

Inside this issue:

Senator Tina Smith visits CLC in Staples
CARE Community Meals start
Big wins for tennis, football teams
Lakewood Cancer Center sets open house date



Wednesday, October 1, 2025

Staples World

Staples, Minnesota

\$1²⁵

Airport firefighting training Firefighters from the Staples Fire Dept., in conjunction with Motley, Verndale and Wadena firefighters, conducted a joint Aircraft Rescue and Fire Fighting (ARFF) training exercise Sept. 20, at the Staples Airport. According to Staples Fire Chief Cole Yungbauer, this training enhanced the firefighters' knowledge of aircraft, facilitated the identification of potential hazards surrounding aircraft and refined their response to aircraft-related incidents. "We extend our gratitude to our mutual aid partners for their participation," Yungbauer said.

Pictured, front from left: Heidi Keller, Todd Judd Motley FD; Arthur Thew, Wadena FD; Reid Judd, Randy Nelson, Motley FD; Jacob Holder, Staples FD; Dale Current, Verndale FD; Mike Mellgren, Trapper Holden, Staples FD. Kneeling: Maggie the K9, Louis Kurtz, owner and instructor of ARFF Specialists in Bemidji; Blake Gerard, Jake Denning, Ryan Ismil and Cole Yungbauer, Staples FD. Back Row: Keith Weiher, Verndale FD; Will Thew, Drew Yungbauer, Chase Farrell, Robbie Lange, Jef Cichos, Kyle Karolus, Staples FD. (Staples World photo by Dawn Timbs)

Enrollment projection predicts steady numbers

By Mark Anderson
Managing Editor

Declining enrollment seems to have been reversed at the Staples-Motley School District, a trend that could continue for the next 10 years, according to Dave Bergeron of ICS and consultant John Powers, who presented an enrollment study at the Sept. 22 Staples-Motley School Board meeting.

The study used population trends to predict school enrollment for the next 10 years. The next step is to determine if the school facilities will be meeting the needs of students over the 10 year period. The school district is starting that pro-

cess with a survey recently released.

Powers said there is a growing population in all four counties that are covered by the Staples-Motley School District. He said the population of children in the K-12 age range in the district has been about the same over the last 10 years, around 1,600.

He said over the last 10 years, the trends of open enrolling to other districts has grown and there has been an increase in students who are home schooled, causing the local school district enrollment to go down.

Despite the population growing by nearly one percent, school enrollment was

down by 24 percent from the highest point.

Powers said most students who open enroll out of the district are living closer to the other school, usually Verndale or Pillager.

"How your district is built and where your kids are located, this is not unusual from a geography standpoint," said Powers.

He said a few students who live closer to the Staples school location are open enrolled out and he suggested the district find out why those students chose to go to a different district.

The 10 year trend of declining enrollment has leveled off over the last three years, and the school district enrollment has gone up slightly the last two years.

"Enrollment has stabilized with less open enrolling out and more staying in the district," said Powers.

The final prediction was that the school enrollment

See **ENROLLMENT** on page 12a

Chamber moving Octoberfest to NP Park

The Staples Area Chamber of Commerce invites the public to celebrate Octoberfest on Saturday, Oct. 4, at NP Park in Staples, starting at 11 a.m., going all day and ending with a movie in the park.

Octoberfest will begin at 11 a.m. with vendors, kids games and food trucks. The Chili Cook-off will start at 12

p.m., with 15 different groups and businesses planning to provide chili for contestants.

A kid's costume parade is planned for 2:30 p.m. and a meet Staples Mayor Ron Murray and have a photo opp is scheduled for 3:30 p.m.

A music performance by Prairie Smoke will begin at 3 p.m. at the NP Park bandshell.

At 5 p.m., a corn feed will be offered by the chamber.

The Staples Motley Area Women of Today are hosting the movie in the park, playing a children's movie starting at 7 p.m.

Kids games, activities and a pumpkin patch will be going throughout the event. For adults, there will be a beer garden in the park.

CLC open house at Staples campuses Oct. 11

The community is invited to discover career pathways and hands-on learning opportunities at Central Lakes College's Staples campus during an Open House from 1-3 p.m. on Saturday, Oct. 11.

Guests can connect with faculty and staff, tour state-of-the-art labs and classrooms, and learn more about programs designed to lead directly into in-de-

mand careers. Whether you're a high school student exploring options, an adult considering a career change, or simply curious about what CLC offers, this event is the perfect opportunity to explore your future.

Programs highlighted include:

- CNC Machine Tool
- Diesel Equipment
- Heavy Equipment Operations & Maintenance

- Meat Cutting & Butchery
- Practical Nursing
- Robotics & Automation

Locations:

- Staples Main Campus: 1830 Airport Road, Staples
- Heavy Equipment Campus: 10004 255th Ave, Staples

For more information, visit www.clcmn.edu or call 218-855-8000.

SEDA explores value of former city hall building

By Mark Anderson
Managing Editor

The Staples Economic Development Authority (SEDA) questioned whether they need an assessment of the Taylor Funeral Home building, because they didn't think it would be worth the money to purchase the building and fix it

up. They also didn't agree on a possible use for the building.

At the Sept. 23 SEDA meeting, the board discussed the building at the corner of 6th Street NE and Highway 10, adjacent to the new city hall. The building was formerly the city hall, was occupied by McKechnie plastics, then used by the Nordell Graphics com-

pany and later purchased by Taylor Funeral Home.

The funeral business was purchased by Brenny Family Funeral Home and they offered to sell the building to the city because they will continue to use their building in Staples. They are giving the city the first bid to purchase because the

See **SEDA** on page 12a



Building on the sale block

The Taylor Funeral Home building, between Highway 10 and Staples City Hall/Library. The city is deciding if it would be worth it to purchase the building to use as an office space or city promotional building. Other

ideas are to buy the building and tear it down to open the space to other businesses. (Staples World photo by Mark Anderson)

Weather

2025

This Week's Forecast

	High	Low	Cond.
Oct. 1	82	63	Sunny
Oct. 2	84	61	Sunny
Oct. 3	84	60	Cloudy
Oct. 4	77	57	Showers
Oct. 5	74	53	Cloudy
Oct. 6	66	42	Cloudy
Oct. 7	62	41	P. Cloudy

Last Year, 2024

	High	Low	Cond.
Oct. 1	63°	41	M. Sunny
Oct. 2	72	49	Sunny
Oct. 3	54	51	M. Cloudy
Oct. 4	65	36	Sunny
Oct. 5	67	43	Sunny
Oct. 6	70	47	P. Sunny
Oct. 7	68	45	Sunny

Average Temps:

H = 60° Low = 41°

Enjoy the sunny weather!

Compiled by Dale Hausmann, WCCO's Staples area Weatherwatcher

Public Notices

ISD #2170

Evergreen Hill Cemetery

Todd Public Hearing

Todd Forfeited Land Sale

9A

9A

9A

9A

Obituaries

Garry DeWald

Jeffrey Hess

Gary Stracek



Senator Tina Smith stops by CLC U.S. Senator Tina Smith toured Central Lakes College's Meat Cutting and Butchery facility in Staples Sept. 25. Pictured, from left, are Eric Sawatzke, West Central Area Ag instructor; Cheryl Norman, CLC VP Academic and Student Affairs; Cory Detloff, CLC Director of Ag & Energy/FBM; Hara Charlier, CLC President; Shawna Spilman, student; Jess Feierabend, Meat Cutting & Butchery instructor; Senator Smith; Gary Wertish, Minnesota Farmers Union President; Drew Peterson, student; Jonny Serbus, student; Keith Olander, Dean of Agriculture Studies; Judy Barka, AgCentric Project Manager. Sen. Smith secured federal funding for this new facility and equipment to promote local meat processing in Greater Minnesota. This facility also receives support from Minnesota Farmers Union and other ag-focused organizations. (Photo by Dawn Timbs)



A lesson in butchery

U.S. Senator Tina Smith toured Central Lakes College's Meat Cutting and Butchery facility in Staples Sept. 25, during which time she received lessons from instructor Jess Feierabend on how to properly butcher both chicken and beef.

