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Three Cardinal athletes sign with college teams
Sacred Heart Veterans Day program
The Hive, sober house for women
Winter sports starting



Wednesday, November 19, 2025

Staples World

Staples, Minnesota

\$1.25

Honoring veterans Area veterans are placed in a seat of honor during the Veterans Day program at Staples-Motley High School on Nov. 11. (Photo by Mark Anderson)



Student speakers Kaylee Perius, above, and Kate Vogel and Hailey Johnson, below with Principal Ryan Koenigs, speak at the high school and elementary Veterans Day programs.



Master Sergeant (Retired) Izaak Schafer found purpose and direction in serving his country

By Dawn Timbs
Staples World reporter

Master Sergeant Izaak Schafer recently retired after nearly 22 years of service in the Army National Guard. It's a calling he first felt as a junior at Staples-Motley High School and one he's never regretted answering.

He remembers it clear as day, Schafer said of the moment he knew he wanted to serve his country. The date was Sept. 11, 2001...a day "when the world stopped turning," as described by country singer/songwriter Alan Jackson.

Schafer recalled first hearing about the 9/11 terrorist attacks while listening to the radio enroute to school. Later, during Mr. (Pat) Held's social studies class at Staples-Motley, he watched on TV as the Twin Towers of the World Trade Center in New York City fell.

"I was in shock, not fully understanding what I was watching," Schafer shared. He remembers his teacher, Mr. Held, becoming very upset. There was a lot of disbelief in the classroom.

Prior to that moment, Schafer's main focus was football, friends and fun, like most typical teens. But after witnessing the horrific terrorist attacks of Sept. 11, that began to change.

Not too long after, Schafer drove with a recruiter to the St. Cloud Armory where he took his Armed Services Vocational Aptitude Battery (ASVAB) test. The results indicated he should go into combat arms.

No, his parents, Bob and Gina Schafer, didn't know he'd gone to take that test, but they'd soon learn that their youngest of four sons was serious about joining the military.

After graduating from high school in 2003, Schafer was accepted at the University of North Dakota, Grand Forks. During the fall of his freshmen year there, however, he decided he was going to enlist in the Minnesota National Guard. College would be put on the back burner.

Schafer returned home to the family farm in Staples, enlisted in the Guards Jan. 9, 2004, and left for

basic training at Fort Knox, Ky. in March of that year. He graduated four months later, on July 23, his mom's birthday.

His time at Fort Knox was life changing. Schafer shared that his mom told him he left for Basic Training one person, and came back another, having gained maturity.

In the fall of 2004, Schafer returned to the University of North Dakota, with a drive to do more. Joining the National Guard had given him a purpose and direction. "Something bigger than myself," Schafer said. He ultimately earned a bachelor's degree in Exercise Science and Human Development, and a master's degree in Occupational Therapy. One of the many pluses of his military service is that his education was paid for.

During his 21 1/2 years of service, Master Sergeant (Retired) Schafer has been deployed overseas twice. His first deployment was in 2011-2012 during the draw down of Iraq. "I did convoy security," Schafer said.

Schafer's second overseas deployment was to Kuwait and Afghanistan in 2021-2022, where he and his unit were part of the evacuation of Hamid Karzai International Airport (HKIA), or Kabul Airport in Afghanistan, helping secure spots on the plane for parents and their children to evacuate, following the Taliban's rapid takeover of Afghanistan in August of 2021. This was also during the final stages of the U.S. and NATO troop withdrawal, marking the end of the 2001 - 2021 war in Afghanistan.

Schafer said he'd wondered how the Afghans actually felt about the U.S. leaving their country. He noted that he'd been interviewed at that time for an article in Task & Purpose entitled, "How a few good 'Bastards' from the Army National Guard helped secure the Kabul Airport." In the article, his unit is referred to as the 'Battling Bastards of Bataan.'

The article goes on to say that Schafer, a first platoon sergeant at that time, shared of a conversation he'd had with an Afghan man who spoke English. He asked him what he thought



Inside the luggage carrier

Master Sergeant (Retired) Izaak Schafer, right, and Lt. Matt Steien are pictured inside the luggage carrier used at the Kabul Airport in Afghanistan to transport soldiers from one gate to the next. Schafer said Lt. Steien was the commanding officer for their company while deployed in Afghanistan in 2021-2022. (Submitted photo)

of America leaving, and if he felt the U.S. had let him down. The man answered, 'No,' going on to say, 'You were our friends for 20 years and we lost our country in a matter of weeks. We bled together. We died together. I am excited to become an American. I am already in here,' the man said, pointing to his chest.

Moments like that reaffirmed his decision to become a soldier.

And, yes, there were moments he felt scared, Schafer answered when asked by this reporter. "The first time leaving the wire was scary, because everything is so new." Then on his last mission through Iraq, he recalled feeling nervous as they neared the safe spot of Nasiriyah because, "Home was so close, but making it through that last mission had to come first."

And along the way, Schafer faced a variety of difficult situations, including two convoys in his unit that were hit by IEDs. "Being scared is something you just learn to deal with," he says. Thankfully, no one was seriously hurt in these attacks, he adds.

One of the tough parts of being deployed is communication with loved ones back home, as Schafer experienced not long after he and his wife, Lizz, were married. Schafer shared that their son, William, was just two months old when he left for Iraq. The young family kept in touch mainly via letters and an occasional Skype call, though internet service was spotty at that time. When Schafer returned nearly a year later, little William ran away from him. But, Schafer is quick to add with a smile, his son warmed up after about a week.

In addition to his overseas deployments with the Army National Guard, Schafer provided support at the Republican National Convention (RNC) riots in 2007; at Pres. Obama's Inauguration in 2008; and in 2020, at the George Floyd riots in Minneapolis.

Throughout his military career Schafer also had the opportunity to take part in a military training exercise in Sweden for about six weeks in 2017, two rotations.

See **SCHAFER** on page 12a

Weather

2025
This Week's Forecast

	High	Low	Cond.
Nov. 19	44	36	Cloudy
Nov. 20	42	24	Cloudy
Nov. 21	45	29	P. Cloudy
Nov. 22	49	30	P. Cloudy
Nov. 23	48	28	P. Cloudy
Nov. 24	44	29	P. Sunny
Nov. 25	43	26	Cloudy

Last Year, 2024

	High	Low	Cond.
Nov. 19	53°	46	Rain
Nov. 20	25	23	Cloudy
Nov. 21	27	24	Cloudy
Nov. 22	32	17	P. Sunny
Nov. 23	34	27	Cloudy
Nov. 24	36	30	Cloudy
Nov. 25	18	13	Snow

Average Temps:
H = 34° Low = 22°

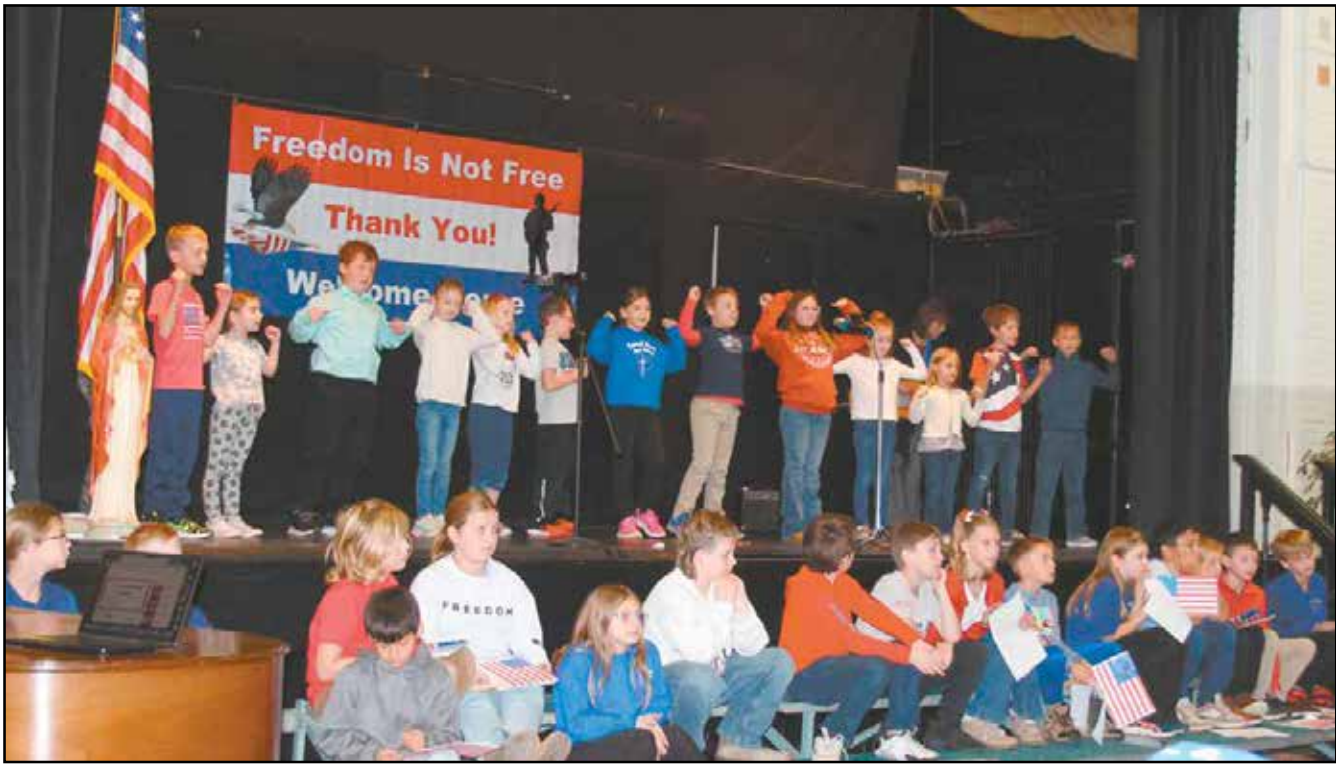
Compiled by
Dale Hausmann,
WCCO's Staples area
Weatherwatcher

