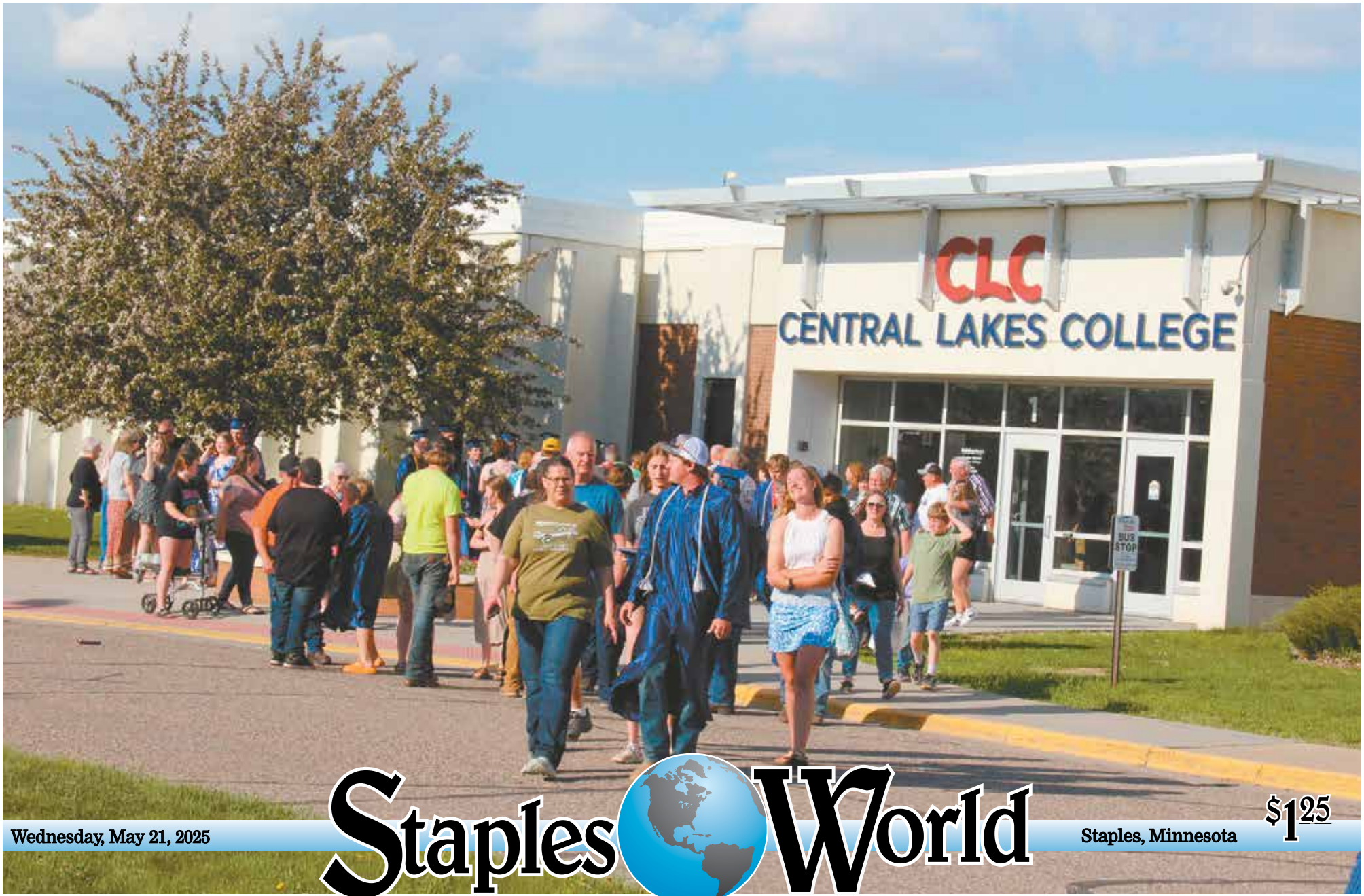


Inside this issue:

Motley crash damages fairground building
Senior banners in Staples
Beachy sets pole vault record



MMFCU looking to build on Highway 10

By Mark Anderson
Managing Editor

Mid-Minnesota Federal Credit Union (MMFCU) is making plans to purchase properties and build a new facility on Highway 10 in Staples.

Representatives from the credit union and from HGT Architects were at the May 13 Staples City Council meeting to ask if they could purchase a portion of a city-owned lot east of 8th Street NE, on the north side of the highway. The council was in favor of the purchase so the city will start the process to sell the land.

Staples City Administrator Jerel Nelsen told the council that MMFCU is asking to purchase 75 feet of the city property, which will leave 125 feet that could be used for future development. MMFCU has agreements with two adjacent homeowners to purchase

their lots if the city agrees to sell. That will add up to enough space for the new credit union building and a parking lot.

Sean Raboin of HTG Architects told the council that conversations for this plan had been started a year ago, after they saw the Casey’s store on the next block over.

Raboin said they built a similar building in Wadena, near the Walmart store.

MMFCU representatives included President Bob Gerads and Terri Kobliska of the Staples branch. Gerads said that in addition to giving the credit union more visibility, he thought the move would help their financial advising and business lending services.

Nelsen said the city needs to go through the ordinance process in order to sell the land. MMFCU is offering \$45,000 for the city portion of the lot.

One door closes, another opens

Graduates of the ‘Career and Technical Programs’ at Central Lakes College in Staples were greeted by friends, family, and new possibilities after receiving their diplomas May 14, during an inspiring commencement program. A total of 144 students graduated from this program. See more photos on pages 2a, 10a. (Staples World photo by Dawn Timbs)

Memorial Day events in Staples, Motley

Several Memorial Day events will be held on Monday, May 26, 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, Deb Otteson will sing the National Anthem, Pastor Carl Larson will give the invocation, and U.S. Marine Corps Veteran Rob Walters of Cherry Point, N.C. 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.

Walters’ talk is titled, “Remember All Veterans and Their Values.”



During his career, Gunnery Sergeant Walters was a squad leader school instructor, a jungle warfare instructor, combat trainer and a special operations trainer in advanced demolitions and as a rappel master.

Guest speaker

Gunnery Sergeant Rob Walters USMC (Retired) of Cherry Point, N.C. will be the guest speaker at the Memorial Day Service in Staples.

Walters experienced combat during the Gulf War in Kuwait. Through the Marines he earned degrees from Central TX College, CA State University and Capella University, including a BA and an MA in Industrial/Organizational Psychology. He became a certified Black Belt at Villanova and certified in Mergers and Acquisitions from Harvard.

Walters received numerous commendations, awards and medals while serving our country. He exemplifies the Marine Corps’ core values of honor,

See **MEMORIAL DAY** on page 12a

Twenty-one high schoolers graduating with college degrees

The Class of 2025 has become highly educated while forging their own personal path. Three of this year’s Staples-Motley seniors, Heidi Zimmerman, Jade Storry and Miranda Schotzko, talked recently about their high school journeys. Graduation is Friday, May 23 at 7:30 p.m. Zimmerman and Storry will be student speakers at graduation.

All three of them will be receiving their college AA degree as well as their high school diploma, indicating they have finished their first two years of college while still in high school. Zimmerman said this year’s class has the most AA degrees of any class. School guidance counselor Steve Jennissen confirmed that 21 seniors have enough college credits for the AA degree, nearly doubling the old record of 11 students.

The students get college credits in different ways. Many college level classes are taught by teachers in the school, classes can also be taken online or students can go to the college for technical or in-person classes. Jennissen said the high school encourages students to get many graduation requirements done



Class of ‘25 saw opening of The Nest

Three of the 21 Staples-Motley seniors who are graduating from high school with their first two years of college completed, from left, Miranda Schotzko, Jade Storry and Heidi Zimmerman. Two of them will be speaking at graduation on Friday, May 23, at 7:30 p.m.

The students are pictured at The Nest, the new gymnasium and walking track that opened their senior year.

giving them a chance to get into graduate school after two years. Schotzko plans to go into exercise science with a goal of getting into physical therapy graduate school. Storry is looking at a biology major and psychology as a pre-medical school track. Zimmerman wants to go into agribusiness with a concentration on horticulture. As they are meeting their future college

See **DEGREES** on page 3a

Weather

2025

This Week's Forecast

	High	Low	Cond.
May 21	57	38	Showers
May 22	70	41	P. Cloudy
May 23	68	47	M. Sunny
May 24	65	49	P. Cloudy
May 25	64	47	Cloudy
May 26	67	47	Cloudy
May 27	72	49	M. Sunny

Last Year, 2024

	High	Low	Cond.
May 21	57°	52	Rain
May 22	66	48	Sunny
May 23	74	47	M. Sunny
May 24	60	54	Rain
May 25	68	45	Cloudy
May 26	70	54	Sunny
May 27	65	52	Cloudy

Average Temps:
H = 72° Low = 48°

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

Public Notices

Motley Cemetery Association **9A**

City of Motley **9A**

Todd Cty Weeds **9A**

City of Staples **9A**

Thomastown **9A**

Obituary

David Larson



Family celebrations

A number of people traveled to the Staples campus of Central Lakes College May 14, to attend the Commencement Ceremony for students in the Career and Technical Programs. Following the ceremony, families gathered for photos with loved ones who'd received diplomas.

Above, from left, are members of the Johnson family from Pillager: Paul, Kim, Katherine, Brian (who received an Associate of Applied Science degree) and Con-

nie. The family noted that Paul, Katherine and Connie are alumni of CLC.

Below, family of Colin Stocke, who graduated from CLC's Heavy Equipment Operation & Maintenance program, posed outside for a photo. From left are Colin's grandparents, Annie and Mike Orman; Colin Stocke, his mother, Angela Stocke; uncle, James Orman; and his father, Chris Stocke, all of Duluth. (Staples World photo by Dawn Timbs)



Sharing the joy

Teshome Johnson, Heavy Equipment Operation & Maintenance student at Central Lakes College in Staples, gets a hug from instructor Anji Mousseau after receiving his diploma May 14. (Staples World photo by Dawn Timbs)



Motley Police Chief appreciated

The Motley City Council expressed their appreciation of Police Chief Al Yoder (pictured above) at their regular council meeting May 12. The council noted that National Police Week was observed May 11 - 17. (Staples World photo by Dawn Timbs)



Pursuit ends at Motley Fairgrounds



The vehicle driven by Dawson Pawluck, 20, of Cold Spring, during a high speed pursuit along Hwy 210 May 12, ended with it crashing into a building at the Motley Fairgrounds near Hwy 10 and Hwy 210 in Motley. See story for more information. (Submitted photos)

Suspect vehicle located, crashes into Motley building

Cass County Sheriff Bryan Welk reported that on May 12 at 1:15 p.m., the Cass County Sheriff's Office received a request from the Baxter Police Dept. to attempt to locate a vehicle involved in a property damage incident that occurred in their jurisdiction.

The vehicle was quickly located in the area of Hwy 210 and Cty 1 in Pillager, travelling west on Hwy 210 at a high rate of speed. A deputy attempted to initiate a traffic stop on the vehicle and it continued to travel west on Hwy 210.

Due to driving conduct and other conditions, the pursuit was terminated. A short time later, it was reported that the vehicle

had crashed into a building near Hwy 10 and Hwy 210 in the City of Motley, in Morrison County.

Deputies responded to that scene and located the driver of the vehicle, Dawson Pawluck, 20, of Cold Spring, in the vehicle and he was taken into custody. Pawluck was transported to Lakewood Health System Hospital in Staples for treatment of non-life threatening injuries, and custody was later transferred to the Baxter Police Dept. There were no other reported injuries from the incident in Cass or Morrison counties. Assisting agencies included Pillager Police Dept. and Staples Ambulance.

Motley area law enforcement

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

May 12 - Motley Police report that Dawson Pawluck was driving too fast and was unable to stop for the Hwy 10 and Hwy 210 junction stoplights in Motley, ultimately crashing into a building at the Motley Fairgrounds. Police Chief Al Yoder, who assisted at the scene, reported that Pawluck was taken into custody by a Cass County deputy.

May 8 - A Morrison County deputy responded to a report of three peacocks on the roadway of 230th St. and 10th Ave., Cushing. The deputy located the owner of the peacocks, who was aware of the missing birds and was out looking for them. The deputy was unable to locate the peacocks, but the owner continued searching.

May 7 - Kaily Lynn Dingman, 24, was cited for driving after revocation and engaging in a wireless device.

Spring

OPEN HOUSE

SATURDAY, MAY 31

11AM TO 3PM

401 1st Street NW

Staples, MN

Nice Selection

3 Bdrm/2 Stall Garages

Available Now!

Priced To Sell \$182,900-\$195,900 - Brand New

Come view our lovely homes located in our manufactured housing land lease community, Prairie View Neighborhood. These new homes are ready for move in today. All homes include 24x24 garage and have 12 month warranties. Come join us at Prairie View Neighborhood offering housing for your lifestyle.

