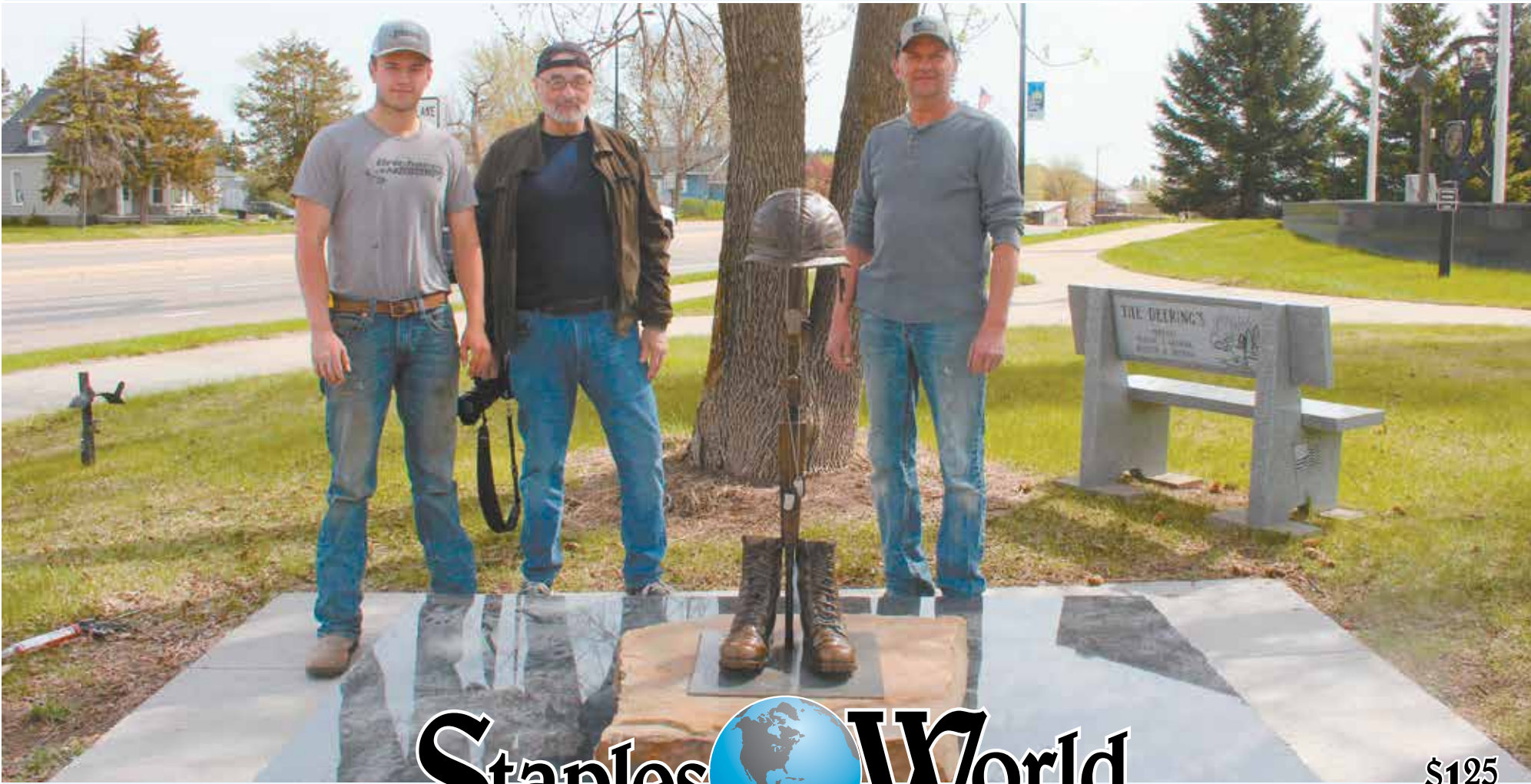


Inside this issue:

Staples-Motley holds first Day of Caring
Morrison County history exhibit
Poplar Ladies Birthday Club turns 100
Tappe hits two home runs, pitches shutout



Wednesday, May 20, 2026

Staples World

Staples, Minnesota

\$1²⁵

Ready for Memorial Day

The Vietnam Battlefield Cross bronze sculpture was recently installed at Veterans Park in Staples. Pictured, from left, Owen Brichacek of Brichacek Masonry; Vietnam Veteran Ken Klose of Staples; and Eric Brichacek of Brichacek Masonry Browerville. (Staples World photo by Dawn Timbs)



Masonry work at Veterans Park

Father and son duo Eric Brichacek and Owen Brichacek were busy doing masonry work at Veterans Park in Staples recently, installing granite on the base of the POW/MIA and the Purple Heart Memorial. (Staples World photo by Dawn Timbs)

Class of 2026 stays connected through extracurricular activities

By Mark Anderson
Publisher

The Staples-Motley Class of 2026 is spread out along multiple educational and career paths, with students doing their own thing every day. They found it took hard work to be successful academically. As a class, they stick together by meeting up at extracurricular activities and supporting their classmates in other activities.

Four top students, Riley Reese, Pam Lawrence, Annie Schlosser and Audrey Brownell talked about the story of the Class of 2026. Schlosser and Reese will be speakers at the SMHS graduation.

Reese said he's thankful for the opportunity to take college classes while in high school. A large number of students take college level classes and many are receiving their AA degree for completing the first two years of college.

"The school has been very helpful in being flexible with PSEO and online classes," said Reese.

Besides being top academic students, the four seniors also participated in multiple extracurricular activities at Staples-Motley.



Pam Lawrence



Riley Reese



Annie Schlosser



Audrey Brownell

"We are a very competitive class, we took school spirit things very seriously," said Schlosser. "When it came to things like tug of war or lip sync, we went all out."

Brownell said being in activities helps with excelling in school.

"They both make me

stronger," said Brownell. "Athletics taught me dedication and hard work, which showed up in my academics."

Lawrence said being busy helped her stay organized and balance her time.

"There were times

See **GRADUATES** on page 12a

Weather

2026

This Week's Forecast

	High	Low	Cond.
May 20	64	42	Sunny
May 21	69	48	M. Sunny
May 22	65	48	Cloudy
May 23	64	50	Showers
May 24	75	56	Showers
May 25	81	58	P. Cloudy
May 26	83	56	M. Sunny

Last Year, 2025

	High	Low	Cond.
May 20	43°	40	Rain
May 21	45	39	Rain
May 22	65	40	Sunny
May 23	64	38	Sunny
May 24	66	43	M. Sunny
May 25	70	45	Sunny
May 26	71	43	M. Sunny

Average Temps:
H = 71° Low = 48°

*Compiled by
Dale Hausmann,
WCCO's Staples area
Weatherwatcher*

Public Notices

City of Motley 9A
ISD #2170
9A, 10A
Staples Township
9A
Todd Planning
9A

Obituaries

William Goff
Steven Hoernberg
Linette Horn
Teresa Jutz

Memorial Day events in Staples, Motley

Several Memorial Day events will be held on Monday, May 25, in the Staples and Motley area.

Staples

The Staples service will be held at the All Veterans Park located at 820 Hwy 10 at 10 a.m. Bring your lawn chairs. In case of rain, the event will be held at Faith Lutheran Church.

Huck Holst will serve as emcee, Staples-Motley High School girls will sing the National Anthem, Pastor Jim Johnson will give the invocation, and Hospital Corpsman Andrew Schmidt will be the guest speaker. A 21-gun salute, followed by Taps, will be conducted by the Motley American Legion Color Guard. Staples Dairy Queen will be providing Dilly Bars.

Hospital Corpsman Schmidt enlisted in the U.S. Navy in January, 1976. Boot camp was in Orlando, Fla., followed by Hospital Corps

School at San Diego, Calif. He took a couple of weeks off to fly home to marry his sweetheart Nancy before heading to Field Service School at Camp Pendleton, Calif. He spent 1977 in Okinawa, Japan with the 3rd Force Services Support Group while Nancy was in Minnesota. He then returned to 1st Marine Division at Camp Pendleton until being discharged in February, 1980.

As part of the service in Staples, the following veterans who have passed away during the past year will be honored: Richard Allen, U.S. Army, PPC; Garry Carpenter, U.S. Marine Corps; Charlie Crews, U.S. Navy; Gary DeWald, U.S. Navy; Steven Dille, U.S. Air Force; Robert Dvorak, U.S. Air Force; Rod Enberg, U.S. Army Airborne; Vic Flansburg, U.S. Coast Guard; Robert Follis, U.S. Army; James Holub,

See **MEMORIAL** on page 12a



Guest speaker

Hospital Corpsman Andrew Schmidt will be the guest speaker at the Memorial Day Service in Staples.

Poplar Ladies Birthday Club is 100 years old

Celebration will be held Memorial Day, at Leader Community Hall

By Dawn Timbs
Staples World reporter

For the past 100 years, the Poplar Ladies Birthday Club has served not only as a social outlet for women in Poplar Township, but as a service organization whose motto is to “Help One Another.”

The group officially began on March 18, 1926. They held their first meeting at the home of Imogene Johnson, “for the purpose of organizing a social club or society,” according to minutes from that meeting. During the course of the afternoon, nominations were held, with Minnie Hubbard chosen to act as the club’s president for the year, and Julia Goodall as its secretary/treasurer.

The minutes go on to note that “the club decided their regular meeting day was to be on the third Thursday of the month. Since April was favored with four of our ladies’ birthdays, we decided we would have a special meeting in April, besides our regular meeting on the 15th.” Ultimately, the group decided to call themselves “The Ladies Birthday Club.”

Membership dues were set at 25 cents per year in 1926, with an additional fee of 10 cents per capita for each member’s birthday. “No charge is made for your own birthday,” as was noted in the minutes. After the business portion of that initial meeting, “a bountiful lunch was served,” and at the request of Mrs. Chas McGwin, the ladies sang as their closing number,



Earlier days

Pictured above, in a photo from 1942, are early members of the Poplar Birthday Club. Many familiar names were written below the photo, including Chapin, Granby, Johnson and Dumpprope. Many archive photos,

‘Onward Christian Soldiers.’

There were 16 charter members of the Poplar Ladies Birthday Club: Minnie Sowers, Lennie Chapin, Gertrude Johnson, Dorothy Dahle, Pearl Sowers, Vivian Matthews, Elizabeth (Lizzie) Boyer, Pauline Matthews, Florence DeWald, Jennie Johnson, Imogene Johnson, Effie McGwin, Minnie Hubbard, Mrs. Chas McGwin, Mayme Chapin and Julia Goodall.

At the second meeting, three new members were added: Grace Johnson, Bertha Howe and Mrs. George Towne. Gladys Granby was initiated at the third meeting; Jane Mat-

thews and Bessie Dittmer at the fourth; Stella Collison at the fifth; and Susie DeWald by the end of the first year bringing the membership to 24.

In addition to the club’s motto, “Help One Another,” the ladies chose as their club song, “Help Somebody Today.”

Some of the activities held that first year included a wiener roast, starting a traveling library, making quilts and decorating the graves at the Poplar Cemetery.

In March of 1930, maintenance of the Poplar Cemetery was made the Club Mission, and the first cemetery committee was elected.

scrapbooks and journal entries will be on display at the Birthday Club’s 100 years celebration, which will be held at Leader Community Hall following the Memorial Day program at Poplar Cemetery at 1 p.m.

Money collected from bake sales and quilt sales was used to support the Poplar Cemetery upkeep, as well as monetary allotments from the township.

In 1933, the stone pillars at the cemetery gateway were made by Ole Granby and the overhead arch and letters by Orel and Cecil Nichols. That year also marked the start of the ladies planning the programs for ‘Decoration Day.’ In 1934, they added the unique feature of children scattering flowers over the grave of the Unknown Soldier. According to club minutes, this was started at the suggestion of Carl Granby Sr. and is a tradition which

continues today.

A century’s worth of minutes, along with photos and scrapbooks, document the many ways the Poplar Ladies Birthday Club has helped maintain the cemetery, including obtaining markers for all unmarked lots, a decision made in 1935. Along the way, the club’s efforts have been supported by the Poplar Town Board and community members who’ve helped with fund-raising efforts for various projects, including erecting a tool shed, drilling a well, and installing a monument with the names of local service men who gave their lives during World War II.

Although care of the

cemetery was relinquished to the Poplar Town Board in 1984 (the township has funded and managed the upkeep since that time), the Birthday Club continues to make an annual monetary donation for its upkeep. Club members also participate in spring and fall clean up efforts, and ensure all graves have a marker.

Since 1926, the membership has totaled 141 ladies, with 40 having 20 years of membership or more, 13 with 50 years or more, and eight with 60 years or more. The longest standing member has been Iras Chapin with 81 years, followed by Rosa Johnson with 80 years, Mabel Wetherell with 69 years and Eileen Granby, 65 years. Currently, the longest living member is Gay Swecker with 64 years.

Since 1939, as noted in the minutes, the Motley American Legion has been participating in the Memorial Day program at Poplar Cemetery. They will be there again this year, providing the Color Guard and Firing Squad.

Celebration on Memorial Day

The Poplar Ladies Birthday Club will hold its 100 year celebration on Memorial Day, May 25, 2026, at the Leader Community Hall following the 1 p.m. service at Poplar Cemetery.

All are welcome to stop by and view the memorabilia on display, and share a bite to eat and memories while visiting with friends and neighbors.

