

Inside this issue:

Carlile family revisits history Motley tragedy
Seventeen rules for a sustainable community
Volleyball team wins close match
First cross country race at home



Wednesday, September 9, 2026

Staples, Minnesota

\$1²⁵

StaplesWorld

‘America 250’ train in Staples

A Staples resident caught a photo of the 2026 ‘America 250 BNSF Freedom Train’ as it made its way through Staples from the west Aug. 18. The specially painted (red, white and blue) commemorative locomotive celebrates America’s 250th birthday. With Railroad Days kicking off that week, it was perfect timing for this special train to make an appearance.

Payne services coming to Staples, Motley

The family of Duane Payne will host a visitation in Staples on Thursday, Sept. 10, from 10-12 a.m., at Brenny Family Funeral Chapel in Staples.

Duane Payne, a family man living in Motley, died in 1944 during World War II after a battle in Germany. His remains were recently identified and he is being returned to Minnesota for his final resting place. His story and his family’s search for what happened to him were featured in the July 29 Staples World newspaper.

On Friday, Sept. 11, the family will gather at the Brenny Funeral Chapel at 12:30 for a procession to the Motley Veterans Park. They will hold a brief wreath-laying ceremony at the park. They will then continue on the the Camp Ripley Military Cemetery for a funeral interment at 2 p.m.

See obituary, page 6a.



Duane Payne in 1944

Housing, industry or retail, the chicken or the egg for development?

By Mark Anderson
Publisher

The Staples Economic Development Authority (SEDA) had disagreements of whether to focus on housing, industry or retail as they look to hire a new economic development director.

Board member Lisa Bjerga, the Lakewood Health System CEO, said that housing will be a top priority for the board in 2027. She noted that Wadena County has hired an agency to conduct a county-wide housing study and they have agreed to include all of Staples, not just the portion in Wadena County.

Bjerga said Lakewood is hiring people all the time and one of the toughest parts of hiring is finding a place to live locally.

Todd County Development Corporation Director Leah Wolkow was at the meeting and said that Todd County is also in the process of doing a county-wide housing study. She said two companies are the finalists to do the study. One of them is the same company that Wadena County has hired to do their study. Wolkow said that could be helpful if they choose the same one.

Board member Doug Case said he would like the focus to be on bringing in more manufacturing jobs, pointing out that used to be one of the top industries in Staples.

“For years, this town was centered on manufacturing, it brought good paying union jobs,” said Case. “We’ve been building houses for 11 years and not much manufacturing has come here. Housing is great, but that isn’t making a huge statement for the town.”

Case noted that the Voyager manufacturing came to Staples a few weeks ago to replace a company that departed. Also the Farmers Union meat processing plant opened earlier in the month.

Board member Shane Tappe, the Staples-Motley School Superintendent, noted that housing and business work together.

“Is it the chicken or the egg?” asked Tappe. “What we need is a strong vision and strategic leadership. We need an incentive to bring in manufacturing.”

Board member Blake Gerard said there should also be a focus on retail and downtown businesses.

“Whoever owns a large manufacturing company probably doesn’t live in this town,” said Gerard. “I’d rather see 100 retail shops open downtown, they would live in this community.”

“Retail is what this town does not have,” said Gerard. “That downtown atmosphere doesn’t exist.”

He noted that businesses need to work together to build up that type of a hub.

“We should connect our business owners together, they need to get to know each other and do their own networking,” said Gerard.

Tappe had a similar idea about the economic development director position.

“I would rather see the person building relationships and trust with the people we have now, the person has to be out and about.”

The board did not come to a definitive conclusion of focusing more on one aspect or the other, but felt the discussion would help form questions to ask when they interview for SEDA

director position.

Case also questioned whether the city needs a full time economic development director. He said he isn’t aware of any other city of 3,000 people who have a single full time economic development position.

Board member Steve Gertken said the last few directors at Staples were successful at grant writing, which brought in more money to the city than they pay to the director.

Mayor Ron Murray pointed out that the city is currently using a quarter million dollar grant to fix up the Staples Community Center. The Small Cities Development grant is another quarter million to fix up homes and businesses. Both grants were the result of the SEDA position.

One other issue that came up was was, ironically, housing for the economic development director.

Gerard said he wants to make sure that any new economic development director is a part of the community, and making sure they will live in the city would be a way to do that.

“In an interview, it’s hard to gauge their investment level in our community,” said Gerard. “Are they going to do all those things to be a part of the community?”

Case agreed, remembering that as a police officer living in Staples, he was able to learn a lot when he was off duty.

As a governmental agency, the city is not able to require residency or ask about it during a job interview, but the board thought there could be some clues about how much they want to become involved in the community.

“You want to hear them say those words,” said Gerard.

Crampton brings Peace Corps spirit to Washington, D.C.

By Mark Anderson
Publisher

Mark Crampton has taken his Peace Corps experience to the activist level. He was one of 150 Peace Corps volunteers who connected with national leaders at the Peace Corps Connect Conference in Washington, D.C. July 18-19.

As part of the Minnesota contingent, Crampton’s group met with people from all eight of the state’s national representatives and one of the two senators.

“It was very positive, there was no pushback at all, they were all in favor of the Peace Corps,” said Crampton.

The main message of the volunteers was that the Peace Corps is wanted and needed around the world, and the organization is ready to step up to pre-covid levels again.

During the pandemic in 2020, the Peace Corps brought all 8,000 of their personnel back home and didn’t start up again until a year later. That cut down on



Meeting at the U.S. Capitol

Mark Crampton is among the 150 Peace Corps volunteers at the U.S. Capitol building. (Submitted photo)

the number of volunteers and programs.

There are now many more countries who have requested Peace Corps volunteers but the funding has been cut.

“They are trying to get back to where they were,” said Crampton.

The cuts have hit every aspect of the organization. Minnesota no longer has a Peace Corps recruiter, relying on online recruiting.

Crampton remembers how he was recruited for his Peace Corps stint in 1973, when he ended up in Benin, Africa. He found a postcard on a message board while attending Moorhead State University.

“I mailed it in and that’s how I joined,” said Crampton, “the post card said ‘the greatest job you’ll ever have,’ and that was true for pretty much all of us who went through it.”

Back in those days, Minnesota had a very strong

See **CRAMPTON** on page **10A**

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Weather

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2026

This Week's Forecast

	High	Low	Cond.
Sept. 9	73	54	Sunny
Sept. 10	72	53	M. Sunny
Sept. 11	77	54	M. Cloudy
Sept. 12	71	51	Showers
Sept. 13	70	50	Cloudy
Sept. 14	72	48	M. Cloudy
Sept. 15	71	49	Sunny

Last Year, 2025

	High	Low	Cond.
Sept. 9	74°	57	Sunny
Sept. 10	67	51	M. Cloudy
Sept. 11	72	52	P. Sunny
Sept. 12	70	60	M. Sunny
Sept. 13	75	59	M. Sunny
Sept. 14	82	63	Cloudy
Sept. 15	81	66	Sunny

Average Temps:

H = 70 ° Low = 50°

Compiled by

Dale Hausmann,

WCCO's Staples area

Weatherwatcher

Public Notices

ISD #2170 9A

Wadena County 9A

Todd Commiss. 9A

Obituaries

Beverly Anderson

Duane Payne

Jerome Nichols

Carlile family travels cross country to visit ancestors’ special grave marker in Motley

By Dawn Timbs
Staples World reporter

It was the first time members of the Carlile family had seen the grave marker for their ancestors who’d died tragically in 1912, the result of a house fire in Motley.

The caravan of Carliles arrived in Motley Aug. 15, having traveled from the west coast to pay their respects for the five girls they’d never had the opportunity to meet...Muriel Mettie, Millie Ettie, Pansy May, Ida Belle and Bessie Marvel, sisters who ranged in age from three to 14 when they were laid to rest at Motley Public Cemetery in January of 1912.

Thanks to the efforts of the Motley Area Historical Society and generous donations, a marker with all of the girls’ correct names and birth dates engraved on it was erected in 2013. On the base of the marker, The Carlile Children’s Story has been engraved. It reads, *“The five girls who are buried here burned to their death in their home on Jan. 8, 1912 when a fire broke out as they slept. Their father, Irvin Carlile, barely survived the severe injuries he incurred in a valiant effort to save the girls. It was the worst catastrophe in Motley’s history.”*

But for over a century, all there had been to remember the girls was a gravestone that bore the name, ‘Carlile

Children.’

Local newspapers including the Motley Mercury, Staples World and the Brainerd Dispatch documented the dramatic 1912 story of the fire and the father’s attempts to rescue his daughters. Their accounts were similar, all noting that both parents and one of the oldest children - a twin girl- survived, but unfortunately, the names of the girls were listed differently in each article and no birth dates were given.

The Motley Area Historical Society (MAHS) was very interested in this story and, over a century after it happened, began to search for the correct data.

In a 2013 Staples World article, MAHS member Linda Townsend shared that “one day a family by the name of Carlile came to the cemetery looking for the above-mentioned gravestone. Subsequently, they made contact with the MAHS.

“Eventually, they lead us to the granddaughter of the father of the girls who lives in Oregon,” Townsend shared. “She has the family Bible, with the burned edges, that has the birth dates and the proper names of the five girls who died in the fire.”

Subsequently, the MAHS made it their mission to purchase the new grave stone with all of the correct information, as well as



Carlile relatives gather

Carlile family relatives gathered recently at Motley Public Cemetery, to visit the gravestone of five sisters - their ancestors who’d died tragically in a house fire in 1912. Pictured, from left, are Kristin

Carlile, San Diego, Calif.; Nancy Carlile, Eugene, Ore.; Steve Carlile, San Diego; Tara Smith, Eugene; John Carlile, Eugene; Greg Townsend, Motley. (Staples World photo by Dawn Timbs)

etchings of five angels - one for each of the Carlile girls.

Gary Carlile, the grandson of Irvin Carlile, had been the one to touch base with the MAHS over a

decade ago during a trip from Oregon. Unfortunately he has since passed on, but his wife, Nancy, and their children were able to make the trip on his behalf

to see the new grave marker and remember the Carlile girls whose lives had ended much too soon.

Having traveled from California and Oregon, the Carliles made their way to the cemetery and found the

special grave stone, situated near the Long Prairie River.

Members of the Motley Area Historical Society were there to greet them, including MAHS President Sherry Frisk and Greg and Linda Townsend. Ironically, Greg Townsend has learned he is a cousin of the Carliles. His grandmother, Maud Carlile, was Irvin’s sister.

The cemetery was peaceful as they gathered to remember and share family stories, far from the tragic scene described in that 1912 Motley Mercury article, with the headline, *“Five Children Meet Death in Flames.”*

John and Steve Carlile, great-nephews of the Carlile girls, and Tara (Carlile) Smith, their great-niece, told how their great-grandfather Irvin survived the fire, eventually making a new start in Oregon with his wife, Jenny and their one surviving daughter Pearl, who was a twin to Muriel, just 13 when she died. Irvin and Jenny had three more sons in Oregon, including James, who was the father of Gary Carlile.

