

Inside this issue:

AgCentric receives robotics funding
Small town collaboration leads to success
New thrust stage to debut at Little Red Caboose
Middle school football camp



Wednesday, August 12, 2026

StaplesWorld

Staples, Minnesota

\$125

Spiderman builds a birdhouse

At Old Wadena Rendezvous and Chautauqua, the face painting station and build-a-birdhouse station were popular stops for families. (Photo by Mark Anderson)

Barn quilts, children’s art during RR Days

Two different art opportunities have been scheduled for Sunday, Aug. 23, as part of the Railroad Days celebration. A barn quilt class is being held at the Landmark Inn at noon and the Tiny School of Art & Design will be at the Music in the Park concert, featuring the Red Letter Band. The barn quilt class is being put on by the Bittersweet Barn Quilt Company. Attendees will be able to walk away with their own barn quilt. There is a cost for attending the class and purchasing materials. The class starts at noon on Sunday.

The Tiny School of Art & Design is a traveling art studio that will pop up at Northern Pacific Park on Sunday, Aug. 23, just before the time of the Music in the Park concert, which starts at 2 p.m. The art-making would continue through the concert. This event is for children of all ages. From their web site, “The Tiny School of Art & Design brings creative joy to your community with quality art materials, tools, and expert guidance. Come experiment, create, and express.” Both events are being planned by the Staples Motley Area Arts Council.



Huge crowd at National Night Out

More than 400 people came to see the National Night Out festivities at the Staples Airport on Aug. 4, sponsored by Staples-Motley Beyond Poverty. Above, the Staples Fire Department had their dalmation mascot visit with children. Below, Staples Police Chief Melissa Larson, right, chats with attendees. (Staples World photos by Mark Anderson)

Weather

2026 This Week's Forecast			
	High	Low	Cond.
Aug. 12	81	57	P. Cloudy
Aug. 13	79	56	P. Cloudy
Aug. 14	76	61	M. Cloudy
Aug. 15	72	58	RAIN
Aug. 16	77	55	M. Sunny
Aug. 17	80	59	P. Sunny
Aug. 18	82	61	Showers

Last Year, 2025			
	High	Low	Cond.
Aug. 12	75°	60	Rain
Aug. 13	77	55	P. Cloudy
Aug. 14	78	64	M. Cloudy
Aug. 15	82	68	M. Sunny
Aug. 16	76	66	Rain
Aug. 17	68	62	Cloudy
Aug. 18	77	66	Cloudy

Average Temps:
H = 79° Low = 58°

Compiled by
Dale Hausmann,
WCCO's Staples area
Weatherwatcher

Public Notices

#ISD 2170 9A
Todd Commissioners
9A, 10A

Obituaries

Gary Nytes
Ruth Ann Pearson
Lloyd Schumacher





Fun and games at NNO

National Night Out at the Staples Airport on Aug. 4 had games and face painting set up by the Staples Motley Area Women of Today. (Staples World photos by Mark Anderson)



Motley area law enforcement

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

Aug. 3 - Motley Police responded to a report of a domestic situation at the 12700 block of 67th Ave. SW, Motley.

July 31 - Motley Police received a report from the Motley Hardware store that a male came in the store on July 29, around 3:24 p.m. and stole two Milwaukee cordless drills. They were valued at \$289. Subsequently, James Earl Meyer, 62, was cited.

July 31 - Motley Police issued a citation to Ryan Michael Anderson, 53, for parking his vehicle and trailer across the parking spaces at city hall, preventing any city employees from parking there. He also parked in the marked 'police parking only' space.

Aug. 3 - The MCSO responded to a report of a domestic situation at the 12700 block of 67th Ave. SW, Motley.

July 31 - Morrison County deputies responded to assist MN State Patrol with a motor vehicle accident with possible injuries at Hwy 10 and 10th Ave., Cushing.

July 30 - Motley Police responded to a report of a grass fire in Cass Cty, north of 5849 57th Ave SW, Motley.

Cass Cty that Motley Fire be paged regarding farm equipment on fire out in the field next to some hay. The incident took place at 7086 84th St. SW, Motley.

Aug. 2 - The MCSO received a call from Cass Cty, requesting Motley Fire be paged for traffic control at an accident near Hwy 210 and Hwy 64, Motley. The incident involved two trucks hauling trailers. No injuries reported.

Aug. 1 - The MCSO received a report of disturbing the public peace at the 34000 block of Aztec Rd., Motley.

July 31 - Morrison County deputies responded to assist MN State Patrol with a motor vehicle accident with possible injuries at Hwy 10 and 10th Ave., Cushing.

July 30 - Motley Police responded to a report of a grass fire in Cass Cty, north of 5849 57th Ave SW, Motley.

Staples Police report July 19-Aug. 2

July 19, Staples Police investigated vehicle tire that broke loose and struck the siding of a building on 10th Street NE, causing damage. Vehicle was towed, driver was transported to restaurant to wait for spouse.

July 21, Staples Police investigated domestic assault on 8th St. NE. Parties are separated.

July 22, Staples Police took report of a young girl carrying a suitcase on Warner Rd. Father showed up before police and stated caretaker fell asleep.

July 22, Staples Police responded to a report of a drunk and disorderly person in an alley. Police found it

was a neighbor dispute about washing a vehicle and allowing water to run into alley.

July 23, Staples Police took a report of animal neglect at a neighborhood house on Cleveland St. SW. Dog is outside crying for hours.

July 23, Staples Police stopped a vehicle for failure to stop at stop sign. Driver was arrested for controlled substance DWI.

July 23, Staples Police responded to assist at an adult foster home. The group home called and were unable to control a resident.

July 24, Staples Police responded to a domestic situation. Police gave party

information for Hands of Hope and showed how to shut off location services on a cell phone if needed.

July 24, Staples Police responded to report of landlord driving around his home. Stated that he did not get served papers with an eviction notice hearing. Police advised subject to go to the meeting.

July 24, Staples Police responded to request to drive through Dower Lake Campground, people are getting squirrely out there. Checked, okay.

July 25, Staples Police responded to a report of a suicide threat with a person cutting their forehead and cheek. Knife was removed, but party is still in house with other knives. Subject refused assistance.

July 25, Staples Police responded to residence for report of people yelling and things smashing. Subject said nothing physical happened, just a verbal argument. Party was dropped off at a different location.

July 25, Staples Police responded to report of dirt bikes driving near Kansas Ave. SW.

July 27, Staples Police took an animal neglect report about a dog being left out in the heat for several days along Cleveland St. SW.

July 27, Staples Police assisted with a juvenile on a mental health hold at Lakewood Health System. Police helped restrain the subject to prevent harming self and others. Subject was uncooperative and attempted to leave before police arrived.

July 28, Staples Police

responded to a domestic assault report. Subject had struck a mirror and was displaying aggressive behavior. Subject made a suicide threat. Police advised that the subject needed to be evaluated for mental health. Subject was transported to Astera Health in Wadena.

July 29, Staples Police responded to a request to talk to a grandson who was being rough with a younger sibling. Police spoke to the parties about what action could be taken if it gets worse.

July 30, Staples Police took a road rage report. Police found that one person was threatened with a firearm. Subject was transported to residence.

Aug. 1, Staples Police responded to a vehicle parked near gas station after hours. Police spoke with subject who stated he is going through a breakup and is homeless. Police advised that they will contact social services for assistance.

Aug. 1, Staples Police responded to call of dogs in a yard. Respondent said the dogs have killed his chickens in the past. Police will issue a citation to owner of the dogs for dogs at large.

Aug. 1, Staples Police responded to domestic verbal incident, where subject was refusing to leave.

Aug. 2, Staples Police responded to subject who said he was hearing voices and wanted to be transported to the hospital. Police brought subject to Lakewood Health System without incident.

128th Annual

August 19-23



SWIFT
COUNTY FAIR
Appleton, MN

FREE LIVE MUSIC!

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Firehouse

Saturday eve Aug. 22
Sammy Kershaw



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Lizzy Hofer Band
John Cassidy Magician
Great Frontier Bull Riding
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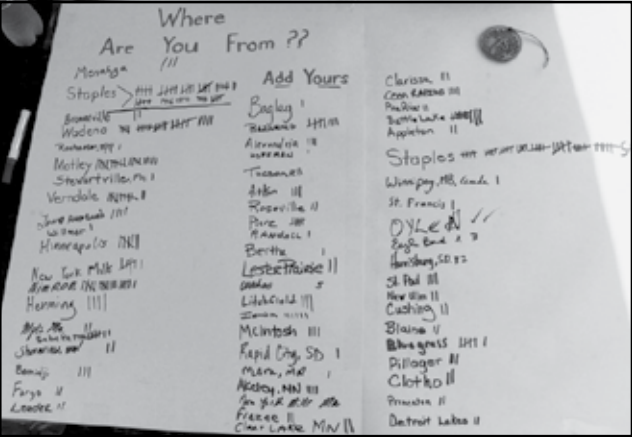
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July 28, Staples Police

Todd Cty. court report

AUGUST 5, 2026
Long Prairie Police
Jeweleah Rose Denise Bechtold, Clarissa. Operate vehicle with expired registration. Fine \$30. Fee \$85.
Luis Fernando Ledesma, Grey Eagle. Driving after revocation. Unsupervised probation, 1 Yr. Fee \$50 Fine \$275. Driver must carry proof of insurance when operating vehicle. Dismissed.
Ronald Padilla Pena, Browerville. Driving after revocation. Fine \$200. Fee \$85.
Rodney Ruiz Garcia, Long Prairie. Driving after revocation. Fine \$200. Fee \$85.
Todd County Sheriff
Brayden Micheal Bischof, Long Prairie. Liquor consumption by person under 21. Fine \$100. Fee \$85.
Leticia Guerrero Campos, Moorhead. Driving without a valid license for vehicle class or type. Fine \$100. Fee \$85.
Luis Heediel Caraballo Pastrana, Long Prairie. Driving without a valid license for vehicle class or type. Fine \$100. Fee \$85. All-terrain Vehicle, Operation on roads and rights of way prohibited. Fine \$50.
Jerry Gene Denny, Wadena. Driver fails to stop for stop sign. Fine \$50. Fee \$85.
Ericka Vanessa Diaz Martinez, Browerville. Driving without a valid license for vehicle class or type. Fine \$100. Fee \$85.
Austin Aarik Dreger, Sauk Centre. Window restrictions, Tint too dark. Fine \$50. Fee \$85.
Aldy, Lalanne, Long Prairie. Speed 55/100. Fine \$150. Fee \$235
Maria Del Socorro Orozco De Perez, Saint Cloud. Driving after suspension. Fine \$200. Fee \$85.
Marilenny Rosario Guzman, Eagle Bend. Speed 73/60. Fine \$50. Fee \$85.
Adam Isaac Rosario Rivera, Long Prairie. Driving after suspension. Fine \$200. Fee \$85.
Dale Fillmore III Stromquist. Window restrictions-tint too dark. Fine \$50. Fee \$85.
Staples Police
Nevaeh Paige Brynteson, Pequot Lakes. DWI-Operate motor vehicle under influence of alcohol. Dismissed. DWI-Operate motor vehicle, Alcohol concentration 0.08 within 2 hours. Supervised probation, 1 Yr. Fine \$200. Fee \$200
Isaac Scott Long, Staples. Window restrictions, tint too dark. Fine \$50. Fee \$85.
MN Dept. of Natural Resources
Laurie Kay Loscheider, Burtrum. Fish and Game, Take fish without angling license. \$100. Fee \$85
Matthew Ryan Storck, Browerville. ATV's-Fail to renew registration. Fine \$50. Fee \$85. ATV-Prohibitions on youthful operators/passengers, under 18 helmet required. Fine \$50
Noah Jay Wehrspann, Long Prairie. ATV-Prohibitions on youthful operators, permit unlawful operation. Fine \$100. Fee \$85.
Peyton John Winter, Brocton. Fishing-Osakis and Little Osakis Lakes walleye regulation violation. Fine \$50. Fee \$85.
MN State Patrol
Dawson Richard Meyer, Glencoe. Speed 75/65. Fine \$40. Fee \$85.
Sandra Luann Atkinson, Alexandria. Speed 79/70. Fine \$40. Fee \$85.
Sophia Katarzyna Bizek, Lakeville. Speed 70/55. Fine \$60. Fee \$85
Yahir Isai Botello, Sauk Centre. Speed 79/60. Fine \$60. Fee \$85
Leticia Guerrero Campos, Moorhead. Speed 75/60. Fine \$60. Fee \$85. No Minnesota Driver's License. Fine \$100
Eric Wayne Evans, Grand Fork, ND. Speed 79/70. Fine \$40. Fee \$85.
Derek Joseph Faul, Edina. Speed 80/70. Fine \$40. Fee \$85.
Taron Steven Freidrichs, Lafayette. Speed 70/60. Fine \$40. Fee \$85.
Hans Sterling Gunness, Chaska. Hands-Free Law. Fine \$50. Fee \$85.
Damien Kane Kerr, Wadena. Fail to yield right of way stop signs/blink-ing. Fine \$50. Fee \$85.
Corey Micheal Lamm, Browerville. Hands-Free Law. Fine \$50. Fee \$85.
Shelby Leanne Lorenzen, Wahpeton, ND. Speed 80/70. \$40. Fee \$85.
Wayne Thomas McNally, Clitherrall. Speed 80/70. Fine \$40. Fee \$85.
Lyndora Sue Miller, Long Prairie. Seat belt required. Fine \$25. Fee \$85.
Mark Joseph Miller, Woodbury. Speed 80/70. Fine \$40. Fee \$85.
Brenna Elizabeth Moen, Osakis. Speed 70/60. Fine \$40. Fee \$85.
Kasandra Wainith Montanez, Clarissa. Speed 70/60. Fine \$40. Fee \$85.



The Old Wadena Rendezvous kept a tally of where visitors came from, revealing visitors from every direction.

