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Motley clean-up day
Staples-Motley Elementary School music
Damage at Evergreen Hill Cemetery
Speech state story



Wednesday, May 14, 2025

Staples World

Staples, Minnesota

\$1.25

Siblings hope to catch a big one

Pictured, from left, are Cruz and Kiley Peterson of Staples, ages five and seven respectively, hoping to catch a big fish at Dower Lake in Staples May 10, the fishing opener. (Staples World photo by Dawn Timbs)

Military veterans appreciation at May 20 baseball game

The Staples-Motley baseball team will host a military veterans appreciation day on Tuesday, May 20, at Jerry Riewer Field in Staples. All area veterans are invited to be a part of the pre-game appreciation. Veterans who want to participate are asked to be at the varsity baseball field by 4 p.m.

Sports fields evacuated, school goes to lockdown over threat of violence

On May 6, Staples-Motley students and coaches at the baseball, softball and track and field grounds were evacuated due to a threat that was received over the phone. Staples-Motley Elementary School was also placed on lock-down during the incident. Around 3:23 p.m., when sports teams were starting their practices, the Todd County 911 dispatch center received a phone call from a person who said they were going to shoot someone at a baseball game. The call was placed in or near the City of Staples. The playing fields were evacuated and elementary students were escorted by police officers to their parent's vehicles by law enforcement officers. After investigation with the help of the West Central

Drug and Violent Crime Task Force, Wadena County Sheriff's Office and Todd County Sheriff's Office, police arrested Anthony Paskewitz, 29, of Staples at

See **THREAT** on page 12a



A race with the mayor

A few youngsters challenged Staples Mayor Ron Murray in running the obstacle course during the recent Bike Safety & Helmet Fitting Event at Essentia Health St. Joseph's Clinic in Staples. Above, Mayor Murray, who'd lost his shoes at the start of the race, appeared to be in the lead, with John Dempsey, 10, of Staples, Cade Yourczek, seven, of Royalton, and Amelia Hoernberg, 10 1/2, of Staples following closely behind. (Staples World photo by Dawn Timbs)

Weather

2025

This Week's Forecast

	High	Low	Cond.
May 14	90	64	Sunny
May 15	71	47	Rain
May 16	51	37	Showers
May 17	54	36	Cloudy
May 18	56	39	Cloudy
May 19	58	40	Cloudy
May 20	65	43	Cloudy

Last Year, 2024

	High	Low	Cond.
May 14	70°	46	Sunny
May 15	61	59	Cloudy
May 16	66	47	Cloudy
May 17	84	55	Sunny
May 18	70	60	Sunny
May 19	68	46	P. Sunny
May 20	67	53	Sunny

Average Temps:

H = 68° Low = 46°

Compiled by

Dale Hausmann,

WCCO's Staples area

Weatherwatcher

Public Notices

ISD #2170 minutes 9A

Obituaries

Joan Doll
Judith Bremer



On a walk with baby chicks

The Lucas sisters Abbie (left), 12, and Caitlynn, eight, enjoyed a walk with baby chicks down 5th St. NE in Staples May 10. Their mother Ashley Lucas also joined them for the walk, everyone enjoying the beautiful weather for Mother's Day weekend. The chicks belong to their neighbor, Ashley said. (Staples World photo by Dawn Timbs)



His first fish of the season

Six-year-old Jace Evans of Wadena was excited to land this sunny at Dower Lake in Staples May 10, while fishing with his parents, Brandon and Amy Evans. "It's my first fish of the season," he said. (Staples World photo by Dawn Timbs)



City Wide Cleanup crew at work in Motley

City of Motley employees and members of the council assisted the Long Prairie Sanitation crew in unloading garbage (including recyclable items) that residents brought to the city garage May 10, during the City Wide Clean-up day. Pictured above at right, from left, are April Skeesick-Larson, council member; Tami Brotherton, City Clerk/Treasurer; Nikki Bjerga, council member. In lower photo, from left, are Bruce Brotherton, Public Works Director; Bryan Stevens, Maintenance Assistant. Council member Dennis Erickson (not pictured) also assisted. (Staples World photos by Dawn Timbs)



Caravan of junk-hauling vehicles

Dozens of vehicles were lined up along Eledrege Ave. in Motley May 10, each carrying “junk” they were dropping off at the city garage, as part of the City Wide Clean-up that day. In addition to the 30-plus vehicles

that went through the line, Motley Public Works employees Bruce Brotherton and Bryan Stevens went out and picked up garbage/recyclable items from 24 residences. (Staples World photo by Dawn Timbs)

Recycling tires

Duane Solga, owner of Tire & Auto Lodge Repair in Motley dropped off a truck load of recyclable tires at the city garage during the City Wide Cleanup in Motley May 10. Solga, who gave a ‘thumbs up’ from his truck window, said the price per tire was very reasonable. (Staples World photo by Dawn Timbs)



First Responder Appreciation Event May 20, at Lakewood Health System

In recognition of area first responders and the critical role they play in keeping our patients and communities safe, Lakewood Health System, Staples, is hosting an appreciation BBQ on Tuesday, May 20, from 4 to 7 p.m. The event will take place at Lakewood’s Main Campus in Staples (49725 Cty. 83) and will include food, camaradery and a free training opportunity.

Lakewood’s EMS team will be offering free Stop the Bleed® trainings at 4:30

and 5:30 p.m. for anyone interested. The training will also include some information on Narcan use in the field. CEUs are available and a prize drawing will take place at each training session.

The appreciation event is open to all area first responders, including police, fire, EMS and first response and their families. RSVPs are being requested for the BBQ, and can be done by visiting: <https://shorturl.at/tQCol>.

Lakewood Health System EMS team offering free Stop the Bleed® training to the public

Lakewood Health System’s Emergency Medical Services (EMS) team is offering a free Stop the Bleed® training to the public on Thursday, May 22, from 6 to 7 p.m. The training will take place in the lower-level classrooms at Lakewood’s Main Campus in Staples (49725 Cty. 83).

All are welcome and encouraged to attend this training which is part of a national campaign that empowers bystanders to

control life-threatening bleeding before medical help arrives. During this hands-on training, attendees will be educated on basic bleeding control techniques, such as applying direct pressure, packing wounds, and using tourniquets, with the ultimate goal of saving lives.

No RSVP is required, but if you have questions, call 218-894-8010.



Softball highlights

Izzy Becker, left, and Rachel Kossan, right, leap high to make catches for the Staples-Motley softball team in games last week. (Staples World photos by Mark Anderson)

Motley area law enforcement

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

Apr. 23 - 29
Apr. 28 - Motley Police spoke with a Motley resident about his dogs (he has four) not being licensed by the city.
Apr. 29 - Morrison County deputies were dispatched to a vehicle fire at the 34000 block of Auger Rd., Motley. Upon their arrival, the fire

dept. had everything under control; and there were no structures in danger. They were able to get the fire out, but the vehicle was a total loss.
Apr. 27 - The MCSO received a report of a fire behind a residence at the 3600 block of 270th St., Cushing.
Apr. 26 - Henry Curtis Bence, 69, was issued a state citation for burning without a permit at the 33000 block of Cherry Ln., Motley.



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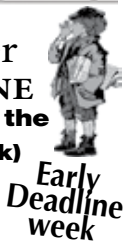
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Staples World

Staples World newspaper advertising and copy **DEADLINE** is **Wednesday, May 21 by 4 p.m. for the May 28 issue (Memorial Day Week)**

Classifieds: office@staplesworld.com
Copy: editor@staplesworld.com
224 4th St. NE, Staples, MN, 218-894-1112



Court report May 7

Long Prairie Police Department
Garvin Luis Acevedo Arias, Long Prairie. Driving after suspension. Fine \$200. Fee \$85.
John Jacob Johansen, Little Falls. Wireless communication. Fine \$50. Fee \$85.
Jesus Mendez Diaz, Alexandria. Speed 40/30. Fine \$40. Fee \$85.
Maria Montiel Herrera, Melrose. Driving without a valid license for vehicle class or type. Fine \$100. Fee \$85.
Dominga Peguero Sabino, Sauk Centre. Driving without a valid license for vehicle class or type. Fine \$100. Fee \$85.
Alhyanisse Rivas Cruz, Long Prairie. Driving without a valid license for vehicle class or type. Fine \$100. Fee \$85

MN State Patrol
Mary Renee Evelyn Kroll, Staples. Speed 80/65. Fine \$60. Fee \$85.
Mary Eloise Kuhnau, Browerville. Speed 70/60. Fine \$40. Fee \$85.
Christian Joseph Scheler, Staples. Expired registration. Fine \$30. Fee \$85.
Kayla Jo Ackerson, Browerville. Speed 85/60. Fine \$70. Fee \$155.
Ashlyn Marie Allen, Jamestown, ND. Speed 90/70. Fine \$70. Fee \$155.
Alberto Jose Bethermit Zambrano, Apple Valley. Speed 90/70. Fine \$70. Fee \$155.
Ashley Mae Carity, Osakis. Hands free Law. Fine \$50. Fee \$85.
Rosemarie Alvira Castillo, Long Prairie. Hands Free Law. Fine \$50. Fee \$85.
Brian Paul Crepeau, Long Prairie. Speed 70/60. Fine \$40. Fee \$85.
Naomi Kay Dalton, Long Prairie. Hands Free Law. Fine \$50. Fee \$85.
Eve Katy Eisenbeis, Fargo, ND. Speed 89/70. Fine \$60. Fee \$85.
Sunni Gayle Ganje, Forest Lake. Speed 82/70. Fine \$50. Fee \$85.
Brian Alexander Hernandez Ambriz, Melrose. Speed 72/60. Fine \$50. Fee \$85.
Taylor Leann Hess, Monticello. Speed 82/70. Fine \$50. Fee \$85.
Saryia Ariel Johnson, Robbinsdale. Speed 84/70. Fine \$50. Fee \$85.
Brandon James Klemek, Deer Creek. Speed 82/70. Fine \$50. Fee \$85. Expired registration. Fine \$30.
Shannon D. Lalbiharie, Winnipeg, MB. Speed 80/70. Fine \$40. Fee \$85.
Brooklyn Marie Loudon, Sauk Centre. Speed 75/60. Fine \$60. Fee \$85.
Elder Augusto Morales Elvira, Brooklyn Center. Speed 87/70. Fine \$60. Fee \$85.
Hamdija Mustafic, West Fargo, ND. Hands Free Law. Fine \$50. Fee \$85.
Brandon M. Poole, Swan River, MB. Speed 80/70. Fine \$40. Fee

\$85.
Ronel Preval, Sauk Centre. Speed 75/60. Fine \$60. Fee \$85. No MN Driver's License. Fine \$100. No proof MV insurance. Fine \$200.
Felix Antiono Rayford, Chicago, IL. Driving after revocation. Fine \$200. Fee \$85.
Wilton Mulbah Sawyer, St. Paul. Speed 85/70. Fine \$60. Fee \$85.
Jason Allen Shackelton, Crystal. Speed 80/70. Fine \$40. Fee \$85.
Jake Randall, Glenwood. Window restrictions. Fine \$50. Fee \$85. Window tint. Fine \$50.
Jacob Tanner Stout, Sauk Centre. Hands Free Law. Fine \$50. Fee \$85.
Abubakai Musa Trawally, Fargo, ND. Speed 95/70. Fine \$70. Fee \$155. No MN Driver's License. Fine \$100.
Matthew Steven-Haen Wiedeman, Willmar. Speed 64/55. Fine \$40. Fee \$85.
Felisa Abigail Williams, Williston, ND. Speed 95/70. Fine \$70. Fee \$155.
Tristan Bayta Zuniga, Gilbert, AZ. Speed 80/70. Fine \$40. Fee \$85.