Thanks to Sen. Smith's efforts (as well as support from Minnesota Farmers union and other ag-related organizations), federal funding was secured for this new facility and equipment to promote local meat processing in Greater Minnesota. Sen. Smith is a member of the Senate Agriculture committee and has long worked to spur competition in America's meat processing industry. (Staples World photos by Dawn Timbs)



Greeting the senator

During her tour of the Meat Cutting and Butchery facility at Central Lakes College in Staples Sept. 25, Senator Tina Smith took time to greet students, CLC leaders and others in attendance.

Pictured above, Sen. Smith greets Drew Peterson, CLC student. In background, from left, are Gary Wertish, Minnesota Farmers Union President (partially hidden); Jordan Schroeer, Northwest MN Outreach Director for Sen. Smith; and Jonny Serbus, CLC student (partially hidden). (Staples World photo by Dawn Timbs)

Help guide the future of Staples-Motley Schools: We want to hear from you!



The school year is in full swing, and we are off to a great start at Staples-Motley School District.

As part of our commitment to continuous improvement, we want to ensure that every decision reflects the voices of our community—students, families, staff, and residents. That's why we are launching a district-wide effort to better understand how we can strengthen and maximize the value of our school buildings.

We are not beginning with answers—we are beginning with questions. What's working well? What areas need attention? How can our facilities better support student learning and success?

We've already held listening sessions with staff, and now we are inviting the entire community to join the conversation. Please share your perspective by completing our survey. Please go to <https://bit.ly/SMfacilities> or scan the QR Code.



Your feedback will help guide priorities for our schools. This input will shape solutions that align with our Continuous Improvement Plan and our Cardinal Commitments of Pride, Respect, Relationships, Excellence, Communication, and Integrity. To support this work, the district is also partnering with ICS and MLA + Bray, two firms with extensive experience in PreK-12 school assessments and planning.

Whether you are a parent, graduate, student, staff member, business owner, or neighbor, your voice matters. Together, we can fulfill our mission: Empowering every student to thrive—in school and beyond.

If you have questions or ideas, or would simply like to learn more, please contact me at superintendent@isd2170.org or call 218-894-5400.

Thank you for helping us live out our vision: Grow with purpose. Lead with integrity. Rise with pride.



Shane Tappe
Superintendent
Staples-Motley School District

Thank you for reading
the **Staples World**



Firefighters in action

Firefighters from the Staples Fire Dept., in conjunction with Motley, Verndale and Wadena firefighters, conducted a joint Aircraft Rescue and Fire Fighting (ARFF) training exercise Sept. 20, at the Staples Airport. Louis Kurtz is the owner and instructor of ARFF Specialists in Bemidji. (Submitted photos)



Todd Cty. court report Sept. 24

Long Prairie Police
Isais Danauris De La Cruz, Wadena. Driving after revocation. Fine \$200. Fee \$85. Driver must carry proof of insurance when operating a vehicle. Fine \$200.
Tiabeth Marie Hayes, Little Falls. Speed 54/45. Fine \$40 Fee \$85. Wireless communication device. Fine \$50.
Rodney Ruiz Garcia, Long Prairie. Driving after revocation. Fine \$200. Fee \$85.
MN Dept. of Natural Resources
Daniel Michael Carey, Wyoming. Game-license required to take/buy/sell/transport/possess protected wild animals. Fine \$50. Fee \$85.
Ryan Douglas Fisher, Blaine. Take fish without angling license. Fine \$100. Fee \$75.
Robert Warren Kuhnau, Eagan, Fishing-illegal length Northern. Fine \$50. Fee \$85.
Brady Wayd Sickels, Wadena. Migratory birds-violate federal regs. Fine \$50. Fee \$85.
State Patrol
Abbie Bodicoat, Chaska. Speed 80/65. Fine \$60. Fine \$85.
Dan Raul Farcas, Wadena. Speed 65/60. Fine \$40. Fee \$75.
Sheena Marie Ziegler, Staples. Speed 75/65. Fine \$40. Fee \$85.
Hana Nebel Ali, St. Paul. Speed 89/70. Fine \$50. Fee \$85.
Hailey Marie Anderson, St. Cloud. No MN Driver's License. Fine \$100. Fee \$85.
Elias Edward Aronson, Cold Spring. Speed 79/70. Fine \$40. Fee \$85.
Mason Carl Berg, Independence. Window tint. Fine \$50. Fee \$85. Windshield tinted or glazed. Fine \$50.
Morgan Paige Bigalke, West Fargo, ND. Speed 80/70. Fine \$40. Fee \$85.
Uriel De Jesus Carvajal Bueno, Sauk Centre. Speed 80/70. Fine \$40. Fee \$85.
Camden Matthew Conway, Big Lake. Speed 85/70. Fine \$60. Fee \$85.
Marisa Rose Dana, Post Falls, ID. Hand Free Law. Fine \$50. Fee \$75.
William Michael Hahn, Glencoe. Speed 75/70. Fine \$40. Fee \$85.
Robert Loren Hoikka, Cokato. Speed 89/70. Fine \$60. Fee \$85.
Vladimir Ioffe, Mississauga, ON. Speed 80/70. Fine \$40. Fee \$85.
Samuel Robert Kasper, Long Prairie. Seat belt required. Fine \$25. Fee \$85.
Sabrina Kaye Kohnen, Roscoe. Hands free law. Fine \$50. Fee \$85.
Kraig Niles Kruizenga, Grey Eagle. Speed 80/70. Fine \$40. Fee \$85.
Phillip Andrew Masog, West Fargo, ND. Speed 86/70. Fine \$60. Fee \$85.
Manley Laird Mills, Bradenton, FL. Hands free law. Fine \$50. Fee \$85.
Kenneth B. Morff, St. Francis. Speed 84/70. Fine \$50. Fee \$85.
Flora B Ngokonda, Moorhead. Speed 90/70. Fine \$70. Fee \$155.
Allyson Irene Ohlgren, Fargo, ND. Speed 89/70. Fine \$60. Fee \$85.
Mason Andrew Peterson, Maplewood. Speed 84/70. Fine \$50. Fee \$85.
Tyus Blake Reinke, Melrose. Speed 65/60. Fine \$40. Fee \$75.
Wanyelin Yamilka Rosario Disla, Long Prairie. Speed 73/60. Fine \$50. Fee \$85. No MN Drivers license. Fine \$100.
Nicholas Wayne Sehy, Bothell, WA. Speed 84/70. Fine \$50. Fee \$85.
Karla Kay Smieja, Little Falls. Speed 70/60. Fine \$40. Fee \$85.
Haley Elizabeth Larue Springman, Billings, MT. Speed 86/70. Fine \$60. Fee \$85.
Georges Hebens Theodore, Lake Worth, FL. No MN Drivers license. Fine \$100. Fee \$85.
Bryan Edward Vidaurri, Alexandria, KY. Speed 88/70. Fine \$60. Fee \$85.
Zecharia William Wheeler, Crofton, KY. Speed 88/70. Fine \$60. Fee \$85.
Staples Police
Benjamin Michael Long, Staples. Expired registration. Fine \$30. Fine 485.
Todd County
Ivan Paul Contreras Retes, Long Prairie. Driver fails to stop at STOP sign. Fine \$50. Fee \$85.
Greyson Mauricio DeJesus, Browerville. Speed 60/55. Fine \$40. Fee \$85.
Lori Lee Dierkes, St. Cloud. Speed 79/60. Fine \$60. Fee \$85. Expired registration. Fine \$30.
Brandon James Goebel, Freeport. Speed 70/55. Fine \$60. Fee \$85.
Seimy Elizabeth Gonzales, Long Prairie. Driving after revocation. Fine \$200. Fee \$85.
Mason Rain Nielson, Cushing. Driving after revocation. Fine \$200. Fee \$85.
Emmanuel Ortiz Rosario, Starbuck. Driver must carry proof of insurance when operating vehicle. Fine \$200. Fee \$85.
Alejandra Noemi Pineda Nava, Miltona. Driving without a valid license for vehicle class or type. Fine \$100. Fee \$85.
Ruben Leomar Ramirez, Clarissa. Driving after revocation. Fine \$200. Fee \$85. Driver must carry proof of insurance when operating vehicle. Fine \$200.
Anita Renee Scegur, Avon. Speed 65/55. Fine \$40. Fee \$85.
Odrigute Seliant, Staples. Speed 69/55. Fine \$50. Fee \$85.
Xavier Perez Torres, Long Prairie. Driving after revocation. Fine \$200. Fee \$85.
Emilio Angel Urbina, Inver Grove Heights. Speed 77/55. Fine \$70. Fee \$155.
Rachel Christine Yager, Henning. Speed 75/55. Fine \$70. Fee \$155.
The following cases were heard before Judge Daniel A. Benson in Seventh District Court in Todd County September 17, 2025.
Richard William Grunwald, Hewitt. Assault-4th degree-Peace Officer. Dismissed. Domestic assault. Dismissed. Disorderly conduct. Dismissed. Obstruct legal process-interfere w/Peace Officer. Sentenced. Local confinement (364 days., stay 0 yr 0 mo 316 days for 2 yr credit for time served: 48 days). Supervised probation, 2 yr. Fine \$100. Fee \$75.