Alan Arthur Ousley, Perham. Fail to yield at ent of through highway after having stopped. Fine \$50. Fee \$85.
Rene Schewa, Mitchell, MB. Speed 80/70. Fine \$40. Fee \$85.
Raul Alberto Wood, Long Prairie. Driving after cancellation. Fine \$200. Fee \$85. No proof mv insurance. Fine \$200.
Sandra Jo Wussow, Alexandria. Speed 79/70. Fine \$40. Fee \$85.
The following cases were heard before Meriel B. Lester, Seventh District Court in Todd County July 24, 2026.
Brody Jaradon Shaw, Staples. DWI - Operate Motor Vehicle Under Influence of Alcohol. Sentenced. Local Confinement 90 Days, Stay 88 Days For 2 Yr Credit for time served: 2 Days. Supervised probation, 2 Yr. Sentenced. Fine \$50. Fee \$225.
Underage drinking and driving. Dismissed.
The following cases were heard before Heidi L. Hovis, Seventh District Court in Todd County July 27, 2026.
Gordon Lee Jr. Coffelt, Swanville. Disorderly conduct. Local Confinement 0 Days, Stay 0 Yr 0 Mo 90 Days For 1 Yr. Unsupervised probation, 1 Yr. Sentenced.
Danyal James Evans, Sacred Heart. DWI-Operate Motor Vehicle - Alcohol Concentration 0.08 Within 2 Hours. Supervised probation, 4 Yr. Local Confinement 364 Days, Stay 0 Yr 0 Mo 360 Days For 4 Yr Credit for time served: 4 Days. Sentenced. Fine \$600. Fee \$705.
Richard John Schrom, Fertile. Criminal Sexual Conduct-1st Degree-Penetration under 18/Contact under 14-Use force Dismissed. Criminal Sexual Conduct - 3rd Degree - Penetration; Victim 14 - 15 Actor > 24m older. Commit to Commissioner of Corrections MN Correctional Facility - St. Cloud, 36 Mo, Stay For 15 Yr. Local Confinement 30 Days, Stay 0 Yr 0 Mo 0 Days Credit for time served: 4 Days. Supervised probation, 15 Yr. Sentenced. Fine \$500. Fee \$935.
The following cases were heard before Heidi L. Hovis, Seventh District Court in Todd County July 28, 2026.
Bryan Fulgencioi Rosario, Long Prairie Driving after revocation. Sentenced. Fine \$200. Fee \$200.
David Wayne Jr. Miles, Brainerd. Disorderly Conduct. Supervised probation, 1 Yr.
Local Confinement 90 Days, Stay 0 Yr 0 Mo 86 Days For 1 Yr Credit for time served: 4 Days. Supervised probation 1 Yr. Fine \$100. Fee \$75
Isaac Lee Amelung, Sauk Centre. Driving after suspension. Unsupervised probation, 1 yr. Fine \$50. Fee \$50
Milagros Mar Carrasquillo Torres, Melrose. Driving after revocation. Local Confinement 90 Days, Stay 0 Yr 0 Mo 88 Days For 1 Yr Credit for time served: 2 Days. Unsupervised probation, 1 Yr. Sentenced. Fine \$50. Fee \$75.
Ruben Leomar Ramierz Lugo, Clarissa. Speed 72/60 Dismissed. Driver must carry proof of insurance. Dismissed. Driving after revocation. Unsupervised probation, 1 Yr. Local Confinement 30 Days, Stay 30 Days For 1 Yr. Fine \$50. Fee \$125.

The following cases were heard before Daniel A. Benson, Seventh District Court in Todd County July 24, 2026.
Tracy Marie Rivetts, Little Falls. Uninsured vehicle driver violation. Dismissed. Driving after revocation. Dismissed. Operate unregistered vehicle without plates on public streets. Continued. Community work service, 10 Hours For Indeterminate. Unsupervised probation, 1 Yr. Fine \$50. Fee \$50
Fail to mail/deliver certificate of title to dept within time frames specific. Dismissed.
Vanessa Raven Rodriguez, Hewitt. Posses ammo/any firearm-pervious felony conviction. Continued. Unsupervised probation, 1 Yr.
-Court reports are received from the Long Prairie Leader.

75 YEARS Ago - 1951

• Aug. 9, 1951 - A deal was completed last week when Vern Jenkins bought what has been recently known as “Emma’s Cafe” and took possession on Aug. 1. Mrs. Emma Lindstrom opened the cafe about three months ago, but has returned to Brainerd.
• Aug. 9, 1951 - The roof was put on the new Schaffer Implement structure on Sixth Street South in Staples late last weekend, and with the exception of the front windows and doors, the building is now completely enclosed. This will be completed sometime this week, according to Phil Schaffer, owner of the new building.
The building, all constructed of concrete blocks, with the beams of steel, and

- O -
Compiled by
Dawn Timbs
- O -

a wood and composition roof, will house the implement business of Mr. Schaffer.

The front of the building has been given a coat of stucco, and the entire structure will be painted white before the opening date.
• Aug. 9, 1951 - All attendance records were broken Tuesday evening, Aug. 7, at the Motley fair when a record of 3,500 people passed through the gates, paying admission to the fair. This, of course, did not include those children under 12 years of age who did not have to pay admission.
• Aug. 9, 1951 - Donald S. Eddy was granted his master of Arts degree from the University of Minnesota at the graduating exercises held July 26, according to the bulletin received from the University last week.
Mr. Eddy received his degree in industrial education and plans to teach this fall. He has secured a teaching position at Richfield, a suburb of Minneapolis, for the coming year.
• Aug. 9, 1951 - Mrs. Ed Grossman, correspondent from the Moran-Germania vicinity for The World, lost her purse in Staples Saturday evening, and is offering a \$10 reward for the return of the purse and contents.
The purse was a crushed white plastic envelope type with zipper top and half way down the side. There was no identification, but the purse contained between \$30 and \$40 in cash.

50 YEARS Ago - 1976

• July 29, 1976 - Sunshine Warehouse Market in Staples advertised the following: Tom Sawyer wieners, 3 lb. bag, \$2.49; Minnesota red potatoes, 10 lb. bag, 99 cents; Kemp’s vanilla ice cream, 5 qt. pail, \$2.29; Maxwell House coffee, 2 lb. can, \$2.99; Holsum’s fresh bread, 3 1 1/2 loves, \$1.
• July 29, 1976 - Cecile M. Huff of Staples is among the 90 students from St. Cloud State University who will leave Aug. 28, for a nine-month stay in Aalborg, Denmark.
Miss Huff, a sophomore at St. Cloud State University, is the daughter of Lawrence J. Huff.
Students in the Denmark program will live and attend classes in the 100-year-old Hotel Kong Frederick, which has been leased for the program.
• July 29, 1976 - Stan Carlson of Staples has filed for a seat in the U. S. House of Representatives from Minnesota’s Seventh District. Carlson, a member of the Libertarian Party, filed over 1,700 signatures on a nominating petition, with Joan Growe, Secretary of State, st. Paul.
Carlson said he feels that it is absolutely necessary to “move in the direction of individual liberty and away from government control over our lives, both in economic areas and in social issues.”
• July 29, 1976 - Susan Smith, a first year member of the Becker Busy Bees 4-H Club and a beginning Clothing Project member, was named first runner-up

Looking back



Mystery photo

Hello readers. This week’s archive photo is from 2001. Do you know who these people are and perhaps the context of the photo? Do you have a memory to share? Email your answers and where

you’re from to dtimbs@staplesworld.com by Friday, or call 218-894-1112. The answers will be published in next week’s paper, as well as a new mystery photo.



Mystery solved

Last week’s mystery photo published in the Feb. 1, 1990 edition of the Staples World featured three Girl Scouts who shared their Girl Scout Day Camp experiences at a Cookie Pep Fest, kicking off Girl scout cookie sales. From left, Aubrey Noska, Brandy Braford, Monica Weber.
Judy Wolak, Staples, recognized

Weber and thought Brandy was Bobbie Braford.
Michelle Collison Lundquist, Staples, recognized all of the girls, sharing that she went to school with them. She noted that they were 1988 graduates of Staples-Motley High School. Thanks for participating in our mystery photo.

in the beginner’s division of the Cass County Fair at Pine River.

• July 29, 1976 - The Staples 9-year olds handed Wadena a 14-7 defeat in a contest at Wadena Wednesday afternoon, July 21.
Staples hit six home runs in the game, with Scott Schletty getting 2 and Mike Miller, Mike Johnson, Brian Miller and Todd Card each getting one. Miller also added a triple and a single and Mike Miller and Mike Johnson added singles. Tim Corbett had 3 hits, and Jack Shriver had 2. Randy Reichel also hit safely in the game. Greg Deering also saw action.
• July 29, 1976 - A miscellaneous household shower will be held for Mr. and Mrs. Ambrose Winkels, who recently lost their farm home by fire. The shower will be held Sunday, Aug. 1, from 2 - 5 p.m., at the Ray Mudek farm, 9 1/2 miles northwest of Staples.
25 YEARS Ago - 2001
• Aug. 9, 2001 - A Retirement Tea to honor and recognize Dr. Lelwica’s 36 years of dedicated medical and community service, will be held Sunday, Aug. 26, from 1:30 - 4 p.m., in the Greater Staples Care Center Dining Room.
• Aug. 9, 2001 - Human remains believed to have been buried for some time were discovered along the Crow Wing River north of Staples last Sunday, according to the Wadena County Sheriff Mike Carr.
The bones, including a human skull, were found by two people who were tubing on the river about ten miles north of Staples. Carr said the two saw part of a human skull in the water near the river bank.
They notified the sheriff’s department and deputies recovered the bone. During a further search deputies also located a second

bone nearby. Authorities have not yet determined if the second bone is human.

Carr said county officials are still trying to determine the age of the bones and have asked the FBI laboratory for assistance in that effort. The origin of the bones remains a mystery, Carr said, but he suspects that they were once buried and have been uncovered, probably due to this spring’s high water and heavy rains this summer.
• Aug. 9, 2001 - Quick work by lifeguards on duty apparently saved a small child’s life at Dower Lake Beach near Staples last Thursday.
The lone lifeguard on duty spotted a child floating face down in the water just off the shoreline. With help from a park attendant and an off-duty lifeguard who happened to be at the beach, lifeguard Katie Palmer performed rescue breathing techniques and called 911.
Staples Ambulance personnel and Staples Police and Fire Departments responded to the scene. The child, believed to be about a four-year-old boy, was transferred to Greater Staples Hospital, where he was treated and released

the next morning, according to Laurie Bach, hospital spokesperson.

Bach reported the Dower Lake swimming area lifeguards were successful in getting the child breathing before other emergency personnel arrived.

• Aug. 9, 2001 - Bob Sell now of Staples proudly displayed the framed certificate he received signed by Gov. Jesse Ventura (as was noted in the outline of a photo). The Todd County Outstanding Male Senior Citizen will be honored Aug. 30, at the Minnesota State Fair, where an outstanding male and female senior citizen will be named for the state.

10 YEARS Ago - 2016

• Aug. 4, 2016 - To make room for the new Timberlake Hotel in Staples, the hotel builders, the Ives family, donated the house on the property to the Staples Veterans Park Association. The park board has considered using the house for a museum/education center, but instead moved it to a lot on Airport Road owned by former board member Jack Wilson. They hope to sell the home as a fundraiser.



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Staples World

DEADLINES
Newspaper deadline for copy and advertising: 12 noon Fridays

Collaboration in Staples, a big part of success

By Ron Murray
Mayor of Staples

Collaboration: the process of two or more people or groups working together to reach a shared goal. It involves sharing ideas, skills and hard work to make something better than any one person could alone.

I have seen a tremendous amount of collaboration going on in town. It is mentioned or noticed in nearly all of my interactions in the community. I wanted to bring attention to it in this letter and may make it a theme in future letters along with all that is happening. I am again behind in my goal to be doing this quarterly and it makes me feel good that I have had some people ask me when the next one is coming. People are reading this.

Let me first say that collaboration isn't always easy at first if the people or organizations working together have to get thru some initial obstacles but common goals make it work out for the good. Area businesses and service organizations just worked together in our national night out that happened on Aug. 4. Providing needed equipment and donating supplies to help keep food cold and reduce cost. The area fire departments and medical service agencies as well providing staff and equipment. And all the activates and games for kids.

The CLC heavy equipment class also just completed another spur of the legacy walking trail collaborating with the Ag Center staff and the city of Staples.

The Railroad Days activities are even going to showcase the trail as part of the 5K race. Collaboration occurs on smaller scales such as Kripa Reese and her flower expertise helping the city of Staples in putting out all the beautiful flowers on our downtown. Vicki Nitti taking it upon herself and working with the police chief to spruce up the police station front lawn area.

I witness a tremendous amount of collaboration in attending the weekly construction meetings for the 4th Street project. They all have to work together to get it done and that includes our city staff working closely with the crew working on the street with heavy equipment.

Collaboration can be in the form of providing needed funds for projects to improve the city. This has happened for our walking trail improvements and the community center renovation project of new exercise equipment. It is nice to see the bigger businesses and organizations such as Lakewood and Sourcewell provide grants to help a great deal with local needs for improvement and progress but also many area businesses always stepping in with staff or ideas or equipment.

Some collaboration which benefits our community occurs with outside agencies. Such as the CLC/BSU (Bemidji State University) nursing program agreement. Our local law enforcement collaborates with area county law enforcement from Wadena and Todd to provide coverage and mutual aid. Sentenced to serve organization crew from Todd and Wadena counties collaborated with city of Staples on work with removing and replacing the aging dock railing on our fishing pier at Dower Lake. This organization collaborates also with demolition needs in city and are willing to help often when called upon. I was privileged to hear a presentation from Jeannie Rohr and Julie Mertens on our new SM artistic hall of fame and the great work the board is doing in getting this started and recognition being given.