Todd County Sheriff
John Mandley Herard, Browerville. Fine \$40. Fee \$85.
Miguel Gabriel Miranda Diaz, Long Prairie. Driving without a valid license for vehicle class or type. Fine \$100. Fee \$85.
Jenna Karen Pesta, St. Cloud. Speed 88/60. Fine \$100. Fee \$185.
Eli Phete Polynice, Long Prairie. Driving without a valid license for vehicle class or type. Fine \$100. Fee \$85.

The following cases were heard before Judge Daniel A. Benson in Seventh District Court in Todd County April 30, 2025.
Richard Allen Bate, Little Falls. Drugs-3rd degree-possess 10 grams or more a narcotic drug other than heroin. Sentenced. Commit to Commissioner of Corrections-adult (MN Correctional Facility-St. Cloud, 33 mo stay for 5 yr). Supervised probation, 5 yr. Fine \$50. Fee \$75. Drugs-5th degree-possess Schedule 1,2,3,4-not small amount marijuana. Dismissed.

The following cases were heard before Judge Daniel A. Benson in Seventh District Court in Todd County April 28, 2025.
Melissa Sue Chirpich, Hewitt. Harassment; restraining order-violate and knows of temporary or restraining order. Continued. Local confinement (7 days, stay 0 yr 0 mo days credit for time served 7 days). Supervised probation, 1 yr. Fine \$50. Disorderly conduct. Dismissed. Violate restraining order. Dismissed.

75 YEARS Ago - 1950

• May 18, 1950 - The new stop and go signs for the city of Staples are in the process of installation at the present time, with members of the city water and light department doing the work.
So far the concrete bases and the steel standards have been installed but the weather conditions have been such that the work could not be continued until the weather clears up some.
• May 18, 1950 - Miss Margaret Johnson, 911 Second Ave., who represented the

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Compiled by
Dawn Timbs
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Staples High School, was one of the outstanding contestants in the Minneapolis Business College's Senior Secretary Search for the "Secretary of Tomorrow." She was in competition with approximately 100 other senior high school girls from other towns and cities in the Upper Midwest.
Because of her high standing in the commercial test for which she was prepared by her instructor, Miss Gladys Dodge, and because of her own personal charm and attractive appearance, Margaret was awarded a train case,
• May 18, 1950 - Many ardent fishermen of Staples and this vicinity were mighty disappointed when the opening of the fishing season came around on Saturday, May 13. This was due to the fact that the ice had not left this region, thus prohibiting sportsmen from enjoying the opening day of the season.
• May 18, 1950 - Sunday afternoon, May 14, at the Pine Grove baseball park in Staples, Mayor G. E. Fahlander threw the first ball to officially open the baseball season for the Staples Railroaders. This was an event in the lives of many of the young players who are again on the Staples nine this season.
Staples won the game, the first of the Crow Wing Valley league for both teams, by defeating South Long Lake by a score of 4 to 3.

50 YEARS Ago - 1975
• May 15, 1975 - The SHS Girls high school softball team pulled a tight game away from Crosby-Ironton Friday, May 9, when they

managed to get four runs in the final inning to win the game 11-10.
C-I took a 2-0 lead after one inning and then Staples tied it up at 2-all in the second. C-I held a 6-4 lead at the end of three innings and was up 8-6 at the conclusion of 4. It was 8-7 for C-I at the end of five, 10-7 at the end of six and then Staples rallied for the four runs and the victory.
Coach Doris Dumpprope reported that Peggy Mooers got an important triple in the last inning with the bases loaded to bring in the tying run. Then Barb Lenk hit a single to right to score Peggy Mooers for the win.
Cheryl Doucette had a big home run with one on in the second inning to tie the score at that point.
Becky Smith was on the mound for the Staples girls with Pat Imgrund behind the plate. Also in the game were Kim Nurnberger at first, Melaine Miller at second, Sandy Denning at third, Joyce Wille in left and Jan Cameron as rover.
• May 15, 1975 - On Tuesday, May 20, Karen Stevens, a senior at Staples High School will present a voice recital in the High School cafeteria at 8 p.m.
Miss Stevens, a soprano, has been actively involved in various aspects of the vocal music program since moving to Staples in her Sophomore year, including being a member of Chamber Choir I. Her voice teacher is Mr. Stan Carlson of the high school faculty. She will attend St. Olaf College in Northfield.
Miss Stevens will be assisted by Mary Hegre, piano, and Natalie Wise, who will join her in the performance of the duet Laudamus Te by Vivaldi.
• May 15, 1975 - The Rite of Confirmation will be observed at Trinity Lutheran Church in Staples Sunday, May 18.
A class of seven young people will be confirmed by the Rev. Clarence Bremer at the 9 a.m. worship service.
The confirmands are Jay Henkel, Barbara Oltman, Mary Beth Jasmer, Laurie Jacobs, Charles Genz, David Olson and Dennis Trana.
• May 15, 1975 - Edith Quance, her two daughters and two sons, will present a sacred concert Saturday, May 17, at 8 p.m. in the Staples Church of Christ.
The Rev. W. Lloyd Hanley, pastor, said, "These people are called near and far to present their programs.



Mystery photo

Hello readers. This week's archive photo is from 1975. 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.

Don't miss hearing them at home."

• May 15, 1975 - Peggy Finn, 17, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. William H. Finn of Staples, has been selected to be a finalist in the 1975 Miss Minnesota Teenager Pageant to be held at Augsburg College, Minneapolis, July 11, 12, 13.

25 YEARS Ago - 2000

• May 18, 2000 - The faculty and administration of Pillager Schools recently selected Karl Kaufmann, science teacher, as the Pillager 1999-2000 Teacher of the Year and nominee for Minnesota Teacher of the Year. This is the first year that Pillager has ever participated in the event.
"We have many fine teachers at Pillager School," said Principal Michael Mattson, "and we're proud to nominate a professional like Karl Kaufmann as our first entry."
• May 18, 2000 - Eleanor 'Elly' Peterson, a mainstay for 22 years in the school district offices in Staples, and a community volunteer until shortly before her death, died Tuesday afternoon at Greater Staples Hospital.
Eleanor's official role the last several years she worked for the school district was as secretary to Dick Donat, who was assistant to the superintendent and head of federal programs. But she took part in many activities, usually

working behind the scenes in a variety of activities that spanned some 30 years or more.
She was, for instance, active in both the Staples 75th Anniversary event in 1964 and the Centennial Celebration in 1989.
• May 18, 2000 - A fire of undetermined origin destroyed the building housing Scotty's Pub in Staples on Friday morning, May 12.
Smoke was spotted coming through the roof of the building about 1:45 a.m., according to the Staples Police Department. That was from 15 to 30 minutes after the last employees left the bar after closing, according to Steve Scott, owner of the bar on First Avenue in Staples.
Residents of one apartment above the bar and three apartments in an adjoining building to the east were evacuated from their homes. The people in the apartment above Scotty's reportedly had a very narrow escape. It was believed that three of their house cats were lost in the fire.

10 YEARS Ago - 2015

• May 14, 2015 - Front page headlines included, "Del Lecy inducted into State FFA Hall of Fame," "Dollars for Scholars awards \$86,800 to seniors," "Profile being built for superintendent."



Observing National Day of Prayer

A number of people met at Staples City Hall May 1, to participate in the National Day of Prayer. Attendees divided into groups and spent time praying for a variety of topics, including families, churches, government, media/entertainment, the local community, businesses, schools and the military. The prayers were led by

area pastors Roy Miles, Jim Johnson, Casey Reynolds and Barry Klein; Candice Miles, Office Manager at Staples Assembly of God Church; and BJ Bolstridge, Center Director at Lakes Area Pregnancy Support (LAPS). (Staples World photos by Dawn Timbs)



Mystery solved

Last week's mystery photo published in the May 1, 1975 edition of the Staples World featured Kent Nordell center), son of Mr. and Mrs. David Nordell, receiving from Michael J. Matanich (left), director of the Staples Area Vocational-Technical Institute, a check for being the first place winner in the Staples annual Skill Fair. Also pictured is Al Lauer, Kent's instructor at Staples High School. Nordell won first place in the Welding

division of the fair.

Carmen Nordell of Staples recognized her son, Kent, and Mike Matanich. Mike Koppes of Staples recognized Mike Matanich and guessed Al Lauer to be Roger Easthouse, former Staples 3M Company Manager. He thought the young man in the middle was receiving a 3M scholarship. Thanks for participating in our mystery photo.

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Letters to the Editor

Unfunded mandates will devastate rural counties

As a resident living on the border of Wadena and Todd Counties, I am deeply concerned about the severe financial burden our communities will soon face due to the MAAFFA Act, passed in 2024. While this legislation allocated \$5 million for a pilot program in Hennepin and Ramsey counties in 2025, ALL counties - including ours - will be required to implement it beginning January, 2026, without additional state funding.

For Wadena County alone, this means a \$1.6 mil-

lion budget increase, forcing local officials to raise property taxes to cover the cost. Rural communities like Wadena and Todd Counties - where residents already face economic challenges - will be hit hardest, with tax hikes projected to reach 25% in 2026 and a staggering 45% over the next three years. These unfunded mandates are not just unfair; they are unsustainable.

On May 8, ten Minnesota Representatives spoke at the Stop the Mandates Rally at the State Capitol, warning of the devastating consequences of these unfunded mandates. But lawmakers will not act unless they hear from those most impacted - Minnesota taxpayers like you and me.

I urge my neighbors

across Wadena and Todd Counties to contact our state legislators before the legislative session ends on May 19. If we don't speak up, we will bear the financial consequences for years to come.

Here's how to reach your lawmakers:

- House of Representatives: house.mn.gov/members/list
- Senators: senate.mn/members?id=alphabetical

It's time to demand an end to these reckless, unfunded mandates before they devastate our communities. We cannot afford to stay silent.

Lori Bates
Staples, Minn.

Rural legislators object to unfunded mandate

Minnesota homeowners are about to see substantial property tax increases due to the MAAFFA Act, passed in 2024. While the bill provided a \$5 million pilot program for Hennepin and Ramsey counties in 2025, it requires implementation across all counties beginning in January 2026, without additional state funding.