Looking back

75 YEARS Ago - 1950

• Oct. 5, 1950 - The annual homecoming festivities of the Staples high school , to which all alumni are especially invited, are scheduled for Friday, Oct. 6, opening with the queen coronation services at the high school that morning at 9:30 o'clock. Candidates nominated by the student body include eight senior girls: Patricia Bartol, Barbara Batcher, Shirley Kalisch, Joan Koval, Mary Marden, Ferne Mattson, Elaine Thompson, and Joyce Worle.
Football Game - The Brainerd Warriors will be the guests of the Staples Cardinals at the annual homecoming football game Friday evening, scheduled

Compiled by Dawn Timbs



Staples World staff phot

Mystery photo

Hello readers. This week's archive photo is from 1977. Do you know who these people are and perhaps the context of the photo? Do you have a memory to share? Email your answers and where

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

Don Jelinek; Melaine Miller, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Blayne Miller; Susan Becker, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Kenneth Becker; Donna Brown, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Joe Brown; and Peggy Finn, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. William Finn.

Friday, Oct. 3, the students in grades nine through twelve of Staples High School will be voting for their favorite candidate. The coronation ceremonies for the 1975 Homecoming Queen will be held at 8 p.m. Monday, Oct. 6, in the Staples Auditorium.

The coronation program will feature presentations by the Stage Band, Chamber Choir, Concert Choir, skit by the Pep club and the introduction of the coaches and Cardinal Football Team.

Chuck Gillespie will be the master of ceremonies and Kelli Perfetti and Richard Japke will be the crown and cape bearers. The crowning of the SHS Homecoming Queen will be performed by the Cardinal Football tri-captains, Jeff Cizek, Clark Dahl and Doug Roberts.

A reception will be held in the high school cafeteria following the coronation ceremonies to which the public is invited.

• Oct. 2, 1975 - For sale at Ernie's in Staples: Ground beef, 69 cents/lb; Rib Steaks - pan fry or broil - \$1.59/lb; Hams - skinless, shankless, well-trimmed, \$1.47/lb.; Thuringer Summer Sausage - \$1.49/lb.; Red Delicious Apples - 5 lb. bag, 89 cents; Minn. Grown Russet Potatoes - 20 lb. bag, \$1.19; Hill's Bros. Coffee - 3 lb. can, \$3.49.

• Oct. 2, 1975 - Every Citizens Band radio enthusiast knows that "Breaker, breaker," is a call to other CBers in search of conversation or assistance, but they may not yet know that it also is the title of a country-music song written by June Petrie and the title cut of an album recently released by Roger Rainy and the Blue Boys, including the great Buddy Emmens on steel guitar. June is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Walter Morse of Staples, and is a Staples high school graduate.

The album is on the Sundown label, and the single currently is "Pick Hit of the Week" in Louisville, Ky. June writes both the words and music, as well as performing, and has two other works being considered by

well-known country-music recording artists.

25 YEARS Ago - 2000

• Oct. 5, 2000 - Becky Martinson, Staples area supervisor, was one of the team members honored recently for the Catholic Charities' Central Minnesota Foster Grandparent Program.

The recognition came from Gov. Jesse Ventura and the Minnesota Department of Human Services Board on Aging at its Age Odyssey presentation in St. Cloud. Martinson is the daughter of Harold and Joyce Moffett of Staples.

• Oct. 5, 2000 - Students in the Staples Motley High School Agri. Science class with Kerry Lindgren were involved with the perennial planting and mulching of the Living Legacy Garden at the Central Lakes College Ag. Center, Staples.

The 13 students worked with Shirley Judd, Ag. Center secretary/receptionist, Master Gardener and master (volunteer) planner of the garden, Ag. Center personnel and Becky Roe-

lofs, Meadowbrook Landscaping.

• Oct. 5, 2000 - Crowned Homecoming Queen and King at Staples Motley High School Monday evening, Oct. 2, were Queen Rachel Landecker and King Russ Cooper. Crown bearers were Ann Kautto and Andrew Nelson.

10 YEARS Ago - 2015

• Oct. 1, 2015 - Staples Motley Area Community Foundation will hold its Community Awards Celebration Thursday, Oct. 8, at Ted & Gen's in Aldrich. 5:45 p.m., Social; 6:30 p.m., Buffet Dinner; 7:30 p.m., Program.

Award winners include Mary Theurer, Duane R. Lund Award for Lifetime Achievement; Bob Hamann, Citizen of the Year; Frank and Amy Leidenfrost, Chairmann's Award; Sarah Koopmann, Youth of the Year; Friends of the Staples Public Library, Organization of the Year; Staples Precision Metalcraft, Inc., Business of the Year.



Mystery solved

Last week's mystery photo published in the March 29, 1979 edition of the Staples World featured Colonel Harland Sanders (center) along with Mildred and Don Kemp of Staples, who attended the Kentucky Fried Chicken (KFC) International Convention in Las Vegas. The Kemps, who owned the KFC in Staples at that time, were among the more than 3,000 people from all over the world in attendance.

Linda Bartylla of Motley and Tammy Fritsche of Pillager both recognized the Kemps and recalled the Kentucky Fried Chicken (KFC) restaurant they owned on the west end of Staples at that time. Gary Timbs of Staples recognized Colonel Sanders, and recalled visiting the original KFC in Corbin, Ky., while doing church work in that region with his dad. Thanks for participating in our mystery photo.