Call Michelle for your showing 218-256-3800.

CALL 218-256-3800 TODAY

Mike Ives Realty

Mike Ives Home Sales • Michelle Carlson, Broker

www.prairieviewneighborhood.com



Housing for Your Lifestyle in Staples, MN

Prairie View Neighborhood





DEGREES continued from page 1a

College degrees in high school

roommates and classmates, they are finding that it is very unusual to be starting college with that many college credits.

Storry said deciding an educational track early and getting college credits in that field gives students a better opportunity to connect with people who are working in the field. “We are able to do more shadowing and interning, with less time in college,” said Storry.

Schotzko said she would like to give younger students advice on choosing their own educational path.

Zimmerman agreed, saying “I didn’t know what to do, so get the classes you need to do, then find the path that feels right for you.”

She felt it is more rewarding to discover the path for yourself. “Start learning how to schedule now. I didn’t know what was out there until I started looking into it,” she said.

Class unity

Despite a senior class where everyone is taking different classes, the seniors feel that they still have good class unity. It started in Motley and Staples elementaries, then they were joined by students from Sacred Heart Area School.

“There wasn’t a lot of strong cliques when we were thrown together in middle school,” said Storry.

They stayed unified even as they all chose different educational paths. On a day to day basis, many of them worked on their online classes at the school, often hanging out in the auditorium lounge. They keep track of each other, checking to see how a test or a project went. Sometimes they had the same online class and were able to do group projects in person. They gave an example of one classmate who is going

into diesel mechanics and taking classes at Central Lakes College. Although they don’t see him day to day, they still consider him a part of their class and they keep track of his progress.

By the second semester of their senior year, few seniors were required to be in the school, but many came to study or take part in music, sports or other activities.

Staples-Motley Principal Debbie Ferdon said the Class of 2025 excels in their ability to build relationships.

“They enjoy each other’s company and support each other,” said Ferdon. “They have taken the opportunity to build relationships with coaches and teachers.”

Building those relationships resulted in academic and extracurricular success.

“I feel we are very accomplished with state trips and state championships, and a lot more when I look back,” said Zimmerman. “A lot of people were self-driven.”

They noted that there was a large senior presence in activities, which doesn’t always happen as classmates go in their own direction. The three of them are all in multiple activities including sports, music, and FFA.

“I believe in finishing what you started,” said Schotzko. “It’s a culture thing.”

They are making a point to share that culture with the younger students.

“We try to be encouraging of the younger kids, we can be people they look up to,” said Schotzko.

Zimmerman said she was afraid of the older students when she was young, so she is trying to be open and do more to include them.

Court report May 14

Long Prairie Police Department

Rafael De La Cruz Lora, Long Prairie. Speed 55/30. Fine \$70. Fee \$155.

Andrea Nerelly Gonzalez, Long Prairie Driving after revocation. Fine \$200. Fee \$85.

John Robert Lofgren, Long Prairie. Trespass. Dismissed, conditions met or expired. Unsupervised monitoring without conviction, 1 yr.

Rafael Richardo Molina Puello, Reading, PA. Driving without a valid license for vehicle class or type. Fine \$100. Fee \$85.

Frank Dillon Perish, Long Prairie. Operate vehicle with expired registration. Fine \$30. Fee \$85.

Emiliano Salas, Long Prairie. Speed 50/30. Fine \$70. Fee \$155. Driving after revocation. Fine \$200. Driver must carry proof of insurance when operating vehicle. Fine \$200.

MN State Patrol

Alieshaw Deanna Nelson, Wadena. Speed 69/60. Fine \$40. Fee \$85.

Dominic David Augustine, Pewaukee, WI. Speed 84/70. Fine \$50. Fee \$85.

Phillip J. Keith Catagas, Winnipeg, MB. Speed 83/70. Fine \$50. Fee \$85.

Karissa Doree Dominic, Minneapolis. No proof of insurance. Fine \$200. Fee \$85.

Eve Katy Eisenbeis, Fargo, ND. Speed 89/70. Fine \$60. Fee \$85.

Cassidy Jade Erickson, Lake Park. Speed 84/70. Fine \$50. Fee \$85.

Brian Alexander Hernandez Ambriz, Melrose. Speed 72/60. Fine \$50. Fee \$85.

Joel Joseph Jager, Little Falls. Driving after revocation. Fine \$200. Fee \$85.

Paulene Louis, Alexandria. Speed 75/60. Fine \$60. Fee \$85.

Melissa Lynn Meyer, Roselle, IL. Speed 82/70. Fine \$50. Fee \$85. Seat belt required. Fine \$25.

Chase Allan Mueller, Avon. Speed 80/70. Fine \$40. Fee \$85.

Joshua Wayne Nelson, Oslo. Speed 75/60. Fine \$60. Fee \$85.

Sheila Kay Oldenburg, Sauk Rapids. Speed 87/70. Fine \$60. Fee \$85.

Stephanie Anna Petsche, Walker. Speed 72/60. Fine \$50. Fee \$85.

David John Rodgers, St. Paul. Speed 80/70. Fine \$40. Fee \$85.

Armando Jesus Sanchez Rodriguez, Long Prairie. Speed 82/60. Fine \$70. Fee \$155.

Teianna Lee Schneider, Alexandria. Instructional permit violation (18 years or older). Fine \$50. Fee \$85.

Jesse Lee Schroeder, Minot, ND. Speed 80/70. Fine \$40. Fee \$85.

Dylan Michael Simones, Sartell. Hands free law. Fine \$50. Fee \$85.

Linda Renae Skiple, Fargo, ND. Speed 82/70. Fine \$50. Fee \$85.

Logan Jade Vanderlin, Blaine. Speed 65/55. Fine \$40. Fee \$85.

Romario Vertilus, Alexandria.

Speed 74/60. Fine \$50. Fee \$85.

Timothy William Zigan, Long Prairie. Seat belt required. Fine \$25. Fee \$85.

Osakis Police Dept.

Betty Jean Geise, Grey Eagle. Driving after revocation. Fine \$200. Fee \$85.

Staples Police Dept.

Nicholas Michael Hurtig, Grand Rapids. Driving after revocation. Fine \$200. Fee \$85. Driver must carry proof of insurance when operating a vehicle. Fine \$200.

Todd County

Francisco Javier Ambriz Vazquez, Long Prairie. Operate vehicle with expired registration. Fine \$30. Fee \$85.

Bryan John Anderson, Long Prairie. Stray animals-running at large of domestic animals prohibited. Fine \$50. Fee \$85.

Thomas Jerry Green, Sauk Centre. Following vehicle more closely than reasonable and prudent. Fine \$50. Fee \$85.

Jacquelyn Joye Hansen, Alexandria. Speed 82/60. Fine \$70. Fee \$155.

John Mandley Herared, Browerville. Speed 65/55. Fine \$40. Fee \$85.

Cassandra Lynn Meneely, Staples. Owner who is not driver must later produce proof of insurance if required. Fine \$200. Fee \$85.

Alex Danilo Salgado Cruz, Long Prairie. Driver who is not owner must later produce proof of insurance if required. Fine \$200. Fee \$85.

The following cases were heard before Judge Daniel A. Benson in Seventh District Court in Todd County May 1, 2025.

Loren Stanley Vanhavermaet, Eagle Bend. Reckless driving. Dismissed. Careless driving-operate any vehicle carelessly on street or highway. Continued for dismissal. Unsupervised probation, 1 yr. Restitution \$4,804.08 to MN Power Company. Fee \$75.

The following cases were heard before Judge Daniel A. Benson in Seventh District Court in Todd County May 5, 2025.

Garret Micheal Paturzo, Staples. 3rd degree driving while impaired. Dismissed. 3rd degree driving while impaired-alcohol content greater than .08 within 2 hours. Sentenced. Supervised probation, 4 yr. Local confinement (364 days, stay 334 days for 4 yr credit for time served: 3 days). Fine \$500. Fee \$105. Driving restrictions. Dismissed.

The following cases were heard before Judge Daniel A. Benson in Seventh District Court in Todd County May 6, 2025.

Sean Joseph Wessel, Sauk Centre. Trespass. Continued for dismissal. Unsupervised probation, 90 days

Stephan Clay Nelson, Staples.

75 YEARS Ago - 1950

• May 25, 1950 - A special meeting was held Thursday of last week to elect new officers for the Motley FFA Chapter. Those elected will take over for their offices when the next school term opens.

Elected were: president, Alex Lamb; vice president, Wayne Alt; secretary, Charles Blake; treasurer, Kenneth Johnson; reporter, Russell Schrupp and Sentinel, Douglas Stevenson.

• May 25, 1950 - Opening Dance at Leader Community Hall Saturday, May 27. Music by Dixieland Band.

• May 25, 1950 - The new Drive-In, being constructed at the east side of the city of Staples by Earl Wilson, will officially open for the summer season on Memorial Day, according to Mr. Wilson.

Compiled by Dawn Timbs

The place will be known as Booner’s Drive-In, and motorists will be able to purchase soft drinks, candy, ice cream and sandwiches of all kind.

Car service will be given to people, and Mr. Wilson extends a cordial welcome to the people of Staples and the entire community to visit his place at any time.

• May 25, 1950 - The Luther Theological Seminary Quartet from St. Paul will present a sacred concert May 31, in First English Lutheran Church, Pastor J. M. Amundson has announced. The public is cordially invited. Its members are Stewart Govig, Armand Asper, Reuben Sorensen, and John Strom.

• May 25, 1950 - Fire of undetermined origin destroyed five brooder houses, and more than 5,000 baby turkeys two weeks old at the Staples Turkey farm, six miles west and 1 1/2 miles north of Staples at 12:15 o’clock the morning of May 25.

The Staples Turkey farm is owned by the Staples Produce Company, with Waldo F. Hall, as the owner. The place has been operated by Joe Kelling for the past number of years. Mr. Hall estimates his loss at more than \$10,000, which was partially covered by insurance.

• May 25, 1950 - Under the sponsorship of the Staples Rotary club, the third annual model airplane contest will be staged at the athletic field practice lot between Fourth and Fifth Streets North in Staples on Memorial Day afternoon, starting at one o’clock.

50 YEARS Ago - 1975

• May 22, 1975 - One hundred and forty-nine seniors will receive diplomas at the 71st annual Commencement Exercises of Staples High school, which will be held at 8 p.m. Tuesday, May 27, in the Staples Auditorium.

The Rev. Eugene Floistad, former pastor of Faith Lutheran Church, Staples, and presently serving as pastor of Breckenridge Lutheran Church, will be the commencement speaker.

• May 22, 1975 - About 170 students from the fifth and sixth grads of Staples elementary schools presented a musical, “Music Along the Tracks” Monday evening, May 12, in the roundhouse on the Burlington-Northern grounds. The stage on which the students performed was a railroad flat car, and all the songs had a railroad background. The program was directed by music teacher John Wolak, who also played banjo on several of the numbers.

• May 22, 1975 - The Staples Chapter of the

2nd degree driving while impaired. Dismissed. 2nd degree driving while impaired. Blood alcohol content greater than .08 within 2 hours of driving. Sentenced. Supervised probation, 4 yr. Local confinement (90 days, stay 0 yr 0 mo 30 days for 4 yr credit for time served: 60 days). Fine \$900. Fee \$75. Open bottle. Possession. Dismissed. Driving after



Mystery photo

Hello readers. This week’s archive photo is from 2004. 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.

Future Farmers of America recently elected their officers to serve during the 1975-76 year.

The newly elected officers are as follows: Mark Voeltz, treasurer; Patty Salber, reporter; Jane Olander, secretary; Dave Sowers, president; Ken Berg, vice-president; Dan Haglin, second vice-president; Gene Johnson, sentinel. Warren Kahler is the FFA Advisor.

• May 22, 1975 - The second winner of a Vagabond Weekend was Susan Holub of Motley, who had registered at Mueller Motor Co. in Staples. A picture of five-year-old Susan receiving her award from the owners of Mueller motor Co., M.A. “Whitey” Mueller and Robert Mueller, included her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Larry Holub; and brothers Dale, eight, and Jim, seven.

• May 22, 1975 - Barbara Hought, a member of the 1975 graduating class of the Motley High school, has been chosen to represent her school and community as a foreign exchange student to Mexico.

Barbara is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Elmer Hought of Motley. She is a member of St. John’s Lutheran Church and the Active Christian Teens.

• May 22, 1975 - Three members of Coach Jerry Riewer’s Cardinal Baseball team were named to the Mid-State All-Conference team this week. They were Mark Craft, Tom Backberg and Jeff Cizek.

25 YEARS Ago - 2000

• May 25, 2000 - The Staples Campus of Central Lakes College will have 18 to 24 more students in a brand new program next fall, thanks to an industry partnership and a Minnesota Job Skills Partnership (MJSP) grant.