For Wadena County, this

means a projected \$1.6 million budget increase. With no financial support from the state, counties will have no choice but to raise property taxes. Smaller-population and lower-income areas like Wadena and Todd Counties could see tax hikes of 25% in 2026 and a staggering 45% over the next three years. This is NOT sustainable.

On May 8, ten Minnesota Representatives took a stand, speaking at the Stop the Mandates Rally at the State Capitol, bringing attention to the serious financial consequences of these unfunded mandates. Local residents must act now to voice concerns before the legislative session ends on May 19.



Local citizens at Minnesota Capitol

Wadena County Community members attending the Stop the Mandates Rally included, from left, Allen Lysdahl, Dan Toedter, Lisa Murphy, Denny Bure, Lori Bates and Vickie Thompson.

Area hospitals banding together over funding cuts

From Astera Health Foundation

Leaders from four area hospitals - Astera Health, CHI St. Joseph's Health, Lakewood Health System and Perham Health - are speaking out. They are asking people in our communities to talk to lawmakers about big budget cuts that could hurt rural health care.

These cuts to federal and state programs could have serious effects on hospitals in small towns like Park Rapids, Perham, Staples and Wadena. Hospital CEOs Joel Beiswenger (Astera Health), Ben Koppelman (CHI St. Joseph's Health), Lisa Bjerga (Lakewood Health System) and Chuck Hofius (Perham Health) want people to know how these changes could hurt patients, hospitals and the entire community.

What is Medicaid?

Medicaid is a government program that helps people pay for healthcare. Each state runs its own Medicaid program; in Minnesota it is called Medical Assistance.

How many people utilize Medicaid in our area?

- 18 percent of Astera Health patients
- 19 percent of CHI St. Joseph's Health patients
- 20 percent of Lakewood Health System patients
- 14 percent of Perham Health patients

Who relies on Medicaid?

- Children and Families
- Pregnant Women
- Low-Income Working Adults
- Seniors and Individuals with Dis-

abilities, including mental illness: Medicaid covers long-term care services, including nursing home care, which are not typically covered by Medicare.

From the mom of a child with cerebral palsy to the dad of three who was severely injured on the job, thousands of stories are shared online for support of this program relied on by over one million Minnesotans.

Why these cuts are a big problem

Federal budget cuts could take away over \$1 billion in Minnesota's Medicaid funding each year. This impacts healthcare coverage for 1.4 million Minnesotans. When people lose health insurance, they skip regular checkups. Small problems then turn into big ones, and they end up in the emergency room. This adds strain to doctors and nurses and makes wait times longer for all patients needing emergency care.

Other Services at Risk

Minnesota has lost over \$220 million in public health money in other government cuts this year. This has led to people losing their jobs and fewer resources like tracking disease and helping people with mental health needs. With additional cuts, programs that help people who are already struggling will be ended.

Hurting the rural economy

The health systems in Park Rapids, Perham, Staples, and Wadena are the largest employers in their communities. If they must cut staff, it will hurt local businesses too. The effects of lost jobs in healthcare will have impacts

such as lower school enrollment, less local property and sales taxes collected, and lost sales for hometown businesses.

Impact on Patients

In rural Minnesota, Medicaid helps pay for care for about 20% of adults under 65, and 40% of children. Rural families already struggle getting care. They often travel twice as far as people in cities just to see a doctor. If Medicaid gets cut, these families may not be able to afford care at all, especially for serious illnesses like diabetes, heart disease, and cancer.

Hospitals may need to cut services as well as delay improvement to equipment and buildings. They will also stop hiring or layoff staff, which could impact the quality of care.

How the Community Can Help

- Stay Informed: Learn how these budget cuts affect your local hospital.
- Speak up: Call or email state and federal lawmakers. Ask them to protect healthcare funding. Find your representative here: <https://www.gis.lcc.mn.gov/iMaps/districts/>
- Support Local Healthcare: Join community health programs and volunteer at your local hospital.

The CEOs of Astera Health, CHI St. Joseph's Health, Lakewood Health System, and Perham Health are not just healthcare leaders—they're your neighbors who deeply care about our communities. These proposed cuts will hurt real people: our patients, families, and coworkers. Now is the time to speak up to protect the healthcare our hometowns rely on.



Legislators at Stop the Mandates Rally

Representatives speaking at the Stop the Mandates Rally at the State Capitol on Thursday, May 8 from Left to Right: 12A Rep Paul Anderson from Starbuck serving central MN, 9B Rep Tom Murphy of Underwood serving Douglas and Ottertail counties, 3A Rep Roger Skraba from Ely, 4B Rep Jim Joy from Detroit Lakes serving Dilworth and parts of Becker and Clay Counties, 16A Scott Van Binsbergen from Montevideo serving all of Chippewa and Renville Counties, the western half of Meeker County and the southern third of Kandiyohi County, 5A Rep Krista Knudsen of Lake Shore serving parts of Becker, Cass, Hubbard, and Wadena Counties, 5B Rep Mike Wiener from Long Prairie serving all or portions of Cass, Morrison, Todd, and Wadena Counties, 9A Rep Jeff Backer – serves the city of Fergus Falls and western MN Counties of Grant, Traverse, and Wilkin, as well as parts of Otter Tail County, 3B Rep Natalie Zeleznikar from Duluth, 1A Rep John Burkel serves the NW corner of state.

Legislative update as session nears finishing date

By Cora Hoffer
Senior Policy Associate
Center for Rural Affairs

Last week, the Minnesota House passed its omnibus policy and budget bills for higher education, commerce, housing, local government, veterans, state government, and transportation. These bills are now expected to move to conference committees, where the House and Senate will work to resolve differences between their respective versions.

The controversial Senate Energy, Utilities, Environment, and Climate Omnibus Budget and Policy Bill (SF 2392) remains in the Committee on Finance. The bill proposes rollbacks of several key energy and environmental policies that would undermine the state's progress toward providing reliable and affordable energy and meeting its carbon reduction goals. The House counterpart (HF

2442) is considered a "keep your lights on" bill, as it only provides base funding to the Department of Commerce division of energy resources.

With only a few days left until the end of session, time is ticking for bills to become law. In Minnesota, if a bill is passed before the last three days of the session, it must be presented to the governor before the legislature adjourns. The governor can then sign it, veto it, or allow it to become law by not signing it. If a bill hasn't become law by the end of a legislative session, it generally is considered dead for that session. To become law again, it would need to be reintroduced in the next session with a new bill number.

In Senate District 6, Keri Heintzeman (GOP) won the seat after the April 29 election. Once sworn in, her addition will return the Minnesota Senate's narrow Democratic majority to 34-33.

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Official Newspaper for:

City of Staples, Todd County,

Staples-Motley School District,

Freshwater Ed. District and area townships.

MINNESOTA NEWSPAPER ASSOCIATION

1867

FREE PRESS

FREE PEOPLE

Publisher

Managing Editor

Advertising Rep

Photo Tech/production

Bookkeeping/Circulation/

Reporter

Front Office

Subscription Rates:

Local: (Todd, Wadena, Morrison, Cass Counties) \$53 per year

Website: \$50 per year

Minnesota: \$58 per year - Out of State: \$63 per year

Foreign: on-line only - Student Rate: (Sept. through Apr./in-state) \$43

There is a \$5 charge for address change from local to out-of-state.

Fairness:

Note to Advertisers:

Member: Minnesota Newspaper Association, MCAN Advertising

Staples-Motley Elementary Spring Concert held



Kindergarten class

The Staples-Motley Elementary Music Department presented their spring program May 6 in the SMES gym with music teacher Brandy Lyon directing.

Above: The kindergarteners kicked off the concert with “The Green Grass Grew All Around” and added three more songs.



First grade

First graders sang Wiggle-y, Wiggle-y (the Loose Tooth Song) plus two additional songs.



Second grade

Second graders sang two songs adding dancing to the song “Better When I’m Dancin’.” (Staples World photos by Janice Winter)

Mark Your Calendar

May 15

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

May 16

WOMEN’S OPEN AA RECOVERY MEETING Every Friday in person, 10:30 a.m., Motley Free Methodist Church (lower level), 33 Wellwood St. E. Motley. All women welcome.

May 18

CELEBRATE RECOVERY GROUP MEETINGS are held every Sunday at 6 p.m., at Motley Free Methodist Church, 33 Wellwood St. E., Motley.

May 20

CARE MINISTRY FREE MEAL Tuesday, May 20, 4:30 - 6 p.m., at St. Michael’s Church, 280

1st Ave. S, Motley. The free community meals are held on a monthly basis to promote fellowship, connection and nourishment.

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

May 21

STAPLES ALL VETERANS AND COMMUNITY PARK ASSOCIATION will hold its monthly board meeting Wednesday, May 21, at 5:30 p.m., in the lower level board room at Lakewood Health System. Public invited. To attend via Zoom, call Bob Hamann at 218-894-3139.

May 27

WADENA COUNTY REPUBLICANS invite you to their monthly meeting Tuesday, May 27, at 7 p.m., at the Wadena VFW. Guest speaker will be Adam Schwarze, former Marine and Navy Seal.

**England Prairie Pioneer Club**

Pancake Supper
Friday, May 16 4:30 - 7:30 p.m.
On England Prairie Grounds
14229 County Road 1, Wadena, MN
Annual Spring Fundraiser - featuring Phyllis’ Famous Pancakes, Sausage Links, Eggs, Hash Browns, Applesauce, Beverage.

**BAKE SALE** held during Pancake Supper Fundraiser
www.english-prairie.org

\$12 per plate
under 12 - \$7 per plate



Class of 2025!

Baccalaureate Service
May 17, 7 p.m.
Hosted at Staples Alliance Church
1512 8th St NE



THANK YOU
for making a difference!
Congratulations to these 5-Star employees

**Chandler Trout, Strategic Business Analyst**
Nominated anonymously
“For the past 15 years, Lakewood departments have sponsored families for Christmas who are provided to us by area school social workers. It is always amazing to see the generosity and thought put into what is given to these families from presents to food and activities, to even an occasional Christmas tree. This year a family that we received had the word “wood” written at the top of their family form. Chandler took it upon himself to deliver and unload a trailer full of his own firewood to this family. He also ensured that it was pieces that would fit into their stove so that it was ready for use. Thank you, Chandler, for providing this amazing gift to a family.”

**Kelsey Kristenson, Patient Access Representative**
Nominated by Dr. Peter Neifert, Psychiatrist
“Kelsey was manning the front desk on a particularly busy day, when a call came in from a patient of mine. I was walking down the hall to take my next patient back when Kelsey stopped me. She was worried about this message and felt I should call the patient right away before taking back my next patient. I did so and after talking with the patient I hung up and called the Crow Wing County Sheriff’s dispatch to do an emergency welfare check. They took the patient to the hospital where they were admitted due to an overdose. If Kelsey had not stopped me in the hallway between patients, this patient certainly could have died. Kelsey showed excellent judgement and took immediate action to intervene for the well-being of this patient.”