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Follow the rules of open government

By Mike Wiener
State Representative

Minnesotans expect government to work in the open, not behind closed doors. Yet the current process unfolding around a possible special session undermines both our statutes and our constitution.

Here's what the law actually says; under article IV section 12 of the Minnesota Constitution, only the governor can call a special session, and he must do so by proclamation. Once convened, however, it is the legislature not the governor that decides what bills to consider and how long to meet. The governor's role is limited to signing or vetoing whatever legislation reaches his desk.

That structure is deliberate. It preserves balance between the branches of government. The governor can bring lawmakers back to St Paul in "extraordinary

occasions", but he cannot dictate their agenda. Legislators, meanwhile, retain their right to write and debate bills, and the governor may then exercise his veto authority according to the law.

But what we're seeing now is something different. Governor Walz is demanding that legislative leaders have deals cut behind closed doors, drafting agreements that spell out which bills will be considered and which ones won't before a theoretical special session even begins. These prepackaged arrangements effectively reduce the legislature to a rubber stamp.

That practice runs directly against the letter and spirit of our constitution. It deprives rank and file lawmakers of their constitutional role and, more importantly, shuts the public out of the process. When leadership scripts the outcome in advance, the people's rep-

resentatives are sidelined, and transparency is lost.

The point is simple; if Minnesotans are to have confidence in their government, the process must follow the rules. The governor calls the special session. The legislature writes the bills. The governor can sign or veto. Anything more or less is a violation of both the law and public trust.

We should not allow backroom agreements to replace open debate. Minnesota deserves lawmakers that follow the constitution, not shortcuts that bend it.

Please reach out to me if you have any questions or comments, my contact information can be found below.

Rep. Mike Wiener
2319 Centennial Office Building
658 Cedar Street
Saint Paul, MN 55155
651.296.4293

Quote of the week

“In a time of universal deceit, telling the truth is a revolutionary act.”
— George Orwell

USDA changes SNAP rules

From USDA

U.S. Secretary of Agriculture Brooke L. Rollins announced the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Food and Nutrition Service (FNS) is proposing changes to strengthen the stocking requirements for retailers participating in the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP). These changes would protect the program, participants, and taxpayers by mitigating fraud, waste, and abuse and ensuring additional healthy food options for recipient families.

“Retailers participating in SNAP need to sell real food, plain and simple. Right now, the bar for stocking food as a SNAP retailer is far too low, allowing people to game the system and leaving vulnerable Americans without healthy food options. These common-sense changes are designed to minimize benefit trafficking and skimming, among other fraudulent activities, while making more nutritious foods avail-

able to families who rely on the program,” said Secretary Brooke Rollins. “This is another step forward in President Trump’s mission to Make America Healthy Again.”

Currently, SNAP retailers are required to stock three varieties of food in each of four staple food categories – dairy, protein, grain, and fruits and vegetables – 12 foods total. The proposed rule:

- Increases variety requirements to seven per staple food category, more than doubling the food choices available to SNAP participants.
- Closes loopholes that allow certain snack foods to count as staple foods, emphasizing the importance of healthy, whole food.
- Simplifies how foods are classified, making the standards easier for retailers to understand – and FNS to enforce.

This proposed rule is part of USDA’s broader commitment to ensuring federal nutrition programs operate with integrity and respect to the American taxpayer.

Low stocking requirements make SNAP more vulnerable to fraud and abuse, permitting retailers that aren’t genuinely in the business of selling food to cash in on taxpayer-funded benefits. With nearly 266,000 retailers redeeming \$96 billion in SNAP benefits per year, no amount of fraud will be tolerated.

The changes also support the Trump administration’s promise to turn the tide on chronic disease and Make America Healthy Again. USDA is actively reorienting SNAP towards better nutrition and emphasizing whole, healthy food for program participants. This includes approving 12 states to exclude certain unhealthy foods from purchase with SNAP benefits.

USDA welcomes comments on the proposed rule from interested parties and the public. The full text of the rule is available on the FNS website. Comments may be submitted September 25 through November 24, 2025, by visiting regulations.gov.

Domestic violence awareness in October

By Barb Dinkel Goodrich
Lead Advocate/Supervisor
Hands of Hope Resource Center

October marks Domestic Violence Awareness Month (DVAM)—a time to shine a light on a crisis that too often remains hidden in the shadows of our homes and communities. Domestic violence affects people of every age, race, gender, and socioeconomic background. It is not confined to bruises or broken bones—it includes emotional manipulation, financial control, and psychological trauma that can last a lifetime.

The theme for DVAM 2025 is “With Survivors, Always.” This theme emphasizes the importance of partnership with survivors, focusing on safety, support, and solidarity. It encourages advocates and community members to show up for survivors and recognize the ongoing threats they face, including physical, emotional, and financial safety.

It’s a call to action for all of us to stand beside survivors—not just during October, but every day.

In Minnesota alone, thousands of individuals—mostly women and children—seek help each year to escape abusive environments. Yet many more suffer in silence, afraid to speak out, unsure where to turn, or unaware that help exists.

This month, I urge our community to take a stand. Learn the signs of abuse. Support local shelters and advocacy organizations. Talk to your children about healthy relationships. And most importantly, believe survivors when they speak.

Domestic violence thrives in silence. But together, we can break that silence. We can build a culture of compassion, accountability, and safety. Let this October be more than a month of awareness—let it be a turning point.

Farmers need markets, not bailouts

By Heather Close
The Rural Blog

Many U.S. farmers are already struggling to make ends meet as costs for equipment, labor and fertilizer remain high and crop income continues to drop. In her opinion piece for Farm Progress, Holly Spangler writes, “Grain prices are down, input prices are up, and not enough folks are buying U.S. products.” Spangler shares insights on what Congress and the Trump administration can do to help farmers without sending bailout checks.

The National Corn Growers Association just “released a survey of U.S. corn growers, and nearly half — 4 percent — believe the U.S. is on the brink of a farm crisis,” Spangler writes. “More than 75percent are very or moderately concerned

about the farm economy. . . . The average 2024 farm operating income ratio was negative for the first time in 30 years, and well below the five-year average of 18.2 percent.”

Action from policy officials and Congress could help corn farmers access improved markets and better prices. Spangler explains, “Congress needs to pass the Nationwide Consumer and Fuel Retailer Choice Act of 2025, which would remove an outdated provision in the Clean Air Act that restricts summertime fuel sales with 15 percent ethanol blends, or E15.”

Soybean farmers also need robust market development since China is purchasing its soybeans from South America. Spangler notes, “The only deal to come out of last week’s U.S.-China trade talks involved TikTok,

not soybeans.”

While the Trump Administration and the Department of Agriculture may have plans to send farmers bailout checks, Spangler points out that this approach isn’t a long-term solution. She writes, “Another bailout just produces money that flows through the farmer’s hands and back to landowners, input suppliers and equipment companies. Nobody has to lower prices when farmers can afford it.”

Spangler believes farmers need to demand action from the Trump Administration and the USDA that fixes the E15 issue, passes a Farm Bill and secures trade partners. She adds, “Farmers need to make money. But they need to do it by selling crops — not by cashing another government check.”

By Carlie Jonas
Center For Rural Affairs

The Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) provides reliable access to food for millions of people. However, the integrity of the program is at risk after substantial cuts were made to it via the “One Big Beautiful Bill,” which was passed by Congress and subsequently signed into law this July.

According to the Congressional Budget Office, through 2034, SNAP will have a reduction of \$187 billion in funding—or about 20% of the entire program. Cuts of this magnitude could cause about 4 million people, including 1 million children, to lose all or part of their food assistance, according to the Center for Budget and Policy Priorities.