We are OPEN

through all of the road construction happening with 4th St. NE this summer.

STAPLES AUTO LICENSE BUREAU, INC.



219 4th St. NE

Staples

Hours: Mon.-Fri., 8:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m.



Planning their club’s birthday party

The Poplar Ladies Birthday Club has been busy planning for their 100 years celebration which will be held on Memorial Day, at Leader Community Hall, following the 1 p.m. service at Poplar Cemetery. Pictured at BRICKS Restaurant in Motley this past March, from left, are club

members Deb Shake, Bev Hoemberg, Julie Granby, Linda Johnson, Janine Wells, Susie Bartels, Vickie Granby, Gay Swecker, Bernice Thomson, Hope Johnson, Shirley Feakes. (Staples World photo by Dawn Timbs)

JOIN US

Live Well

A CELEBRATION OF AGING



Central Lakes College: Staples Campus

1830 Airport Rd, Staples

Thursday, May 21

8 a.m. - 1:30 p.m.

Tickets only \$15

Tickets can be purchased at:
shorturl.at/NT3L7
Or by calling 218-894-8579

With outstanding speakers and dozens of local vendors, this event brings older adults together for a day of education and fun.



Julie Stern | Iten Funeral Home

Join us for a conversation on prepaid funeral planning—helping seniors reduce stress and plan confidently.



Mitch Fritz, PsyD, LP | Psychologist

Explore how sleep changes with aging and learn practical ways seniors can improve rest and overall health.



Adrianne Moen, MD | Family Medicine Physician

Learn how to stay strong and steady as you age with Dr. Moen and members of Twin Cities Orthopedics.

If registrations are received before May 15th, a lunch is included with your purchase. If registrations are received on or after May 15th, a lunch is not guaranteed.

Todd Cty. court report

MAY 13 Long Prairie Police
Leigha Ann Janey, Swanville. Wireless communication device. Fine \$50. Fee \$85.
Antonio J. Terrero Medina, Long Prairie. Driving after revocation. Fine \$200. Fee \$85. Expired registration. Fine \$30.
Alejandro Moreno Davalos, Long Prairie. Expired registration. Fine \$30. Fee \$85.
MN Dept. Natural Resources
Jared Carl Hudalla, Oak Grove. OHV-owner allow unlawful operation. Fine \$100. Fee \$85.
MN State Patrol
Nana Kwame Addo Kwatia, Bronx, NY. Speed 85/70. Fine \$60. Fee \$85.
Erik Aguilar Ruiz, Minneapolis. No MN Drivers License. Fine \$100. Fee \$85.
Jack Joseph Anderson, Brainerd. Expired registration. Fine \$30. Fee \$85.
Muhamad Salahaldeen Avdil, Fargo, ND. Speed 80/70. Fine \$40. Fee \$85.
Michael Robert Berg, Menomonie, WI. Speed 82/70. Fine \$50. Fee \$85.
Miles Spencer Dunmire, Berlin, WI. Seat belt required. Fine \$25. Fee \$85.
Sally Jo Dunn, Lagrange, KY. Speed 80/70. Fine \$40. Fee \$85.
Hassan Mohamed Farah, St. Cloud. Hands free law. Fine \$50. Fee \$75.
Jonathan Gomez, Weslaco, TX. Speed 90/70. Fine \$70. Fee \$155.
Kylar Marie Hermeyer, Dixon, IL. Speed 85/70. Fine \$60. Fee \$85.
Shane Richard Johnson, Mora. Speed 79/70. Fine \$40. Fee \$85.
Lillian Marie Koenig, Zimmerman. Window restrictions. Fine \$50. Fee \$85.
Cameron Jacob Line, Browerville. Speed 70/60. Fine \$40. Fee \$85.
Paul H. McCann, Elmhurst, IL. Speed 84/70. Fine \$50. Fee \$85.
Jordan Riley Owen, Minneapolis. Speed 80/70. Fine \$40. Fee \$85.
Robert Rickard, Phoenix, AZ. Speed 70/60. Fine \$40. Fee \$75.
Allison Ann White, Rosemount. Window tint. Fine \$50. Fee \$85.
Todd County
Daniel Lee Bachner, Browerville. Speed 78/60. Fine \$60. Fee \$85.
Laura Jean St. Onge Block, Little Falls. Failure to obtain burning permit. Fine \$50. Fee \$85.
Jackie Lynne Bruder, Browerville. Driving after suspension. Fine \$200. Fee \$45.
Nickel Derinord, Long Prairie. Speed 79/60. Fine \$60. Fee \$85.

Skye Lynn Larson, Staples. Speed 65/55. Fine \$40. Fee \$85.
Juan Paramo Raya, Long Prairie. Driving without a valid license for vehicle class or type. Fine \$100. Fee \$85.
David Emmanuel Pascual Luciano, Long Prairie. Speed 69/60. Fine \$40. Fee \$85.
Benito Ramirez Acevedo, Long Prairie. Speed 75/55. Fine \$70. Fee \$155.
Edwin Reyes Ocasio, Long Prairie. Expired registration. Fine \$30. Fee \$85.
Apryl Louise Wolpert, Motley. Driving after revocation. Fine \$200. Fee \$85.

The following cases were heard before Judge Heidi L. Hovis Seventh District Court in Todd County May 4, 2026.
Daniel John Goranson, Hewitt. Theft of motor fuel from retailer. Sentenced. Court is vacating the order for restitution in the amount of \$25.00 that was imposed on 12/29/25 based on the untimely filing of restitution.
Armson Milord, Long Prairie. DWI-4th degree driving while impaired. Dismissed. Careless driving. Sentenced. Local confinement (90 days credit for time served: 90 days). Fine \$300. Fee \$75.
Raul Perez Ortiz, Long Prairie. Driver fails to stop for STOP Sign. Sentenced. Local confinement (90 days, stay 90 days for 1 yr). Unsupervised probation, 1 yr. Fine \$50. Fee \$75. Wireless communication device. Dismissed.

The following cases were heard before Judge Heidi L. Hovis Seventh District Court in Todd County May 5, 2026.
Christina Marie Burnside, Long Prairie. Driving after revocation. Continued. Unsupervised probation, 1 yr. Fine \$50.
The following cases were heard before Judge Heidi L. Hovis Seventh District Court in Todd County May 6, 2026.
Victor Cesar Rosario Diaz, Glenwood. 3rd Degree DWI-refuse to submit to chemical test; breath or test refusal or failure. Sentenced. Local confinement (364 days, stay 0 yr 0 mo 362 days for 4 yr credit for time served: 2 days). Supervised probation, 4 yr. Fine \$500. Fee \$105.
The following cases were heard before Judge Heidi L. Hovis Seventh District Court in Todd County April 30, 2026.
Fredrick Lamont Hardy, Long Prairie. Speed 72/55. Sentenced. Fine \$60. Fee \$75. No proof of insurance. Dismissed.

75 YEARS Ago - 1951

• May 17, 1951 - On Saturday, May 12, Emma Sundstrom of Brainerd opened what is known as the Dav-enport Cafe, now known as “Emma’s Cafe.” Mrs. Sundstrom has been in cafe business for several years, having worked in Grand Rapids, St. Cloud, and was also employed in the St. Charles Hotel in Staples for some time.
Mrs. Sundstrom solicits your patronage and will be glad to meet the people of this community.
• May 17, 1951 - For Sale. 40 acres. 5 room house, barn, coop, electricity, amt., \$2,000, \$500 down; 160 acre farm, buildings, electricity, \$3,500. Only \$1,000 down. E. W. Beeson, Staples.
• May 17, 1951 - Linda

- O -
Compiled by
Dawn Timbs
- O -

Riedel was appointed Editor-in-chief of the Kardinal Kronicle for next year at their annual banquet held in the Congregational Church dining room, May 10.

• May 17, 1951 - Three State Farmers from Staples is the result of the annual FFA meeting at the University of Minnesota the first of this week. They are Laurence Geiger, District 2 president; Lloyd Sapp, and Marcus Anderson.

50 YEARS Ago - 1976

• May 13, 1976 - The Staples Distributive Education Club of America (DECA) have donated to the Mary Rondorf Home a Stereo, AM, FM with a 8-track tape player, along with four speakers. Sister Mary Bernard accepted the donation from Rita Adamietz, President of the Staples DECA Club for the school year 1974-75.
• May 13, 1976 - Odden Construction, Inc., Route 2, Staples, Minn. For all Your Building and Construction Needs: Residential, Commercial, Pole Barns, Remodeling. Call Fred Fleischer, Rick Odden, Troy Odden, John Odden.
• May 13, 1976 - A grass fire at the Floyd Gould residence, located northwest of Staples, required the services of the Staples Fire Department about 9:50 a.m. Friday, May 7. No damage resulted, Leo Fahnlander, fire chief, reported.
• May 13, 1976 - The Casual Look is Here! A casual suit with a fancy shirt will put you right in the fashion parade - and in comfortable washable fab-

Looking back



Mystery photo

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

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

rics from: Munsingwear, Tobias, Wright, and dj’s label. Shirts to coordinate from Aarow - Career Club & Munsingwear. Shop early for Father’s Day, June 20, at dj’s Men’s Wear, Staples.

• May 13, 1976 - Jane Olander and Dan Haglin of the Staples Chapter of the Future Farmers of America were recipients of the State Farmer Degree April 26 at the State FFA banquet held in the St. Paul Civic Center.

The State Farmer Degree is presented annually to those who have received the Chapter Farmer Degree, have at least earned \$500 on his own farming program and have shown outstanding leadership and FFA participation.

• May 13, 1976 - Mac Dahl, son of Mrs. Maude Dahl of Staples, is in line for the top spot in the Minnesota State Coaches Association.

He was elected to a vice-president’s post during the association’s annual meeting in the Twin Cities in March. He’ll serve in that role until taking over as president in 1978.

A star athlete at Staples high school, where he graduated in 1946, Dahl has 24 years in coaching. He coached at Madison, Lake Forest Academy in Illinois and at Bagley before assuming the head football and golf coaching spot at LaCrescent during the 1965-66 season.

Dahl’s 1972 football team was Root River Conference champions, while the 1973-75 teams were close runners-up to powerful Caledonia. His golf teams have claimed three conference and two district championships in the past six seasons.

• May 13, 1976 - Baccalaureate services for the Class of 1976 at Motley High school will be held Sunday, May 16, at 8 p.m. in the high school auditorium. The service is under the sponsorship of the Motley Amer-

ican Legion Post 124.

The program includes: Processional and Recessional, Lesley Jones; Invocation, Benediction and Baccalaureate Address, Rev. Sylvester L. Gall; “Jubilate Deo” sung by the Sr. High Choir. Serving as ushers will be Gary Blake, Neil Zetah, James Thompson, Jody Boedigheimer, Lori Underhill and Joan Germann.

• May 13, 1976 - The Women’s Bowling Team, sponsored by Longbella Drug, emerged as the champions of the Monday Twilight League at Hi-Way Lanes for the 1975-76 season.

Sunshine Warehouse captured the first half of bowling play and Longbella Drug won the second half. Members of the title winning team are Marilyn Holst, Carolyn Henkel, Esther Giza, Donna Miller and Jennelle Shriver.

25 YEARS Ago - 2001

• May 17, 2001 - The Cardinal girls golf team last week claimed a first place trophy at one meet, took second at another and settled for fourth place at the Bemidji Invitational. They won the Crosby-Ironton Invitational on May 9 and finished second at the Roseau Invitational on May 12.

Two Cardinals turned in the lowest scores to lead the Staples Motley girls to the team championship May 9, at the Crosby-Ironton Ranger Invitational at the Cuyuna Country Club.

Mary Hasselberg shot an 82 and Melanie Wilson came in second with an 86 for the two lowest scores on a beautiful spring day at the Cuyuna.

The Cardinals had a team score of 374, which included Hasselberg and Wilson, plus a 98 for Alisha Forsberg and a 108 score for Kelly Koenig. Rachel Sauer shot a 108 as well.

• May 17, 2001 - The Staples Motley baseball team had a great week last week,

first sweeping a conference double header, then capping the week by throwing a no-hitter.

Coach Doug Shequen said the keys to the team’s winning have been very good pitching, combined with good defense in the field and hitting the ball well at times.

• May 17, 2001 - The Cardinal boys track team last week finished fourth in the sectional true team meet and tied for first at the C-I Invitational at Crosby.

Seniors Tony Johnson, Jason Tholl and Jeff Brevier each finished second to lead the Cards in individual events. Johnson ran a 51.19 time in the 400, Tholl ran the 800 in 2:04.47 and Brevier’s time of 9:55.4 was second best in the 3200.

• May 17, 2001 - Open House 80th Birthday Celebration for Olga Shake. Saturday, May 19, 2 - 5 p.m., Leader Hall.

10 YEARS Ago - 2016

• May 19, 2016 - Jerry Riewer of Staples has taught driver’s ed in Staples for over 50 years. During that time he has worked with hundreds of students, many from the same family. A photo in the Staples World featured Riewer with three generations who all studied with him. They included Jenn (Motl) Sowers, 1991; Tim Sowers, 2016; and Kathryn (Goligowski) Motl, 1968.

• May 19, 2016 - United by music, but forging their own path, Jenessa Iversen and Anna Koopmann are the valedictorian and salutatorian of the Staples Motley High School Class of 2016. They will each be giving speeches at the graduation ceremony on May 27.

As the daughters of two of the school’s music teachers, the two students took literally every music opportunity available to them at the high school.