Our very own city electrical workers, our lineman, received another recognition from the APPA (American public power association) for Excellence in reliability related to short response times to outages of power in the City. It essentially means less than 20 minutes of outage for a year (without a major event).

Our SM cardinal speech team has 27 members! They place very well at meets thru season last year and sent 7 students to state tournament. Our national honor society for SM school had 20 students last year!

I was made aware of another opportunity for dining out that is happening at CLC. The restaurant there at campus has contracted with Anchor North and providing delicious meals for breakfast and lunch.

Staples Chamber of Commerce is now on year two of building up our area local businesses and again planning some fun events for fall and winter: fall fest and 12 day countdown to Christmas. They have a vibrant board and I was able to attend a recent meeting. Stay tuned for more things coming from the Chamber. Discover Staples is ramping up for Railroad Days August 22nd. The board held strategic planning earlier this year and discussed priorities including collaboration with the Chamber to work together to make Staples an even better place.

I would like to close with again letting people know that there is a tremendous amount of collaboration that occurs in our city weekly. It results in good things. There is a saying I like and have in my home:

Believe there
Is good in
The world!
Share collaboration stories with me and I will share in future.

Have a great rest of summer and fall. Maybe I will see you at RR days or around town.

Fete of farmers markets

By Rhea Landholm
Center For Rural Affairs

Once a week in the summertime, brightly colored 10x10 tents pop up in a corner parking lot in my community. Under each one of those tents is a producer, crafter, or small business owner who has tables of goods for sale.

We celebrated these farmers markets during National Farmers Market Week, Aug. 2-8, 2026.

My farmers market often includes fruits and vegetables, prepared food, arts and crafts, cut flowers, baked goods, and handcrafted items. I tend to go for the fresh potatoes, green spinach, juicy red tomatoes, and I might pick up a handcrafted bar of soap or jar of jelly.

These events not only offer locally grown and created items, but they are an important gathering place for the community.

Did you know that humans have been buying and selling farm-fresh food (and more) at markets for thousands of years?

In North America, Indigenous peoples established vast trading networks, exchanging food and other goods with neighboring Tribes and then European traders, setting the stage for permanent markets.

The first recorded "farmers market" in the U.S. opened in 1634 in Boston. Others soon followed.

In the 1800s, markets became fewer and farther between as transportation improved. However, in

the mid-1900s, as families sought extra income and self-sufficiency, more markets popped up. Today, that number is growing.

In 2026, there are 8,863 U.S. Department of Agriculture-listed farmers markets, plus CSA (community supported agriculture) programs and farm stands, according to Mendeley Data. Counting smaller, seasonal, or newly established local community stands, estimates are as high as 10,000.

This rising number represents a growing interest in "local"—preserving local farmland, protecting the livelihood of local growers, and diversifying local economies.

What will you buy from your farmers market this week?

Quote of the week

“When small towns find they cannot harm the strangest of their members, when eccentrics show resilience, they are eventually embraced and even cherished.”

— Louise Erdrich

Rural Minnesota growing with diverse economy, migration

By Kelly Asche
Senior Researcher, and
Marnie Werner
Vice President of Research and Operations,
Center for Rural Policy and Development

Each year, the Center for Rural Policy and Development (CRPD) provides an update on various economic and demographic data pertaining to rural Minnesota.

The CRPD maintains and regularly update the Atlas of Rural Minnesota Online. This collection of interactive maps and charts provides readers with a higher-level analysis of the data, breaking it down in a variety of ways to give a better understanding of Minnesota's demographic, economic, and societal characteristics at the state, county, planning region, and economic development region levels. Visit https://center-for-rural-policy.shinyapps.io/Atlas_2026/ to view the site.

Following are some of the quick takeaways for 2025:

People

Population trends in rural Minnesota continue to be shaped by two competing forces: declining natural change and increasing in-migration, especially internationally. While deaths are rising and births remain low across the state, migration patterns since the late-2010s have helped offset these declines in many rural counties.

Many rural counties have seen modest population gains since 2020, driven largely by in-migration. In contrast to the previous decade, far fewer counties have been experiencing population loss so far this decade.

Despite these recent gains, long-term population growth remains unlikely in many rural areas. Aging populations and declining birth rates mean deaths will continue to outpace births across much of the state.

Population diversity is playing an increasingly important role in rural demographic change. BIPOC populations account for a growing share of residents in many counties and will likely contribute to future population growth.

Migration patterns vary by age. While many rural counties continue to lose young adults in their 20s, they often gain residents in

their 30s and 40s, reflecting a life-cycle migration pattern that has shaped rural population trends for decades. The 2010 and 2020 Decennial Census confirmed this continued pattern.

Economic vitality

Rural Minnesota's economy remains diverse and broadly similar to the rest of the state, although several structural differences continue to shape economic conditions.

Education and health services remain the largest employment sector in most counties across Minnesota.

Rural counties tend to have higher shares of employment in government, resource-based industries, and self-employment, while the Twin Cities metro area has a larger share of professional and business services jobs.

Workforce shortages continue to affect Greater Minnesota more than the Twin Cities metro. Job vacancy rates remain elevated in rural regions, putting pressure on employers and local economies and contributing to rising wages.

Although median wages and incomes remain lower in rural areas than in the metro, rural regions have experienced some of the largest growth in income over the past two decades.

When accounting for lower housing and living costs, wages in many parts of Greater Minnesota cover the cost of living as well as or better than in metropolitan areas. However, some regions—particularly the central lakes area and counties north of the Twin Cities—face greater challenges in meeting local costs with local wages.

Migration

While a majority of the state's most rural counties experienced a steady population decline during the 2010s, a shift seems to have occurred in the late-2010s and continued through 2024 (the latest available data).

We can examine populations at the beginning and end of each decade. In 2019, 46 counties (all rural) had a lower population than in 2010. So far this decade, only 20 counties have a lower population in 2024 than they did in 2020, and one of those counties is entirely urban (Ramsey). In Greater Minnesota, population growth can typically be found in three types of counties: counties that are considered recreational (central lakes), counties where non-white populations are concentrated (e.g. Nobles), and in metropolitan counties such as Blue Earth and Olmsted. However, since 2017, many counties that don't fit these three categories are experiencing population growth, or at least, very minor declines.

This change has primarily occurred due to the positive shift in migration. The first trend is having a negative impact on population across all of Minnesota: the downward trend in natural change. In rural areas, negative net natural change is worsening. Counties that were experiencing positive net natural change are seeing either less positive growth (growing more slowly) or started experiencing negative growth (more

deaths than births) in the late-2010s.

Despite this downward shift, the second trend—the positive shift in net migration—is managing to offset this negative influence. Since the mid-2010s, rural areas have been seeing an increasing in-migration of people.

Starting in 2017, all of Minnesota began experiencing a rise in number of deaths, while births slowly began to decline. Before 2017, rural areas essentially “broke even” with about the same number of births and deaths, keeping their impact on overall population change neutral. However, these areas are now experiencing significantly more deaths than births.

That combination of low birth rates and high death rates hits rural regions particularly hard, where the average population is already older and counties have been experiencing a negative natural change rate for a number of years already. It's here that the surprising amount of in-migration in the last few years may be particularly welcome, but the long-term trend in natural change will only get worse as the Baby Boomer generation continues to age.

BIPOC populations

Many tend to believe that Black, Indigenous, Hispanic populations and other people of color (BIPOC) are largely concentrated in metropolitan counties. However, Greater Minnesota has experienced considerable growth in these populations as well. In fact, three of the top five counties with the highest percentage of BIPOC populations are outside of the seven-county metro: Mahnomon (55%), Nobles (48%), Ramsey (42%), Hennepin (35%) and Watonwan (32%).

Age group migration

One aspect of migration data that can be hidden is the trend in migration by age group. Even though most rural areas have been experiencing an overall out-migration, it is not always a loss among all age groups. In fact, many rural counties see an in-migration of people between the ages of 30 and 49. In lake regions, that age range extends out to include even older households as they retire and move to lake homes.

Many rural development organizations, county boards, and municipal organizations are participating in “people recruitment” strategies to take advantage of this migration pattern, which has been well documented by the University of Minnesota Extension and in our report on recruiting workforce.

Between 2010 and 2020, almost all rural counties experienced an out-migration of people who would be 25 to 29 years old in 2020. They had migrated away somewhere in the previous ten years. But while this age group was migrating out, the next older age group, those entering their early 30s in 2020, were migrating into these rural counties. This particular trend has been well-documented since the 1970s and is considered a strength within rural migration trends.

Quote of the week

“Sometimes taking time is actually a shortcut.”

— Haruki Murakami

StaplesWorld

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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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Taking down the sign

Scenic Sign Corp employees out of Sauk Rapids were at work Aug. 7, taking down the Community Events sign off 2nd Ave. NE in Staples. The sign was owned by the Staples Area Chamber of Commerce, which plans to plant flowers in the

vacant space. In forefront are Chamber President Marlo Corona, left; and Chamber Event Director Kylie Mattson. Corona said the digital sign had not worked in many years. (Staples World photo by Dawn Timbs)



Stage taking shape to be ready for Little Red Caboose event

Workers from Busker Concrete smooth out the freshly poured concrete on the new thrust stage at Centennial Auditorium in Staples, covering up the former orchestra pit that was covered by a wooden structure. The first performance on the new stage will be the Little Red Caboose Variety Show on Thursday, Aug. 20, a 7 p.m. (Staples World photo by Mark Anderson)

MEET THE CANDIDATES FORUM

THURSDAY, AUGUST 27TH
Memorial Auditorium- 249 Dayton Ave. SW, Wadena
Social: 5:30 p.m. Forum Begins: 6:00 p.m.
Come meet the individuals who will appear on your November ballot and learn more about those seeking to represent greater Minnesota.
*All State & Federal candidates have been invited.
Hosted by Todd-Wadena Electric Cooperative

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 older adult 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.
August 17 - August 21
MONDAY - Country fried chicken, cream gravy, mashed potatoes, peas, wheat bread, marg., sugar cookie, 1% milk.

TUESDAY - Pasta pizza casserole, country veggie clend, spiced peaches, dinner roll, marg., 1% milk.

WEDNESDAY - Oven roasted turkey/gravy, mashed potatoes, whole kernel corn, wheat bread, marg., Tapioca pudding/topping, 1% milk.

THURSDAY - Beef goulash, mixed veggies, pumpkin bar, dinner roll, marg., 1% milk.

FRIDAY - Baked pork chop/gravy, salloped potatoes, diced carrots, wheat bread, marg., oatmeal raisin cookie, 1% milk.

wk34

Mark Your Calendar

August 13

'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>

August 14

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.

August 16

MUSIC IN THE PARK - FREE
Featuring Uncle Muskrat. Sunday, Aug. 16, 7 p.m., at Northern Pacific Park, 625 6th St. NE, Staples. Sponsored by Staples Motley Area Arts Council.

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

August 18

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.

Do You Like Beautiful Artwork?

GIVING TOURS:
Tour the beautiful artwork at Sacred Heart Church, Staples
Sat., Aug. 22
3 p.m.

Thank You for Making National Night Out such a big success:

- Lakewood Health System
- Staples Rotary
- Staples Host Lions
- Staples DQ
- Motley DQ
- Ernie's
- Jon's Family Foods
- Hubbard Hardware
- Women of Today
- Staples Fire Dept.
- Staples Police Dept.
- City of Staples
- Todd, Wadena, Cass County Sheriff's Depts.
- Motley Fire Dept.
- MN-DNR

-Staples Motley Beyond Poverty

England Prairie 47th Annual PIONEER DAYS
AMERICA 250
Fri., Sat., Sun. Aug. 21, 22, 23, 2026
14229 County Road 1, Wadena, MN 56482

Friday Night Fundraiser
Barn Dance on the Prairie
4:30-6:30 Pulled Pork or Beef on a Bun, Potato Salad, Cole Slaw, Pickle Spear & Beverage - \$14.00
6:00-8:00 Blommel Family Band
5:00-8:00 Pie & Ice Cream, Root Beer Floats

SAT., AUGUST 22
7:30 a.m. Gates open
7:30-11 a.m. Thresher's Breakfast
9:00 a.m. Flag Raising with Scouts
11:00 a.m. Antique Tractor Pull
11:30 a.m. Kid's Coin Hunt
11:30 a.m.-7 p.m. Lunch
1:30 p.m. Parade - JOIN IN!

SUN., AUGUST 23
7:30 a.m. Gates open
7:30-11 a.m. Thresher's Breakfast
9:00 a.m. Worship Service
10:00 a.m. Draft Horses field demos
11:30 a.m. Kid's Coin Hunt
1:00 p.m. Parade - JOIN IN!
2:00-4:00 p.m. Bingo
4:00 p.m. Raffle prize drawings
5:00 p.m. Gates close for the season

PLUS: Tractor Show • Kid's Games
•Horse Drawn Wagon Rides •Military Museum
•Pioneer Museum •Tater Dig & Pick
•Display of Hit 'n Miss Gasoline Engines
DEMOS: •Blacksmith •Print Shop •Shingle Mill
•Threshing •Saw Mill •Horses in the Field

Map / info: www.England-prairie.org email: pioneer@England-prairie.org

"ALL ABOARD!"

the LITTLE RED CABOOSE VARIETY SHOW
Thursday, August 20, 2026 at 7 PM
CENTENNIAL AUDITORIUM, STAPLES

Get your tickets in advance and save \$2.00 a ticket!

Advanced Tickets: adults \$10.00
ages: 6-12 \$6.00
5 and under are free

Order online: www.staplesmen.org or

or purchase tickets at the Staples World, Hubbard Hardware or Staples Ace Hardware.

Tickets at the door: adults \$12.00
ages: 6-12 \$8.00
5 and under are free

Hosted by: **STAPLES MOTLEY AREA COMMUNITY FOUNDATION** **STAPLES AREA Men's Chorus**
Building from Within, Creating for Tomorrow

Lakeland PBS **LAKELAND COMMUNITY THEATRE** **FIVE WINGS ARTS COUNCIL**

These activities are sponsored in part by the Minnesota State Arts Board through the arts and cultural heritage fund as appropriated by the Minnesota State Legislature with money from the Legacy Amendment vote for the people of Minnesota on Nov. 4, 2008.

