

Inside this issue:

Wrestling team heading back to state
Boys basketball team rises in standings
Motley P&Z commissioner seated
Our Voice, Our Song coming up Feb. 28



Wednesday, February 18, 2026

StaplesWorld

Staples, Minnesota

\$1²⁵

Boom and croon Drums and voices combined for a special musical performance by the Minnesota State Moorhead Choir and Percussion Ensemble, who performed at the Batcher Opera House on Feb. 12. (Photo by Mark Anderson)

Motley asks for input on comprehensive plan

Motley invites community members to participate in the public review and comment period for its draft Comprehensive Plan Update. The public comment period will remain open through April 7, 2026, and the plan is available at regionfive.org/motley. Community members, business owners, and stakeholders are encouraged to review the draft plan and provide feedback. The plan is intended to guide the city over the next five to ten years, with periodic reviews to ensure it remains relevant to the community's

evolving needs. The Comprehensive Plan is a strategic document that guides the city's policies and decisions on land use, infrastructure, economic development, environmental stewardship, and community services. Developed with input from residents, local stakeholders, and planning experts, the plan outlines a shared vision for a prosperous future. To submit your comment, email Thomas Zimmermann at tzimmermann@regionfive.org by April 7, 2026.

ISD #2170 to hold Bond Referendum Open House Feb. 23

Staples-Motley Schools ISD #2170 will host a Bond Referendum Open House, Monday, February 23, from 6 to 8 p.m. at the Staples-Motley Middle/High School. Hear from district leaders, teachers, architects and financial experts about the upcoming bond referendum to be held April 14 2026. Review the planned improvements to Staples-Motley Schools and have questions answered.

Staples-Motley Artistic Hall of Fame nominees announced

Ceremony to be held Saturday, April 11

The Staples-Motley Artistic Hall of Fame recently announced the newest inductees to its 2026 Class. These artists will join Stan Carlson, the inaugural member of the Hall of Fame, who was celebrated at a special event on Aug. 17, 2025.

A ceremony will be held Saturday, April 11, at Centennial Auditorium in Staples. Following the ceremony, there will be a reception in the lobby of the auditorium. Below are the newest inductees.

Lisa Kajer and Mary Noska

Lisa Kajer and Mary Noska founded the Barn

Quilts of Central Minnesota Trail. Through their vision they created a non-profit that has established a trail of creative quilts from Menahga to Long Prairie celebrating local stories.

Matthew Olsen

A 2002 graduate of Staples-Motley High School, Matthew Olsen has been an actor, director, facilitator, and set-builder in various cities and states and has returned to Staples several times to direct middle school, high school, and Lamplighter Community theater. He is currently an Assistant Professor of

See **ARTISTIC** on page 12a



Mary Noska, Lisa Kajer

Two teams, seven individuals elected to SM Athletic Hall of Fame

The Staples-Motley Athletic Hall of Fame Class of 2026 includes the progenitors of state wrestling success in Staples, the team that started a string of state titles in cross country, two individual state champions, a three sport star and the first two volleyball players in the hall of fame.

Teams are the 1970-73 Staples wrestling teams and the 1996 and 1997 cross

country teams.

Athletes are Darrell Card, Jeff Marden, Mark Bendson, Michelle (Honek) Linz, Kyra (Odden) Quast and Derek Mattila.

Dr. Ted Lelwica is elected to the hall of fame as a community contributor.

The hall of fame induction ceremony is scheduled for Saturday, Oct. 10, at Centennial Auditorium at Staples-Motley High School,

starting at 5:30 p.m.

1970-73 wrestling

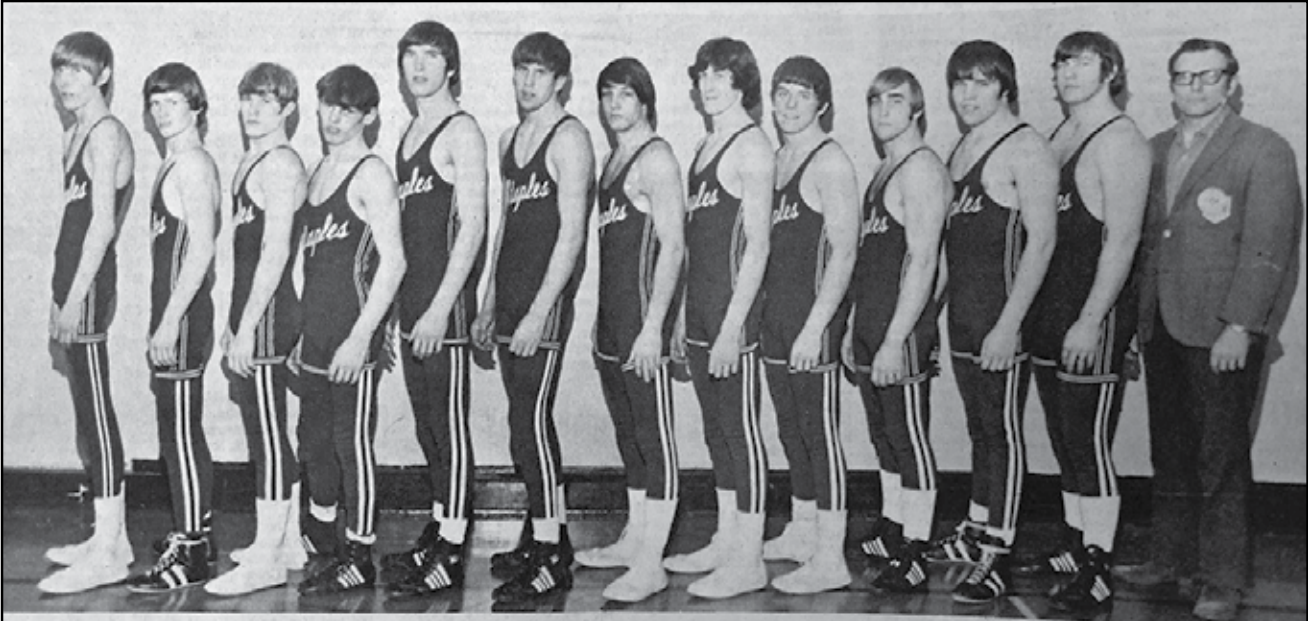
The 1970-73 Staples boys wrestling team was the first group of Cardinals to place at state as a team. They sent a number of athletes to the state tournament and had the first individual state champions for the school wrestling program. They earned 3rd place, 4th place and 3rd place in the one class system against the

entire state of Minnesota.

Before there was even a state team tournament, which started in 1975, these wrestlers instilled a team concept that continues to this day. They had 10-1, 9-1 and 10-1 records from '71-'73.

State placers in this group included Loren Bendson, Gordy Thompson, Mark Bendson, Charlie Sowers

See **ATHLETIC** on page 11a



Hall of Fame team in 1973

The 1973 Staples wrestling team, from left, Harry Goeden, Mark Bendson, Tim Dumpprope, Bill Bendson, Mike Hajek, Charlie Sowers, Kevin Olsen, Jeff Marden,

Jeff Cizek, John Perkins, Ron Kern, Roger Madson, coach Don Dravis. Not pictured, Rich Madson.

Weather

2026 This Week's Forecast			
	High	Low	Cond.
Feb. 18	35	21	Snow
Feb. 19	29	16	Cloudy
Feb. 20	22	9	Cloudy
Feb. 21	24	5	Cloudy
Feb. 22	17	-3	P. Cloudy
Feb. 23	26	19	P. Cloudy
Feb. 24	35	18	P. Cloudy

Last Year, 2025			
	High	Low	Cond.
Feb. 18	-3°	-23	Sunny
Feb. 19	17	-28	Sunny
Feb. 20	10	-4	Sunny
Feb. 21	21	-1	M. Sunny
Feb. 22	34	6	Sunny
Feb. 23	44	25	Sunny
Feb. 24	42	33	P. Sunny

Average Temps:
H = 27° Low = 9°
Enjoy the warmer temps

Compiled by
Dale Hausmann,
WCCO's Staples area
Weatherwatcher

Public Notices

ISD #2170
school
construction
proposal **9A**
ISD #2170
minutes **9A**

Obituaries

Norma Nielson
Robert Shea
Sandra Smith



SHS Class of 1946 celebrates 80 years



With their certificates

Staples-Motley High School Principal Debbie Ferdon (standing) presented Donna (Greeno) Miller and Don Eddy with Certificates of Recognition.

Following graduation from SHS, Donna and her late husband Pat Miller raised their family in Staples, attending the United Methodist Church where Donna was the pianist for over 60 years. Don shared that he went on to earn three college degrees in education - a bachelor's at St. Cloud State University, a master's at the University of Minnesota, and a doctorate at the University of N.D. He served in the Marine Corps for two years, taught Industrial Arts at St. Cloud State, and later returned to his hometown where he ran the Staples State Bank (now First International Bank and Trust) and served as mayor at one time. Don is a member at Verndale Alliance Church.

Friends and family members were in attendance to help the classmates celebrate their 80th reunion, as were Mayor Ron Murray and Staples-Motley High School Principal Debbie Ferdon, who presented Miller and Eddy with certificates of recognition that read, "In honor of your 80th class reunion and in recognition of your lasting connection to Staples High School. Your story is part of our history and your legacy continues to inspire generations of Cardinals." The certificates were signed by both Ferdon and Superintendent Shane Tappe.

Following the presentation, attendees enjoyed cake and other refreshments, as well as a time of visiting and looking through the 1946 Yearbook that Don had brought. The party was organized by Mike and Gloria Palmer of Staples, friends of both Miller and Eddy. (Staples World photos by Dawn Timbs)



Right here, for you.

No matter where life takes you, the care team in Staples is by your side. We're committed to listening, caring, and delivering the kind of personalized health care you deserve — every step of the way.

PRIMARY CARE FOR ALL AGES:

- Prenatal and Postpartum Visits
- Adult Preventative Visits
- Women's Health Visits
- Welcome to Medicare Visits
- Well Child & Teen Visits
- Medicare Annual Wellness Visits

SPECIALTY SERVICES:

- Cardiology
- Orthopedics
- Physical Therapy
- and more

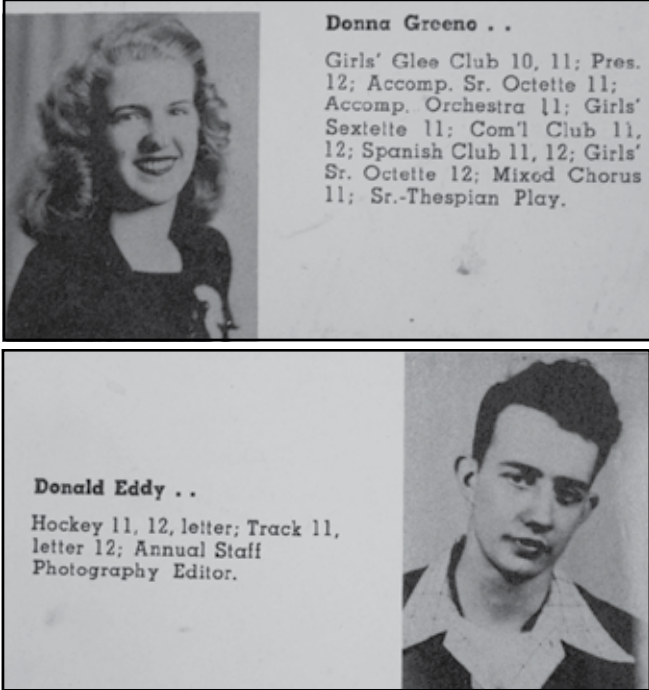
Call 218-894-7870 or schedule online at [EssentiaHealth.org/Schedule](https://www.essentialhealth.org/Schedule)



St. Joseph's-Staples Clinic
Monday-Friday: 8 am-4:30 pm
Urgent Care Monday-Friday: 8 am-6 pm

From the '46 yearbook

Seventy photos of seniors at Staples High School are in the 1946 Yearbook, including those of Donna Greeno (top photo at right) and Don Eddy. Beside their photos is a list of their school activities. Donna and Don, the last remaining members of their class, both live in Staples.



Greg Weber welcomed, finally, to the planning and zoning commission

By Dawn Timbs
Staples World reporter

Greg Weber is the newest member of Motley's Planning and Zoning Commission. His application was accepted, after much discussion, at the Motley City Council's regular meeting Feb. 9.

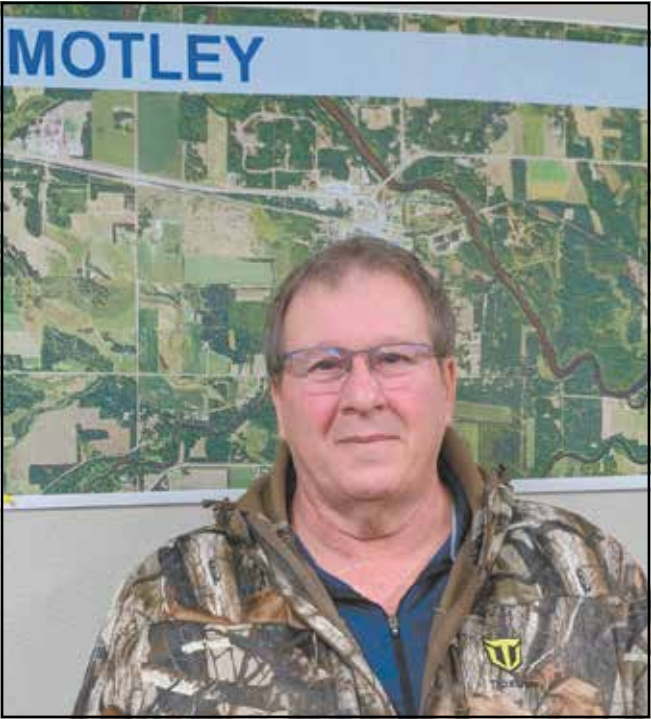
According to their policy, only five members can serve on the commission at one time. For several years, the city council members served on the planning commission as well, because no one from the public had expressed interest in being appointed to it.

In recent months, the council asked City Clerk/Treasurer Tami Brotherton to advertise for this position, with two members of the public filling out applications...Darin Flansburg and Greg Weber, both of Motley. Flansburg was appointed this past December, at which time council member Dennis Erickson (who had served as Planning Commission Chair) stepped down. That left four vacant seats, which were filled by council members Steve Johnson, Nikki Bjerga, April Skeesick-Larson and Pat O'Regan, all of whom were appointed to the commission at the council's regular meeting in January. Skeesick-Larson made the motion to approve Weber's application, with Mayor O'Regan seconding the motion. During the ensuing discussion Erickson said he did not agree with the policy that someone from the council would have to step down from the commission in order for Weber to have a seat.

Skeesick-Larson said she wanted to step down from the commission. Mayor O'Regan also wanted it on record that he would be willing to step down if someone from the public expressed interest in being on it. He reminded the council that they've only been on the commission as needed to fill vacant seats. Erickson said he felt the number of seats on the commission should be changed to seven or nine. He didn't know why council members couldn't stay involved if they wanted to, even if more members of the public came on board. Brotherton said that there would have to be a public hearing to change the number of seats on the commission. She went on to note that the ordinance states the council will fill vacancies, that they are not there to take seats away from anyone.