Public Notices

City of Motley **9A**
Todd BOA **9A**

Obituary

Victor Flansburg



Veterans Day songs and poems shared

Students in kindergarten through sixth grade at Sacred Heart Area School in Staples shared several songs, poems and readings at their Veterans Day Program Nov. 11. Songs included "I'm in the Lord's Army" "Be Bold, Be Strong" "You're a Grand Old Flag" "Amazing Grace" and "God Bless the U.S.A." Students in grades five and six provided the Color Guard.



After the program

Veterans Zach Hill, left, and Jim Rutten, visited following the Veterans Day program at Sacred heart Area School in Staples. Hill, an Army veteran who served in Afghanistan, was the guest speaker at the program. He gave a synopsis of the different U.S. Military service branches and shared a story of faith from each. Rutten is a Vietnam veteran.



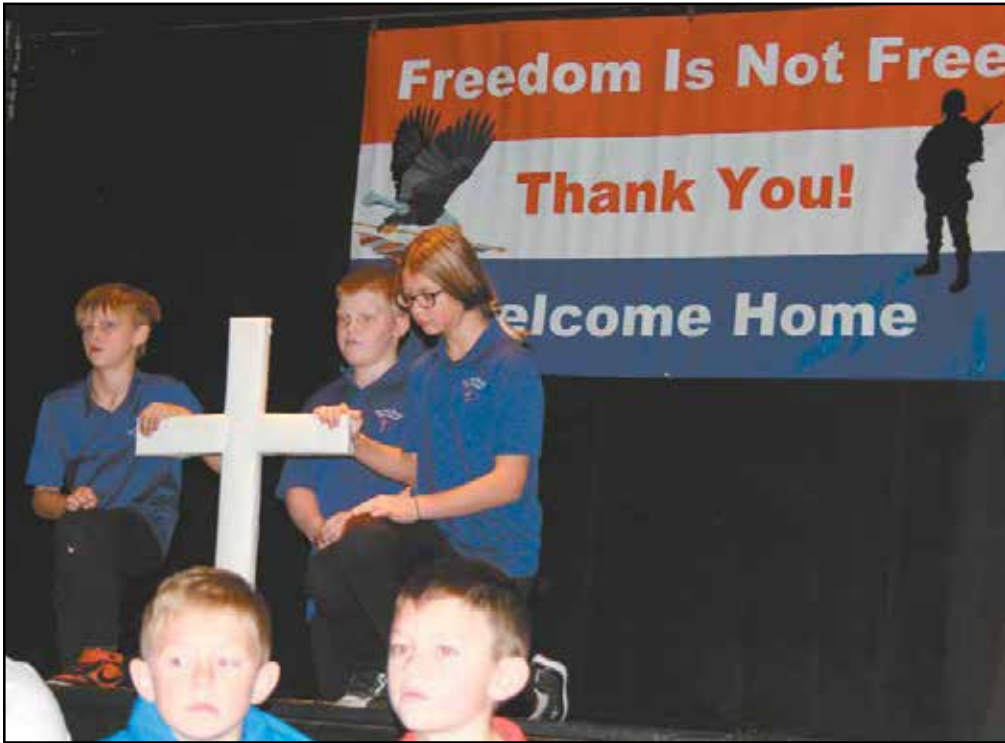
Singing with gusto

Sacred Heart Area School students sang their hearts out during their Veterans Day Program Nov. 11. The music was led by teachers Pat DiGiovanni and Maria Uselman. Principal Justin Edin offered the opening prayer and greeting, as well as serving as emcee for the program.



Donuts with Grandma and Grandpa

Donuts and coffee were served following the Veterans Day program at Sacred Heart Area School Nov. 11. Pictured above are Bruce and Sue Lothson of Clitherall with their granddaughters Lily and Ellie Lothson of Leader, ages five and six, respectively. Bruce Lothson, far right, is a Navy SeaBee Veteran.



Solemn reminder

Students and audience members were silent as 'Taps' was played at the Veterans Day program at Sacred Heart Area School Nov. 11. While the song was played, three students knelt at the cross as a solemn reminder of American veterans who gave their lives in battle. From left, Noah DeWald, 4th grade; Josh Uselman, 6th grade; Olive Doll, 5th grade.



Reciting the Pledge of Allegiance

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited at the beginning of the Veterans Day Program at Sacred Heart Area School in Staples Nov. 11.

Sacred Heart Area School Veterans Day photos by Dawn Timbs

Motley area law enforcement

Recent reports from the Motley Police Department (MPD) and Morrison County Sheriff's Office (MCSO) included the following:
Nov. 8 - Motley Police received a call regarding an e-bike that had been stolen at the 100 block of Hwy 10 S., Motley. Morrison County deputies assisted.
Nov. 10 - Motley Police received a call from First International Bank and Trust in Motley of a no parking sign and stand that was missing.



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The Staples World office will be closed Nov. 27-28.

Have your ads and copy into the office by 3 p.m. on Weds., Nov. 26 for the Dec. 3 issue.

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Looking back



Rogers gave to his dad, James “Jimmy” Randgaard, the day he and his wife, Dale, stopped in Staples. Roger was too young at the time to remember this happening, but does recall hearing his dad talk about it.

Bev Nelsen of Staples said she watched Roy Rogers and Dale Evans every Saturday morning when she was a little girl, and remembered their signature song, “Happy Trails to You, Until We Meet Again.”

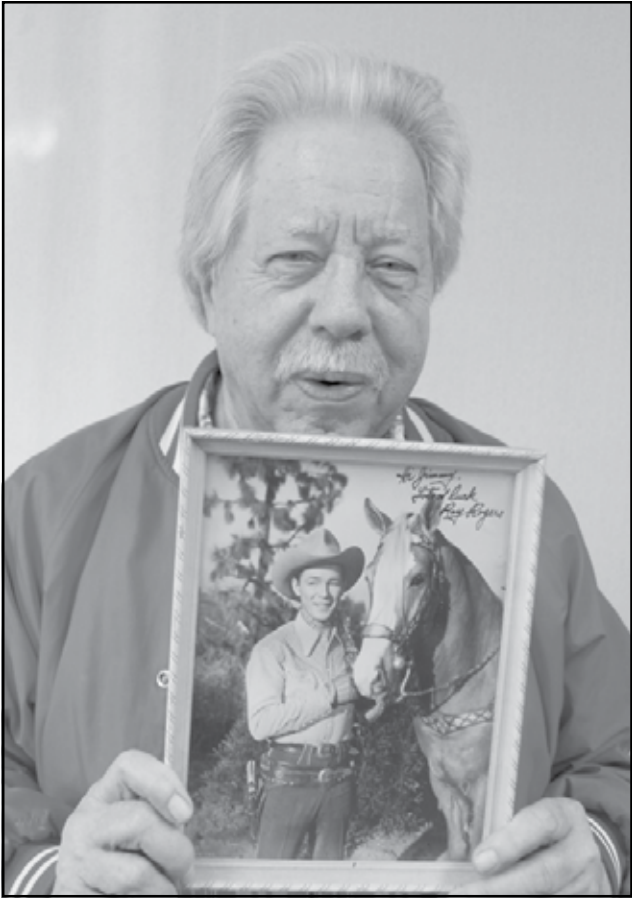
Dorothy Seeley Halverson recognized Roy and Dale, and shared that she lived west of Staples and was eight years old at that time. Mike Koppes of Staples also recognized the television stars, adding that they’d stopped in Staples while out on tour and had thought it was a nice little town.