• AUCTION •
Indoors, Motley Fairgrounds, Motley, MN 56466
Saturday, August 22, 2026

SALE TIME: 9 A.M. **RESTROOMS** **LUNCH AVAILABLE**

10 BB Guns
Winchester, Marlin and Red Ryder
Craftsman Rider, 24 hp
Aladdin lamps
Double and single bit axes
Pocket watches
Wrist watches including 2 Rolex
Pioneer receiver and speakers
Turn tables, Pioneer, Magnavox, JVC
Lighted signs, beer, cigarette and Coca Cola
Many metal signs: Yamaha, fire, etc.

Vintage copper Savage Arms Co. washer and dryer, unique
Tonka Toys, like new
Over 700 vintage hub caps
General Electric metal ice box
Vintage Indian Motorcycle gas tank
49 Ford windshield and back window
3/4-drive socket set
Forging tools
Vintage clocks
Canadian Lake Trout jig sticks
Tackle box

License plates
Dremel tools
Log wedges
Harley Davidson 20" bike, extra wheels/tires
1996 Schwinn Predator, 24"
G. Burton electric guitar
Green canning jars
Staples depot bench
Unique horse collar and harness
Oil painting
Coke cooler
Old board games
Airplane props, wood/ aluminum

Many more items too numerous to mention
Dave Ringwelski, owner

BEER LIGHTS: Grain Belt, Molson Light, Stroh's Light, Schlitz, 1950's or 1960's, Old Style, more
Budweiser mirrored picture
Beer trays
Bud beer glasses, all 8 Wildlife Series
2 Hamm's Beer glaze lights

6 large Bud beer mugs
Schmidt collector series, all 6
Coca-Cola mugs and glasses
1987 Twin's World series mug
1987 Twins World Championship mug
7 Up glasses
Church keys, Coke, Hamm's, 7 Up

INDIAN MANDALANS
MANY: Collectible Troika, large and small
Julen plates from Sweden
Small collector's plates
Hoover cleaner/vac
Electric typewriter
Shelves

Cabinets
Knick knacks

Private Party
Handcrafted Whitetail Hunter's chest, solid oak
Buck knife, new
Some jackets
Metal storage box
Elec. leaf blower
Pedal bike, variety
A. Book: Who's in Minnesota
MANY MORE ITEMS

PRINTS
All by James Meager
Co-signed by Herb Brooks:
-Fast Moving Blanks, #4/35
-One More Pass, #4/35
-Hoot 'N' Holler, #4/35
Les Kouba print: Pronghorns at Waterring Hole, #248/1400

Henry Rifle, Golden Boy 22
Kimbler 9mm (Must have permit to purchase hand guns)
Misc. Ammo
Clip loader
20-gun safe
Table w/ 6 chairs
Chest
Sewing machine
Tools
Small air compressor

Glen Williams, Owner

Model 835 Ultra Mag.
Remington 22
Must have permit to purchase hand guns)
Assort. ammo.
2 place horse trailer w/tack compartment
Pressure washer
Cedar chest
New elec. Whirlpool stove
Collectable baby carriage
Display case
Table w/ 6 chairs
5 pc. bedroom set

Terry Host, Owner

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Hello World

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Staples World

The Staples World office,
224 4th St. NE, is
open every weekday, 8 a.m. - noon.
•For afternoon availability,
call 218-894-1112.
Regular advertising and copy
deadline is Friday, noon.
The office closes at noon on Friday.



ONLINE BIRTHS REMOVED
AT THE REQUEST OF LAKEWOOD
HEALTH SYSTEM.



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Obituaries

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Gary Nytes

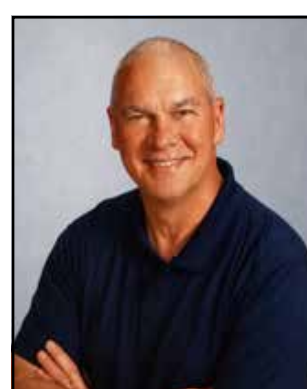
Gary Leonard Nytes, 77, of New Prague, formerly of Staples, passed away peacefully on July 29, 2026, at Mayo Hospital in New Prague, surrounded by his loving wife and family after a courageous battle with myelofibrosis, a rare bone marrow cancer.

Funeral services will be held Monday, August 17, at St. Wenceslaus Church, 215 Main Street East, New Prague, MN 56071. Visitation will be held at 9:30 a.m., followed by the Mass of Christian Burial at 10:30 a.m.

Burial will take place immediately following Mass at St. Wenceslaus Cemetery, 300 4th St. NE, New Prague.

Family and friends are invited to join us for a luncheon afterward at the KC Hall, 411 4th Ave. SW, New Prague.

w34p A00006B2026AU12



Staples Area Church Directory

Staples

Staples Alliance
1512 8th St. NE, Staples218-894-2891
Pastor John Pavlica, Lead Pastor
Sunday Worship 9:30 a.m.
Sunday School11:00 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 Service10:30 a.m.
Children's Church (Kids start in main worship service) 11 a.m.
Prayer Meeting 5 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 Worship10:30 a.m.
WEDNESDAY:
Adult Bible Study 6:30 p.m.

Faith Lutheran

430 12th Street, NE., Staples.....218-894-1546
Sunday Worship Service9:00 a.m.
Sunday School and Coffee Fellowship.....10:05 a.m.

Sacred Heart Catholic Church

310 4th St. NE, Staples Church218-631-1593
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 Jerecek
218-894-0033
Saturday Worship 9:30 a.m.
Sabbath School10:45 a.m.

Thomastown Covenant

15940 251st Ave., Staples.....218-894-3923
Sunday School9:15 a.m.
Sunday Worship10:30 a.m.
WEDNESDAY NIGHT YOUTH6:30 p.m.

Trinity Lutheran

1000 4th St., NE, Staples218-894-2372
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, Staples218-894-2248
Sunday Worship10:30 a.m.
(Nursery Available for Sunday Worship)

Aldrich

Balsamlund Lutheran
19550 490th Street, Aldrich
Janet Eckman SMA218-837-5831
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.
Communion1st 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 Channel10:00 a.m.

Cushing Baptist

26298 Bear Rd., Cushing
Pastor Dan Holmes320-749-2583
Sunday School 9:30 a.m.
Worship10:30 a.m.
WEDNESDAY
Bible study7:30 p.m.

Leader

Swan Valley Lutheran
Leader218-397-2470
Sandy Knight, Synodically Authorized Minister of Word and Sacrament
Sunday Worship
January - July9 a.m.
July - January 11 a.m.

Maple Hill Lutheran

Sandy Knight, Synodically Authorized Minister of Word and Sacrament
Leader218-397-2470 (Rural Pine River)
Worship and Sunday School9:00 a.m.

Motley

Motley Free Methodist
33 Wellwood St. E
Motley 56466218-352-6888
Jim Johnson, Senior Pastor
Casey Reynolds, Assistant Pastor
Sunday Worship 9:00 and 10:30 a.m.
facebook live..... 9 a.m.
WEDNESDAY
AWANA4:00-5:30 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 Class8:30 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 School10:00 a.m.
Sunday Worship11:00 a.m.

Pillager

First Lutheran Church
Pastor Mathew Sundquist
717 River Street S, Pillager, MN
218-746-3775
Sunday School 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.
Phone218-746-3839
Sunday School 9:30 a.m.
Worship10:30 a.m.
Sunday Worship7:00 p.m.
WEDNESDAY 7:00 p.m.

First Baptist

903 River Street South, Pillager
Pastor Jake Anderson
218-746-3768
curious@fbcpillager.com
Worship Gathering10:00 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 Worship10:45 a.m.
WEDNESDAY PRAYER7:00 p.m.

Trinity Lutheran Church (LCMS)

524 Front Street, PO Box 116, Hewitt, MN
Pastor Robin Fish
Sunday Worship10:30 a.m.

Hewitt Community Church

Hwy. 210, Hewitt, MN
Pastor Kenneth Uhren
Sunday Worship10:30 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.

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 4:00 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.

"Traditions"

By Pastor Barry Klein, Staples Church of Christ

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Ruth Ann Pearson

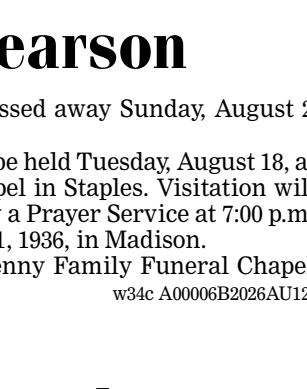
Ruth Ann Pearson, 90, passed away Sunday, August 2, 2026, in Staples.

A Celebration of Life will be held Tuesday, August 18, at Brenny Family Funeral Chapel in Staples. Visitation will begin at 5:00 p.m., followed by a Prayer Service at 7:00 p.m.

Ruth Ann was born May 31, 1936, in Madison.

Arrangements are by Brenny Family Funeral Chapel, Staples.

w34c A00006B2026AU12



Lloyd Schumacher

Eleven-year resident of Staples, Lloyd James Schumacher, 92, passed away August 2, 2026.

Visitation will be held Wednesday, August 19, 2026, from 1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. at Brenny Family Funeral Chapel in Staples.

Lloyd was born on July 9, 1934, to Helmar and Mary Schumacher of New Richland, MN. He was baptized and confirmed at Trinity Lutheran Church in New Richland, and he graduated from New Richland Public School in 1952. He married Marlys Sophy at Trinity Lutheran Church in New Richland and moved to Albert Lea and had a daughter Donna. He was divorced in 1968. He met and married Gloria Shelson on February 26, 1977, at First Lutheran Church in Albert Lea.

Lloyd worked at Wilsons Foods for 31 years, retiring in 1983, then sold Insurance for American Republic, AAA, Wick and Osbeck Thesis. He was a member of the AFL-CIO for many years, a member of Oak View Golf Course of Freeborn County and made his hole in one at the Clarks Grove Golf Course. In his younger days he loved to ride motorcycles touring many states in the West.

In 2015 Lloyd and his wife, Gloria, moved to Lake-wood Pines in Staples to be closer to his daughter, Donna (Schumacher) Shaw.

Lloyd was an outgoing soul who always had a smile and a joke for anyone he came across.

Lloyd is survived by one daughter, Donna (Dan) Shaw; two brothers, Marlow (Carole) and Paul (Nancy); one grandson, Adam (Jenny) Shaw; two great grandchildren, Hazel and Ivy Shaw; many nieces and nephews and great-nieces and nephews.

He was proceeded in death by his wife; parents; two brothers, Mickel and Richard; two sisters, Evelyn and Shirley and one stepson, Gerald Shelson.

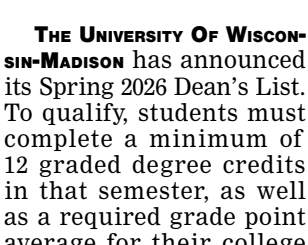
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Student Achievements

THE UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-MADISON has announced its Spring 2026 Dean's List. To qualify, students must complete a minimum of 12 graded degree credits in that semester, as well as a required grade point average for their college or school. Local students named include:

- Spencer Porter, Pillager, College of Letters and Science, Dean's List
- Sabina Moe, Staples, College of Engineering, Dean's Honor List



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Life Currents Policy

To request that an obituary, anniversary or other event (including benefit events) be placed word for word, personalized, contain more than one photo, or to run for more than one week, it may be placed as a display advertisement at the regular advertising rates (\$10.75 /col. inch). The item will be placed in our newspaper with a border around it and must be paid for at the time of placement. Deadline for advertising copy is noon on Friday.

Obituaries received from private parties, funeral homes, will be edited to our format and paid for prior to running at our obituary rate (\$10.25 per line plus \$5 per photo. Minimum is \$60. Deadline for copy is noon on Friday, however, every effort is made to include those with timely services. Death notices are available and are free if followed in the next publication by the entire obituary. Obituaries printed in the Staples World will be posted on our website.

All obituaries are paid advertisements. Obituaries requested to be printed word for word will be charged regular advertising rates and marked as a -Paid Advertisement- with a box around it.

Please be sure to include the name of the deceased, date of birth, age, city of residence, when and where he or she died and the name and city of the funeral home handling the arrangements.



With varsity sports practices set to start on Aug. 17, the Staples-Motley middle school football camp was held Aug. 4-7, with young players able to perform with the help of varsity players. (Staples World photos by Mark Anderson)



For many wild parents, ‘if at first you don’t succeed...’

If you spend time driving through rural Minnesota, you might keep your eyes not just on the road, but—within the bounds of safe driving—also on the shoulders, ditches, and nearby landscape. This is so because the many wild creatures with whom we share this space regularly offer the unwelcome prospect of a collision if we’re not careful; sometimes, even if we are careful.

— O —
Inside the Outdoors



Mike Rahn

— O —

A deer may amble, or bound full-tilt, out of a ditch or roadside field without warning. Grouse and wild turkeys often come to the road shoulder to pick gravel for their crop to aid digestion. Geese or ducks that nest in a road-bordering marsh, grassy field, or ditch may wander onto the road surface. A resulting collision may, or may not, be costly in vehicle repairs. But regardless of our cost in dollars and cents, a collision is almost always costly to the wild victim.

Just such a scenario played out for me and a family of wild turkeys only days ago. Fortunately for both driver and turkeys, the hen sensed danger as my vehicle slowed, and led her three “poults” away from the gravel shoulder and into the tall grass of the steeply sloping ditch.

Apart from my relief at avoiding a collision, what caught my attention was the small size of her gaggle of young, which were no larger than undersized chickens. By this point in the summer a young turkey

should be about two-thirds the size of its parent, which these youngsters clearly were not. The most likely explanation for their small size is a late start for the brood. This may happen when the hen loses its first clutch of eggs to a predator; perhaps a raccoon, skunk, fox, crow, or raven. When this happens, the hen will often re-nest, laying and incubating a fresh clutch of eggs.