Johnson said that he is in favor of having fresh ideas, but at the same time, would not want to feel forced to step down from the commission if a new member from the public came on board. A new motion was made to add Weber to the planning commission, with Mayor O'Regan suggesting a roll call vote. The first time out it failed, with Skeesick-Larson and O'Regan voting "aye" and Erickson and Johnson voting "no." Council member Bjerga was absent from the meeting.

Since Skeesick-Larson



New commission member

Greg Weber is the newest member to join the Motley Planning and Zoning Commission. Weber has lived in Motley for 30 years and decided to apply for the commission because he "wanted to get involved." He has previously been on the commission, serving as chair at one time. Weber is married to Melody, and works as a manufacturing engineer at Dzurik in Sartell. (Staples World photo by Dawn Timbs)

had resigned from the commission, this meant there were only four seats filled. Brotherton wondered if that meant there was not a planning and zoning commission anymore?

Erickson felt they were going about things all wrong, that the council should be taking recommendations from the planning and zoning commission. Brotherton said she felt the council should take some educational courses about these matters.

Erickson said that until the ordinance is changed, his vote would remain the same.

Johnson expressed frustration about the situation, but indicated he wanted to have the matter resolved.

In a subsequent roll call vote, the motion to appoint Weber to the commission passed, with Erickson the lone nay-sayer.

"Welcome to the planning commission, Mr. Weber," Skeesick-Larson said, adding, "We are so happy to have you." She went on to tell Weber that she was embarrassed by the process, that it should not have been so difficult.

During the council forum, Skeesick-Larson encouraged the council, herself included, to further their knowledge on matters such as this. She noted that there was an upcoming class offered at Sourcewell in Staples that might be beneficial to them all.

In other matters the council:

- HEARD monthly fire report from Fire Chief Todd Judd, who reported there were seven calls in January. Chief Judd also noted that one of the department's firefighters had resigned.

- LEARNED the fire department had recently interviewed an applicant, Lily England, and proceeded to approve hiring her. England had already passed the physical and

background checks.

- SET a hiring committee for future applicants to the fire department, which includes Chief Judd, 1st Asst. Chief Nathan Thiede; and council liaison Dennis Erickson.

- APPROVED the fire department's request to purchase three new SCBA (Self-Contained Breathing Apparatus) masks priced at \$648 each.

- HEARD monthly police report from Chief Al Yoder, who reported there were 47 calls for the month of January. Chief Yoder was called out from home three times.

- HEARD monthly report from Public Works Director Bruce Brotherton. He reported that most of the holiday decorations had been removed and that the skating rink and sledding hill were still usable at that point.

- SET city wide garage sales for the first weekend in May; and the spring cleanup day for Saturday, May 9.

- APPROVED purchasing a \$200 full page ad in the Motley Fair Book. The original motion was to use the same ad as last year, with all of the council members voting "aye" except April Skeesick-Larson who said she liked it, but felt it shouldn't be used two years in a row. The motion was amended, giving permission to the ad designer to make changes, if that is desired.

- LEARNED that a public hearing would be held at the next council meeting to consider the escrow requirement for Conditional Use Permits.

- SET next planning and zoning meeting for Monday, March 2, 5 p.m., at city hall.

- SET next regular council meeting for Monday, March 9, 4:30 p.m., at city hall.

- LEARNED that the city audit, with Schlenger Wenner & Co., is set for March 2-6.

Todd County Sheriff's report

On January 26, 2026, approximately 5:18 p.m., the Todd County Sheriff's Dept. (TCSO) responded to a report of a gas drive-off from the Seven Oaks Express Convenience Store in Bertha.

Todd County Deputies later located the suspect vehicle traveling Eastbound on Cty Rd 24. When Deputies attempted to initiate a traffic stop, the vehicle fled. A short time later, the sus-

pect vehicle left the roadway and crashed into the ditch on 215th Ave. The suspect was identified as Michael Allyn Fitzherbert, 27, of Browerville. Deputies took Fitzherbert into custody without further incident.

Fitzherbert was not injured but was evaluated by EMS personnel at the scene as a precaution. TCSO was assisted by Bertha Fire and EMS personnel.

MnDOT expanding trip planner to rural transit

Residents across Greater Minnesota now have more consistent ways to plan for and, in some cases, book and pay for public transit and intercity bus trips, the Minnesota Department of Transportation announced.

"This is a big step for Minnesota and for rural communities," said MnDOT Commissioner Nancy Daubenberger. "Transit agencies currently provide public transit services in all or part of all 87 counties in Minnesota, but many people are not aware of the services in Greater Minnesota or what their options are. This will allow residents and visitors throughout Greater Minnesota to see their options and plan trips now or months into the future."

This expansion builds on MnDOT's efforts to help transit agencies make their services more visible and accessible. To complete the upgrade, MnDOT used nearly \$500,000 in grant funding from the Minnesota Technology Modernization Fund, a \$40 million fund established by the Legislature to help state agencies improve customer experience and efficiency.

Travelers can plan trips using the Transit app or the website mntransitplanner.com, which allows people without smartphones to plan trips. More than 20,000 Minnesotans are using the Transit app each month for public transit in Greater Minnesota. Prior to this recent expansion, only transit agencies in southern and western Minnesota were covered.

The multimodal trip

planning is powered by standardized transit data. Transit agencies provide accurate and reliable trip information that is pulled into websites and apps so that travelers can plan trips statewide.

MnDOT's original pilot program with 12 rural Minnesota transit agencies launched in March 2023. Researchers from the University of Minnesota studied the pilot phase and found that the transit agencies that used the Transit app saw a 4.2 percent increase in ridership compared to similar agencies that didn't have this technology.

Rural transit

MnDOT recently added six rural transit agencies to the Transit app: Paul Bunyan Transit, Hubbard County Heartland Express, Prairie Lakes Transit, Prairieland Transit, Three Rivers Hiawathaland Transit and City of Winona Transit. The Department of Iron Range Resource and Rehabilitation will add funding for Arrowhead Transit, including goMarti service, in Northeast Minnesota this spring.

MnDOT will add the remaining 15 public transit agencies in Greater Minnesota by this summer, including Wadena County's Friendly Rider.

MnDOT serves as the technical and coordination lead to convene transit agencies and technology vendors. Once the files are online, the Transit app and MnDOT's website MnTransitPlanner.com make these services available for trip searching by travelers.

Todd Cty. court report Feb. 11

Long Prairie Police

Ambarly Renandez Nunez, Long Prairie. Driving without a valid license for vehicle class or type. Fine \$100.

Edens JN Noel, Long Prairie. Driver fails to Stop at STOP Sign. Fine \$50. Fee \$85.

Jerry Jr. Pabon Padin, Long Prairie. Driving after suspension. Fine \$200. Fee \$85.

Pierre Wiguens, Alexandria. Driving without a valid license for vehicle class or type. Fine \$100. Fee \$85.

Dept. of Natural Resources

Ethan James Hoffman, Grey Eagle. Fish and Game-Fishhouse, on ice without license. Fine \$50. Fee \$85.

Harley L. Lambright, Eagle Bend. Big game, fail to register deer as required. Fine \$100. Fee \$85.

John Rodney Leinen, Long Prairie. Walleye regulation violation. Fine \$50. Fee \$85.

MN State Patrol

Austin Winsorbye Butler, Browerville. Unsafe equipment Fine \$40. Fee \$85.

Jeremy Francis Clasemann, Long Prairie. Leaking/unsecure load, Fine \$60. Fee \$85.

Thomas Michael Vance Haney, Zimmerman. Speed 79/70. Fine \$40. Fee \$85.

Steven Glenn Kneipp, Columbia City, IN. Speed 91/70. Fine \$70. Fee \$155.

Alexey Dmitri Konopatski, Hopkins. Speed 79/70. Fine \$40. Fee \$85.

Joshua Forkpae Konway, Fargo, ND. Speed 80/70. Fine \$70. Fee \$145.

Olivia Raelynn Logan, Alexandria. Speed 79/70. Fine \$40. Fee \$85.

Erick Jael Perez Davila, Long Prairie. Speed 65/60. Fine \$40. Fee \$85.

Lynnzee Kay Wold, West Fargo, ND. Speed 89/70. Fine \$60. Fee \$85.

The following cases were heard before Judge Michael D. Leeser in Seventh District Court in Todd County January 29, 2026.

Andrea Nerelly Gonzales, Clarissa. 3rd Degree refusal to test. Sentenced. Local confinement (364 days, stay 342 days for 4 yr credit for time served: 22 days). Supervised probation, 4 yr. Fine \$400. Fee \$75.

4th degree driving under influence of alcohol. Dismissed. Open bottle

possession. Dismissed. Driving after revocation. Dismissed. Careless driving. Fine \$50.

The following cases were heard before Judge Ellen L. Maas in Seventh District Court in Todd County January 29, 2026.

Tanairis Diaz Morales, Little Falls. Driver must carry proof of insurance when operating vehicle. Dismissed. Driving without a valid license for vehicle class or type. DWI-4th degree driving while impaired. Dismissed. Operate any vehicle carelessly o street or highway. Sentenced. Local confinement (90 days, stay 0 yr 0 mo 89 days for 1 yr credit for time served: 1 days). Supervised probation, 1 yr. Fine \$425. Fee \$75.

DWI-operate motor vehicle-alcohol concentration 0.08 within 2 hours. Dismissed.

Jay Wilson Flass, Burtrum. Driving after cancellation. Continued. Local confinement (364 days, stay 0 yr 0 mo 360 days for 2 yr credit for time served: 4 days. Supervised probation. Fine \$100.

The following cases were heard before Judge Gary R. Larson in Seventh District Court in Todd County February 2, 2026.

Alyana Rose Roberts, Osakis. DWI-operate motor vehicle-alcohol concentration 0.08 within 2 hours. Sentenced. Local confinement (364 days, stay 0 yr 0 mo 360 days for 4 yr credit for time served: 4 days). Supervised probation, 4 yr. Fine \$50. Fee \$305.

The following cases were heard before Judge Dwayne Knutsen in Seventh District Court in Todd County February 3, 2026.

Katrina Naomi Skramstad, Melrose. School bus. Fail to stop-pass bus-child outside. Continued. Unsupervised probation, 6 mo. Fine \$75

The following cases were heard before Judge Gary R. Larson in Seventh District Court in Todd County February 3, 2026.

Isaha Milo Boe-Hopkins, Perham. Speed 75/65. Fine \$50. Fee \$75.

Zachariah Dean Johnson, Staples. Domestic assault. intentionally inflicts/attempts to inflict bodily harm on another. Dismissed. Domestic assault-act to cause fear of immediate bodily harm or death. Dismissed.

75 YEARS Ago - 1951

• Feb. 15, 1951 - Elaine Marilyn Thompson, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. H. T. Thompson of Stapes, was chosen as valedictorian of the 1951 senior class of Staples high school at the end of the first semester for her high scholastic standing. Miss Thompson has attended all 12 years of school in Staples.

Miss Joan Marie Sperley, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. John Sperley, also of Staples, has been awarded the second high honors of the senior class as salutatorian. She has also spent all 12 years of school here.

50 YEARS Ago - 1976

• Feb. 12, 1976 - A bomb threat was received at the Motley Public School Monday morning of this week, forcing the closing of the school for the remainder of the day.

H. Lyle Jones, acting superintendent at the Motley school, reported to The World that the call came into the high school principal's office about 10:38 a.m. and the caller said, "There is a bomb in your school."

The message was relayed to Jones by the principal and they, along with Mrs. Alice Ahles, elementary principal, immediately ordered to evacuate the students to St. Michael's Catholic Church, which place the school has permission to use in the event of an emergency. The school buses were called in and the students were taken home, with classes then being dismissed for the day.

Jones also notified the Morrison County Sheriff's Office in Little Falls. The sheriff's department, along with members of the Motley Fire Dept. and school personnel conducted a search of the entire building and found nothing. About 12:30 p.m., the building was cleared for use by the investigating people. Morrison County authorities are continuing their investigation of the incident.

• Feb. 12, 1976 - Two automobiles, which were stolen in the area in recent weeks, have been recovered, according to information released today by authorities.

Saturday evening, Jan. 31, the auto, a 1957 Chevrolet, belonging to Delbert Geise of Staples, was reported stolen from the parking lot at the River Inn, Aldrich. Giese's son, Al Jenson, had driven the vehicle to the River Inn where he is employed.

Authorities recovered the automobile in Hillsboro, N.D. Feb 1 and three juveniles from Staples were arrested at Hillsboro and held for Wadena County

Disorderly conduct. Local confinement (90 days, stay 0 yr 0 mo 63 days for 1 yr credit for time served: 27 days). Supervised probation, 1 yr. Fine \$100. Fee \$75.

Wanda Leonela Berroa Arias, Eagle Bend. School bus-fail to stop. Local confinement (10 days, stay 0 yr 0 mo 0 days for 6 mo). Unsupervised probation, 6 mo. Fine \$100.

Tyler James Hoeffs-Gesme, Bertha. Driving after revocation. Sentenced. Local confinement (10 days, stay 0 0 mo 10 days for 6 mo). Unsupervised probation, 6 mo. Fine \$50. Fee \$75.

Troy Edward Martell, Sauk Centre. DWI-4th degree driving while impaired. Dismissed. DWI-operate motor vehicle-alcohol concentration 0.08 within 2 hours. Sentenced. Local confinement (90 days, stay 0 yr 0 mo 89 days for 2 yr credit for time served: 1 day). Supervised probation, 2 yr. Fine \$200. Fee \$100.

The following cases were heard before Seventh District Court in Todd County February 4, 2026.

Nicholas James Spangler, St.

authorities.

Staples Police reported that a 1970 Dodge, belonging to Mark Henagir of Bertha, was stolen late Saturday evening, Jan. 31, from the Mueller Motor Company. The vehicle had been left there for repair and was parked outside the building.

H. Michael Carr, chief of police, said that the vehicle was found stalled on Hwy 10 Sunday morning, Feb. 1, and that a petition has been signed against a juvenile from Staples in connection with the unauthorized use of a motor vehicle and the youth will be appearing in juvenile court.

• Feb. 12, 1976 - Shelly Lelwica, a member of the Golden Gophers 4-H club, Staples, won first place and a blue ribbon in the Junior Division of the 4-H Public Speaking Contest held at Wadena Jan. 19. The title of the speech was "What I Hope to Learn in 4-H." Fifteen 4-H'ers competed in the contest.

This is the second consecutive year that Miss Lelwica has captured the first place award in the junior division of the contest. She received a \$5 check from KWAD Radio, Wadena, as her prize. Shelly is the daughter of Dr. and Mrs. T. J. Lelwica of Staples.

25 YEARS Ago - 2001

• Feb. 15, 2001 - A major supper club and restaurant project proposed for the east end of Staples got the city's official blessing and a financial boost at the Staples City Council meeting Tuesday night.

The council approved extension of its existing Tax Increment Financing Development District and approved a Development Assistance Agreement between the city and Kevin and Sue Jenkins. They are proposing to construct the DeerLodge Restaurant and banquet facility on property they are purchasing from Ellen Batchter and located south of Highway 10 on the east city limits.