The most substantial cuts are marked by an unprecedented cost-shift to the states. Changes to SNAP will roll out in stages over the next two years. To avoid budget shortfalls, states must plan accordingly. If states are faced with difficult budget decisions, SNAP recipients may have reduced benefits or experience changes to how those benefits are accessed, increasing barriers to purchasing essential groceries. Furthermore, these additional administrative costs, coupled with expanded work requirements will

be put on states to approve qualifying individuals and families.

Historically, administration has been split 50/50 between states and the federal government. Administration costs include staffing agencies and their time spent reviewing applications and verifying eligibility for those already enrolled. Beginning next year, however, all states will be required to take on 75% of administration costs. In Nebraska, at least an additional \$17 million in administrative costs will be placed on the budget, effective Oct. 1, 2026. This comes at a time when the state budget is already in a precarious position.

The benefits used by low-income individuals and families to purchase groceries have remained fully funded by the federal government since the program began in 1964. States will also be responsible for covering a share of food benefits beginning in 2027, depending on payment error rates, which are calculated based on over and under payments. If a state’s error rate is below 6%, they will not be required to cover any food benefits, but if the state’s error rate exceeds 6%, incremental increases ranging from 5 to 15% of SNAP benefits will be triggered. These shifts in cost-sharing will result in substantial service disruptions and stresses to states’ budgets, according to the Food Research & Action Center.

Though the error rate in Nebraska currently falls below the 6% threshold that triggers the incremental increase of food benefits, this could change as it’s reviewed on an annual basis. In 2024, Nebraska SNAP participants received \$332 million in food benefits—if the error rate rises above 6%, the state would be responsible for an additional \$16.6 to \$49.8 million.

The federal changes to SNAP may also affect staff who assist applicants and others who work with the program by increasing their workload. SNAP is an optional program, but the added pressure on state departments that are already understaffed and under-

funded could lead to some states ultimately deciding the program is not cost-effective, and choose to discontinue SNAP entirely.

Additionally, changes from the states to SNAP have ramifications that extend beyond low-income individuals and families who qualify for benefits. SNAP retailers, such as rural, independent grocery stores, face significant pressure from SNAP waivers that limit which foods can be purchased with benefits. Small grocery stores have limited staff hours and funds to update their technology to ensure inventory is in compliance with state requirements. Some retailers may choose to stop offering SNAP altogether for fear of falling out of compliance. In rural areas, this greatly reduces the availability of places where SNAP recipients can use their benefits.

A majority of SNAP participants are children, senior citizens, and those with disabilities, according to the House Agriculture Committee. SNAP contributes to better health outcomes and economic well-being for both participants and their communities. SNAP has well-documented short- and long-term benefits for those enrolled in the program and has proven especially effective at reducing food insecurity among children. Additionally, it allows low-income families and individuals the ability to purchase healthier food, which improves diet and overall health, ultimately leading to decreased medical spending.

These cuts will push more people toward food insecurity and persistent poverty as grocery prices remain high and SNAP benefits are being pushed to their limits, according to the Urban Institute. Food banks have also faced cuts to their funding at a time when demand for their services are growing, widening the gap to food access.

Instead of viewing SNAP cuts as a reduction in federal spending, it is instead a historic cost-shift placed on millions of people who are already struggling to adequately feed themselves and their families.

StaplesWorld

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1897

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Letters:

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

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Quote of the week

“News is something someone wants suppressed. Everything else is just advertising.”
— William Randolph Hearst



Preschool Storytime at Staples Public Library

Preschool Storytime has begun at the Staples Public Library. Join us every third Wednesday at 10:30 a.m. for stories, songs, crafts and snacks. Registration is required to attend. The program is provided by the Staples Friends of the Library

Above: Emma Bell, Will Moon, Lucy Moon, Alida Hanson, Alma Wutzke, Wren Wutzke, Ori Tepley, Everly Wutzke. Right: Beth Pottratz, Olivia Vanek, Gwen. (Submitted photos)

Upcoming events are listed on the webpage at www.griver.org or stop by the Staples Public Library, 122 6th St NE, phone 218-894-1401, open Monday, 10 a.m.-6 p.m.; Tuesday 1-8 p.m.; Wednesday, 10 a.m.-6p.m.; Thursday, 1-8 p.m., Friday, 1-5 p.m. and Saturday, 9 a.m.-noon to sign up.



Senior Citizen Halloween observance

The Staples Senior Citizen's will hold their Halloween party Weds., Oct. 15 at 11 a.m. at the Senior Citizen's room, Staples Community Center. Wear your costumes.

BINGO!

BINGO BEGINS:
Sunday, Oct. 12
1 p.m.
TEN HI, MOTLEY

\$1,000 Blackout
Come, join the fun, Oct.-April.
-Hosted by
Ten Hi and the Motley Lions
Lic. #05943



Faithful volunteers

A number of people gave of their time to help serve at the CARE Community Meal Sept. 23, held at Faith Lutheran Church in Staples. Pictured above, front row from left, are Gail Honek, Lisa Kajer, Beth Gedde and Ellen Nelson. In the back is Joann Benson. The free meals are held

Thank You
To all supporters, volunteers and contributors who helped make the 2025 Veterans Park Fundraiser a great success. Your support is much appreciated.

STAPLES VETERANS PARK

SALUTE OUR SPONSORS
Honoring Veterans every day

Women's Health Expo
at Staples Clinic

October 24th, 2025 | 11:30-3:00pm

Join us for a day of education, snacks, and prizes. Speak with our team on women's health topics including: Heart health, weight management, menopause and hormone replacement therapies, physical therapy, and pharmacy services. Plus, schedule your annual mammogram.

Register for prize drawings including:
•Ninja Blender •Instant Pot

Call 218-894-7870 to learn more.

Essentia Health | **St. Joseph's-Staples Clinic**
301 2nd Ave NW | Staples, MN

Mark Your Calendar

Oct. 2
STAPLES AREA FARMERS MARKET Thursdays, 2 - 5 p.m., in the clinic patient parking lot at Lakewood Health System's main campus in Staples.

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

Oct. 3
WOMEN'S OPEN AA RECOVERY MEETING Every Friday in person, 10:30 a.m., Motley Free Methodist Church (lower level), 33 Wellwood St. E. Motley. All women welcome.

Oct. 5
CELEBRATE RECOVERY GROUP MEETINGS are held every Sunday at 6 p.m., at Motley

Free Methodist Church, 33 Wellwood St. E., Motley.

Oct. 6
STAPLES AREA RETIRED EDUCATORS (REAM) will meet on Monday, Oct. 6, at Staples City Hall, 9:30 a.m. Paige Ahrendt, new S-M Activities and Community Ed Director; and Zack Qual, new PT Youth and Adult Programming Coordinator, will be the guest speakers.

Oct. 7
OLD TIME DANCE is held the first Tuesday of every month at the Wadena VFW. For information, call 218-639-0132.

RUBY'S PANTRY will be held Tuesday, Oct. 7, from 4:30 - 6 p.m. at the parking lot of Central Lakes College in Staples.

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

Menu

Senior Nutrition Program
Call mornings the Friday before to reserve next week's meal(s) and for current suggested donation info. *LSS Meal - traditional older adult menu. Menu is subject to change.*
NEW location: Staples Hi-Rise Apartments, 615 4th St. NE, Staples.

