.3030	SECT-32 TWP-137 RANG-34 8.21 AC - SW1/4 SW1/4 SW1/4 *EXC E 118'	16952 280th ST Sebeka	\$40,000.00
ORTON TWP				
#2	09.014.1040	SECT-14 TWP-137 RANG-33 40 AC - SW1/4 NE1/4 **LAND LOCKED**		\$56,000.00
THOMASTOWN TWP				
#3	13.001.2020	SECT-01 TWP-134 RANG-33 LOT 5 **LAND LOCKED**		\$10,000.00
#4	13.001.2025	SECT-01 TWP-134 RANG-33 LOT 8**LAND LOCKED**		\$4,000.00
#5	13.127.3010	SECT-27 TWP-135 RANG-33 .20 AC - LOT 2 **LAND LOCKED**		\$2,000.00
#6	13.380.0010	SECT-12 TWP-134 RANG-33 SCENIC SIMON LAKE LT 1 BLK 1 & OUTLOT A	14411 273rd Ave Staples	\$75,000.00
MENAHA CITY				
#7	17.300.0460	ORIGINAL TOWNSITE - W 30'OF LOTS 11 & 12 BLK 2		\$500.00
SEBEKA CITY				
#8	19.370.0640	SLOVER & ANDERSON'S ADDITION - N 150'OF LOT "H"	10 Slover Ave N Sebeka	\$45,000.00
#9	19.134.4030	SECT-34 TWP-137 RANG-35 .15 AC - PT SW1/4 SE1/4; COM AT PT ON N LI OF MN 169' E OF ROW GNRY;THN N PARA WITH ROW 150';W AT R/ANG 46'; TH S PARA WI R/W 150';THN E 46TO POB	208 Minnesota Ave E Sebeka	\$24,000.00
#10	19.370.0090	SLOVER & ANDERSON'S ADDITION - LOT 9 BLK 1	212 1st ST NE Sebeka	\$76,400.00
WADENA CITY				
#12	22.530.0080	SUNNY VIEW LOT 8	1028 2nd ST SE - Wadena	\$16,300.00