Their plans are to operate a restaurant with seating for 60 to 80 people and also a banquet hall that could seat up to 400. Their plans also



Mystery solved

Last week's mystery photo published in the Jan. 29, 1976 edition of the Staples World featured members of the Staples High School Choir Pops Concert steering committee. Front row, from left: Deb Manning, Nancy Sadusky,

Steve Gardner, Pam Quance, Theresa Stilwell. Back row: Marn Longbella, Larry Dumpprope, Curt Kaler, John Lauer, Kathy Tomsich. The senior high choirs were directed by Stanley Carlson and Melissa Hobson.



Mystery photo

Hello readers. This week's archive photo is from 1985. 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.

include a parking lot and a new access road coming off the city's 12th Street. Their site would be located just north of First Avenue and east of the city's Railroad Park.

• Feb. 15, 1976 - Two local students have been honored as winners of the Lions International Peace Poster contest, sponsored locally by the Staples '93 Lions Club. Katie Jacobson was the winner among sixth grade students at Sacred Heart School, while Samantha Rosenthal was judged the best among entries submitted by members of Girl Scout Troop 607. Each winning poster has been submitted to the next level in the worldwide contest.

• Feb. 15, 2001 - The many volunteer activities and contributions to Centennial Auditorium of Dave Nordell and of his business, Nordell Graphic Communications, were recognized at the Sunday afternoon performance at Centennial. Nordell has donated his time as a graphic designer in designing programs and ads for the Auditorium, as well as donating materials.

• Feb. 15, 2001 - Sports headlines included: Cardinal wrestlers looking at

Mystery photo correction

Judy Wolak of Staples correctly identified everyone in the mystery photo from Feb. 4, originally published in the Feb. 1, 2001 edition of the Staples World. The photo featured cast members from Staples Motley High School who earned top honors at the Sub Section 24 One-Act Play contest. The cast mem-

bers were Chantelle Miner, Martin Brenny, Julia Nytes, Tom Craft. They performed, "For Whom the Southern Belle Tolls," which was directed by alumnus Tom Vasecka, Wolak recalled.

Unfortunately, Wolak's name had not been included in the responses from readers. The Staples World regrets the error.



DEADLINES
Newspaper deadline for copy and advertising: 12 noon Fridays



Referendum letters accepted through early voting period

Election day for the Staples-Motley school referendum is Tuesday, April 14.

Early voting begins Friday, Feb. 27. District voters can vote in person at the Staples-Motley District Office at 905 4th Street NE in Staples, between 7:30 a.m.-4 p.m. on weekdays.

District residents can also obtain mail-in ballots to be submitted by election day, April 14.

Letters

The Staples World will accept letters to the editor submissions through the early voting period until Friday, March 27 for letters raising new topics, and allow a response letter to that week's newspaper to be submitted by Friday, April 3.

Because this is a community issue and not a political seat to be won, the Staples World will waive paid fees for letters. For political

offices, we treat letters as advertisements for the candidate and charge our advertising rate for those letters. We consider the school referendum to be a community issue so we will not charge the fee for referendum letters.

Email letters to editor@staplesworld.com, or by mail to PO Box 100, Staples, MN 56479. Letters should include your contact information and city of residence.

Township Day is March 10

On Tuesday, March 10, 2026, residents of Minnesota's 1,776 townships will have a unique opportunity to take part in Township Day. This annual event allows township residents to participate directly in local

decision-making, a defining feature that sets township government apart.

Township Day annual meetings give residents a direct voice in how their township is governed, including voting on important issues such as the upcoming year's tax levy. It is a clear example of grassroots democracy in action.

I encourage township

residents to attend their annual meeting on Tuesday, March 10. Meeting times and locations are published in local newspapers or can be obtained by contacting your township clerk.

Jeff Krueger
Executive Director
Minnesota Association of Townships

Teen dating violence: teens need help with relationship boundaries

Barb Dinkel Goodrich
Lead Advocate Domestic Violence/
Sexual Assault Services
Hands of Hope Resource Center Todd County

February is Teen Dating Violence Awareness Month, a time to address an issue that affects far too many young people. Research shows that 1 in 3 teens in the U.S. will experience some form of dating abuse—whether emotional, verbal, physical, or digital—before adulthood.

One of the most powerful ways to prevent dating violence is by teaching healthy relationship skills:

Boundaries

Boundaries are personal limits that protect emotional and physical well-being. They might include how much time teens spend together, how they communicate, and what behaviors are acceptable.

Trust

Trust is built when both partners respect those boundaries, communicate honestly, and show reliability over time.

Unfortunately, many teens are never taught how to set boundaries or recognize when they are being crossed. This can leave them vulnerable to manipulation, control, or abuse. It is

important that parents, and educators have open, judgment-free conversations with teens about what respect looks like when dating.

Today's teens deserve relationships rooted in respect, trust, and safety. This month let's commit to raising awareness, and empowering young people to set boundaries and expect nothing less than kindness and respect from their partners. Awareness is the first step toward prevention – let's take it together.

If you or someone you know would like additional information regarding teen dating violence, or just want to talk, contact Hands of Hope Resource Center at 320-732-2319 or 800-682-4547.

Immigration affecting rural America

By Brian Depew
Center For Rural Affairs

While the presence and actions of federal agents in Minnesota's Twin Cities are a high-profile national news story, federal agents are active in small cities and rural communities across the country.

It can be easy for rural residents and rural policymakers to write off the news streaming out of Minneapolis as something happening elsewhere. While the headlines have emanated from large urban areas, dig deeper, and it becomes clear that federal agents are active in rural areas, too. Consider several news reports in just the last week.

Observer video published this weekend out of Saint Peter, Minn., shows three ICE agents recklessly stopping a car and approaching the driver, a local woman. All three agents are masked and have their guns drawn and aimed at the driver. Her apparent crime was observing their activity from her car while driving on a public road in this town of 12,000 people.

Federal agents also surged into largely rural Maine in the past two weeks, with activity reported throughout a large region of the state. In Lewiston, Maine, a town of 37,000, WBUR reported that many residents opted to avoid school and work out of fear of being targeted. Family members, lawyers, and local and state officials all reported that many of those

detained in the state were legally present asylum seekers with no criminal record.

Multiple news outlets report that federal agents plan to arrive in Springfield, Ohio, in the coming days. Springfield is a town of 58,000 residents, including 15,000 Haitian immigrants who arrived with Temporary Protected Status, a protection granted by the U.S. government. The current administration has indicated that it will allow the protection to expire on Feb. 3. State and local officials anticipate a surge of federal officers to begin detaining these heretofore legally present residents. Haitian immigrants make up 25 percent of the local population and have helped revitalize the local economy.

Back in Minnesota, the state Farmers Union held a press conference to raise attention to the impact federal agent activity is having on the agricultural workforce in the state. Gary Wertish, president of the Minnesota Farmers Union, noted that federal agents have been active throughout the state. He reported a shortage of workers in some agricultural processing plants as well as the restaurant industry. Again, he said, "You have workers who are afraid to go to work, even if they have legal status."

Center for Rural Affairs staff, too, have seen firsthand how the rapidly changing federal enforcement climate is affecting communities where we work. Heightened concern about being profiled or otherwise

caught up in the current dragnet approach has led to residents who are scared to engage in public life, operate their businesses, or go to work.

A different way is possible

Rural America is often characterized as mostly white and a place with few newly arriving immigrants. Those of us who work in small towns across the country know this generalization is not accurate. Accepting that, but for Native Americans, we are all immigrants to our places, newly arriving Americans have been making a home in and contributing to our small towns and rural communities for decades, often breathing new life into local economies.

As new residents arrived, the Center for Rural Affairs built programming to help both long-time residents and newcomers create welcoming communities where everyone can be a full participant in local civic, economic, and cultural life. Together, we have made great progress in building communities that are more welcoming, economically vibrant, and culturally diverse.

The federal government's current actions threaten this progress. As we see from the above examples, masked and heavily armed agents are already present in small cities and rural towns. They are ensnaring citizens and non-citizens alike, legal residents, and children. These federal ac-

tions ignore basic law enforcement safety protocols and constitutionally rooted rights. Without a fundamental change, we're likely to see more, not less, of this in our communities in the months ahead.

The rule of law underlies our individual and collective ability to do much of anything—start businesses, operate public institutions, and go about our personal lives. A breakdown in the basic tenets of the law and the apparatus of enforcement has far-reaching and deleterious implications for our communities and the values that the Center advances.

These ought not be controversial statements. They are deeply embedded American values, springing from the Constitution, and long upheld by the legislative, administrative, and judicial branches of government.

The current situation is neither fair nor just nor sustainable. A different way is possible. The Center has called on Congress to take action on comprehensive immigration reform for nearly two decades. The vast majority of Americans support the same.

The decades-long failure to enact positive immigration law is actively harming rural communities. Comprehensive reform is necessary to create a humane, sensible, and sustainable basis for immigration policy in our country. Enforcement action must then also operate within the bounds of the Constitution and our laws.

Quote of the week

“It is amazing what you can accomplish if you do not care who gets the credit.”
— Harry S. Truman

Roadless Rule protects our way of life

By Timo Rova

For more than 25 years, the Roadless Rule has quietly achieved something extraordinary: protecting our national forests while keeping them open to the public. I know this not just as someone who values these lands, but as someone whose life has been shaped by them.

Since 2001, this policy has protected nearly 58 million acres of national forests from new road construction and large-scale industrial development. This policy does not restrict access or enjoyment. Instead, it prevents destructive, high-cost development that undermines ecological health and scenic beauty. The Roadless Rule has preserved the ecological health and scenic beauty of our forests without restricting public access or enjoyment. It's a quiet success story, and one we can't afford to undo.

My family and I have fought fires for generations. These forests are our home and livelihood, and when you've stood on the front lines of a wildfire, you understand what's at stake. Roads and industrial development don't just destroy landscapes; they increase fire risk, which can threaten our communities. Repealing the Roadless Rule would increase both, putting lives, property, and ecosystems at risk.

I've seen up close how quickly things can change when nature is disrupted. After the historic Boundary Waters blowdown in the late 1990s, I worked with crews to clear hazardous fuels in the Superior National Forest's Roadless areas. Navigating those storm-toppled woods reminded me that fire and wind shape our forests as much as any policy. Targeted work—like prescribed burns and sustainable logging—reduces wildfire risk, restores red and white pine, and supports local jobs. Importantly, the Roadless Rule does not impede necessary ecological work, such as fuel reduction or maintaining access for fire crews. These are the kinds of science-driven actions Roadless allows—and that our forests need.

come to hike, fish, or hunt, they're looking for the wild beauty that makes these places special. Every new road carved into our wilderness chips away at that.

These lands also hold deep meaning for Tribal Nations, including the Bois Forte Band of Chippewa and other Ojibwe communities across the Great Lakes region. During my years with the Superior National Forest, I saw firsthand the importance of honoring treaty rights—ensuring tribal members can hunt, fish, and harvest as they have for generations. True stewardship means keeping these places whole and accessible, so that cultural traditions and spiritual connections endure. The Roadless Rule helps protect this continuity.

I grew up in a family with deep roots in this region, and I see these forests as more than a resource—they're a living legacy. Generations before me depended on these woods for timber, game, and fishing, living on the land with respect and reciprocity. Today, the Roadless Rule protects not just the forest, but a way of life rooted in observation, care, and connection to place. There is much to learn from the way those who came before us cared for our forests—especially regarding fire and forest health.

Today, that balance is under threat. The Trump Administration argues that repealing the Roadless Rule would promote "active land management." I agree that thoughtful management is essential to forest health. However, tearing up long-standing protections to build more roads isn't management. It's short-sighted exploitation that benefits a narrow set of interests while leaving communities to shoulder the risks and costs. True forest management works with natural systems, not against them.

No policy is perfect, but the Roadless Rule's purpose is sound: to protect what makes these places irreplaceable. Undoing it would be a mistake for our forests, our communities, and our future.

Timo Rova is a retired wildland firefighter and former West Zone Fire Management Officer for the Superior National Forest. Born and raised in Minnesota, he spent 34 years fighting fire across the country, including nearly two decades as a smokejumper. He now lives near Ely, where he enjoys hunting, wild ricing, and sharing the beauty of public lands with his community.

But this isn't just about fire. It's about how these forests sustain life and livelihoods. I'm a hunter, and healthy forests mean healthy wildlife. It means clean water, clean air, and thriving ecosystems. It means jobs and stability for communities across northern Minnesota, where tourism and recreation aren't luxuries; these protected lands are critical financial lifelines. When visitors

Quote of the week

“When you’re going through hell, keep going.”
— Winston Churchill

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.

Letters: Readers are encouraged to express their views by writing letters to the editor. Letters are verified for authenticity, so please include a name, address and phone number. Only the author's name and city will be published. Letters may be edited for spelling and grammar errors, libel, length and other factors. Private thanks, solicitations and libelous letters will not be published. Letters are printed on a space available basis. The editor reserves the right to reject letters.

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

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Staples Area Women’s Chorus to perform at festival

The Staples Area Women’s Chorus (SAWC) will host the ‘Our Voice, Our Song’ festival at Staples-Motley High School’s Legacy Gym on Saturday, Feb. 28. The

event includes a concert at 7 p.m., which will feature area high school choirs, and the debut of an original piece, “I am Dance, I am Song.” (Submitted photo)

‘Our Voice, Our Song’ event Feb. 28, Staples

The Staples Area Women’s Chorus will host their annual Our Voice Our Song festival Saturday, Feb. 28, at the Staples-Motley High School Legacy Gym. The concert begins at 7 p.m. and tickets will be available at the door. Ages five and under, free.

Our Voice, Our Song is an annual event that the chorus started in 2014. This year, a brand-new piece will be debuted as part of this event. The choir has had a piece commissioned in honor of long-time chorus mem-

ber Joyce Anderson, who passed away in 2023. Board President Amanda Mithun said that they are very excited to honor her and that the lyrics were written by her daughter, Jodi (Anderson) Schultz. They worked with a composer, Maryann Muglia Smith, who did a wonderful job of expressing Joyce’s love of life through music.

The day will end with a concert for the public which will feature the combined choir of 200 voices. In addition,

featured choirs performing for the concert include the Colle Voce Choir from the Staples area, the Staples Area Women’s Chorus, Pillager High School as well as selected soloists.

This event is made possible, in part, by the voters of Minnesota, through a grant from the Five Wings Arts Council, thanks to a legislative appropriation from the Arts and Cultural Heritage Fund.

Staples-Motley Middle School honor roll

Staples-Motley Middle School recently announced their second quarter honor roll.

A Honor Roll

Grade 8

Tenley Bartylla, Caleb Bestland, Alivia Bingham, Easton Bitzer, Jackson Bitzer, Emma Borash, Lily Brichacek, Quinn Brichacek, Maxx Carlson, Naudia Djuren, Layla Dumphrope, Natalie Dumphrope, Mari’vel Duran, Kelsey Elfstrum, Katelyn Erickson, Maggie Grunewald, Danielle Hanson, Piper Hanson, Meredith Hoemberg, Adyson Holst, Annabella Hurtig, Aubrey Lund, Ryan Macheel, Lucille Maros, Levi Mumm, Berkley Nelson, Nathan Nelson, Payton Nelson, Charlie Noska, Carter Odden, Angelina Paklonsky, Benjamin Rutten, Leiten Rychner, Chadia Schultz, Elise Trif, Jocelyn

Vogt, Joshua Winter, Jr., Madisyn Zetah.