Todd Cty Sheriff’s report

Recent reports from the Todd County Sheriff’s Office (TCSO) included:
May 7, 2026: Approx. 6:21 p.m., TCSO received a 911 call regarding an ATV accident at 32695 Hwy 71, rural Browerville. A juvenile was riding her bicycle when she was hit head-on

by the side by side, driven by her brother. Injuries to her face were reported. Browerville Ambulance and Browerville Fire Dept were dispatched to the scene. The victim was transported from the scene by ambulance.



Mystery solved

Last week’s mystery photo published in the May 10, 2001 edition of the Staples World featured the ground breaking for the new TMaxwell’s super club on the east edge of Staples, with the owners and city officials taking part. From left, Jerel Nelsen, the city’s economic development specialist; Sue Jenkins, Tristan Maxwell Jenkins, Kevin Jenkins, Laurie Hopkins, Tim Hopkins and Mayor Mike Goff, all tossing the ground breaking first shovels of dirt. According to the cutline, “The land on the former Ellen Batcher property has been cleared and construction of the building is expected to start late this month.”

Bev Nelsen of Staples said, “Well, I don’t recognize the man on the left, but moving from there are Sue, Kevin, Tristan Jenkins; Laurie and Tim Hopkins and finally, Mayor Mike Goff. The man on the left helped me with the Hopkins.”

Tristan Jenkins of Staples, with the help of his parents, correctly identified all in the photo. He noted that he was six years old at the time of the photo, and shared that the supper club, TMaxwell’s, had been named after him.

Russ Jordan of Staples correctly identified all except for Tim and Laurie Hopkins. Thanks for participating in our mystery photo.

StaplesWorld

Staples World newspaper advertising and copy DEADLINE is Wednesday, May 20 by 4 p.m. for the May 27 issue (Memorial Day Week)

Classifieds: office@staplesworld.com
Copy: editor@staplesworld.com
207 4th St. NE, Staples, MN 56479 218-894-1112

Early Deadline week

Wildlife offers day-starter therapy

If someone tells you these are not emotionally challenging times, you might suspect they're not paying attention to the world around them. Not that we should emulate Chicken Little, and convince ourselves that the sky is falling. But between such things as violent conflict around the world, political polarization of a scope many of us have never before seen, anxiety over where artificial intelligence is leading us, and everyday economic uncertainties—to name but a few—optimism can be hard to come by.

A part from having the discipline to not dwell only on the woeful, there are ways to find uplift in everyday beauty and wonder around us. We shouldn't bury our heads in the sand and pretend that everything is rosy. Nor should we ignore opportunity to play even a small role in making the world a better place. But we need to maintain mental equilibrium in order to remain positive and functioning, notwithstanding the chaos and dysfunction in so many places.

For some, one answer is found in regular contact with Nature. For me, it's brief therapy sessions to start the day, whenever I can make that happen. It helps if you're an early riser, something that comes naturally to many who fish and hunt. Like meditation, it also helps if there are no other distractions, so being the only member of the household up and about is a plus. Unless it's group therapy, with someone who shares this habit.

The routine begins with brewing a pot of coffee, filling a mug, and stepping out on the deck into the morning chill. I open the Merlin bird app on my smartphone, and both I and the phone app begin listening. It's likely that I have also brought along our Audubon Field Guide to North American Birds, Eastern Region. Some habits die hard.

One by one, narrow bars on the phone light up, revealing both the name of a bird that the app thinks it has heard, with a tiny image of it. This smartphone app was created by the Cornell Laboratory of Ornithology, and supposedly can identi-

fy by call or song some 2,000 birds.

I'm a fairly good seat-of-the-pants birder, and know by sight or by sound a great many songbirds, raptors, waterfowl, and members of other bird families. But it's common for the Merlin app to display the name and image of a host of birds that have not registered with my admittedly imperfect hearing. Some are birds I'm quite confident I have never identified by sight, so I find myself second-guessing the technology, something probably not uncommon for people of my baby boom generation. Still, the Cornell Lab is much respected, so I usually give Merlin the benefit of the doubt.

Time to duck back in for a coffee refill. Back outside, I find myself wondering about the use that serious birders might make of the Merlin app. By "serious" I mean those who keep a life list, and add a new species as they encounter it. (If you want to get an entertaining glimpse into this world, look up the movie *The Big Year*, starring Jack Black, Owen Wilson, Steve Martin, and others you'll certainly recognize.)

In this birding world, it supposedly counts toward your life list if you hear a bird that you don't see, and are certain of it. It would be easy to add every bird that Merlin informs me has been heard by the app, maybe even fudging whether I actually heard its voice. But I don't actually keep a life list, as fascinating as I find birds to be. And, as much to the point, a little Jiminy Cricket-like voice inside my head warns me that this could become a slippery slope.

Here on the deck, I watch a pair of common mergansers in circular courtship flight over the lake. When they approach land they sometimes angle up toward the top of a huge Norway pine. Sometimes it is just a momentary deviation in their orbital flight, other times a landing in the pine, where there is likely a hollowed out cavity made by a woodpecker—probably a huge pileated—a cavity large enough to accommodate the hen. Just how a diving duck that is more loon-like than any other common waterfowl can land in, and nest in, a tree seems to defy comprehension.

The hummingbirds are back. Just in time I've retrieved our blown-glass feeder and filled it with the Google-prescribed 4-to-1 ratio of water to sugar, and hung it from a steel shepherd's crook under a river

birch tree. The neighbors on either side also have hummingbird feeders, but no sheltering cover nearby, so when the hummers are done feeding and looking for a perch to land on, it's here. More viewing pleasure for us.

Already the hummers are courting, displaying the unique ritual in which a male's flight describes a perfect semi-circle, back and forth like the pendulum of a grandfather clock that has gained too much momentum. Its purpose is to make a territorial claim, and to impress any female observing nearby. Due to a very high metabolism that requires constant refueling, both sexes are highly competitive when it comes to nectar-rich flowers or feeders, and will do their best to drive off interlopers. This competitiveness is something that humans with our instinctive impulse to share have to get used to.

This early morning deck time is likely to include a bald eagle cruising the shoreline in search of fish brought in by an onshore wind. Lumbering herons, too, making "milk runs" between their nesting rookery in a nearby stand of mature Norway and white pines, and feeding sites at the lake's shallow end, and nearby wetlands.

Besides the rush of early morning bird activity, there are the ever-present squirrels; both Eastern gray squirrels—with some melanistic black versions—and red squirrels. They impress and amuse with their leaping limb-to-limb acrobatics that remind you of aerial trapeze artists, and spiral chases around tree trunks. The red squirrels are most inclined to dig up the soil and flowers in my wife's pots, so are the least welcome.

Cottontail rabbits every once in a while show up, but typically spook and flee at the slightest movement from me, as non-threatening as my raising a mug of coffee to my lips would seem. If I forget to periodically spray rabbit and deer repellent on their favorite menu items—hostas, in particular—we're likely to find that one or more has been pruned overnight.

The rest of the day might hold its worries and tribulations. But for me this morning ritual and the creatures that populate it set a peaceful and positive tone. They're a reminder that there are other dimensions of life besides those that stress and confound us.

By Frank Odell

There comes a moment in every life when the knees wobble, the voice cracks, and pride—once standing tall like a stubborn oak—suddenly feels more like a folding chair at a church potluck. It is in that moment, whether we like it or not, that we discover a simple truth: we were never meant to carry everything alone. "Lean on me." Three small words. Not flashy. Not complicated. No Latin roots or theological footnotes. Just plain, sturdy language—like a good pair of boots. Yet those words carry the weight of mountains and the warmth of a thousand campfires. Because to lean is to trust. And to be leaned on...well, that's a responsibility that ought to make us stand a little straighter.

Now let's be honest—most of us don't like leaning. We'd rather strain, struggle, and sweat before asking for help. We treat independence like it's a gold medal event: Who can suffer the longest without asking for assistance? Congratulations, sir—you've just won the "I Should've Asked for Help Three Weeks Ago" award. There's no parade. Just a sore back and a bruised ego. But life has a way of humbling us. It doesn't knock politely—it kicks the door in, rearranges the furniture, and leaves you wondering how everything went sideways so fast. A diagnosis appears. A relationship cracks. And suddenly, the weight you

thought you could carry feels like you're hauling a piano uphill...in flip-flops...during a snowstorm. That's when someone steps in. Maybe not with a grand speech or dramatic entrance, but with something far more powerful: presence. They sit beside you. They listen. They help you carry what you couldn't lift alone. And in that quiet moment, you realize—you didn't fall apart...because someone helped hold you together.

Helping others isn't about heroics; it's about availability. It's not about being Superman—it's about being someone. Someone who answers the phone. Someone who shows up. Someone who says, "I've got you," and actually means it. There's something deeply human about helping others. It reminds us that we are connected—not by convenience, but by necessity. We need each other. Not occasionally. Not optionally. But constantly. Like air. Like water. Like coffee on a Monday morning. And here's the beautiful irony: when you help someone else carry their burden, yours somehow feels lighter too. Science might call it endorphins; I call it divine design. You step into someone else's storm, and somehow your own clouds begin to part. You offer strength, and you receive it in return. It's a holy exchange—one that doesn't show up on a bank statement but pays richer dividends than anything Wall Street has ever imagined.

So what does it mean to truly "lean on me"? It means offering your strength when someone else is weak. It means lending your hope when theirs is running low. It means standing in the gap, not because you have to, but because you choose to. And it also means being willing to lean yourself. That might be the hardest part. Admitting you need help. Setting aside pride. Allowing someone else to carry you for a while. But there's no shame in that—only grace. Because one day, you will be the strong one. And another day, you will be the one in need. Life has a way of rotating those roles like a well-worn wheel. The key is not which role you're in—but how you respond when you're there. So lean on me...not because I have all the answers, but because I'm willing to stand with you in the questions. And I'll lean on you when my strength runs thin, trusting that you'll do the same. In the end, it's not about who carried the most—it's about who showed up, who stayed, and who helped someone else keep going when quitting would've been easier. Because sometimes, the greatest strength you can offer... is simply being someone another person can lean on.

Frank Odell was an English Teacher 30 years, MN State Fair Food vender 27 yrs, and P.B. Toastmaster of Year 2020 - 2021

Letters to the Editor

Police report dismay

When one reads what our local police have to deal

with each week - one might wonder what kind of a loony bin have we become?

Rick Anderson
Staples, Minn.

Better health care option for Minnesota

In Zumbrota, the owner of the News Record newspaper reported his healthcare costs are \$2,100 per month, for two adults, and they have a \$17,000 deductible plan. Think about the absurdity of our current healthcare costs? Would you buy a house or a car with a \$2,100 monthly payment and you will never pay it off and if any damage were to occur you lose \$17,000 of the value before the insurance company pays for anything? The easy math \$2,100 x 12 months \$25,200 for the first year, plus no cost sharing until your expenses are over \$17,000; summary \$42,200 for the first year before the insurance company pays.

This is very profitable for insurance companies and if you have a claim, they can delay and deny it. Who is being served, or scammed and or committing fraud?

President Trump and Senator Bernie Sanders, since 2016, reported they want to eliminate Obamacare. It's not affordable and if you don't have insurance or if you earn too much you get a tax bill from the federal government. Stupidity? Greed? Fraud? Political paybacks? All of it and more.

What can we do to lower costs and receive better healthcare?

"The Minnesota Health Plan (MHP)" is a proposed bill aimed at providing healthcare coverage for all Minnesotans. MHP will eliminate healthcare insurance companies ensuring all medical needs are covered, including dental, prescription drugs, vision and hearing care, mental health services, chemical dependency treatment, home care services and nursing home care.

I'm sending this article to every newspaper in Minnesota, except the Minneapolis Tribune, and asking them and all Minnesota residents to discuss the Minnesota Health Plan (MHP) with their State Representatives, Gubernatorial Candidates and Congressional Candidates. We can do significantly better; when we all row the boat in the same direction. All Vikings know that is a fact.

Roger Kittelson
Goodhue, Minn.

You will notice the delivery of your newspaper will be one to two days later due to unforeseen new postal delivery regulations implemented by the federal government April 25, 2026 and made effective through the post office with the April 29, 2026 issue of the Staples World. You will receive your Staples World newspaper one to two days later than usual due to the fact that only one postal truck will be available in Staples (mornings). The Staples World regular publication date remains Wednesday. We recommend that dated advertising (concerts, garage sales, auctions, etc.) be placed two weeks prior to the event.

Staples World

Established in 1890. USPS 518-760
©2026 RMM Publications

Published Wednesdays by RMM Publications
Office located at 207 4th St NE

Periodicals postage paid at Staples, Minnesota 56479.

Mailing Address: P.O. Box 100
Telephone: 218-894-1112 - Fax: 218-894-3570
www.staplesworld.com - E Mail: editor@staplesworld.com
Deadline: 12 noon, Friday

Official Newspaper for:
City of Staples, Todd County,
Staples-Motley School District,
Freshwater Ed. District and area townships.

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

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

Printed at Quinco Press, Lowry, MN

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

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

PublisherRMM Publications LLC
Owner Mark Anderson..... editor@staplesworld.com
Advertising Rep..... editor@staplesworld.com
Photo Tech/production..... Janice Winter jwinter@staplesworld.com
Bookkeeping/Circulation/..... Kathy Odden kadden@staplesworld.com
Reporter.....Dawn Timbs dtimbs@staplesworld.com
Front Office..... office@staplesworld.com

Subscription Rates:
Local: (Todd, Wadena, Morrison, Cass Counties) \$53 per year
Website: \$50 per year
Minnesota: \$58 per year - *Out of State:* \$63 per year
Foreign: on-line only - *Student Rate:* (Sept. through Apr./in-state) \$43
There is a \$5 charge for address change from local to out-of-state.