Linda Heier of Staples said she was too little at the time this photo was taken, but remembers hearing ladies talking about the day Roy Rogers and Dale Evans came to town. She recalled the restaurant they stopped at was owned by Gibb and Mable Simon at that time, located just west of the old Longbella Drug Store, in what was Tony’s Chicken at one time. Carol (Chapin) Heldman said she remembers, as a young girl, seeing the famous couples’ buses go by her family’s farm three miles west of Staples.

Art Farber of Motley recalled that school had been let out at noon the day Roy Rogers and Dale Evans came to town. He noted that when the famous couple stopped in Staples for lunch, their bus, along with trucks carrying horses, were all parked along the block. Art remembers Roy and Dale talking with people on the streets, and showing them their horses.

Lee Jenkins of Staples shared that the mystery photo brought back some memories for him. “I was at the Simon Restaurant that day, I was roughly seven years old and of course Roy and Dale were favorites at my age. I got to talk to them as they got on the bus to leave. What a surprise for a seven year old.”

Lillian Smith said that her family was living in Arlington, Va., in 1972, when they met the couple at a fast food ‘meet & greet’ and that they looked like they did in this picture.



Triggered a memory

After seeing last week’s mystery photo in the paper, Roger Randgaard recalled that Roy Rogers had given his father, James “Jimmy” Randgaard an autographed photo of himself and his horse, Trigger, during their 1950 stop in Staples. Randgaard also shared that his dad had owned the Staples Theatre years ago, and would meet celebrities on occasion at theater conventions. Roger brought in another photo that included his dad with Gene Autry and a few others. Mr. Autry had autographed the photo to the elder Randgaard. (Photo by Dawn Timbs)



Mystery solved

Last week’s mystery photo published in the Nov. 16, 1950 edition of the Staples World featured Roy Rogers and his wife, Dale Evans, who’d stopped in Staples Thursday morning, Nov. 9, and had their lunch at the Staples Coffee Shop. According to the photo cutline, “The word soon spread among the people of the city that these noted movie celebrities were here, and dozens of people gathered in, and in front of, the Coffee Shop and near their bus parked on Second Avenue in front of Mae’s Dress Shop. Roy and his wife were very generous with autographs, especially to the youngsters. The above photo was taken by Sam St. Pierre just as the Rogers and their troop were leaving Staples for Fargo where they were to appear that evening.”

Roger Randgaard of Staples correctly identified the famous couple, and shared a photo Roy

along Second Avenue and Fourth Street. The lights in these decorations will be turned on Thanksgiving night for the first time.

Two new blocks of decorations have been added this year, and they are along Fourth Street. Red bells will be installed overhead along two blocks from First Avenue to Third Avenue. The large Santa Claus faces have again been installed across Second Avenue from Scharf’s Garage to Seventh Street, and also on the light poles along this route.

General chairman of the street decorating committee of the C & C is Gordon Ellis. He states that the members of the city water and light department have been most cooperative this year in putting up the decorations early.

Stores in Staples have taken on a holiday appearance. Merchants have gone all out this season in beautifying their stores to make them more attractive for customers.

Nov. 23, 1950 - Phil Marden, an employee of the city water and light department of Staples, was seriously injured about 4 o’clock the afternoon of Nov. 17, when he accidentally fell from a 25-ft. pole while assisting with the putting up of the street decorations for the holiday season.

The crew was working in the alley back of the home of Mrs. Nellie Fahnlander, when the accident happened.

He was immediately rushed to the Staples Municipal hospital where a physician had been called. Examination revealed that he’d suffered a fracture of his left hand, a back and hip injury, and other bodily bruises.

Nov. 23, 1950 - Approximately three inches of snow fell in the area early Wednesday morning, and with warm weather prevailing, driving and walking is very poor.

Nov. 23, 1950 - Mike Plaziak, manager of the Staples National Tea store, was elected president of the city bowling association formed at the city hall Nov. 17.

Other officers elected with Mr. Plaziak include Bill Fox, vice president; Jack Hill, secretary, and Carl LaBonte and H. Sjogren, directors.

Nov. 23, 1950 - Todd County editors were guests of Editor W.E. Stone of The Staples World at a steak dinner at the Staples Coffee Shop Friday evening, Nov. 17.

Following the dinner, a business meeting was held at The World office where problems of the editors of the county were discussed.

50 YEARS AGO - 1975

Nov. 20, 1975 - The Chamber Choir of Staples High School will present “Ye Olde Christmas Madrigal Feast” on Saturday, Dec. 6, at 6:30 p.m.

Stan Carlson, director of the Chamber Choir announced that the event will be presented with the cooperation of Ann Engberg’s Food Preparation class in the Staples Vocational-Technical Institute. This is the first performance of what will hopefully become an annual Holiday tradition.

The Feast, to be held in the high school cafeteria, is a recreation of the huge eating and singing festivals held in the 16th century England and will feature costumes, songs and food of the period, Carlson said. Tickets will cost \$6.50 per person, which includes both the dinner and concert.

Nov. 20, 1975 - In honor of American Education Week, the Motley public



Mystery photo

Hello readers. This week’s archive photo is from 1975. Do you know who this person is 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.

schools will hold an open house in the new building Thursday, Nov. 20. The open house hours are from 3:30 - 5:30 p.m., and from 7 - 9 p.m. The event is sponsored by the Motley Education Association.

A program will be presented, consisting of the presentation of colors by the American Legion; the

Compiled by Dawn Timbs

national anthem by the musical ensemble; an invocation by the Rev. Sylvester Gall; and a welcome by administrative assistant Lyle Jones.

Following the program will be “A Day in Motley School,” guided by the school board, and presented by the Motley Education Association and the Motley faculty.

The new construction consists of 19 classrooms, is 150x300 feet, covering an area of 45,000 square feet. Architects from the building were Stegner-Hendrickson-McNutt of Brainerd.

Members of the Motley school board are: Marvin Swecker, chairman; Kermit Kristenson, vice-chairman; Mrs. Allen Rollins, clerk; Richard Willoughby, treasurer; and Eugene Hullet and Marie Smith, directors.

Nov. 20, 1975 - Gov. Wendell Anderson will be the guest of the Todd County DFL at the 1976 election rally which will be held at the VFW Club Rooms at Staples Monday, Nov. 24, at 8 p.m.

A reception will also be given for Gov. Anderson at the Staples Community Center at 6:30 - 7:30. This is also open to the public.

25 YEARS AGO - 2000

Nov. 23, 2000 - A man with a long criminal history in Staples and surrounding areas is in jail in Texas on two murder charges, one of them a capital murder charge.

Tom Raper, Jr., 30, who was charged with assault and possession of weapons last July after a domestic

dispute in Staples, has been charged with shooting a woman in a Texas town and with involvement in the death of a traveling companion a few miles away.

Raper was indicted by a Grand Jury in Moore County, Texas on Friday, Nov. 17, on charges of capital murder in volving the death of a Cactus, Texas woman, Patricia Norris Hart, 48.

Both Raper and another man Hiram Bodry, 46, are charged with the death of a companion, Clifford Espinoza.

Nov. 23, 2000 - Dave Jessop, owner of the Jessop Agency in Staples, has been selected for the office of executive director of the Staples Motley Area Chamber of Commerce. Jessop has begun his part-time duties, succeeding Mel Nefstead, who resigned from the position just over a month ago.

Nov. 23, 2000 - Join us for Thanksgiving Buffet at the Lin Club, Thursday, Nov. 23. All the trimmings with Turkey, Ham and chicken, \$6.75. Children 10 & under, \$3.75. Serving 11 a.m. - 3 p.m. The Lin Club is located on Old Hwy 10 & Fish Trap Lake.

10 YEARS AGO - 2015

Nov. 19, 2015 - Susan Storry, Wanda Oberlander and emergency response personnel were recognized at the Nov. 10 Staples City Council meeting for their lifesaving actions at the scene of a motor vehicle accident Oct. 1 involving Darrel Lambert and his daughter MayKayla Jo Lambert.

Darrel Lambert gave his heartfelt thanks to the award recipients saying, “I know I wouldn’t be here today without them.”

Nov. 19, 2015 - After a summer of digging and foundation building, the walls of the National Joint Powers Alliance (NJPA) addition went up, starting Nov. 9. The building will be a 30,000 square foot addition, nearly doubling the current floor space.



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CLC’s Bent Pine Journal wins national awards

Studying turkeys in Minnesota

Central Lakes College’s Bent Pine Journal (2025 edition) has been nationally recognized by the Community College Humanities Association’s annual Literary Magazine Contest.

The competition highlights exceptional student work from community colleges across the country, celebrating excellence in creative writing, photography and visual art. It reflects the CCHA’s mission to support personal and professional growth through the humanities.