Though not always a sign of re-nesting, the fact that my roadside hen turkey I had only three youngsters in tow might further confirm that possibility. It’s well-documented—especially among game birds—that re-nesting efforts usually result in fewer eggs laid and hatched. These late hatchlings, too, will be at risk of loss to natural or human-related events. Nevertheless, re-nesting is of survival importance for the species. Better late than never, and better some than none.

Because of the locations where they nest, in or on the edges of woodlands, the main factor in wild turkey nest destruction is predators. For other game birds, like pheasants and many ducks, human activity is also an important nesting risk factor. Pheasants and numerous varieties of ducks nest in uplands adjacent to ponds and wetlands, including hay and fallow, grass-grown fields. Mowing and burning often destroy not just nests and the eggs they contain, but also incubating hens that are reluctant to abandon the nest.

Where croplands are intensively farmed and normal nesting cover is scarce, both pheasants and ducks—and non-game birds, as well—may even nest in road ditches, as the only cover available. Even if these are not cut or

burned with hens still on the nest, they can be what biologists call a “predation sink.” These linear, narrow strips of cover attract both land-based and aerial predators, and their geometry simplifies the process of a predator locating a victim. “Victim” may be a self-motivated value judgment, since survival is as much a predator’s right as it is a right for a pheasant or duck. But it nevertheless is a judgment we humans are likely to make.

When a nest and eggs are lost, but the parent survives, re-nesting may be attempted. How many times, if at all, may depend on the physical condition of the female. For non-migratory species, condition can be a variable in a region like ours, where the winter that precedes the reproductive season can tax and test any creature’s physical limits. For migratory species, that process is a dangerous, energy-draining ordeal, one that can sometimes leave a migrant in poor physical condition when it arrives here to breed.

As you might imagine, game birds are not the only creatures that re-nest. Re-nesting is common in songbirds, too. Some songbirds—like robins, cardinals, and wrens—may even raise more than one brood during a normal nesting season. The same holds true for some small mammals, like squirrels and rabbits. For larger mammals, like deer, there is typically a strict annual reproductive cycle, with only one off-spring-rearing opportunity per year. If their young are lost to predation or accident, there is no reproductive compensating to be done.

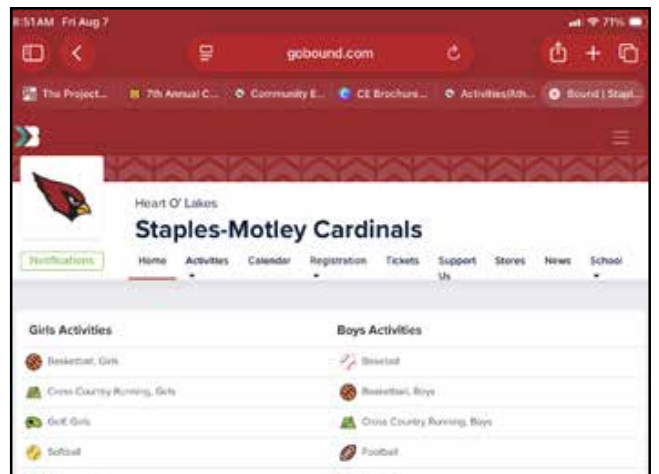
Even when a bird’s re-nesting effort is successful, and surviving members of a new brood reach a state of relative indepen-

dence, there can be complications for both parent and young. Young that are born after the optimum nesting period may be smaller and less physically developed when seasonal changes put greater demands on them. A less mature pheasant may have poorer chances of surviving the coming winter if it is a harsh one. A duck that is “behind schedule” may be less likely to survive the threats that accompany migration.

After a female has raised a brood, it goes through a molting period, in which old flight feathers are replaced with new. It is typical for songbirds and land-dwelling game birds—like pheasants—to molt and replace feathers gradually, so that the ability to fly is not lost. But for some, notably ducks and other waterfowl, molting of flight feathers is more or less immediate, and the ability to fly is lost. A duck may be flightless for as much as a month, or more, and will spend this time on a lake or wetland that hopefully is relatively secure from most predators.

But for a late-nesting duck, this flightless period could last almost—if not actually—to the opening of waterfowl hunting; especially given Minnesota’s recent steady march toward earlier opening dates, and special early seasons. The young of late nesting hens may be poor flyers when the waterfowl season opens. This is a distinct disadvantage for them, besides their being naïve when it comes to the risk-filled experience of being hunted.

In a perfect world, each wild creature’s first attempt to reproduce its kind would be successful. Or would it? If that was universally true, many predators would likely go hungry. And they, after all, have mouths to feed, too!



New web site for Staples-Motley sports schedules

The Minnesota State High School League and the Staples-Motley School District have switched to the BOUND platform (gobound.com) for their online sports schedules and central hub. The Staples-Motley page can be accessed from the district web site, isd2170.org.



National Night Out donation

The Staples Host Lions recently donated \$200 to Staples Motley Beyond Poverty for the National Night Out (NNO) event. Pictured, from left, Mary Theurer, SM Beyond Poverty member; Staples Host Lions President Bob Schafer. (Staples World photo by Dawn Timbs)





Staples-Motley School Board Minutes

**MEETING #1
ISD #2170
SCHOOL BOARD
July 21, 2026
6:00 p.m.
District Office**

MINUTES

Call to Order
The meeting was called to order by Chair Wright at 6:00 p.m.

Roll Call was taken, members Wright, Frisk, Trout and Reeck were present, comprising a quorum. Members Freeman and Reese were absent. Also present were Superintendent Tappe, Finance Director Hill, Principal Ferdon, Principal Koenigs, AD/CE Wood, Staples World Representative Timbs and staff members. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Motion by Reeck, seconded by Frisk, to adopt the agenda. **MC**

Chair Wright recognized the public in attendance **School/Community Forum**

- None

Consent Agenda
Approve minutes from the June 22, 2026 Board Meeting

Approve the resignation of:

Holton Truax, JH Football Coach

Darren Holst, Head Softball Coach

Kristi Larsen, NEST assistant

Noah Larson, NEST assistant

Brian Mitts, MS/HS Paraprofessional

Dillen Avenson, MS/HS Paraprofessional

Approve the hire of:

Gary Erickson, Bus Driver

Daniel Pagan, Custodian

Lori Miller, MS/HS Paraprofessional

Gary Sampson, Bus Driver

Approve the 2026-2027 Community Education License agreement with Josh Lee.

Approve the 2026-2027 School District petty cash in the amount of \$2,350

Approve the 2026 fall coaches list

Approve Ryan Koenigs as Local Education Authority (LEA) person of the district for NCLB/Title I programs. (Standard annual approval)

Approve the 2026-2027 Vintage Golf Course contract

Approve the 2026-2027

MN Rural CEP contract

Approve the 2026-2027 TCCAP Prenatal to Five MOU

Approve the 2026-2027 SRO contract with City of Staples

Approve the 2026-2027 CLC Consortium PSEO contract

Motion by Reeck, seconded by Trout, to approve the consent agenda. **MC**

Donations and In-Kind Contributions
Motion by Frisk, seconded by Trout, to approve the Resolution to accept Grants and Donations in the amount of \$5,811.52. *Thank you to North Central Economic Development Association, Construct Tomorrow and MN Historical Society for their generous donations.*

Finance Items
(Finance Committee Minutes)

Financial Report by Finance Director Hill

Motion by Reeck, seconded by Trout, to approve the June disbursements. **MC**

General Fund: \$839,390.90

Food Service: \$ 101,891.30

Community Service: \$21,208.32

Construction Fund: \$0

Debt Service: \$0.00

Fund 21 Student Activities: \$1,157.53

Fund 45: \$0

Motion by Frisk, seconded by Wright, to approve the June receipts. **MC**

General Fund: \$1,398,866.10

Food Service: \$68,212.27

Community Service: \$71,429.04

Construction Fund: \$0

Debt Service: \$1,168,512.60

Fund 21 Student Activities: \$6,504.99

Fund 45: \$0

Motion by Frisk, seconded by Reeck, to approve the Resolution to adopt the fiscal year 2028 Long-Term Facilities Maintenance ten-year plan. *(ROLL CALL VOTE: In favor - Reeck, Wright, Trout, Frisk; Opposed - None; Absent - Freeman, Reese)* **MC**

Motion by Reeck, seconded by Trout, to approve the 2026-2027 School Meal Prices and Fee Schedule. **MC**

Cabinet Presentation
-by Technology Director Brandsma

Other
Motion by Trout, seconded by Frisk, to approve the resolution calling for

school board election in conjunction with the general election on November 3, 2026.

(ROLL CALL VOTE: In favor - Wright, Frisk, Reeck, Trout; Opposed - None; Absent - Freeman, Reese) **MC**

Motion by Reeck, seconded by Frisk, to approve sealed bids for miscellaneous items. **MC**

Motion by Trout, seconded by Wright, to approve the revised 2026-2027 Activities Handbook. **MC**

Motion by Frisk, seconded by Reeck, to approve the revised 2026-2027 Activities Handbook. **MC**

2026-2027 Elementary Handbook available for Board review. (No action at this time)

2026-2027 Middle/High School Handbook available for Board review. (No action at this time)

Reports
School Board:
Freshwater - 6/24/2026 Minutes

Sourcewell

Elementary Principal Koenigs

Middle/High School Principal Ferdon

Activities/Community Ed Director Wood

SMEA

Superintendent Tappe

Motion by Reeck, seconded by Trout, to move into Closed Session for Superintendent performance review and discussion as permitted by MN Statute, Section 13D.05, subdivision 3(a). **MC**

Motion by Frisk, seconded by Trout, to call the Closed Session to order. **MC**

Motion by Trout, seconded by Reeck, to reconvene in Open Session. **MC**

Motion by Frisk, seconded by Trout, to adjourn the meeting at 7:44 p.m. **MC**

Trisha Larson, Clerk
ISD #2170

34pnc

Upcoming Meetings/Events:
**All school offices are closed every Friday through August 14, 2026*
Mon., August 24, 2026 - School Board Meeting, District Office, 6 p.m., 905 4th St. NE, Staples
Weds., Sept. 1, 2026 - All Staff In-Service
Tues., Sept. 8, 2026 - First Day of School
Mon., Sept. 21, 2026 - School Board Meeting, District Office, 6 p.m., 905 4th St.

Todd County Board of Commissioners

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE TODD COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS HELD JULY 7, 2026

Call to Order
The Todd County Board of Commissioners met in the Commissioner's Board Room in the City of Long Prairie, MN on the 7th day of July, 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.

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

To approve the Todd County Board of Commissioner's Meeting Minutes of June 16, 2026 as presented.

GAMBLING PERMIT - NWTW STRUTTIN BLACKBEARDS

WHEREAS, the Todd County Board of Commissioners are establishing their approval for a Gambling Permit for the NWTW Struttin Blackbeards through this resolution;

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Todd County Board of Commissioners approve a Gambling Permit for the NWTW Struttin Blackbeards to hold a raffle event at The Charlotte Tavern in Long Prairie Township at the address 22056 US 71, Long Prairie, MN on August 21, 2026.

GAMBLING PERMIT - ROTARY CLUB OF SAUK CENTRE

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

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Todd County Board of Commissioners approve a Gambling Permit for the Rotary Club of Sauk Centre to hold a raffle event at Greystone Golf Club in Kandota Township at the address 10548 Andrews Drive, Sauk Centre, MN on August 28, 2026.

To approve the transfer of Lisa Thielman to fill the open Social Worker position. Grade I/9, Step H, \$40.34. Start date: TBD

Auditor-Treasurer
On motion by Neumann and second by Denny, the following motion was introduced and adopted by unanimous Roll Call vote: To approve the June 2026 Auditor Warrants number (ACH) 906108 through 906186 in the amount of \$2,654,422.32 (Manual) 1366 through 1407 in the amount of \$2,193,305.14 and (Regular) 246510 through 246693 in the amount of \$628,686.77 for a total of \$5,476,414.23.

On motion by Noska and second by Becker, the following motion was introduced and adopted by unanimous Roll Call vote: To approve the Commissioner Warrants number (ACH) 404564 through 404589 in the amount of \$16,137.92 and (Regular) 59902 through 59932 in the amount of \$61,318.61 for a total of \$77,456.53.

On motion by Becker and second by Neumann, the following motion was introduced and adopted by unanimous Roll Call vote: To approve the Health & Human Services Commissioner Warrants number (ACH) 807641 through 807689 and (Regular) 714240 through 714297 for a total of \$94,704.17.

On motion by Denny 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) 602041 through 602046 and (Regular) 519000 through 519019 for a total amount of \$43,531.43.

Public Works
On motion by Noska and second by Denny, the following motion was introduced and adopted by unanimous vote: Approve the quote submitted by Busker Concrete, Inc. in the amount of \$12,485.00 for the repair and replacement of the floor drain grates at the Northern Shop.

Discussion was held with the County Board regarding the 2026 and 2027 Equipment Purchase plans for the Public Works department.

County Ditch/Ag Inspector
On motion by Denny and second by Becker, the following motion was introduced and adopted by unanimous vote: Acting as the Todd County Ditch Authority acknowledge receipt of a Hold Harmless Agreement application from David and Edna Bontrager to clean a portion of County Ditch 11 in Section 7, Ward Township.

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

HOLD HARMLESS AGREEMENT - DITCH MAINTENANCE - COUNTY DITCH 27

WHEREAS, Scott Irlbeck is requesting to maintain approximately 2,728 feet of the North Branch, Main Ditch of CD27 on parcel 28-0007900 Wykeham Twp, Section 10. 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.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, the Todd County Ditch Authority gives permission to Scott Irlbeck to maintain a portion of CD27 located on parcel 28-0007900. The maintenance will be done on his own property at his own expense.