The partnership with RDO Equipment of Fargo, N.D. and Nortrax Equipment of Eau Claire, Wisc., guarantees students for a two year John Deere Construction Equipment Technician Associate in Applied Science degree program customized for John Deere

equipment and applications.

The MJSP grant is for \$221,00 to train 54 workers.

• May 25, 2000 - Staples Motley boys golf squad last week finished second in both conference tournaments they played in.

The Cardinal boys, runners-up in the west half, finished second May 18 at the Mid-Minn Conference Championship played at The Lakes course at Rutters Bay Lake Resort.

Pine River, east champs, won with 24 points and a 441 team score. Staples Motley was second with 16.5 points and a 451 score.

• May 25, 2000 - The defending champs repeated once again as Staples Motley’s girls claimed first place Monday in the North Sub Section 6A golf tournament.

Meanwhile the Cardinal boys finished sixth in the boys Sub Section tournament. Both meets were played Monday, May 22 at Pebble Lake Golf Course at Fergus Falls.

Sophomore Mary Hasselberg shot a 76 to earn medalist honors and lead the Cardinal team to a 335 total. Senior Dana Hasselberg had an 82, Melanie Hanson an 88 and Becky Schornack an 89 for the team total. Kelly Koenig added a 98 and Alisha Forsberg an even 100 for the Cardinals.

10 YEARS Ago - 2015

• May 21, 2015 - Rain didn’t keep die-hard fans and drivers from attending the Spring Fling Demo Derby in Motley May 16, held at the fairgrounds.

The event was sponsored by the Motley Fair Board and Top Notch Motorsports, LLC. There were three classes of vehicles, with a total of 43 drivers competing.

• May 21, 2015 - Staples-Motley Class of 2015 Valedictorian Spencer Svendsen and Salutatorian Megan Han will be speaking at the commencement ceremonies May 22.



Mystery solved

Last week’s mystery photo published in the May 15, 1975 edition of the Staples World featured Mr. and Mrs. Glen Hasselberg and Derek, winners of the first Vagabond Weekend trip. They are shown receiving their certificate for the trip from Derald Miller, owner of Miller’s True Value and Home Center in Staples, where they registered. Seven more Vagabond Weekends were going to be given away under the promotion that appeared in The World.

Mike Koppes of Staples recognized all. Thanks for participating in our mystery photo.



DEADLINES
Newspaper deadline for copy and advertising: 12 noon Fridays



Senior banners a sign that the community supports our youth

By Mark Anderson
Managing Editor

I am thrilled every time I see the senior banners flying on 4th St. NE in Staples. It's an awe-inspiring display that honors our graduates in bold fashion. It shows the pride we have as we send the people we raised out into the world. Hopefully this creates a lasting sentiment for them to know that the community supports them without question.

If you remember, this tradition started in the Covid year of 2020. Those graduates were unable to attend class for the last two months of their high school career. They were forced to graduate in the school parking lot. Out of all that trauma and hardship, someone came up with a brilliant idea, to hang banners with the students' senior photos, so everyone could see who they had been missing for the last two months.

It was such a good idea that it's been repeated for every class since.

Every year, the banners show what a diverse community we have. There are always a couple of kids I don't know, a few more I didn't know were graduating this year, and quite a few who we have put in the newspaper many times over the years. It's remarkable to see what young adults they've all become.

Just as the banners bring the students together before their final sendoff, the community helps keep them together as the modern world spreads them apart.

Before Covid, people had begun voicing opinions that high schools would become obsolete in the future, that kids could get just as good of an education through their phone, or that they wouldn't need to know all that traditional curriculum. That turned out to be not true, students still need the basics of education, they need to learn how to interact in their community, no matter what path they are on.

Another fear about the demise of traditional education was that students would be sorted into groups and go along different paths so they wouldn't have the cohesiveness of being together.

The education part has happened, with students choosing their own paths with classes in person and online. Many are taking college level classes and others going into trades. But the cohesiveness is still being felt, at least at Staples-Motley.

This year's senior class members said they still feel like a regular class, although

it's quite different than what people see as a traditional school class. Even though they're not in the same home room every day, the seniors know about what their classmates are up to and they share the pride in what the others are doing, even if it's completely different than their own path. Social media might help with that. Many of the students were in elementary and junior high together, so they still keep up with each other by posting things on their phones, even if they don't see each other in person.

Small towns are their own cohesive force, that's where community comes in. We still have enough vibrant gathering places that our community fabric criss-crosses everyone who wants to be a part of it. Places like churches, restaurants, musical performances, community center, grocery stores, sporting events, service clubs, parks or school activities allow us to participate in community every day if we choose. Simply walking down the street, there is a good chance you will say "hi" to someone and sometimes stop for a conversation.

Which leads me back to the senior banners currently adorning 4th St. NE. Soon after they were put up, I walked from our downtown office to the softball game at the other end of the street. When I got to the softball field, I noticed several of the people on the posters were out on the field, representing their community for their final season. It's heartwarming to see so many seniors still putting in the effort to support their school. That doesn't happen every year. The values that our community tries to teach them must still be taking root, even though the modern world sometimes pushes them in another direction.

I remember watching the "Survivor" TV show years ago, with the final contestants walking down a path adorned with the photos of the people they had previously kicked off the island. They got all sentimental talking about the people who they had known for a matter of days, with weepy music playing in the background.

I suggest everyone in the community should take a stroll down 4th St. to observe the banners, and take time to talk about the graduates you know and the ways in which they are woven into our community fabric. And unlike "Survivor", we are not kicking them off the island. They are welcome to stay or are welcome back any time, because they are one of us and always will be.

Quote of the week

“My dear terrified graduates, you are about to enter the most uncertain and thrilling period of your lives.”
— Lin-Manuel Miranda

State government looking out for fraud

By Mike Wiener
State Representative

Every dollar lost to fraud is a dollar taken from your pocket and from the Minnesotans who truly need support. That's why our House Republican Fraud and State Agency Oversight Committee has spent this session doing the work the people expect: uncovering waste and abuse and advancing meaningful reforms to protect taxpayer money.

Despite repeated claims by the DFL, our House Fraud and state Agency Oversight Committee is not tasked with investigating consumer fraud. That's handled by Judiciary, Public Safety, and Commerce Committees. Our job is to investigate and prevent fraud within state agencies...where your tax dollars go.

What the House Fraud Committee Has Accomplished this Session:

- Oversight & Testimony**
 - Office of the Legislative Auditor (OLA): Testified about years of red flags ignored by state agencies.
 - Office of Grants Management (OGM): Offered direct solutions to fix broken oversight processes.
 - Department of Human Services (DHS): Revealed gaps, mismanagement, and vulnerabilities.
 - Attorney General Keith Ellison: Hosted a hearing where fraudsters them-

selves described how they manipulated systems using race and religious narratives.

- Committee Legislation**
 - HF 2891: Cracking Down on Grant Fraud This bill takes several steps to make sure taxpayer money is used properly:
 - Site Visits: State agencies must visit grant recipients in person to check that the money is being used the right way.
 - Staff Training: Workers who manage grants must be trained and certified so they know how to spot and prevent fraud.
 - Bad Actor List: A public list will be created to track individuals and groups who have been banned from receiving grants because of wrongdoing.
 - Whistleblower Protection: People who report fraud in good faith will be protected, and agencies must follow up when fraud is reported.
 - HF 3043: Making Kickbacks Illegal This bill makes it a crime for anyone—including nonprofits—to take or give kickbacks in connection with government grants.
 - Medicaid Fraud & DHS Oversight**
 - Uncovered red flags in Medicaid billing
 - DHS raised their risk level for Autism Centers and Housing Stabilization Services.
 - Bipartisan concern

around legislative earmarks and agency accountability is beginning to shift the culture.

The fraud committee launched www.MNFRAUD.com to give whistleblowers a safe place to report waste, fraud, and abuse. In just over a week, they received 657 submissions a clear sign the public is ready for transparency.

House Republicans mission at the beginning of session was to expose fraud, protect taxpayer dollars, and ensure services reach those truly in need.

The DFL fought the very creation of this committee. They still refuse to co-author any of the bills and are now laying the groundwork to eliminate the only legislative body committed to enterprise-wide fraud oversight. They argue this committee is political. But they conveniently ignore our request to the U.S. Department of Justice to appoint a new U.S. Attorney in Minnesota to help us prosecute fraud at the federal level.

House Republicans are staying vigilant and will continue to expose fraud because you deserve to know where your money goes. You deserve a government that works for you—not for fraudsters. You deserve to know where your hard-earned tax dollars go and what's not being used deserves to go back to you.

Reasons why government is big and complex

By Lee H. Hamilton

America is a big, complicated country. It's not surprising that we have a big, complicated system of government. But the combination of size and complexity can create challenges. It leads inevitably to conflict, as the branches of government compete for power. And it often leaves citizens feeling frustrated and distrustful. Government can seem distant and impersonal, its actions arbitrary.

Most often, the major actors in this drama are, one, the executive branch, and two, the legislative branch. The president and the Congress have distinct powers that are enumerated in the Constitution. Often those powers clash, producing confusion and even gridlock.

The judiciary, the third branch of government, is also a player. The courts can decide whether presidential

actions and laws passed by Congress comply with the Constitution. But those decisions typically come after the fact, not as part of day-to-day governing.

There's arguably a fourth branch of government, and that's the bureaucracy. Federal employees often get a bad rap, and that's not fair. We have talented and dedicated people working in all areas of government. They do work that is essential, even when it's routine.

But critics have a point when they complain that the bureaucracy lacks accountability. Much of the way that citizens interface with government is in the form of rules and regulations, and the people who write and enforce the rules can seem insulated from public oversight. It's also true that the bureaucracy is quite large, although that's not a new situation. The federal workforce, currently a little over 2 million people, is slightly smaller than 50 years ago, even though the U.S. population has grown by two-thirds.

President Donald Trump and his adviser Elon Musk have eliminated tens of thousands of government jobs, but many cuts have come from shutting down agencies like the U.S. Agency for International Development and Voice of America, and some are tied up in court. Even if Trump and Musk get what they want, the bureaucracy will remain vast.

Finally, we have a system of federalism in which the 50 states exercise considerable authority, adding hugely to the complexity. The Supremacy Clause of the Constitution declares that federal laws are the "supreme law of the land," superior to state and local laws. At the same time, the 10th Amendment says that all powers "not delegated to the United States," such as power over health and education, are reserved for the states. States guard these powers jealously. And

within each state, there's a tug-of-war between state and local governments and frequent debates about local control.

When citizens don't understand what the government is doing, they tend not to trust it; and lack of trust has become a big problem. Fewer than 20% of Americans trust the government to do the right thing, according to the Pew Research Center. That makes it harder for elected officials and bureaucrats to do their jobs.

At the federal level, our system can't work well if there's a lack of cooperation between the branches of government. How do we get cooperation? It's typically up to the president to make it happen. There's no doubt the president is the strongest actor. With congressional authority spread among 100 senators and 435 House members, there's no contest. Only the president can whip the parties into acting in concert.

Of course, presidents sometimes overreach. One could argue that's happening now with President Donald Trump's onslaught of executive orders and rejection of court decisions. If presidents go too far, it's up to Congress and the courts to rein them in.

The size and complexity of government creates challenges, but it shouldn't keep government from being effective. The branches should cooperate and coordinate when they can, and they should check each other's power when appropriate. That part of the complexity is what the founders intended and what we should expect as citizens.

Lee Hamilton is a distinguished scholar at the IU Hamilton Lugar School of Global and International Studies and senior advisor for the Indiana University Center on Representative Government. He was a member of the U.S. House of Representatives for 34 years.

Funding formulas increase costs

By Mike Wiener
State Representative

Over the past several months, I've heard from many of you who are frustrated by rising property taxes, especially seniors on fixed incomes, young families trying to budget, and small business owners doing their best to stay afloat.

A major contributor to these increases is automatic inflators built into state funding formulas. These inflators automatically increase spending year after year without requiring a vote or annual review by the Legislature. While they may sound harmless, they quietly put pressure on local governments, drive up costs, and leave taxpayers footing the bill.

Automatic inflators are policies written into law that tie future budget in-

creases to inflation or other cost indexes. They are often embedded in state funding formulas for schools, counties, and other local entities. While the intention may be to keep up with rising costs, the reality is that these formulas often don't consider the economic burden they place on families or the current fiscal environment.

Local governments are forced to absorb these mandated increases, even if their local economies aren't growing at the same pace. If state funds don't fully cover the cost (which is often the case), the difference is made up through local property taxes. That means cities, counties, and school districts must either cut essential services or raise taxes to meet the demands of these automatic increases.

Without regular oversight, automatic inflators create a cycle of unchecked

spending and tax increases.

- As a result:
 - Local governments are pressured to raise levies to meet budget demands.
 - Taxpayers see year-over-year increases with little transparency.
 - Property tax hikes disproportionately affect fixed-income residents and working families.
- We must bring greater accountability and flexibility to our budgeting process. That means:
 - Re-evaluating automatic inflators and restoring legislative oversight.
 - Allowing local governments to budget based on real-time needs—not rigid formulas.
 - Prioritizing fiscal responsibility and property tax relief for Minnesotans.
- This is about fairness, transparency, and making sure government works for you.