Awards earned by Bent Pine Journal include:

- National Award for Best Magazine: 3rd Place
- Best Magazine, Central Division: 2nd Place
- Student Awards:
- Andrew Stone – 3rd Place in the 11-state Central Region for his poem “The Sanity of Man”
- Della Koep – 1st Place in the 11-state Central Region for her photo “A Fall Morning”

“We created Bent Pine to be a tangible artifact that people could pick up and page through, to experience the art and creative writing of our students firsthand,” said Brandy Lindquist, CLC Writing instructor and Bent Pine Advisor. “CLC revived Bent Pine after a 50-year absence—the project had been forgotten, lost; we didn’t know about it! When, a few years ago, I discovered an

old Bent Pine from 1969 at a local bookstore, I felt instantly connected to those students published in its pages over fifty years ago, attending what was then Brainerd Junior College. There’s something inspiring about a hard copy collection of works to represent a community of people at a given time.”

The student-led Bent Pine Journal Club hopes to create that sense of connection for its readers. And just the pure joy of creating and experiencing art, so essential to our community’s survival.

“Students crave an outlet, and we want to document their talents,” Lindquist added. “In this time of online everything, it’s cool to focus on a printed book. And students published in Bent Pine can take this with them, as concrete evidence of their professional and creative achievements.”

Bent Pine Journal Club 2024-25 are President Jordan Eastman, Vice President, Jenna Jensen, Treasurer: Jesse Engen and members Dashiell Moreland, Eileen Borg, Taylor Koons, Emma Watson, Carolyn Nix, and Hannah Ellstrom.

Magazine advisors are Brandy Lindquist (Writing Instructor), and Leon Dahlvang (Graphic Design Instructor) with additional support from Casey Hochhalter (Art Instructor).

From University of Minnesota

About 46 million turkeys are eaten around Thanksgiving in the United States every year, and Minnesota farmers play a huge role in raising these birds.

Kahina Boukherroub, an assistant professor in the College of Food, Agricultural and Natural Resource Sciences, answers questions about turkeys in Minnesota ahead of the Thanksgiving holiday.

Q: What role do turkeys play in Minnesota’s economy?

Prof. Boukherroub: The turkey industry plays a vital role in Minnesota’s economy. Our state proudly leads the nation in turkey production, making Minnesota the No. 1 turkey producer in the U.S. Each year, the industry contributes over \$1 billion to the state’s economy and supports more than 26,000 jobs across Minnesota.

About 13 percent of Minnesota-raised turkeys are exported around the world, which is about \$104 million in turkey products to the global markets. The top destinations include Mexico, China and Canada. The industry also fuels other parts of Minnesota’s agriculture. Turkey farms use millions of dollars worth of Minnesota-grown corn and soybeans for feed. What makes our turkey industry especially unique is the large number of independent family farmers who raise turkeys, helping sustain local communities and small businesses across the state.

Q: How has turkey breeding changed over the past few decades?

Prof. Boukherroub: Over the past few decades, turkey breeding has adapted to make the bird much more sustainable, primarily by focusing on efficiency. Genetic scientists have successfully bred the modern commercial turkey to be incredibly efficient at converting its food into muscle. This focus means that a turkey today needs

significantly less feed to reach market weight than its ancestors did. This efficiency is the core of the sustainability effort because using less feed directly reduces the resources needed for turkey farming. It lessens the demand for land and water to grow the feed crops and it helps decrease the overall environmental footprint and the amount of waste produced.

Breeders are also now selecting for healthier, more robust birds that have stronger legs and better natural disease resistance, ensuring that the resources invested in raising the turkey are not wasted and contributing to a more sustainable and stable food supply.

Q: What are the biggest challenges our turkey producers face today?

Prof. Boukherroub: Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza (HPAI), commonly referred to as bird flu, remains the paramount disease in the turkey industry. This virus has essentially become endemic, serving as a major and persistent driver of economic losses and industry strain. When HPAI is detected, the U.S. Department of Agriculture provides indemnity and compensation to producers to offset some of the losses. Beyond avian influenza, other diseases that contribute to substantial losses and ongoing industry challenges include Avian metapneumovirus and E. coli. Unfortunately, these common but costly endemic diseases do not qualify for federal indemnity payments, meaning producers must bear the full financial burden of flock losses and treatment costs themselves, further destabilizing the market.

Q: How do scientists study turkey health and welfare?

Prof. Boukherroub: To study turkey health and welfare, scientists — especially at state land-grant universities like the University of Minnesota — don’t treat turkeys like large chickens;

they recognize them as unique animals with specific health needs. The experts involved include physiologists (like myself), virologists, microbiologists, immunologists and veterinarians.

Researchers focus specifically on preventing diseases like bird flu, finding ways to manage outbreaks and figuring out how to make a turkey’s immune system stronger through better nutrition and possibly new vaccines. A key part of their work is collaboration, meaning university experts work closely with scientists from the turkey industry to make sure their research findings are practical and can be used quickly on farms to improve the health and well-being of the birds.

Q: How does your work at the University of Minnesota help support healthy turkeys across the state?

Prof. Boukherroub: I am a physiologist specializing in the health and productivity of turkey breeder hens, the mothers that produce eggs for the commercial turkey industry. My research focuses on how the reproductive system functions, how diseases disrupt it, and how to translate this knowledge into practical solutions. I study the physiological factors that drive fertility decline as hens progress through the laying cycle, a major challenge for the industry. I also investigate how infections, such as Low Pathogenic Avian Influenza, alter the reproductive tract and reduce egg production.

Another area of focus is understanding how reproductive hormones influence the immune system, making female turkeys more susceptible to disease. To address the risks of Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza, my lab develops in vitro organoid models that replicate the structure and function of reproductive tissues, enabling safer, controlled studies to improve flock health and productivity.

Quote of the week

“America’s veterans have served their country with the belief that democracy and freedom are ideals to be upheld around the world.”

— John Doolittle

Rail shipping grants available

From MnDOT

The Minnesota Department of Transportation is encouraging railroads, rail shippers, cities and counties to apply for up to \$4 million in state grant funding for projects that enhance freight rail service across the state. The grants aim to support initiatives that strengthen local or statewide economic development. Funding is available through the 2025 Minnesota Rail Service Improvement (MRSI) Program. Applications are due by 5 p.m. on Jan. 9, 2026.

Funding includes \$1 million in new bond funding approved during the 2025 legislative session and \$3 million in bond funding reallocated from previous projects.

“The MRSI program plays a vital role in strengthening Minnesota’s freight

transportation system by supporting impactful rail infrastructure projects,” said Meredith Alt, MRSI program manager. “This latest round of funding will help drive economic development across the state through projects that improve freight rail access for Minnesota businesses and communities.”

Examples of projects eligible for MRSI state funding include railroad tracks, roadbeds, turnouts, bridges and fixed loading/unloading facilities buildings. Funding cannot be used for regular or recurring maintenance activities, incomplete or phased projects, or engineering, design and right of way acquisition costs.

MRSI webinar with Q&A session scheduled Wednesday, Dec. 3

Those interested in ap

plying for MRSI funding are invited to join MnDOT and others for an informational webinar with Q&A session on Wednesday, Dec. 3, from 1 to 2 p.m.

Grant applications, MRSI program details and more information about the webinar are available at mndot.gov/ofrw/railroad/mrsi-grant.html.

A MnDOT project selection team will review and score eligible applications. Award recipients will be notified by early April 2026.

The MRSI program has administered more than \$70 million in loans and grants for capital improvement projects since it was established in 1976 to strengthen the state’s shipping economy. The program was given authority to issue grants for freight rail service improvements that support economic development in 2017.

Newspapers crucial to government transparency

By Gretchen A. Peck
E&P Magazine

Two recent studies looked at the process of submitting public records and FOIA requests, including how news deserts correlate to poor compliance.

David Cuillier, Ph.D. — a former newspaper reporter and editor — is the director of the Brechner Center for the Advancement of the First Amendment at the University of Florida’s College of Journalism and Communications.

“Our mission is to improve transparency across the country,” Cuillier explained. “We not only do research, but we provide training for journalists. We train about 3,000 journalists a year.” The Center also co-hosts an annual “Sunshine Week” conference in Washington, D.C., attended by journalists, government custodians, historians, librarians, lawyers and citizens interested in freedom of information.

This year, Cuillier co-authored “Dark Deserts” with Brett Posner-Ferdman, a law student at Penn State University, who was in-

terested in studying each state’s record on FOIA fulfillment — and in relation to the growing number of news deserts identified in Medill’s “The State of Local News Project.”

Their abstract explained the findings: “Analyses indicate that, on average, states with a lower density of newspapers demonstrate worse compliance with public record laws. Also, states with financially weak press associations demonstrate less transparent government.”

“I don’t think we should just do research to back up our hunches. I think we should challenge our hunches. Of course, I always felt newspapers have made a difference and that, when newspapers go away, governments run amok and are emboldened to hide information,” Cuillier said. “So, I wasn’t surprised to see that, indeed, when newspapers go away, state agencies are more likely to violate public-record laws.”