Solid Waste
On motion by Denny and second by Becker, the following motion was introduced and adopted by majority vote: to schedule the annual Solid Waste meeting for August 13, 2026 at 10:30 a.m. at the Todd County Historic Courthouse.

Administration
On motion by Denny and second by Neumann, the following motion was introduced and adopted by unanimous vote: To reaffirm the Policy Committee Membership to include two County Commissioners, the Human Resources Manager, County Coordinator, County Attorney and/or Labor Attorney, one Elected Official (or alternate) and two Department Heads (or alternate).

County Auditor-Treasurer's Report
The County Auditor-Treasurer reported that tax settlement and election preparations are keeping the office busy.

County Attorney's Report
The County Attorney reported on a busy summer within the office.

County Coordinator's Report
The County Coordinator reported attending meetings including Personnel, Solid Waste, Paycom, Regional Administrator, Broadband and Sourcewell Technology group.

County Commissioner's Report
The Commissioners reported on meetings and events attended.

Commissioner Becker attended meetings including the TWCC consultant, Facilities, Region V, Policy and the Todd County Fair.

Commissioner Denny has attended meetings including Prairie Lakes, Finance, Arbitration and the Todd County Fair.

Commissioner Noska has attended meetings including the

Todd County Fair.

Commissioner Byers attended meetings including Extension, Opioild, Finance, HHS, Arbitration, and TWCC Advisory.

Commissioner Neumann attended meetings including Sauk River Watershed, Rainbow Rider Bus Tour, Osakis Parade and West Union Parades.

Recess
On motion by Becker and second by Denny, the meeting was recessed until July 21, 2026.

AUDITOR WARRANTS	
VENDOR NAME	\$ AMOUNT
AFSCME COUNCIL 65.....	\$4,941.76
DAKOTA WHOLESALE	
TIRE	9,856.00
GERTH/CHARLOTTE.....	2,000.00
LAKES AREA BLASTING ..	12,000.00
LAW ENFORCEMENT LABOR	
SERV INC	2,321.32
LINCOLN FINANCIAL	
GROUP	7,461.30
MN TEAMSTERS NO 320 ..	2,962.24
PACIFIC LIFE INSURANCE	
CO	2,325.00
WEST CENTRAL REG	
JUVENILE CTR	6,554.00
21 PAYMENTS LESS	
THAN \$2,000	7,494.30
CENTRA CARE	13,350.31
COLEMAN/JOHN & SHIRLEY	12,622.50
COMMISSIONER OF TRANSPORTATION.....	2,485.44
CUMMINS INC.....	2,970.26
FARM-RITE EQUIPMENT, INC	3,029.82
FLEET SERVICES/	
WEX BANK.....	10,489.70
GIZA PLUMBING & HEATING INC	2,946.00
HALLIDAY, WATKINS & MANN PC	60,412.49
JOHNSON CONTROLS BUILDING SOLUTIONS LLC.....	2,083.19
LAKES COMMUNITY COOPERATIVE.....	3,642.06
LONG PRAIRIE SANITATION INC	6,595.87
MESSER/KOLLIN	13,442.75
MONARCH HOME IMPROVEMENT.....	5,788.00
MORRISON COUNTY.....	46,392.00
OSAKIS LAKE ASSOCIATION	7,989.08
PRAIRIE LAKES MUNICIPAL SOLID WASTE AUTH	98,136.20
STANTEC CONSULTING SERVICES INC	3,486.00
STEP	11,902.50
SUMURI LLC	10,359.00
TODD TRAILS ASSOCIATION	5,910.15
TRISKO HEATING AND PLUMBING INC	8,100.00
WEST CENTRAL REG JUVENILE CTR	14,390.00
41 PAYMENTS LESS THAN \$2,000	23,818.17
A.W. RESEARCH LABORATORIES, INC	6,425.00
CENTRAL SPECIALTIES INC	2,312,081.40
CITY OF STAPLES.....	93,091.28
CLIFTON LARSONALLEN, LLP	16,800.00
COUNTIES PROVIDING TECHNOLOGY	\$ 7,448.00
GALLAGHER BENEFIT SERVICES INC	2,000.00
LONG PRAIRIE OIL COMPANY	2,482.61
MINNESOTA POWER	7,027.68
MN DEPT OF FINANCE.....	6,837.00
MOTOROLA	2,973.06
MUEHLBAUER/TODD AND BRYN	12,195.00
PACIFIC LIFE INSURANCE CO	2,325.00
PADUA PRAIRIE PARTNERSHIP	103,860.00
PETERS LAW OFFICE, P.A.	4,350.00
VERIZON	6,392.09
VOYANT COMMUNICATIONS, LLC	3,191.86
67 PAYMENTS LESS THAN \$2,000	26,297.16
CENTERPOINT ENERGY	2,160.28
GARRETT METAL DETECTORS.....	4,308.66
LIBERTY TIRE SERVICES LLC	4,718.20
METRO SALES INC.....	3,994.09
MINNESOTA POWER	8,437.11
MOSSYGE/TERA.....	2,498.47

SAFEASSURE CONSULTANTS, INC. 13,157.28	
US BANK	10,350.00
36 PAYMENTS LESS	
THAN \$2,000	21,664.32
AFSCME COUNCIL 65.....	4,902.86
JOHNSON CONTROLS BUILDING SOLUTIONS LLC.....	3,989.16
LAW ENFORCEMENT LABOR SERV INC	2,321.32
LINCOLN FINANCIAL GROUP	7,010.18
MADDEN GALANTER HANSEN, LLP	3,562.85
METROPOLITAN LIFE INSURANCE COMPANY	12,803.69
MN TEAMSTERS NO 320 ..	2,991.24
MORA PSYCHOLOGICAL SERVICES PLLC	2,500.00
PACIFIC LIFE INSURANCE CO	2,325.00
PETERS LAW OFFICE, P.A.	2,096.25
SAXON FLEET SERVICES	37,381.63
TODD COUNTY AUDITOR TREASURER	37,381.63
TRISKO HEATING AND PLUMBING INC	8,025.00
USPS-POC	15,017.32
WATERGUARDS LLC	12,561.00
WEX BANK-SINCLAIR.....	2,390.39
27 PAYMENTS LESS THAN \$2,000	10,526.61
BETTER HEALTH COLLECTIVE	31,850.00
MN DEPT OF REVENUE	3,987.00
WEX - CIRCLE K	2,873.06
PERA	72,878.26
PAYCOM PAYROLL, LLC	600,917.09
PAYCOM PAYROLL, LLC ..	41,779.56
PAYCOM PAYROLL, LLC ..	3,467.10
BETTER HEALTH COLLECTIVE	324,777.00
VOYA (MSRS)	6,611.76
PERA	103,480.92
WEX HEALTH INC - HSA.....	42,578.96
COUNTY OF TODD	2,444.96
PERA	6,481.85
WEX HEALTH INC - HSA.....	4,493.70
MN DEPT OF REVENUE ..	71,214.77
US BANK-CC	12,503.10
MN PERA.....	6,453.46
PAYCOM PAYROLL, LLC ..	41,676.39
PAYCOM PAYROLL, LLC ..	2,444.96
PAYCOM PAYROLL, LLC ..	586,583.95
HUMANA INSURANCE COMPANY	8,037.14
VOYA (MSRS)	5,539.42
PERA	99,621.12
WEX HEALTH INC - HSA.....	16,106.25
COUNTY OF TODD	2,444.96
MN DEPT OF REVENUE ..	77,438.87
16 PAYMENTS LESS THAN \$2,000	13,598.28
TOTAL:	\$5,476,414.23

COMMISSIONER WARRANTS	
VENDOR NAME	\$ AMOUNT
BARR ENGINEERING COMPANY	2,856.50
BUSKER CONCRETE, INC	23,250.00
D & D AUTO REPAIR	3,606.49
JENKINS IRON & STEEL INC	3,600.00
LONG PRAIRIE LEADER ...	9,905.00
LONG PRAIRIE LUMBER, LLC	3,206.29
RJ CONTRACTING & REMODELING LLC.....	10,201.16
RUFFRIDGE JOHNSON EQUIP CO	2,489.20
STRYKER SALES LLC.....	3,323.85
ZIEGLER INC.....	3,911.21
47 PAYMENTS LESS THAN \$2,000	11,106.83
TOTAL:	\$77,456.53

HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES WARRANTS	
VENDOR NAME	\$ AMOUNT
COST EFF HEALTH INS ...	\$3,500.00
MCCC, MI33	6,993.33
MORRISON COUNTY HEALTH & HUMAN	2,198.68
TIMMERMAN PROPERTIES LLC	3,769.02
6 PAYMENTS LESS THAN \$2,000	1,301.24
CHILDREN YOUTH & FAMILIES DEPT	2,003.15
DHS - SWIFT	\$ 4,315.07
KARVONEN FUNERAL HOME	3,500.00
QUALITY LOGO PRODUCTS.....	2,482.19
TCSS MH INITIATIVE FLEX FUND	28,405.00

92 PAYMENTS LESS THAN \$2,000	36,236.49
Total:	\$94,704.17
VENDOR NAME \$ AMOUNT	
FCLARY CLINIC	\$3,400.00
DHS - MOOSE LAKE RTC - 462	2,844.25
DHS - MSOP - MN SEX OFFENDER PROG. - 4624,929.00	
GREATERN MN FAMILY SRVS INC	4,491.51
MAIN STREET FAMILY SERVICES	2,051.65
TRI-COUNTY COMMUNITY CORRECTIONS	12,897.18
VOLUNTEERS OF AMERICA	6,569.75
19 PAYMENTS LESS THAN \$2,000	6,348.08
Total:	\$43,531.42

On a motion by Becker and second by Neumann, the preceding minutes of the County Board meeting held July 7, 2026 were duly approved by unanimous vote at the Todd County Board of Commissioners at the Regular Board Meeting held on July 21, 2026.

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

34pnc

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE TODD COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS HELD JUNE 15, 2026

Public Comment
Mr. Kevin Winkler addressed the County Board regarding constitutional authority in regards to the recent County Board of Appeal and Equalization meeting.

Call to Order
The Todd County Board of Commissioners met in the Commissioner's Board Room in the City of Long Prairie, MN on the 16th day of June, 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 addition of item 11.4 Authorize Repair or Removal of Hazardous Property.

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

To approve the Todd County Board of Commissioner's Meeting Minutes for June 2, 2026 as presented.

Approve the resignation of Public Works Equipment Operator Casey Poepping, effective June 25th, 2026.

To hire Michael Wisniewski to fill the open Emergency Management Director Position and reassigned to report to the County Coordinator, start date TBD.

Hire Kyle Cossentine for the FT Deputy Position start date TBD at a wage of \$33.21 per hour Grade 9/1 step A.

Hire Isaiah Anderson for the Law Enforcement Intern position start date TBD at a wage of \$15.00 per hour.

To approve the hire of Angela Schleicher to fill the open Registered Sanitarian position. Grade H/8, Step K, \$43.85. Start date: TBD

Approve the resignation of Seasonal Office Support Specialist II Mary Kay Hinnenkamp, effective June 1, 2026.

Approve the resignation of Social Worker Halle Dahlen, effective July 10, 2026.

Approve the resignation of Social Worker Intern Tina Chock, effective May 29, 2026.

Auditor-Treasurer
On motion by Noska and second by Denny, the following motion was

introduced and adopted by unanimous Roll Call vote: To approve the May 2026 Auditor Warrants number (ACH) 906005 through 906107 in the amount of \$11,789,398.98 (Manual) 1327 through 1365 in the amount of \$2,858,530.46 and (Regular) 246331 through 246509 in the amount of \$1,223,982.42 for a total of \$15,871,911.86.

On motion by Becker and second by Denny, the following motion was introduced and adopted by unanimous Roll Call vote: To approve the Commissioner Warrants number (ACH) 404542 through 404563 in the amount of \$8,541.44 and (Regular) 59869 through 59901 in the amount of \$157,681.98 for a total of \$166,223.42.

On motion by Denny and second by Neumann, the following motion was introduced and adopted by unanimous Roll Call vote: To approve the Health & Human Services Commissioner Warrants number (ACH) 807592 through 807640 and (Regular) 714184 through 714239 for a total of \$127,422.34.

On motion by Becker and second by Noska, the following motion was introduced and adopted by unanimous rollcall vote: To approve the Health & Human Services SSIS Warrants number (ACH) 602018 through 602040 and (Regular) 518978 through 518999 for a total amount of \$150,638.96.

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 a Hold Harmless Agreement application from Scott Irlbeck to clean a portion of County Ditch 27 in section 10 Wykeham Township.

On motion by Noska and second by Becker, the following motion was introduced and adopted by unanimous vote: Acting as the Todd County Ditch Authority, approve a brush spraying project on County Ditch 19 to be done by Central Applicators, Foley MN at an estimated cost of \$11,562.92.

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, approve a brush spraying project on County Ditch 18 to be done by Central Applicators, Foley MN at an estimated cost of \$18,355.52.

County Sheriff
On motion by Neumann and second by Denny, the following motion was introduced and adopted by unanimous vote: Accept the retirement of K9 Ranger effective 6/30/2026.

Facilities
On motion by Denny and second by Becker, the following motion was introduced and adopted by majority vote: To approve the low bid from J Brothers to replace the data room cooling unit for a total cost of \$6,495.

Planning & Zoning
The June 2026 Planning Commission minutes and June staff report was provided for review.

On motion by Noska and second by Neumann, the following motion was introduced and adopted by unanimous vote: Adopt the findings of the Planning Commission and approve the preliminary plan of Prairie Country Estates on parcel 18-0015300 with the following conditions.

1. New access from the county road shall be approved by the road authority prior to installation.

2. Applicant must abide by all other applicable federal, state, and local standards.

On motion by Denny and second by Noska, the following motion was introduced and adopted by unanimous vote: Adopt the findings of the Planning Commission and grant the rezoning of the identified parcel 18-0040001 from Shoreland - NE and Commercial to entirely Shoreland - NE with no conditions.