Grade 7

Phaedra Arndt, Paislee Boozell, Ashlynn Borntreger, Kamryn Brenna, Nathan Huwe, Ryleigh Johnson, Mia Kriesel, Reed Leach, Zane Leach, Timothy Lind, Alexis Odden, Camrik Tappe, Corey Wojciechowski, Anna Zolotoryova.

Grade 6

Emily Beard, Kaiya, Breen, Isaiah Detloff, Adalynn Dewald, Hugo Ellingsen, Eva Greenwaldt, Mayzelle Hanson, Willow Hines, Dakota Karjala, Andrew Larsen, Elliana Mumm, Leah Nelson, Robert Owen, Jr., Ava Roline, Roman Ross-Sullivan, Tristan Samborski, Benjamin Santos, Bennett Sonenstahl, Dominic Thiede, Reese Thompson, Zara Vogel, Anna Warner, Annika Weber.

Grade 5

Emily Bounds, Aubry Bunn, Arlo Capistrant, Shelby Cavegn, Lilah Dotenwhy, Lacey Elfstrum, Cullen Fraundorfer, Jamesen Hansen, Finnegan Hanson, Allison Hoppe, Ava Kroll, Makenna Lang, Corvyn Mudek, Piper Noska, Elizabeth Potter, Woodroe Rassler, Frances Reese, Kolton Reese, Rose Roberts, Jacob Roelofs, Joseph Scharen, Corlynn Tappe, Jaclyn Toepper, Edward Trout, Jackson Vangsness, Cygnus Walz, Emmitt Winter.

B Honor Roll

Grade 8

Adrienne Boyd, Kiera Chenoweth, Odin Davis, Patrick Eckert, Aubree Hove, Lalonie Kenyon, Arthur Keplin, Zeva Kriesel, Brielle Mevissen, Llana Michel, Blake Mongan, Brayden Moore, Brennen Sonenstahl, Aubrey Suomi, Lydia Tkalcich, Tayden Weite, Abiri Ziegler, London Ziegler.

Grade 7

Everett Allen, Emily Becker, Kalliemae Corey, Tyler Daly, Nevaeh Elifrits, Brooke Georges, Talia Graves, Harrison

Grunewald, Mavis Haehnel, Katherine Hopper, Logan Jares, Savannah Kirby, Lane Laney, Porter Lehner, Charlie Maros, Isaac Norring, Lylianne Nurnberger, Breydl Orozco, Alexandria Pearson, Parker Sharpe, Taija Shequen, Brynn Stevens, Makenna Warner, Jayden Wilson.

Grade 6

Danni Borash, Claire Dolezal, Charlee Dukowitz, Tyler Fraundorfer, Amelia Hoemberg, Jeffrey Hruza, Brekken Kuhns, Evan Lehner, Aidan Lovsness, Gustavo Lozano, John Mendoza Hernandez, Jace Odden, Camden Sirucek, Jayce Wilson, Axel Young, Derek Zimmerman.

Grade 5

Andrea Borntreger, Asher Carry, Riley Carter, Graham Davis, Owen Erickson, Jocelyn Fonteyn, Lilly Holmberg, Lyncoln Laney, Adrian Luna Santiago, Tia Mertens, Asher Moose, Mara Pesta, Blake Robinson, Edwin Rodriguez-Reyes, Caleb Schmidt, Easton Seely, Chloe Siltman, Isabel Sturm-Hughes, Corin Sullivan, Emma Tauring, Brooks Twardowski, Kara Vejtasa, Jagger Vogt.



Candace and Cameron Fritz

Escape Room at Staples Library

Do you like puzzles? Come, try the Underwater Escape Room at the Staples Public Library. For ages 16 to adult. Teams have 30 minutes to escape the room by putting all the clues together. The Escape Room is open through Feb. 28 during library hours. Call 218-894-1401 to sign up a team. Sponsored by the Staples Friends of the Library. (Submitted photos)



Daniel Douts State Farm team: left to right, Becky, Dan and Jacob.



Future Cardinals

Allison Vangsness, Staples-Motley Middle/High School teacher and student council advisor, attended the recent SnoDaze Coronation event at Centennial Auditorium with her twin daughters Piper (left) and Tessa. The babies were born this past December to Allison and her husband Wade Vangsness. (Staples World photo by Dawn Timbs)

**Staples World**
DEADLINES
Newspaper deadline for copy and advertising: 12 noon Fridays

Menu

Senior Nutrition Program
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. Menu is 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 218-979-4118 Feb. 23 - Feb. 27

MONDAY - Country fried chicken, cream gravy, mashed potatoes, peas, sugar cookie, wheat bread, marg., 1% milk.
TUESDAY - Beef stew, sliced carrots, apple dump cake, biscuit, marg., 1% milk.
WEDNESDAY - Oven roasted turkey/gravy, mashed potatoes, mixed veggies, ginger-snap cookie, wheat bread, marg., 1% milk.
THURSDAY - Beef goulash, mixed veggies, pumpkin bar, dinner roll, marg., 1% milk.
FRIDAY - Tuna noodle casserole, green beans, hot spiced peaches, vanilla pudding/topping, dinner roll, marg., 1% milk.
wk9

Mark Your Calendar

Feb. 20
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.

Feb. 22
CELEBRATE RECOVERY GROUP MEETINGS Sundays, 6 p.m., at Motley Free Methodist Church, 33 Wellwood St. E., Motley.

Feb. 24
CARE MINISTRY FREE MEAL Tuesday, Feb. 24, 4:30 - 6 p.m., at Staples Assembly of God Church, 914 3rd Ave. NE. The free meals are held on a monthly basis to promote fellowship, connection and nourishment.
WADENA COUNTY REPUBLICANS MEETING Tuesday, Feb. 24, 7 p.m., at the Wadena VFW. Guest speaker will be Nate George. Come early and visit with like-minded people.
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.



Dr. Stacy Sjoberg, MD, Ph.D.
Evaluations and Surgery close to home!!
Call to schedule in Staples: 1-800-952-3766

Staples Assembly of God



Community Meal

Tuesday, February 24, 2026
Serving 4:30-6:00

Come for the food, stay for the conversation.
914 3rd Ave. NE, Staples, MN 56479



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Minnesota Attorney

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Student Achievements

MADeline RUTHERFORD, Aldrich, recently graduated from the University of North Dakota with a Master of Arts degree in Forensic Psychology.

ADDISYN CICHOS, Staples, has been named to the 2025 Fall Semester President's Roll of Honor at the University of North Dakota. To qualify, a student must have an overall cumulative

grade point average of 3.80 or higher. They must also have earned a minimum of 30 semester hours and have completed a minimum of 12 hours at the close of the semester, eight of which must be for traditional letter grades.

MINNESOTA STATE UNIVERSITY MANKATO has announced its 2025 Fall Semester Dean's List. To qualify for the High

Honor List, students must achieve a grade point average of 4.0. To qualify for the Honor List, students must earn a grade point average of 3.5 to 3.99. Local students named include:

- Drake Dukowitz, Motley, High Honor List
- Jack Burm, Pillager, Honor List
- Dylan Lawrence, Staples, Honor List.

Obituaries

Sandra Smith

Sandra (Sandy) Louise Smith, 79, of Staples, passed away peacefully on February 8, 2026.

Memorial services were held February 13, at Thomastown Covenant Church in Staples.

Sandy was born January 18, 1947 to Danvy and Beth Powell. She grew up in Big Falls where she lived at the logging camp and attended elementary school. She graduated from Littlefork High School in 1965. Continuing her education, she attended Brainerd Technical College, where she studied dental assisting and graduated in 1968.

In 1969, Sandy moved to Staples, where she married Bill Smith in 1970 and built a life rooted in family, community and service.

Sandy was an amazing woman whose life was defined by her caring heart and the many ways she showed up for the people around her. She had a special gift for sewing and poured love into every stitch, whether quilting with dear friends, creating for her family, or donating handmade shirts to cancer patients to help bring them comfort during treatment.

Throughout her life, Sandy was hardworking and dedicated. She worked at Carter Ringer, Pine County, Homecrest, Fair Oaks Lodge while serving her community, subbing for Staples-Motley School district. Wherever she worked, she was known for her reliability, kindness and strong work ethic.

Sandy was actively involved in her church and spent many years as a member of the Leader Lions. She cherished time spent with her quilting ladies, where friendship,



laughter and purpose were always shared.

She was a devoted mother, grandma and great-grandma. Nothing brought her more joy than supporting her children and grandchildren in all they did. Sandra had a deep love for cardinals, which brought her comfort and happiness throughout her life.

Sandra is survived by two sons, Mike Smith of Frazee and Brian (Heidi) Smith of Staples; one daughter, Shelly (Gil) Miller of Staples; seven grandchildren, Christina Smith, Jeremy (Tori) Miller, Ashley (Josh) Ruzicka, Mathew Miller, Kaitlyn Smith, Eli Smith, and Kevin Miller; five great-grandchildren, Alice Miller, Jackson Bacon, Sonora Miller, Jameson Miller and Stella Miller; two sisters, Janet Jones and Rosie Johnson; one brother, Dwight (Dixie) Powell and many nieces and nephews.

She was preceded in death by her parents; first husband, Robert Bensch and her beloved husband of 55 years, Bill Smith.

Sandy will be deeply missed and lovingly remembered by all who knew her.

Arrangements were provided by Brenny Family Funeral Chapel, Staples.

w9c A00006B2026FB18

Robert Shea

Robert "Bob" Mathew Shea, 64, of St. Cloud, passed away peacefully February 14, 2026, after a short illness.

Funeral services will be held Friday, February 20, 2026, at 2:00 p.m. at Brenny Family Funeral Chapel, Staples. Visitation will take place one hour prior to services at the chapel.

Interment will be held at a later date at Evergreen Hill Cemetery.

Bob was born May 15, 1961 to his parents, Mathew and Beverly Shea in Wadena. He graduated from Staples High School with the Class of 1979. Bob was a man with an old soul, known for his artistic nature and his unique ability to turn almost anything into something meaningful. He loved all things music and had a deep appreciation for creativity and self-expression. He also appreciated old-time movies and music.

Bob also found great peace in tending to his outdoor flowers, which thrived under his care - a reflection of his patience, attentiveness and gentle spirit. In his working years, Bob found special joy in his time as a home health aide, especially cherishing the visits and conversations with the older individuals he cared for. Above all, Bob loved his family deeply. He had a kind and gentle spirit and will be greatly missed by all who knew and loved him.

Bob is survived by three sisters, Susan Shea, Karen (Glen) Marr and Ellen (Neil) Kroger; two brothers, Tim (Jan) Shea and Kevin (Anita) Shea, along with many nieces and nephews.

He was preceded in death by his parents.

Arrangements are by the Brenny Family funeral Chapel, Staples.

w9c A00006B2026FB18

Norma Nielson

Norma Jean Nielson, 89, of Sebek, passed away February 10, 2026 at Lakewood Health System in Staples.

Funeral services will be held at 11 a.m. Saturday, February 21, at the Nimrod Lutheran Church in Nimrod. Visitation will be held from 5 to 7 p.m. Feb. 20 at the Wewley Funeral

Home in Sebek. Visitation will continue at the church one hour prior to the services.

Interment will be at West Lyons Cemetery in Lyons Township.

To leave online condolences visit www.wewleyfuneralhome.com.

w9c A00006B2026FB18

Staples Area Church Directory

Staples

Staples Alliance
1512 8th St. NE, Staples218-894-2891
Jonny Olson, Associate Pastor
Sunday Worship.....9:30 a.m.
Sunday School11:00 a.m.
WEDNESDAY
AWANA6:00 p.m.

Assembly of God
914 3rd Ave. NE, Staples218-894-1081
Pastor Roy Miles
Small Groups (Bible classes for all ages).....9:30 a.m.
Morning Worship Service.....10:30 a.m.
Children's Church (Kids start in main worship service).....11 a.m.
Prayer Meeting.....5 p.m.
WEDNESDAY
Sonlight (Kids ages 4 yrs.-6th grade).....After school to 5:30 p.m.
Youth Group (Teens, 7th-12th grade).....After school to 5:30 p.m.

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

Faith Lutheran
430 12th Street. NE., Staples.....218-894-1546
Pastor Carl Larson
Sunday Worship Service.....9:00 a.m.
Sunday School and Coffee Fellowship.....10:05 a.m.

Sacred Heart Catholic Church
310 4th St. NE, Staples
Church.....218-631-1598
info@marysacc.org
Rev. JC Duncan, 218-632-7314
Rev. Rick Aubol, 218-632-7310
Rev. Greg Sauer, 218-632-7319
Mass: Sunday.....8:30 a.m.

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

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

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

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

Aldrich

Balsamlund Lutheran
19550 490th Street, Aldrich
Janet Eckman 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.
Communion.....1st and 2nd Sunday of each month

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

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

Leader

Swan Valley Lutheran
Leader.....218-397-2470
Sandy Knight, Synodically Authorized Minister of Word and Sacrament
Sunday Worship
January - July9 a.m.
July - January11 a.m.

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

Motley

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

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

St. Michael Catholic Church
280 1st Ave S, Motley.....218-631-1598
Rev. JC Duncan, 218-632-7314
Rev. Rick Aubol, 218-632-7310
Rev. Greg Sauer, 218-632-7319
Saturday4:00 p.m. (Dec - April)

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

Oylen

Oylen Alliance
Cty. Rds. 7 and 9, Oylen
218-472-3440 or 218-472-3316
Pastor Neal Malcore
Sunday School10:00 a.m.
Sunday Worship.....11:00 a.m.

Pillager

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

Casino Assembly of God
Pastor Dan Johnson
N. of Motley, Hwy. 64, E. on Cty 34 to Cty. 104.
Phone.....218-746-3839
Sunday School9:30 a.m.
Worship.....10:30 a.m.
Sunday Worship.....7:00 p.m.
WEDNESDAY7:00 p.m.

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

Hewitt

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

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

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

Verndale

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

Family Life Church
402 NE Clark Drive, Verndale 218-445-5568
VerndaleFLC@gmail.com
Pastor Amos Self218-371-7189
Tahna Rurup, Connections & Media Pastor
Tillman Phagon, Kid's & Food Shelf Pastor
Ryan Wolfenden, Youth Pastor
SUNDAY
Youth Prayer.....9:20 a.m.
Worship Service.....10:00 a.m.
Prayer Meeting.....5 p.m.
WEDNESDAY
Life Groups.....6:30 p.m.

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

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

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

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

St. Frederick Catholic Church
20 Mason Avenue NW
Verndale218-631-1598
info@marysacc.org
Rev. JC Duncan, 218-632-7314 Rev. Rick Aubol, 218-632-7310 Rev. Greg Sauer, 218-632-7319
MASS: Saturday6:00 p.m.

St. Hubert Catholic Church
Bluegrass.....218-631-1598
info@marysacc.org
Rev. JC Duncan, 218-632-7314 Rev. Rick Aubol, 218-632-7310 Rev. Greg Sauer, 218-632-7319
Sunday Service.....10:30 a.m. i. (Dec - April)
Saturday4:00 p.m. (May - Nov.)

Leaf River Township The Old Country Church
Leaf River Twp., Wadena County Rd. 6
Info. 218-837-5690 Call first.