“These initial studies show that newspapers make a difference. They hold governments accountable, especially to budgets,” Cuillier added. “Local governments are more likely to be careful with our tax dollars and less wasteful. Engagement improves. Voting turnout improves. ... Newspapers matter in saving democracy.”

Cuillier cited examples of how the public’s access to information is being impeded: barring journalists from covering public officials and public events; libel suits as retribution; broadcast licenses being threatened; and the defunding of public media, to name just a few.

“There are huge things going on right now that we haven’t seen before, starting with the president not releasing his tax returns, unlike all other presidents. The closing of the White House visitor logs has effectively turned the White House into a secret palace. They’ve removed websites and data, purged the National Archives and fired the archivist. They fired the director of the Office of Information Policy at the Department of Justice and slashed FOIA staff. ... They’re hiding the activities of DOGE, and DOGE is making a huge difference in our lives. They’re illegally using Signal, contrary to the law. As ICE arrests people around the country, they are hiding search warrants and arrest warrants, which are presumptively public once served. The list goes on and on,” Cuillier said.

The Brechner Center also studied the experience of filing an FOIA request, surveying 330 U.S. public record requesters. “Hometown Transparency: Differences in Local, State, and Federal Freedom of Information Services” was co-authored by Cuillier, A. Jay Wagner and Jessica Sparks.

“[Local and state governments] don’t often take it seriously, and they use copy fees as a way to get journalists to go away. ... They can be rude to journalists and others, and they throw up all sorts of crazy exemptions — particularly privacy exemptions — to hide information,” Cuillier reported. “We’ve seen this all across the country for decades, and it’s getting worse every year.”

StaplesWorld

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Quote of the week

“At the end of the day, there will always be local news media journalism, as long as it’s done well.”

— Mark Adams, CEO Adams Multimedia
(America’s Newspapers’ SLC, Nov. 4, 2025)



Chamber welcomes The Hive to Staples

The Staples Area Chamber of Commerce held a ribbon cutting in October at The Hive, the women's sober house recently opened in Staples. Chamber members Marlo Corona and Paul Augustinak held the ribbon for The Hive owner Nicole Neff to cut the ribbon. Behind

them from left, Jackie Kobliska, Scott Meech, Kylie Mateson, Joleen Yungbauer, Tammy Jackson, Brandon Van Vliet and PJ Bolstridge. (Staples World photo by Mark Anderson)

The Hive: women's sober house in Staples

By Mark Anderson
Managing Editor

Helping women overcome substance abuse has become a life purpose for Nicole Neff. She has been working in mental health for 20 years, mostly at facilities including Northern Pines and Nystrom and Associates, but she kept finding a need for non-clinical services for people with substance abuse issues.

Her experience led her to purchase a house in Staples and fix it up as a sober house for women. It is called The Hive, which opened this spring.

Neff purchased the home with help from her brother Meisha Neff. Her partner Brandon Van Vliet is also helping with the business.

"We have a passion for doing things differently," said Neff.

Neff hosted an open house and ribbon-cutting in October at The Hive and told about her program to help women recover from substance abuse.

The house has been refurbished so that each occupant gets their own bedroom.

"Everyone needs their own space," said Neff.

Neff said she screens the clients and has some requirements for them to be admitted to The Hive.

"They have to want to recover, they have to want to succeed," she said, "and they have to be ready for this level of independence."

Clients are referred from a variety of places. Neff said they have gotten women who were homeless, some who just left a treatment facility and others who have just gotten out of jail.

They also have many different life situations. Neff

said one is getting through a divorce, others are dealing with children or other family issues.

Neff said communication and collaboration are the key to running a successful sober house. She doesn't visit the house every day, but she is always keeping up with the progress each client is making. The housemates are linked together on a group text where they share what is happening within the home.

Neff helps all the clients set goals and keeps up with progress on their goals. She helps the women work through life issues, makes sure they get to appointments or court appearances, get fines paid and paperwork completed. She helps them find employment and once settled, they start paying rent. The home is also funded through grant programs.

"A lot goes into each person," said Neff.

Food is playing a big role at The Hive. Neff said they hold weekly Sunday dinners where they all get together to make sure things are on track. They cook their own meals and Neff said they collaborate on cooking skills and smart shopping for healthy meals.

Neff is making even bigger plans to make growing food a centerpiece of The Hive. They are setting up a garden in the back yard where the residents can plant, water, weed and harvest food. She said she is contacting Central Lakes College and Staples-Motley schools on how to incorporate agriculture into the sober house.

"The school has great ag programs and CLC has their farm business management program," said Neff, "we want to partner



Sober home operators

Nicole Neff and Brandon Van Vliet are working together to operate The Hive, a sober home for women, in Staples.

with local agriculture programs to help people with recovery."

She said the people in agriculture she has talked to are excited about the idea, realizing the importance of food in substance abuse recovery.

The Hive is in the house that was formerly the Meech family home. At the open house and ribbon-cutting event, Joleen (Meech) Yungbauer and Scott Meech attended to see what is being done with their childhood home. Yungbauer said she had previously thought of turning it into a sober home because of a substance abuse history in her family. She said she is

pleased that her home was turned into The Hive, and brought a housewarming gift to the ribbon cutting.

Neff is looking to open a similar home in Park Rapids.

Mark Your Calendar

Nov. 21

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

Nov. 23

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

Nov. 25

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

Nov. 27

FREE THANKSGIVING MEAL Thursday, Nov. 27, at Timbers Event Center, 1220 2nd Ave. NE, Staples. Register with Discover Staples - watch for info.

Menu

Senior Nutrition Program

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

Staples 218-979-4118

LSS meals include bread (various kinds), marg. and 1% milk.

Oct 27-31

MONDAY - Chef's choice, veggie of the day, fruit of choice, dessert of the day.

TUESDAY - Swedish meatball, mashed potatoes, brown gravy, mixed veggies, chocolate chip cookie.

WEDNESDAY Pork roast/gravy, candied yams, green beans, vanilla pudding.

THURSDAY - THANKSGIVING HOLIDAY - CLOSED.

FRIDAY - Cheese omelet, turkey sausage, red diced potatoes, diced peach cup, blueberry muffin..

Wk48

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THANKSGIVING
Sunday, SERVICE
Nov. 23, 7 p.m.
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27343 490th St, Staples
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2025
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Obituary

Victor Flansburg

It is with profound heart-break that we say goodbye to our father, Victor (Vic) W. Flansburg, 97, of Motley, Minnesota.

Vic passed away peacefully in his sleep November 3, 2025 at the Veterans Home in Fergus Falls.

He was our hero and a veteran who served in the Merchant Marines and the U.S. Navy during WW II and the Korean Conflict.

Vic is survived by two daughters, Linda Winters and Jill Flansburg one son, Gary Flansburg; six grandchildren, Keli Romine (Andrew), Kurtis Flansburg, Cameron Winters (Rachael), Gavin Mencil, Brock Mencil and Chase Mencil; six great-grandchildren, Hunter, Jayce, Rylan, Adelyn, Bethany



and Cody; three brothers, Robert (Bob) Flansburg, Lloyd (Jackie) Flansburg and Richard (Pat) Flansburg and several nieces and nephews.

He was preceded in death by his parents and his sister, Vivian Dickman.

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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.....9:00 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 Rev. JC Duncan, 218-632-7314 Rev. Rick Aubol, 218-632-7310 Rev. Greg Sauer, 218-632-7319 Mass: Sunday.....8:30 a.m. Seventh Day Adventist 421 Dakota Ave. SE, Staples Pastor Joshua Jeresek 218-894-0033 Saturday Worship.....9:30 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 Rev. JC Duncan, 218-632-7314 Rev. Rick Aubol, 218-632-7310 Rev. Greg Sauer, 218-632-7319 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 City 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 Verndale.....218-894-2296 info@marysacc.org Rev. JC Duncan, 218-632-7314 Rev. Rick Aubol, 218-632-7310 Rev. Greg Sauer, 218-632-7319 MASS: Saturday.....6:00 p.m. St. Hubert Catholic Church Bluegrass.....218-894-2296 info@marysacc.org Rev. JC Duncan, 218-632-7314 Rev. Rick Aubol, 218-632-7310 Father Greg Sauer, 218-632-7319 Sunday Service.....10:00 a.m. (Dec. - April) Saturday.....4:00 p.m. (May - Nov.)
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"Refreshing"

Pastor Scott Jorgenson, Thomastown Covenant Church, Staples

Life along the Leaf River is a bit lazy these days. The dry Fall has resulted in a quiet, slow and shallow river. A little laziness can be welcome thing amidst the hectic and hurried. God knows this as He has made us with the need for times of rest. We need sleep and we need a break from our daily routines. God calls it Sabbath. Create the world in six days, rest on the seventh. Forty-nine years of business as usual, jubilee on year fifty. Being reminded to rest is certainly appropriate for our task-filled lives.