On motion by Denny and second by Noska, the following motion was introduced and adopted by unanimous vote: To approve the Health & Human Services SSIS Warrants number (ACH) 602041 through 602046 and (Regular) 519000 through 519019 for a total amount of \$43,531.43.

See **TCC** on page 10a



S/M Auditorium donation

The Staples Host Lions recently donated \$6,000 to go toward the new stage at Centennial Auditorium in Staples. From left, Renee Kroll, S/M Arts Council; Staples Host Lions President Bob Schafer. For more online information about this project visit www.smpperforming-arts.com. (Staples World photo by Dawn Timbs)

Motley area law enforcement

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

July 7 - Motley Police responded to a report of suspicious activity at the 200 block of Hwy 10 W., Motley.

July 23 - Motley Police issued citations for driving after revocation and expired registration.

July 27 - Motley Police responded to a report of harassment at the 100 block of Mill Pond St., Motley. The caller stated his neighbor rang the doorbell, got him out of bed and then threatened him.

July 27 - Motley Police received a call from a resident at the 100 block of Mill Pond St., Motley, who reported a strange vehicle

at her neighbor's home, as well as loud music being played in their garage.

July 22 - Motley Police assisted with a crash on Hwy 10 in Todd County, west of the city limits. Motley Police gave the driver a ride to BRICKS Travel Center in Motley, where she waited for her husband.

July 25 - Morrison County deputies responded to an accident at 265 Hwy 10 W., Motley.

July 24 - Morrison County deputies responded to a burglary at the 2600 block of Pine View Blvd., Motley. The incident involved a juvenile, who was arrested.

July 22 - Morrison County deputies responded to a report of suspicious activity at the 31000 block of Oge-ma Point Dr., Cushing.

AgCentric receives \$129,579 to advance robotics and automation

Agriculture educators from across the country will have another opportunity to help shape how robotics and automation are taught in high school classrooms after AgCentric secured an additional \$129,579 from the U.S. National Science Foundation (NSF) for the Agricultural Robotics and Automation Technologies (ARAT) project.

The supplemental award will support the next phase of national curriculum field testing and educator training, including a Food Processing-focused field test planned for summer 2027. Awarded July 15, 2026, the supplement increases total obligated federal support for NSF Award No. 2348815 to \$778,247.

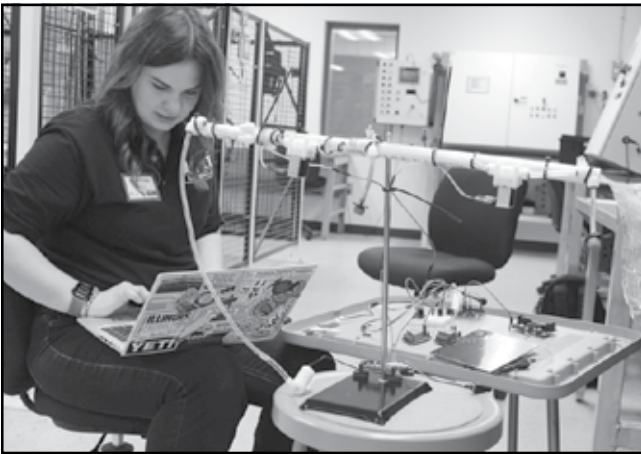
Supported through the NSF Advanced Technological Education program, ARAT is developing classroom-ready curriculum and professional development to help secondary educators prepare students for technician careers in agricultural robotics, automation and related technologies. The curriculum is organized around three agricultural pathways: Animal Science, Plant Systems and Food Processing. The project is led through a partnership between AgCentric and Curriculum for Agricultural Science Education (CASE), working with Minnesota State colleges and industry collaborators.

CASE has been instrumental throughout the project, helping develop the curriculum and prepare teachers through professional development. Together, CASE and AgCentric coordinate the national field testing and support the collection of classroom

feedback for continued revisions. The curriculum uses inquiry- and project-based instruction and is designed to be adaptable so educators can use individual units or combine them to fit local programs, geographies and communities.

Since the project began in July 2024, ARAT has moved from curriculum development into national field testing, revision and dissemination. During two 2025 field-test cohorts at Central Lakes College in Staples, 31 high school agriculture instructors representing 20 states tested the Animal Science portion of the curriculum. They worked through hands-on activities involving sensors, automated agricultural vehicles and an automated turkey feeder. Their feedback helped strengthen lessons in electricity, programming, automation, inputs, logic and outputs, as well as lesson anchors and transfer tasks.

In June 2026, 20 additional agriculture educators representing 11 states and Puerto Rico tested the Plant Systems portion at St. Cloud Technical & Community College. Participants explored sensors, coding, robotics, automation, irrigation and data-driven decision-making through classroom activities, technical-college connections and a farm visit. The final field test, planned for summer 2027, will focus on Food Processing. Across the first two years, 53 agriculture instructors representing 21 states and Puerto Rico have participated in ARAT curriculum field testing. As these instructors implement the new curriculum in their classrooms, they



are positioned to directly reach nearly 1,400 students. After field testing and final revisions are complete, the curriculum will be offered through CASE as a Brief-CASE training, expanding access to more educators and students nationwide.

To learn more about the ARAT project, visit https://agcentric.org/education-training/agcentric-case-nsf/.

"This supplemental support recognizes the progress made by educators, college partners and industry leaders who are helping build a stronger pathway into agricultural technology careers," said Keith Olander, AgCentric executive director and principal investigator. "It will allow the ARAT team to build on what has been learned through field testing and continue connecting relevant classroom instruction with the technology students will encounter in today's agricultural workforce."

Project accomplishments also extend beyond the formal field tests. ARAT-related classroom visits and AgCentric outreach trailer events have reached ap-

proximately 3,000 students. The work has encouraged collaboration among educators in agriculture, computer science, science, robotics and technical education, broadening the ways agricultural automation can be introduced to students.

The project has shared its work through presentations at the High Impact Technology Exchange Conference (HI-TEC) and the Associated Equipment Distributors annual conference. Partnerships have also helped establish connections to the CNH Top Tech program, the AED Foundation and Fluke Corporation, including development of a CNH credential pathway recognized by the CNH dealer network.

The ARAT award is administered by the NSF Division of Undergraduate Education. The project period runs from July 1, 2024, through June 30, 2027. Keith Olander serves as principal investigator, with co-principal investigators Carl Aakre of CASE, A'Dawn Nelson of Northland Community & Technical College and Bradley Wanous of St. Cloud Technical & Community College.

Todd County Commissioners Minutes

TCC continued from page 9a

by Becker, the following motion was introduced and adopted by unanimous vote: Adopt the findings of the Planning Commission and approve the preliminary plat for Lakeside Bluffs on parcel 06-0031100 with the following conditions.

1. New accesses from the township road shall be approved by the local township prior to installation.

2. Establishment of a 50' drainage easement to protect the flow area across lot 2. Drainage easement shall remain in deep rooted, native vegetation for protection of Long Lake.

3. Applicant must abide by all other applicable federal, state, and local standards.

Soil & Water

On motion by Noska and second by Denny, the following motion was introduced and adopted by unanimous vote: Approval of the MPCA Feedlot Program Annual Report for 2025.

Administration

On motion by Noska and second by Denny, the following motion was introduced and adopted by unanimous vote: Approve the LPHA Lease Agreement Addendum with the presented terms and conditions including no rental charge and no automatic renewal provision.

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

ADOPTION OF UPDATED TODD COUNTY DATA PRACTICES POLICY

WHEREAS, the Todd County Board of Commissioners recognizes the importance of maintaining current policies that ensure compliance with Minnesota Statutes, Chapter 13, the Minnesota Government Data Practices Act, and;

WHEREAS, the Minnesota Department of Administration has developed a Model Policy for the Public to assist government entities in complying with Minnesota Statutes, Chapter 13, and;

WHEREAS, Todd County's current Data Practices Policy was adopted on August 7, 2012, and is in need of updating to reflect current statutory requirements and best practices, and;

WHEREAS, the Todd County Policy Committee has reviewed the proposed updated Data Practices Policy and recommends its adoption, and;

WHEREAS, County Attorney Lindemann has reviewed and approved the proposed updated Data Practices Policy;

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Todd County Board of Commissioners adopts the attached Todd County Data Practices Policy, based upon the Minnesota Department of Administration's Model Policy for the Public, effective June 16, 2026, and;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that this Resolution replaces and supersedes the Todd County Data Practices Policy adopted on August 7, 2012, and any prior County Board actions, oral or written, relating to the subject matter hereof.

On motion by Becker and second by Denny, the following motion was introduced and adopted by unanimous vote: To approve updating the Todd

County Public Data Request website to require pre-payment of estimated staff time and copying costs for data requests as authorized under the Todd County Data Practices Policy and Minnesota Statutes, Chapter 13.

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

AMENDED RESOLUTION ABATEMENT ORDER FOR REPAIR OR REMOVAL OF HAZARDOUS STRUCTURE

WHEREAS, Laurie Lee Reed, a.k.a. Laurie Lee Smith, ("the Landowner" herein) owns real property located at 30957 County Road 104, Burtrum, Todd County, Minnesota, 56318; and

WHEREAS, the Todd County Board of Commissioners ("the Board" herein) considered the motion to authorize the Chairman to sign this resolution ("Order" herein); and

WHEREAS, the Board considered the information presented by Adam Ossefoort, Division Director of Planning and Zoning; and

WHEREAS, the Board finds that, pursuant to Minn. Stat. §463.15, there is substantial evidence that the home located at 30957 County Road 104, Burtrum, Todd County, Minnesota is hazardous and in a dilapidated state due to the following facts:

-The home had a fire in 2022, burning away its roof;

-The roof has not been replaced, and continues to have a reduced framing capacity;

-The home is resting on temporary cribbing which is settling, causing the structure to lean;

-The wood beams and concrete blocks on which the home is resting are breaking or deteriorating;

-The home has no utilities connected, including a functioning septic system.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, the Landowner shall have 45 days from the receipt or lawful service of this Order to complete the following: (1) to have the home placed on a permanent frost-protected foundation sized and detailed to support the two-story structure and resist frost heave; (2) to remove and replace the fire-damaged roof framing and coverings and all charred or compromised members per engineered details to restore the required strength and continuity of the roof diaphragm; (3) to complete an engineered assessment of the structure once it is placed on a permanent foundation to ensure stability and that the building is supported by the foundation; (4) to connect utilities to the home and install a septic system; (5) that the work ordered herein be performed by licensed professionals and the appropriate permits be issued to complete the work. To show that the work ordered herein is completed, a written statement must be provided to the Todd County Planning and Zoning office by the appropriate tradesman or contractor who completed the work.

In the alternative to repairing the home, the Landowner may have the structure removed. If the Landowner fails to comply with either repair or removal, the County will act to remove the structure at the Landowner's expense pursuant to Minn. Stat. §463.21.

move the structure at the Landowner's expense pursuant to Minn. Stat. §463.21.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Todd County Attorney's Office is hereby authorized to seek enforcement of this Order in Todd County District Court by way of a motion for summary enforcement of this Order unless corrective action is taken or an Answer is filed within 20 days of the date of service of this Order; at which time the proceeding will be handled by the District Court in accordance with Minnesota Statute §463.20 for contested cases.

Closed Session

On motion by Denny and second by Noska, the following motion was introduced and adopted by unanimous vote: To enter into closed session pursuant to Minnesota Statute Section 13D.05 Subd 3(c) 3 to develop or consider offers or counteroffers at 10:28 a.m.

On motion by Becker and second by Denny, the following motion was introduced and adopted by unanimous vote: To reopen from closed session at 10:51 a.m.

County Auditor-Treasurer's Report

The County Auditor-Treasurer reported that tax settlement and election preparations are keeping the office busy.

County Attorney's Report

The County Attorney reported on a busy summer within the office.

County Coordinator's Report

The County Coordinator reported attending meetings including Personnel, Solid Waste, Paycom, Regional Administrator, Broadband and Sourcewell Technology group.

County Commissioner's Report

The Commissioners reported on meetings and events attended.

Commissioner Becker attended meetings including the Policies, Expo Tour, AMC District 4, TWCC, Friendly Rider, Rainbow Rider and Board of Equalization.

Commissioner Denny has attended meetings including Personnel, Solid Waste, Soil & Water, Planning Commission, Landfill discussions and Board of Equalization.

Commissioner Noska has attended meetings including TCDC and Wellness. A reminder that the fair event is coming soon.

Commissioner Byers attended meetings including Park Board, Sourcewell, Personnel, and TCDC.

Commissioner Neumann attended meetings including Policies, AMC District 4, Long Prairie Airport, CPT Personnel, Park Board, Solid Waste, Rainbow Rider and Board of Equalization.

Adjourn

On motion by Neumann and second by Denny, the meeting was adjourned for the month of June 2026.