**Lillie Payne, CNA/TMA, Assisted Living**
Nominated by Rhonda Ekholm, RN, Assisted Living Care Coordinator
“As the holiday season approaches, many of us look forward to gathering with family and friends, exchanging gifts and creating cherished memories. However, for some, especially those in assisted living facilities, this time of year can be a reminder of loneliness and distance from loved ones. This’s where Lillie, a dedicated and compassionate staff member, steps in to make a difference. Lillie went above and beyond to create a special experience for the residents of her assisted living community. She organized a unique “store” where residents could shop for their Secret Santa gifts for free. She even set up a wrapping booth, allowing residents to wrap their chosen gifts and place them under the Christmas tree, ready to be opened on Christmas Eve. Her actions remind us all of the true spirit of the holidays - spreading joy, love, and kindness.”

**Melissa Pape, RN, Medical Home Case Manager**
Meghan Mickelson, CMA, Medical Home Care Coordinator
Nominated by the Medical Home Care Management Team
“A recent care management patient without his only pair of shoes that were left at the St. Cloud Hospital after he had been discharged from that location. Meghan was working with the patient to try to get his shoes back, however the facility was unable to ship, and the patient would not be able to drive to St. Cloud and get them. Since the patient did have a follow up visit in Staples, Melissa went above and beyond to purchase a pair of shoes. They both showed so much compassion for this patient during this time. They worked together with the patient to ensure, in our Minnesota weather, that the patient wouldn’t be without shoes.”

**Lakewood HEALTH SYSTEM**
218-894-1515 lakewoodhealthsystem.com

**Menu**

Senior Nutrition Program
Call on mornings the Friday before to reserve next week’s meal. Call for current suggested donation info. LSS Meal; traditional older adult menu. Menu is subject to change.
Staples 894-2556
Meals served with bread, marj. and 1% milk.

May 19 - 23
MONDAY - Spaghetti noodles, meat sauce, Italian vegetable blend, apple-sauce.
TUESDAY - Herb baked chicken, mashed sweet potatoes, green peas, Granny Smith apple.
WEDNESDAY - **BINGO** at the Staples Community Center: Bring your pennies. Meal is: Smothered chopped steak, mashed potatoes, whole kernel corn, oatmeal cranberry cookie.
THURSDAY - Beef shepherd’s pie, country vegetable blend, cherry crisp.
FRIDAY - Cheese ravioli, marinara sauce, diced carrots, broccoli & cauliflower, vanilla pudding.

wk21

Staples World

Staples World newspaper advertising and copy DEADLINE is Wednesday, May 21 by 4 p.m. for the May 28 issue (Memorial Day Week)

Classifieds: office@staplesworld.com
Copy: editor@staplesworld.com
224 4th St. NE, Staples, MN, 218-894-1112

**Early Deadline week**

**Did you know...**
76% of community newspaper readers agreed that they and their families relied on their papers for local news and information?

**Did you know...**
Lakewood Health System is a leading provider of healthcare services in the region.

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or 218-640-2341**



Pair of Kossan hits bring winning run home

Seventh inning hits by Kate Kossan and Rachel Kossan manufactured a walk-off win the the Staples-Motley softball team in the first game of a doubleheader against Pelican Rapids on May 5. After winning that close match, the Cardinals continued hitting well in a 24-3 win in the next game.

The Cardinals also split a doubleheader at Barnesville on May 8, winning 10-8 then falling 10-4. They came back home the next day and lost 9-5 to Pillager.

In the first game against Pelican Rapids, the Cardinals took a 2-0 lead in the first inning. They fell behind 4-2 in the second, but tied it up with two more runs in the fifth inning. Going into the bottom of the seventh, the first two batters were Kate Kossan and Rachel Kossan.

Both of them had been contacting the ball well during the game, but only had one hit between them up to that point. Kate hit a hard drive to center field, and when the outfielder misplayed it, she ended up on second base. Rachel went after an early pitch and hit a hard ground ball into the outfield to easily score her sister and win the game.

Adie Potter pitched all seven innings, holding them scoreless for six of those innings. She had 10 strikeouts in the game.

Jade Storry had two hits and one RBE while Izzy Becer had one hit and two RBI.

The momentum of the big win in the first game kept building throughout the second game. The Cardinals score three runs in the first inning, then in innings

3-6, they scored 2, 2, 5 and 12 to end the game early.

Leighton Bettis pitched all six innings, getting five strikeouts and only giving up one hit.

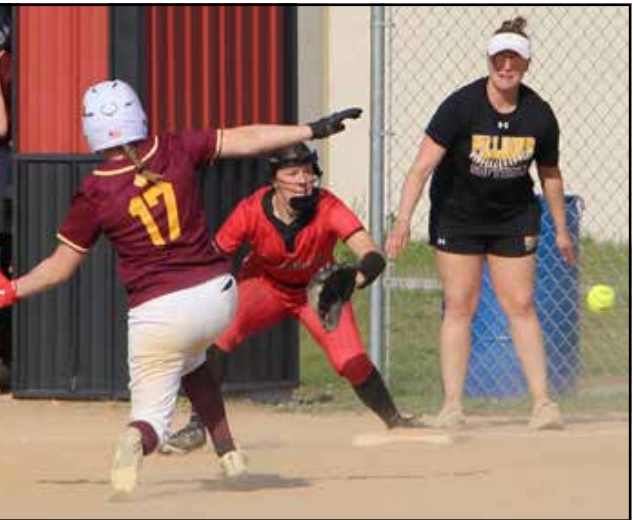
The Cardinals took advantage of their hot bats with 15 hits, 12 walks and two more reaching base from hit by pitch.

Rachel Kossan had five hits, five RBI and scored five runs. Storry also scored five times. Storry and Becker had two hits and 4 RBI each. Lilly Tyrrell, Livi Lorber and Emerson Bettis had two RBI and one hit each. Kate Kossan scored four runs with two hits and two walks. Also scoring runs in the game were Emerson Bettis 3, Leighton Bettis 2, Clara Maros 2, Lorber 2 and Tyrrell 1.



The winning hit

Rachel Kossan hits the ball up the middle past the fielders, scoring her sister Kate Kossan, below, with the winning run.



Jade Storry waits for the throw from the outfield to

White wins three meets

Carter White continued his hot streak with three wins in four meets, including two scores under par for 18 holes.

As a team, the Cardinals remained as one of the top teams in Class AA, finishing second in two meets, 10th in a big school meet, and fifth with a partial team in their final meet of the week.

The Cardinals were second at meets in Bemidji and Nisswa on May 5 and 6.

At Bemidji, Grant Bestland had 10 pars and was very consistent except for one hole that pushed him to four over par for the round. The team racked up birdies all day long, with Carter White hitting five, Jackson White four, Peyton Mithun two and Jaden Johnson two. Johnson moved up into the fifth spot on the team with a good round.

The birdie flurry continued at Nisswa, with Mithun shooting four on the front nine. Carter White was three under par on the back nine and finished two under for the round.

At the St. Cloud Invite on May 8, the Cardinals slipped a little against high level competition on a tough course. Jackson White had a steady round that included

a run of nine pars with one birdie and one bogey in the middle of them.

Several JV players got a chance to compete on the varsity at a Heart O' Lakes meet at Barnesville on May 9, with three of the regular varsity players not at the meet. Evan Schultz was the teams fourth scorer with the help of one birdie, while Oskar Doll and Zachary Tabatt had good rounds as the fifth and sixth players.

Carter White scorched the Barnesville course with four birdies. Mithun had 1 birdie and 11 pars, while Jackson White scored an eagle on a par 5 hole.

Team results

May 5
Bemidji Invitational at Bemidji Town and Country Club

Bemidji 302, Staples-Motley 310, Walker-Hackensack-Akely 320, Grand Rapids 321, Pequot Lakes 322, East Grand Forks 323, Thief River Falls 326, Roseau 326, Hawley 331, Detroit Lakes 331, Moorhead 333, Badger-Greenbush-Middle River 337, Park Rapids 368, Crookston 369, Pine River-Backus 372, Wadena-Deer Creek 448

1. Carter White 73, 6. Grant Bestland 76, 9. Jackson White 77, 39. Peyton Mithun 84, 75. Jaden Johnson 93, 76. Thomas Johnson 94

May 6
Arnold Palmer Invitational at Deacon's Lodge, Nisswa

St. Cloud Cathedral 303, Staples-Motley 309, Walker-Hackensack-Akely 311, Little Falls 321, Pequot Lakes 323, Pierz 334, Crosby-Ironton/Aitkin 344, Pine River-Backus 362, Wadena-Deer Creek 469

1. C. White 70, 6. Mithun 77, 17. Bestland 80, 18. J. White 82, 42. T. Johnson 97, 44. J. Johnson 98

May 8
St. Cloud Invite at St. Cloud Country Club

Benilde-St. Margaret's 293, Wayzata 309, Breck 310, St. Cloud Cathedral 311, Marshall 311, Bemidji 313, Buffalo 314, New London-Spicer 315, Sartell 316, Staples-Motley 317, Willmar 319, Albany 321, Eagan 321, Little Falls 323, Sauk Rapids-Rice 330, Pequot Lakes 331, Heritage Christian 332, St. Cloud Crush 345, Pierz 346

3. C. White 73, 33. J. White 79, 50. Bestland 81, 67. Mithun 84, 77. T. Johnson 85

May 9
Heart O' Lakes meet at Barnesville

Hawley 289, Frazee 310, Barnesville 311, Perham 312, Staples-Motley 323, Dilworth-Glyndon-Felton 324, Park Rapids 335, Breckenridge 336, Pelican Rapids 367, Wadena-Deer Creek 406

1. C. White 69, 17. Mithun 79, 17. J. White 79, 46. Evan Schultz 96, 51. Oskar Doll 99, 55. Zachary Tabatt 103

Johnson, Schotzko golfing well for Cardinals

The Staples-Motley girls golf team started out well at the pre-section meet at Sartell on May 5, and finished in the top half of the field.

Walker Johnson shot well on the course where the section meet will be held, Blackberry Ridge in Sartell. Johnson had five pars, including on the number one handicap hole on the course, a 474 yard par five.

Katelyn Schotzko scored four pars, including three holes in a row.

The team also competed

at a home meet on May 10 at The Vintage in Staples. Schotzko had five pars to lower her score. Molly Hoemberg had three pars as the four scorers for Staples-Motley were within four strokes of each other.

Team results

Pre-section meet at Blackberry Ridge, Sartell

Pequot Lakes 354, Pierz 361, Albany 374, Milaca 376, Melrose 376, St. Cloud Cathedral 401, Staples-Motley 409, Crosby-Ironton 421, Foley 440, Osakis 474, Wadena-Deer Creek inc., Royalton

inc. Sauk Centre inc.