But what about your faith? Is it feeling a bit 'lazy?' Same routine, same commitment is not a bad thing. We pastors appreciate the faithful and steadfast servants of the Lord. As does God, too. However, our ministry/service can get stale or stagnant not unlike the Leaf River in the Fall.

God know this. Sometimes we need a Sabbath rest from even our good works.

When Paul wrote his letter to the Romans he indicated he would stop in Rome to be "refreshed" before heading to Spain. Paul knew he would need a break from his routine. His commitment to preaching and the travel required would necessitate a time of respite and he was looking forward to a little "R and R" in Rome.

How do we best get our needed "R and R?" Time alone in the woods or on the water, works for me. But, the best refreshment comes when we "chill with friends"... according to the Bible. "Chill with friends" is my loose translation of Acts 27:3 ('go to his friends to be cared for'), Romans 15:32 ('be refreshed in your company'); 1 Corinthians 16:18 ('they refreshed my spirit'); 2 Corinthians 7:13 ('his spirit has been refreshed by you all'); 2 Timothy 1:16 ('he often refreshed me'); Philemon 1:20 ('refresh my heart in Christ'). I was mildly surprised at the frequency of these texts indicating that these pillars of faith all required a time of refreshing and found that refreshment by spending some 'down-time' with friends.

Of course, we should include God in our list of friends for He has told us that He will: restore our soul (Psalm 23), renew our strength (Isaiah 40), satisfy our soul (Isaiah 48) and strengthen us (Philippians 4).

So, if your faith batteries are running low or your spiritual river is a bit lazy be sure and check in with a good friend...and God, too. May your soul find the refreshing waters of kindred spirits and a loving God.

wk48c



National Signing Day family support

Three Staples-Motley athletes were backed by family members as they committed to college sports teams on National Signing Day, Nov. 12. From left, Colbe Tappe, backed by parents Shane and Holly, with brothers Camrik and Cooper and sister Cora; Audrey Brownell with parents Loren and Kristy; Noah Larson with brother

Zechariah and parents Trisha and Cam. Tappe will play baseball at St. Cloud State, Brownell is running track and cross country at Tulsa and Larson is doing track and field at Northern State in South Dakota. (Staples World photo by Mark Anderson)

Three Cardinal athletes sign with college programs

By Mark Anderson
Managing Editor

Three Staples-Motley athletes signed to play sports for college programs on National Signing Day, Nov. 12.

Colbe Tappe committed to play baseball at St. Cloud State University, Audrey Brownell will run cross country and track and field at the University of Tulsa, and Noah Larson will run track and field at Northern State University.

In an event at The Nest, all three athletes signed their letters of intent in front of a crowd of their teammates, classmates, friends and family.

Staples-Motley track and field coach Bruce Fuhrman has worked with all three athletes and has talked to a lot of college coaches about recruiting. He said all the college coaches ask if they have good grades, about nutrition, their parents and their willingness to work.

The college coaches always ask "Are they good kids?" said Fuhrman.

Staples-Motley Superintendent Shane Tappe, also the school's baseball coach and Colbe's father, answered that question, saying colleges have been recruiting all three athletes because "they are good people."

"This doesn't happen by accident," said Tappe.

He said all three athletes have put a lot of time into their sport behind the scenes, working extra hours outside of practice and in the offseason.

"Every kid practices from 3:30-5:30," said Tappe, "you don't get to this level working from three to five."

Tappe said one of the common recruiting questions from college coaches

is how much time does the athlete spend on their cell phone or online? He said the top athletes dedicate a lot of hours to training and academics, with little time left for cell phones.

"Nothing is given, it's earned," said Tappe.

Colbe Tappe

A state champion wrestler and leader on the state champion wrestling team and the state runner-up football team, Tappe has been a lynchpin hitter, catcher and pitcher on the varsity baseball team since seventh grade. He helped the Staples-Motley baseball team run deep into the playoffs for several years in a row. Tappe is one of the most decorated 3-sport athletes in Staples-Motley athletics history.

He was being recruited by multiple colleges for all three sports. After a lot of decision-making, he ended up choosing baseball and is going to go to St. Cloud State.

Colbe said he has been looking at colleges since before his junior year in high school. He wanted to find what fits and looked deep into 15 to 20 schools who wanted him. He looked at Division I, II, and III, plus NAIA schools. Colleges on his short list included Utah, Central Michigan, Mankato State and Augustana.

Through the process, he found what he was looking for fairly close to home.

"I wanted to be set up for success," Colbe said. At St. Cloud State, "I found a coach I could connect with."

His father and baseball coach Shane Tappe said he narrowed it down by deciding he wanted to play for a successful team and he wanted to play early in his career, he didn't want to sit on the bench for a couple of

years.

"People said he's the Dave Winfield of Staples-Motley," said Shane Tappe, referring to the Minnesota legend who played multiple sports at a high level before becoming a professional baseball player.

Colbe said he plans to study biomedical sciences in college, with the opportunity to go on to medical school.

Audrey Brownell

Brownell was being recruited by multiple colleges. She seriously considered up to 10 offers and visited multiple colleges. Her final three came down to the University of Minnesota, North Dakota State and Tulsa.

When she visited Tulsa, she said the coaches and team stood out.

"I felt I was fitting in and I liked training in that environment," said Brownell.

She thought it could be a good change of pace to train in Oklahoma, where the winters shouldn't be as hard to get out and run every day.

Fuhrman said Brownell has had an incredibly successful career, starting with an undefeated season as a sixth grade runner in junior high meets. He said she has gone on to become the most decorated track and field athlete in school history.

Brownell is a five time state champion, with four track titles and one cross country title. She also was on two cross country teams who won state titles.

Brownell holds school records in every distance event, including the 800, 1,600 and 3,200 meter runs in track and the 5,000 meter cross country record. She also anchored the school record 4x800 meter relay

that won a state title.

In college cross country, women's races are usually 6,000 meters, a little longer than the 5,000 meter races in high school. Brownell said she is looking forward to the longer race. In track, she thinks she could do well at similar distances, running the 3,000 meters for indoor season, the 5,000 outdoors and possibly trying the 3,000 meter steeplechase.

Brownell is planning on studying business and management at Tulsa.

Noah Larson

Larson was recruited to be a decathlete, where contestants compete in 10 events over two days, with five running events and five field events. As a state level 110 meter hurdler, Larson has competed many of the events that make up the decathlon.

He is not afraid to try the events he hasn't done in competition, such as the pole vault and 1,500 meter run. He said Northern State has one of the top pole vault coaches who has qualified for nationals, so he thinks he can master that skill. As for the 1,500, that is the last of the 10 events and is the most tiring.

"Sure, I'll get through it," said Larson.

Larson was also looking at North Dakota State and Central Iowa, but when he visited Northern State in Aberdeen, S.D., he felt this was the place for him.

One reason is the coaching staff. He also loved the facilities, which will give him an opportunity to train at a high level.

He was also impressed by the school's academics. He plans to go into occupational therapy and said he likes that program at Northern State.



College commitment

The three college committed athletes with Staples-Motley Activities Director Paige Ahrendt, left.



Proud of their athlete

Family and friends photograph a big moment in an athlete's life, National Signing Day.



Talking to the crowd

Coach Bruce Fuhrman asks Noah Larson about doing the decathlon in track and field, as Colbe Tappe and Audrey Brownell look on. The National Signing Day event was attended by many teammates, classmates, family and friends.



Hoops season

Staples-Motley girls basketball team has started

NOTICES

104

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WHITE GERMAN SHEPHERD PUPPIES to good homes: 2 mos. old. Leader. 1-218-821-8169.
47-49p

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9208

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FOR SALE

311

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610

Parcel for Sale
FOR SALE BY OWNER: Luann McGrane for \$85,225. Tenants in common with 3 other siblings. 1/4 parcel 01-0035600. Contact daughter, Christine, POA, 218-639-3173. 48-51p

REAL ESTATE

602

Apartments for Rent
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607

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HALF ACRE LOT ON THE LONG PRAIRIE RIVER. Driveway has been put into property. \$37,500. MLS #6743201 Smart Choice Realty, 320-428-9448. 47-48p

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 Looking for a good deal? Check out the **Staples World Classifieds**

The Staples World office will be closed Nov. 27-28.
Have your ads and copy into the office by 3 p.m. on Weds., Nov. 26 for the Dec. 3 issue.



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*Thomas Sellnow is a Real Property Law Specialist certified by Real Property Section of Minnesota State Bar Association.

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SW 2024 changed wk # 3



Staples-Motley Elementary School students accompany the Motley American Legion as they present the colors for the Veterans Day program on Nov. 11. (Staples World photos by Mark Anderson)



Staples-Motley FFA members escorted veterans into the Veterans Day program. Pictured, Wally Huff finds his seat.