Staples
NEW number: 218-979-4118 or call Luann, 218-296-2804. *LSS meals include bread (various kinds), marg., and 1% milk.*

Oct. 6-10
MONDAY - Country fried chicken, cream gravy, mashed potatoes, peas, sugar cookie.
TUESDAY - Beef stew, sliced carrots, biscuit, apple dump cake.
WEDNESDAY - Scalloped potatoes w/ham, whole kernel corn, tropical fruit cup, peanut butter cookie.
THURSDAY - Beef bell pepper casserole, mixed veggies, pumpkin bar.
FRIDAY - Asian chicken, white rice, green beans, spring roll, fortune cookie.

22nd Annual

REAL MEN REAL SING!

REAL MEN SING jr!

A Choral Festival for Young Men

Saturday, Oct. 11, 2025

Staples-Motley High School Legacy Gym
Workshops and rehearsals begin at noon
Concert at 7 p.m. Doors open 6 p.m.

STAPLES AREA Men's Chorus
Sponsored by staplesmen.org

Tickets \$10
6 & under free Family max. \$25

Purchase tickets online:
www.staplesmen.org
or at Ace Hardware and Hubbard Hardware, Staples

Guest Conductor
Dr. Isaac Lovdahl
Director of Choral Activities, Bemidji State University

Guest Conductor
Mr. Paul Hartmann
Choral Director, Hancock High School

Staples Motley Area Community Foundation
Five Wings
Popplers
Timber Lake
Lakewood
Motley

This project is made possible by a grant provided by the Five Wings Arts Council with funds from the McKnight Foundation supplemented with Legacy funds.

Staples World

DEADLINES
Newspaper deadline for copy and advertising: 12 noon Fridays

Why NNA?
Because America's community newspapers need a leader and advocate, a trusted, respected voice with a passion for the news and for democracy; because NNA promotes a connected, responsible and accountable press, journalism that is fair, accurate, objective, timely and complete; because NNA is a proponent of innovation, a force for change turning today's challenges into tomorrow's opportunities; because NNA member rewards include financial insight, networking support, travel and friendship among peers and supporters.

Hello World

ONLINE BIRTHS REMOVED
AT THE REQUEST OF LAKEWOOD
HEALTH SYSTEM.

Obituaries

Gary Stracek

Gary Stracek, 83, of Browerville, passed away peacefully with his family by his side September 26, 2025.

Mass of Christian burial will will be held Monday, October 6, at 1:00 p.m. at Christ the King Catholic Church in Browerville. A Rosary will be prayed at 1:45 p.m. at Christ the King Catholic Church on Sunday, October 5, followed by a

time of visitation until 5:00 p.m., when a prayer service will take place. Visitation will continue the day of Mass, one hour before Mass at the church.

Burial will take place later October 6, at St. Isidore's Catholic Cemetery, rural Browerville.

Funeral arrangements are with Iten Funeral Home, Browerville.

w41xA00006B2025OT01

Jeffrey Hess

Jeffrey James Hess, 67, of Motley passed away unexpectedly at his home on September 20, 2025.

Services will be held at his farm on October 4, 2025 at 11 a.m.

Jeff attended Sacred Heart School and graduated from Staples High School in 1976 and went on to attend Natural Resources School in Bemidji and then trade school for painting. Over the following decades he operated Hess Decorating and helped beautify the inside and outside of our community's homes.

Jeffrey was an avid outdoorsman, enjoying fishing and grouse hunting every chance he could. He had a gift for completing jigsaw puzzles and enjoyed a good History Channel documentary. During his lifetime he instilled these loves into his children, Hannah and Joe. He had a quick sense of humor and an infectious smile. His greatest love apart from family was his 40 acre farm, where he spent more than 30 years of his life.

Jeffrey is survived by his mother, Nancy Resch (Schultenover); one brother, Todd; two sisters, Peggy (David) and Kim (Keith); one daughter, Hannah (Jacob); one son, Joseph (Andrea); bonus children, Alyssa and Scott (Shannon) and dog, Emmet.



Jeff has gone home for a reunion with his father, James; late wife, Mary and all other people he loved who've gone before him.

In memory of Jeff, go outside for a walk today; call a family member you haven't talked to for a while or don't work on the car you've been meaning to fix. Take time to do something for yourself or someone else.

In lieu of flowers, consider donating to the Minnesota Conservation Volunteer.

Arrangements are by Taylor Funeral Home, Staples.

w41cA00006B2025OT01

Garry DeWald

Garry Ray DeWald, Sr., lovingly known as "Papa," passed away peacefully at home in Motley, September 24, 2025, surrounded by the land and family he loved.

A Memorial Gathering will be held October 4, from 3:00 to 4:00 p.m., with Military Honors being presented at 4:00 p.m. at the Camp Ripley Chapel (10-98 Shimek Place, Little Falls)

Garry was born October 14, 1958 to Richard and Esther DeWald in Fort Walton, Florida. He grew up with a strong sense of curiosity and resilience that carried him through every stage of life. He proudly served his country in the United States Navy, Company 77-050, a chapter of his life he held with deep honor. After his service, he worked as a welder skilled with his hands, hardworking and committed to building things that lasted.

It wasn't only his work or service that defined him - it was the way he lived. Garry was a thinker, always hungry to understand the world around him. He spent countless hours with his nose in a book or lost in a documentary, diving into astronomy, history and philosophy. He carried a philosopher's heart, always reflecting, asking questions, searching for meaning.

Yet, for all his deep thought, Garry also had a lighthearted side. He was a known prankster, quick with a joke or a trick, always finding a way to spark laughter in those around him. His humor and warmth lit up family gatherings and made even the simplest moments unforgettable.

At his core, Garry was a country man. The outdoors



was his cathedral, whether he was hunting, fishing, searching for fossils and agates or simply sitting under a sky full of stars. It was in the quiet beauty of nature that he found peace and where he spent his later years side by side with his beloved wife, Domita, making a home filled with love and laughter.

Family was the heartbeat of his life. He is survived by wife, Domita; two sons, Anthony and Garry; four daughters, Sarah, Karen, Samanth and Juanita; grandchildren; great-grandchildren; mother Esther; three brothers, Robert, Kenny and James DeWald and two sisters, Linda Thunberg and Cathy DeWald.

He now joins his father Richard; one sister Rita and one niece, Sherri in eternal rest.

Those who knew Papa will remember him as both wise and mischievous, thoughtful and playful, hardworking and tenderhearted. His legacy lives on in the lessons he taught, the laughter he sparked and the love he gave so freely.

Arrangements are entrusted the Brenny Funeral Home, Staples.

w41cA00006B2025OT01

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
Father JC Duncan, 218-632-7314
Father Rick Aubol, 218-632-7310
Father Greg Sauer
Mass: Sunday.....8:30 a.m.
Seventh Day Adventist
421 Dakota Ave. SE, Staples
Pastor Joshua Jeresek
218-894-0033
Saturday Worship.....9:30 a.m.
Sabbath School.....10:45 a.m.

Thomastown Covenant
15940 25th St. NE., 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.....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
Father JC Duncan, 218-632-7314
Father Rick Aubol, 218-632-7310 Father Greg Sauer
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
Verndale.....218-894-2296
info@marysacc.org
Father JC Duncan, 218-632-7314
Father Rick Aubol, 218-632-7310 Father Greg Sauer
MASS: Saturday.....6:00 p.m.

St. Hubert Catholic Church
Bluegrass.....218-894-2296
info@marysacc.org
Father JC Duncan, 218-632-7314
Father Rick Aubol, 218-632-7310 Father Greg Sauer
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.