Wadena St. Helen's Episcopal Church
22 Dayton Ave. SW, Wadena, MN
218-631-3928
Sunday Worship.....10:00 a.m.

St. Ann's Catholic Church
514 1st Street SE, Wadena(218) 631-1593
Rev. JC Duncan, 218-632-7314 Rev. Rick Aubol, 218-632-7310 Father Greg Sauer, 218-632-7319
Mass: Sunday.....10 a.m.

"How do Truth and Love Live and Work Together?"

Pastor Barry Klein, Staples Church of Christ

Sometimes, we're tempted to live in extremes rather than the more difficult, but life giving way of balance. This is true in the worlds of truth and love.

The apostle Paul in Ephesians 4:15 calls followers of Jesus to speak "the truth in love." Given that Scripture is "God-breathed," it follows that whatever God says in the Bible is correct and dependable.

I remember hearing something to the effect that "truth without love is a hammer. Love without truth is a marshmallow." The "experts in the law" in the New Testament were very insistent upon declarations without compassion. Jesus described this as "loading people down with burdens they can hardly carry, and you yourselves will not lift one finger to help them" (Luke 11-46).

But equally dangerous is the direction of "telling people only what they want to hear in the name of love." In II Timothy 4:3, the apostle Paul describes this as "people gathering teachers around them to say what their itching ears want to hear."

Our Lakewood Health System continues to be a great illustration of putting both truth and love together. We implicitly understand (and hopefully agree) that we look to our attending medical staff as both a source of needed wisdom and compassion. When I've had something that's wrong, I don't need a medical person to just tell me something easy that misses the point of the health problem. I go in to get checked out, knowing that I may not always hear welcomed news. Yet, I need the unwelcome new (diagnosis) in order to then move into a

prescriptive solution. Hopefully, I'm open to engaging the needed changes that are called for. This is all "truth in love" in action.

Dr. Scott Jensen, M.D. in his 2025 book, "Relationships Matter" quotes Adrian Rogers when he says "it's better to be divided by truth than to be united in error. It's better to speak the truth that hurts and then heals, than falsehood that comforts and then kills. It's better to be hated for telling the truth than to be loved for telling a lie. It's better to stand alone with the truth, than to be wrong with a multitude. It's better to ultimately succeed with the truth than to temporarily succeed with a lie."

In one season of ministry when all seemed to be going well, it struck me that it would be good to put up in my office Luke 6:46 which is Jesus' words of warning. "Woe to you when everyone speaks well of you, for that is how their ancestors treated their false prophets." The timing of putting this up was uncanny in light of what unexpectedly unfolded in the next 72 hours, two men, independently and unbeknown to the other, came separately into my office to make sure I knew how terrible my ministry was. We can all use our wings clipped from time to time.

Jesus, lived out Truth in Love perfectly at the cost of His cross. Let's care deeply about discovering what "truth in love" is within each of our own daily lives. We can only BE about that kind of living when we know Jesus as our personal Savior and Master, drawing upon His Spirit moment by moment.

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For the Staples World



Cardinals dominate Section 7A, qualify for state

By Mark Anderson
Managing Editor

The Staples-Motley boys wrestling team is heading back to the state meet for the third season in a row. The Cardinals had two shutouts to open the Section 7A tournament, then defeated rival Holdingford 46-16 in the championship match to qualify for state. The section tournament was Feb. 14 at Walker-Hackensack-Akeley.

With their full team back for the first time since the beginning of the season, the Cardinals defeated Crosby-Ironton 77-0 in the quarterfinals. They beat Walker-Hackensack-Akeley/Nevis-Laporte 74-0 in the second round, with one lineup change, putting in Jayden Rogers at 107 pounds, where he earned a pin.

The two shutout wins put them into the championship match against Holdingford for the third year in a row. With a regular season win against Holdingford, the

Cardinals were confident they would win, but they were also cautious.

"They are the team that matches up the best against us, probably in the whole state," said wrestler Luke Bjerga.

"Anything can happen," said Riley Reese. "Two years ago we upset Holdingford. We shouldn't have beaten them but we did. The same thing could happen to us."

With that in mind, the Cardinals were confident they would win if they wrestled the way they wanted to.

"We kind of knew we were going to beat them," said Bjerga.

The championship match started with the best possible scenario, the Cardinals winning the first three matches with two pins and a major decision. By the end, Staples-Motley only lost four matches, all to the 1st, 2nd or 3rd ranked wrestlers in the state. Garrett Bjerga pinned a ranked wrestler, and Eli Greenwaldt had a

15-0 technical fall against another ranked wrestler. Luke Bjerga had a pin against a ranked wrestler, his second win this season against that same opponent.

"He's ranked fourth and I'm ranked third, so it is always a close match," said Bjerga. I've been practicing, working hard, I go out there confident."

Team state

The team win sent the Cardinal team to the state tournament for the third season in a row.

"We were definitely happy," said Reese.

The Cardinals believe that they have improved since last year's state title team. They will surely have the number one seed in this year's state tournament and have confidence they can live up to that ranking.

"Last year we only lost two seniors," said Bjerga. "We feel we're stronger this year."

He pointed out that the two starters this year have reached as high of a level as

the wrestlers they replaced. "Justin Olson is solid, he has only lost a few matches, and Zach Tabatt lifted all summer, he went from not starting to a top five wrestler in the state."

With solid wrestlers at every weight, Staples-Motley believes they can counteract the other top teams in Class A.

"We've done the math, the other teams don't match up as well as Holdingford," said Bjerga. Their strong wrestlers are where our strong wrestlers are, and we feel we don't have any weak spots. But we know we can't get too cocky."

The Cardinals are looking forward to showing what they can do at state.

"The state meet is the highlight of the season," said Reese. "It can be a grind with some harder times during the season, but at state we can loosen up and have fun with wrestling."

State wrestling has a new format this year, with team matches on Wednesday, Feb.

25, starting at 4 p.m. and the team placing matches on Thursday, Feb. 26, starting at 4 p.m. again. Individual matches will be Thursday morning and all day Friday and Saturday.

The Cardinal wrestlers said they are not in favor of the new format, which mixes team and individual and has four straight days of weigh-ins for those doing both.

Individual section

The individual section wrestling tournament will be held at the Staples-Motley gym, The Nest, on Friday, Feb. 20, starting at 10:30 a.m. The top two placers at each weight bracket qualify for the state meet.

"We have one of the hardest sections in the state," said Bjerga. "Some of the weights are stacked, but we think everyone has a chance to qualify."

Bjerga has three ranked wrestlers in his 189 pound weight class and Reese has the state's second ranked 172 pound wrestler who beat

him 9-2 in the section team tournament.

"It was closer than the score, I have some things to work on this week to clean up, then I look forward to a rematch with him," said Reese.

That type of weekly improvement is what the Cardinals have been working on all season.

"We are supposed to be the best team in the state, but we can still improve every day," said Reese.

Team results

Section 7A team championship

Staples-Motley 46, Holdingford 16

107 Garrett Bjerga W fall, 114 Justin Olson W 8-0, 121 Caden Kramer W fall, 127 Turner Beachy L 12-2, 133 Cayden Neisen W 19-4 tf, 139 Gage Bjerga W fall, 145 Elijah Greenwaldt W 15-0 tf, 152 Beau Carlson L 17-3, 160 Colbe Tappe W 21-6 tf, 172 Riley Reese L 9-2, 189 Luke Bjerga W fall, 215 Reece Headley L fall, 285 Adrian Gomez W 10-4



Section 7A champions headed to state wrestling tournament

Front row from left, coach Mark Carlson, coach Eric Kramer, Cayden Neisen, Jackson Odden, Caden Kramer, Riley Reese, Colbe Tappe, Garrett Bjerga, Justin Olson, Camrik Tappe, coach Dan Bjerga, coach Shane Tappe; back row, Head Coach Jim Jackson, coach Holton Truax, Beau Carlson, Turner Beachy, Gage Bjerga, Luke Bjerga, Adrian Gomez, Reece Headley, Eli Greenwaldt, Zachary Tabatt, Seth Cossentine, Philip Rapp, Cooper Tappe, Jaden Rogers, coach Chris Dobson, coach Steve Jennissen. (Submitted photo)

Cardinals get big basketball win at Pillager

The Staples-Motley girls basketball team won their road game at Pillager on Feb. 10, then lost three games the rest of the week, 77-40 against Perham, 65-53 at Park Rapids and 67-23 at Dilworth-Glyndon-Felton.

Against Pillager, Hannah Cole scored 12 points in the first half to get the Cardinals off to a 25-18 lead. In the second half, Chloe Larson scored all 15 of her points as the team's lead narrowed, but they stayed ahead by two points.

Against Park Rapids, the Cardinals were fouled constantly, making 20 of 32 free throws. But that defensive pressure kept them from overcoming their conference rival.

With the win over Pil-

lager, the Cardinals moved up in the section rankings towards a spot for the 10th seed in Section 7AA. In that case, they would play the 7th seed in the first round of the playoffs, which is currently Esko.

Team results

Staples-Motley 42, Pillager 40

Scoring: Chloe Larson 15, Hannah Cole 14, Clara Maros 9, Sophia Luna 3, Addison Potter 1

Staples-Motley 40, Perham 77

Scoring: Luna 15, Larson 10, Cole 8, Potter 4, Maros 3

Staples-Motley 53, Park Rapids 65

Scoring: Larson 19, Cole 12, Luna 10, Maros 9, Potter 3



Lighting up the gym

The Staples-Motley boys basketball team gets up to cheer during the game against Royalton, as Avandre Brand slams a basket through the hoop on a fast break. The Cardinals won four games last week, see story on page 11 a.





Staples-Motley School Board Minutes

MEETING #9
ISD #2170
SCHOOL BOARD
Dec. 22, 2025
6:00 p.m.
District Office

MINUTES

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by Chair Freeman at 6:00 p.m.

Roll Call was taken, members Wright, Frisk, Reeck, Trout, Reese and Freeman were present, comprising a quorum. Also present were Superintendent Tappe, Recording Clerk Larson,

NOTICE OF MORTGAGE FORECLOSURE SALE

THE RIGHT TO VERIFICATION OF THE DEBT AND IDENTITY OF THE ORIGINAL CREDITOR WITHIN THE TIME PROVIDED BY LAW IS NOT AFFECTED BY THIS ACTION.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN: That default has occurred in the conditions of the following described mortgage:

DATE OF MORTGAGE: April 29, 2025

ORIGINAL PRINCIPAL AMOUNT OF MORTGAGE: \$116,400.00

MORTGAGOR(S): Sondra Mevissen, as an individual

MORTGAGEE: Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc., as nominee for Zillow Home Loans, LLC

DATE AND PLACE OF FILING: Recorded on April 30, 2025 as Document Number A545637 in the Office of the County Recorder of Todd County, Minnesota.

ASSIGNMENTS OF MORTGAGE: Assigned to: PennyMac Loan Services, LLC by assignment recorded on October 17, 2025 as Document Number A548370 in the Office of the County Recorder of Todd County, Minnesota.

LEGAL DESCRIPTION OF PROPERTY: Lots 10, 11 and 12, Block 9, Townsite of Hewitt, according to the plat thereof on file and of record in the office of the County Recorder in and for Todd County, Minnesota.

STREET ADDRESS OF PROPERTY: 408 N MAIN ST, HEWITT, MN 56453

COUNTY IN WHICH PROPERTY IS LOCATED: Todd County, Minnesota.

THE AMOUNT CLAIMED

NOTICE OF MORTGAGE FORECLOSURE SALE

THE RIGHT TO VERIFICATION OF THE DEBT AND IDENTITY OF THE ORIGINAL CREDITOR WITHIN THE TIME PROVIDED BY LAW IS NOT AFFECTED BY THIS ACTION.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN: That default has occurred in the conditions of the following described mortgage:

DATE OF MORTGAGE: July 1, 2003

ORIGINAL PRINCIPAL AMOUNT OF MORTGAGE: \$57,524.00

MORTGAGOR(S): Shawn Habiger, a single person

MORTGAGEE: Washington Mutual Bank, FA

DATE AND PLACE OF FILING: Recorded on July 2, 2003 as Document Number 418965 in the Office of the County Recorder of Todd County, Minnesota.

ASSIGNMENTS OF MORTGAGE: Assigned to: Wells Fargo Bank, N.A. by assignment recorded on December 26, 2006 as Document Number 446443 in the Office of the County Recorder of Todd County, Minnesota.

LEGAL DESCRIPTION OF PROPERTY: Beginning at the Northwest Corner of the Southwest Quarter of Section 11, Township 133 North, Range 34 West; thence Southerly 1070 feet to the point or beginning of the land to be described; thence Easterly 660 feet; thence Southerly 660 feet; thence Westerly 660 feet; thence Northerly 660 feet to the point beginning, Todd County, Minnesota.

STREET ADDRESS OF PROPERTY: 49206 COUNTY 11, ALDRICH, MN 56434

Business Manager Hill, Principal Koenigs, Staples World Managing Editor Anderson, students, staff members and community members. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Motion by Wright, seconded by Reeck, to adopt the agenda. MC

Chair Freeman recognized and welcomed those in attendance.

School/Community Forum

None

Consent Agenda

Approve minutes from the November 17, 2025 Board Meeting

Approve minutes from

TO BE DUE ON THE MORTGAGE ON THE DATE OF THE NOTICE: \$123,012.38

TRANSACTION AGENT: Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc.

NAME OF MORTGAGE ORIGINATOR: Zillow Home Loans, LLC

RESIDENTIAL SERVICER: PennyMac Loan Services, LLC

TAX PARCEL IDENTIFICATION NUMBER: 35-0016100

TRANSACTION AGENT'S MORTGAGE IDENTIFICATION NUMBER: 100278200006378243

THAT no action or proceeding has been instituted at law to recover the debt then remaining secured by such mortgage, or any part thereof, or, if the action or proceeding has been instituted, that the same has been discontinued, or that an execution upon the judgment rendered therein has been returned unsatisfied, in whole or in part.

PURSUANT, to the power of sale contained in said mortgage, the above described property will be sold by the Sheriff of said county as follows:

DATE AND TIME OF SALE: March 19, 2026 at 10:00 AM.

PLACE OF SALE: Todd County Sheriff's Office, County Detention Center, 115 Third Street South, Long Prairie, MN 56347.

to pay the debt then secured by said mortgage and taxes, if any actually paid by the mortgagee, on the premises and the costs and disbursements allowed by law. The time allowed by law for redemption by said mortgagor(s), their personal representatives or assigns is six (6) months from the date of sale.

COUNTY IN WHICH PROPERTY IS LOCATED: Todd County, Minnesota.

THE AMOUNT CLAIMED TO BE DUE ON THE MORTGAGE ON THE DATE OF THE NOTICE: \$24,581.26

TRANSACTION AGENT: None

NAME OF MORTGAGE ORIGINATOR: Washington Mutual Bank, FA

RESIDENTIAL SERVICER: Wells Fargo Bank, N.A.

TAX PARCEL IDENTIFICATION NUMBER: 01-0011000

TRANSACTION AGENT'S MORTGAGE IDENTIFICATION NUMBER: None

THAT no action or proceeding has been instituted at law to recover the debt then remaining secured by such mortgage, or any part thereof, or, if the action or proceeding has been instituted, that the same has been discontinued, or that an execution upon the judgment rendered therein has been returned unsatisfied, in whole or in part.