StaplesWorld

Established in 1890. USPS 518-760
©2025 RMM Publications
Published Wednesdays by RMM Publications
Office located at 224 4th Street NE
Periodicals postage paid at Staples, Minnesota 56479.

Mailing Address: P.O. Box 100
Telephone: 218-894-1112 - Fax: 218-894-3570
Toll Free: 1-888-894-1112
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.



MINNESOTA NEWSPAPER ASSOCIATION
FREE PRESS 1897

PublisherRMM Publications LLC
Owners Rick Gail, Mike Kremer, Mark Anderson
Managing Editor.....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.

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.

Member: Minnesota Newspaper Association, MCAN Advertising

Hello World

ONLINE BIRTHS REMOVED
A THE REQUEST OF LAKEWOOD
HEALTH SYSTEM.



Staples Area Church Directory

Staples

Staples Alliance
1512 8th St. NE, Staples.....218-894-2891
Jonny Olson, Associate Pastor
Sunday Worship.....9:30 a.m.
Sunday School.....11:00 a.m.
WEDNESDAY
AWANA.....6:00 p.m.

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

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

Faith Lutheran
430 12th Street, NE, Staples.....218-894-1546
Pastor Carl Larson
Sunday Worship Service.....8:30 a.m.
Sunday School and Coffee Fellowship.....10:05 a.m.

Sacred Heart Catholic Church
310 4th St. NE, Staples
Church.....218-894-2296
info@marysacc.org
Fr. Aaron Kuhn and Fr. Rick Aubol
MASS:
Sunday.....8:30 a.m.

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

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

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

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

Aldrich

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

Cushing

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

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

Cushing Baptist

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

Leader

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

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

Motley

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

St. John's Lutheran
497 3rd Ave. S, Motley.....218-352-6399
Pastor Vicar Paul Koehler
Sunday School and Bible Class.....8:30 a.m.
Sunday Worship.....9:30 a.m.
St. Michael Catholic Church
1st St. and Birch, Motley.....218-894-2296
info@marysacc.org
Fr. Aaron Kuhn Fr. Gabriel Walz
MASS:
Saturday.....4:00 p.m.

St. Michael
280 1st Ave S, Motley.....218-894-2296
Fr. Aaron Kuhn and Fr. Rick Aubol
MASS:
Sunday.....10:30 a.m. (May - Nov.)
Saturday.....4:00 p.m. (Dec - April)

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

Oylen

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

Pillager

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

Casino Assembly of God
Pastor Dan Johnson
N. of Motley, Hwy. 64, E. on Cty 34 to Cty. 104.
Phone.....218-746-3839
Sunday School.....9:30 a.m.
Worship.....10:30 a.m.
Sunday Worship.....7:00 p.m.
WEDNESDAY.....7:00 p.m.

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

Hewitt

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

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

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

Verndale

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

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

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

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

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

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

St. Frederick Catholic Church
20 Mason Avenue NW
Vermdale.....218-894-2296
info@marysacc.org
Fr. Aaron Kuhn and Fr. Rick Aubol
MASS:
Saturday.....6:00 p.m

St. Hubert Catholic Church
Bluegrass.....218-894-2296
info@marysacc.org
Fr. Aaron Kuhn and Fr. Rick Aubol
MASS:
Sunday Service.....10:00 a.m. (Dec. - April)
Saturday.....4:00 p.m. (May - Nov.)

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

Wadena

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

Obituary

David Larson

Family and friends are invited to join in remembering and honoring David (Dave) Larson's remarkable life.

A celebration will be held at PickleStone, "A gathering place for family

and friends" on Saturday, May 31, 2025 from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. with storytelling and sharing memories at 3 p.m. located at 46647 Red Oak Rd., Staples, MN 56479.

w22x A00006B2025MY21

Summertime food safety

Todd County Health and Human Services

The number of people who get sick from food poisoning goes up in the summer. Be sure you and your family aren't among them. During summertime, bacteria floures. Heat, humidity and often the lack of a sanitized environment all contribute to food poisoning.

Wash your hands often, especially before handling food and after using the restroom.

• Use hot, soapy water and scrub well. When you're eating away from home, be sure to pack disposable washcloths and paper towels for cleaning hands and surfaces.

Prevent cross contamination.

• Remember to separate

your foods and wrap raw meats securely. Always wash the plates or cutting boards that held the raw meat before using it again for cooked food. When you're packing the cooler, wrap raw meats securely to avoid their juices coming in contact with ready-to-eat foods.

Cook safely.

• Cooking meat and poultry kills harmful bacteria so always cook your meats to proper temperatures. Cook hamburger to at least 160°F and cook chicken and turkey to 180°F.

Store food safely.

• Keep cold foods cold and hot foods hot. Keep your refrigerator temperature below 41°F. When serving foods don't leave them out more than two hours. Cool leftovers as soon as possible and reheat them to 165°F.

Open Mon.-Fri!

OLD SCHOOL HEALTH

•Massage
•Bio Resonance Testing
•Rife Machine Sessions
•Ear Candling
•Essential Oils
•Living Water - Hydrogenated Water
•NASA Tech Air Purifiers with Ozone

121 4th St. NE
Staples 218-895-8102

Monday - Friday
10am - 4pm
or by Appointment

Needing/Wanting a Granite Memorial FOR YOUR FAMILY?

I can help!

Diane M. Hahn

30 years serving our area!

Rep. for Fergus Falls Monument Co.

Call 218-445-5685 or 218-640-2341

Looking for a gift idea?

Consider a Gift Subscription to the Staples World newspaper.

*Gift cards available.

224 4th St. NE
Staples, MN

Staples World

"Continuing to Consider Children"

Submitted by Pastor Barry Klein, Staples Church of Christ

Children are one of my favorite life topics for our devotion consideration. I continue to look forward in my monthly prayer guide to the 12th of the month where I get to thank God for three columns of the wonderful realities of children (and grandchildren).

Within that part of the prayer guide, Matthew 19:13-15 continues to be prominent as it recounts the dear and personal value that Jesus Himself has about children...children that He creates and who belong to Him. I so enjoy envisioning Jesus drawing the children to Him and welcoming them up on His lap as He visits with them and embraces them. What a privilege welcoming them up on His lap as He visits with them and embraces them. What a privilege and responsibility it is to interact with a child in talk, play and (when appropriate) hugs.

But we have a very real and agonizing opposite side to all of this in today's world. It's also a part of one of my two prayer guides in praying against human trafficking, abortion, child abuse and neglect in any form.

Let's let Jesus put it straight to us as we hear Luke 17:1-3a (NIV 2011), "Jesus said to His disciples: Things that cause people to stumble are bound to come, but

woe to anyone through whom they come. It would be better for them to be thrown into the sea with a millstone tied around their neck than to cause one of these little ones to stumble. So watch yourselves."

If you've viewed with extreme difficulty the film "Sound of Freedom" of which Caviezel plays Tim Ballard, you'll remember that Luke 17:2 is quoted by him when he's about to arrest a trafficker.

It sickens me whenever people share with me their childhood abuse in any form. Children are not things. They are no commodities. They are diamonds from God and belong to God and we are entrusted with them as the gifts they are from Him.

May all of us hear a "clarion" call to regain the treasure of children. And men, we need to be at the forefront of protecting, valuing and investing in children in all their stages of life.

Let us all, in whatever our intentional opportunities are, live out Jesus' words to His misguided apostles who needed a life lesson about children, "Let the little children come to Me, and do not hinder them, for the Kingdom of Heaven belongs to such as these." (Matthew 19:14)

THE STAPLES AREA CHURCH DIRECTORY IS SPONSORED BY THESE AREA BUSINESSES:

To become a Church Directory supporter, call 218-894-1112.

Ernie's Food Market
Groceries - Gas - Convenience - more
Staples, MN 218-894-1072

Staples Veterinary Clinic
"Complete Animal Care"
Staples, MN 218-894-1775

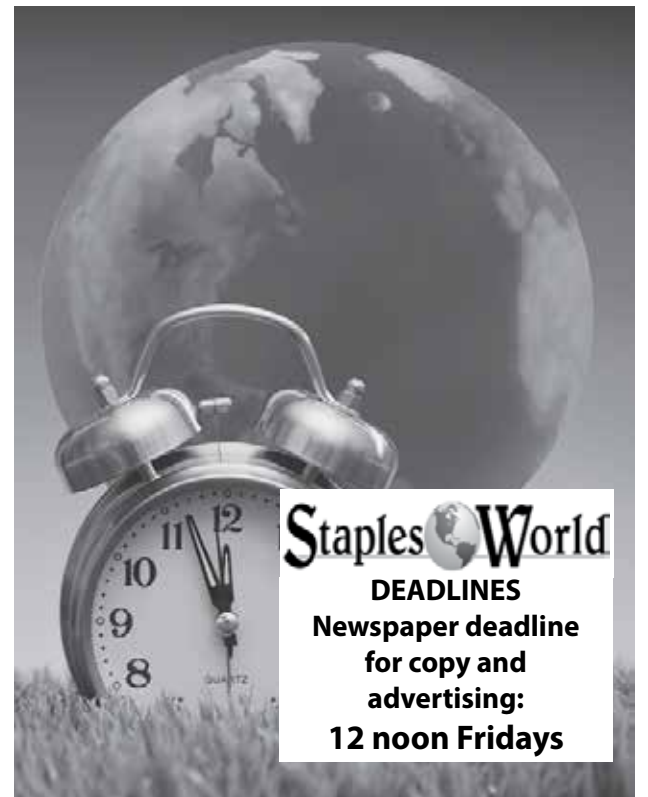
Tower Pizza
Pizza, Pasta, Salads, Sandwiches
Staples, MN 218-894-3299

Central Building Supply
Hwy. 10 West, Staples, MN
218-894-3794

Staples World
Your community newspaper since 1890
224 4th St. NE, Staples, MN
218-894-1112

The Church Directory is supported by the advertisers listed above and the Ministerial Association.

***To update your church information or to advertise on the Church Directory, email: jwinter@staplesworld.com. or call 218-894-1112. Continue to email your Ministerial pastoral message or advertisement to: jwinter@staplesworld.com



Staples World

DEADLINES

Newspaper deadline for copy and advertising:

12 noon Fridays

Beachy hits new height, sets pole vault record

Turner Beachy cleared 15 feet in the pole vault event, setting a new Staples-Motley school record, topping his father Arden Beachy, who had cleared 14'9" in 1989.

Beachy's historic vault easily won the Heart O' Lakes Conference meet held May 13 at Barnesville.

Other Cardinals who were conference champions were Avandre Brandt in the high jump, Sawyer Ferdon triple jump and Audrey Brownell in the girls 800 meter race.

Notable performances for the girls included Annie Schlosser placing in the discus and shot put, and Sophia Luna placing fourth in the 200 meter dash.

On the boys side, Dillan Robben placed fourth in the 400 meter dash and Noah Larson was third in the 110 meter hurdles. Drake Dukowitz and Adrian Gomez continued throwing well in the discus and shot put.