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More good people of Morrison County by Anthony Marchetti

The Morrison County Historical Society, Little Falls, invites all to enjoy its current temporary exhibit, More Good People: A Photographic Exploration of Morrison County, which displays the beauty of the people and places of the county many call home.

First displayed in 2022,

Photographer Anthony Marchetti returns to present even more of his project that looks on both sides of the political divide to bring greater understanding to the diverse communities of Minnesota.

Marchetti began his exploration of Morrison County in 2018, frequently visiting, making connections within the community, and learning about the lifestyles, values, passions and fears of local residents. His work consists of portraits of neighbors and pictures of places residents will recognize.

These vibrant and striking photos will be on display at the Charles A. Weyerhaeuser Memorial Museum through Labor Day weekend.

For more information, call the Weyerhaeuser Museum at 320-632-4007 or email mocohistory@gmail.com. More information on Anthony Marchetti can be found on his website.



Photographs taken in Morrison County

A variety of photographs featuring places in Morrison County, as well as its people, will be on display at the Charles A. Weyerhaeuser Memorial Museum through Labor Day weekend. The photos, by renowned photographer Anthony Marchetti, include a processing plant (above) and deer stand (below). (Submitted)



Menu

Senior Nutrition Program, Staples
Call mornings (218-979-4118) the Thursday before to reserve next week's meal(s) and current suggested donation info. LSS Meals - traditional older adult menu (subject to change).
LOCATED AT: Staples Hi-Rise, 615 4th St. NE, Staples. Seniors welcome to dine-in at 11:00 a.m., with meal reservations.

Staples 218-979-4118
May 25 - May 29
MONDAY - CLOSED
TUESDAY - Diced turkey/gravy, mashed potatoes, stuffing, whole kernel corn, diced peach cup, dinner roll, marg., 1% milk.
WEDNESDAY - Meatloaf, baked potatoe, broccoli, applesauce cup, wheat bread, marg., sour cream, 1% milk.
THURSDAY - Chicken broccoli rice casserole, sliced carrots, peach crisp, dinner roll, marg., 1% milk.
FRIDAY - Potato crunch fish fillet, mashed sweet potatoes, mixed veggies, wheat dinner roll, marg., tartar sauce, snickerdoodle cookie, 1% milk.

wk22

Mark Your Calendar

May 21
'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 22
WOMEN'S OPEN AA RECOVERY MEETING Fridays in person, 10:30 a.m., Motley Free Methodist Church (lower level), 33 Wellwood St. E. Motley. All women welcome.

May 24
CELEBRATE RECOVERY GROUP MEETINGS Sundays, 6 p.m., at Motley Free Methodist

Church, 33 Wellwood St. E., Motley.

May 26
CARE MINISTRY FREE MEAL Tuesday, May 26, 4:30-6 p.m., at St. Michael's Church, 280 1st Ave. S, Motley. The free meals are held on a monthly basis (Sept. - May) to promote fellowship, connection and nourishment.

WADENA COUNTY REPUBLICANS MEETING Tuesday, May 26, at 7 p.m., at the Verndale Community Center. Note location change. Guest speaker is Tad Jude, candidate for Secretary of State.

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



Olson shares story of quilts, leaving the Amish lifestyle

Anna Olson (above left) of New York Mills was the guest speaker at Faith Lutheran Church in Staples May 14, sharing her stories of growing up in an Amish community and her decision to leave that life when she was 24 years old. Olson, who learned to sew as a child and stitched her first quilt at age 13, also had a number of handmade quilts on display, telling the story of each.

As was noted in a brochure, "In 2016, Anna returned to sewing and in 2023 she began her longarm quilting business, blending her heritage with her renewed calling. Today she shares her journey with audiences speaking on quilting, faith and life beyond the Amish community." Olson is the author of "Growing Up Amish."

Approximately 60 people were in attendance at the event which was sponsored by the Piecemakers Quilt Group. (Staples World photos by Dawn Timbs)



Staples World

Staples World newspaper advertising and copy **DEADLINE** is **Wednesday, May 20 by 4 p.m. for the May 27 issue (Memorial Day Week)**

Classifieds: office@staplesworld.com
Copy: editor@staplesworld.com
207 4th St. NE, Staples, MN 56479 218-894-1112





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Hello World

ONLINE BIRTHS REMOVED
AT THE REQUEST OF LAKEWOOD
HEALTH SYSTEM.

Teresa Jutz

Teresa Jutz, 63 of Laurel, MT passed away April 29, 2026 after many health issues.

Cremation took place and burial will be held at a later date.

Teresa was born July 1, 1962 and raised in Minnesota, moving to Laurel after graduating from Staples High School.

She worked at several businesses in Billings before working in the kitchen at St. John's United. She truly enjoyed feeding and visiting with many residents over the many years she worked there and was well-liked by the community there.

Teresa is survived by her mother, Loretta Jutz; two sisters, Jeanne (Fran) Schweigert and Elaine Jutz-Odeen; one brother, Dean (Tammy) Jutz; two nephews, Tyler Schweigert (Nicole Dell) and Justin (Melissa) Odeen; five nieces, LeAnne



Bird, Laurie Odeen, Jennifer (Ryan) Beaverson, Jenny Jutz (Marcus Sprattler) and Robin Jutz; many aunts, uncles, cousins and friends.

She was preceded in death by her father, Ed Jutz and one niece, Kymberly Schweigert.

A full obituary can be seen at Smith Funeral Chapels, Laurel MT and on Facebook.

w22p? A00006B2026MY20

Steven Hoemberg

Steven Joseph Hoemberg, Sr., 71, of Staples, passed away May 12, 2026. He passed peacefully in his home surrounded by his immediate family.

A "happy hour" celebration of Steven's life will be held on his birthday, June 12 at his home.

Steven ("Steve" or "Senior" to many) was born June 12, 1954, to Clarence Joseph and Viola Esther (Anderson) Hoemberg, at Thiel Hospital in Bertha. The second of five sons, Steve grew up in Staples, where he attended Sacred Heart School and Staples High School, Class of 1973. While in high school, he enrolled in machining courses at Staples Vocational School.

After high school, Steve worked briefly in Dilworth before returning to Staples, where, among other jobs, he managed the Kerr-Mc-

Gee gas station. He married Margo Ellen Martin of Staples on December 21, 1977. They raised their two sons (Steve, Jr. and John) in Staples. In 1985, Steve began what would turn into a 32-year career as a truck driver for Bjerga Feed Stores, Motley, retiring from full-time work in 2017 to care for Margo. After Margo's passing (in 2020), Steve enjoyed working part-time for JL Trucking, Leader where he occasionally had the opportunity to work side-by-side with Steve Jr. He had a reputation at work for being dependable and skilled, frequently working overtime without complaint and was willing to take on challenges that others might not. Providing for his family was a priority for him.

From an early age, Steve had a knack for and loved driving and fixing things, especially automotive related, that carried through his whole life. He often reminisced with family and friends about the 1973 Camaro he owned right out of high school and racing-related shenanigans from the early to mid-1970's. In the 1980's, Steve enjoyed being a member of the Staples Volunteer Fire Department, ice racing and competing in demolition derby's and participating in the trap shooting league. Eventually his hobbies gave way to focusing solely on working and providing for his family, except for a few short vacations to visit family. After their sons graduated from college, he and Margo moved to town. For many years, Steve and Margo were especially fond of watching the Minnesota Twins and taking occasional trips to the casino. He loved deer hunting with their sons and eventually with their grandkids.

Steve and Margo loved spending time with their grandkids and Steve especially enjoyed helping Margo decorate the house and yard for their visits. As the grandkids grew older, his relationship with them



grew closer, spending time with them hanging out in his garage and giving them rides to various places. He particularly enjoyed checking in on them, often via humorous, banter-filled-text and video message, sharing stories and building lifelong memories. After Margo's passing, when he wasn't working or spending time with kids and grandkids, he enjoyed cooking and baking (known for his famous "7-lb Pizzas"), processing venison with their sons and family and especially cherished his alone time watching Westerns in his garage.

Steve will always be remembered for his goofy and goodhearted style, hard-working nature, pride in his sons and daughters-in-law, the way he cared for Margo and his unconditional love for his family.

He is survived by two sons, Steven Jr. (Wendy) and Johnathan "John" Sarah; six grandkids, Molly, Meredith, Cooper, Grace, Logan and Jade and one great-grandchild, Ronan; three brothers, Douglas (Robin), John (Julie) and George (Heidi); one sister-in-law, Ann and many nieces and nephews.

He was preceded in death by his wife, Margo; parents and one brother, Donald (Ann).

Visit www.karvonen-funeralhome.com to leave memorials and condolences on Steven's Tribute Wall.

Arrangements by Karvonen Funeral & Cremation Service of Wadena, Minnesota.

w22c A00006B2026MY20

Staples Area Church Directory

Staples
Staples Alliance
1512 8th St. NE, Staples218-894-2891
Jonny Olson, Associate Pastor
Sunday Worship9:30 a.m.
Sunday School11:00 a.m.
WEDNESDAY
AWANA6:00 p.m.

Assembly of God
914 3rd Ave. NE, Staples218-894-1081
Pastor Roy Miles
Small Groups (Bible classes for all ages)9:30 a.m.
Morning Worship Service10:30 a.m.
Children's Church (Kids start in main worship service)11 a.m.
Prayer Meeting5 p.m.

WEDNESDAY
Sonlight (kids ages 4 yrs.-6th grade)After school to 5:30 p.m.
Youth Group (Teens, 7th-12th grade)After school to 5:30 p.m.

Church of Christ
27343 490th St., Staples218-894-2609
Pastor Barry Klein
Facebook Live
Bible School (youth and adult)9:30 a.m.
Sunday Worship10:30 a.m.
WEDNESDAY:
Adult Bible Study6:30 p.m.

Faith Lutheran
430 12th Street. NE., Staples218-894-1546
Pastor Carl Larson
Sunday Worship Service9:00 a.m.
Sunday School and Coffee Fellowship10:05 a.m.

Sacred Heart Catholic Church
310 4th St. NE, Staples
Church218-631-1593
parishsecretary@marysacc.org
Rev. JC Duncan, 218-632-7314
Rev. Rick Aubol, 218-632-7310
Rev. Greg Sauer, 218-632-7319
Mass: Sunday8:30 a.m.

Seventh Day Adventist
421 Dakota Ave. SE, Staples
Pastor Joshua Jeresek
218-894-0033
Saturday Worship9:30 am.
Sabbath School10:45 a.m.

Thomastown Covenant
15940 251st Ave., Staples218-894-3923
Sunday School9:15 a.m.
Sunday Worship10:30 a.m.
WEDNESDAY NIGHT YOUTH6:30 p.m.

Trinity Lutheran
1000 4th St., NE, Staples218-894-2372
Pastor Vicar Paul Koehler
Sunday Divine Service9:00 a.m.
Sunday School and Bible Class ...10:30 a.m.

United Methodist
310 5th St. NE, Staples218-894-2248
Sunday Worship10:30 a.m.
(Nursery Available for Sunday Worship)

Aldrich
Balsamlund Lutheran
19550 490th Street, Aldrich
Janet Eckman SMA218-837-5831
jre227@yahoo.com
Sunday Worship8:30 a.m.

Cushing
Bethany Lutheran
25430 Bison Rd.Cushing, MN
320-749-2140
Pastor Carl Larson
www.bethanylutherancushing.org
Sunday Worship9:00 a.m.
Communion1st and 2nd Sunday of each month

Lincoln Evangelical Free
1354 320th Street, Cushing, MN 56443
Phone: 218-575-2449
www.lincolnefree.org
Facebook Lincoln E Free
Office Hours: Tues. - Thurs., 9 a.m. - 12 p.m.
Senior Pastor: Don Reigstad
SUNDAY
Church Worship Gathering10:00 a.m.
YouTube Channel10:00 a.m.

Cushing Baptist
26298 Bear Rd., Cushing
Pastor Dan Holmes320-749-2583
Sunday School9:30 a.m.
Worship10:30 a.m.
WEDNESDAY
Bible study7:30 p.m.

Leader
Swan Valley Lutheran
Leader218-397-2470
Sandy Knight, Synodically Authorized Minister of Word and Sacrament
Sunday Worship
January - July9 a.m.
July - January11 a.m.

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

Motley
Motley Free Methodist
33 Wallwood St. E
Motley 56466218-352-6888
Jim Johnson, Senior Pastor
Casey Reynolds, Assistant Pastor
Sunday Worship9:00 and 10:30 a.m.
facebook live9 a.m.
WEDNESDAY
AWANA4:00-5:30 p.m.
Youth Group6:00-8:00 p.m.

St. John's Lutheran
497 3rd Ave. S, Motley218-352-6399
Pastor Vicar Paul Koehler
Sunday School and Bible Class8:30 a.m.
Sunday Worship9:30 a.m.

St. Michael Catholic Church
280 1st Ave S, Motley218-631-1593
Rev. JC Duncan, 218-632-7314
Rev. Rick Aubol, 218-632-7310
Rev. Greg Sauer, 218-632-7319
Mass: Sunday10:30 a.m.