PURSUANT, to the power of sale contained in said mortgage, the above described property will be sold by the Sheriff of said county as follows:

DATE AND TIME OF SALE: April 02, 2026 at 10:00 AM.

PLACE OF SALE: Todd County Sheriff's Office, County Detention Center, 115 Third Street South, Long Prairie, MN 56347.

to pay the debt then secured by said mortgage and taxes, if any actually paid by the mortgagee, on the premises and the costs and disbursements allowed by law. The time allowed by law for redemption by said mortgagor(s), their personal representatives or assigns is

the December 1, 2025 Board Meeting

Approve the fundraiser requests from Student Council

Approve the hire of Paul Mithun, winter afternoon weight room supervisor

Approve the fundraiser request from FFA

Approve the 2026-2029 CLC Farm Occupancy Lease Agreement

Approve the 25-26 Certified Staff Seniority List

Approve the fundraiser request from Pro Start

Accept the resignation of Penny Sebring, MS/HS Paraprofessional

Motion by Frisk, sec-

TIME AND DATE TO VACATE PROPERTY: Unless said mortgage is reinstated or the property redeemed, or unless the time for redemption is reduced by judicial order, you must vacate the premises by 11:59 p.m. on September 21, 2026.

THE TIME ALLOWED BY LAW FOR REDEMPTION BY THE MORTGAGOR, THE MORTGAGOR'S PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVES OR ASSIGNS, MAY BE REDUCED TO FIVE WEEKS IF A JUDICIAL ORDER IS ENTERED UNDER MINNESOTA STATUTES, SECTION 582.032, DETERMINING, AMONG OTHER THINGS, THAT THE MORTGAGED PREMISES ARE IMPROVED WITH A RESIDENTIAL DWELLING OF LESS THAN FIVE UNITS, ARE NOT PROPERTY USED IN AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTION, AND ARE ABANDONED.

MORTGAGOR(S) RELEASED FROM FINANCIAL OBLIGATION ON MORTGAGE: None

Dated: January 13, 2026

PENNYMAC LOAN SERVICES, LLC
Mortgagee

TROTT LAW, P.C.

By: /s/ N. Kibongni Fondungallah, Esq. Samuel R. Coleman, Esq. *Alexa Marsh, Esq.*
Attorneys for Mortgagee
25 Dale Street North
St. Paul, MN 55102
(651) 209-9760
(25-1247-FC01)

THIS IS A COMMUNICATION FROM A DEBT COLLECTOR.

5-10pnc

twelve (12) months from the date of sale.

TIME AND DATE TO VACATE PROPERTY: Unless said mortgage is reinstated or the property redeemed, or unless the time for redemption is reduced by judicial order, you must vacate the premises by 11:59 p.m. on April 2, 2027

THE TIME ALLOWED BY LAW FOR REDEMPTION BY THE MORTGAGOR, THE MORTGAGOR'S PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVES OR ASSIGNS, MAY BE REDUCED TO FIVE WEEKS IF A JUDICIAL ORDER IS ENTERED UNDER MINNESOTA STATUTES, SECTION 582.032, DETERMINING, AMONG OTHER THINGS, THAT THE MORTGAGED PREMISES ARE IMPROVED WITH A RESIDENTIAL DWELLING OF LESS THAN FIVE UNITS, ARE NOT PROPERTY USED IN AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTION, AND ARE ABANDONED.

MORTGAGOR(S) RELEASED FROM FINANCIAL OBLIGATION ON MORTGAGE: Shawn Habiger

Dated: January 27, 2026

WELLS FARGO BANK, N.A.
Mortgagee

TROTT LAW, P.C.

By: /s/ N. Kibongni Fondungallah, Esq.* Samuel R. Coleman, Esq. Alexa Marsh, Esq.
Attorneys for Mortgagee
25 Dale Street North
St. Paul, MN 55102
(651) 209-9760
(26-0023-FC01)

THIS IS A COMMUNICATION FROM A DEBT COLLECTOR.

8-13pnc

oned by Reese, to approve the consent agenda. MC
Donations and In-Kind Contributions

Motion by Trout, seconded by Freeman, to approve the Resolution to accept Grants and Donations in the amount of \$12,487.10 and In-kind donations in the amount of \$3,266.00. MC

Thank you to Staples-Motley Basketball Boosters, Jim Jackson, Staples-Motley PTO, The Lions Club of Motley, Lakewood Health System, Faith Lutheran Evangelism Committee, Thrivent and Acorn Millwork for their generous donations.

Finance Items

Financial Report presented by Business Manager Hill

Motion by Reeck, seconded by Wright, to approve the November disburse-

ments. MC

General Fund: \$967,810.25

Food Service: \$59,255.05

Community Service: \$18,216.78

Construction Fund: \$0.00

Debt Service: \$0.00

Fund 21 Student Activities: \$1,331.00

Fund 45: \$0.00

Motion by Trout, seconded by Frisk, to approve the November receipts. MC

General Fund: \$766,111.30

Food Service: \$9,6729.24

Community Service: \$34,833.17

Construction Fund: \$0.00

Debt Service: \$561.566.48

Fund 21 Student Activities: \$9,646.90

Fund 45: \$0.00

Motion by Reeck, seconded by Frisk, to approve the negotiation settlement of 2025-2027 Principal/Administrator Master Agreement. MC

Motion by Reese, sec-

oned by Wright, to approve the resolution directing administration to make recommendations for reductions in programs and positions.

This is the annual resolution required to allow any future budget reductions to occur.

Roll Call Vote - Reese, Wright, Reeck, Frisk, Freeman, Trout in favor; None opposed. MC

Cabinet Presentation

-by Norbert Klimek, Transportation Director

Policy

(Policy committee minutes 12-17-25)

Motion by Reese, seconded by Wright, to approve the review of ISD #2170 policies

600 – Parent Volunteers and 731 – Post Issuance Debt Compliance with no

See MINUTES on page 10a

THE COMMISSIONER OF THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION REVIEW AND COMMENT ON THE SCHOOL CONSTRUCTION PROPOSAL OF STAPLES-MOTLEY PUBLIC SCHOOL DISTRICT, ISD #2170-01

A review and comment must be provided on a school district construction project proposal before the district conducts a referendum, solicits bids, or issues bonds for the project. A project proposal has been submitted for review and comment according to requirements set forth in Minnesota Statutes, Section 123B.71, subdivisions 9 and 10, and Minnesota Statutes, section 123B.72. The district provides the following information:

- The geographic area and population to be served:
 - preschool through grade 12 student enrollment for the past five years, and
 - student enrollment projections for the next five years.
- A list of existing school facilities:
 - by year constructed,
 - their uses, and
 - an assessment of the extent to which alternate facilities are available within school district boundaries and in adjacent school districts.
- A list of specific deficiencies of the facility:
 - demonstrating the need for a new or renovated facility to be provided,
 - the process used to determine the deficiencies,
 - a list of those deficiencies that will and will not be addressed by the proposed projects,
 - a list of specific benefits that the new or renovated facility will provide to students, teachers, and community users served by the facility.
- A description of the project, including:
 - specifications of site and outdoor space acreage,
 - square footage allocations for classrooms, laboratories and support spaces,
 - estimated expenditures for major portions of the project,
 - estimated changes in facility operating costs, and
 - dates the project will begin and be completed.
- A specification of the source of project financing, including:
 - applicable statutory citations,
 - the scheduled date for a bond issue or school board action,
 - a schedule of payments, including debt service equalization aid, and
 - the effect of a bond issue on local property taxes by property class and valuation.
- Documentation obligating the school district and contractors to comply with the following items:
 - Minnesota Statutes, Section 471.345 governing municipal contracts,
 - sustainable design,
 - school facility commissioning under Minnesota Statutes, Section 123B.72, certifying the plans and designs for heating, ventilating, air conditioning and air filtration for an extensively renovated or new facility meet or exceed current code standards, including ASHRAE air filtration Standard 52.1,
 - American National Standards Institute (ANSI) acoustical performance criteria, design requirements and guidelines for schools on maximum background noise levels and reverberation times,
 - state fire code,
 - chapter 326B governing building codes, and
 - consultation with affected government units about the impact of the project on utilities, roads, sewers, sidewalks, retention ponds, school bus and automobile traffic, access to mass transit and safe access for pedestrians and cyclists.

Description of Proposed School Construction Project

Staples-Motley School District, Independent School District #2170-01, is proposing a single question bond referendum on April 14, 2026, to finance renovations and building additions to their existing elementary school, middle/high school and outdoor athletic facilities.

The largest project components focus on renovations to the middle/high school, including classrooms areas, restrooms, locker rooms and the auditorium. Other proposed upgrades at the middle/high school include a CTE space addition, secure entrance/administrative space addition, building envelope upgrades and site improvements. Proposed upgrades at the elementary school include a classroom addition and restroom renovations. Proposed outdoor athletic facility upgrades include: track replacement, football field upgrades, new bleachers, press box and scoreboard, along with a concession stand with restrooms.

The proposed projects are estimated to cost \$42,886,249 and would be scheduled for completion in the 2027-2029 calendar years. Cost estimates by location/project component are as follows:

Middle/High School		Elementary School	
Additions:		Classroom Addition	\$3,044,300
CTE Space / Classrooms	\$4,587,800	Restroom Renovations	\$480,300
Secure Entrance / Admin Offices	\$525,000	FFSE / Technology	\$832,300
	\$5,115,800	Fees, Permits & Testing	\$1,112,454
Renovations:		Contingencies	\$525,836
Locker Room Area	\$895,000		\$6,394,270
Restrooms	\$1,540,000	Outdoor Athletic Facility Upgrades	
Classrooms	\$7,875,539	Track Replacement	\$1,300,000
Auditorium Area	\$1,000,000	Football Field Upgrades	\$800,000
	\$11,315,439	Bleachers/Pressbox/Scoreboard	\$488,000
Other Projects:		Concession Stand / Restrooms	\$434,000
Building Envelope Improvements	\$2,305,922	Fees, Permits & Testing	\$823,397
Site Improvements	\$260,000	Contingencies	\$451,848
FFSE / Technology	\$1,864,148		\$4,647,245
Fees, Permits & Testing	\$4,950,796		
Contingencies	\$2,352,581		
	\$11,538,397	Total Project Costs	\$42,886,249
Other Costs (Both Buildings):			
Capitalized Interest	\$3,234,583		
Bond Issuance	\$610,515		
	\$3,875,098		

The school district is projecting a slight increase in enrollment over the next few years but is losing a large number of resident students to neighboring school district via open enrollment. In the 2024-2025 school year, 28 students open enrolled into the school district and 475 students open enrolled out of the district: a net loss of 447 students. With an existing K-12 enrollment of around 900 students, the open enrollment loss is significant.

If the bond referendum is successful and bonds are sold, the debt service on the bonds will be eligible for debt service equalization under Minnesota Statutes, Section 123B.53, subdivision 3, if the bond schedule is approved. The amount of debt service equalization aid, if any, the district receives is determined annually and dependent upon property wealth, student population, and other statutory requirements.

Review and Comment Statement

Based on the department's analysis of the school district's required documentation and other pertinent information from sources of the Minnesota Department of Education, the Commissioner of Education provides a positive review and comment.

Additional Information is Available

Persons desiring additional information regarding this proposal should contact the school district superintendent's office.

Willie L. Jett II, Commissioner

January 13, 2026

9pnc



Public Notices

Todd County Commissioners Minutes

NOTICE THOMASTOWN TOWNSHIP ANNUAL ELECTION OF OFFICERS

Annual Election of Officers for Thomastown Township will be held Tuesday, March 10, 2026 at the Thomastown Town Hall, 11417 241st Ave., Staples, MN 56479. Polling hours are 5:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.

The Annual Township meeting will be held after canvassing the election at 8:10 p.m.

Running for office:
•Three- (3) year term for Supervisor:
Troy Barrett
Jay Tyrrell
•Two- (2) year term for Clerk:
Write-in
*Write-ins on the ballot are acceptable.

In the event of bad weather, this event in its entirety will be changed to March 17, 2025. Times will remain the same.

Sue Walsvik, Clerk
Thomastown Township
9pnc

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE TODD COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS HELD JAN. 6, 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 6th day of January, 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 Becker and second by Denny, the following motion was introduced and adopted by unanimous vote: To adopt the agenda as presented with addition of item 5.5 Resignation - Social Worker Sara Bipes and item 8.2 Adoption of Memorandum of Agreements - Paid Family Medical Leave (PFML).

Board Organization

Motion was made by Neumann and seconded by Becker, to appoint Commissioner Denny as Chairperson of the Todd County Board of Commissioners for 2026 proceedings. After discussion, both the motion and second were rescinded.

On motion by Denny and second by Noska, the following motion was introduced and adopted by unanimous vote: To appoint Commissioner Byers as the Chairperson of the Todd County Board of Commissioners for 2026 proceedings.

On motion by Noska and second by Becker, the following motion was introduced and adopted by unanimous vote: To appoint Commissioner Denny as the Vice-Chairperson of the Todd County Board of Commissioners for 2026 proceedings.

Consent Agenda

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

To approve the Todd County Board of Commissioner's Meeting Minutes for December 30th, 2025 as presented.

GAMBLING PERMIT - MIDWEST OUTDOORS UNLIMITED - PRAIRIE PARTNERS

WHEREAS, the Todd County Board of Commissioners are establishing their approval for a Gambling Permit for the Midwest Outdoors Unlimited - Prairie Partners through this resolution;

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Todd County Board of Commissioners approve a Gambling Permit for the Midwest Outdoors Unlimited - Prairie Partners to hold a raffle event at The Hub Supper Club in Burnhamville Township at the address 30905 County 13, Burtrum, MN on March 7th, 2026.

Hire Carter Lenk PT Correctional Officer start date TBD at a rate of \$25.46 per hour Grade 6/F step A.

Approve the retirement of Administrative Assistant II Debra Durheim, effective February 27, 2026.

Approve the resignation of Social Worker Sara Bipes, effective January 16, 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 December 2025 Auditor Warrants number (ACH) 905613 through 905695 in the amount of \$1,327,375.91 (Manual) 1158 through 1166 in the amount of \$78,271.79 and (Regular) 245548 through 245737 in the amount of \$1,115,629.21 for a total of \$2,521,276.91.

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

A RESOLUTION DESIGNATING AN OFFICIAL NEWSPAPER FOR 2026

WHEREAS, Minnesota Statutes Chapter 375.12 requires the annual letting of bids for publication of official proceedings of the County Board and similar statutes require the publication of delinquent tax lists, County Financial Statements, and local transportation project bid advertisements; and,

WHEREAS, pursuant to advertisement bids were opened to be designated for those parties interested in being named as the official newspaper for Todd County on January 6, 2026.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Todd County Board of Commissioners accept the bid from the Long Prairie Leader, with a bid of \$20.00 per column inch to be the Official Newspaper for the year 2026 and;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Todd County website (www.co.todd.mn.us) be also designated as an official publication for all statutory requirements.