Public Notices

**CITY OF MOTLEY, MINNESOTA
NOTICE OF TRUTH IN TAXATION PUBLIC HEARING**

Notice is hereby given that the City Council of the City of Motley will hold a Truth In Taxation public hearing on the proposed 2026 property tax levy and budget on Monday, December 8, 2025, at 6:00 p.m. The meeting will be held at Motley City Hall, 316 Highway 10 South, Motley, Minnesota.

The purpose of this meeting is to receive public comments on the City's proposed property tax levy and budget for the upcoming year. All interested residents are encouraged to attend. Following the presentation, members of the public will have an opportunity to speak and ask questions.

For more information, contact Motley City Hall at 218-352-6200.

By order
of the City Council
City of Motley, Minnesota

Tami Brotherton,
Clerk-Treasurer, City of Motley

48pnc

TODD COUNTY PLANNING COMMISSION

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

PUBLIC NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that the Todd County Planning Commission will hold a public hearing on **Thursday, December 4, 2025 at 6:00 p.m.** in the Commissioners meeting room, Historic Courthouse, 215 First Ave. South, Long Prairie, MN to consider the following applications.

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

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

Agenda

- Call to Order
- Pledge of Allegiance
- Introduction of Planning Committee Members and process review
- Approval of agenda
- Approval of November 6, 2025 Planning Commission meeting minutes

Todd County Board of Adjustment
Jim Pratt, Chair

48pnc

•The applicant is introduced

- Staff report
- Applicant confirms if staff report accurately represents the request
- Correspondence
- Site Visit Review
- Public Comment
- Board review with applicant, staff, and public

1. Donniel Robinson: Section 28, Moran Township

Site Address: 40324 County Rd., 21, Browerville, MN 56438

PID: 19-0029102.

1. Request to build a 60' x 120' building to grow Cannabis indoors as a licensed microbusiness, according to Statute, in AF-2 Zoning District.

2. Off Grid Recovery Community Inc.: Section 18, Bartlett Township

Site Address: 48650 County 23, Verndale, MN 56481

PID: 01-0018200

1. Request a CUP to operate an onsite thrift store located in AF-1 Zoning District.

3. Richelle Taylor: Section 11, Birchdale Township, Fuller Lake

Site Address: 27740 County 98, Grey Eagle, MN 56336

PID: 03-0008202

1. Request to keep the Property as a Retreat, home will be rented to Youth Groups, Weddings, Clubs, and Churches. Request to amend condition #5 of CUP #20080512696 to increase the occupancy from 14 to 22 people in Natural Environment Shoreland Zoning District.

4. Ryan Schroeder: Section 30, Burleene Township

Site Address: 28329 115th Ave., Carlos, MN 56319

PID: 05-0022000

1. Request a CUP for Powersports Repair Business and Motor Vehicle Dealer License to buy and sell more than 5 motor vehicles per year with signage outside of ROW in AF-1 Zoning District..

Adjournment.

Next meeting:
January 8, 2026

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



Elementary school Veterans Day program

Elementary school students stood in wonder as the Motley American Legion color guard brought the flags out of the gymnasium, with one student unable to resist touching the flag.



Staples-Motley Elementary School students performed songs and had animated actions to go with them during the Veterans Day program on Nov. 11, under the direction of music teacher Brandy Lyon.



The Staples World office will be closed Nov. 27-28.

Have your ads and copy into the office by 3 p.m. on Weds., Nov. 26 for the Dec. 3 issue.

StaplesWorld

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





A monumental elk...

Eric Reeck, right, of Indiana, and son of Bob Reeck of Staples, left, harvested a mountainous elk while hunting in the Wasatch Mountain Range, Lehi, Utah. The elk packed out at 345 pounds of meat. This was the first one of two bulls harvested. The men hunted on 19 and 23 years of a preference point drawing needed to hunt the area. (Submitted photo)



Basketball season underway

Staples-Motley girls basketball team started practices on Nov. 10, getting ready for their first game at Browerville on Thursday, Nov. 20. The Cardinals will play their first home game on Friday, Nov. 21, against Hawley, with the game starting at 7:30 p.m. Boys basketball and wrestling start practices this week. (Staples World photos by Mark Anderson)



Todd County court report Nov. 12

Long Prairie Police
Carlos Ferreras Matos, Long Prairie. Driving without a valid license for vehicle class or type. Fine \$100. Fee \$85.
Christian Alberto Garcia Gonzalez, Long Prairie. Driving after revocation. Fine \$200. Fee \$75.
Carmen Lillia Gonzalez Alejandro, Wadena. Speed 47/30. Fine 460. Fee \$85.
Rodrigo Mateo Hernandez, Browerville. Driving after revocation. Fine \$200. Fee \$85.
Brandon Lee Kasper, Little Falls. Windshield tinted or glazed. Fine \$50. Fee \$85.
Jonah Daniel O'Leary, Rosemount. Window restrictions, tint too dark. Fine \$85.
Bryan Oxnard Rodriguez, Long Prairie. Rear lamps required to illuminate license plate. Fine \$40. Fee \$85.
Jose Alfredo Salgado-Torres, Melrose. Driving after revocation. Fine \$200. Fee \$85.
MN Dept. of Natural Resources
Richard Eugene Baum, Swanville. ATV-prohibitions on youthful operators/passengers-under 18-helmet required. Fine \$50. Fee \$85.
Peter Igor Kursiec, Crystal. Migratory birds-violate federal regs. Fine \$50. Fee \$85.
MN State Patrol
Maxine Mary Perish, Sauk Centre. Speed 69/60. Fine \$40. Fee \$85.
Mitchell Lee Peterson, Henning. Speed 81/65. Fine \$60. Fee \$85.
Curtis Wayne Avant, Brainerd. Unsafe passing on right. Fine \$40. Fee \$85.
Derek Alan Dahnke, Stacy. Window restrictions-windshield tinted or glazed. Fine \$50. Fee \$85.
Joshua Eugene Eckert, Staples. No MN Registration. Fine \$100. Fee \$85.
Aiden Gene Hellermann, Melrose. Speed 86/70. Fine \$60. Fee \$85.
Alex Joseph Hoppe, Freeport. Windshield tinted or glazed. Fine

\$50. Fee \$85. Window tint. Fine \$50.
Mustafa Abdullah Mara, Fridley. Speed 85/70. Fine \$60. Fee \$85.
Collin Christer Eugen McKay, Rosemount. Speed 85/70. Fine \$60. Fee \$85.
Shelly Kaye Mussetter, Browns Valley. Speed 65/60. Fine \$40. Fee \$85.
Daja Samone Napier, Fargo, ND. Speed 81/70. Fine \$50. Fee \$85.
No MN Drivers License. Fine \$100.
Frank Aaron Neumann, New Prague. Speed 92/70. Fine \$70. Fee \$155.
Asher Patrick Novak, St. Michael. Speed 80/70. Fine \$40. Fee \$85.
Bhupendra Kumar Jayantilal Patel, Morris. Hands free law. Fine \$50. Fee \$85.
Staples Police
Kayla Lyn Deyonge, Staples. Expired registration. Fine \$30. Fee \$85.
Todd County Sheriff's Office
Jackie Lynne Bruder, Browerville. Driving after revocation. Fine \$200. Fee \$85.
Weston David Herron, Brainerd. Speed 72/60. Fine \$50. Fee \$85.
Steven Michael Moening, Long Prairie. Forestry-open burning-prohibited materials. Fine \$200. Fee \$85.
Gary Leroy Norris, Eagle Bend. Forestry-Open Burning-prohibited materials. Fine \$200. Fee \$85.
Edwin Paulino Ortega, Long Prairie. Driving after revocation. Fine \$200. Fee \$85.
Karina Maria Richardson Murillo, Long Prairie Failure to stop at Stop signs or stop lines at entrance to through highway. Fine \$50. Fee \$85.
Speed 86/60. Fine \$100. Driving without a valid license for vehicle class or type. Fine \$100.
The following cases were heard before Judge Daniel A. Benson in Seventh District Court in Todd County November 5, 2025.
Mitzi Ann Meizinger, Long Prairie. Theft. Unsupervised probation, 6 mo. Fine \$50.
The following cases were

heard before Judge Daniel A. Benson in Seventh District Court in Todd County November 4, 2025.
Christian Shawn Anderson, Long Prairie. Domestic Assault. Local confinement (90 days, stay 1 yr 0 mo 0 days credit for time served: 3 days). Fine \$50. Fee \$75.
Cayden Jon Drake, White Bear Lake. Sentenced. Speed 89/70. Fine \$60. Fee \$75.
Jamee Elizabeth Senesac, Carlos. Speed 75/70. Fine \$40. Fee \$75.
Donovan Arnold Logering, Staples. Domestic Assault. Continued for dismissal. Supervised probation 6 mo. Disorderly conduct-brawling or fighting. Continued for dismissal. Supervised probation, 6 mo.
The following cases were heard before Judge Daniel A. Benson in Seventh District Court in Todd County November 3, 2025.
Marvin Duane Kottschade, Long Prairie. 2nd degree driving while impaired. Dismissed. 2nd degree driving while impaired-blood alcohol content greater than .08 within 2 hours of driving. Sentenced. Local confinement (364 days, stay 0 yr 0 mo 264 days for 4 yr credit for time served: 3 days). Supervised probation, 4 yr. Fine \$550. Fee \$105. Open bottle possession. Dismissed.
The following cases were heard before Judge Leslie Beires in Seventh District Court in Todd County October 31, 2025.
Douglas Fay Crooker, Duluth. DWI-operate motor vehicle-alcohol concentration 0.08 within 2 hours. Sentenced. Local confinement (264 days, stay 0 yr 0 mo 274 days for 4 yr credit for time served: 5 days). Supervised probation, 4 yr. Fine \$400. Fee \$105.
The following cases were heard before Judge Leslie Beires in Seventh District Court in Todd County October 30, 2025.
Zackry Gust Meidinger, Verndale.