United Methodist
847 3rd Ave. S. Lane, Motley218-352-6466
Pastor Greg Leslie
www.motleyumc.net
Sunday Worship Service10:00 a.m.
Monday AA meeting8:00 p.m.

Oylen
Oylen Alliance
Cty. Rds, 7 and 9, Oylen
218-472-3440 or 218-472-3316
Pastor Neal Malcore
Sunday School10:00 a.m.
Sunday Worship11:00 a.m.

Pillager
First Lutheran Church
Pastor Matthew Sundquist
717 River Street S, Pillager, MN
218-746-3775
Sunday Worship9:30 a.m.
Sunday School, 2nd and 4th Sundays8:30 a.m.

Casino Assembly of God
Pastor Dan Johnson
N. of Motley, Hwy. 64, E. on Cty 34 to Cty. 104.
Phone218-746-3839
Sunday School9:30 a.m.
Worship10:30 a.m.
Sunday Worship7:00 p.m.
WEDNESDAY7:00 p.m.

First Baptist
903 River Street South, Pillager
Pastor Jake Anderson
218-746-3768
curious@fbcpillager.com
Worship Gathering10:00 a.m.
Connection Point9:30 a.m.

Hewitt
Church of the Nazarene
114 Front Street, P.O. Box 146 Hewitt, MN
218-924-2028
Jim and Linda McGaffey, Pastor
Sunday School9:30 a.m.
Sunday Worship10:45 a.m.
WEDNESDAY PRAYER7:00 p.m.

Trinity Lutheran Church (LCMS)
524 Front Street, PO Box 116, Hewitt, MN
Pastor Robin Fish
Sunday Worship10:30 a.m.

Hewitt Community Church
Hwy. 210, Hewitt, MN
Pastor Kenneth Uhren
Sunday Worship10:30 a.m.

Verndale
Verndale Alliance
109 NW Brown Street, Verndale, MN 56481
218-445-5619
Senior Pastor Tony Stanley
Youth Pastor Joe Ward
Sunday Worship9:30 a.m.
Sunday Bible Fellowship Classes 11-11:45 a.m.

Family Life Church
402 NE Clark Drive, Verndale 218-445-5568
office@verndaleffc.org
Pastor Amos Self218-371-7189
Tahna Rurup, Connections & Media Pastor
Tillman Phagan, Kid's & Food Shelf Pastor
Ryan Wolfenden, Youth Pastor
SUNDAY
Youth Prayer9:20 a.m.
Worship Service10:00 a.m.
Prayer Meeting5 p.m.
WEDNESDAY
Life Groups6:30 p.m.

Hope Chapel Alliance
18126 County Road 7, Verndale
218-445-5643 or 218-472-3316
Pastor Neal Malcore
Sunday Worship9:00 a.m.
Sunday School10:30 a.m.
WEDNESDAY
Family Night5:30 p.m.

Immanuel Lutheran Church of Bartlett Township (LCMS)
17097 460th St., PO Box 37, Verndale
Pastor Robin Fish
Sunday Worship9:00 a.m.
WEDNESDAY
Bible Study6:30 p.m.

Verndale United Methodist
10 3rd Ave. SW, Verndale
218-445-5108
Pastor Jill Pawlowski
Sunday Worship9:00 a.m.

Central Community Church
5 miles N on Cty Rd 26 (Nimrod tar)
Pastor James Middendorf, 320-260-4952
Sunday Service9:00 a.m.
Bible Study10:30 a.m.

St. Frederick Catholic Church
20 Mason Avenue NW
Verndale218-631-1593
parishsecretary@marysacc.org
Rev. JC Duncan, 218-632-7314
Rev. Rick Aubol, 218-632-7310
Rev. Greg Sauer, 218-632-7319
MASS: Saturday6:00 p.m

St. Hubert Catholic Church
Bluegrass218-631-1593
Rev. JC Duncan, 218-632-7314
Rev. Rick Aubol, 218-632-7310
Father Greg Sauer, 218-632-7319
parishsecretary@marysacc.org
Mass: Saturday4:00 p.m.

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

Wadena
St. Helen's Episcopal Church
22 Dayton Ave. SW, Wadena, MN
218-631-3928
Sunday Worship10:00 a.m.

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

"Drafty Stuart Hall"

Pastor Robert Drake, Faith Lutheran Church Staples/ Bethany Lutheran Cushing

The main classroom building of the seminary I went to for my divinity degree was called Stuart Hall. Built in 1876, it's where most of our classes at Princeton Theological Seminary were held. Hundreds of students everyday trudged up and down its eight flights of steep stairs heading to one of four different floors where gothic-arched, 12-foot-tall wood doors led into large lecture halls.

For 150 years now, those classroom walls, windows and doors have heard tens of thousands of lectures, conversations, and debates about what it means to be a Christian pastor.

Back in 2016, I was sitting in one of those lecture halls, in the middle of the raked seating, when all of a sudden a rush of wind swept through the classroom, across every desk, rustling every notebook, and making everyone stop and look; even the professor stopped her lecture.

We all looked around. Was it a tornado? A thunderstorm? The Holy Spirit?

On everyone's mind was the story from the second chapter of Acts, where the followers of Je-

sus were gathered together when all of a sudden "there came a sound from heaven like the rush of a violent wind and it filled the entire house."

Unlike the disciples 2,000 years ago, our occurrence was just a really big wind. But I don't want to undercut the power of our collective experience that afternoon in Stuart Hall. The reason that feeling of rushing wind was powerfully unique was that none of us these days live in drafty houses where a strong wind penetrates through old, gothic-arched windows. None of us had ever before felt the hair-raising, collective intensity of wind rushing through a room as if it were alive with a consciousness and a soul.

On Sunday, May 24, we celebrate Pentecost, the day when God sent us the Holy Spirit to be with us until that day when Jesus returns to earth again. The collective experience of those men and women, with tongues of fire dancing over their heads, continues to fill our hearts and souls with the eternal and uncontrollable life-giving breath of God.

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She was preceded in death by her parents; mother-in-law, Barbara Horn; one brother, William "Billy" Johnson and one brother-in-law, LeRoy Flickinger.

w22c A00006B2026MY20



Cardinals compete at Heart O Lakes track meet

The Staples-Motley track and field teams had two conference champions, plus multiple second and third place finishers at the Heart O Lakes Conference track and field meet on May 12, held at Perham.

The boys team excelled in the field events, while the girls set many personal bests in the track events.

The boys team had two wins, three second place finishers and three third place finishers, all but one of them in field events. Adrian Gomez won the shot put and was second in the discus, as all the boys discus throwers set personal bests. Noah Larson was third in the discus and second in the 110 meter hurdles.

The other conference champion was Avandre Brandt in the high jump, returning after being out with an injury. Turner Beachy and Conner Kuhns were 2nd and 3rd in the pole vault, while Jesus Gallardo was fifth in the long jump.

The top finisher for the girls was Sophia Luna, who had a photo finish in the 100 meter dash to place second with a personal best of 13.27 seconds. Chadia Schultz also had her fastest 100 meter time, finishing 9th. In the 200, Luna and Lucille Maros set personal bests. Those three sprinters, along with Mari'vel Duran, teamed up to place 2nd in the 4x100 meter relay, setting a season best time for the Cardinals.

The Cardinals enter the postseason with the sub-section meet on Thursday, May 21 at Long Prairie-Grey Eagle. Top placers there advance to the Section 6A meet on Thursday, May 28, at Concordia-Moorhead.

Boys results

Heart O Lakes Conference
Perham 136, United Clay-Becker 120, Park Rapids 100, Staples-Motley 73, Frazee 72, Pelican Rapids 70, Dilworth-Glyndon-Felton 62, Breckenridge 43, Barnesville 27

100 - 7. Jesus Gallardo 11.94, 22. Kaleb Hartman 12.94, 24. Josiah Mumm 13.96

200 - 9. Gallardo 24.60, 20. Avandre Brandt 25.8, 22. Charlie Marcos 27.42

400 - 12. Angel Luna 56.15, 22. William Lange 1:06

800 - 16. Alex Leach 2:38, 19. Luna 2:59, 21. Ben Oeltjenbruns 3:16

1,600 - 18. Spencer Olsen 5:50, 19. Jackson Ogden 5:52, 21. Jacob Faulkner 5:53

3,200 - 13. Andrew Dobson 11:36, 19. Reed Leach 12:39

110 hurdles - 2. Noah Larson 15.71

300 hurdles - 15. Aaron Oeltjenbruns 53.36

4x100 relay - 2. SM (Larson, Adrian Gomez, Brandt, Gallardo) 46.89

4x200 - 7. SM (Carter Kist, Michael Hinson, Faulkner, Maros) 1:48

4x400 - 8. SM (Hinson, Kist, Maros, Faulkner) 4:13

Shot Put - 1. Gomez 46'4", 17. Larson 36'7", 24. Peter Oeltjenbruns 31'3.25"

Discus - 2. Gomez 139'7", 3. Larson 135'10", 16. Liam Jennissen 100'5"

High jump - 1. Avandre Brandt 5'10"

Pole vault - 2. Turner Beachy 13'0", 3. Conner Kuhns 12'6", 16. Ogden 8'0"

Long jump - 5. Gallardo 18'10", 22. Kist 13'8"

Triple jump - 12. Harman 35'5"

Girls results

Heart O Lakes Conference
Perham 183, Frazee 108, Pelican Rapids 94, Park Rapids 80, Dilworth-Glyndon-Felton 66, Barnesville 59, United Clay-Becker 59, Staples-Motley 25, Breckenridge 25



Andrew Dobson



Suhaila Mikhaeil

100 - 2. Sophia Luna 13.27, 9. Chadia Schultz 13.86, 21. Iva Hinson 14.57

200 - 7. Luna 28.03, 8. Lucille Maros 28.19, 18. Abigail Philippi 30.00

400 - 12. Piper Hanson 1:08, 16. Maros 1:09

800 - 19. Alexis Ogden 2:57, 22. Maci Mitchum 3:20

1,600 - 13. Elise Trif 6:18, 17. Elizabeth Kroll 6:40

3,200 - 8. Suhaila Michael 13:47

100 hurdles - 18. Abby Brichacek 20.71

4x100 relay - 3. SM (Mari'vel Duran, Maros, Luna, Schultz) 54.17

4x200 - 7. SM (Philippi, Belle Mevisen, Duran, Piper Hanson) 2:02

4x400 - 7. SM (Hanson, Mevisen, Philippi, Duran) 4:47

Shot put - 8. Annie Schlosser 29'4.75", 23. Jocelyn Vogt

20'6"75", 27. Gemma Fairbanks 18'5"

Discus - 7. Schlosser 90'1", 18. Vogt 70'8", 23. Fairbanks 66'0"

High jump - 16. Maros 4'4", 18. Luna 4'2"

Long jump - 15. Lily Davis 13'0.75", 18. Philippi 12'9.5", 21. Duran 12'3"

Triple jump - 16. Brichacek 27'6.5", 19. Davis 25'9"



Emerson Bettis

Tappe hits two homers, pitches shutout

Colbe Tappe nearly single-handedly beat Pierz on May 11, hitting two home runs and pitching a complete game shutout in a 9-0 win. The Cardinals finished their regular season with a 7-4 win against Hawley on May 14. The Staples-Motley baseball team finished their regular season with a 17-3 record. They were second place in the Heart O Lakes Conference with a 12-2 record.

Against Pierz, Tappe hit a solo homer in the first inning, then hit a two run shot in the sixth with his brother Cooper on base. In between, he had another RBI on a sacrifice fly and hit an RBI double before scoring on a wild pitch.

Elijah Kossan had three hits, including a double, and scored two runs.

Tappe ended the game pitching with two strikeouts and a groundout in the seventh inning.

This was an important game because Pierz is in Section 6AA along with Staples-Motley. The win helped move the Cardinals into position for the third seed in the section tournament.

The game against Hawley was the final Heart O Lakes Conference game, pushing the Cardinals into second place in the conference with a 12-2 record. Staples-Motley split their games with conference leader Perham,



Colbe Tappe

then lost one other game at Dilworth-Glyndon-Felton on a windy day.

To beat Hawley, the Cardinals got out of the first inning thanks to a running outfield catch by Silas Claussen and another outfield catch in a strong wind by Isaac Halverson.

Staples-Motley scored three in the first with a hit by Kossan, an RBI single by Colbe Tappe, an RBI hit by John Schotzko and an RBI

walk by Halverson with the bases loaded.

The Cardinals scored one in the third when Cooper Tappe had an RBI hit after Halverson walked. In the sixth, Kossan walked, stole second, then scored when Claussen reached on an error to make the score 7-4.

Cooper Tappe pitched the first five innings and Kossan pitched the last two.

Boys bounce back after tough round on section course

The Staples-Motley boys golf team struggled a little at the Pre-Section meet at Blackberry Ridge in Sartell on May 11. They made up some ground against some of the same opponents at the Arnold Palmer Invite at Deacon's Lodge in Nisswa on May 12.

At the Pre-Section meet, the Cardinals were troubled by several holes where they scored double bogeys. The exception to that was Oskar Doll, who only had one hole above a bogey, with six pars on his round. Kaleb Harman had a birdie and three pars to move up to the fourth team scorer position.

At the Nisswa meet,

Jackson White scored two birdies, 10 pars and had no double bogeys to place second by one stroke. Thomas Johnson had three birdies and seven pars, but two double bogeys dropped him off the pace of the leaders.