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

A RESOLUTION DESIGNATING AN EXTRA PUBLICATION NEWSPAPER FOR 2026

WHEREAS, Minnesota Statutes Chapter 375.12 requires the annual letting of bids for publication of official proceedings of the County Board and similar statutes require the publication of delinquent tax lists, County Financial Statements, and local transportation project bid advertisements; and,

WHEREAS, pursuant to advertisement bids were opened to be designated for those parties interested in being named as the extra publication newspaper for Todd County on January 6, 2026.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Todd County Board of Commissioners accept the bid from the Long Prairie Leader with a bid of \$14.00 per column inch to be the Extra Publication Newspaper for the year 2026.

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

A RESOLUTION ESTABLISHING THE 2026 TODD COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS BOARD PROTOCOL

(Copy of full resolution language available in the Auditor-Treasurer's Office for public inspection.)

On motion by Denny and second by Noska, the following motion was introduced and adopted by unanimous vote: To approve to continue to hold the Todd County Board of Commissioner's Meetings on the first and third Tuesday of every month at 9:00 a.m. in the Todd County Historic Courthouse and Worksession designated by the Board Chairperson or three members of the County Board as deemed necessary. The County Board also approves that the November 3rd, 2026 meeting be moved to November 2nd, 2026 due to the Statewide General Election event. The County Board also approves that the year-end board meeting be scheduled for December 29th, 2026.

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

A RESOLUTION ESTABLISHING THE COMMISSIONER'S COMMITTEE ASSIGNMENTS FOR 2026

WHEREAS, The County Commissioners have wide ranging and

diverse responsibilities; and;

WHEREAS, it is necessary for Commissioners to be assigned to Committees for the purposes of advocating for the County, and to effectively complete the work of the County.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the attached Committee Roster (Attachment 1) is hereby adopted as the County Commissioners' Committee Assignments for 2026 and will remain on file in the Auditor-Treasurer's Office.

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

DESIGNATION OF DEPOSITORIES, INVESTMENTS AND ELECTRONIC FUNDS TRANSFERS

WHEREAS, Minnesota Statute § 118A.02, subdivision 1 (a) states "The governing body of each government entity shall designate, as a depository of its funds, one or more financial institutions." and;

WHEREAS, in accordance with Minnesota Statute § 118A.01 through § 118A.08, the County Board of Commissioners has the official role to authorize the County Auditor/Treasurer to select depositories and make investments of funds under Minnesota Statute § 118A.01 to 118A.08 or other applicable law for and on behalf of the County of Todd and;

WHEREAS, in accordance to Minnesota Statute § 385.07, the County Board of Commissioners has the official role to authorize the County Auditor/Treasurer the use of electronic funds transfers where deemed appropriate, expeditious and in the best interest of the County of Todd.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Todd County Board of Commissioners authorize the Todd County Auditor/Treasurer to select depositories & make investments in accordance to Minnesota Statute § 118A.01 through § 118A.08 where the following financial institutions are currently in place:

- American Heritage National Bank
- CETERA Investments managed through American Heritage National Bank
- Minnesota National Bank
- Gold Sweep Investments managed through Minnesota National Bank
- Moreton Capital Markets, LLC
- US Bank
- MAGIC Fund
- Unity Bank

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Todd County Board of Commissioners authorize the Todd County Auditor/Treasurer the use of electronic funds transfers where deemed appropriate, expeditious and in the best interest of Todd County.

On motion by Becker and second by Noska, the following motion was introduced and adopted by unanimous vote: To adopt the recommendations for reappointment Ted Gray for another term on the County Extension Committee.

Health & Human Services

On motion by Denny and second by Becker, the following motion was introduced and adopted by unanimous vote: To approve the Opioid Settlement funding request from Wellness in the Woods.

On motion by Neumann and second by Noska, the following motion was introduced and adopted by unanimous vote: To approve the Opioid Settlement funding request from the Todd County Sheriff's Office.

Administration

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

2026 NON-UNION EMPLOYEES AND APPOINTED OFFICIALS SALARIES

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

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

WHEREAS, a 3.5 percent (%) general wage increase will take effect on the first day of the first full pay period in January 2026, pay date February 4, 2026, for regular full-time employees. Step increase will be granted starting the first day of the first full pay period worked in July, pay date August 5, 2026, for eligible staff.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Todd County Board of Commissioners authorize the that a 3.5 percent (%) general wage increase will take effect on the first day of the first full pay period in January 2026, pay date February 4, 2026, for regular full-time employees. Step increase will be granted starting the first day of the first full pay period worked in July, pay date August 5, 2026, for eligible staff.

On motion by Noska and second by Denny, the following motion was introduced and adopted by unanimous vote: To approve and adopt two Memorandum of Agreements (MOAs) related to Paid Family and Medical Leave with Todd County and Law Enforcement Labor Services Inc. (LELS) - Deputies and Todd County and Teamsters - Sheriff's Supervisory.

County Auditor-Treasurer's Report

The County Auditor-Treasurer reported on year end balancing processes in progress, continue work with CLA for audit and working on setup of multiple upcoming school special elections this spring.

County Commissioner's Report

The County Coordinator reported that the first official payroll has been processed through Paycom with special thanks to the Admin staff and employees for making this happen. Our State Representative and State Senator have been invited to attend the next board meeting.

County Commissioner's Report

The Commissioners reported on meetings and events attended.

Commissioner Becker attended meetings including the Todd Trails Association. Thanks was also extended to the 2025 Commissioner leadership.

Commissioner Denny has attended meetings including Personnel. Thanks was also extended to all the Todd County leadership team in 2025.

Commissioner Noska had no scheduled meetings since the last session. Thanks was extended to all for their work in 2025.

Commissioner Byers attended meetings including Personnel and HR interviews. Thanks was given to all for their work in 2025.

Commissioner Neumann attended meetings including the extended thanks to 2025 leadership. Concerns have been raised regarding the Todd Trails Association.

Recess

On motion by Becker and second by Neumann, the meeting was recessed until January 20, 2026

AUDITORS WARRANTS

VENDOR NAME \$ AMOUNT

NORTHERN STAR	
COOP	\$ 2,594.57
TODD CO AGRICULTURAL	
SOC	3,247.74
15 PAYMENTS LESS	
THAN \$2,000	11,007.11
ALLEN/MICHAEL \$	16,950.00
CARD SERVICES	
COBORNS	3,262.95
CARGILL SALT	
DIVISION	27,776.29
CENTRA CARE	12,714.58
CENTRAL MINNESOTA LEGAL	
SERVICES	2,400.00
CLIFTON LARSONALLEN,	
LLP	2,730.00
DIVERSIFIED FOUNDATIONS,	
LLC	33,499.34
FLEET SERVICES/WEX	
BANK	6,487.59
ITEN FUNERAL HOME	2,400.00
LIBERTY TIRE SERVICES	
LLC	3,219.45
LONG PRAIRIE SANITATION	
INC	6,383.55
METRO SALES INC	3,510.30
MIDWEST MACHINERY	
CO	57,518.00
MN DEPT OF FINANCE	6,304.00
PETERS LAW OFFICE,	
P.A.	4,325.00
POPE DOUGLAS SOLID WASTE	
MANAGEMENT	67,086.41
PRAIRIE LAKES MUNICIPAL	
SOLID WASTE AUTH	93,473.65
STEP	9,514.48
UNITED SPRAY FOAM	
LLC	4,500.00
VO/YOUNG	24,000.00
VOYANT COMMUNICATIONS,	
LLC	3,300.11
WIDSETH SMITH NOLTING	
INC	7,286.75
ZIEGLER INC	7,238.34
56 PAYMENTS LESS	
THAN \$2,000	20,211.14
ACOM SYSTEMS	4,600.00
CARDINAL	
INVESTIGATIONS	2,518.75
CDW GOVERNMENT	
INC	17,718.96
CITY OF STAPLES	189,853.75
COUNTIES PROVIDING	
TECHNOLOGY	7,240.00
EBSCO INC	321,561.00
FARM-RITE EQUIPMENT,	
INC	48,497.00
GALLAGHER BENEFIT	
SERVICES INC	2,000.00
HEALTH PARTNERS	
DENTAL	9,031.50
LOVELACE/MIKE	27,420.29
MINNESOTA POWER	19,654.60
MORRISON COUNTY	11,208.60
PEMBERTON SORLIE RUFER	
& KERSHNER	2,521.00
PHILIP'S REPAIRABLES &	
COLLISION CENTER	17,339.16
REGENTS OF THE UNIV	
OF MN	43,750.00
TAPCO	4,379.50
TODD CO AUD-TREAS	8,778.00
TOWN OF BIRCHDALE	25,124.78
TRITECH SOFTWARE	
SYSTEMS	40,496.08
USPS-POC	10,204.43
VERIZON	5,823.61
WEST CENTRAL REG JUVENILE	
CTR	14,054.00
WEST CENTRAL TECH	
SERVICE AREA	6,803.93
WHEELS ENTERPRISE	
INC	7,224.92
WIDSETH SMITH NOLTING	
INC	2,487.20
61 PAYMENTS LESS	
THAN \$2,000	30,583.00
ARC ELECTRIC	
SERVICE	4,104.06
CENTERPOINT ENERGY	5,633.29
COBORNS INCORPORATED	
	2,046.00
MARK SAND & GRAVEL	
CO	205,133.65
MINNESOTA MANAGEMENT	
AND BUDGET	101,793.75
PICTOMETRY INTERNATIONAL	
CORP	43,100.00
STOECKEL JAHNER	
INC	14,380.00
SWENSON AGGREGATE	
& CONSTRUCTION	14,679.05
WEST CENTRAL REG JUVENILE	
CTR	14,054.00
34 PAYMENTS LESS	
THAN \$2,000	8,512.50
AMAZON CAPITAL	
SERVICES	6,019.06
CARGILL SALT DIVISION	21,843.64
COMMISSIONER OF	
TRANSPORTATION	6,758.66
DEERE & COMPANY	133,178.38
LONG PRAIRIE LEADER	2,331.00
LONG PRAIRIE OIL	
CAMPANY	19,060.16
MARK SAND & GRAVEL	
CO	190,773.29
NYHUS CHEVROLET	
INC	35,191.08
OTTER TAIL COUNTY	
TREASURER	31,488.54
STAPLES ADVANTAGE	3,019.68
TODD SOIL & WATER CONS	
DIST	158,680.24
TODD TRAILS	
ASSOCIATION	53,191.35
VERIZON	6,643.03
ZIEGLER INC	17,137.24
34 PAYMENTS LESS	
THAN \$2,000	20,438.06
MN DEPT OF REVENUE	2,288.00
MN DEPT OF REVENUE	56,996.80
US BANK - CC	13,312.31
7 PAYMENTS LESS	
THAN \$2,000	5,674.68
TOTAL	\$2,521,276.91

On a motion by Becker and second by Neumann, the preceding minutes of the County Board meeting held January 6, 2026 were duly approved by unanimous vote at the Todd County Board of Commissioners at the Regular Board Meeting held on January 20, 2026.

Witness my hand and seal:
/s/ on file: Bob Byers,
County Board Chairperson
/s/ on file: Denise Gaida,
Todd County Auditor-Treasurer
9pnc

Staples Motley School Board

MINUTES continued from page 9a

changes. MC
Motion by Reese, seconded by Wright, to approve the review of the following MSBA policies with no changes. MC

i401 - Equal Employment Opportunity 1. 401 - Appendix A

402 - Disability Nondiscrimination

420 - Students and Employees with Sexually Transmitted Infections

505 - Distribution of Nonschool Sponsored Materials on School Premises

610 - Field Trips

610F - Supplementary Field Trip Request Form

Motion by Frisk, seconded by Reese, to approve the review of the following MSBA policies with changes. MC

704 Fixed Assets

722 Public Data Request

722 Public Data Request Form

306 Administrator Code of Ethics

410 Addendum - MN paid leave

Other

Motion by Reeck, seconded by Trout, to approve the sealed bids for miscellaneous items. MC

Comprehensive Achievement and Civic Readiness (CACR) report presented by Teaching & Learning Coordinator Pantzke and Principal Koenigs.

Motion by Frisk, seconded by Trout, to approve the 2024-2025 Combined CACR summary (Comprehensive Achievement and Civic Readiness). MC

Reports

School Board:
Freshwater

Sourcewell - 10-21-25

and 11-18-25 Minutes

Elementary Principal

- Report by Principal Koenigs

Middle/High School Principal

Activities/Community Ed Director - CEAC minutes

- 11-13-2025

SMEA

Superintendent - Report by Superintendent Tappe

Other - Chair Freeman reminded School Board Members of the organizational meeting on January 5, 2026 and the election of officers and committee assignments that will happen at that meeting.

Motion by Reeck, seconded by Wright, to adjourn the meeting at 6:48 pm. MC

Trisha Larson, Clerk
ISD #2170

9pnc

MEETING #10 ISD #2170 SCHOOL BOARD ORGANIZATIONAL Jan. 5, 2026 6:00 p.m. District Office

MINUTES

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by Chair Freeman at 6:00 p.m.

Roll Call was taken, members Wright, Frisk, Reeck, Trout, Reese and Freeman were present, comprising a quorum. Also present were Superintendent Tappe, Recording Clerk Larson, Business Manager Hill, students and staff members. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Motion by Frisk, seconded by Reese, to adopt the agenda. MC

Chair Freeman recognized and welcomed those in attendance

School/Community Forum

- None

Reorganizational Items:

Chair Freeman called for nominations for Board Chair. Freeman nominated Wright.

Chair Freeman called for additional nominations two more times with no further nominations. Wright was declared the Board Chair.

Chair Wright called for nominations for Vice Chair. Frisk nominated Trout. Wright called for nominations two more times with no further nominations. Trout was declared the Vice Chair.

Chair Wright called for nominations for Clerk. Trout nominated Frisk. Wright called for additional nominations two more times with no further nominations. Frisk was declared the Clerk.

Chair Wright called for nominations for Treasurer. Frisk nominated Reeck. Wright called for additional nominations two more times with no further nominations. Reeck was declared the Treasurer.

Motion by Reese, seconded by Frisk, to appoint Trisha Larson as Assistant to the Clerk and Ellie Hill as Assistant to the Treasurer. MC

Annual Organizational Items:

Motion by Freeman, seconded by Reese, to Designate 2026 Legal Counsel, Official Newspaper, Official Depositories, Investment of Funds, Electronic Transfers, and Signature Approvals. MC

Official School Attorneys - To name Pemberton Law Office of Fergus Falls; Kennedy & Graven; and Knutson, Flynn & Deans to serve as the official school district attorneys for 2026, and that the selection be determined by the administration. Authority also was granted to the administration to employ any other attorney/law firm as deemed necessary.

Official Newspaper - To designate The Staples World as the legal and official newspaper for the Staples-Motley School District for 2026.

Official Depositories - To name the following as official depositories for 2026:

First International Bank and Trust, Unity Bank Central, Mid-Central Federal Savings Bank, Mid Minnesota Federal Credit Union, MN School District Liquid Assets Fund Plus, MN Trust, and other financial institutions which are in compliance with MN Statutes governing school district depositories. Signers at these Official Depositories shall include the Board Chair; Board Treasurer; Superintendent; and Business Manager.

Official(s) to Invest Funds - To authorize school officials to invest funds on behalf of the school district.

Business Manager and Superintendent.

Agent(s) to Make Electronic Transfers - To authorize school officials to electronically transfer funds to be invested for the district: Business Manager and Payroll Clerk.