8. Walker Johnson 90, 30. Katelyn Schotzko 102, 42. Sarah Kroll 108, 45. Mara Uselman 109, 56. Molly Hoemberg 115, 59. Brooklyn Winter 117

Cardinal Invite at Staples-Motley, The Vintage

Detroit Laked 324, Bemidji 356, Moorhead 391, Staples-Motley 402, Wadena-Deer Creek inc., Royalton inc, Alexandria Community Christian inc.

14. Johnson 98, 18. Schotzko 101, 18. Hoemberg 101, 21. Uselman 102, 29. Winter 118, 30. Maci Mithun 126, 31. Meridith Hoemberg 135

American anglers often catch good things besides fish

For as long as there has been fishing as we know it, our pastime has been credited with therapeutic benefits. This is seen in angling's lore and literature dating way back to the days of wooden rods and horsehair lines. In an often-cited quote whose origin is lost to history, it's said that "the Almighty does not deduct from our allotted span those hours spent fishing." Wishful thinking, perhaps. But a concept tempting to hope for.

Herbert Hoover—an avid angler, and the U.S. President with the bad luck to be in office at the start of the Great Depression—must have believed in angling's restorative powers, for he named his little book of observations and meditations Fishing for Fun, and to Wash Your Soul.

Timely food for thought, as we celebrated the statewide fishing opener last weekend, an event that predictably brings out anglers of every kind and description, of every level of savvy and sophistication, from the well-equipped to the gear-poor, the serious to the casual. Some catch fish, but all can catch at least something of value.

One of my closest friends, a hunting and angling partner for two-thirds of my lifetime, has over several decades become gradually and increasingly debili-

- o -
Inside the Outdoors



Mike Rahn
- o -

we know it as MS. Over that time he's lost the ability to walk independently, to drive a vehicle, or get into and out of a fishing boat. He's now limited to fishing from a pontoon, and thus to lakes with an adequate public landing where he can navigate with a walker or wheelchair, with the help of companions who can assist him in boarding.

He's a better lake fisherman than I am, so once onboard he takes the helm, and pilots our approaches to promising underwater structure, and guides our drifts when we're casting shorelines for bass. At these times all seems well. The same smiles that accompany a good fish brought to the boat are still there. The incidental chatter and banter about other aspects of our lives, and the lives of our children and grandchildren, dominate our conversation, and thoughts of limitations and disability disappear, at least for these hours on the water.

Angling has also helped us remain friends despite the canyon that divides us politically. It should be news to no one that Americans are deeply divided along ideological and policy lines, and somehow he and I have found ourselves viewing a number of things from opposite rims of that canyon. Thankfully, angling is for the most part non-political. For us it has been neutral ground where our values and ethics, our likes and dislikes—as anglers—matter more during these on-the-water moments than who occupies the White House, or who is shaping national policy.

Angling won't cure his disabling condition. But it

life—in our lives—that provides a doorway into memorable hours of pleasure and companionship, and an affirmation that there are still things that can bring joy and respite despite challenging circumstances.

There is wide consensus that fishing offers a number of benefits, both physical and mental, that are collateral to the immediate motive of catching fish. The combination of spending time in contact with Nature—whether on a lake, or a stream—and putting physical and emotional distance between you and the demands and pressures of daily life, is a dependable stress reducer. This might be less true for a competitive tournament angler trying to finish "in the money," or a guide whose livelihood depends on clients catching fish. But for the everyday angler, stress reduction is a genuine benefit that most probably don't fully appreciate.

Time spent outdoors and on the water has more than psychological benefits. Exposing our skin to the sun is a natural way to boost the production of vitamin D, which in turn supports the health of our immune system—warding off illness—and helps keep our muscles and brain cells working efficiently.

Patience and concentration may not come easy for everyone. But they're virtues practiced and perfected by all but the most casual angler. And who can argue that patience and concentration are not among the keys to success in just about any of life's endeavors, personal or professional?

It's not intuitive to think of angling as a physical

the same way we think of jogging, walking a treadmill, or swimming laps at the YMCA pool. But if you watch a musky angler with a long rod repeatedly pitching lures so hefty that their splash can be seen clearly from 150 yards away, or a bass fisherman working a shoreline in similar non-stop fashion, or follow behind a trout fisherman walking and wading along several miles of rocky stream, you might reach a different conclusion about angling as exercise.

Not to mention hand-eye coordination, something that an angler practices unconsciously, but constantly, a skill that is vital to having his lures or bait rigs land where he wishes. Then, too, there's the boost to self-confidence and self-esteem that derive from the successes that sooner or later come to anglers who learn and persevere.

Angling is also at the core of serious therapy programs, like Project Healing Waters, which uses angling as a vehicle to aid in the recovery of wounded military veterans. Or Heroes on the Water, which provides angling recreation therapy to veterans and first responders, whose experiences can leave them with emotional scars, even post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD). Their successes are incontrovertible evidence of angling's healing powers.

It's only human nature to judge our angling outings first by the standard of fish in the net, or in the livewell. But when the fish don't cooperate, it's equally truthful to say "The catching wasn't great, but the fishing was good."

StaplesWorld

Staples World newspaper advertising and copy DEADLINE is Wednesday, May 21 by 4 p.m. for the May 28 issue (Memorial Day Week)

Classifieds: office@staplesworld.com
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224 4th St. NE, Staples, MN, 218-894-1112



Early Deadline week

SERVICES & EMPLOYMENT

205 Help Wanted



404

Farm Equipment

GRAVITY BOX, MA-NURE SPREADER, horse trailer, 8'x50' PTO grain auger and hay rack. 701-412-8910. 19-21p

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602 Apartments for Rent

STAPLES: Downtown, 1 - 2 bdrm., recently remodeled, NO pets, non smoking, 218-894-3108. 6tfc

HELP WANTED

Seasonal Public Works-Parks Employees

The City of Staples is hiring seasonal Public Works - Parks employees. This is a great job for anyone who wants to spend their workday outdoors during the summer months. Most of the time spent will be mowing grass and trimming weeds on all City of Staples parks and properties. This position will be asked to do routine maintenance on the mowing equipment, and to assist with other Public Works and Park duties as needed. This position will work 40 hours most weeks, but that may be altered due to weather. Employment will begin after Memorial Day and end before Labor Day. Starting pay is \$15.45/hour.

Apply at the City of Staples City Hall, 122 6th St NE, Staples, MN 56479. You may also find an application on our website at: www.staples.govoffice.com For questions, call Public Works Director - Scott Grabe at 218-894-2550, Ext 6. EOE

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SW 2025 changed wk #20



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: November 30, 2012

ORIGINAL PRINCIPAL AMOUNT OF MORTGAGE: \$181,500.00

MORTGAGOR(S): Todd A. Judd and Erin E. Judd, husband and wife

MORTGAGEE: Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc., as nominee for U.S. Bank N.A.

DATE AND PLACE OF FILING: Recorded on January 15, 2013 as Document Number 482459 in the Office of the County Recorder of Todd County, Minnesota.

ASSIGNMENTS OF MORTGAGE: Assigned to: U.S. Bank National Association by assignment recorded on February 17, 2022 as Document Number A530413 in the Office of the County Recorder of Todd County, Minnesota; thereafter assigned to Community Loan Servicing, LLC by assignment recorded on April 1, 2022 as Document Number A531026 in the Office of the County Recorder of Todd County, Minnesota; thereafter assigned to Nationstar Mortgage LLC by assignment recorded on June 27, 2022 as Document Number A532350 in the Office of the County Recorder of Todd County, Minnesota.

LEGAL DESCRIPTION OF PROPERTY: The land referred to in this policy is situated in the State of Minnesota, County of Todd, City of Staples and described as follows: The Southeast Quar-

ter of the Southwest Quarter (SE 1/4 of SW 1/4) of Section 21, Township 133N, Range 32W, according to the United States Government Survey thereof.

STREET ADDRESS OF PROPERTY: 30534 470TH STREET, STAPLES, MN 56479

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

THE AMOUNT CLAIMED TO BE DUE ON THE MORTGAGE ON THE DATE OF THE NOTICE: \$140,759.08

TRANSACTION AGENT: Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc.

NAME OF MORTGAGE ORIGINATOR: U.S. Bank N.A.

RESIDENTIAL SERVICER: Nationstar Mortgage LLC

TAX PARCEL IDENTIFICATION NUMBER: 25-0021900

TRANSACTION AGENT'S MORTGAGE IDENTIFICATION NUMBER: 100021200003069498

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: July 10, 2025 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 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 July 10, 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: April 29, 2025

NATIONSTAR MORTGAGE LLC Mortgagee

TROTT LAW, P.C.

By: /s/ *N. Kibongni Fondungalah, Esq.* Samuel R. Coleman, Esq. Alexa Marsh, Esq. Attorneys for Mortgagee 25 Dale Street North St. Paul, MN 55102 (651) 209-9760 (22-1029-FC05)

THIS IS A COMMUNICATION FROM A DEBT COLLECTOR. 20-25pnc



Gravestone tipped and cracked

A grave marker was found tipped over at Evergreen Hill Cemetery in Staples, prompting concerns of vandalism. One of twin towers on the Hengel family grave site was found tipped over and

cracked last week. Cemetery officials issued a reminder that gravestones are not a place to play. (Staples World photo by Mark Anderson)

Winners of Raider Cup Pitch Competition

The North Central Small Business Development Center (SBDC) at Central Lakes College is proud to announce the winners of the 2025 Raider Cup Pitch Competition, a dynamic celebration of student entrepreneurship and innovation.

Taking home first place and the coveted Raider Cup was Skylar Starry for her pitch on Auntie's Play Place, a creative venture focused on providing safe, enriching environments for children. Skylar received a \$500 Visa Gift Card in recognition of her outstanding business concept and pitch video.

Earning second place was Eric Hebert with his idea for the Brainerd Lakes Area Jazz Club, a community-driven initiative to promote local music and culture. Eric was awarded a \$250 Visa Gift Card.

All student presenters worked closely with North Central SBDC professional business consultant John Gunstad to develop their ideas into full business pitches. These pitches were showcased to a live audience at the Chalberg The-

ater through pre-filmed video presentations, allowing students to creatively and professionally deliver their ideas on screen.

A business pitch is a short, persuasive presentation where entrepreneurs explain their product, service, or business idea—highlighting what makes it unique, who it serves, and how it can succeed. The goal is to clearly and compellingly communicate the value and potential of the business.

In addition to the winners, the 2025 Raider Cup Pitch Competition featured the following student entrepreneurs:

- Anndee Parker—Divine Things Homeless Shelter
- Adam Overby—My Community Calendars
- Hannah Ellstrom—Center for Seniors and the Neurodivergent
- Eva Gaulke—Graphic Design Services and Physical Products

Each student brought forward a compelling vision for how business can make a difference—whether through creativity, community-building, or social

impact. The Raider Cup Pitch Competition is a signature event of the North Central SBDC, hosted annually to spotlight student-led ventures and encourage entrepreneurship. This year's event was made possible through funding from the Minnesota Department of Employment and Economic Development (DEED) Small Business Assistance Partnership grant.