The Cardinals finish their regular season this week to get ready for the Section 6AA tournament on Monday, June 1, at Blackberry Ridge in Sartell.

Team results

Pre-Section meet at Blackberry Ridge, Sartell

St. Cloud Cathedral 313, Albany 315, Rocori 316, Pequot Lakes 320, Little Falls 335, Melrose 340, Pillager 340, Milaca

343, Pierz 344, Staples-Motley 349, Foley 356, Royalton 356, Sauk Centre 356, Long Prairie-Grey Eagle/Browerville 358, Osakis 361

36. Jackson White 85, 36. Thomas Johnson 36, 42. Oskar Doll 86, 72. Kaleb Harman 93, 91. Zachary Tabatt 99, 91. Evan Schultz 99, 102. Ashton Anderson 103, 110 Tyson Turner 109

Arnold Palmer Invite at Deacon's Lodge, Nisswa

Little Falls 323, Bemidji 323, Harmantown 326, Pequot Lakes 327, Crosby-Ironton 330, Pierz 338, Staples-Motley 339, Walker-Hackensack-Akely 341, Hibbing 360, Pine River-Backus 375

2. White 76, 5. Johnson 80, 37. Doll 90, 43. Schultz 93, 56. Anderson 100, 57. Tabatt 102

Cardinals see improvement in two golf rounds

The Staples-Motley girls golf team placed third at the Wadena-Deer Creek invite on May 11, then had a few golfers compete at Fergus Falls on May 15.

At Wadena, Katelyn Schotzko scored seven pars to place fourth. She had a birdie and nine pars at Fergus Falls.

The Cardinals finish their regular season this week to get ready for the Section 6AA tournament on Monday, June 1, at BlackBerry Ridge in Sartell. Mara Uselman also brought her score down in

the second meet, recording eight pars at Fergus Falls.

Team results

Wadena-Deer Creek invite

Park Rapids 366, Dilworth-Glyndon-Felton 381, Staples-Motley 414, Frazee 424, Wadena-Deer Creek inc.

4. Katelyn Schotzko 88, 15. Mara Uselman 106, 18. Sarah Kroll 109, 20. Brooklyn Winter 111

Fergus Falls Invite

6. Schotzko 81, 13. Uselman 88, 33. Meredith Hoemberg 104.



Honoring the state tournament team

The Staples-Motley softball team honored 2014 state team pitcher Megan (Vetsch) Truax, who attended the game with her children Brecken, nine years, and Bo, 10 mos. (Staples World photo by Dawn Timbs)

Softball staying competitive

The Staples-Motley softball team had three competitive losses as they ended the regular season. The Cardinals lost a doubleheader at Park Rapids on May 12, 12-5 and 14-6, then had a home game against Hawley on May 14, losing 10-3.

Although the Cardinals finished the regular season with a 10 game losing streak,

games. They scored at least two runs in every game except one, and only twice did they have more than a 10 run margin for a loss.

The Cardinals were given the 12th seed in the Section 6AA playoffs and were scheduled to play number five Holdingford on May 18, after this newspaper went to press.

SW 2024 changed wk #3



CITY OF MOTLEY, MINNESOTA

SUMMARY PUBLICATION OF ORDINANCE NO. 2026-03

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that on May 11, 2026, the City Council of the City of Motley, Minnesota, adopted Ordinance No. 2026-03, an ordinance amending provisions of the City's Land Use and Subdivision Ordinance relating to the Planning Commission and Board of Adjustment.

The ordinance amends Sections 9.2 (Board of Adjustment) and 9.3 (Planning Commission) to update and clarify membership composition, appointment terms, eligibility requirements, duties, authority, meeting procedures, and organizational standards, and to provide for the transition away from City Council membership on the Planning Commission. The amendments are intended to ensure consistency with Minnesota Statutes §§ 462.354–462.3595 and best practices in land use administration.

The ordinance was reviewed by the Planning Commission, which held a public hearing and recommended approval to the City Council based on its findings.

This summary is published pursuant to Minnesota Statutes § 645.095. A printed copy of the full ordinance is available for inspection by any person during regular business hours at Motley City Hall, 316 Highway 10 South, Motley, Minnesota.

This ordinance shall take effect upon adoption and publication as provided by law.

CITY OF MOTLEY, MINNESOTA

By: [Signature]
Mayor

Attest: [Signature]
City Clerk

Published in the official newspaper on: _____, 2026.

22pnc

CITY OF MOTLEY, MINNESOTA
SUMMARY FINANCIAL REPORT
The purpose of this report is to provide a summary of the financial information concerning the City of Motley to interested citizens. The complete financial statements may be examined at the City Hall, 316 Hwy 10 S. Questions about this report should be directed to Tami Bertherton, Clerk/Treasurer, at 218-352-6288.

RECEIPTS AND DISBURSEMENTS FOR GENERAL OPERATIONS (GOVERNMENTAL FUNDS)

	Total 2025	Total 2024	Percent Increase (Decrease)
RECEIPTS			
Taxes	\$ 429,156	\$ 418,629	2.51%
Special Assessments	43,971	61,350	-28.33%
Licenses, Permits, and Fees	1,757	2,612	36.73%
Intergovernmental	383,842	475,780	-19.41%
Charges for Services	99,710	92,684	7.58%
Fines	5,051	5,152	-1.96%
Interest Income	52,434	5,492	854.73%
Miscellaneous	60,547	75,121	148.23%
TOTAL RECEIPTS	\$ 1,078,268	\$ 1,084,220	-0.73%
<i>Per Capita</i>	<i>\$ 1,566.62</i>	<i>\$ 1,578.20</i>	-0.73%
DISBURSEMENTS			
Current:			
General Government	\$ 276,188	\$ 269,357	0.31%
Public Safety	260,816	251,408	3.74%
Public Works	254,335	232,978	9.17%
Sanitation	-	1,649	-100.00%
Parks and Recreation	6,423	6,954	-7.64%
Economic Development	1,028	410	150.73%
Capital Outlay	68,820	322,115	-48.12%
Debt Service:			
Principal	195,000	185,000	5.41%
Interest and Other Charges	15,668	21,600	-25.71%
TOTAL DISBURSEMENTS	\$ 1,064,278	\$ 1,290,361	-17.52%
<i>Per Capita</i>	<i>\$ 1,549.17</i>	<i>\$ 1,878.25</i>	-17.52%
Total Long-term Indebtedness	\$ 420,000	\$ 615,000	-31.71%
<i>Per Capita</i>	<i>\$ 611.35</i>	<i>\$ 895.20</i>	-31.71%
General Fund and Special Revenue Funds Committed, Assigned, and Unassigned Fund Balance - December 31	\$ 2,013,083	\$ 1,807,164	11.39%
<i>Per Capita</i>	<i>\$ 2,890.25</i>	<i>\$ 2,630.52</i>	11.39%

CITY OF MOTLEY, MINNESOTA
STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS
PROPRIETARY FUNDS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2025

	Water Fund	Sewer Fund	Nonmajor Solid Waste Fund	Totals
CASH FLOWS FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES				
Cash Received from Customers	\$ 410,208	\$ 404,867	\$ 58,840	\$ 873,915
Cash Paid to Suppliers	(129,221)	(262,288)	(61,906)	(453,415)
NET CASH PROVIDED (USED) BY OPERATING ACTIVITIES	280,987	142,579	(3,066)	420,500
CASH FLOWS FROM NONCAPITAL FINANCING ACTIVITIES				
Taxes and Intergovernmental	-	-	4,656	4,656
Other Receipts from Customers	53,943	90	-	54,033
Net Operating Subsidies and Transfers from (to) Other Funds	(104,472)	(113,023)	(1,590)	(219,085)
NET CASH PROVIDED (USED) BY NONCAPITAL FINANCING ACTIVITIES	(50,529)	(112,933)	3,066	(160,396)
CASH FLOWS FROM CAPITAL AND RELATED FINANCING ACTIVITIES				
Special Assessments	238,286	135,881	-	374,167
Purchases of Capital Assets	(19,885)	-	-	(19,885)
Proceeds from Sale of Assets	-	247	-	247
Payments on Bond Principal	(183,000)	(140,000)	-	(323,000)
Payments on Advances from Other Funds	(50,000)	-	-	(50,000)
Cash Paid for Interest	(19,200)	(8,610)	-	(27,810)
NET CASH PROVIDED (USED) BY CAPITAL AND RELATED FINANCING ACTIVITIES	(33,799)	(12,482)	-	(46,281)
CASH FLOWS FROM INVESTING ACTIVITIES				
Investment Income	18,523	25,946	-	44,469
Net Change in Cash, Cash Equivalents, and Time Deposits	215,182	43,110	-	258,292
Cash, Cash Equivalents, and Time Deposits - Beginning of Year	1,357,783	2,277,842	-	3,635,625
Cash, Cash Equivalents, and Time Deposits - End of Year	\$ 1,572,965	\$ 2,320,952	\$ -	\$ 3,893,917

CITY OF MOTLEY, MINNESOTA
STATEMENT OF NET POSITION
PROPRIETARY FUNDS
31-Dec-25

	Water Fund	Sewer Fund	Nonmajor Solid Waste Fund	Totals
ASSETS				
Current Assets				
Cash, Cash Equivalents, and Time Deposits	\$ 1,572,965	\$ 2,320,952	\$ -	\$ 3,893,917
Assessments Receivable	1,756,348	659,954	-	2,416,302
Accounts Receivable	48,340	47,363	7,406	103,109
Prepays	8,356	34,308	-	42,664
Total Current Assets	3,386,009	3,062,577	7,406	6,455,992
Noncurrent Assets				
Capital Assets Not Being Depreciated	8,500	-	-	8,500
Capital Assets Being Depreciated (Net)	3,029,741	1,065,360	-	4,095,101
Total Noncurrent Assets	3,038,241	1,065,360	-	4,103,601
TOTAL ASSETS	6,424,250	4,127,937	7,406	10,559,593
LIABILITIES				
Current Liabilities				
Accounts Payable	5,543	11,568	4,930	22,041
Due to Other Funds	-	-	9,302	9,302
Accrued Interest	6,329	2,627	-	8,956
Bonds Due Within One Year	185,000	141,000	-	326,000
Total Current Liabilities	196,872	155,195	14,232	366,299
Noncurrent Liabilities				
Advances from Other Funds	37,000	-	-	37,000
Bonds Due After One Year	1,552,000	580,000	-	2,132,000
Total Noncurrent Liabilities	1,589,000	580,000	-	2,169,000
TOTAL LIABILITIES	1,785,872	735,195	14,232	2,535,299
NET POSITION				
Net Investment in Capital Assets	1,301,241	344,360	-	1,645,601
Unrestricted	3,337,137	3,048,382	(6,826)	6,378,693
TOTAL NET POSITION	\$ 4,638,378	\$ 3,392,742	\$ (6,826)	\$ 8,024,294

CITY OF MOTLEY, MINNESOTA
STATEMENT OF REVENUES, EXPENSES, AND CHANGES IN NET POSITION
PROPRIETARY FUNDS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2025

	Water Fund	Sewer Fund	Nonmajor Solid Waste Fund	Totals
OPERATING REVENUES				
Charges for Services	\$ 424,879	\$ 392,461	\$ 57,821	\$ 875,161
OPERATING EXPENSES				
Materials and Supplies	61,623	101,685	-	162,708
Repairs and Maintenance	208	5,356	-	5,564
Professional Services	13,260	13,536	-	26,796
Insurance	8,466	10,830	-	19,296
Utilities	41,208	102,878	59,855	204,441
Miscellaneous	5,181	6,700	2,341	14,222
Depreciation	198,917	107,708	-	306,625
TOTAL OPERATING EXPENSES	329,462	348,093	62,196	739,752
NET OPERATING INCOME (LOSS)	95,416	44,368	(4,375)	135,409
NONOPERATING INCOME (EXPENSE)				
Special Assessments	19,420	22,307	-	41,727
Intergovernmental	-	-	4,656	4,656
Investment Income	18,523	25,946	-	44,469
Gain (Loss) on Sale of Assets	-	247	-	247
Miscellaneous	53,943	90	-	54,033
Interest and Other Charges	(18,533)	(8,100)	-	(26,633)
TOTAL NONOPERATING INCOME (EXPENSE)	73,353	40,490	4,656	118,499
CHANGE IN NET POSITION PRIOR TO TRANSFERS	168,769	84,858	281	253,908
TRANSFERS				
Operating Transfers Out	(104,472)	(113,023)	-	(217,495)
CHANGE IN NET POSITION	64,297	(28,165)	281	36,413
NET POSITION - BEGINNING OF YEAR	4,574,081	3,420,907	(7,107)	7,987,881
NET POSITION - END OF YEAR	\$ 4,638,378	\$ 3,392,742	\$ (6,826)	\$ 8,024,294

NOTICE
STAPLES TOWNSHIP
REQUEST FOR
QUOTES
FOR BLADING AND
SNOWPLOWING

Staples Township is requesting quotes for blading and snowplowing approximately 34 miles of township roads for one (1) year beginning November 1, 2026 continuing through October 31, 2027. Snowplowing shall be done when there are two plus (2+) inches of snow accumulation. Salt/sanding shall be done as needed. Staples Township should receive first service.

Blading shall be done every two to three (2 - 3) weeks.