Their father, an Army veteran, would have been happy to see this marker for his ‘angel’ aunts, the west coast Carliles say. He loved his country and he loved his family. As John, Steve and Tara said goodbye to the five girls they believe their dad’s been reunited with, a bald eagle circled above them. Coincidence?



Connecting with the Motley Area Historical Society

Members of the Motley Area Historical Society (MAHS) welcomed the Carlile family who’d traveled from the west coast to see a new grave marker for their relatives buried at Motley Public Cemetery in 1912. The grave marker was erected in 2013, thanks to efforts

of the MAHS and donations. Pictured, from left, MAHS President Sherry Frisk, MAHS members Linda and Greg Townsend; Steve and Kristin Carlile, San Diego, Calif.; Nancy Carlile and John Carlile, Eugene, Ore. (Staples World photo by Dawn Timbs)



Love for their great-aunts

Carlile siblings traveled from the west coast recently to see the grave stone of their five great-aunts who died in 1912, the result of a tragic house fire in Motley. Pictured, from left, Steve Carlile, San Diego, Calif.; John Carlile and Tara (Carlile) Smith, both of Eugene, Ore. (Staples World photo by Dawn Timbs)



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LakewoodHealthSystem.com

Todd Cty. court report

SEPT. 2, 2026
Long Prairie Police
Henry Reinaldo Ratista Reyes, Long Prairie Disorderly Conduct. Unsupervised probation, 1 Yr. Fee \$50
Jose Gregorio Flores Rattia, Long Prairie. Driving without a valid license for vehicle class or type. Fine \$100. Fee \$85.
Megan Elizebeth Pederson, Foley. Speed 39/30. Fine \$40. Fee \$85.
Micheal Ray Curtis Stoudemire, Browerville. Driving without a valid license for vehicle class or type. Fine \$100. Fee \$85.
Robert John Viring, Faribault. Reckless driving. Fine \$100. Sentenced. Fee \$75.

Todd County Sheriff
Arias Alberto Castillo, Long Prairie. Traffic-Drivers License-Driving After Suspension. Fine \$200. Fee \$85.
Jose Antonio Corniel, Browerville. Speed 69/60. Fine \$40. Fee \$85.
Christopher Wayne Gutzko, Burtum. Driving after revocation. Continued. (Unsupervised probation, 6 Mo. Jeffrey Scott Kent, Long Prairie. 3rd Degree Driving While Impaired Dismissed. 4th Degree Driving While Impaired - Blood Alcohol Content Greater Than .08 Within 2 Hours. Sentenced. 90 Days, Stay 86 Days For 2 Yr Credit for time served: 4 Days. Unsupervised probation, 2 Y. Fine \$300 Fee \$400.
Xittlaly Maria Lara-Ruiz, Wheaton. Speed 88/55. Fine \$150. Fee \$235.
Angel Manuel Martinez Rosario, Long Prairie. Driving without a valid license for vehicle class or type. Fine \$100. Fee \$85.
Chet Ryan Porter, Long Prairie. Receiving Stolen Property. Dismissed. 5th Degree - Possess Schedule 1,2,3,4 or paraphernalia residual - Not cannabis/hemp. Continued. Local Confinement 7 Days Credit for time served: 7 Days. Supervised probation, 364 Days. Fine \$50. Fee \$3,560.08

Staples Police
Joseph Arley Hillstad, Wadena. Windshield General Prohibitions - No Cracked or Discolored Windshields. Fine \$40. Fee \$85.
Jordan Matthew Lundquist, Staples. Failure to stop for traffic control signal. Fine \$50. Fee \$85.
MN Dept. of Natural Resources
Kimberly Heera Abeln-schroeder, Elk River. Fish and Game Take fish without angling license. Fine \$100. Fee \$85.
Matthew James Hardt, Merose. Watercraft - Fail to Affix Valid Registration Sticker. Fine \$25. Fee \$85.
David J Hershberger, Bertha. ATV - Prohibitions on Youthful Operators /Passengers Under 18 Helmet Required. Fine \$50. Fee \$85
Shawn Michael Tyler Hoadley, Henning. Fish and Game - Take fish without angling license. Fine \$100. Fee \$85.
Nora Kathleen Peterson, Storm Lake, IA. Fish and Game - Take fish without angling license. Fine \$100. Fee \$85.
Jake Edward Rahn, Burtrum. Fish and Game - Take fish without angling license. Fine \$100. Fee \$85.
Emma Jeanne Tidrick, Elk River. Fish and Game - Take fish without angling license. Fine \$100. Fee \$85.
Edwin Robert Wiegert, Fish and Game - Lend borrow or transfer a license tag or seal. Fine \$200. Fee \$85. Hunting - Deer - Unlawful Party Hunting. Fee \$100. ER Big Game - Tag deer not authorized for bonus permit. Fee \$200.
Paul Tony Wilczek, Little Falls. ATVs-Fail to renew registration. Fine \$50. Fee \$85. Fail to make application for transfer of ownership within 15 days of tr. Fee \$25

MN State Patrol
Kenneth Albert Andres, Bismarck, ND. Speed 80/70. Fine \$40 Fee \$85.
Henry Reinaldo Batista Reyes, Long Prairie. Speed 80/70. Fine \$40. Fee \$85.
Sidney Alexandra Bisek-Seeber, Homestead, FL. Speed 92/70. Fine \$70. Fee \$155.
Brody James Butler, Browerville. Leaking/Unsecure Load. Fine \$60. Fee \$85.
Elizabeth Ann Duberowski, Fridley. Speed 60/55. Fine \$40. Fee \$85.
Benson Elisiasi, Browerville. Speed 78/70. Fine \$60. Fee \$85
John Robert Evan, Alexandria. Hands-Free Law. Fine \$50. Fee \$85.
Zoe Lynn Grundei, Parkers Prairie. Speed 79/70. Fine \$40. Fee \$85.
Gavin Joseph Hauver, Minneapolis. Speed 90/70. Fine \$70. Fee \$155.
Rodrigo Mateo Hernandez, Long Prairie. Driving after revocation. Fine \$200. Fee \$85.
Karl Brian Klammer, Laporte. Hands-Free Law. Fine \$50. Fee \$85.
Logan Virgil Klein, Sauk Centre.

Unsafe Lane Usage on laned highway. Fine \$50. Fee \$85.
Kenneth Howard Koskela, Fargo, ND. Speed 84/70. Fine \$50. Fee \$85.
Ma Kpaw, Saint Paul. Window tint (less than 50% light transmittance. Fine \$50. Fee \$85.
Norma Patricia Leal, Sauk Centre. No mn driver's license. After 60 days residency/30 days cdl. Fine \$100. Fee \$85.
Samuel Joseph Lively, Park Rapids. Speed 65/60. Fine \$40. Fee \$85.
Kristin Kathleen Mulvihill, Saint Paul. Speed 83/70. Fine \$50. Fee \$85.
Jason Eric Ott, Barnesville. Speed 80/70. Fine \$40. Fee \$85.
Ashton Lee Pastian, Osakis. Speed 69/60. Fine \$40. Fee \$85.
Ruth M Penner, Winnipeg, MB. Hands-Free Law. Fine \$50. Fee \$85. Following/close reasonable. Fine \$50.
Ansumana Tarawaly, Fargo, ND. 92/70. Fine \$70. Fee \$155.
Lucas Tyrone Taylor, Alexandria. Speed 88/70. Fine \$60. Fee \$85.
William Neville Trayhham, Bozeman, MT. Speed 86/70. Fine \$60. Fee \$85. Chandler John Vandam, Little Falls. Speed 82/60. Fine \$70. Fee \$155.

The following cases were heard before Sharon Grewell Heidi L. Hovis, Seventh District Court in Todd County August 20, 2026.
Christopher Wayne Gutzko, Burtum. Driving after revocation. Continued. Unsupervised probation, 6 Mo. Brennen Charles Volkmann, Henning. Carry/Possess Pistol w/ out Permit - Public Place. Local Confinement 364 Days, Stay 0 Yr 0 Mo 364 Days For 1 Yr. Unsupervised probation, 1 Yr. Fine \$200. Fee \$275.
The following cases were heard before Sharon Grewell Heidi L. Hovis, Seventh District Court in Todd County August 25, 2026.
Kenneth Lee Hlebain, Saint Joseph. Driving after revocation. Dismissed. - Driver Must Carry Proof of Insurance when Operating Vehicle. 90 Days, Stay 0 Yr 0 Mo 90 Days For 1 Yr. Unsupervised probation, 1 Yr. Sentenced. Fine 200. Fee \$275. Operate Vehicle With Expired Registration. Dismissed.

The following cases were heard before Sharon Grewell Heidi L. Hovis, Seventh District Court in Todd County August 28, 2026.
Elidelka Palacio Jimenez, Long Prairie. - Display or Represent as One's Own Any DL or MN ID Issued to Another. Dismissed. Driving Without a Valid License or Vehicle Class/ Type; Multiple Licenses Prohibited. Fine \$50. Fee \$125.
Robert John Viring, Faribault. Reckless driving. Fine \$100. Sentenced. Fee \$75. Domestic Assault. Dismissed.

The following cases were heard before Sharon Grewell William J. Cashman, Seventh District Court in Todd County August 21, 2026.
Michael Theodore Browen, Little Falls. Domestic Abuse - Violate Order for Protection. Sentenced. Adult(MN Correctional Facility - St. Cloud, 21 Mo, Stay For 5 Yr. Supervised probation, 5 Yr. Fine \$50. Fee \$135. Domestic Abuse - Violate Order for Protection. Dismissed. Domestic Abuse - Violate Order for Protection. MN Correctional Facility - St. Cloud, 24 Mo, Stay For 5 Yr. Sentenced. Supervised probation, 5 Yr. Fine \$50. Fee \$50. Domestic Abuse - Violate Order for Protection. MN Correctional Facility - St. Cloud, 27 Mo, Stay For 5 Yr. Fine \$50.

The following cases were heard before Sharon Grewell Heidi L. Hovis, Seventh District Court in Todd County August 24, 2026.
Patrick Dale Eckel, Clarissa. Driving After Revocation. Continued. Unsupervised probation, 364 Days . Fine \$50. Fee \$50
Jim Irving Rasmussen, Eagle Bend. Traffic - DWI - Operate Motor Vehicle - Alcohol Concentration 0.08 Within 2 Hours. Sentenced. (Supervised probation, 4 Yr. Local Confinement (364 Days, Stay 0 Yr 0 Mo 362 Days For 4 Yr Credit for time served: 2 Days. Fine \$400. Fee \$505. DWI - Fourth-Degree Driving While Impaired. Dismissed. Traffic-Drivers License-Driving After Cancellation. Dismissed.

The following cases were heard before Sharon Grewell Daniel A. Benson, Seventh District Court in Todd County August 20, 2026.
Chet Ryan Porter, Long Prairie. Receiving Stolen Property. Dismissed. 5th Degree - Possess Schedule 1,2,3,4 or paraphernalia residual - Not cannabis/hemp. Continued. Local Confinement 7 Days Credit for time served: 7 Days. Supervised probation, 364 Days. Fine \$50. Fee \$3,560.08.
--Court reports are received from the Long Prairie Leader.