"This event is a powerful reminder that great ideas can come from anywhere and should come from everywhere," said Katie Heppner, Regional Director of the North Central SBDC. "Each of these students took a spark of an idea and turned into a thoughtful solution to real-world challenge. That's the heart of entrepreneurship and we are honored to support their journeys."

To learn more about the North Central SBDC at Central Lakes College and the services it offers to entrepreneurs and small business owners, visit www.clcmn.edu/small-business-development-center.

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 31, 2015

ORIGINAL PRINCIPAL AMOUNT OF MORTGAGE: \$92,857.00

MORTGAGOR(S): Joel Ambriz Carrillo, a single person

MORTGAGEE: Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc., as nominee for Wintrust Mortgage, a division of Barrington Bank and Trust Co., N.A.

DATE AND PLACE OF FILING: Recorded on August 3, 2015 as Document Number 495310 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 September 10, 2019 as Document Number A515937 in the Office of the County Recorder of Todd County, Minnesota.

LEGAL DESCRIPTION OF PROPERTY: The East One Hundred Sixty-Five (165) feet of the South Seventy-six (76) feet of the North Eighty (80) feet of Lot Three (3), Block One (1), Budget's First Addition to the Village of Long Prairie, Todd County, Minnesota.

STREET ADDRESS OF PROPERTY: 215 6TH ST SE, LONG PRAIRIE, MN 56347

COUNTY IN WHICH PROPERTY IS LOCATED:

Todd County, Minnesota.

THE AMOUNT CLAIMED TO BE DUE ON THE MORTGAGE ON THE DATE OF THE NOTICE: \$80,064.88

TRANSACTION AGENT: Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc.

NAME OF MORTGAGE ORIGINATOR Wintrust Mortgage, a division of Barrington Bank and Trust Co., N.A.

RESIDENTIAL SERVICER: Wells Fargo Bank, N.A.

TAX PARCEL IDENTIFICATION NUMBER: 36-0077000

TRANSACTION AGENT'S MORTGAGE IDENTIFICATION NUMBER: 100312-0001250034-1

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: July 10, 2025 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.

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 January 12, 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: May 05, 2025

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 (25-0371-FC01)

THIS IS A COMMUNICATION FROM A DEBT COLLECTOR. 21-26pnc

Staples Motley School Board Minutes

ISD #2170 SCHOOL BOARD MEETING April 14, 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, Reese, Trout and Freeman were present, comprising a quorum. Also present were Superintendent Tappe, Business Manager Hill, Recording Clerk Larson, Principal Ferdon, Principal Koenigs, AD Lee, Staples World Managing Editor Anderson and other staff members. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Motion by Wright, second by Frisk, to approve the addition of #5c, #5d and #13. MC

Motion by Trout, second by Reeck, to adopt the agenda. MC

Chair Freeman welcomed the public and staff in attendance. School/Community Forum

None Consent Agenda Approve the minutes of the March 24, 2025 Board Meeting Accept the resignations of:

a. Angela Jares, Nest Assistant effective April 4, 2025

b. Kyla Gray, paraprofessional effective April 23, 2025

c. Emmajeane Erickson, custodial, effective August 1, 2025

d. Grace Jennissen, Nest Assistant effective April 20, 2025

Approve the hire of: a. Emily Vieths, HS English Teacher effective the 25/26 School year b. Abbie Detloff, second Grade Teacher effective the 25/26 School year c. Cy Bestland, Assistant Golf Coach

d. Keller Anderson, Assistant Golf Coach Acknowledge the Certified Groups intent to negotiate

Acknowledge the Administrator Groups intent to negotiate

Approve the 2025-2026 Health Occupations Contract with Browerville

Approve the 2025-2026 Foster Care Cooperative Transportation Agreement

Approve the 2025-2030 Nursing & Allied Health Clinical Affiliation MOA – MOVE FROM CONSENT TO BELOW

Approve the 2026-2027 School Calendar

Approve the Todd County Governance Agreement

Approve the 2025-2026 Northern Pines Service Agreement

Motion by Frisk, second by Reese, to approve the Consent Agenda. MC

Approve the 2025-2030 Nursing & Allied Health Clinical Affiliation MOA

Motion by Reeck, second by Trout. (Wright Abstained) MC

Donations and Grants

Motion by Wright, second by Freeman, to approve the resolution to accept donations and grants in the amount of \$1,350. MC

Finance Items

Finance Report presented by Business Manager Hill

Current Budget Update - 2024-2025 Revised Budget Update (action needed to approve a revised budget) action later in the agenda

- 2025-2026 Revenue Budget Update (no action needed)

Motion by Reeck, second by Wright, to approve the March Disbursements. MC

General Fund: \$771,885.51

Food Service: \$39,116.10

Community Service: \$18,111.56

Construction Fund: \$248,161.92

Debt Service: \$ 4,525.

Fund 21 Student Activities: \$8,163.55

Fund 45: \$0.

Motion by Trout, second by Frisk, to approve the March receipts. MC

General Fund: \$1,437,228.96

Food Service: \$ 80,313.51

Community Service Fund: \$ 55,323.83

Construction Fund: \$0.

Debt Service Fund: \$0.

Fund 21 Student Activities: \$4,617.83

Fund 45: \$0.

Motion by Frisk, second by Reese, to approve the revised 2024-2025 budget. MC

Other Cabinet Presentation

Presentation by Elementary Principal Koenigs

Other Motion by Reeck, second by Wright, to approve the utility easement agreement with the City of Staples. MC

Reports: School Board:

FED - 3-12-2025 Minutes

Sourcwell - 2-18-2025 Minutes

Other SMEA - Report from SMEA Representatives

Evans and Elfstrom Principals - Report from Principal Ferdon

Activities Director - Report from AD/CE Lee

Superintendent - Report from Superintendent Tappe

Motion by Reeck, second by Frisk, to adjourn the meeting. MC

Trisha Larson, Clerk ISD #2170

21pnc

Upcoming Meetings: Mon., May 19, 2025 – Board Meeting, District Office, 905 4th Street NE, Staples, 6 p.m.; Fri., May 23, 2025 – Class of 2025 Graduation, 7:30 p.m.; Thurs., May 29, 2025 – Last day of School; Mon., June 2, 2025 – Board Work Session, District Office, 6 p.m.; Tues., June 10, 2025 – Policy Committee Meeting, District Office, 7:45 a.m. (Trout, Reese); Mon., June 23, 2025 – Board Meeting, District Office, 6 p.m.



Reflections from state speech

Laken Hines and Olivia Opheim are the two newest Staples-Motley Speech Team members to have been named State Champion. Both brought home gold following their outstanding performances at the Class A State Speech Tournament April 25, in Shakopee. Staples World reporter Dawn Timbs reached out to them, along with their coaches Kip Hines and Brian Sams, to ask a few questions about their speech experiences. Below are their responses.

Laken Hines
BACKGROUND INFORMATION
My name is Laken Hines, I am a senior, and I have been in speech for 6 years.

CATEGORY? NAME OF SPEECH?
I competed in Humorous Interpretation this season. I performed a cutting of Bruce Almighty, by Steve Koren, Mark O'Keefe, and Steve Oedeker.

WHO WAS YOUR COACH?
My main coaches this year were Brian Sams, Jonah Johnson and Kip Hines.

WHAT INSPIRED YOU TO JOIN SPEECH?

I had always been into performing. Putting on a show for others gives me an energy that I just can't describe. When I was part of a musical back in 6th grade, I overheard a few of the older kids talking about this thing called "Speech." I told my mom about it, and she encouraged me to try it out. Seeing all the high schoolers getting entire rooms of people hooked on their every word inspired me greatly to pursue success in Speech, and I am forever grateful to have been surrounded by such a great group of supportive people and teammates from the start.

HOW DID YOU CHOOSE YOUR SPEECH THIS YEAR?

I wanted to find a piece with a message to share, rather than just the usual slapstick comedy humor script. I started looking through many movies that I knew, searching for one that might be a hidden gem in the speech world, but they all let me down in some way or another. Movies are incredibly hard to cut. At one point, though, Brian Sams recommended that I try Bruce Almighty. I was a little hesitant at first, as I knew the piece had a great message to share, but I wasn't sure if it was funny enough. I decided to cut it myself anyway, and after the first few tournaments, we realized that this script had great potential.

HOW MUCH TIME DID YOU DEVOTE TO SPEECH EACH WEEK? HOW WOULD YOU DESCRIBE YOUR PRACTICE ROUTINE? HOW DOES ONE 'GET IN SHAPE' FOR SPEECH?

I worked harder this season than ever before. At the minimum, I would work about 2-3 hours on my piece per week. Most of that time would be spent at Campfire Bay Resort with Brian, evaluating critiques I had gotten at the previous tournament and finding ways to use them to shape my performance for the rest of the season. One may not realize it, but Speech does require a certain degree of physical fitness as well, as some categories and performances can contain a lot of movement. I would try to run about 4 miles every day that I could and lift during the week to keep myself in shape. Running actually does wonders for your breath control, something very important in speech. You also have to keep your voice in shape for speech.



Performing their speeches

Olivia Opheim (left) and Laken Hines performed their winning speeches at the Speech Banquet May 4. (Staples World photos by Dawn Timbs)

You would never catch me at a meet without my mug of hot tea with honey, its truly a miracle worker.

WHAT WAS A FUNNY MOMENT IN SPEECH?

Jeepers it's gonna be hard to pick just one funny moment! I think one of the greatest moments this season was when we got a few people together at Bemidji who could do decent Trump impressions, and had a full-on conversation in our Trump voices. It had to be strange walking by and seeing a circle of Trumps talking about a bunch of non-political garbage.

WHAT WAS A STRESSFUL MOMENT?

I have to say the most stressful moment this season was re-cutting a bunch of my piece the day before we left for State. At National Qualifiers, a judge had given me some good feedback that we thought might really help me at State, so we had to do some of the most re-working on the piece in that night than we have had to do all season. On top of that, we completely rewrote my introduction. On the day of State, I had to cut a whole scene for time as well. Yeah, I would say having to remember all that change in that small amount of time was a challenge, but ay, it worked out didn't it?

WAS IT ALWAYS A GOAL TO BE STATE CHAMP?

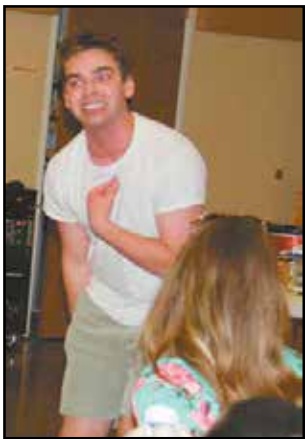
I suppose it was always a goal of mine to be a State Champ. I just really didn't know what it took until I went there for the first time my sophomore year. That was really the eye-opening experience for me, as I was able to see what being a State Champion really meant. It forced me to re-evaluate how much I would have to put in to Speech to be able to find the results.