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

"The Love Chapter"

Pastor Barry Klein, Staples Church of Christ

I am intrigued by how many different styles of writing that God used with His some 40 different individual writers of the 66 books of the Bible. When in II Timothy 3:16 it describes Scriptures (the Bible) as being "God-breathed," we are assured that all the variety of styles are used creatively by God, being guided by His Spirit.

We have examples from history, as in C.S. Lewis, as to how powerful differing genres can be to express living truth in various ways. The apostle Paul is no exception in the way God used him to write so much of the New Testament. We get some of the deepest truths from his pen from his letters to various churches and individuals, to profound insights on marriage, even though he was single, to the call to love lavishly and sacrificially in I Corinthians 13.

Let's listen in to a part of that chapter in verses 4-8a (NIV) when we hear, "Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. It does not dishonor others, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no records of wrongs. Love does not delight in evil, but rejoices with the truth. It always protects, always trusts, it always hopes, always perseveres. Love never fails."

That may be the most wonderful earthy description of what it means to be a person that loves that way. Of

course, only Jesus lived that way perfectly. Yet, there is much for each one of us to move toward in a more deep and intentional way.

Here's an essential point with it all. We need to draw that I Corinthians 13 love FROM God's perfect sacrificial love towards us. Think of God's love as a large ocean, that we draw from and the share with another person, a teaspoon full at a time. You see, the kind of love (agape) that God calls us to share with another person is too deep, rich and far reaching for us to manufacture it ourselves. We need to realize that none of us could accomplish what Jesus did on the cross for each one of us with His perfect, sinless blood in our place.

Jesus' ultimate sacrifice of Himself to pay sin's price is the measure and source of the love we are called to draw upon from Him, to then share with another person. Again, there's no way we can come up with that kind of love of our own doing.

Please slowly read through I Corinthians 13:4-8a again, asking, "am I drawing upon God's love in order to share these descriptions with the people that God has entrusted to me in my life's store?" God wants and desires for you and me to be a living vessel of sharing His love with those around us. Love well!

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Staples, MN 218-894-3299

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Hwy. 10 West, Staples, MN
218-894-3794

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Your community newspaper since 1890
224 4th St. NE, Staples, MN
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Tennis team makes a statement with wins against section rivals

The Staples-Motley tennis team took a huge step in securing the top seed for the Section 8A tournament at the end of the year by beating Thief River Falls and Crookston, both by a score of 4-3 at Thief River Falls on Sept. 18.

The Cardinals also lost two close matches 5-2 at Osakis on Sept. 22 and at Bemidji on Sept. 25. Both matches were very close with several spots where the Cardinals were close to a win but couldn't quite convert at the end.

At Thief River Falls, all three teams had been ranked in the top ten by the Minnesota State High School Coaches Association, and the play proved to be as close as you would expect for a top ten matchup.

Against Thief River Falls, the Cardinals won three singles matches with Ronnie Noska and Jaida Holst taking care of business in straight sets and Charlie Noska splitting her sets and winning a nerve-wracking 14-12 super tiebreaker to get the team point. The other

win was Madison Perius and Natalie Hanson in doubles.

Against Crookston, the top two singles players again swept their sets, as did Kaylee Perius and number three singles. The fourth point came from Perius and Hanson again, with a 6-4, 6-1 win. Mia Pesta and Lydia Roelofs won their first set and took their match to the super tiebreaker, but lost there.

Against Osakis, Ronnie Noska took a rare loss to the hard-hitting fifth ranked player in the state, while Noska is ranked tenth in the state.

Section playoffs start next week with team play Thursday, Oct. 9 and Friday, Oct. 10, at Fargo Courts Plus in Fargo, N.D. The individual tournament starts on that same Friday and finishes on Saturday, Oct. 11.

Staples-Motley finishes their regular season this week with high-powered home matches against second ranked Minnewaska on Tuesday, Sept. 30, at 4 p.m., and fourth ranked

Litchfield on Thursday, Oct. 2 at 4:30.

Team results

Staples-Motley 4, Thief River Falls 3

Singles: Ronnie Noska W 6-3, 6-0; Jaida Holst W 6-2, 6-3; Kaylee Perius L 2-6, 4-6; Charlie Noska W 1-6, 6-2, (14-12)

Doubles: Madison Perius/Natalie Hanson W 6-1, 6-2; Mia Pesta/Lydia Roelofs L 2-6, 3-6; Lauren Dolezal/Carolyn Hoppe L 0-6, 0-6

Staples-Motley 4, Crookston 3

Singles: R. Noska W 6-0, 6-0; Holst W 6-2, 6-1; K. Perius W 6-4, 6-0; C. Noska L 2-6, 2-6

Doubles: M. Perius/Hanson W 6-4, 6-1; Pesta/Roelofs L 7-5, 0-6, (4-10); L. Dolezal/Alexa Dolezal L 1-6, 3-6

Staples-Motley 2, Bemidji 5

Singles: R. Noska W 6-1, 6-2; Holst W 6-3, 7-5; K. Perius L 5-7, 6-2, (8-10); A. Dolezal L 2-6, 2-6

Doubles: M. Perius/Hanson L 2-6, 4-6; C. Noska/Roelofs L 2-6, 3-6; Pesta/Kaitlyn Erickson L 0-6, 0-6

Staples-Motley 2, Osakis 5

Singles: R. Noska L 0-6, 2-6; Holst W 6-3, 6-1; K. Perius W 4-6, 6-4, (10-4); C. Noska L 6-3, 3-6, (8-10)

Doubles: M. Perius/Hanson L 4-6, 4-6; Pesta/Roelofs L 4-6, 0-6; L. Dolezal/Hoppe L 0-6, 1-6



Ready for the serve

Izzy Becker returns a serve in the match against Barnesville. (Staples World photos by Mark Anderson)

Cardinals keep hustling despite losses

By Mark Anderson
Managing Editor

The Staples-Motley volleyball team keeps playing hard but coming up a little short in close sets.

They lost two matches in straight sets, at home against Barnesville on Sept. 23 and at Frazee on Sept. 25

Against Barnesville, the Cardinals made big plays that created momentum to give themselves a chance in each set.

In the first set, the Cardinals fell behind early but rallied after the whole team contributed to win a long point. Abby Brichack brought them to within one point a 19-20 by slowing down the Barnesville attack with her blocking, then diving to get to a loose ball and hopping back up to spike the ball for a point. Barnesville hit it out on the next point to tie the score at 20, but the Cardinals lost the next two points and ended up falling 21-25.

In the second set, the Cardinals built an early lead at 14-11 with Izzy Becker scoring three points on back row kills. Brichacek had two tips and a kill to put the Cardinals up 24-22, one point from winning the set, but a couple of mistakes tied the score and they lost 25-27.

Despite two draining set losses, the Cardinals came out hustling in the third set and outworked their opponents to gain the lead again. Another long point with multiple players hitting to floor to save the ball ended with a kill by Annie Schlosser, giving the team a 7-3 lead. The two teams were extremely close with the score being tied from 8-8, all the way to 14-14, with only one team getting two straight points in that stretch. After the Cardinals fell behind, Schlosser and Addie Potter brought the team back with kills but it wasn't enough and they lost 20-25.