75 YEARS Ago - 1951
• Sept. 6, 1951 - Mr. and Mrs. Don Welshhons of 529 Pierre, Manhattan, Kansas, wrecked their plane at the Staples Municipal Airport about 8:30 o'clock Saturday evening, Sept. 1, when they attempted a landing. Fortunately neither Mr. nor Mrs. Welshhons were injured with the exception of a few scratches and a bump or two.
• Sept. 6, 1951 - Staples schools opened officially for regular class work on Wednesday morning of this week when 1,131 students poured through the doors of the schools, 83 of them entering school for the first time.
• Sept. 6, 1951 - An afternoon at the state fair and a baseball game in the

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Compiled by
Dawn Timbs
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evening were the features enjoyed by the F.F.A. boys on Aug. 28.
Early that morning Gordon Opheim, Jerry Barnes and Charles Blake met at the agriculture building for the trip, accompanied by their instructor, Mr. Eix, and Burle Force.
The group arrived there approximately at 10:30 and promptly started to examine the numerous exhibits. Bud Welle joined the group at noon. The afternoon schedule included the grandstand performance which was highlighted by thrill day.
Following the Minneapolis and St. Paul baseball game, the group left for home. Each one enjoyed the trip and it was agreed that it was both educational and recreational.
• Sept. 6, 1951 - Motley News: Mrs. S. W. Jacobs has sold her roller skating rink to Mr. and Mrs. Earl Braums of Minneapolis, who are now the new managers.

Both Mr. and Mrs. Braums are professional skaters. Skating is still held on Sunday and Thursday evenings.
• Sept. 6, 1951 - The Becker Busy Bees 4-H club was well represented at the Pine River fair recently, with 17 of its 18 members exhibiting.
Eleven members showed 12 head of livestock. Animals placed in the blue ribbon group included the following: Elaine Erbe's Holstein dairy heifer, Rena Orvis' Jersey dairy calf, Fred Marolf's market pig, and Wesley Orvis' South-down market lamb. The latter was the top placing market lamb and reserve grand champion 4-H lamb at the fair.

50 YEARS Ago - 1976
• Aug. 26, 1976 - In the Men's Softball League playoffs, Bjerga Feed of Motley defeated Lefty's Bar 14-12 to claim the title trophy. In a prior game, Bjerga Feed had defeated Lefty's by a 14-13 score.
Miller's Southside Grocery was the third place trophy winner by virtue of their 11-10 win over Burrows Auto Body and a loss to Lefty's 15-10.
This brought a close of the season for all league teams.
• Aug. 26, 1976 - The Wadena Madhatters will present "The Miracle Worker" at 8 p.m. Thursday, Friday and Saturday at Memorial Auditorium, Wadena.
Director Larry Mikkelsen, high school speech and drama instructor, describes the productions as a "family play." It tells about Annie Sullivan, a once-blind young woman who tries to

teach a blind and deaf, half-wild girl, Helen Keller.
Sebeka resident Victoria Kesler, 18, will play Annie Sullivan, with 13-year-old Jill Olafson, Wadena, as Helen. Captain Keller, her father, will be played by Dennis Olson, Wadena, with Carol Mikkelson, Otter Tail Lake, as her mother.
• Aug. 26, 1976 - Temperatures in Staples hovered close to the 100 mark nearly all last week, and weren't much lower this week, as indicated in a picture of the time-temperature sign at Staples State Bank.
• Aug. 26, 1976 - The Staples Irrigation Field Day held last Thursday drew a record-breaking crowd. Twelve wagon trains carried visitors around the four different tours on the farm where University researchers, company representatives, and farm staff members explained work being done at each stopping point.

Bruce Hayenga, in charge of the free corn feed, stated that 1,400 people were fed at the Irrigation Center. Several hundred more either ate in Staples or were too busy at the event to eat at all.
Farm director Tom Kajer stated that 16 irrigation equipment dealers from throughout Minnesota had displays around the Irrigation Center and were kept busy all day talking to prospective buyers.
Many local irrigators donated their time and or tractors and wagons to transport the visitors to the 28 different educational stops on the farm tours. These were Harold Vogel, Jerry Martin, Vaughn Leirer, Jim Carlson, Roy Mertens, Roy Seideman, Gene Ulring, Bruce Berg, Ken LeVasseur, Dale Nielson, Rodney Miller, Roger Reichel, Tom Kajer, Ken Becker and Wil Redemski.

25 YEARS Ago - 2001
• Sept. 6, 2001 - Russell and Mabel Wetherell of Poplar are proud to note the Centennial Farm status of their home with a new sign at the entrance to their driveway.
Russell, who will be 84 shortly, is also proud to note he is only the second generation on this Century Farm, an award, made by the Minnesota State Fair.
Russell's father, Calvin, moved to the site, located just west of the Poplar school on Hwy 64, in about 1895. He later married Mamie and they had three children. Russell, born in 1917, was the oldest of two children born to the couple. They also adopted Marian, Mamie's niece, who was born in 1909, after her mother died.
• Sept. 6, 2001 - The 2001 volleyball season began Aug. 24 with a four-way quad meet hosted by Staples Motley.
Coach Linda Card and her volleyball girls will have their first home action at the Staples Motley High School gym on Sept. 6, hosting Browerville.
• Sept. 6, 2001 - With only 47 points, the Staples Motley girls cross country pulled off an upset win over a strong Class AA Moorhead girls squad, gaining 10 places in the last mile to win by eight points.
• Sept. 6, 2001 - The season opening game at Long Prairie-Grey Eagle was not a good one for the Cardinal football team.

Looking back



Mystery photo

Hello readers. This week's archive photo is from 1980. 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.

Staples Motley lost 20-8 in a contest highlighted by miscues and penalties that cost the Cards the game.
• Sept. 6, 2001 - Sharon Notch of Region 5 Area Agency on Aging and the Senior Linkage Line, received the "Empowering Consumers" award at the Age Odyssey Conference on Aug. 21 from the Dept. of Human Services and the Minnesota Board on Aging.
• Sept. 6, 2001 - Central Lakes College entered its seventh year as a community and technical college with nearly 200 more students than a year ago - 3,171 vs. 2,999 during the first week of classes in Brainerd and Staples.

The enrollment rise of 5.7 percent comes despite a nine percent boost in tuition resulting from legislative under-funding. That hike is below the average increase of nearly 11 percent among nearly three dozen campuses across Minnesota.

10 YEARS Ago - 2016
• Sept. 1, 2016 - Glenn Pederson of the Oylen area has built a memorial for veterans near his home, just off Cty Rd 7 and 244th Street. A Vietnam veteran, Pederson wanted to "do something for my buddies that didn't come back and for the ones (veterans) I didn't know."



Mystery solved

Last week's mystery photo published in the April 29, 1982 edition of the Staples World featured The Regular Grinds who earned the top spot in the Wednesday Koffee Klutch league that year. Team members included, from left, Virginia Mueller, Linda Heier, Ann Sadusky, Jody Farber. They beat out the Hot Pots in a rolloff for first place, with Anne Sadusky rolling an 811 series to help her team win.
Linda Heier of Staples recognized all in the photo, sharing that, "it sure brought back a lot of fond memories. I believe it was taken at the end of our bowling season. We were in the Koffee Klutch League, which met and bowled at noon on Wednesdays." She went on to note, "We had a lot of fun together and usually went to the state tournament every year. We never won big bucks but we always had a lot of fun together. I bowled really well when I was pregnant!"
Judy Wolak of Staples correctly identified Anne Sadusky and Jody (Mueller) Farber. She also knew the photo had to do with their bowling team winning a trophy. Thanks for participating in our mystery photo.



DEADLINES
Newspaper deadline for copy and advertising: 12 noon Fridays





The Staples World office, moved to 207 4th St. NE open every weekday, 8 a.m. - noon.

Located two doors south of Stomping Grounds Coffee Shop.

Regular advertising and copy deadline is Friday, noon.

The office closes at noon on Friday.



Small towns have the ability to defeat globalization

By Mark Anderson
Publisher

Staples is in a unique position to fight the negative effects of globalization, if the community can shape their current assets in the right direction.

When the Staples Economic Development Authority discussed the direction of where to concentrate their future efforts, one of the topics was the loss of small manufacturing businesses in this area. We are not unique in that loss of industry, that is happening in nearly every small town around the world. If you aren't one of the biggest companies in an industry, you likely can't be as efficient and can eventually be squeezed out.

That is called globalization, the big companies pushing out small, family-owned businesses. It works across every industry, from agriculture to restaurants to retail to media to manufacturing to health care.

In his talks about the state of small towns in Min-

Seventeen rules for a sustainable community

By Wendell Berry

1. Always ask of any proposed change or innovation: What will this do to our community? How will this affect our common wealth?

2. Always include local nature – the land, the water, the air, the native creatures – within the membership of the community.

3. Always ask how local needs might be supplied from local sources, including the mutual help of neighbours.

4. Always supply local needs first (and only then think of exporting products – first to nearby cities, then to others).

5. Understand the ultimate unsoundness of the industrial doctrine of 'labour saving' if that implies poor work, unemployment, or any kind of pollution or contamination.

6. Develop properly scaled value-adding industries for local products to ensure that the community does not become merely a colony of national or global economy.

7. Develop small-scale industries and businesses to support the local farm and/or forest economy.

8. Strive to supply as much of the community's own energy as possible.

9. Strive to increase earnings (in whatever form) within the community for as long as possible before they are paid out.

10. Make sure that money paid into the local economy circulates within the community and decrease expenditures outside the

Quote of the week

“Wherever a responsible labor movement flourishes, there industry prospers, production increases, and the living standards of the community improve.”

— Harry S. Truman

nesota, Ben Winchester of the UMN Morris Center for Small Towns cites globalization as a major driving force that has been shaping our towns over the past few decades.

The way to defeat globalization is to find areas where your community can excel without having it absorbed by larger companies. That means find something unique or find a niche that isn't being served. Either way, we have to do it ourselves because nobody is going to come in and do it for us. Globalization doesn't care whether we survive or not, they barely even know

about us, other than what we contribute to their economy.

The SEDa conversation eventually turned toward globalization, although they didn't mention the word. They started talking about the need for locally owned businesses and working class values, which is what is needed.

Wendell Berry died last week, he was a hero of rural literature and a champion of small town life. His seventeen rules for a sustainable community are a good start for overcoming globalization. See those seventeen rules below.

Quote of the week

“The soil is the great connector of lives, the source and destination of all. It is the healer and restorer and resurrector, by which disease passes into health, age into youth, death into life. Without proper care for it we can have no community, because without proper care for it we can have no life.”

— Wendell Berry, 1934-2026

community.

11. Make the community able to invest in itself by maintaining its properties, keeping itself clean (without dirtying some other place), caring for its old people, and teaching its children.

12. See that the old and young take care of one another. The young must learn from the old, not necessarily, and not always in school. There must be no institutionalised childcare and no homes for the aged. The community knows and remembers itself by the association of old and young.

13. Account for costs now conventionally hidden or externalised. Whenever possible, these must be debited against monetary income.