Girls results
Heart O' Lakes Conference track and field meet
Perham 157, Pelican Rapids 108, Barnesville 97, Park Rapids 91, Frazee 74.5, Dilworth-Glyndon-Felton 68, United Clay-Becker 58.5, Staples-Motley 31, Breckenridge 17

100 - 7. Corrine Olson 13.89, 23. Iva Hinson 15.30, 25. Kylee Chenoweth 15.85

200 - 4. Sophia Luna 28.32, 21. Kana Reese 31.36, 23. Hinson 32.40

400 - 15. Lucille Maros 1:11

800 - 1. Audrey Brownell 2:18, 18. Elise Trif 2:58

1,600 - 9. Naila Mikhaeil 6:02, 14. Trif 6:28

3,200 - 12. Suhaila Mikhaeil 13:53

100 hurdles - 12. Abby Brichacek 20.17

300 hurdles - 18. Brichacek 1:04

4x100 - 5. SM 55.41

4x200 - 8. SM 2:05

4x400 - 5. SM 4:31

High jump - 20. Maros 4'0", 20. Onna Schmitz 4'0"

Long jump 15. Arianna Grant 13'10", 21. Schmitz 12'7.5"

Triple jump - 19. Brichacek 28'6", 20. Ronnie Noska 27'11"

Discus - 6. Annie Schlosser 91'5", 18. Marissa Heifort 71'2", 24. Gemma Fairbanks 55'4"

Shot put - 7. Schlosser 30'4.5", 18. Heifort 26'11.25", 24. Fairbanks 18'0.5"

Boys results
Heart O' Lakes Conference track and field meet
Perham 155, Dilworth-Glyndon-Felton 128, Park Rapids 107, United Clay-Becker 85, Staples-Motley 69, Pelican Rapids 64, Frazee 49, Barnesville 27, Breckenridge 14

100 - 15. Benet Robinson 12.27, 17. Gavin Chenoweth 12.39, 18. Luke Bjerga 12.48

200 - 15. Jesus Gallardo 25.81, 19. Alexander Helstrom 26.85

400 - 4. Dillan Robben 54.40, 20. Carson DeWald 1:01

800 - 11. Blaine Plattner 2:18, 18. Israel Ritter 2:30, 19. Ivan Lozano 2:31

1,600 - 9. Plattner 5:10, 11. Lozano 5:34

3,200 - 11. Andrew Dobson 11:42

110 hurdles - 3. Noah Larson 16.37

4x100 - 5. SM 48.15

High jump - 1. Avandre Brandt 6'0"

Long jump - 1. Sawyer Ferdon 19'2", 2. Brandt 18'8.75"

Triple jump - 11. Helstrom

Top pole vaults in Staples-Motley history		
Turner Beachy	15'0"	'25
Arden Beachy	14'9"	'89
Max Giza	14'6"	'18
Beau Pilgrim	14'6"	'06
Ryan Beachy	14'6"	'91
Tony Spandl	14'5"	'77
Matt Heier	14'0"	'98
Dennis Bacon	13'6"	'79
Chris Longbella	13'5"	'77
Jeff Marden	13'3"	'82
Brandon Sterriker	12'6"	'11
Bryan Reese	12'6"	'05

34'9", 13. Josiah Critten 33'9.75", 14. Chenoweth 33'5.25"

Pole vault - 1. Turner Beachy 15'0", 6. Conner Kuhns 11'6"

Discus - 5. Drake Dukowitz 119'8", 6. Adrian Gomez 116'5", 11. Dustin Converse 99'11"

Shot put - 5. Gomez 42'5.25", 7. Dukowitz 40'8.5", 14. Converse 36'3"

Baseball team on winning streak

The Staples-Motley baseball team has now rattled off eight straight wins to run their record to 11-6. The Cardinals beat Ashby 10-0 on May 13 and eked out a 3-2 win over Hawley that went into extra innings.

The Cardinals scored a run in the eighth to win it.

The winning streak has moved them into third place in the Heart O Lakes Conference with a 8-5 conference record.



Elijah Kossan



Leighton Bettis

Tough losses in doubleheader

The Staples-Motley softball team had two heartbreaking losses in a doubleheader against Park Rapids on May 13, falling 10-9 in the first game and 19-18 in the second. The Cardinals also lost 14-1 at Hawley on May 14. This was the end of the regular season schedule, the team will start the playoffs this week.

The losses dropped Staples-Motley to sixth place out of nine teams in the Heart O Lakes Conference with a 6-8 record.

Development impacts wolves' hunting habits

UN of MN
MN Voyageurs Wolf Project

Research from the University of Minnesota's Voyageurs Wolf Project found that human activities in northern Minnesota - logging, road and trail creation, and infrastructure development - have profoundly impacted where wolves hunt and kill deer fawns. By altering forest ecosystems, humans have created an environment that possibly favors the predators.

This research, published in Ecological Applications, is a collaboration between the University of Minnesota, Northern Michigan University, the University of Manitoba, Voyageurs National Park and the Voyageurs Wolf Project. The Voyageurs Wolf Project is funded, in part, by the Minnesota Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund as recommended by the Legislative-Citizen Commission on Minnesota Resources (LCCMR).

"The premise is really quite simple: human activities change where deer are on the landscape, and wolves go where the deer are," said co-lead author Thomas Gable, a postdoctoral researcher at the UN of MN and project lead

for the Voyageurs Wolf Project.

The researchers found:

Wolves disproportionately hunt and kill deer fawns around recently logged areas - those logged within the past five years. This is likely because clear-cut forests provide dense stands of young saplings, supplying prime food for deer and excellent hiding spots for newborn fawns. Wolves seem to know these recently-logged areas are good hunting spots, turning the nursery grounds into risky areas for deer fawns during summer.

More than expected, wolves tend to kill deer fawns closer to human infrastructure, like cabins, year-round residences and barns. This is likely in part due to the fact that supplemental feeding of deer by people is common in the region, and this likely congregates deer near human-developed areas. The high concentration of deer near human development, in turn, attracts wolves to areas near people.

Wolves preferentially hunted fawns from linear features - roads, powerlines, ATV/UTV trails, and hunting lanes - and disproportionately killed fawns closer to these

to the research team, as wolves face the same general issues that people do when traveling in the woods, and just like humans, wolves often prefer to travel on linear corridors than through dense forest.

"When we put all of the pieces together, it's pretty clear that the cumulative effects of all major aspects of human activity in the Northwoods - logging, infrastructure development and road and trail development, have fundamentally changed where and how wolves hunt deer fawns here," said Sean Johnson-Bice, a Ph.D. candidate from the University of Manitoba and co-lead author of the study. "The rules of this predator-prey game change when people alter ecosystems and it's possible we have created conditions that may have tipped the scales in the predators' favor."

Future research is needed to understand whether human activities have simply influenced where wolves end up killing deer fawns or if human activities have actually increased wolf hunting efficiency of deer. The team is exploring various approaches to examining this question.



NOTICE
MOTLEY PUBLIC
CEMETERY
ASSOCIATION

The Motley Public Cemetery Association will hold their annual meeting Wednesday, May 28, 2025 at 6:00 p.m. at Brick's Restaurant, Motley.

Lana Hansen, Treasurer
22-23pnc

NOTICE
CITY OF STAPLES
SUMMARY
PUBLICATION

Official Summary of Ordinance
No. _____.

AN ORDINANCE
AMENDING SECTION
109-123 OF THE CITY
CODE OF THE CITY OF
STAPLES

NOTICE: THE FOLLOWING PUBLISHED MATERIAL IS ONLY A SUMMARY OF THE AMENDMENTS TO SECTION 109-123 OF THE STAPLES CITY CODE. A PRINTED COPY OF THE ENTIRE 11 PAGE ORDINANCE IS AVAILABLE FOR INSPECTION BY ANY PERSON DURING REGULAR OFFICE HOURS AT THE STAPLES CITY HALL.

THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF STAPLES HEREBY ORDAINS AS FOLLOWS:

AMENDMENT OF
MUNICIPAL CODE, SECTION 109-123, SIGNS.

Section 109-123 of the City Code has been amended to update various provisions of the Section. Notably, definitions have been modified and certain license requirements have been removed. Finally, certain requirements within zoning districts have been modified or removed.

EFFECTIVE DATE. This Amendment shall become effective upon its adoption and publication according to law.

Adopted by the City Council of the City of Staples this ____day of_____, 2025

APPROVED:
Ron Murray, Mayor

ATTEST:
Tara Greer, City Clerk
22pnc

NOTICE OF
MORTGAGE
FORECLOSURE SALE

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

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

DATE OF MORTGAGE: July 31, 2015
ORIGINAL PRINCIPAL AMOUNT OF MORTGAGE: \$92,857.00

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

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

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

ASSIGNMENTS OF MORTGAGE: Assigned to: Wells Fargo Bank, N.A. by assignment recorded on September 10, 2019 as Document Number A515937 in the Office of the County Recorder of Todd County, Minnesota.

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

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

COUNTY IN WHICH PROPERTY IS LOCATED:

NOTICE
CITY OF STAPLES

ORDINANCE NO. 553

AN ORDINANCE
AMENDING SECTION
109-5 OF THE CITY
CODE OF THE CITY
OF STAPLES

The City Council of the City of Staples hereby ordains as follows:

An amendment to Section 109-5 - Nonconforming uses, to read as follows (underlined text added and strikethrough text deleted):

Sec. 109-5. - Nonconforming uses.

Any structure or use existing upon the effective date of the adoption of the ordinance from which this chapter is derived may be continued subject to the following provisions:

(1) A nonconforming use or structure may be replaced, expanded, or enlarged in conformity with the provisions of Section 109-36, Conditional Use Permits.

(2) An existing nonconforming use shall not be allowed to be converted to another nonconforming use.

(3) A nonconforming use of a structure which has been discontinued for a period of 12 months shall not be re-established and any further use shall be in conformity with the regulations of this chapter.

(4) A nonconforming structure which is damaged by any cause to the extent of more than 50 percent of its market value as determined by the current records of the county assessor, shall not be restored except in conformity with the regulations of this chapter, unless building permit has been applied for within 180 days of when the structure is damaged.

(5) Normal maintenance of a nonconforming use and structure is permitted. Maintenance may include necessary non-structural repairs and incidental alterations which do not include or intensify the nonconforming use.

EFFECTIVE DATE. This Amendment shall become effective upon its adoption and publication according to law.

Adopted by the City Council of the City of Staples this 13th day of May, 2025

Tara Greer, City Clerk
22pnc

NOTICE
THOMASTOWN
TOWNSHIP
SPECIAL MEETING

Thomastown Township will be holding a special meeting at the town hall on Monday, June 2, 2025 at 6:30 p.m. to discuss vacating 120th St (minimum maintenance road) from 241st Ave. to 251st Ave. (Cty 29).

Sue Walsvik, Clerk
Thomastown Township
22pnc

ATTENTION
LANDOWNERS:
NOXIOUS WEED AND
BRUSH SPRAYING

Legal Notice is hereby given that there will be Noxious Weed and Brush Spraying of County Road Right of Way. The spraying will begin sometime after June 1, 2025. Any questions regarding this matter should be directed to Todd County Ditch and Ag Inspector Nancy Uhlenkamp, Located at Public Works, 44 Riverside Drive, Long Prairie, MN 56347, 320-533-4651, nancy.uhlenkamp@co.todd.mn.us. .

22pnc

PUBLIC NOTICE
GENERAL NOTICE
TO CONTROL OR
ERADICATE NOXIOUS
WEEDS

Notice is hereby given this 12th day of May, 2025, pursuant to Minnesota Statutes, Section 18.83, Subdivision 1 (2009), that all persons in Todd County, Minnesota, shall control or eradicate noxious weeds on land they occupy or are required to maintain (Landowners are required to control noxious weeds on lands enrolled in an FSA program. Please contact FSA for control requirements). Control or eradication may be done by any lawful method, but the method(s) may need to be repeated to prevent spread of viable noxious weed seeds and other propagating parts. Failure to comply with the general notice may mean that an individual notice, Minnesota Statutes, Section 18.83, Subdivision 2 (2009), will be issued. Failure to comply with an individual notice may mean the inspector having jurisdiction may hire the work done. If the work is hired done, the cost can be placed as a tax upon the land and collected as other real

estate taxes are collected. You may obtain the Noxious Weed List from your County Agricultural Inspector (CAI) or your Local Weed Inspectors (LWI). LWIs include the township supervisors, city mayors or their appointed assistants. More information regarding the MN Noxious Weed Law and a list of CAIs can be obtained from the Minnesota Department of Agriculture's Web Site: https://www.mda.state.mn.us/plants-insects/minnesota-noxious-weed-list. The noxious weeds that need to be: Eradicated: Black swallow-wort, Brown knapweed, Common teasel, Cutleaf teasel, Dalmatian toadflax, Diffuse knapweed, Giant hogweed, Grecian foxglove, Japanese honeysuckle, Japanese hops, Johnsongrass, Pale swallow-wort, Palmer amaranth, Red hailstone/goldencreeper, Tree of heaven and Yellow starthistle. Controlled: Bohemian knotweed, Canada thistle, Common barberry, Common tansy, Giant knotweed, Japanese knotweed, Leafy spurge, Meadow knapweed, Narrowleaf bittercress, Non-native phragmites, Plumelless thistle, Poison hemlock, Purple loosestrife, Round leaf bittersweet, Spotted knapweed, and Wild parsnip. Restricted Noxious Weeds: Amur honeysuckle, Amur silvergrass, Bell's honeysuckle, Black locust, Common or European buckthorn, Crown vetch, European alder, Garlic mustard, Glossy buckthorn (all cultivars), Japanese barberry cultivars, Lesser celandine, Morrow's honeysuckle, Multiflora rose, Porcelain berry, Saltcedar, Siberian peashrub, Tatarian honeysuckle, Wild carrot/Queen Anne's lace and Winged burning bush (and all cultivars). Specially Regulated Plants: Amur corksree, Amur maple, Callery pear, Norway maple, Poison ivy and Tatarian maple. We appreciate your help in controlling and eradicating Noxious Weeds in Todd County. Nancy Uhlenkamp, Todd County Ditch and Ag Inspector, Located at Public Works, 44 Riverside Drive, Long Prairie, MN 56347. 320-533-4651 nancy.uhlenkamp@co.todd.mn.us.

22pnc

Public notices are a community's window into the government. You look for those notices in your newspaper. From zoning regulations to local budgets, governments have used local newspapers to inform citizens of its actions as an essential part of your right to know.

Keep public notices in newspapers!