WHAT DID YOU LOVE MOST ABOUT SPEECH AND HOW HAS IT SHAPED YOU?

I think the greatest thing Speech has ever done for me has been showing me the importance of working hard. Believe it or not, when I was younger, I used to be in a few sports (baseball, golf). But since I never put effort into practicing, I wouldn't see change in my performance. I would get so mad that I wasn't as good as everybody else. So I would quit. As I matured a little bit and began to get more involved in speech, I started to realize that the people who do well work hard. And I think it was my sophomore post-season when it hit me: I had to put in the effort to see a change. And that is what I so direly want the world to know. You are greater that your situation. There is hope, and there is a way out. If you are not satisfied with where you are at, the beautiful thing is that you have the opportunity to put in the work to make a change. Once I learned that from Speech, my life changed. I started making healthier choices, I started taking more chances, I started improving my faith. Speech was a catalyst for so much good change in my life, and for that I am forever grateful. That is why I never cease to spread the message of how much good hard work can bring; whether you can see it or not. There is so much regret that comes with the phrase "should have..." When you reflect on your past, you want to be able to replace those "should haves" with "did."

HOW DID IT FEEL TO BE NAMED STATE CHAMP?

It felt...relieving more



than anything. Like all that time, all that work, all those feelings weren't in vain. I looked up and thanked God in the moment, for I truly am blessed to be in this position. There are so many people that played such a big role in getting me to a State Championship, believing in me even when I had no belief in myself. I couldn't have asked for a better end to my Speech career, truly, it was amazing. And I am so grateful that I was able to share that moment with so many great friends and family. And in the end, I wouldn't have done it all without God. He has been so merciful in giving me all the resources I needed to eventually be named State Champ. He listened to my prayers, and although things didn't always go the way I wanted them to, I was shown that every slip up, every bad result, every imperfection in my speech career and in life, was all part of a greater plan.

Olivia Opheim

BACKGROUND INFORMATION
Olivia Opheim, 12th grade, 5 years in Speech

CATEGORY? NAME OF SPEECH?
Informative Speaking, Dishonest Addiction

WHO WAS YOUR COACH?
I coached mainly with Brian Sams and Kip Hines

WHAT INSPIRED YOU TO JOIN SPEECH?

My sister was in Speech and she thought I would enjoy it so I gave it a try!

HOW DID YOU CHOOSE YOUR SPEECH THIS YEAR?

Kip Hines

DO YOU HAVE ANY COMMENTS ABOUT THE STATE CHAMPIONS?

Laken and Olivia have both used their previous seasons as building blocks to maximize their talent this senior season, building upon previous success to learn and become recognized as the champions they are. Olivia is a brilliant young lady with incredible people skills and I have a blast working with her. Laken is constantly working his craft by observing interactions and figuring out different ways to incorporate impressions and voices into his performances.

WHAT DO YOU FEEL IS THE SECRET OF THEIR SUCCESS?

Olivia is a relentless worker. She doesn't procrastinate and takes advantage of every moment possible to make her piece and performance better. Laken has an incredible memory and intentionally memorizes his piece right away so he can focus all of his effort on performance perfection. Both champions are first to sign up on the practice schedule each week, and as captains, they have been great examples to the rest of the team on how to become champions. They've both demonstrated the fact there are no shortcuts on the way to the winner's circle.

DID YOU COACH BOTH SPEAKERS?

I've never officially coached Laken in speech, and as a coach, I know most kids struggle with their parents' involvement in this activity. As the head coach and interested father I've been able to influence his season behind the scenes, at home or through other coaches, which has been extremely satisfying. When it comes to Olivia, I've been coaching with her for the last three years. She has an incredible ability to pull different ideas from her different coaches to create an exponentially better performance.

HOW DID IT FEEL TO HAVE YOUR SON NAMED STATE CHAMP?

I started coaching three years ago for the sole purpose of keeping the program going long enough for my son to find more success and graduate. I consider it a top highlight of my life to be on this championship journey with him. With all the Saturdays sacrificed at speech meets the past three years, I felt a huge emotional release and satisfaction when he was named humor-

I worked with my coaches to find a topic that was topical but also relatable. After going through a couple of topics (family vlogging, insurance) we finally landed on boredom and phone addiction.

HOW MUCH TIME DID YOU DEVOTE TO SPEECH EACH WEEK? HOW WOULD YOU DESCRIBE YOUR PRACTICE ROUTINE? HOW DOES ONE 'GET IN SHAPE' FOR SPEECH?

I would devote 30 minutes each night to practicing my speech and I would meet with a coach 1-4 hours each week.

My practice routine was interesting, I was very busy during the school year so I would practice wherever I could. The one constant is that I would always practice at night because when I went to sleep that night I would think about my speech and the changes made.

Surprisingly to "get in shape" for speech you have to start running. I ran into the problem of sounding out of breath, and how you fix it is doing cardio. This helps you to focus on breath control while speaking. I also quit drinking energy drinks because they made me too anxious on speech days.

WHAT WAS A FUNNY MOMENT IN SPEECH?

I have a toy dinosaur in my speech, and my duo partner Addie Brenny would play with it and roar at me with it in between rounds. That always makes me giggle.

WHAT WAS A STRESSFUL MOMENT?



Proud of his award-winning 'speech kids'

Kip Hines (center), head coach of the Staples-Motley Middle/High School Speech Team, posed with team members who brought home medals following the MSHSL Class A State Speech Tournament April 25, in Shakopee. The team

members, from left, are Walker Johnson, seventh in Creative Expression; Laken Hines, first in Humorous Interpretation; Olivia Opheim, first in Informative Speaking; Brynn Bestland, second in Serious Interpretation of Drama. (Submitted photo)

ous champion. Mission accomplished! Along this journey, I've developed a huge appreciation for the activity and want more kids to find this same path to success.

WERE THERE LAST MINUTE ADJUSTMENTS?

The last-minute changes were stressful. Since Laken and Olivia are both veterans and professionals, they can incorporate last-minute changes better than anybody else. The changes could possibly be more stressful for the coaches than the performers. Since speech is a subjective activity, you have to trust your instincts and then hope judges will appreciate it the same way you're coaching it up to be. The difference between 1st and even 5th place is usually razor thin, so anything we can do to create separation is a difference-maker.

Brian Sams

DO YOU HAVE ANY COMMENTS ABOUT THE STATE CHAMPIONS?

From the first time I met Olivia and Laken, I knew that if they were willing to put in the work, they would be top level speakers. Olivia was determined to be the best speaker in her category from the start, and she worked towards that goal from the beginning, and she quickly became a State level performer. Laken was more interested in being the funniest speaker and making friends with everyone he met. As he grew as



State speech champions

Laken Hines (left) and Olivia Opheim, members of the Staples-Motley Middle/High School Speech Team, both placed first in their respective categories at the MSHSL Class A State Speech Tournament April 25, in Shakopee. Hines and Opheim, both seniors, were co-captains of the speech team this year. (Submitted photos)

MENT?

The most stressful moments this season was final round at State and awards at State. I had a goal at the start of the season to win State and those moments were where my work would pay off or not.

WAS IT ALWAYS A GOAL TO BE STATE CHAMP?

I have wanted to win State or at least go to State since I joined Speech. I am a super competitive person so winning is a big goal for me.

WHAT DID YOU LOVE MOST ABOUT SPEECH AND HOW HAS IT SHAPED YOU?

What I loved most about Speech is the sense of fam-

ily it gave me. It has shaped me by not only helping my confidence overall but teaching me how to be professional and successful in my work life.

HOW DID IT FEEL TO BE NAMED STATE CHAMP?

If I'm being completely honest it doesn't feel real that I'm State Champion. It's really cool, and I'm super happy and proud of all of my work that I've put in but it's just crazy. I'm super grateful for all of the people that have supported me in this journey.

In Laken's case, it was extremely difficult to add some elements without causing him to go over time, as speakers are penalized for going over the 10-minute limit. However, we were able to make the changes and Laken was prepared enough to be able to make changes on the fly and stay within the 10 minute time limit. His ability to think on his feet is very impressive. Based on the feedback we got from the judges, those changes were critical in his securing the championship.

In Olivia's case, we also added a few lines here and there, mainly more information about her sources, adding credibility to her speech. We also made a decision to add a type of visual element that we had noticed was common in many successful informative speeches. However, the night before the State Tournament, after watching Olivia perform with the new visual element, I was of the opinion that it would potentially detract from her presentation. I felt that I had to follow my instincts, and we decided to cut the element from her presentation. Fortunately, Olivia is a professional and the last minute change did not phase her in the least. Would that element have cost her the state championship? I don't know, to be honest, but I think it would have.

Cardinal boys second at true team section

The Staples-Motley boys team placed second at the 6A True Team Section meet on May 6. Only the top team qualifies for the true team state meet, but second place put them into the running for a wild card spot, but they were not one of the four teams to qualify by their scores.

The girls team placed 11th, pulling up several junior high athletes to ensure competitors in every event.

Both teams had multiple personal best performances, showing continued improvement throughout the year.

The boys had two first place finishers, Avandre Brandt in the long jump and Adrian Gomez in the shot put. Brand also ran his fastest 200 meter race, and the 1,600 meter team was amazingly fast, with Logan Robben and Blaine Plattner hitting their top times.

Noah Larson had his fastest hurdles race. The top relay team for the Cardinals was the 4x200 meter team of Benet Robinson, Josiah Critten, Jesus Gallardo and Alexaner Helstrom, who finished 3rd.

For the girls, the 100 hurdles team of Abby Brichacek and Avery Japke placed well. The top relay team was the 4x100 of Kylee Chenoweth, Corinne Olson, Chadia Schultz and Sophia Luna. Luna also placed 13th in the 200. Annie Schlosser was the top placer for the team in both the shot put and discus. Arianna Grant

led the jumping team with a 12th and 14th place in the long and triple jump.