14. Look into the possible uses of local currency, community-funded loan programmes, systems of barter, and the like.

15. Always be aware of the economic value of neighbourly acts. In our time, the costs of living are greatly increased by the loss of neighbourhood, which leaves people to face their calamities alone.

16. A rural community should always be acquainted and interconnected with community-minded people in nearby towns and cities.

17. A sustainable rural economy will depend on urban consumers loyal to local products. Therefore, we are talking about an economy that will always be more co-operative than competitive.

Quote of the week

“We have lived our lives by the assumption that what was good for us would be good for the world. We have been wrong. We must change our lives so that it will be possible to live by the contrary assumption, that what is good for the world will be good for us.”

— Wendell Berry, 1934-2026

Stars and Stripes must remain an independent publication

By Mike Blinder
E&P Magazine

Three people I deeply respect are now gone from Stars and Stripes.

Earlier this year, the Pentagon fired Ombudsman Jacqueline Smith, whose congressionally authorized position existed specifically to safeguard the publication's editorial independence.

On Aug. 21, the Pentagon delivered separation notices to longtime Publisher Max Lederer and Editor-in-Chief Erik Slavin. Middle East reporter Lara Korte was also dismissed.

Only days earlier, Lederer had announced that he intended to retire September 30 after more than three decades of service to Stars and Stripes. He explained that his philosophy of leadership and his understanding of the publication's mission differed “in fundamental ways” from the direction Pentagon leadership intended to take it.

The Pentagon did not allow Lederer to serve those final weeks.

Slavin and Korte said they were accused of insubordination after publicly defending Stars and Stripes' independence. Slavin said his offense was telling CBS News that military censorship of news for service members would constitute a “red line.” Korte said hers was explaining that she worked for Stars and Stripes, not for the Pentagon, an administration or any policymaker.

Lederer was reportedly dismissed after refusing a Pentagon directive to fire them.

Think about what that means: The publisher, editor and reporter were punished for defending the defining principle of the publication they served.

I had the privilege of interviewing Lederer, Slavin and Smith at length. These were not abstract conversations about institutional policy. They spoke about the people who rely on Stars and Stripes and the responsibilities that come with serving them.

Lederer explained that Stars and Stripes is congressionally mandated to remain “balanced, objective, independent and impartial.” Its journalists do not endorse political candidates, publish institutional opinions or accept political advocacy advertising. That discipline allows readers

to trust a newsroom whose funding ultimately comes from the government it must sometimes hold accountable.

Slavin reminded me that service members can find Pentagon public relations in countless places. Stars and Stripes was created to be something different. It was intended to be the “soldiers' paper,” funded by the military but free to scrutinize military leadership.

That independence has tangible consequences.

Slavin recalled the newspaper's investigative reporting on troops in Iraq who lacked necessary equipment. After Stars and Stripes documented the problem, the troops received the gear they needed. That reporting did not weaken the military. It served the people whose lives depended on the military functioning properly.

Slavin also spoke about military families trying to determine whether their children could attend school following an attack. He described locations where internet access remained unreliable and a printed copy of Stars and Stripes could be one of the few dependable sources of essential information. At one base in Kuwait, he said, the newspaper recorded a pickup rate exceeding 90 percent.

That is the audience Stars and Stripes serves.

It serves the young service member stationed thousands of miles from home. It serves spouses and children waiting for trustworthy information about deployments, schools, housing, healthcare and security. It serves installations that function as communities and the surrounding towns and cities in which those bases are integral institutions.

Service members are not simply components of a military machine. They are citizens, parents, spouses, neighbors and members of communities. They deserve reporting that sees their full lives and asks questions on their behalf.

Smith made the standard unmistakably clear during our conversation. Credibility, she said, requires readers to know that “there is no message coming from the Pentagon or the government.”

That is precisely why the Pentagon's actions are so alarming.

The Pentagon already has a mouthpiece. It is called public affairs. It possesses an enormous communications apparatus capable of distributing official information, explaining military policy and promoting leadership priorities.

Stars and Stripes exists because service members and their families need something public affairs cannot provide: journalism produced outside the mili-

tary chain of command.

The dismissal of those who defended that independence sends a message to every journalist who remains. Challenge the Pentagon's direction and your career may be at risk. Even without a formal censorship order, that threat encourages anticipatory obedience and self-censorship.

Congress must act. It should investigate these dismissals, protect the civilian and independent character of Stars and Stripes, strengthen the safeguards surrounding its editorial operations and ensure that future leadership is chosen for journalistic judgment rather than political compliance.

But this responsibility does not belong to Congress alone.

Every publisher, editor, broadcaster, journalist and journalism organization should speak publicly. Editorialize about what is happening. Explain it to your readers, viewers, listeners and followers. Contact your senators and representatives and demand that they protect the congressionally mandated editorial independence of Stars and Stripes.

Stars and Stripes should report extensively on warfighting. It must also report on inadequate equipment, failed leadership, dangerous working conditions, deployments, military families, schools, healthcare, housing and mental health. Those subjects are not distractions from military readiness. They are part of the reality of military service.

The Pentagon has many ways to deliver its message. Stars and Stripes must remain the independent voice reporting to and for those who serve, their families and their communities.

Max Lederer, Erik Slavin and Jacqueline Smith defended that mission when doing so carried a personal cost. Lara Korte has now paid that price as well.

The rest of us cannot remain silent.

Stand with Stars and Stripes

Contact your representatives in Washington and urge them to protect the congressionally mandated editorial independence of Stars and Stripes. Tell your audiences why this institution matters. Use your platform to support the journalists who have defended it and the military community that depends on it.

One of journalism's own needs our support. Help us defend it now.

Mike Blinder is the publisher of Editor & Publisher (E&P) Magazine and host of the weekly E&P Reports podcast, where he interviews news media leaders about the future of journalism.

Remembering Wendell Berry

By Ivy Brashear The Rural Blog

Wendell Berry, Kentucky poet, novelist, essayist and farmer, died at his home in Henry County on Aug. 31.

“Mr. Berry wrote more than 50 volumes of poetry, fiction and argument that championed small family farms, the environment, local foods and interdependent communities, and rallied against chemicals, most technologies, agribusiness and distant government,” reports Robert D. McFadden for The New York Times.

McFadden continues: “Some critics likened his landed exhortations to those of Thoreau or Thomas Jefferson.”

“Returning to his home as a place to write for the rest of his life was a way to insure, to himself, that he would always be bound by the truth,” McFadden writes. “The landscape was there to check me if I was wrong. I could never go away and make up stuff at cocktail parties about the backwoods of Kentucky,” Berry said. “I worked with people here in all walks of life and learned from them. It's been a very rich experience.”

Staples World

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

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Owner Mark Anderson.....

editor@staplesworld.com

Advertising Rep.....

editor@staplesworld.com

Photo Tech/production.....

jwinter@staplesworld.com

Bookkeeping/Circulation/.....

Kathy Odden kadden@staplesworld.com

Reporter.....

Dawn Timbs dtimbs@staplesworld.com

Front Office.....

office@staplesworld.com

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

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

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Chamber welcomes Kiah Kreations to town

The Staples Chamber of Commerce held a ribbon cutting event at Kiah Kreations in Staples, a new boutique owned by Allesia Gonier. Pictured above, from left, are chamber members Mark Anderson, PJ Bolstridge, Jen Cave; Allesia and her husband, Travis Gonier; cham-

ber members Trevor Haasch, Kylie Matteson and membership director Samantha Masog. Kiah Kreations, which opened June 23, is located at 212 4th St. NE in downtown Staples. (Staples World photo by Dawn Timbs)

Looking for a gift idea? Consider a Gift Subscription. Staples World newspaper. *Gift cards available. 207 4th St. NE Staples, MN

Leader Area Lions Club Pancake Breakfast Sun., Sept. 13 Serving 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Leader Community Center, Hwy. 64, Leader Pancakes, sausage, scrambled eggs, milk, juice, coffee *FREE WILL OFFERING ALL DONATIONS WILL BENEFIT OUR COMMUNITY*

England Prairie Pioneer Club Annual Fall Fundraiser on England Prairie Grounds PANCAKE SUPPER Friday, Sept. 18, 4:30 - 7:00 p.m. Menu: Phyllis' Famous Pancakes, Sausage Links, Eggs, Hash Browns, Applesauce, Beverage. *BAKE SALE* held during Pancake Supper Fundraiser From Verndale: 1 mi. S on Co. Hwy 23; 2 mil. W on Co. Rd. 1 From Wadena: 4 mi. S on Hwy. 71; 2.5 mi. E on Co. Rd. 1 www.english-prairie.org 14229 COUNTY ROAD 1, WADENA, MN

Steve's Auto Salvage & G&L Service •Tires (New & Used) •Tubes •Belts •AG Tires •Bulbs •Oil •Antifreeze •Used Auto Parts 218-445-6885 • Located in Verndale at Steve's Auto

Menu

Senior Nutrition Program, Staples Staples: Call mornings (218-979-4118) the Thursday before to reserve next week's meal(s) and current suggested donation info. LSS Meals - traditional menu (subject to change). LOCATED AT: Staples Hi-Rise, 615 4th St. NE, Staples. Seniors welcome to dine-in at 11:00 a.m., with meal reservations. • Staples Site: 218-979-4118. • Motley Site: 218-824-3820. Sept. 14 - Sept. 18 MONDAY - Beef hamburger/ bun, baked beans, green beans, ketchup/mustard, lime Jello w/pears, 1% milk. TUESDAY - Baked herb chicken, rice pilaf, mixed veggies, dinner roll, marg., chocolate pudding/topping, 1% milk. WEDNESDAY - Smothered chopped steak, mashed potatoes, sliced carrots, applesauce cup, marg., sour cream, wheat bread, 1% milk. THURSDAY - Scalloped potatoes w/ham, whole kernel corn, tropical fruit cup, wheat bread, marg., peanut butter cookie, 1% milk. FRIDAY - Beef lasagna, peas/carrots, hot spiced apples, dinner roll, marg., vanilla wafers, 1% milk.

Mark Your Calendar

September 10

'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 WHIRLAWAYS SQUARE DANCE GROUP DANCING Thursday, Sept. 10, 7 - 9:30 p.m., at St. Michael's Church, 280 1st Ave. S., Motley. Charlie Huhtala, caller. For info., 612-743-3480.

September 11

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.

September 13

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

September 14

THE STAPLES-MOTLEY CHAPTER OF THE RETIRED EDUCATORS ASSOCIATION OF MINNESOTA (REAM) will meet Monday, Sept. 14, 9:30 a.m., at the Staples United Methodist Church.

September 15

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. THE MORRISON COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY'S ANNUAL MEETING will be held Tuesday, Sept. 15, at the Weyerhaeuser Museum, 2151 Lindbergh Dr. South, Little Falls. A social begins at 6 p.m., followed by a brief business meeting, and a presentation by historian Lacey Fontaine - "Charles Lindbergh: Beyond the Spirit of St. Louis." Public invited.

September 16

STAPLES ALL VETERANS AND COMMUNITY PARK ASSOCIATION BOARD MTG Wednesday, Sept. 16, 5:30 p.m. in the lower level of Lakewood health system, 49725 Cty Rd 83, Staples. Public invited. To attend via Zoom, contact Bob Hamann, 218-894-3139.