Signature Approvals - Authorize Superintendent Shane Tappe, and Business Manager Ellie Hill, to

execute agreements and/or financial documents as necessary on behalf of the Staples-Motley School District.

Appoint Board Members to Serve on Educational Committees

Members voiced their intent to serve on the following committees:

Finance Committee - Freeman and Reeck

With four big wins, Cardinals fly up in section, conference

By Mark Anderson
Managing Editor

The Staples-Motley boys basketball team had their busiest and their most successful week of the season, as they toppled two very good teams and won four games total in the week.

“Four games in a week is tough for any team to have to go through, so for us to go 4-0, we couldn’t have asked for a better outcome,” said Coach Zack Qual.

The Cardinals started with a big game at Pillager on Feb. 9, winning 70-59. The next day, they traveled to Crosby-Ironton and won 88-46. They came back for their only home game of the week on Feb. 12, when they beat Royalton 72-42. They drove to Dilworth-Glyndon-Felton on Feb. 13 for a big conference and section game and came home with a 69-64 win, which leapfrogged them into third place in the Heart O Lakes Conference and into second place in the Section 8AA seeding standings.

Against Pillager, the Cardinals were facing a good team in second place in their conference.

“Because of the rivalry with Pillager, our kids handled a hostile environment with poise and controlled the game for the most part,” said Qual.

The Cardinals had a very efficient offense, with Avandre Brandt making 7 of 12 shot attempts, Josiah Burton and Conner Kuhns both made 4 of 8 shots and Eli Rutten was 7 of 15. The team was 25 for 54 overall, including five of 17 three point shots. They also made 15 of 21 free throws.

On the defensive end, the Cardinals didn’t worry about second chance points, because Noah Larson cleared away 16 defensive rebounds and added five offensive boards for a total of 21.

Against Crosby-Ironton, Staples-Motley opened their offense with five players hitting double figures, to reach their second highest point total of the season.

Against Royalton, the

Cardinals had the game in hand early and were able to take the starters out midway through the second half.

In both the CI and Royalton games, Qual said “We took care of business from start to finish and were able to sit some guys who have logged a lot of minutes.”

The big game against DGF had a lot on the line, but the team was not at full strength. “We had some kids battling sickness and were down a starter. We hung around just long enough where we could steal it from them at the end,” said Qual.

The game was won by Rutten taking charge offensively, scoring 24 points. He made four of six shots, including two of three 3-pointers, but most importantly he got to the free throw line 16 times and made 14. Rutten added 13 rebounds for a double-double night.

In all four games, Qual praised the players who came off the bench to put in quality minutes and helped the team win.

“They stepped up and had huge roles, they were champions in those roles,” said Qual.

Section implications

Staples-Motley is firmly in second place in Section 8AA seedings as of now, behind East Grand Forks. The section seeding depends on season performance rankings and head-to-head wins, but they won’t play EGF this year. The Cardinals have two wins over third place DGF and one win against fourth place Osakis, so they will stay as the second seed if they continue to play well.

“We’re sure those tie breakers will come into play at some point,” said Qual.

There is one scenario where they might become the top seed, if DGF beats EGF in their game on Feb. 17, and Staples-Motley wins their next two games against conference leaders Breckenridge at home on Feb. 19 and at Pelican Rapids on Feb. 24. Their final two regular season games are at Ashby on Feb. 26 and home against Park Rapids on Feb. 27.



Conner Kuhns

Team support

Atreyu Eagle Tail shoots as teammates and Coach Zack Qual anticipate his shot. (Staples World photos by Mark Anderson)

“The results are great but the process has been what I’ve been most proud of,” said Qual. “Our kids have really bought into disciplined, defensive, team-first basketball and it has allowed them to have a lot of success.”

Team results

Staples-Motley 70, Pillager 59
Scoring: Eli Rutten 20, Avandre Brandt 17, Conner Kuhns 13, Josiah Burton 9, Noah Larson 9, Carter Sarbaum 2

Rebound leaders: Larson 21, Rutten 6, Burton 4

Assists leaders: Kuhns 4, Rutten 4, Burton 3, Brandt 3

Steals leaders: Kuhns 3, Larson 3, Rutten 2, Burton 2

Staples-Motley 88, Crosby-Ironton 46

Scoring: Rutten 17, Brandt 16, Kuhns 12, Burton 13, Atreyu Eagle Tail 11, Larson 8, Sar-

baum 8

Rebound leaders: Larson 5, Sarbaum 5, Rutten 4, Burton 3, Evan Schultz 3

Assist leaders: Kuhns 8, Rutten 7, Burton 5, Brandt 3

Steals leaders: Kuhns 4, Rutten 4, Larson 1

Staples-Motley 72, Royalton 42

Scoring: Brandt 18, Rutten 14, Kuhns 13, Burton 12, Eagle Tail 9, Larson 6

Rebound leaders: Larson 6, Rutten 6, Burton 6, Brandt 5

Assist leaders: Brandt 5, Rutten 2, Burton 2

Steals leaders: Rutten 4, Brandt 4, Eagle Tail 3, Kuhns 3

Staples-Motley 69, Dilworth-Glyndon-Felton 64

Scoring: Rutten 24, Brandt 13, Sarbaum 10, Burton 9, Kuhns 7, Eagle Tail 6

Rebounds leaders: Rutten 13, Sarbaum 6, Burton 4

Assists leaders: Kuhns 5, Eagle Tail 2, Sarbaum 2, Brandt 2



John Schotzko

ATHLETIC continued from page 1a

Multi-sport athletes, community contributor selected to Athletic Hall of Fame from 1970s, 1980s, 1990s, 2000s eras

and Bill Bendson. Hall of Fame coach Don Dravis led these teams to their state success.

1996-97 cross country

Two state cross country championships kicked off a string of seven state titles in eight years, starting with the 1996 team. After placing eighth at state in 1995, every Cardinal improved for the 1996 state meet and won by 12 points.

With most of the team coming back in 1997, only losing senior Scott Brevier, every one of them improved significantly again, putting their five scoring runners in the top ten at the state meet. Derek Mattila won in 16:22, Jeff Brevier was 4th in 16:47, Eric Klingaman was 8th in 16:59, Shannon Webster was 9th in 17:00 and Kurt Detloff was 10th in 17:01; Paul Mayavski came in 25th and Cory Frisk was 45th.

Hall of Fame coach Gene Mattila’s team won the state meet with a score of 32, far outpacing second place, who had 117.

Darrell Card

A three sport star in football, wrestling and baseball, 1986 Staples graduate Darrell Card was team captain in all three sports and a key leader for state level success.

In football, Card was all conference.

In wrestling he accumulated a 121-19 career record. Card was a two time state entrant, earning a second place finish. His wrestling teams won four state championships and were second place one year.

In baseball, Card was a key contributor to the Staples state championship team in 1983. He was named All State that year.

Card continued to play baseball at Rollins College, where he helped his team get to the DII College World Series. He also ran cross country in college.

Following his competing days, he coached baseball, softball and volleyball at different schools in Florida, and was a wrestling coach at Brainerd High School. His Gainesville Juniors volleyball team were two time national champions.

Jeff Marden

A three sport star as a 1974 Staples graduate, Jeff Marden was a football and wrestling star and a state champion in track & field.

In football, Marden was the team’s leading tackler and gained 386 yards as a runner his senior year, when he was all-conference and team MVP.

In wrestling, Marden was a District 24 champion in the one class system.

As a pole vaulter, Marden was the 1974 state champion, clearing 13’3”. He also competed in the high hurdles and was track MVP his senior season.

He was named the 1974 Staples High School Male Athlete of the Year.

Mark Bendson

A three time state medal winner in wrestling, 1974 Staples graduate Mark Bendson was a cornerstone of the success of the Staples wrestling program from 1971-74. A multi time conference, district and region champion, Bendson placed third, fifth and fourth at state, helping the Cardinal teams finish 3rd, 4th and 3rd in the state.

Following high school, Bendson served in the U.S. Army and continued to wrestle at Itasca Community College, where he had

a record of 18-1. He also played football in college.

Michelle (Honek) Linz

Excelling at volleyball, basketball and softball, 2004 Staples Motley graduate Michelle Honek achieved multiple milestones in each sport.

She was all conference twice in volleyball and three times in basketball and softball.

In basketball, she scored 1,221 career points and was named to the Minnesota Girls Coaches Association All-State Team, among many other regional all-area teams.

Kyra (Odden) Quast

A three sport star in volleyball, basketball and golf, 1986 Staples graduate Kyra Odden played on a national tournament all star volleyball team, was a key component of the Staples state champion girls basketball team and was a state qualifier in golf.

In volleyball, Odden was all-conference for three years as the team leader in kills and blocks. She qualified to play on a national team representing Minnesota.

In basketball, Odden was a five year letter winner and a leader on two state tournament teams, the consolation champions in 1984 and the undefeated 1985 state champion team that was in the first class inducted into the Staples Motley Athletic Hall of Fame.

In golf, Odden was a three time team MVP and placed 14th at the 1986 state golf tournament.

After her high school career, Odden participated in college golf and qualified for Pro/Am national tournaments three times. In 2002, her Minnesota team



Cross country hall of fame team - 1997

The 1997 Staples-Motley cross country team, now entering the athletic hall of fame. Front row from left, Paul Mayavski, Shannon Webster, Eric Klingaman; back row, Coach Gene Mattila, Kurt Detloff, Cory Frisk, Derek Mattila, Jef Brevier and coach Jerry Reck.

won the national championship.

Derek Mattila

A two time individual state champion and two time team state champion, 1998 graduate Derek Mattila also played on Staples Motley state basketball teams.

After setting the section cross country record in 1997, Mattila won the state individual title. He was a leader on two state championship teams in 1996 and 1997.

In track & field, Mattila won the 1998 3,200 meter run, with two other team-

mates in the top six. He was also 2nd in the 1,600 meter run that year.

In basketball, Mattila was a key contributor to the 1996 and 1997 Cardinal state tournament teams.

Mattila went on to compete in college cross country and track & field at the University of Wisconsin.

Dr. Ted Lewlica

A behind-the-scenes volunteer was instrumental to the Staples wrestling team’s multiple championships in the 1970s and ‘80s. Dr. Ted Lewlica provided medical expertise and treatment

that made their success possible. Dr. Lewlica was volunteer team doctor for more than 20 years for wrestling and he also was an attending physician for football games and swim meets.

For wrestling, Lewlica treated injuries, skin conditions and drained cauliflower ear injuries. He conducted weight certifications for the team. He was also the Section 6A tournament doctor for 16 years.

Dr. Lewlica was inducted into the National Wrestling Hall of Fame, Minnesota Chapter, in 2018 with a Lifetime Service Award.

ARTISTIC continued from page 1a

Hall of famers selected for talents in music, arts and education

Acting and Directing at the University of Minnesota Duluth.

John Wolak

John Wolak was a visionary music educator at Staples-Motley schools. He initiated the orchestra and bell choir programs in Staples-Motley and his community contributions

to music in many forms and organizations has had generational impact. He is recognized for railroad connections to Staples history, music, and inspired experiences.

Lesley Jones Glassford

A 1978 Motley graduate, Lesley Jones Glass-

ford is a contemporary music recording artist and worship leader. She is an accomplished singer and songwriter. As an actress she made a guest appearance on "The Golden Girls" and was a producer for the award-winning short film "Uncommon Negotiator".

Kay Martin

Kay Martin, retired Staples-Motley Elementary Art Teacher, worked in the district for 28 years. From 1988-2016 she taught thousands of students. Kay grew up in New Ulm, and moved back there after retiring. She continues to teach art classes at assisted living facilities in New Ulm.

Feedlot meeting March 18

The Todd County Annual Feedlot Meeting was back in action again in 2025 with "Wanted: Dead or Alive!" There were 138 people in attendance for the meeting that was held at Central Lakes College in Staples.

This year's meeting will be held at the Clarissa Ballroom on March 18.

The meeting this year is titled "Beyond the Bunk!" Feedlot topics will pertain to on the ground options for better farm and nutrient management and feedlot program updates. The event will have county feedlot officers presenting on feedlot program updates, manure application record-keeping requirements and unconventional options for achieving feedlot compliance.

Woven throughout the day there will be mini presentations on how soil health and water quality go hand in hand and some cost share opportunities available for them.

Keynote "WOW" presenters will be Dr. Eric Mousel from University of Minnesota Extension discussing Management and Profitability for Beef Cow/Calf and Feedlot Operations. Also, Brady Blasher from Pheasants Forever will be presenting on the nutrient management and soil health benefits of overwintering cattle. The end goal will be to get producers to think about long term animal ag resiliency and adaptation.

A free buffet meal will be provided. Call 320-732-2644 to RSVP by March 11.



Matthew Olsen



John Wolak



Leslie Jones Glassford



Kay Martin

Cardinals place second at massive speech event

On Feb. 7, the Staples-Motley Speech team competed in the 65th Annual Denfeld Rotary Speech Tournament in Duluth. With more than 500 competitors from over 30 different schools, this is one of the biggest and most competitive tournaments of the season.

The Staples-Motley team did well, bringing home the second place trophy in the "big school" category, which is for any school with more than 25 competitors.

Many Staples-Mot-

ley individuals were recognized for their performances, receiving medals for placing in finals or honor finals. In the category of Creative Expression, Walker Johnson won second place and Maddock Harvey won third. In Drama, Brynn Bestland won first place, and Raina Mikhaeil took second in the honor final. In Extemporaneous Reading, Walker Johnson placed second, Brynn Bestland placed fourth, and Meredith Hoemberg placed fourth

in the honor final. Triston Rendon placed third and Raina Mikhaeil placed fifth in the category of Great Speeches. In Humor, Caleb Bestland won first place in the honor final. In Original Oratory, Hailey Richardt placed seventh in the honor final. In the category of Prose, Tristan Rendon took second place and Jackson Alexander placed fifth in the honor final. And last, but not least, Maddock Harvey won first place in Storytelling.



Sun circle

According to weather.gov, a halo is a ring or light that forms around the sun or moon as the sun or moon light refracts off ice crystals present in a thin veil of cirrus clouds. The halo is usually seen as

a bright, white ring although sometimes it can have color. Such was the scene south of Staples on Feb. 3 as temperatures began to warm up. (Staples World photo by Janice Winter)



Speech team at Duluth

Team photo at the Duluth Denfeld tournament, back row left to right: Jackson Alexander, Hayden Anderson, Landon Zeigler, Caleb Bestland, Molly Hoemberg, Tristan Rendon, Alex Tkalcich;

Middle: Lexi Ann, Charlotte, Aldrich,

Lydia Tkalcich, Meredith Hoemberg, Anna Hurtig, Kai Bestland, Matthew Jewison, Christopher Mikhaeil;

Front: Angie Paklonsky, Lexa Graves, Ava Davis, Walker Johnson, Nadia Santos, Addie Brenny, Maddock Harvey. (Submitted photo)



Spine Care at Lakewood

Through our partnership with **Twin Cities Orthopedics**, patients have access to advanced spine care with orthopedic surgeon Dr. Paul Crowe—right here at Lakewood. Whether you're dealing with back or neck pain, injury, or complex spine concerns, our coordinated approach is designed to help you return to what you love—steadier, stronger, and moving forward.

Paul Crowe, MD
ORTHOPEDIC SURGEON

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