Boys results

Osakis 936, Staples-Motley 829.5, United Clay-Becker 825.5, Pelican Rapids 783, Ottertail Central 723, Frazee 624, Breckenridge 556, Barnesville 550, Parkers Prairie 545, Bertha-Hewitt/Verndale 466, Wadena-Deer Creek 427, Long Prairie-Grey Eagle 419, Ashby-Brandon-Evansville 288, United North Central 284, Browerville 226, New York Mills 163

100 - 13. Gavin Chenoweth 12.20, 20. Luke Bjerga 12.36

200 - 3. Avandre Brandt 22.65, 14. Benet Robinson 24.81

400 - 6. Brandt 54.18, 10. Dillan Robben 54.90

800 - 5. Logan Robben 2:10, 10. Blaine Plattner 2:18

1,600 - 2. L. Robben 4:50, 7. Plattner 5:03

3,200 - 8. Andrew Dobson 11:47, 14. Ivan Lozano 12:37

110 hurdles - 2. Noah Larson 15.77, 14. Chenoweth 19.24

300 hurdles - 7. Turner Beachy 44.50, 18. D. Robben 51.33

4x100 - 5. SM (Gavin Chenoweth, Jesus Gallardo, Benet Robinson, Luke Bjerga) 46.87

4x200 - 3. SM (Benet Robinson, Josiah Critten, Jesus Gallardo, Alexander Helstrom) 1:37.95

4x400 - 6. SM (Dillan Robben, Jesus Gallardo, Carson Dewald, Logan Robben) 3:53

4x800 - 10. SM (Andrew Dobson, Spencer Olsen, Israel Ritter, Blaine Plattner) 10:20

Shot put - 1. Adrian Gomez 41'8", 7. Drake Dukowitz 38'7"

Discus - 3. Dukowitz 114'10", 9. Dustin Converse 96'5"

High jump - 2. Brandt 6'2", 15. Larson 5'4"

Pole vault - 2. Beachy 13'0", 4. Conner Kuhns 12'0"

Long jump - 1. Brandt 21'10", 11. Sawyer Ferdon 19'3.5"

Triple Jump - 5. Ferdon 41'4", 13. Alexander Helstrom 35'10"

Girls results

Pelican Rapids 825, Frazee 795, Barnesville 757, Osakis 751, Ottertail Central 704, Parkers Prairie 619, United Clay-Becker 606, Wadena-Deer Creek 582, Long Prairie-Grey Eagle 581, Browerville 477, Staples-Motley 458, United North Central 448, Ashby-Brandon-Evansville 383, Bertha-Hewitt/Verndale 345, Breckenridge 141, New York Mills 126

100 - 19. Corinne Olson 13.81, 22. Chadia Schultz 14.22

200 - 13. Sophia Luna 28.12, 26. Kana Reese 30.60

400 - 20. Lucille Maros 1:08, 27. Roxy Mertens 1:13

800 - 19. Naila Mikhaeil 2:52, 22. Aubrey Vogle 2:56

1,600 - 16. N. Mikhaeil 6:10, 21. Elise Trif 6:21

3,200 - 9. Suhaila Mikhaeil 13:20, 21. Maddie Kist 15:38

100 hurdles - 11. Abby Brichacek 19.95, 14. Avery Japke 20.57

300 hurdles - 18. Brichacek 58.99, 21. Japke 60.46

4x100 - 8. SM (Kylee Chenoweth, Corinne Olson, Chadia Schultz, Sophia Luna) 55.71

4x200 - 10. SM (Sophia Luna, Kana Reese, Kylee Chenoweth, Iva Hinson) 2:02

4x400 - 12. SM (Corrine Olson, Naila Mikhaeil, Lucy Maros, Abrey Vogle) 4:57

4x800 - 11. SM (Elise Trif, Maddie Kist, Jadin Linehan, Suhaila Mikhaeil) 12:17

Shot put - 13. Annie Schlosser 28'10.75", 22. Marissa Heifort 24'10.5"

Discus - 11. Schlosser 90'9", 23. Heifort 71'11"

High jump - 20. Maros 4'4", 23. Japke 4'4"

Long jump - 12. Arianna Grant 14'0.5", 26. Onna Schmitz 11'11.25"

Triple jump - 14. Grant 29'10.5", 17. Ronnie Noska 28'10"



Ben Tyrrell



Kris Taylor



Cooper Tappe

Cardinal baserunners going ‘round and ‘round

The Staples-Motley coaches were talking about “keeping the merry-go-round going” as Cardinal-baserunners were circling the bases during games this week. In the three games, the Cardinals scored 31 runs, a 13-11 win at Sauk Centre on May 6 and two wins in a doubleheader against Barnesville on May 8, 7-4 and 11-9.

They got their runs in different ways. They scored in six of the seven innings at Sauk Centre, in the first doubleheader game they got a big lead in the first two innings before holding on for the win. In the second game, they one big seven-run inning to carry them to the win.

Against Sauk Centre, from innings 1-6, the Cardinals scored 2, 3, 1, 2, 3 and 2 runs. Cooper Tappe had 4 hits, 4 runs and 4 RBI. Colbe Tappe had 3 hits, 2 runs and 3 RBI. Kris Taylor had 2 hits and 3 RBI. Elijah Kossan scored 3 runs and Beau Carlson had 2.

Both Tappes and Ben Tyrrell pitched, with Tyrrell getting the win.

In the first Barnesville game, Kossan scored three runs while Colbe Tappe had 3 RBI Jack Carlson had 2 RBI and Cooper Tappe scored twice.

Hayden Rutherford pitched 6 innings, giving up four hits and getting five strikeouts. None of the runs were earned. Cooper Tappe finished the game and threw one strikeout.

In the second Barnesville game, the Cardinals fell behind 4-0, but had a big



Colbe Tappe

7 run third inning to take the lead. They added two in the fifth and one in the seventh. They needed that lead because Barnesville came back with runs in the last two innings.

Colbe Tappe had 2 hits and 3 RBI, Cooper had 3 hits and 2 RBI. Rutherford had two hits and 1 RBI. Tyrrell scored two runs. Silas Claussen and Taylor had 1 run, 1 hit and 1 RBI each.

Fell behind 4-0, big 7 run inning to take the lead, added two in the fifth inning and one more in seventh

They needed the lead because Barnesville came back in the sixth and seventh, but were left two runs short.

Colbe 2 hits, 3 RBI, Cooper 3 hits, 2 RBI Rutherford 2 hits, 1 RBI

Tyrrell 2 runs scored, Silas Claussen and Kris Taylor 1 run, one hit, one RBI.

Jack Carlson was the winning pitcher, going five innings with 3 strikeouts. Cooper Tappe pitched the last two innings and had four strikeouts.

Minnesota issues Red Flag Warning for fire danger

The National Weather Service has issued a Red Flag Warning for 80 counties in Minnesota effective today, May 12, due to extreme fire risk conditions.

Affected counties include Aitkin, Anoka, Becker, Beltrami, Benton, Big Stone, Blue Earth, Brown, Carlton, Carver, Cass, Chippewa, Chisago, Clay, Clearwater, Cook, Cottonwood, Crow Wing, Dakota, Douglas,

Faribault, Freeborn, Goodhue, Grant, Hennepin, Hubbard, Isanti, Itasca, Jackson, Kanabec, Kandiyohi, Kittson, Koochiching, Lac Qui Parle, Lake, Lake of the Woods, Le Sueur, Lincoln, Lyon, Mahnomen, Marshall, Martin, McLeod, Meeker, Mille Lacs, Morrison, Murray, Nicollet, Nobles, Norman, Otter Tail, Pennington, Pine, Pipestone, Polk, Pope, Ramsey,

Red Lake, Redwood, Renneville, Rice, Rock, Roseau, St. Louis, Scott, Sherburne, Sibley, Stearns, Steele, Stevens, Swift, Todd, Traverse, Wadena, Waseca, Washington, Watonwan, Wilkin, Wright, and Yellow Medicine.

A Red Flag Warning means fires can spread quickly and grow out of control under current and predicted weather conditions,

including gusty winds and low relative humidity. Residents should not burn in counties where a Red Flag Warning is in effect and should check any recent burning they might have done to ensure the fire is completely out. The DNR will not issue or activate open burning permits for large vegetative debris burning during the Red Flag Warning, and campfires are discouraged.

“When fire risk is this high, any spark could become a wildfire,” said Karen Harrison, DNR wildfire prevention specialist. “People should use extreme caution until conditions improve.”

Red Flag Warnings are evolving situations. Visit the National Weather Service for more information and updates.

For more information and daily updates on current fire risk and open burning restrictions, visit the statewide fire danger and burning restrictions page of the DNR website. To receive text updates on current wildfire risk and open burning restrictions in Minnesota text “FIRE” to 66468.



Continuing Growth: LHS and Staples Eye Clinic expanding rural healthcare

The Plaza in Staples, current home to Longbella Drug by Lakewood and Twin Cities Orthopedics – Staples Therapy, will soon welcome a new tenant: Staples Eye Clinic. Drs. Seth Dokken and Jesse Fenstermacher, along with their team, will spend the rest of this year building out their new space in hopes of officially opening in early 2026.

According to Dr. Dokken, “Due to continued community support, we have outgrown our current building and The Plaza offers us double the space in a great location. Lakewood has been a valued partner of ours for 15 years, and we look forward to continuing to provide high quality eye care to our community in a state-of-the-art facility.”

“Lakewood believes strong communities are built on strong, independent healthcare,” said Lakewood President and CEO, Lisa Bjerga. “Our investment in partnerships like that with Staples Eye Clinic reflects our commitment to keeping care local, personal and responsive to the needs of our patients and community. We’re proud to continue building a future where exceptional care is provided right here at home.”

At this time, there are no changes for Staples Eye Clinic patients. As things progress and the move gets closer, Staples Eye Clinic will share details with their clients and the community to ensure a successful transition to the new space.



View from the banks of the Crow Wing River

Searching for the perfect fishing spot on the Crow Wing River on fishing opener May 10. (Staples World photo by Janice Winter)



Bike helmet obstacle course

Six-year-old Corbin Yourczek of Royalton heads for the finish line during a race with the mayor. (Staples World photos by Dawn Timbs)

THREAT continued from page 1a

Terrorist threat charges coming

9:17 p.m. and transported him to Todd County Jail. Paskewitz is being charged with terroristic threats and disorderly conduct.

Staples Police Chief Melissa Larson said “I am incredibly proud of the response to the incident by the Staples Police Department. Law enforcement had an excellent coordinated response and worked to resolve the threat in a timely and safe manner.”



If you or a Veteran in your life is struggling, we’re here for you. In its mission to support Minnesota Veterans, their families, loved ones and survivors, the Minnesota Department of Veterans Affairs offers a broad range of mental health and suicide prevention resources. Together, we can end Veteran suicide in our state.



Scan to learn more or visit
MinnesotaVeteran.org/EndVetSuicide



Firefighter and family

Staples Firefighter Todd Hoemberg, his wife Heather and daughter Amelia, participated at the Bike Safety & Helmet Fitting Event May 6, at Essentia Health’s clinic in Staples. Todd Hoemberg, a 24-year member of the Staples Fire Department, offered tours of the fire truck at the event. (Staples World photo by Dawn Timbs)



Volunteers at Essentia Health’s bike safety event

Employees of Essentia Health and members of the Staples Chamber of Commerce participated at the Bike Safety & Helmet Fitting Event held May 6, at the Essentia Health St. Joseph’s - Staples Clinic. Pictured from left, back row: Essentia Health employees Dennis Plautz, Jennifer Holder, Taylor Comstock, Nate Hamilton, Bonnie Garding, Steve Palmer, Paul Augustinack,

Chris Metz, MD; and Staples Chamber of Commerce President Zoe Zuhlsdorf. Front row: Delaney Kennedy, Lynn Egan, Tracey Brixius, Alison Augustinack, Melissa McKay, with Essentia; Margo Corona, Staples Chamber member; and Sandy Zutz-Wiczek, Essentia employee. (Staples World photo by Dawn Timbs)