September 22

CARE MINISTRY FREE MEAL Tuesday, Sept. 22, 4:30 - 6 p.m., at Faith Lutheran Church, 430 12th St. NE, Staples. Menu includes pulled pork BBQ sandwiches, cole slaw, baked beans, chips, pickles, dessert and beverage. The free meals are held on a monthly basis to promote fellowship, connection and nourishment.

AUCTION Located from Motley, approx. 3 miles south on Hwy. 10 to #1091 360th St., Motley, MN 56466 or approx. 8 miles north of Lincoln, MN 56443 on Hwy. 10. Follow signs on: Saturday, September 12, 2026 SALE TIME: 9:00 A.M. RESTROOMS AVAILABLE LUNCH ON GROUNDS •LARGE AMOUNT OF TOOLS• Many Snap-on Tools, many Mac tools Mac Tools wire feed welder Mac tool box, custom made, 6' tall x 8' long, 28" deep 5 gal. jug crock, 5 gal. crock, 6 gal. crock Harley Davidson bike trailer, red John Deere Riding lawn mower, 48", LX188, liquid cooled LARGE AMOUNT OF TOOLS Sockets, 1/4", 1/2", 3/4" Big wrenches Gear pullers Battery drills Big pry bars Deep well sockets Large amount of sockets A lot of hardware MANY more misc. tools OTHER 3 hay racks: 8'x12', 8'x18', 7'x14' Aluminum trailer, NEW, approx. 6' x 12' with ramps Floor jacks Engine stands Large wood splitter Many car parts, new in box SPORTING '84 Honda 3-wheeler 200, red Hunting stuff Camouflage Remote cars Helmets Old and hard top gun cases OLDER ITEM Soft cream separator, goodies with it HOUSEHOLD Silverware MANY knick knacks Video machine Thunderbird grinder, food chopper A lot of sporting items MANY FISHING ITEMS MANY MORE ITEMS TOO NUMEROUS TO MENTION GUNS "ALASKAN SPECIAL" 300 Winchester Magnum Browning w/ box, bolt, scope, 1 of 500, #41699NY757 Remington 20 ga. pump, 2-3/4-3", nice Black Powder 50 cal., Wolf Magnum C.V. Smith & Wesson 12 ga. pump, Model 3000 Waterfowler BB / Pellet gun, Daisy Remington 22 pump, old S.L. LR. Remington 22 pump, Model 572 Estate of Scott Buisman Cathy Buisman, Owner TRANTINA AUCTION SERVICE Col. Walter Trantina, Lic. #77-51 • Browerville, MN 56438 • 218-820-1019 www.midwestauctions.com Previews at allauctionsales.com and www.midwestauctions.com

AWANA WEDNESDAY NIGHT KIDS MINISTRY BEGINS SEPTEMBER 16 @ 6 PM COME TO STAPLES ALLIANCE CHURCH AND LEARN ALL ABOUT THE BIBLE, PLAY SILLY GAMES, HAVE FUN, AND MAKE NEW FRIENDS! MARK YOUR CALENDAR! WWW.STAPLESALLIANCE.ORG

Todd County Farm Bureau Fall Harvest BANQUET FRIDAY September 11, 2026 50385 County 83, Staples 5:30 p.m...Social Hour 6:30-7:30...2-Meat Buffet 7:45 p.m. Speaker Tickets: \$20 For Tickets Contact: Roger Zastrow 320-815-9003 Delvin Durheim 320-766-3875 Roger Dukowitz 218-296-0530

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1,000 Books Before Kindergarten



Nora Imgrund recently completed the 1,000 Books Before Kindergarten program at the Staples Public Library. By signing up, children receive a free book bag and can earn points in the form of little duckies as they continue to read and keep track of their reading time with the help of their parents/guardians. The program is designed to increase awareness of the importance of early literacy as well as encourage parents to embrace their role as their child's first teacher. This program is provided by the Staples Friends of the Library. Left: Library Asst. Angie Johnson and Nora. (Submitted photo)

Obituaries

Beverly Anderson

Beverly Anderson, 76, of Chinook, Montana passed away August 8, 2026.

A memorial service will be held at the Pottery Museum in Red Wing at 11 a.m. on Saturday, September 26.

A private burial will follow.

w39p A00006B2026SP09

Duane Payne

Duane Walter Payne, age 27
March 4, 1917 –
October 9, 1944



“With deep gratitude to our hero, we honor the life and service of Pvt. Duane Walter Payne, a true patriot who laid down his life protecting the freedoms we hold dear.”

Visitation for Duane W. Payne will be held from 10 a.m. to noon on Thursday, September 10, 2026, at the Brenny Family Funeral Chapel in Staples.

Burial will be held at 2 p.m. Friday, September 11, 2026 at the Minnesota State Veterans Cemetery, Little Falls.

Duane was born March 4, 1917, to Walter G. Payne and Laura B. (Williams) Payne in Motley. He was raised with strong Midwestern values of hard work, faith and patriotism.

On October 24, 1940, he married Lorna A. Hagen in Todd County. Together they began building a life centered on love and family. Duane was a devoted husband and father who especially enjoyed playing his guitar and spending time with his wife and their three young children.

With World War II underway, Duane answered the nation's call and enlisted in the United States Army on February 11, 1944, in Brainerd. He arrived in Liverpool, England, on February 24, 1944, before landing in Normandy, France, on June 14, 1944, as Allied forces fought to liberate Europe.

He served with Company L, 3rd Battalion, 117th Infantry Regiment, 30th Infantry Division, where he courageously fought in the European Theater. During



combat operations in Germany, Duane was wounded and reported Missing in Action on October 9, 1944. After a year of uncertainty for his family, he was officially declared Killed in Action on October 9, 1945.

Pvt. Payne's bravery and faithful service were recognized with numerous military honors, including the Purple Heart, Bronze Star Medal, Combat Infantryman Badge, Marksmanship Badge, World War II Victory Medal, American Campaign Medal, Army Presidential Unit Citation, Army Good Conduct Medal, and the European-African-Middle Eastern Campaign Medal.

He is survived by five grandchildren, Walter (Lori) Payne, Linda (Dennis) Bowman, Annette (David) Brieger, Michael Payne and Jodi Reid; 19 great-grandchildren and 14 great-great-grandchildren.

Those who passed away while he was Missing in Action were his beloved wife, Lorna Payne; three children, Joyce (JD) (Marilyn) Payne, Clarice Ann Payne and Quentin Leroy Payne; parents, Walter and Laura Payne; one brother, Ivan Payne and one sister, Iras Chapin.

-Brenny Funeral Home

w38c A00006B2026SP09

Jerry Nichols

Jerry Orel Nichols, 81, passed away August 28, 2026, at A Daughters Love in Staples.

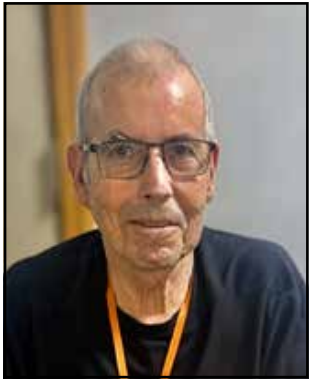
Memorial services will be held at a later date.

Jerry was born November 4, 1944 to Orel and Goldie (Martin) Nichols in Staples.

He worked at Lakewood Health System in Dietary until retiring. He enjoyed fixing electronics and record players.

Jerry is survived by one brother, James (Rita) Nichols of Burlington, Vermont.

He was preceded in death by his parents and two brothers, Baby Brother Nichols and Mark Nichols.



Arrangements are with the Iten Funeral home of Browerville, www.itenfuneralhome.com.

w39c A00006B2026SP09

Staples Area Church Directory

Staples

Staples Alliance

1512 8th St. NE, Staples.....218-894-2891
Pastor John Pavlica, Lead Pastor
Sunday Worship.....9:30 a.m.
Sunday School.....11:00 a.m.
Weds., AWANA.....6:00 p.m.

Assembly of God

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

Church of Christ

27343 490th St., Staples.....218-894-2609
Pastor Barry Klein
Facebook Live
Bible School (youth and adult)....9:30 a.m.
Sunday Worship.....10:30 a.m.
WEDNESDAY:
Adult Bible Study.....6:30 p.m.

Faith Lutheran

430 12th Street. NE., Staples.....218-894-1546
Sunday Worship Service.....9:00 a.m.
Coffee Fellowship.....10:05 a.m.

Sacred Heart Catholic Church

310 4th St. NE, Staples.....218-631-1593
parishsecretary@marysacc.org
Rev. JC Duncan, 218-632-7314
Rev. Greg Sauer, 218-632-7319
Mass: Sunday.....8:30 a.m.

Seventh Day Adventist

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

Thomastown Covenant

15940 251st Ave., Staples.....218-894-3923
Sunday School.....9:15 a.m.
Sunday Worship.....10:30 a.m.
WEDNESDAY NIGHT YOUTH.....6:30 p.m.

Trinity Lutheran

1000 4th St., NE, Staples.....218-894-2372
Pastor Vicar Paul Koehler
Sunday Divine Service.....9:00 a.m.
Sunday School and Bible Class...10:30 a.m.

United Methodist

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

Aldrich

Balsamlund Lutheran

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

Cushing

Bethany Lutheran

25430 Bison Rd.Cushing, MN
320-749-2140
Pastor Carl Larson
www.bethanylutherancushing.org
Sunday Worship.....9:00 a.m.
Communion.....1st and 2nd Sunday of each month

Lincoln Evangelical Free

1354 320th Street, Cushing, MN 56443
Phone: 218-575-2449
www.lincolnefree.org
Facebook Lincoln E Free
Office Hours: Tues. - Thurs., 9 a.m. - 12 p.m.
Senior Pastor: Don Reigstad
SUNDAY
Church Worship Gathering.....10:00 a.m.
YouTube Channel.....10:00 a.m.

Cushing Baptist

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

Leader

Swan Valley Lutheran

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

Maple Hill Lutheran

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

Motley

Motley Free Methodist

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

St. John's Lutheran

497 3rd Ave. S, Motley.....218-352-6399
Pastor Vicar Paul Koehler
Sunday School and Bible Class.....8:30 a.m.
Sunday Worship.....9:30 a.m.

St. Michael Catholic Church

280 1st Ave S, Motley.....218-631-1593
Rev. JC Duncan, 218-632-7314
Rev. Greg Sauer, 218-632-7319
Mass: Sunday.....10:30 a.m.

United Methodist

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

Oylen

Oylen Alliance

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

Pillager

First Lutheran Church

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

Casino Assembly of God

Pastor Dan Johnson
N. of 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 Uhlen
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
office@verndaleflc.org
Pastor Amos Sell.....218-371-7189

Tahna Kurup, 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. Hubert Catholic Church

Bluegrass.....218-631-1593
Rev. JC Duncan, 218-632-7314
Father Greg Sauer, 218-632-7319
parishsecretary@marysacc.org
Mass: Saturday.....5:00 p.m.

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
Father Greg Sauer, 218-632-7319
parishsecretary@marysacc.org
Mass: Sunday (livestream).....10 a.m.