AUDITOR WARRANTS	
VENDOR NAME	\$ AMOUNT
DOUGLAS SWCD	13,505.44
LONG PRAIRIE SANITATION	
INC	4,673.25
METROPOLITAN LIFE	
INSURANCE CO.	15,191.62
PACIFIC LIFE INSURANCE	

CO	2,325.00
PETERS LAW	
OFFICE, P.A.	6,342.80
VERIZON	6,291.98
41 PAYMENTS LESS	
THAN \$2,000	14,758.78
CENTRA CARE	13,350.31
FLEET SERVICES/WEX	
BANK	9,378.30
KANATI LAND	
MANAGEMENT	2,000.00
KEYL KXDL HOTROD	
RADIO	3,500.00
MN DEPT OF FINANCE	7,480.50
MORRISON COUNTY	29,469.96
MORRISON SWCD	7,402.07
POPE DOUGLAS SOLID WASTE	
MANAGEMENT	30,420.54
PRAIRIE LAKES MUNICIPAL	
SOLID WASTE AUTH	98,136.20
SCHUMACHER'S NURSERY &	
BERRY FARM INC	31,442.20
STEP	13,052.50
TODD TRAILS	
ASSOCIATION	29,550.75
VOYANT COMMUNICATIONS,	
LLC	3,277.40
WEST CENTRAL REG JUVENILE	
CTR	27,599.00
WEST CENTRAL TECH	
SERVICE AREA	17,090.55
WIDETH SMITH NOLTING	
INC	10,380.00
WONDERLICH/SCOTT A	6,637.50
39 PAYMENTS LESS	
THAN \$2,000	17,315.87
BIG SWAN LAKE IMPROVEMENT	
ASSOCIATION	2,610.00
CENTRAL SPECIALTIES	
INC	2,090,332.90
CLIFTON LARSONALLEN,	
LLP	28,350.00
COUNTRIES PROVIDING	
TECHNOLOGY	7,448.00
GALLAGHER BENEFIT SERVICES	
INC	2,000.00
GIZA PLUMBING &	
HEATING INC	4,757.00
LAKES COMMUNITY	
COOPERATIVE	3,348.09
LONG PRAIRIE OIL	
COMPANY	6,598.87
MINNESOTA POWER	15,226.68
PACIFIC LIFE INSURANCE	
CO	2,325.00
SAFEASURE CONSULTANTS,	
INC	13,157.28
47 PAYMENTS LESS	
THAN \$2,000	23,962.35
CENTERPOINT ENERGY	3,358.61
HY-TEC	
CONSTRUCTION	201,918.12
JOHN DEERE FINANCIAL	2,012.04
LONG PRAIRIE	
LEADER	12,547.85
MADDEN GALANTER HANSEN,	
LLP	4,170.22
MID MINNESOTA	
HEATING	13,500.00
NOSKA CONSTRUCTION	
LLC	33,634.00
NOSKA HOME & ENERGY	
SERVICES INC	6,375.00
PETERS LAW OFFICE,	
P.A.	2,096.25
STAPLES ADVANTAGE	6,028.42
WEX BANK-SINCLAIR	2,396.25
53 PAYMENTS LESS	
THAN \$2,000	15,846.32
BETTER HEALTH	
COLLECTIVE	30,860.00
WEX - CIRCLE K	2,873.39
PAYCOM PAYROLL, LLC	42,465.81
PAYCOM PAYROLL, LLC	564,734.34
PAYCOM PAYROLL, LLC	3,467.10
WEX HEALTH INC - HSA	4,368.70

COUNTY OF TODD	3,140.80
WEX HEALTH INC - HSA	43,421.81
PERA	97,026.72
VOYA (MSRS)	8,292.22
BETTER HEALTH	
COLLECTIVE	335,234.00
MN DEPT OF REVENUE	80,965.12
MN DEPT OF REVENUE	3,337.00
US BANK-CC	9,808.63
PAYCOM PAYROLL, LLC	571,797.19
PAYCOM PAYROLL, LLC	41,044.14
PAYCOM PAYROLL, LLC	3,467.11
COUNTY OF TODD	2,757.46
WEX HEALTH INC - HSA	16,244.93
PERA	98,304.11
VOYA (MSRS)	5,589.69
HUMANIA INSURANCE	
COMPANY	8,092.53
MN DEPT OF REVENUE	867,226.06
17 PAYMENTS LESS	
THAN \$2,000	14,011.60
BIG SWAN LAKE	
IMPROVEMENT DIST	7,891.27
CITY OF BERTHA	123,267.87
CITY OF BROWERVILLE	151,453.07
CITY OF BURTRUM	10,146.45
CITY OF CLARISSA	76,164.43
CITY OF EAGLE BEND	159,355.19
CITY OF GREY EAGLE	75,380.15
CITY OF HEWITT	41,984.76
CITY OF LONG PRAIRIE	864,996.62
CITY OF OSAKIS	113,633.88
CITY OF STAPLES	545,247.23
CITY OF WEST UNION	5,415.19
REGION V DEVELOPMT	
COMMISSION	15,975.45
SAUK RIVER WATER SHED	
DISTRICT	49,201.94
SCHOOL DISTRICT 213	478,902.06
SCHOOL DISTRICT 2155	3,046.68
SCHOOL DISTRICT	
2170	945,662.67
SCHOOL DISTRICT	
2753	1,516,184.23
SCHOOL DISTRICT 486	515,958.22
SCHOOL DISTRICT 487	4,512.03
SCHOOL DISTRICT 740	51,710.13
SCHOOL DISTRICT 743	707,879.73
SCHOOL DISTRICT 786	331,063.28
SCHOOL DISTRICT 787	894,461.17
SCHOOL DISTRICT 818	39,734.95
TOWN OF BARTLETT	48,512.32
TOWN OF BERTHA	40,679.11
TOWN OF BIRCHDALE	227,193.34
TOWN OF BRUCE	112,123.96
TOWN OF BURLEENE	42,228.15
TOWN OF BURNHAMVILLE	
	92,772.72
TOWN OF EAGLE VALLEY	
	61,571.12
TOWN OF FAWN LAKE	103,504.81
TOWN OF GERMANIA	43,291.92
TOWN OF GORDON	107,953.80
TOWN OF GREY EAGLE	120,905.25
TOWN OF HARTFORD	119,935.81
TOWN OF IONA	61,275.02
TOWN OF KANDOTA	7,372.08
TOWN OF LITTLE ELK	43,479.64
TOWN OF LITTLE SAUK	88,621.70
TOWN OF LONG PRAIRIE	
	105,414.05
TOWN OF MORAN	56,503.54
TOWN OF REYNOLDS	69,029.25
TOWN OF	
ROUND PRAIRIE	121,272.33
TOWN OF STAPLES	95,386.44
TOWN OF	
STOWE PRAIRIE	60,553.37
TOWN OF	
TURTLE CREEK	40,130.65
TOWN OF VILLARD	120,407.44
TOWN OF WARD	88,035.83
TOWN OF WEST UNION	54,941.04
TOWN OF WYKEHAM	63,409.38
4 PAYMENTS LESS	

THAN \$2,000	2,683.27
TOTAL:	\$ 15,871,911.86

COMMISSIONER WARRANTS

VENDOR NAME	\$ AMOUNT
AMERICAN TRUCKBOXES, LLC	2,380.75
GARAGE DOOR STORE	3,088.00
HILLYARD	2,182.17
LIBERTY TIRE SERVICES LLC	2,858.20
MORRIS ELECTRONICS INC	5,204.38
NORTHERN STAR COOP	3,526.71
POPE DOUGLAS SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT	5,236.09
TODD SOIL & WATER	
CONS DIST	115,701.04
WIDETH SMITH	
NOLTING INC	4,085.76
46 PAYMENTS LESS	
THAN \$2,000	21,960.32
Total:	\$166,223.42

HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES WARRANTS

VENDOR NAME	\$ AMOUNT
TMR. COOPER	4,053.56
TIMBERLAKE HOTEL	3,764.00
US BANK	4,989.91
6 PAYMENTS LESS	
THAN \$2,000	4,061.89
CHILDREN YOUTH & FAMILIES	
DEPT.	2,537.37
FRESHWATER EDUCATION	
DISTRICT 6004	21,046.00
VENDOR# 16199	2,376.06
RURAL MN CEP IN	15,191.50
VENDOR# 17858	2,659.20
TODD COUNTY AUDITOR	
TREASURER	15,096.10
TODD COUNTY SHERIFF'S	
OFFICE	2,312.47
USPS-POC	5,208.26
88 PAYMENTS LESS	
THAN \$2,000	44,126.02
Total:	\$127,422.34

VENDOR NAME	\$ AMOUNT
FREEDOM RANCH/THE	8,948.94
GENESIS GROUP HOMES INC	2,244.36
HEARTLAND GIRLS RANCH	8,398.00
LUTHERAN SOCIAL SERVICE	
OF MN - ST PAUL	2,687.05
LUTHERAN SOCIAL SERVICE	
OF MN - ST PAUL	3,472.31
MERIDIAN SERVICES INC	2,481.84
NEXUS - MILLE LACS FAMILY	
HEALING	11,632.44
PORT GROUP HOMES	2,494.92
PRESBYTERIAN FAMILY FOUNDATION INC	16,740.50
STEP	16,219.04
VILLAGE RANCH INC	35,363.28
WEST CENTRAL REG JUVENILE CTR	15,661.00
32 PAYMENTS LESS	
THAN \$2,000	18,946.34
Total:	\$150,638.96

On a motion by Noska and second by Becker, the preceding minutes of the County Board meeting held June 16, 2026 were duly approved by unanimous vote at the Todd County Board of Commissioners at the Regular Board Meeting held on July 7, 2026.

Witness my hand and seal:
/s/ on file: Bob Byers,
County Board Chairperson
/s/ on file: Denise Gaida,
Todd County Auditor-Treasurer
34pnc

National Night Out features police, fire departments



Fire department a hit with children

National Night Out at the Staples Airport on Aug. 4 created a lot of fire department fans when children were able to look at the big trucks and were given plastic fire helmets.

Above, the new Motley Fire Department tanker truck that was recently shipped up from Arizona drew a lot of attention. It was so new, they haven't put their logo on it yet. (Staples World photos by Mark Anderson)



Police tattoos

The Staples Police Department provided temporary tattoos and badges to children attending National Night Out on Aug. 4. Below, Staples Police show some of their police equipment and let a young attendee see if he can carry the police battering ram door opener. (Staples World photos by Mark Anderson)



SMBP bringing the party

Staples-Motley Beyond Poverty hosted the National Night Out event and gave away more than 400 hot dog meals

to attendees. (Staples World photos by Mark Anderson)





Jacob Borgstrom Top Hand Award

Josiah Gold was awarded the Jacob Borgstrom Top Hand Award at the recent 2026 Pillager Fair horse show. The award is given each year to the exhibitor who is most helpful to other exhibitors. The award is sponsored by Sunup Ranch and is named in honor of Jacob Borgstrom of Pillager who was a long-time competitor at the fair. From left, Josiah Gold, Greg Booth, Amy Borgstrom, Brandon Borgstrom, Kaitlyn Schroeder, Vickie Kettlewell. (Submitted photo)



Rendezvous scenes

Music and mysterious characters abound at the Old Wadena Rendezvous and Chautauqua.



Preliminary timeline set for school building plans

By Mark Anderson
Publisher

The Staples-Motley School Board got their first view of the building process for the \$42 million referendum that was passed in April of this year. At the Aug. 3 board meeting, Kyle Walter of ICS, the facilities consultant firm for the school, outlined the timeline and steps of building new classrooms for fifth grade at the elementary school, building shop space at the high school, and updating other school buildings and athletic facilities.

Walter said the first project will be to build the new classrooms onto the elementary school, starting as soon as school lets out in the spring. Superintendent Shane Tappe said they would like to finish it before school starts again in the fall, so the fifth grade can move right in and not have to move during the school year.

“We want that transition to be seamless,” said Tappe. In order to meet that

timeline, they will need longer lead times to procure materials, so they are planning to have the design process done this fall and send out for bids in December.

Tappe said they will work with the contractor who gets the bid to see if they can finish it in that timeline, or they might have to push the start of school back a week or two in 2027.

The other updates will have a separate planning track. Another building addition in the referendum is to add more CTE (career and technical education) space at the high school. The project will also create a new front entrance for the high school, near the cafeteria entrance. Tappe said one challenge will be creating a central corridor at the high school to streamline foot traffic in the building.

“The center corridor is going to be a big bite, a lot of infrastructure is going into that,” said Tappe.

Walter said they already have architects working on the first drawings after holding meetings with dis-

trict personnel.

“We had a lot of great dialogue these first few meetings, so the architects were able to dive right in,” said Walter.

The first designs will then go through more meetings with local user groups, the oversight committee and the budget committee, before the final plan is approved by the school board.

Walter said ICS is using the framework of the Cardinal Commitments for the building process. The commitments were developed by the school board and the school community. Building project details can be found at SpreadingOurWings.org.

In other news, the board

- Approved the hire of Charles Holst, bus driver; Melissa Holey, NEST assistant; Melissa Richards, NEST assistant; and Ashton Bellefeuille, junior high football coach.
- Approved community education license agreement with Josh Wood.

Deer hide trading at Old Wadena

The buckskin market was alive and well at the Old Wadena Rendezvous on Aug. 9, echoing the ancient trading post and voyageur camp that once stood on that spot. Top photo, one of the traders shows a completed deer hide material.

Lower photo, one of the encampment participants shows some boys how to stretch out a deer hide the old-fashioned way. (Staples World photos by Mark Anderson)

Commercial Facade Improvement Grants available in Motley

Commercial Facade Improvement Grants are available to local businesses in the City of Motley, thanks to the city partnering with CEDA and the Initiative Foundation.

According to information provided at Motley City Hall, applications opened July 15, and are on a first-come, first-serve basis until the funds are gone.

The Commercial Facade Improvement Grant Pro-

gram, which is part of the city’s Downtown Revitalization, offers matching grants to help local businesses improve and update their facades.

Funding for the grant program includes \$10,000 from the CEDA Rural Capacity Program, along with \$5,000 from the Initiative Foundation.

Up to \$2,500 grant awards are available. These are a 1-1 match award from the city,

given as a reimbursement. To date, two businesses from Motley have submitted grant applications.

Grant information and applications can be found at the city’s website, www.cityofmotley.com. For additional information, contact City Clerk/Treasurer Tami Brotherton at clerk@cityofmotley.com or 218-352-6200.



Farmers Union
PROCESSING + MEATS



GRAND OPENING

Farmers Union Processing + Meats is a new state-of-the-art, USDA federally inspected meat processing facility that offers processing of cattle, hogs, and sheep.

Celebrate with us! Program at 11:00 a.m., followed by lunch and plant tours.

August 18, 2026

901 Prairie Avenue NW
Staples, MN