Contractor must carry commercial liability insurance of at least \$1,000,000 per occurrence; general aggregate of \$2,000,000 and workers compensation insurance. A Certificate of Liability Insurance must be provided to the Township before any services are provided.

Contact the clerk at 218-296-2151 to receive a complete copy of the request.

Sealed quotes must be received by the clerk at "Staples Township, 48301 County 21, Staples, MN 56479" no later than 5:00 p.m. on Monday, June 8, 2026 or delivered at the regular meeting at Staples Township Hall, 25750 490th Street, Staples, MN 56479 no later than 7:30 p.m. on that date. QUOTE FOR BLADING/SNOWPLOWING must be written on the outside of the envelope.

Bonnie Thoele, Clerk
Staples Township

22-23pnc

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: September 28, 2006

ORIGINAL PRINCIPAL AMOUNT OF MORTGAGE: \$44,481.94

MORTGAGOR(S): Gary W. Mertens, Jr. and Dayna S. Mertens f/k/a Dayna S. Case, husband and wife

MORTGAGEE: CitiFinancial Services, Inc.

DATE AND PLACE OF FILING: Recorded on October 3, 2006 as Document Number 444789 in the Office of the County Recorder of Todd County, Minnesota.

ASSIGNMENTS OF MORTGAGE: Assigned to: Bayview Loan Servicing, LLC by assignment recorded on August 12, 2016 as Document Number A500326 in the Office of the County Recorder of Todd County, Minnesota; thereafter assigned to Bayview Dispositions IVB, LLC by assignment recorded on February 26, 2019 as Document Number A513288 in the Office of the County Recorder of Todd County, Minnesota; thereafter assigned to Greenwich Revolving Trust by assignment recorded on February 26, 2019 as Document Number A513289 in the Office of the County Recorder of Todd County, Minnesota; thereafter assigned to U.S. Bank National Association, not in its individual capacity but solely in its capacity as Indenture Trustee of CIM Trust 2019-R5 by assignment recorded on March 18, 2026 as Document Number A550468 in the Office of the County Recorder of Todd County, Minnesota.

LEGAL DESCRIPTION OF PROPERTY: Lots 7 and 8, Block 1, Donovans Addition to Staples, according to the plat thereof on file and of record in the office of the Todd County Recorder. And

Lots 7,8,9, and 10, Block 1, Donovans Addition to Staples, according to the plat thereof on file and of record in the office of the Todd County Recorder. Being an abstract property. Todd County, Minnesota.

STREET ADDRESS OF PROPERTY: 423 MINNESOTA AVE SW, 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: \$28,279.16

TRANSACTION AGENT: None

NAME OF MORTGAGE ORIGINATOR: CitiFinancial Services, Inc.

RESIDENTIAL SERVICER: Fay Servicing, LLC

TAX PARCEL IDENTIFICATION NUMBER: 38-0077300 and 38-0077400

TRANSACTION AGENT'S MORTGAGE IDENTIFICATION NUMBER: None

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

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

DATE AND TIME OF SALE: June 25, 2026 at 10:00 AM.

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

to pay the debt then secured by said mortgage and taxes, if any actually paid by the mortgagee, on the premises and the costs and disbursements allowed by law. The time allowed by law for redemption by said mortgagor(s), their personal representatives or assigns is 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 June 25, 2027.

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

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

Dated: April 16, 2026

U.S. BANK NATIONAL ASSOCIATION, NOT IN ITS INDIVIDUAL CAPACITY BUT SOLELY IN ITS CAPACITY AS INDENTURE TRUSTEE OF CIM TRUST 2019-R5 Mortgagee

TROTT LAW, P.C.

By: /s/

*N. Kibongni

Fondungallah, Esq.*

Samuel R. Coleman, Esq.

Alexa Marsh, Esq.

Attorneys for Mortgagee

25 Dale Street North

St. Paul, MN 55102

(651) 209-9760

(26-0067-FC01)

Federal law may require reporting to the Financial Crimes Enforcement Network for certain purchases of residential property by entities or trusts. A successful third party bidder may be required to provide ownership and identifying information as a condition to completing the transfer.

THIS IS A COMMUNICATION FROM A DEBT COLLECTOR.

18-23pnc

See PUBLIC NOTICES on page 10A

Staples-Motley School Board Minutes

Council
Accept the resignations of:

Kari Sarych, Dean of Students

James Jackson, Head Wrestling Coach

Bobbyjo Johnson, MS/HS Special Education Teacher

Approve the hire of: Kari Sarych, MS/HS Special Education Teacher

26/27 School year

Tina Mitts, HS FACS Teacher (1.0 FTE) 26/27 School Year

Caroline Gadacz, HS Math Teacher 26/27 School year

Angela Jares, MS Special Ed Teacher 26/27 School year

Bren Salo, HS PE/DAPE Teacher 26/27 School year

Bobbyjo Johnson, American Indian Liaison Effective August 1, 2026

Melissa Wright, ECSE Teacher (1.0 FTE) 26/27 School year

Jeff Sterriker, CTE Industrial Tech Teacher, 26/27 School year

Holton Truax, Elementary PE Teacher, 26/27 School year

Trisha Brown, Assistant Softball Coach

Jocelyn Anderson, MS/HS Special Education Teacher 26/27 School year

Kim Prestridge, Elementary Behavior Interventionist 26/27 School year

Kris Mumm, .5 FTE CTE Machine Trades Teacher 26/27 School year

Bobbyjo Johnson, American Indian Liaison Effective April 21, 2026 - June 30, 2026

Jill Kneisl, Head Gardener - May 24, 2026 - Sept. 7, 2026

Approve the 26-27 Agreement with ASPI Solutions Inc., DBA Bound

Approve the 26-27 School Nutrition Programs joint agreement renewal with

Freshwater Education District Staples ALC

Approve the 26-27 agreement with Kelly Education

Approve the 26-27 agreement with Northern Pines Mental Health Center, Inc.

Motion by Trout, seconded by Reeck, to approve the consent agenda. MC Donations and In-Kind Contributions

Motion by Freeman, seconded by Wright, to approve the Resolution to accept Grants and Donations in the amount of \$4,120 and In-kind donations in the amount of \$400. MC Finance Items

Financial Report was presented by Business Manager Hill

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

General Fund: \$935,576.88

Food Service: \$125,677.21

Community Service: \$19,317.21

Construction Fund: \$0.00

Debt Service: \$0.00



Groundwater dewatering on 4th Street NE

Construction crews with Blake Drilling & Dewatering of Columbus were at work recently along 4th Street NE in Staples, installing a dewatering system, as part of the reconstruction project along that street. According to the city's Facebook page, crews also set up a temporary water system to serve affected homes and businesses while the existing watermain is replaced. The post went on to

note that crews were working to lower the groundwater level along 4th Street and planned to begin installing the new watermain from 3rd Ave NE to Park Ave NE in the near future. "We appreciate everyone's patience as work continues on this important infrastructure project," was noted by the city. (Staples World photo by Dawn Timbs)



Construction continues along 4th Street NE

Crews worked to remove sidewalks along 4th Street NE in Staples recently, as the city's reconstruction

project along that street is currently underway. (Staples world photo by Dawn Timbs)

Public Notices

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

PUBLIC NOTICE
Notice is hereby given that the Todd County Planning Commission will hold a public hearing on **Thursday, June 4, 2026 at 6:00 p.m.** in the Commissioners meeting room, Historic Courthouse, 215 First Ave. South, Long Prairie, MN to consider the following applications.

NOTE: This meeting is again being held in-person and the public is encouraged to attend, and those who do attend in person can find parking atop the hill on the west side of the Historic Courthouse and enter through the north doors, near the American Flag and monument.

Questions? Phone 320-732-4420 or Email toddplan.zone@co.todd.mn.us

Agenda
•Call to Order
•Pledge of Allegiance
•Introduction of Planning Committee Members and process review
•Approval of agenda
•Approval of January 8, 2026 Planning Commission meeting minutes
•The applicant is introduced
•Staff report
•Applicant confirms if staff report accurately represents the request
•Correspondence
•Site Visit Review
•Public Comment

•Board review with applicant, staff and public

1. Prairie Country Estates, Randy Mechels: Section 16, Long Prairie Township
Site Address: County 5, Long Prairie, MN 56347
PID: 18-0015300
1. Request to create a five-lot Plat in Residential-2 Zoning District.
2. Gaylen Sandgren: Section 32, Long Prairie Township
Site Address: 23570 210th St., Long Prairie, MN 56347
PID: 18-0040001
1. Request to Rezone from Commercial to Natural Environment Shoreland Zoning District.
3. Lakeside Bluffs Addition, Eric Valencia and Kurt and Barb Johnson: Section 21, Burnhamville Township, Long Lake
Site Address: Dunlap Road, Burtrum, MN 56318
PID: 06-0031100
1. Request to create a two-lot Plat in Recreational Development Shoreland Zoning District.

Adjournment.

Next meeting: July 2, 2026

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

Todd County Planning Commission
Jim Pratt, Chair

PUBLIC NOTICES continued from page 9A

NOTICE STAPLES-MOTLEY INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT #2170 SUMMER FOOD SERVICE PROGRAM (SFSP)

Staples-Motley Independent School District #2170 will be operating a summer foods program at Staples-Motley Middle/High School (401 Centennial Drive, Staples, MN 56479). Service will start June 1, 2026 and will run Monday - Friday until August 21, 2026. The exceptions to this are June 19 and July 6-10, when there will be no meal service. Breakfast will run from 8:00 - 9:00 a.m. and lunch will be served from 10:30 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. Any youth ages 18 and under are eligible to receive one meal for breakfast and one meal for lunch per day. Meals must be consumed on-site.

Any questions related to the program can be sent to: foodservice@isd2170.org or call 218-894-5400.

In accordance with Federal Civil Rights Law and U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) civil rights regulations and policies, this institution is prohibited from discriminating on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex (including gender identity and sexual orientation), disability, age, or reprisal or retaliation for prior civil rights activity.

Program information may be made available in languages other than English. Persons with disabilities who require alternative means of communication (e.g., Braille, large print, audiotope, American Sign Language), should contact the responsible state or local agency that administers the program or USDA's TARGET Center at (202) 720-2600 (voice and TTY) or contact USDA through the Federal Relay Service at (800) 877-8339.

To file a program discrimination complaint, a Complainant should complete a Form AD-3027, USDA Program Discrimination Complaint Form which can be obtained online at: <https://www.usda.gov/sites/default/files/documents/ad-3027.pdf>, from any USDA office, by calling (866) 632-9992, or by writing a letter addressed to USDA. The letter must contain the complainant's name, address, telephone number, and a written description of the alleged discriminatory action in sufficient detail to inform the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights (ASCR) about the nature and date of an alleged civil rights violation. The completed AD-3027 form or letter must be submitted to USDA by:

mail: U.S. Department of Agriculture, Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, D.C. 20250-9410; or fax: (833) 256-1665 or (202) 690-7442; or email: Program.Intake@usda.gov

This institution is an Equal Opportunity Provider.

ties who require alternative means of communication (e.g., Braille, large print, audiotope, American Sign Language), should contact the responsible state or local agency that administers the program or USDA's TARGET Center at (202) 720-2600 (voice and TTY) or contact USDA through the Federal Relay Service at (800) 877-8339.

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mail: U.S. Department of Agriculture, Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, D.C. 20250-9410; or fax: (833) 256-1665 or (202) 690-7442; or email: Program.Intake@usda.gov

This institution is an Equal Opportunity Provider.

Referendum bonds to be split into two seperate issues

By Mark Anderson
Publisher

At their May 4 meeting, the Staples-Motley School Board learned that the school plans to issue two sets of bonds for their \$42 million

Jodie Zesbaugh of Ehlers, the financial company doing the bond for the referendum, said that with current high interest rates and unsteady rates, they suggest the best approach is to issue a smaller amount of bonds now and issue the rest when the interest rates are more agreeable.

"Instead of paying all the interest right off the bat, we can use that money for project costs," said Zesbaugh. "That will provide additional funds for you."

She said Ehlers will monitor the draw schedule and market conditions to help determine the timing for the second issue.

Looking at the overall project, Zesbaugh said the tax base in the school district grew by 7.1 percent and they expect more growth.

"We will have no problem meeting that tax neutral promise" of the referendum, said Zesbaugh.

The first bond sale will be for around \$14 million.

Music trip 2027
Music director Cade

Bestland told the board that they are looking for next year's band trip to travel to St. Louis, where they will have an opportunity to perform.

Superintendent Shane Tappe said the school has changed their calendar to allow the band students to go on the trip without missing athletic events.

In other news, the board

- Approved hiring of Bonnie Richter, special ed; Paul Walgren, custodian; Emili Vieths, English; and Dennis Miller, transportation.
- Approved agreement with Todd County Health & Human Services Foster Care Coop Transportation. Tappe said "we're seeing kids get placed in foster care and the distance becomes much further. The intent is for it to be temporary, but we see a situation lasting for for two years with one student two school districts away. We don't want to complicate the issue when a kid is placed in foster care, but there is also a significant cost to the district."
- Approved online college in the high school memorandum.
- Approved transportation contract with Greig's Bus Service.

OBITUARIES continued from page 6A

Obituary

William Goff

William Edward Goff, "Bill," 92, of Staples passed away May 1, 2026.