“Hallelujah!”

Pastor Barry Klein, Staples Church of Christ

I am wondering if you've had the childhood experience growing up to be in a Sunday school or Vacation Bible School class where the teacher was leading us in the chorus: “Hallelu, Hallelu, Hallelu, Hallelujah! Praise Ye The Lord” as the chorus continued on. Little did I know at the time, that we were simply singing the definition of Hallelujah as being Praise The Lord!

I've been told that “Hallelujah” is universally heard in all languages. That is profound and very appropriate given the praise that's due to the God Who creates everyone, continuing to give the breath that He gave into Adam into every person who has ever lived on planet earth.

King David was so overtaken in praising God as the incredible song writer he was. The book of Psalms was looked to as a singing worship hymn book of God's people in

the Old Testament. It continues to be drawn upon for that usage today. Seventy-three of the 150 Psalms are attributed to David.

Psalms 146-150 crescendo this magnificent and beloved book of the Bible with opening and closing each chapter with Hallelujah as the translators give us Praise the Lord!

There's a lot of encouraging, but also tough stuff in the book of Psalms. Some of the Psalms are in response to historical events at that time. A heart-wrenching example is Psalm 51 as David's confessional Psalm to his adultery with Bathsheba. As with all the Psalms, we are drawn to the earthiness in which the Psalms speak.

Back to praising God, we close with Psalm 22:3 (KJV): “But thou art holy, O thou that inhabits the praises of Israel.” May He inhabit our praises.

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Cardinals celebrate turning point in volleyball game

The Staples-Motley team comes together after a big double-block point by Addison Potter (second from left), which helped them pull away in the crucial third set in their game against Verndale on Sept. 1. (Staples World photo by Mark Anderson)

Cardinals emerge with win in first volleyball game

The Staples-Motley volleyball team started their season with a competitive 3-1 win over Verndale on Sept. 1 at the Staples-Motley home gym, The Nest.

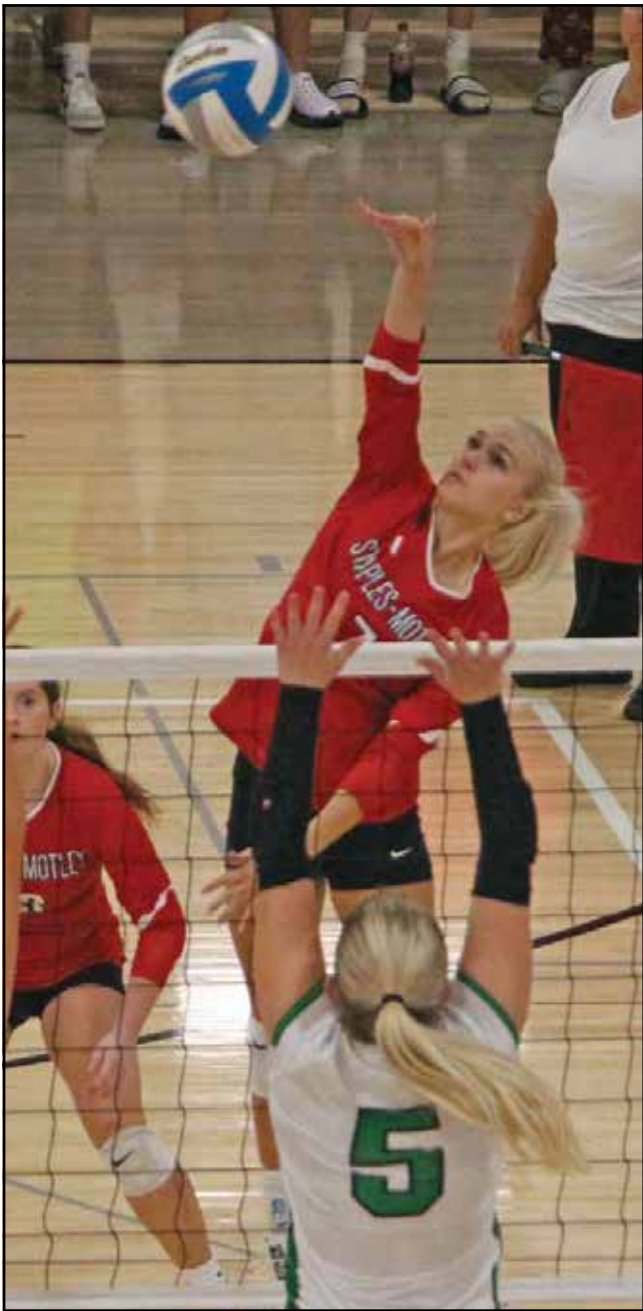
The Cardinals started out behind in the first set and it took a while to catch up. Two kills by Clara Maros and two kills by Kyleena Rudlang got them close, and they finally tied it at 12 on a block by Addison Potter. It took two ace serves by Kylee Chenoweth to finally get the lead at 20-19. The two teams were even until Verndale pushed ahead by two after several tense points where both teams had a chance to win the set.

The Cardinals started out ahead in the second set and kept the lead most of the way. Maros put the game away with two ace serves in a row.

The third set was equally close until two plays broke it open for Staples-Motley. With the score tied at 17, Potter blocked a Verndale spike back over the net, it got dug up and they had another hard spike on the next hit, which was also blocked by Potter, landing for an ace block. On the next point, Verndale tried to avoid Potter at the net and hit it way out. The other crucial point was when the Cardinals had a 22-21 lead and they won a wild scramble play with players diving to the floor and reaching hard to get balls. They had lost a few of those points earlier in the match, so this one helped them pull away.

In the fourth set, Verndale didn't play their full lineup and Staples-Motley took advantage with four kills by Maros and seven ace serves by the team.

Team results
Staples-Motley 3, Verndale 1
26-28, 25-22, 25-22, 25-14
Katelyn Schotzko: Assists-7, Digs-1
Lucy Maros: Assists-20, Digs-3, Aces-3, Kills-2
Chloe Trantina: Assists-3,



Hitting with confidence

Kyleena Rudlang comes down on a spike past the Verndale blockers in the Sept. 1 game. (Staples World photo by Mark Anderson)

Digs-25, Aces-2, Kills-1
Kylee Chenoweth: Digs-6, Aces-6
Jocelyn Lenk: Digs-3, Aces-2, Kills-1
Addison Potter: Digs-3, Blocks-3, Kills-9

Clara Maros: Digs-3, Aces-4, Kills-14
Jasmyne Hove: Blocks-1, Kills-1
Jada Ellingsen: Assists-1, Kills-1
Kyleena Rudlang: Kills-7

First football game at EGF

The Staples-Motley football team lost their first game of the season 31-6 at East Grand Forks on Sept. 3.

The Cardinals drove deep into their opponents territory throughout the game, but were turned away on downs or suffered a turnover each time.

EGF was able to score twice in the first half, a

touchdown and a field goal for a 10-0 lead at halftime.

A thunderstorm passed through to extend the half-time, but it didn't help the Cardinals, with the second half much like the first.

Staples-Motley finally crossed the goal line in the fourth quarter when Tristan Moore carried it in for a touchdown.



Staples-Motley youth runners take off in the elementary school race. (Staples World photo by Mark Anderson)

Cross country teams race in home meet

The Staples-Motley cross country teams started their season by hosting the Central Minnesota River Run at The Vintage in Staples on Aug. 31.

The boys varsity team had four varsity runners, but teams need five to have a team score. The girls had the minimum of five runners and they finished fifth out of 12 teams.

Elizabeth Kroll was the top finisher for the girls team, running the first half of the race with teammates Elise Trif and Anna Warner.

Andrew Dobson paced the boys team with a time of 19:15 for 5,000 meters.

“We have two young teams, with relatively inexperienced athletes in competitive running,” said Coach Bruce Fuhrman. “The coaching staff is very excited to work with this group as they are great kids and eager to learn. It will be fun to watch what they each can grasp from training this season.”

The meet also included a youth race for runners in grades 4-6.

Girls results
Girls varsity (5,000 meters)
Crosby-Ironton 57, Fergus Falls 77, Wadena-Deer Creek 88, Park Rapids 145, Staples-Motley 155, Ottertail Central 166, Sauk Centre 172, Parkers Prairie 184, Ashby-Brandon-Evansville 211, Breckenridge/Wahpeton 223, Long Prairie-Grey Eagle 243, Verndale 33

16. Elizabeth Kroll 22:56, 18. Elise Trif 23:05, 21. Anna Warner 23:44, 41. Alexis Odden 24:49, 73. Suhaila Mikhael 28:55

Girls jr. high (2,500 meters)
39. Cydney McGree-Schmidt-bauer 16:00

Girls youth race (1,800 meters)
1. Grace Fink 8:17, 3. Olive Doll 8:35, 4. Reagan Brown 8:56, 5. Eliza Warner 9:07, 6. Lydia Detloff 9:33, 7. Emory Brenna 9:49

Boys results
Boys varsity (5,000 meters)
21. Andrew Dobson 19:15, 49. Jackson Odden 21:04, 56. Reed Leach 21:20, 68. Alex Leach 22:25

Boys jr. high (2,500 meters)
51. Jackson Bitzer 12:45

Boys youth race (1,800 meters)
3. Cygnus Walz 7:10, 4. Liam Kroll 7:40, 6. Owen Denning 8:00, 7. Jason Sturm-Hughes 8:04, 8. Aceton deCoup-Crank 8:15, 9. George Melberg 8:20, 10. Liam Peterson 8:35, 11. Gustavo Lozano 8:43, 12. Asher Moore 11:16



Anna Warner, Elizabeth Kroll and Elise Trif work together halfway through the race.



Jackson Odden, Reed Leach and Andrew Dobson take off with the pack.

NOTICES

100

Events/Announcements

AUCTION of 2 Storage Units at EEEz Storage in Staples MN Via Online Auction at [Storagetreasures.com](#), on behalf of Adam Mick and Janel Toppari. Auction starts 9/1/26 8:30 a.m. Belongings include household, bedroom, and garage items. 37-38p

SERVICES & EMPLOYMENT

205

Help Wanted

CAREGIVER NEEDED For Elderly Female 1:1 care in her home in Merrifield. \$22/hour. Patient is a total lift 130 lbs. Must have strong back. Call 612-860-9170. 38-40p

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208

Storage

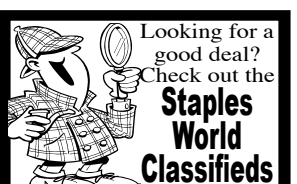
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209

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301

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315

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501

Miscellaneous

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GARAGE SALES

701

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REAL ESTATE

602

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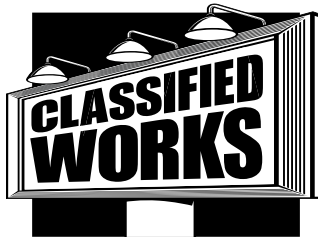
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Staples, MN 56479 USA
APPLICANTS(S):
Name:
Mini Enterprise LLC
Address:
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SIGNED BY:
Ashley Ottomoeller
MAILING ADDRESS:
715 8th St SE
Staples, MN 56479
EMAIL FOR OFFICIAL NOTICES:
mini.enterprise.llc@gmail.com

Work Item
1664182300025
Original File Number
1664182300025

STATE OF MINNESOTA
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY OF STATE
FILED
08/26/2026
38-39pnc

NOTICE
WADENA COUNTY PLANNING COMMISSION
PUBLIC HEARING
TO REVIEW DRAFT
UPDATE TO THE
2013 COUNTY COMPREHENSIVE PLAN

Notice is hereby given that on Thursday, the 17th day of September, 2026, at 7:00 p.m. the Planning Commission will hold a public hearing in the Auditorium of the Wadena County Courthouse to review the draft update to the 2013 County Comprehensive Plan.