Todd County
Commissioners
Minutes

MINUTES OF THE
MEETING OF THE TODD
COUNTY BOARD OF
COMMISSIONERS HELD
APRIL 15, 2025

Call to Order

The Todd County Board of Commissioners met in the Commissioner's Board Room in the City of Long Prairie, MN on the 15th day of April, 2025 at 9:00 AM. The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Byers. The meeting was opened with the Pledge of Allegiance. All Commissioners were present.

Approval of Agenda

On motion by Neumann and second by Noska, the following motion was introduced and adopted by unanimous vote: To adopt the agenda as presented with removal of item 7.2 Accept the Federal DNR Boat and Water Grant.

Consent Agenda

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

To approve the Todd County Board of Commissioner's Meeting Minutes for April 1st & 10th, 2025 as presented.

Approve the resignation of Lead Eligibility Worker Teri Bense, effective April 11th, 2025.

To hire Tara Stanek to fill the open Administrative Specialist position. Grade E/5 Step E, \$26.35/hr. Start Date: TBD

Auditor-Treasurer

On motion by Neumann and second by Noska, the following motion was introduced and adopted by unanimous rollcall vote: To approve the March 2025 Auditor Warrants number (ACH) 904915 through 904982 in the amount of \$546,912.83 (Manual) 1058 through 1067 in the amount of \$37,693.39 and (Regular) 244124 through 244286 in the amount of \$849,118.44 for a total of \$1,433,724.66.

On motion by Denny and second by Becker, the following motion was introduced and adopted by unanimous rollcall vote: To approve the Commissioner Warrants number (ACH) 403822 through 403849 in the amount of \$36,429.38 and (Regular) 58845 through 58883 in the amount of \$98,233.12 for a total of \$134,662.50.

On motion by Noska and second by Denny, the following motion as introduced and adopted by unanimous rollcall vote: To approve the Health & Human Services Com-

missioner Warrants number (ACH) 806367 through 806415 and (Regular) 712959 through 712996 for a total of \$75,354.92.

On motion by Becker and second by Neumann, the following motion was introduced and adopted by unanimous rollcall vote: To approve the Health & Human Services SSIS Warrants number (ACH) 601625 through 601642 and (Regular) 518353 through 518373 for a total amount of \$64,492.44.

Public Works

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

REQUEST FOR A SPEED LIMIT STUDY ON COUNTY ROAD #11 NEAR ADAMS DRIVE

WHEREAS, on June 16, 2020 the Todd County Board of Commissioners passed a resolution requesting the Minnesota Department of Transportation to conduct a speed limit study on County Road 11 from the Stearns County Line to Ada Drive in order to determine a reasonable and safe speed limit, and;

WHEREAS, on November 23, 2020 the Minnesota Department of Transportation submitted a letter to the Todd County Engineer recommending "No Change in the 55 MPH speed limit at this time" after completing an engineering and traffic investigation, and;

WHEREAS, due to some recent traffic crashes on County Road 11 near Adams Drive some Todd County residents have expressed concerns over the appropriateness of the 55 mile per hour regulatory speed limit on County Road 11 from the Stearns County Line to Ada Drive in Kandota Township, and;

WHEREAS, by Minnesota Statute 169.14, Subdivision 5, local authorities can request the Commissioner of the Department of Transportation to authorize a speed limit on a local (non-trunk highway) roadway.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Todd County Board of Commissioners does hereby request the Commissioner of Transportation to make the necessary investigation to determine the reasonable and safe speed limit, as provided in Section 169.14, Subdivision 5, of the Minnesota Statutes, on Todd County Road 11 from the Stearns County Line to Ada Drive in Kandota Township.

County Sheriff

On motion by Becker and

See TCC on page 10

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, 216 Hwy 18 S. Questions about this report should be directed to Dan Bostrom, Chief Financial Officer at 209-976-0286.				
RECEIPTS AND DISBURSEMENTS FOR GENERAL OPERATIONS (GOVERNMENTAL FUNDS)				
	Total 2024	Total 2023	Percent Increase (Decrease)	
RECEIPTS				
Taxes	\$ 488,629	\$ 451,482	8.24%	
Special Assessments	41,359	36,400	13.63%	
License, Permits, and Fees	2,812	2,602	8.07%	
Grants	473,760	26,854	1765.52%	
Charges for Services	45,681	49,126	-7.01%	
Fines	3,152	5,879	-46.87%	
Interest Income	5,492	4,580	19.91%	
Miscellaneous	25,131	38,815	-35.24%	
TOTAL RECEIPTS	\$ 1,044,226	\$ 676,862	54.28%	
Per Capita	\$ 1,576.26	\$ 1,211.32	29.30%	
DISBURSEMENTS				
Current:				
General Government	\$ 759,618	\$ 571,612	33.10%	
Public Safety	216,469	261,899	-17.34%	
Public Works	751,478	74,873	900.47%	
Administration	1,869	31	5896.45%	
Public and Recreation	6,954	5,495	28.57%	
Economic Development	409	419	-2.41%	
Capital Outlay	322,031	7,867	3964.60%	
Debt Service				
Principal	107,886	100,888	7.90%	
Interest and Other Charges	21,006	25,780	-17.36%	
TOTAL DISBURSEMENTS	\$ 1,299,622	\$ 676,944	48.65%	
Per Capita	\$ 1,978.22	\$ 1,040.83	48.26%	
Total Long-term Obligations	\$ 415,886	\$ 888,886	-53.17%	
Per Capita	\$ 635.25	\$ 1,362.79	-53.61%	
General Fund and Special Revenue Funds Combined:				
Adjusted and Unadjusted Fund Balance - December 31	\$ 1,807,542	\$ 1,715,542	5.40%	
Per Capita	\$ 2,749.17	\$ 2,608.06	5.40%	

CITY OF MOTLEY, MINNESOTA STATEMENT OF NET POSITION PROPRIETARY FUNDS DECEMBER 31, 2024				
	Water Fund	Sewer Fund	Solid Waste Fund	Total
ASSETS				
Current Assets				
Cash, Cash Equivalents, and Time Deposits	\$ 1,217,787	\$ 2,277,842	\$ -0	\$ 3,495,629
Accounts Receivable	1,879,214	713,529	\$ -0	\$ 2,592,743
Accounts Receivable	71,648	96,760	\$ 8,421	\$ 166,829
Prepaid	2,246	\$ 898	\$ -0	\$ 3,144
Total Current Assets	\$ 2,168,895	\$ 3,089,039	\$ 8,421	\$ 5,266,355
Noncurrent Assets				
Capital Assets Not Being Depreciated	\$ 8,580	\$ -0	\$ -0	\$ 8,580
Capital Assets Being Depreciated (Net)	\$ 2,787,772	\$ 1,473,580	\$ -0	\$ 4,261,352
Total Noncurrent Assets	\$ 2,796,352	\$ 1,473,580	\$ -0	\$ 4,269,932
TOTAL ASSETS	\$ 4,965,247	\$ 4,562,619	\$ 8,421	\$ 9,536,287
LIABILITIES				
Current Liabilities				
Accounts Payable	\$ 3,684	\$ 9,587	\$ 6,440	\$ 19,711
Due to Other Funds	\$ -0	\$ -0	\$ 18,892	\$ 18,892
Accounts Payable	\$ 4,996	\$ 3,137	\$ -0	\$ 8,133
Accounts Due Within One Year	\$ 103,080	\$ 280,080	\$ -0	\$ 383,160
Total Current Liabilities	\$ 112,760	\$ 292,804	\$ 15,332	\$ 420,896
Noncurrent Liabilities				
Advances from Other Funds	\$ 17,388	\$ -0	\$ -0	\$ 17,388
Debt Due in One Year	\$ 2,517,588	\$ 221,088	\$ -0	\$ 2,738,676
Debt Due in More Than One Year	\$ 1,858,088	\$ 221,088	\$ -0	\$ 2,079,176
Total Noncurrent Liabilities	\$ 2,575,676	\$ 442,176	\$ -0	\$ 3,017,852
TOTAL LIABILITIES	\$ 2,688,436	\$ 734,980	\$ 15,332	\$ 3,438,748
NET POSITION				
Net Investment in Capital Assets	\$ 2,947,272	\$ 121,268	\$ -0	\$ 3,068,540
Unrestricted	\$ 276,588	\$ 3,338,629	\$ 17,087	\$ 3,622,204
TOTAL NET POSITION	\$ 3,223,860	\$ 3,459,897	\$ 17,087	\$ 6,690,844

THIS IS A COMMUNITY
NOTIFICATION FROM A DEBT
COLLECTOR.

21-26pnc

CITY OF MOTLEY, MINNESOTA STATEMENT OF REVENUES, EXPENSES, AND CHANGES IN NET POSITION PROPRIETARY FUNDS FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2024				
	Water Fund	Sewer Fund	Solid Waste Fund	Total
OPERATING REVENUES				
Charges for Services	\$ 481,679	\$ 423,780	\$ 48,410	\$ 953,869
TOTAL GROSS PROFIT AND OPERATING REVENUES	\$ 481,679	\$ 423,780	\$ 48,410	\$ 953,869
OPERATING EXPENSES				
Materials and Supplies	44,779	82,680	347	\$ 127,706
Repairs and Maintenance	2,674	3,296	\$ -0	\$ 5,970
Professional Services	4,388	11,171	\$ -0	\$ 15,559
Insurance	9,187	12,438	\$ -0	\$ 21,625
Utilities	38,866	66,842	\$ 7,247	\$ 102,955
Miscellaneous	1,215	5,137	\$ 3,819	\$ 10,171
Depreciation	107,482	286,128	\$ -0	\$ 393,610
TOTAL OPERATING EXPENSES	\$ 205,591	\$ 351,663	\$ 11,076	\$ 568,330
NET OPERATING INCOME (LOSS)	\$ 276,088	\$ 72,117	\$ 37,334	\$ 385,539
NONOPERATING INCOME (EXPENSE)				
Special Assessments	21,228	24,742	\$ -0	\$ 45,970
Intergovernmental	19,885	\$ -0	\$ 4,770	\$ 24,655
Investment Income	1,807	7,187	\$ -0	\$ 8,994
Gain (Loss) on Sale of Assets	\$ 17	\$ 128	\$ -0	\$ 145
Interest and Other Charges	\$ 25	\$ 4	\$ -0	\$ 29
TOTAL NONOPERATING INCOME (EXPENSE)	\$ 46,953	\$ 32,061	\$ 4,770	\$ 83,784
CHANGE IN NET POSITION PRIOR TO TRANSFERS	\$ 323,041	\$ 104,178	\$ 42,104	\$ 469,323
TRANSFERS				
Operating Transfers Out	\$ (88,471)	\$ (386,472)	\$ -0	\$ (474,943)
CHANGE IN NET POSITION	\$ 234,570	\$ 18,706	\$ 42,104	\$ 295,380
NET POSITION - BEGINNING OF YEAR	\$ 3,013,860	\$ 3,441,171	\$ 1,210	\$ 6,456,241
NET POSITION - END OF YEAR	\$ 3,248,430	\$ 3,459,897	\$ 17,314	\$ 6,725,631

CITY OF MOTLEY, MINNESOTA				
STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS				
PROPRIETARY FUNDS				
FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2024				
	Water Fund	Sewer Fund	Nonmajor Solid Waste Fund	Total
CASH FLOWS FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES				
Cash Received from Customers	\$ 414,624	\$ 408,787	\$ 50,886	\$ 874,297
Cash Paid to Suppliers	(15,260)	(278,872)	(61,113)	(355,245)
NET CASH PROVIDED BY OPERATING ACTIVITIES	399,364	129,915	89,773	619,052
CASH FLOWS FROM NONCAPITAL FINANCING ACTIVITIES				
Debt Issuance	-	-	4,770	4,770
Other Receipts from Customers	12	4	-	16
Net Operating Subsidies and Transfers from Other Funds	(88,471)	(386,472)	8,260	(366,683)
NET CASH PROVIDED BY NONCAPITAL FINANCING ACTIVITIES	(88,459)	(386,468)	13,030	(461,903)
CASH FLOWS FROM CAPITAL AND RELATED FINANCING ACTIVITIES				
Special Assessments	21,228	24,742	-	45,970
Intergovernmental and Other	19,885	-	-	19,885
Proceeds from Sale of Assets	17	1,28	-	145
Payments on Debt Principal	(18,000)	(130,000)	-	(328,000)
Payments on Advances from Other Funds	(90,000)	-	-	(90,000)
Cash Paid for Interest	(21,818)	(38,000)	-	(59,818)
NET CASH PROVIDED BY CAPITAL AND RELATED FINANCING ACTIVITIES	(27,678)	(42,940)	-	(70,618)
CASH FLOWS FROM INVESTING ACTIVITIES				
Investment Income	1,007	5,197	-	6,204
Net Change in Cash, Cash Equivalents, and Time Deposits	176,218	40,875	-	221,648
Cash, Cash Equivalents, and Time Deposits—Beginning of Year	1,182,614	2,731,160	-	3,913,777
Cash, Cash Equivalents, and Time Deposits—End of Year	\$ 1,358,832	\$ 2,772,035	\$ -	\$ 4,130,867



TCC continued from page 9a

Todd County Commissioners Minutes

second by Denny, the following motion was introduced and adopted by unanimous vote: Accept the DNR Boat and Water Grant for the amount of \$11,208 for the 2025 fiscal year.