Issuance of worthless checks. Sentenced. Local confinement (30 days, stay 0 yr 0 mo, 0 days credit for time served: 30 days). Fine \$50. Fee \$75.
The following cases were heard before Judge Daniel A. Benson in Seventh District Court in Todd County October 29, 2025.
Jayse Allen Moses, Baxter. Sentenced. Speed 80/55. Fine \$60. Fee \$75.
Recent reports taken by the Staples Police Dept:
Oct. 27, Staples Police received a report to assist with dispatching an injured deer that that had been struck by a vehicle. While waiting for law enforcement to arrive, another vehicle struck the deer, which was deceased on arrival of police.
Oct. 30, Staples Police stopped a vehicle, detected drug related violations and driving while impaired. Police requested an amputation for an apparent seizure.
Oct 31, Staples Police investigated a report of an elderly male looking into windows of a house on 3rd Ave. NE. Neighbors said a male and female were walking around the house looking into various windows.
Nov. 1, Staples Police received a call from a resident who stated the person who had been looking into their windows came back. A neighbor wrote down a license plate and the officer was able to find a name of a suspect, but listed no current address was available.

Staples Police report

Nov. 2, Staples Police cited a vehicle driver for driving after revocation. Wadena K9, advised a positive alert for narcotics. Vehicle was towed and evidence was sealed.
Nov. 2, eleven 911 calls where made where the caller did not speak and hung up the phone.
Nov. 2, Vehicle traveling east on Hwy 10 near 291st Ave. hit a deer. Vehicle airbags deployed. Two parties in the vehicle were injured and Staples Ambulance was called.
Nov. 3, Staples Police executed a search warrant at 908 12th St. NE in Staples.
Nov. 3, Staples Police were called to a car/deer accident on Cty Rd 21. The deer was knocked out, but came to and was chased into the ditch. Police dispatched the deer.
Nov. 4, Staples Police stopped a vehicle for expired tabs. Upon investigation, the driver was placed into custody for methamphetamine possession.
Nov. 4, Staples Police received a complaint from a resident whose neighbor was open burning something and affecting their air quality.
Nov. 4, Staples Police received a call from a resident whose neighbor had been in a fight several days ago. Reporting party stated the neighbor was seen on a ring camera walking up to the house, carrying with what appeared to look like a knife.
Nov. 6, Staples Police received a call of a person looking into the window at a house on 9th St. NE. Police spoke to both parties.
Nov. 6, Staples Police assisted a driver who hit what appeared to be a BBQ grill in the road.
Nov. 8, Staples Police responded to a report of an unconscious person who had fallen out of an ATV.
Nov. 8 Staples Police received a report of a person knocking on a window at 6th St NE.



Students singing for veterans

The Staples-Motley combined choir of middle school and high school students grades 5-12 opened the Veterans Day program with the National Anthem. (Staples World photos by Mark Anderson)



Featured speaker

Dale Mueller talks to the high school crowd about his time in the military.



Singing military songs for veterans

Singing Boogie Woogie Bugle Boy during the Veteranand Day program, from left, Raina Mikhaeil, Cecily Moe and Brynn Bestland, with boogie-woogie piano player Sandy Paskewitz, right, accompanying them.



Patriotic orchestra music

The Staples-Motley orchestra ans Day program, under the direction of Kristina Haataja.



Lunch for veterans

Area veterans gathered at the Staples-Motley Middle/High School library for a lunch following the elementary school Veterans Day program on Nov. 11.



Proud to wear the colors

Raelynn Hansen came to sing in the Veterans Day program wearing a camouflage outfit. Below, more enthusiastic students sing for the veterans.





Helping Afghans evacuate

During his deployment to Kuwait and Afghanistan in 2021 - 2022, Army National Guard soldier Izaak Schafer (front left), along with his unit, was part of the evacuation of Kabul Airport in Afghanistan, helping secure spots on the plane

for parents and their children to evacuate. They're pictured with some of the children they helped at that time. Master Sergeant (Retired) Schafer said the boy he's kneeling next to gave him a rose as a 'thank you' for helping them. (Submitted photo)



Holding Old Glory

Master Sergeant (Retired) Izaak Schafer is pictured with the United States flag in Iraq, during his deployment to that country in 2011-2012. Schafer, now of

Swanville, is a Staples native. He retired this past June as a Master Sergeant, after 21 1/2 years of military service. (Submitted photo)



SCHAFER continued from page 1a

Sense of pride in military deployments

tions through the National Training Center in Fort Irwin, Calif., and at multiple locations around the United States.

Schafer notes that the majority of his time in the Minnesota National Guard was spent as a 19K Tank Crewman, in the 1st Combined Arms Battalion, 194th Armor Regiment, 34th Red Bull Infantry Division.

Master Sergeant (Retired) Schafer said that being able to help others gives you a sense of pride. Also, when you see how people in countries like Iraq and Afghanistan live, it makes you appreciate what you have here in the United States.

Schafer believes that it would be good for every person to do some sort of civic service for their country. He notes that the United States is one of the few countries where military service is all volunteer.

Would he do it again?
And would he encourage
others to join the service?

Absolutely.

Schafer goes on to note the many ways that serving in the military has positively impacted his life. In addition to the educational benefits, Schafer said that being in the National Guard gave him confidence. He believes he wouldn't have the job he has today at Twin Cities Orthopedics (TCO) in Staples if he hadn't learned the leadership skills he did while serving in the Army National Guard. In addition to his work as an Occupational Therapist/Certified Hand Therapist, Schafer serves as the Therapy Manager at TCO.

Then, there are the relationships and bonds made with those in his unit. Schaffer said that they may not



Thankful for his family

Staples native and Army National Guard veteran Izaak Schafer is pictured with his family at their hobby farm in Swanville. From left are Izaak, holding eight-year-old daughter June; his wife, Lizz; son William, 14. In front is their daughter Nora, 11. Master Sergeant (Retired) Schafer recently retired after 21 1/2 years of service. His family and their security is a big reason why Schafer enlisted four times. (Submitted photo)

see each other for months and even years, “but we always pick up where we left off.”

However, being in the military can take its toll on loved ones. Schafer went on to share that there were many hard times and difficult situations for his family during his service. "My wife, Lizz, is a rock star... military spouses do not get enough credit for what they have to go through. I always told her she had the hardest job when I deployed, taking care of the family and everything else, like our well going dry and appliances needing to be replaced. She had to navigate that by herself, with support of other family members. I could not have done what I did with-

out her.”

When he thinks back to the reasons why he enlisted a total of four times, Schaffer cites his family as being a main one. He enlisted another time because of the guys in his unit, and yet another to get past the 20-year mark in his career.

But it was 9/11, when the world stopped turning, that the farm kid from Staples, Minn., was first inspired to enlist in the military. To be a part of something bigger than himself and to follow the Army National Guard's motto, "Always Ready, Always There."

And for nearly 22 years, he did just that. Well done, Master Sergeant (Retired) Izaak Schafer.



In Staples

Izaak Schafer works as an Occupational/Certified Hand Therapist at Twin Cities Orthopedics (TCO) in Staples, as well as the Therapy Manager at that location. Recently retired as a Master Sergeant in the Army National Guard, Schafer credits the leadership skills he gained during his military service as helping prepare him for the job he has today. (Staples World photo by Dawn Timbs)

Offering protection

Master Sergeant (Retired) Izaak Schafer, along with thousands of other Army National Guard soldiers, was deployed to U.S. Bank Stadium in Minneapolis during the George Floyd riots in May of 2020. The Guard was deployed in response to significant rioting and destruction of buildings and businesses, triggered by Floyd's death at the hands of police. The deployment was the largest since WWII. (Submitted photo)



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