The full context of this amendment can be found on the County website calendar at www.co.wadena.mn.us by clicking on the date on the calendar date at the bottom of the page and following the Planning Commission Meeting link or under the News Flash and following the link. All persons interested are invited to attend said hearing and be heard on this matter. Written correspondence must be received by the Wadena County Zoning Office, 415 Jefferson St. S., Room 234, Wadena, MN 56482 before close of business the day of the hearing in order to be accepted and must include the full name and address of the person sending the correspondence in order to be accepted for presentation to the Planning Commission at the public hearing. The correspondence may be submitted in person, by U.S. Mail, or by e-mail to the Zoning Office but it MUST include the required information.

Wadena County
Planning Commission
38pnc



Vikings fans

LaDonna Peterson, left, of Motley and John Carlike of Eugene, Ore., discovered they were both Vikings fans during a recent Motley Area Historical Society gathering Aug. 15. Carlike noted their favorite team was playing the Giants that day. (Staples World photo by Dawn Timbs)

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE TODD COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS HELD AUG. 4, 2026

Public Comment
Steve Berscheit appeared on behalf of his mother Dorreen Berscheit to address concerns regarding his request for abatement of property taxes due to a postal change that affected the homestead on his mother's property. The postal change was for mailing purposes only and there was no legal change of residence.

Call to Order
The Todd County Board of Commissioners met in the Commissioner's Board Room in the City of Long Prairie, MN on the 4th day of August, 2026 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 Denny and second by Becker, the following motion was introduced and adopted by unanimous vote: To adopt the agenda as presented with the removal of item 8.1 Long Prairie River Watershed Collaborative Fiscal Agent Agreement.

Consent Agenda
On motion by Neumann and second by Noska, the following motions and resolution were introduced and adopted by unanimous vote:

To approve the Todd County Board of Commissioner's Meeting Minutes for July 21, 2026 as presented.

Accept the resignation of FT jailer Beau Herzig effective 8/10/2026.

Accept the resignation of Investigator Travis Winter effective 8/02/2026.

Accept the resignation of Admin assistant Megan Sovich effective 7/31/2026.

Hire Abby Pearcy for the PT Correctional Officer position at a wage of \$26.36 per hour Grade 6/F step A start date TBD.

GAMBLING PERMIT - IVY'S LEGACY FOUNDATION

WHEREAS, the Todd County Board of Commissioners are establishing their approval for a Gambling Permit for the Ivy's Legacy Foundation to hold a raffle event at The Shed in Kandota Township at the address 10098 County 11, Sauk Centre, MN on October 30, 2026.

Commissioners
The Todd County Board of Commissioners recognized the County employees who have met milestones of years of service during the second quarter of 2026.

Auditor-Treasurer
On motion by Denny and second by Becker, the following motion was introduced and adopted by unanimous Roll Call vote: To approve the July 2026 Auditor Warrants number (ACH) 906187 through 906243 in the amount of \$1,058,316.16 (Manual) 1408 through 1448 in the amount of \$2,057,297.34 and (Regular) 246894 through 246841 in the amount of \$953,634.03 for a total of \$4,069,247.53.

On motion by Noska and second by Neumann, the following motion was introduced and adopted by unanimous Roll Call vote: To approve the Commissioner Warrants number (ACH) 404613 through 404630 in the amount of \$84,309.54 and (Regular) 59970 through 60003 in the amount of \$176,347.21 for a total of \$260,656.75.

On motion by Becker and second by Denny, the following motion was introduced and adopted by unanimous Roll Call vote: To approve the Health & Human Services Com-

missioner Warrants number (ACH) 807722 through 807751 and (Regular) 714344 through 714389 for a total of \$219,551.44.

On motion by Noska and second by Becker, the following motion was introduced and adopted by unanimous Roll Call vote: To approve the Health & Human Services SSIS Warrants number (ACH) 602064 through 602072 and (Regular) 519044 through 519062 for a total amount of \$78,113.97.

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

TRANSFER OF FUNDS FROM COUNTY DITCH FUND TO GENERAL REVENUE FUND

WHEREAS, The County Ditch Authority has approved to have the hours worked by the County Ditch Inspector charged back to that ditch, and;

WHEREAS, the calculations have been made for the County Ditch Inspector's time for the period of July 1, 2025 through June 30, 2026 per attached copy;

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Todd County Board of Commissioners approve the transfer of \$5,573.75 from the Fund 40-County Ditch Fund to the Fund 01-General Revenue Fund per the attached list.

County Ditch/Ag Inspector

On motion by Denny and second by Noska, the following motion was introduced and adopted by unanimous vote: Acting as the Todd County Ditch Authority acknowledge receipt of Hold Harmless Agreement applications from Wally and Lorie Miller and Triple M Dairy Inc to clean a portion of County Ditch 33 in Section 29 Reynolds Township.

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

Hold Harmless Agreement - Ditch Maintenance & Replace Private Crossing - County Ditch 11

WHEREAS, David and Edna Bontrager are requesting to maintain approximately 3,906 feet of the Main Ditch, and replace a private crossing, on CD11, parcel 26-0006701 Ward Twp, section 7. A Hold Harmless Agreement has been signed and submitted to the Ditch Authority, and;

WHEREAS, an onsite inspection has been done, and;

WHEREAS, applicant is allowed to maintain the drainage ditch to the original width and depth. An improvement by lowering or widening the ditch bottom is not allowed. Sediment and vegetation can only be removed to the extent of the original ditch bottom elevation. Spoil may be side cast and leveled, staying within 16-1/2 feet of the ditch, or moved to an approved upland site. Applicant will remove a failing private culvert crossing on the SE4 NE4 of the parcel and will install a new culvert approximately 700 feet south of existing crossing near the south property line. This culvert will be required to match the hydraulic capacity of a 36" CMP culvert.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, the Todd County Ditch Authority gives permission to David and Edna Bontrager to maintain a portion of the Main Ditch of CD11 located on parcel 26-0006701, and to replace a failing private crossing. The maintenance will be done on their own property at their own expense.

Health & Human Services

On motion by Denny and second by Noska, the following motion was introduced and adopted by unanimous vote: To approve the Public Health Nurse job description revision.

On motion by Becker and second by Noska, the following motion was introduced and adopted by unanimous vote: To approve FFY2027 Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program Grant Contract &

Internal Controls Documentation.

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

2027 NON-UNION EMPLOYEES AND APPOINTED OFFICIALS SALARIES

WHEREAS, the Todd County Board of Commissioners are responsible for setting the compensation of county employees and appointed officials, and;

WHEREAS, the Todd County Board of Commissioners desire to follow the same pattern bargained with unions for the non-union regular full-time employees and appointed officials, and;

WHEREAS, a 3.0 percent (%) general wage increase will take effect on the first day of the first full pay period in January 2027, applicable to all regular full-time employees whose salaries do not exceed the maximum of the salary schedule.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Todd County Board of Commissioners authorize the that a 3.0 percent (%) general wage increase will take effect on the first day of the first full pay period in January 2027, applicable to all regular full-time employees whose salaries do not exceed the maximum of the salary schedule.

On motion by Noska and second by Denny, the following motion was introduced and adopted by unanimous vote: To update the Public Works Organizational Chart to reflect the removal of the Ditch/Ag Inspector position from the Public Works Department organizational structure and establish it as a separate department, Ditch/Ag Inspector.

On motion by Noska and second by Denny, the following motion was introduced and adopted by unanimous vote: To approve the reclassification of the HR Assistant Position from 4/D to 5/E.

County Auditor-Treasurer's Report

The County Auditor-Treasurer reported that the Primary Election will be held on August 11 with our office open for absentee voting additional hours this weekend. Election Judge training classes have been completed. Voters seeking information about voting are recommended to visit the mnvotes.gov website. Announced that the 2027 County Program Aid amount has been certified lower than the 2026 allotment.

County Coordinator's Report

The County Coordinator reported attending meetings including employee safety trainings, childcare, personnel and Paycom.

County Commissioner's Report

The Commissioners reported on meetings and events attended.

Commissioner Becker attended meetings including the Facilities, Safety, Safety Training, and Regional Emergency Management.

Commissioner Denny has attended meetings including Prairie Lakes, Central Emergency Services and Personnel.

Commissioner Noska has attended meetings including the upcoming Employee Picnic.

Commissioner Byers attended meetings including Facilities, Safety and Personnel.

Commissioner Neumann attended meetings including Sauk River Watershed, CMCOA and CPT.

Recess
On motion by Noska and second by Denny, the meeting was recessed until August 18, 2026.

AUDITOR WARRANTS
VENDOR NAME \$ AMOUNT
ACLIFFTON LARSONALLEN, LLP \$20,265.00
CORBIN PICKAR EXC INC...6,925.00
GREAT RIVER REGIONAL LIBRARY 90,634.25

City council learns about
Community Concerns for Youth

By Mark Anderson
Publisher

Haley Buhl of Todd County Community Concern for Youth program updated the council on their activities this year. The council approved contributing \$5,778 to the program, \$250 more than last year's request.

Buhl said the program gives youth volunteer hours and rewards them with fun activities. Among the volunteer hours, they helped with city clean-ups, picked up parks and worked in the community garden. For fun activities, they went swimming, saw movies, did mini-golfing and had road trips to Valleyfair and to a Minnesota Twins game.

A new approach this year is to hold mediation meetings in schools for students who fall behind in attendance.

"We come up with a plan, how we can help them," said Buhl.

She said Staples-Motley is the first school to implement this attendance program.

"It worked pretty well," said Buhl.