On motion by Noska and second by Denny, the following motion was introduced and adopted by unanimous vote: Purchase the 3 insquad camera systems from Motorola for a price of 22,674.60.

Planning & Zoning

On motion by Denny and second by Becker, the following motion was introduced and adopted by unanimous vote: To adopt the findings of the Planning Commission and grant the CUP to establish a mini-storage facility on parcel 28-0012803 with the following conditions: 1. Access to the storage facility site shall be limited to 145th Ave. 2. Applicant shall abide by all other applicable Federal, State, and Local standards.

Solid Waste

On motion by Becker and second by Denny, the following motion was introduced and adopted by unanimous vote: To award the bid to Pro Tainer Inc. for the amount of \$37,065.

On motion by Neumann and second by Denny, the following motion was introduced and adopted by unanimous vote: To award the bid to Innovative Office Solutions in the amount of \$7,594.24.

Health & Human Services

On motion by Becker and second by Denny, the following motion was introduced and adopted by unanimous vote: Approve the Fraud Prevention Investigation Program Cooperative Agreement between Todd County Health & Human Services, Todd County Sheriff, and Todd County Attorney.

On motion by Neumann and second by Noska, the following motion was introduced and adopted by unanimous vote: Approve reciprocal memorandum of agreement for environmental health services between Horizon Public Health & Todd County HHS.

On motion by Noska and second by Denny, the following motion was introduced and adopted by unanimous vote: Authorize the hiring of a Resource Navigator/Interpreter.

On motion by Denny and second by Becker, the following motion was introduced and adopted by unanimous vote: Approve the elimination of one Care Coordinator position from the Adult Services Unit.

On motion by Noska and second by Denny, the following motion was introduced and adopted by unanimous vote: Authorize the hiring of an Accounting Supervisor.

On motion by Becker and second by Denny, the following motion was introduced and adopted by unanimous vote: Approve the elimination of the Administrative Services Manager position.

On motion by Noska and second by Denny, the following motion was introduced and adopted by unanimous vote: Authorize the hiring of two Lead Eligibility Workers.

Administration

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

ADOPTION OF CHANGES TO THE TODD COUNTY PERSONNEL POLICY

WHEREAS, the Todd County Board of Commissioners has recognized a need for a strong, up to date personnel policy, and;

WHEREAS, the Todd County Board of Commissioners and Policies Subcommittee have had an opportunity to review the policy revisions put forth in Section 7.02 – Vacations, Section 7.04 – Holidays, Section 7.05 – Sick Leave and Section 7.21 – Minnesota State Retirement System (MSRS) Health Care Savings Plan (HCSP) with an effective date of January 1, 2025, of the Personnel Policy and find the implementation to be in the best interest of the sound administration of the County.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that Todd County Board of Commissioners adopts the attached changes to the Todd County Personnel Policy and directs the County Coordinator to begin administration of said policy as of April 15, 2025, and;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that it is understood that this Resolution replaces and supersedes all prior County Board actions, oral or written, relating to the subject matter hereof.

On motion by Neumann and second by Noska, the following motion was introduced and adopted by unanimous vote: To terminate employee #1053 effective April 4, 2025.

County Auditor-Treasurer's Report

The County Auditor-Treasurer reported that CLA is wrapping up the annual audit, an update of the results of the Osakis School District special election, 2025 Tax season is busy, tax forfeiture processes continue to evolve due to the major law change, and reminded of agenda submission deadline expectations.

County Coordinator's Report

The County Coordinator reported

on the following items: possible GIS office location change, Policy Committee, Dept Head, ancillary benefit, Paycom, Parks & Trails, grant research, Solid Waste, HHS Staffing and Labor Attorney meetings.

County Commissioner's Report

The Commissioners reported on meetings and events attended.

Commissioner Becker attended the Annual Township Meeting, Rainbow Rider, and TWCC meetings.

Commissioner Neumann attended the Annual Township Meeting, Park Board, Rainbow Rider, Solid Waste, Park Finance and made special mention of the special tax forfeiture case and its legal affects.

Commissioner Noska attended regular meetings with special mention of the upcoming Comp Plan kick-off meeting.

Commissioner Byers expressed appreciation for the special HHS work session and potential of extra work sessions in the future to assist with timely flow of county business.

Commissioner Denny attended the regular scheduled meetings with special mention of the upcoming Comp Plan and Road meetings and attended the Finance Committee meeting.

Recess

Chair Byers recessed the meeting at 10:02 a.m. until May 6, 2025.

AUDITOR WARRANTS

VENDOR NAME	\$ AMOUNT
CLIFTON LARSONALLEN, LLP	4,630.50
LONG PRAIRIE SANITATION INC	4,673.25
OTTER TAIL CO SOLID WASTE DEPT	13,434.43
TODD TRAILS ASSOCIATION	29,884.00
30 PAYMENTS LESS THAN \$2,000	14,278.78
ALEXANDRIA MOTOR COMPANY	48,510.00
ARC ELECTRIC SERVICE	4,870.30
BOYER FORD TRUCKS INC	159,285.24
BROWERVILLE TRUCKWASH/ BIG BOYZ	2,307.90
CARAHSOFT	10,100.00
CARD SERVICES COBORNS	2,168.77
CENTRA CARE	12,714.58
CLIFTON LARSONALLEN, LLP	5,985.00
COUNTIES PROVIDING TECHNOLOGY	7,926.00
FLEET SERVICES/WEX BANK	7,025.55
HY-TEC CONSTRUCTION	295,450.00

LONG PRAIRIE OIL COMPANY	5,223.17
MADDEN GALANTER HANSEN, LLP	3,096.75
METRO SALES INC	2,873.07
MN DEPT OF FINANCE	5,084.50
NOW MICRO INC	5,688.00
POPE DOUGLAS SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT	10,637.75
PRAIRIE LAKES MUNICIPAL SOLID WASTE AUTH	93,473.61
SHIRLEY'S GAS & GROCERIES INC	2,966.72
STEP	9,618.18
WEST CENTRAL REG JUVENILE CTR	14,054.00
48 PAYMENTS LESS THAN \$2,000	19,934.12
ALL INDUSTRIAL TOOL SUPPLY	11,865.14
BECKER/DARRICK AND RACHEL	51,296.25
CENTERPOINT ENERGY	2,466.35
CENTERPOINT ENERGY	3,850.37
GALLAGHER BENEFIT SERVICES INC	2,000.00
GRONDAHL/KEVIN AND MARGARET	8,527.50
HEALTH PARTNERS DENTAL	8,590.02
LONG PRAIRIE OIL COMPANY	2,096.08
MENCH/JAMES	14,380.00
MINNESOTA POWER	24,342.18
MORRISON COUNTY PETERS LAW OFFICE, P.A.	5,525.00
TODD CO AUD-TREAS	8,759.50
TODD CO AUDITOR-TREASURER	96,835.50
TOWMASTER	162,151.00
VERIZON	6,922.79
WIDSETH SMITH NOLTING INC	9,345.00
WONDERLICH/SCOTT A	6,737.50
48 PAYMENTS LESS THAN \$2,000	20,127.91
CENTERPOINT ENERGY	6,956.64
CUMMINS INC	2,062.10
OFFICE OF MNIT SERVICES	2,677.30
STAPLES ADVANTAGE	2,157.81
STOECKEL JAHNER INC	15,620.00
STREICHER'S	5,220.00
WARNER LAW, LLC	5,245.00
20 PAYMENTS LESS THAN \$2,000	8,225.44
CLARISSA BALLROOM	3,010.83
CLIFTON LARSONALLEN, LLP	3,465.00
HEALTH PARTNERS DENTAL	8,750.58
REGENTS OF THE UNIV OF MN	43,750.00
STONE HILL FARM WEDDING & EVENT VENUE	2,450.00
THOMSON REUTERS - WEST	10,346.00
TODD CO AUD-TREAS	8,759.50
TODD CO AUDITOR-TREASURER	3,176.12
27 PAYMENTS LESS THAN \$2,000	10,663.07
MN DEPT OF REVENUE	22,812.87
US BANK - CC	9,125.00
9 PAYMENTS LESS THAN \$2,000	5,755.52
TOTAL:	\$1,433,724.66

COMMISSIONER WARRANTS

VENDOR NAME	\$ AMOUNT
ASSOC OF MN COUNTIES	3,025.00
AXON ENTERPRISE, INC	7,728.00
BRAATEN AGGREGATE INC	9,289.61
EMERGENCY AUTOMOTIVE TECHNOLOGIES	3,030.70
FORUM COMMUNICATIONS PRINTING	8,173.80
FRIEDRICH'S TIRE & OIL CO INC	2,181.95
LONG PRAIRIE LEADER	9,469.00
LONG PRAIRIE OIL COMPANY	20,711.04
MENCH/JAMES	9,010.00
MOTOROLA	13,525.54
NORTHSTAR PLUMBING, HEATING AND AIR	3,557.86
NOW MICRO INC	2,924.00
RAHN'S OIL & PROPANE	20,086.93
SCR CENTRAL DIVISION	2,200.00
WIDSETH SMITH NOLTING INC	3,136.00
52 PAYMENTS LESS THAN \$2,000	16,613.07
Total:	\$134,662.50

HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES WARRANTS

VENDOR NAME	\$ AMOUNT
DHS - SWIFT	9,855.72
PETERSON/JENA	2,505.00
RURAL MN CEP INC	16,132.60
SHI CORP	4,031.63
77 PAYMENTS LESS THAN \$2,000	40,442.69
6 PAYMENTS LESS THAN \$2,000	2,387.28
Total:	\$75,354.92

VENDOR NAME	\$ AMOUNT
# 16704	\$2,940.60
# 17598	4,189.03
HEARTLAND GIRLS RANCH	22,278.46
# 17734	2,929.50
# 17748	2,806.40
VALLEY LAKE BOYS HOME INC	3,280.00
33 PAYMENTS LESS THAN \$2,000	26,068.45
Total:	\$64,492.44

On a motion by Denny and second by Neumann, the preceding minutes of the County Board meeting held April 15th, 2025 were duly approved by unanimous vote at the Todd County Board of Commissioners at the Regular Board Meeting held on May 6, 2025.

Witness my hand and seal: /s/ on file Bob Byers, County Board Chairperson /s/ on file Denise Gaida, Todd County Auditor-Treasurer 22pnc

MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL BOARD MEETING OF THE TODD COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS HELD ON APRIL 28, 2025

Call to Order

The Todd County Board of Commissioners met in the Commissioner's Board Room in the City of Long Prairie, MN on the 28th day of April, 2025 at 10:00 AM. The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Byers. The meeting was opened with the Pledge of Allegiance. All Commissioners were present.

Agenda

Chair Byers acknowledged the agenda as presented.

Union Negotiations

Negotiation discussion was held with LELS Jail/Dispatch unit beginning at 10:00 a.m.

Chair Byers closed the session pursuant to Minnesota Statute 13D.03 at 10:45 a.m.

Chair Byers reopened at 11:20 a.m.

The board meeting was paused by Chair Byers at 11:25 a.m.

The board meeting was resumed by Chair Byers at 11:50 a.m.

Chair Byers closed the session pursuant to Minnesota Statute 13D.03 at 11:53 a.m.

Chair Byers reopened the session at 12:12 p.m.

The board meeting was paused by Chair Byers pending the next union unit arrival.

The board meeting was resumed at 12:35 p.m. with negotiation discussion held with LELS Admin Support Staff.

Chair Byers closed the session pursuant to Minnesota Statute 13D.03 at 1:36 p.m.

Chair Byers reopened the session at 1:55 p.m.

Negotiation discussion held with LELS Admin Support Staff unit.

Adjourn

On motion by Denny and second by Noska, the meeting was adjourned at 2:07 p.m.

On a motion by Neumann and second by Noska, the preceding minutes of the Special County Board meeting held April 28th, 2025 were duly approved by unanimous vote at the Todd County Board of Commissioners at the Regular Board Meeting held on May 6, 2025.