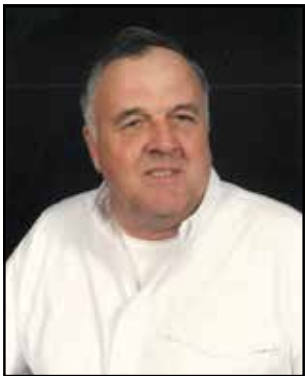
Mass of Christian Burial will be held at 11 a.m., Friday, June 19, at Sacred Heart Catholic Church in Staples. Visitation will be held one hour prior to services at the church.

Interment will be at Evergreen Hill Cemetery, Staples.

Bill was born November 7, 1933, to Lee and Francis (Jay) Goff in Staples. Bill attended Sacred Heart Catholic School and graduated from Staples High School in 1951. On April 7, 1953, Bill married the love of his life, Janis Simon. Together, they raised their four sons in Staples.

After high school, Bill went to work for Northern Pacific Railroad. He also worked at Jenkins Appliance and the Staples Locker Plant. Bill went to work for a cable TV company in the 1960's setting up cable TV service for area cities, including Staples, Wadena and Park Rapids. Bill eventually returned to Jenkins Appliance and bought into the business.

Bill served on the Staples Volunteer Fire Department for 32 years. He joined the Fire Department in 1958, serving as Fire Chief for many years beginning in 1979. Bill served as a director for the Minnesota State Fire Chiefs Association. During this time, Bill envisioned creating a facility where the firefighters, law enforcement and first responders from around the state could come for specialized training. After many years of meetings in St. Paul with legislators, including Representative Rick Krueger and Governor Perpich, Bill's vision became a reality with the groundbreaking ceremony



for Minnesota Emergency Responders Training Academy (MERTA) in Staples, on October 3, 1985. Bill served as MERTA's training coordinator before retiring in 1999.

Bill said that outside of his pride for his family, he was very proud of his service to his community and the lifelong friends he made while serving on the Fire Department. Bill enjoyed hunting and fishing with family and friends, gardening, and making maple syrup and pickles. He was an excellent teacher who had a great sense of humor.

Bill is survived by four sons, Mike (Mary Jo), Mark (Julie), Pat (Beverly) and Dan (Shirley); five grandchildren, Jessie Goff, Christopher (Jackie) Goff, Emily (Micah) McGinnity, Ryan (Erika) Goff and Maren (Joel) Martin; nine great-grandchildren, Riley, Austin, Charlotte, Lincoln, Merrick, Lyndie, Emma, Madden and Ari; one brother, Richard (Mary) Goff; one sister, Sandy Harper and many nieces, nephews and friends.

He is preceded in death by his parents; wife, Janis; one granddaughter, Tina Goff; two brothers, Darwin and Robert and several in-laws.

w22c A00006B2026MY20

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

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

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

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



Raking at Veterans Park in Staples

Students at Staples-Motley Middle/High School participated in the first Day of Caring in the Motley and Staples areas, completing a variety of projects for busi-

nesses, parks, organizations, senior citizens and disabled individuals. Pictured above are students (and their



Painting doors at Motley Fire Hall

Staples-Motley High School students helped paint doors at Motley Fire Hall May 13, as part of the first Day of Caring sponsored by the school. Pic-

tured, from left, Carolyn Hoppe, Jaida Holst, Grace Lamke, Brooke Reisenauer, all sophomores. (Staples World photo by Dawn Timbs)



Planting trees at Legacy Arboretum

One of the jobs for the Day of Caring was planting trees at the Legacy Arboretum in Staples. Above, students plant in

the midst of the forest. Below, they find spots near the pond in the arboretum. (Staples World photos by Mark Anderson)



Grooming hiking trails

One Group of students smoothed out the hiking trails at Legacy Arboretum and filled holes where people could twist an ankle. The arboretum hiking club meets on Wednesdays at 6 p.m. (Staples World photos by Mark Anderson)



Sharing baked goods with The World

As part of the first Day of Caring event May 13, students from the ProStart Cooking Class at Staples-Motley Middle/High School shared baked goods with area busi-

nesses and individuals. Pictured at the Staples World, from left, Lucas Ziegler, Serenity Scharen, Angie Paklon-

sky, Daniel Sturm-Hughes, Lisa Koenigs (teacher), Kallie Mae Corey, Mya Dobson, Emma Borash, Tekoa Pruitt. (Staples World photo by Dawn Timbs)

Council decides to switch state flags

By Mark Anderson
Publisher

The Staples City Council voted to replace the new Minnesota state flag with the old flag in the City Council chambers.

At their May 12 meeting, City Administrator Jerel Nelsen said other cities have decided to replace the flag and the council had requested to bring the topic to the meeting.

Nelsen told the council that the Minnesota State Legislature has introduced a bill that would reduce LGA (Local Government Aid) for cities that go back to the old flag. He said the city doesn't have to fly a state flag.

Council member John Jewison said the LGA threat "seems like posturing at this point."

"The governor is in a deep enough hole," said

Council member Doug Case.

Council member Roy Miles said if they pass a rule to take away LGA, the council could just not fly a flag.

Jewison said he doesn't want to make it a party issue and that the way they changed the flag "was handled poorly."

The council voted unanimously to replace the new flag with the former Minnesota flag.

In other news, the council

- Approved liquor licenses for Beck's Burger Co., B & B's Sports Bar & Grill, Staples Food Corporation (Ernie's), Batcher Block Opera House, Timberlake and Liquor Depot
- Approved raffle permit for Knights of Columbus at Sacred Hearth Catholic Church.
- Approved increasing wages for part time seasonal mowers, which was

left off the previous wage scale.

- Approved street overlay bid to Ideal Construction for the low bid of \$108,000.
- Learned that the Staples Public Works Department has been recognized for their response time to electrical outages. Public Works Director Scott Grabe said they average three and a half minutes for response time. He said this is because of the work they do during the year, maintaining infrastructure, and the experience of the employees.
- Learned that the Staples Community Center was recognized by the Red Cross for their lifesaving work when a patron collapsed at the center.
- Approved parcel split for property on 8th Street SE, with condition that shop building on one property is not used as a business.

Staples Police report

Recent reports taken by the Staples Police Dept. include:

May 3, Staples Police investigated complaint of garbage being burned. Police observed a small amount of leaves and brush being burned.

May 5, Staples Police investigated report of a male party walking into a store wobbling and fell onto the bathroom floor. Police assisted ambulance with the person.

May 5, Staples Police located a vehicle at the Dower Lake access. Three occupants in the vehicle said they were homeless, two adults and a juvenile. Police made arrangements for them to stay at hotel in Long Prairie for the night.

May 6, Staples Police investigated report of dirt bikes driving on Roosevelt St. SW.

May 6, Staples Police investigated a report of an airpod stolen from Brainerd. Caller stated it was pinged at an address in Staples. Police advised the caller to make a theft complaint so police could check the residence.

May 7, Staples Police learned from Wadena County that a driver was driving away from a liquor store while drinking alcohol.

May 7, Staples Police investigated reports of two bears running around residences on 5th St NE. One bear was in a tree. Police contacted DNR, who

advised to leave the bear alone and check on it in the morning to see if it's still in the tree.

May 8, Staples Police received a report of a male and female at Staples City Hall who are suspected to be on drugs. Police observed subjects who left shortly after police arrival.

May 8, Staples Police investigated a complaint at Still Lefty's in Staples. Caller said individuals are intoxicated, trying to start fights and tipping tables over. Upon arrival, police observed a subject who appeared to be intoxicated getting carried to a vehicle. Police learned that all parties involved had left the bar.

GRADUATES continued from page 1a

Graduates gain education from activities, work, teachers

when it was stressful, but I made sure to prioritize what needed to get done first," said Lawrence. "I always stayed focused on my goals."

Reese said one of the secrets is to buckle down and do the hard work, often working through the weekend.

"I put in some late hours on game days, or late nights after practice," said Reese. "I did skip out on some fun things to do homework instead," a decision he made to prioritize his commitments.

Schlosser said at times it was overwhelming, balancing school and activities.

"I managed them by using my time wisely and not procrastinating, but still doing everything efficiently," said Schlosser. "It definitely was tough."

Reese noted that a lot of this year's seniors participated in extracurricular activities, which is one way for them to stay connected.

"We meet up at sporting events or band or speech events," said Reese. "All the different groups are cohesive."

Students are often supported by their classmates in the other activities. That is also one of the things that the Class of 2026 is most proud of, strengthening the sports and arts scene at the school.

"This is one of the better years for the school," said Reese, who was a part of the Cardinal state champion wrestling teams and the football team that made

it to the state final last year.

"My friends are proud of the teams and what we did for the school," said Reese. And it wasn't just his teams, it was many different sports that rose to a high level this year.

Schlosser felt that she received a good education academically.

"Being a small school, you can get a lot of one-on-one learning and connect more with your teachers," said Schlosser.

Schlosser said her favorite teachers were Allison Vangness and Jill Kneisl.

"They always keep it real, I connected with them very well," said Schlosser.

Lawrence said her favorite Staples-Motley teacher is Erik Johnson.

"We had to memorize the Preamble to the Constitution. It is now engraved in my mind, and I don't think I will ever be able to forget it," said Lawrence.

Brownell said her favorite teacher was math teacher Caitlyn Hacker.

"She treats me like one of her own friends, she always listened to what I had to say," said Brownell. She also was able to retake math tests when needed.

Reese said he enjoyed Marly Simmons math classes the most.

He remembered that Simmons once wrote a math equation into a song and brought his guitar to sing it to the class. It was a parody of "Beautiful Girls" by Sean Kingston.

"He taught to my way of learning and made it fun,"

said Reese.

A fun memory for Schlosser was when a group of her classmates would launch carrots across the cafeteria at each other.

For his final semester, Reese is taking a work experience class while working for his uncle's plumbing business. He puts in about 20 hours a week, keeps a journal and takes safety quizzes.

Learning the plumbing trade gives him an option for a future career.

"I learn something new every day, sometimes more than I can retain," said Reese. "I am learning more than in a lot of classes I have taken."

Reese plans on joining the Air National Guard in Duluth this summer while he decides his next steps, either college, a trade school or continuing with work.

Lawrence plans to attend Minnesota State University, Moorhead, to major in elementary education.

Brownell plans to go to the University of Tulsa to run cross country and track, with majors in business and management.

Schlosser is planning to attend MSU-Moorhead to major in business marketing.

After navigating their high school career in a changing educational landscape, the students will obtain their degrees on Friday, May 22, at 7:30 p.m. at The Nest.



Installing the Vietnam Battlefield Cross sculpture

Eric Brichacek and his son Owen Brichacek of Brichacek Masonry, Brownville, installed the Vietnam Battlefield Cross bronze sculpture at Veterans Park in Staples recently. The sculpture was donated to the park by Kevin Jenkins of Staples. (Staples World photo by Dawn Timbs)

MEMORIAL continued from page 1a

Three locations for Motley Memorial Day programs

U.S. Navy; Earl Mergens, U.S. Marine Corps; Gary Mueller, U.S. Navy; Ron Unger, U.S. Marine Corps; Lawrence Weyer, U.S. Navy.

Motley

The Motley American Legion, Tri-County Post #124, will host Memorial Day programs May 25, at the

following locations:

- Bridgeman Cemetery, 9 a.m.
- Motley Public Cemetery, 11 a.m.
- Poplar Cemetery, 1 p.m.

Pastor Jim Johnson will give the invocation. Following the service at Poplar Cemetery, the Poplar

Ladies Birthday Club will serve lunch at the Leader Community Hall, in celebration of their 100th birthday.

The Motley Historical Society will have an open house at Motley City Hall from 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. on Memorial Day. Pie and ice cream will be served.

Marketing during construction workshop

The North Central Small Business Development Center (SBDC) at Central Lakes College, in partnership with The Economic Alliance, is hosting a no-cost virtual workshop to help businesses prepare for and navigate the challenges that can come with construction projects and community disruptions. Marketing During Construction will take place virtually on May 26, 2026 from 10-11 a.m. and will be led by Katie Heppner, Regional Director of the North Central SBDC.

Designed for small business owners and community stakeholders, the workshop will focus on practical and affordable marketing strategies that businesses can implement right away. Participants will learn how to maintain visibility, com-

municate effectively with customers, strengthen partnerships, and adapt their messaging during periods of disruption. The session will also highlight ways businesses can turn challenges seasons into opportunities to strengthen customer relationships and long-term brand awareness.

"Construction projects can create uncertainty for small businesses, especially in rural communities where every customer interaction matters," said Katie Heppner, Regional Director of the North Central SBDC. "This workshop is about helping businesses stay proactive, stay visible, and continue building momentum even during periods of change. We are grateful to partner with The Economic Alliance to bring

this support to businesses in Wadena County and the surrounding region."

The workshop is free to attend, but advance registration is encouraged. To register, visit <https://tinyurl.com/marketingduringconstruction>.

The North Central Small Business Development Center is hosted at Central Lakes College and has served entrepreneurs and small business owners across north central Minnesota since 1986. The North Central SBDC provides no-cost, confidential consulting, training, and technical assistance to support businesses at every stage, from startup to growth and transition. To learn more about the North Central SBDC, visit www.northcentralsbdc.com.



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

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- Prenatal and Postpartum Visits
- Adult Preventative Visits
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- Well Child & Teen Visits
- Medicare Annual Wellness Visits

SPECIALTY SERVICES:

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- Urology
- and more

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



Essentia Health

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Monday-Friday: 8 am-4:30 pm
Urgent Care Monday-Friday: 8 am-6 pm