When asked for an exam-



Todd County
Commissioners Minutes

LONG PRAIRIE OIL COMPANY	5,637.71
LONG PRAIRIE SANITATION INC 4,673.25	
PETERS LAW OFFICE, PA	4,600.00
PICTOMETRY INTERNATIONAL CORP	43,100.00
PRAIRIE LAKES MUNICIPAL SOLID WASTE AUTH	98,136.20
REGENTS OF THE UNIV OF MN	45,062.50
STEP 13,253.75	
TODD COUNTY MIS DEPT. 3,446.40	
24 PAYMENTS LESS	
THAN \$2000	13,845.02
A.W. RESEARCH LABORATORIES, INC 2,780.00	
CENTRA CARE	13,350.31
CENTRAL SPECIALTIES INC	391,307.43
CITY OF BROOKVILLE	9,704.66
CUFTON LARSONALLEN, LLP	7,959.00
COUNTIES PROVIDING TECHNOLOGY	7,448.00
ESTRADA/ELIAZAR & ESMERALDA	27,786.75
FLEET SERVICES/WEX BANK	12,140.01
MINNESOTA POWER	2,020.46
MN DEPT OF FINANCE	8,924.50
MOTOROLA	3,558.06
OTTER TAIL COUNTY PROBATION	16,000.00
PACIFIC LIFE INSURANCE CO	2,325.00
RAINBOW RIDER	13,133.33
VERIZON	6,230.66
VOYANT COMMUNICATIONS, LLC 3,249.90	
WATERGUARDS LLC	12,438.75
WEST CENTRAL REG JUVENILE CTR	9,029.00
WONDERLICH/SCOTT A ...	5,325.00
52 PAYMENTS LESS	
THAN \$2,000	29,715.44
CITY OF STAPLES	274,371.79
JASON ANDERSON CONSULTING	6,819.32
LAKES COMMUNITY COOPERATIVE	3,041.04
LANDWEHR CONSTRUCTION INC	335,591.63
LONG PRAIRIE OIL COMPANY	8,296.09
MINNESOTA POWER	14,674.44
MORRIS ELECTRONICS INC	6,896.45
MORRISON COUNTY	39,256.50
SIR LINES-A-LOT, LLC ...	181,803.51
38 PAYMENTS LESS	
THAN \$2,000	12,439.19
AFSCME COUNCIL 65	4,878.28
ASFELD/JOSEPH	4,760.04
CEBULLA/PAUL AND TAMMY	14,816.14
CENTRAL MN CARPET CARE	3,000.00
DOUGLAS SWCD	11,928.11
GALLAGHER BENEFIT SERVICES INC	2,000.00
HOST CONSTRUCTION CO LLC	11,450.00
LAW ENFORCEMENT LABOR SERV INC	2,248.32
LINCOLN FINANCIAL GROUP	6,884.20
MADDER GALANTER HANSEN, LLP	19,838.03
METRO SALES INC	2,220.22
METROPOLITAN LIFE INSURANCE COMPANY	13,100.32
MINNESOTA POWER	3,276.44
MN TEAMSTERS NO 320 ..	2,991.24
MORRISON SWCD ... \$	2,273.40
PACIFIC LIFE INSURANCE CO	2,325.00
PETERS LAW OFFICE, PA 2,096.25	
STANTEC CONSULTING SERVICES INC	6,956.14
STATEMA/JORDAN	16,908.08
TODD CO SHERIFF	10,126.61
TRISKO HEATING AND PLUMBING INC	3,227.55
WESTERBERG/CHRIS	9,010.00
WEX BANK-SINCLAIR	2,170.50
29 PAYMENTS LESS	
THAN \$2,000	16,270.02
BETTER HEALTH COLLECTIVE	31,355.00
PAYCOM PAYROLL, LLC	608,126.31
PAYCOM PAYROLL, LLC ...	3,467.11
PAYCOM PAYROLL, LLC ..	41,818.28
BETTER HEALTH	

if there is an accident in a crosswalk, then the driver is responsible. Without a crosswalk, the pedestrian would be responsible.

Grabe said there is a crosswalk at Prairie Ave., but that is several blocks from the apartments across from the trail.

Mayor Ron Murray said they should check with Wadena County to see if anything can be done about the pedestrian crossing.

In other news, the council

- Approved sale of general obligation anticipation notes to pay for water line infrastructure on the south side of Staples. City Administrator Jerel Nelsen said the city qualified for state funding for the project and will pay the notes back when that funding comes through. The sale of \$2.5 million in bonds was approved, the best proposal had a 4.25 percent interest rate.

- Approved Staples Area Chamber of Commerce to hold Hometown Harvest event at Northern Pacific Park on Oct. 3.

COLLECTIVE	328,645.00
VOYA (MSRS)	15,039.98
PERA	103,709.20
WEX HEALTH INC - HSA..	42,335.80
COUNTY OF TODD	2,894.96
WEX HEALTH INC - HSA ..	4,493.70
MN PERA	6,522.46
WEX - CIRCLE K	3,090.99
MN DEPT OF REVENUE ..	4,216.00
US BANK-CC	5,600.69
MN DEPT OF REVENUE ..	43,322.03
PAYCOM PAYROLL, LLC ..	3,467.10
PAYCOM PAYROLL, LLC 609,580.20	
MN PERA	6,522.47
COUNTY OF TODD	3,050.46
WEX HEALTH INC - HSA ..	15,639.75
PERA	103,592.88
VOYA (MSRS)	5,871.43
HUMANA INSURANCE COMPANY	8,126.39
16 PAYMENTS LESS	
THAN \$2,000	14,279.22
TOTAL:	\$4,069,247.53

COMMISSIONER WARRANTS	
VENDOR NAME	\$ AMOUNT
AMAZON CAPITAL SERVICES	2,318.39
CELLEBRITE INC	10,740.00
CENTRAL APPLICATORS INC	17,448.54
D & D AUTO REPAIR	8,111.72
EAGLE FABRICATING	19,000.00
J BROTHERS MECHANICAL PLUS, LLC	6,495.00
LONG PRAIRIE LEADER ..	17,735.00
MN TARP AND LINER	3,504.85
PRAIRIE VIEW DIESEL REPAIR	23,281.59
TODD SOIL & WATER CONS DIST	75,577.00
TRUENORTH STEEL INC ..	50,624.84
WIDSETH SMITH NOLTING INC 5,352.50	
40 PAYMENTS LESS	
THAN \$2,000	20,467.32
Total:	\$260,656.75

HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES WARRANTS	
VENDOR NAME	\$ AMOUNT
BON NUT LLC	\$2,100.00
NEW AMERICAN FUNDING, LLC 6,108.70	
TIMMERMAN PROPERTIES LLC 2,222.65	
4 PAYMENTS LESS	
THAN \$2,000	1,446.24
CHILDREN YOUTH & FAMILIES DEPT.	2,019.22
DHS - SWIFT	13,535.45
NEXT CHAPTER TECHNOLOGY, INC ..	168,315.50
TODD COUNTY ATTORNEY'S OFFICE	2,816.20
65 PAYMENTS LESS	
THAN \$2,000	20,987.48
Total:	\$219,551.44

VENDOR NAME	\$ AMOUNT
CHILDREN'S HOME & LSS LLC	\$3,360.30
GREATER MN FAMILY SRVS INC	4,779.16
LUTHERAN SOCIAL SERVICE OF MN - ST PAUL	2,485.75
NEXUS - MILLE LACS FAMILY HEALING	11,257.20
NORTHERN PINES MENTAL HEALTH CTR	11,686.99
PRESBYTERIAN FAMILY FOUNDATION INC	11,312.22
STEP 6,136.00	
TRI-COUNTY COMMUNITY CORRECTIONS	12,450.00
WEST CENTRAL REGIONAL JUVENILE CTR	3,811.00
19 PAYMENTS LESS	
THAN \$2,000	10,835.35
Total:	\$78,113.97

On a motion by Denny and second by Noska, the preceding minutes of the County Board meeting held August 4, 2026 were duly approved by unanimous vote at the Todd County Board of Commissioners at the Regular Board Meeting held on August 18, 2026.

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

38pnc

Ruttger is newest general surgeon at LHS

Lakewood Health System in Staples is pleased to welcome Dr. Thomas Ruttger to its general surgery provider team.

Originally from Brainerd, Dr. Ruttger earned his undergraduate degree from Multnomah University in Portland, Oregon and received his medical degree from the Trinity School of Medicine in Saint Vincent and the Grenadines. He completed his residency training in general surgery at Marshfield Clinic in Marshfield, Wisc.

As a general surgeon, Dr. Ruttger provides a wide array of surgical procedures for patients of all ages. He has special interests in minimally-invasive and robotic-assisted surgeries, hernia repairs, and



Dr. Thomas Ruttger

cancer operations.

“It has always been my dream to return home and care for the community where I grew up. Northern Minnesota holds a special place in my heart, and I appreciate everything it has

to offer. My goal is to help my patients achieve and maintain good health so they can fully enjoy life and all that makes this region such a wonderful place to live, work, and spend time with family and friends.”

Outside of work, Dr. Ruttger enjoys spending time with his wife and their four children. Family is at the center of his life, and they love making the most of their time together. When he’s not caring for patients, Dr. Ruttger can be found outdoors - hunting, fishing, running, biking, or enjoying a day on the water. He values the balance family and the outdoors bring to his life and looks forward to becoming part of the community both in and out of the hospital.



Making friends in Congress

Mark Crampton of Staples, left, meets with Nicky Hazelbater, legislative assistant for U.S. Representative Pete Stauber, and the rest of the Minnesota Peace Corps contingent, Kathleen West-

gard of Eagan, Khadra Mohamed, a Minnesota resident originally from Kenya who recently returned from a Peace Corps stint in Tanzania, and Paul Thompson of Edina. Below, the contingent meets with Jack Vaughn of Representative Michelle Fischbach’s office. (Submitted photos)



CRAMPTON continued from page 1a

Peace Corps: “You feel like you accomplished something”

Peace Corps contingent, because the program was developed by Minnesota Senator Hubert Humphrey.

“The people in Minnesota all knew about the Peace Corps, it was a big deal,” said Crampton.

He said the Peace Corps experience was especially fulfilling because of the number of people who are helped by the Peace Corps by teaching farming techniques, community health, or building infrastructure.

“You felt like you accomplished something. Coming out of college, it feels like it’s an adventure,” he said.

The Minnesota representatives gave Crampton ideas on how to promote their cause.

“Michelle Fischbach’s assistant was the most helpful,” said Crampton, “he started talking about who else they can get on board. They were doing all the coordination behind the scenes.”

Crampton said he realized that most the real work in Washington, D.C. is done by the legislative staff, with the office-holders giving them direction or signing off on projects.

Despite having traveled

around the world, this was Crampton’s first trip to the nation’s capitol. His first day of sightseeing was canceled because his airplane was delayed until late at night.

He still met up with one of his best friends from his Peace Corps days, Gary Richardson of South Carolina, who visited Staples in 2021 as part of a reunion of Peace Corps volunteers who worked in Benin. After the legislative visits, they were able to travel to Chesapeake Bay to visit two more Peace Corps friends.



Royalty on parade

Royalty members from Lakewood Pines and Lakewood Manor in Staples rode in a cart during the recent Railroad Days Parade in Staples. Manor royalty

were King Lyle Nielson and Queen Linda Voelker. (Staples World photo by Dawn Timbs)



Busy at Railroad Days

Pictured in downtown Staples during Railroad Days are Jordan Goodwater, left, with Discover Staples, and Ron Murray, Mayor of Staples. Both were part

of a dedicated crew that worked behind the scenes to ensure another fun and successful Railroad Days event. (Staples World photo by Dawn Timbs)



New chamber tent

Marlo Corona, President of the Staples Area Chamber of Commerce, and chamber member Mark Anderson stand under the new Chamber of Commerce Tent which was home to promotional materials for a number of non-profit organi-

zations. The new tent will be on display at the Chamber’s Hometown Harvest event on Oct. 3 at Northern Pacific Park in Staples, where they will host the annual Chili Cook-Off. (Staples World photo by Dawn Timbs)

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