Witness my hand and seal: /s/ on file Bob Byers, County Board Chairperson

Denise Gaida, Todd County Auditor-Treasurer 22pnc



Proud 'mom moment'

Tammy Harvey, far right, an employee at Central Lakes College (CLC) in Staples, was invited to pose for a photo with her son, Keegan Harvey, and CLC President Dr. Hara Charlier, during the Presen-

tation of Awards at CLC's Commencement Ceremony at the Staples campus May 14. Keegan received an Associate of Applied Science degree in CNC Technologies. (Staples World photo by Dawn Timbs)



Congratulating her nephew

Tanya Hoting Mrazek reached to give her nephew, Dustin Converse, a hug after he received his diploma at the Central Lakes College Commencement Ceremony in Staples May 14. Mrazek

served as an interpreter at the ceremony. Converse graduated with an Associate of Arts degree. He will also graduate from Staples-Motley High School May 24. (Staples World photo by Dawn Timbs)



Leading the recessional

Dr. Hara Charlier led the recessional following the Commencement Ceremony for Career and Technical Programs at Central Lakes College, Staples Campus. Following her, from right, are James Feustel, Staples Student Senate President and student commencement

speaker; Dalton Etzler, student commencement speaker; Dr. Cheryl Norman, Vice President of Academic and Student Affairs. Both Feustel and Etzler graduated with degrees in Robotics/Automated Systems Technology. (Staples World photo by Dawn Timbs)



Hallway cheering section

Family, friends and faculty lined the halls at Central Lakes College in Staples following the Commencement Ceremony May 14, cheering as the new graduates passed by. Pictured above, Trevor Beving, far left, gets a 'fist bump' from his Heavy

Equipment (HE) instructor Mike Kuklok. Also pictured in the cheering line-up are Jody Longbella, Administrative Assistant at CLC, and HE instructor Andy Anderson. (Staples World photo by Dawn Timbs)



Bicycles flying at Bike Rodeo

The Staples Parks and Recreation department held their annual Bike Rodeo on May 8 at the Staples Community Center parking lot. More than 100 youth attended to practice bike riding over an obstacle course, eat some

foot, get their bicycles tuned up for the summer and hang out with family and friends at the event. (Staples World photos by Mark Anderson)



Police chase ends with crash, severe injury

Shortly after midnight May 9, a Wadena County Sheriff's Dept. Deputy was investigating a driving complaint of vehicles racing in Wing River Township. The deputy observed a vehicle in the area and established facts to conduct a traffic stop. The deputy activated the emergency lights at which time the vehicle accelerated away from the deputy at a high rate of speed. Less than one mile later, the vehicle lost control and crashed in Section 15 of Wing River Township. The deputy immediately responded to the vehicle and extricated the driver from the vehicle. The deputy observed serious injuries to the driver and immediately began life-saving measures.

More law enforcement and EMS arrived on scene and took over care, eventually transferring the driver to a helicopter to be transferred to a Fargo hospital. The driver, Jaden Anderson, 20, of Pequot Lakes, remains in serious condition from the incident. Along with the speed, no seatbelt use and alcohol are believed to be contributing factors. The MN State Patrol is investigating the crash on behalf of the Wadena County Sheriff's Office. The incident remains under investigation. The Wadena County Sheriff's Office was assisted by the MN State Patrol, Verndale Fire Dept., Astera Health EMS, North Memorial Air Care and Premier Towing of Wadena.

Invasive species in Todd County

Todd County SWCD

Whether you're riding out on a boat on Lake Osakis or driving out in the country you may have unfortunately come across invasive species such as zebra mussels or buckthorn. What are invasive species you may ask? Invasive species are plants or animals that are not native to a particular area that can cause great environmental harm to the new area. Often times these species are a major problem in both terrestrial and aquatic environments as they have no natural predators here to control the population and are rapidly reproducing. In lakes and rivers, they can be a major problem as they can greatly reduce recreational opportunity and alter the ecosystem. In terrestrial environments, invasive plants can overcrowd natives and make it more difficult for them to compete. A few examples of invasive species you may see in Todd County include Common Carp, Buckthorn, Zebra Mussels, Wild Parsnip, Palmer Amaranth, Curly Leaf Pondweed, and Purple Loosestrife. While we may not be able to completely stop the spread of these species everyone can do their part to help slow the spread. For lakes and rivers, be sure to clean your boat, drain all water,

and dispose of unused bait before leaving a public access. Additional steps may need to be taken such as using a decontamination unit that has hot water or high pressure if AIS is seen on boat. For controlling the spread of terrestrial invasive species, many things can be done to help slow spread. These include cleaning your boots or shoes when walking in a new area, making sure camping gear is free of seeds and soil, and before buying plants for a garden check to see if plant species is listed as invasive. In addition, reestablishing native vegetation in areas can make it more difficult for invasives to become established due to competition. If you do happen to have an invasive species infestation on your property many control options exist to help manage or control the infestation. For invasive plants, common control methods include frequent mowing and burning, grazing with animals such as goats, cut stump herbicide treatment, leaf application and basal bark spray. If you have any questions or concerns regarding invasive species feel free to reach out to the Todd County Soil and Water office at 320.732.2644, or stop by the office.

Red Flag Warning issued for 77 MN counties

MN Department of Natural Resources

The National Weather Service has issued a Red Flag Warning for 77 counties in Minnesota effective today, May 11, from 11 a.m. to 10 p.m. due to extreme fire danger. Affected counties include Aitkin, Anoka, Becker, Beltrami, Benton, Big Stone, Blue Earth, Brown, Carlton, Carver, Cass, Chippewa, Chisago, Clay, Clearwater, Cook, Cottonwood, Crow Wing, Dakota, Douglas, Faribault, Grant, Hennepin, Hubbard, Isanti, Itasca, Jackson, Kanabec, Kandiyohi, Kittson, Koochiching, Lac Qui Parle, Lake of the Woods, Lake, Le Sueur, Lincoln, Lyon, Mahnomon, Marshall, Martin, McLeod, Meeker, Mille Lacs, Morrison, Murray, Nicollet, Nobles, Norman, Otter Tail, Pennington, Pine, Pipestone, Polk, Pope, Ramsey, Red Lake, Redwood, Renville, Rice, Rock, Roseau, Scott, Sherburne, Sibley, St. Louis, Stearns, Stevens, Swift, Todd, Traverse,

Wadena, Waseca, Washington, Watonwan, Wilkin, Wright, and Yellow Medicine. A Red Flag Warning means fires can spread quickly and grow out of control under the current weather conditions, including strong winds and low relative humidity. Do not burn in counties where a Red Flag Warning is in effect and check any recent burning to ensure the coals are completely out cold. The DNR will not issue or activate open burning permits during the Red Flag Warning, and campfires are strongly discouraged. Red Flag Warnings and Fire Weather Watches are evolving situations. Visit the National Weather Service for updates. For more information and daily updates, visit the statewide fire danger and burning restrictions page of the DNR website. To receive text updates on current wildfire risk and open burning restrictions in Minnesota text "FIRE" to 66468.

Memorial **DAY** continued fromn page 1a

Area Memorial Day services

courage, commitment, and continues to demonstrate the highest standards of leadership and excellence in the community.

As part of the service in Staples, the following veterans who have passed away during the past year will be honored: Dale Anderson, Steve Berndt, Pete Card, Jr., Benjamin Denny, Charles Flickinger, John Gorton, John Greig, Floyd Griffith, Bruce Hayenga, Andrew Helmers, Gary Ingebretson, Barry Johnson, Jerome Kneisl, Russell Lee, Harry McCoy, Tom Michalson, Dale Resch, Everett Sowers, Jack Wheeler, Tony Young.

Motley

The Motley American Legion, Tri-County Post #124, will host Memorial Day

programs May 26, at the following locations:

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

Gunnery Sergeant Rob Walters will speak at each of these programs as well. Pastor Jim Johnson will give the invocation.

Following the service at Poplar Cemetery, the Poplar Ladies will serve lunch at the Leader Community Hall.

The Motley Historical Society will have an open house at Motley City Hall from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. on Memorial Day. Pie and ice cream will be served.

Duplex lots sold, to be put in TIF district

By Mark Anderson
Managing Editor

The Staples City Council approved the sale of 11 duplex lots at their May 13 meeting. Blue Spruce Properties of Perham offered to pay \$96,000 for all 11 lots, or about \$8,700 per lot. The council also approved hiring David Drown Associates to create a Tax Increment Finance (TIF) district for the property. A contingency for the sale is that the developers will build at least eight units within 48 months.

A TIF district allows developers to pay a portion of their property taxes to infrastructure and development costs. They will still pay the same amount in taxes as any other property with similar valuation, but the city will only get the amount they would on an undeveloped property, and the rest will go to development costs. When the TIF district is ended; the city will get the full amount in property taxes.

Traffic issue

City Public Works Director Scott Grabe told the council that the Public Works Commission dis-

cussed a citizen concern about truck traffic speeding past Northern Pacific Park on 6th Street NE. He said if the city tried to reroute the trucks, it would just shuffle the traffic issue from one street to another. He said they checked with the 3M plant on that street and learned that they don't have regular routes or regular timing for trucks going in and out. They also don't have a large volume of trucks, with eight trucks coming in for the previous week.

Grabe said they talked about painting crosswalks on all four corners of the park and trying other traffic calming measures.

"Crosswalks are shown to be somewhat effective for traffic control," said Grabe.

Street maintenance

Grabe said that when they do the complete rebuilding of 4th Street NE, they will have to take out all of the boulevard trees on the street so they can put in sewer and water lines. He said the city will replace the trees but they don't want them back in the boulevard because of the damage they can do to sidewalks and infrastructure. He said they will give

trees to property owners who lost boulevard trees, and they can plant them in their yards away from the sidewalks.

Grabe told the council that the decorative brick on downtown sidewalk entrances are deteriorating in some places. He said they will replace the ones at 4th Street and 2nd Ave. NE with decorative concrete, and will replace others as they deteriorate more.

In other news, the council:

Heard from City Administrator Jerel Nelsen that state legislature is proposing local government aid (LGA) cuts that will cut \$27,000 from state funding that the city currently gets.

Heard from Nelsen that the Minnesota Farmers Union is ready to do a groundbreaking to build a facility at the Staples Industrial Park.

Heard from Nelsen that the Dower Lake Recreation Area safety shelter is ready to start construction, and a work order has been issues for precast walls.

Heard from Nelsen that the new hangar at the Staples Airport is currently being built.



National Police Week recognized in Staples

National Police Week was observed May 11 - 17, with community members expressing their appreciation for local law enforcement during that time. Pictured above, from left, are Staples Officer Chase Reed; Todd County Deputy Tyler Schwartz; Staples Officers Chris

Goff, Dawson Waldvogel and Jeff Hulse; Wadena County Sgt. Bryan Savaloja; Staples Police Chief Melissa Larson; DNR Conservation Officer Landyn Saewert; and Cass County Deputy Andrew Rollins. (Submitted photo)



Pollinator house

Staples Rotarians installed a pollinator house at Living Legacy Garden in Staples on May 6. From left are Ron Murray, Kurt Wilson and Jerel Nelsen, builder of the pollinator house.

Pollinator houses, also known as bee houses or bee hotels, are structures designed to provide habitats for solitary-nesting native bees and other pollinators. They offer cavities in natural materials for solitary bees to live in, helping to support declining bee populations. Information about

the value of the houses and how to build them is readily available online.

Living Legacy Gardens is a 10-acre free public garden with an orchard, vineyard, native prairie and much more located at the Central Lakes College Ag Center on the north side of Staples. The gardens currently demonstrate annuals and perennials for sun or shade, herbs, fruits, and water gardening. For guided tours or more information see clcagandenergy.org



POWERING WHAT'S POSSIBLE in Northern Minnesota

Great River Energy is a not-for-profit wholesale power cooperative, owned by its member-owner cooperatives including Mille Lacs Energy Cooperative, Todd-Wadena Electric Cooperative and Lake Region Electric Cooperative.

We serve communities, not stockholders. Our roots run generations deep. Together, we light your favorite hideout, your neighborhood and your community. **We believe power isn't just electricity. It's possibility.**



greatriverenergy.com



A Sacred Send-Off

Honoring the Past, Celebrating the Future



6TH GRADE GRADUATES

As the 2024-2025 school year draws to a close, Sacred Heart Area School proudly celebrates two milestone moments in our students' lives. Our beloved 6th grade graduates are preparing to take their next big step into junior high at Staples-Motley High School, while our Young Leaders joyfully step forward.



YOUNG LEADERS

The 6th grade class of 2025 leaves behind a legacy of faith, friendship, and leadership. These students have grown in both academic strength and spiritual character during their time at Sacred Heart. We are confident they will carry their Catholic Christian virtues, love of learning, and strong moral foundation into their next chapter and beyond.

At the same time, our Young Leaders - now ready for their next step - remind us of the beauty of beginnings. With curious hearts and joyful spirits, they've learned how to be part of a classroom family rooted in kindness, wonder, and love.

We send our graduates off with pride, gratitude, and blessings, knowing they will continue to shine as Christ's light in the world. Sacred Heart remains their home, and we are excited to watch them grow in faith, wisdom, and community in the years ahead.

Congratulations to our graduates and our rising stars!

GRADUATE

Class of 2025

SACRED HEART AREA SCHOOL