Team results

Staples-Motley 0, Barnesville 3; 21-25, 25-27, 20-25

Annie Schlosser: Aces-1, Assists-11, Kills-4, Digs-10

Katelyn Schotzko: Aces-1, Assists-11, Digs-5

Addie Potter: Kills-5, Digs-4

Clara Maros: Aces-1, Kills-2, Digs-6

Hannah Cole: Kills-2, Digs-2

Pam Lawrence: Digs-20

Jada Ellingson: Kills-5, Digs-1

Abby Brichacek: Kills-5, Digs-1

Chloe Trantina: Aces-2, Digs-16

Izzy Becker: Assists-1, Kills-5, Digs-33

SM 0, Frazee 3; 11-25, 19-25, 17-25

Schlosser: aces-2, assists-8, kills-3, digs-4

Schotzko: assists-5, digs-3

Potter: kills-7, blocks-1, digs-7



Pam Lawrence



Chloe Trantina

Cole: kills-3, blocks-1, digs-4
Brichacek: kills-3, blocks-3, digs-1
Maros: assists-1, kills-1, digs-7

digs-1
Lawrence: aces-1, assists-1, digs-10
Trantina: digs-11
Becker: aces-1, assists-3

Kuhns forces two turnovers in football win

The Staples-Motley football team was tested and came through with a 28-18 win at Dilworth-Glyndon-Felton. It was their first game against an opponent with a winning record.

Despite turnovers and penalties, the Cardinals made many big plays on offense and defense to take control of the game.

The Cardinal defensive line disrupted a strong DGF offense and Conner Kuhns forced two turnovers. Colbe Tappe scored four touchdowns, three on runs and one on a pass from Eli Rutten.

Staples-Motley had a turnover on their first offensive possession and fell behind 6-0 after a steady drive by DGF, but their missed extra point kick became important later in the game.

On the next Cardinal drive, Tappe had a 40 yard run on a draw play to get to the five yard line. Penalties set the team back but Rutten hit Tappe with a back-shoulder throw for a 10 yard touchdown. Tappe added the two point conversion run to take an 8-6 lead.

DGF scored again quickly on a long touchdown pass, but the Cardinal line held firm and stopped the two point attempt. The first quarter ended with Staples-Motley behind 12-8.

On their next drive, Rutten hit Beau Carlson with a long pass to the one yard line and Tappe punched it in for the touchdown. They missed on the extra point but had a 14-12 lead.

On defense, Riley Reese forced a fumble on a quarterback sack and the Cardinals recovered.

They didn't take advantage of this opportunity because two penalties set them back and they missed on a fourth down pass to give the ball up.

The Staples-Motley defense tightened up and forced a punt.

Runs by Tappe and Carlson set up a long pass from Rutten to Turner Beachy, who dove down to the one yard line. Tappe ran in the touchdown and Cayden Neisen kicked the extra point for a 21-12 lead.

In the final two minutes of the first half, DGF tested the Cardinal pass defense. Thanks to pressure from the defensive line, they didn't have time to complete their passing plays and the Cardinals finished the half with a sack on fourth down to preserve the 21-12 halftime lead.

In the second half, DGF started driving again but Kuhns stripped the ball from a running back and fell on it for a turnover.

Tappe responded with a

weaving run around the left side that he broke open for a 71 yard touchdown, his fourth score of the game. Another kick by Neisen made the score 28-12.

DGF had some opportunities on the next drive but missed open receivers. Kuhns stepped in front of another pass on third down for an interception to get the ball back.

A Staples-Motley fumble gave the ball right back inside the five yard line and DGF had a short run for the score. On the extra point try, Kuhns broke through the line to stop their run attempt and the Cardinals maintained a two score lead at 28-18.

The rest of the game became a defensive struggle. The Cardinals punted twice, and DGF punted after a sack by Noah Larson.

DGF started driving with less than two minutes left, but Adrian Gomez set them back with a sack. The Cardinal defensive line put more pressure on the quarterback to make a fourth down stop and Staples-Motley was able to run out the clock to end the game.

The win sets up the next two games against top area teams, at Barnesville on Friday, Oct. 3 and at home against Pillager on Friday, Oct. 10.



Team results

Foley Falcon Invite Boys results

Mora 39, Foley 58, Pierz 72, Staples-Motley 80, Princeton 118, Milaca 153

6. Andrew Dobson 19:00, 7. Gage Bjerga 19:08, 11. Garrett Bjerga 19:34, 29. Gabriel Kroll 20:59, 30. Jackson Odden 21:16, 38. Seth Cosentine 22:03, 39. Reed Leach 22:05, 42. Alex Leach 22:23, 44. Jacob Faulkner 24:06

Girls results

2. Suhaila Mikhaeil 22:55, 6. Elise Trif 23:18, 10. Lizzie Kroll 24:31, 15. Madelyn Kist 25:25

Mikhaeil 2nd, Dobson 6th in CC meets

The Staples-Motley cross country teams tried out a new meet a Foley on Sept. 25, running competitively in a smaller meet.

The boys were third out of five teams. Garrett Bjerga started closing the gap between his third spot on the team and the top two runners of Andrew Dobson and Gage Bjerga.

The Staples-Motley girls only had four team members at the meet and did not have a team score. Suhaila Mikhaeil led the team with an excellent run to place second and Elise Trif was

Staples-Motley School Board Minutes

ISD #2170 SCHOOL BOARD MEETING
August 18, 2025 6:00 p.m. District Office

MINUTES

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

Roll Call was taken, members Wright, Frisk, Reeck, Trout, Reese and Freeman were present, comprising a quorum. Also present were Superintendent Tappe, Principal Koenigs, Principal Ferdon, AD Ahrendt, Staples World Managing Editor Anderson, Recording Clerk Larson and Staples-Motley staff members. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Motion by Reeck, second by Reese, to approve the addition of item 3i to the agenda and addition of a donation on item 4a. **MC**

Motion by Wright second by Freeman, to adopt the agenda. **MC**

Chair Freeman recognized those in attendance.

Consent Agenda
Approve minutes from the July 28, 2025 board meeting

Approve the resignation

of:

Marly Simmons, HS Math Teacher, Cross Country Coach and Track and Field Coach

Angie Tyrrell, Elementary Paraprofessional

Michael Hager, Elementary Paraprofessional

Amanda Keplin, MS/HS Paraprofessional

Francesca Hanson, Elementary Paraprofessional

Debra Eagle Tail, Elementary Paraprofessional

Rebecca Gonzalez, Assistant Volleyball Coach

Tony Schotzko, JH Football Coach

Jace Thompson, JH Football Coach

Approve the 2025-2026 Community Education License agreement with Josh Lee

Approve the hire of:

Kristi Odden, Elementary Special Education Teacher

Melissa Wright, FTE increase from .62 to .5 Elementary Special Education and .5 ECSE Teacher

Jessica Williams, Elementary Paraprofessional

Amanda Keplin, MS/HS .5 Special Education Teacher and .5 FACS Teacher

Taylor Miller, Elementary Paraprofessional

Tina Mitts, .5 FACS

Teacher

Carl Larson, Assistant Football Coach

Steve Jennissen, Assistant Football Coach

Kevin Trierweiler, JH Football Coach

TJ Rutten, JH Football Coach

Becky Thorne, JH Volleyball Coach

Katie Dolezal, Elementary Paraprofessional

Approve the FMLA request from Allison Vangsness, MS/HS Teacher

Approve the 2025/2026 contract with SVL

Approve the 2025-2026 contract with CTC

Approve the Fundraiser request from ISC - Middle School Student Council

Approve the 25/26 Contract with The Vintage Golf Course.

Motion by Frisk, second by Trout, to approve the consent agenda. **MC**

Donations and In-Kind Contributions

Motion by Frisk, second by Reese, to approve the Resolution to accept Grants and Donations in the amount of \$13,510.32. **MC**

Finance Items

Financial Report by Business Manager Hill

Approve the July disbursements

General Fund: \$862,396.29

Food Service: \$7,276.05

Community Service: \$14,090.59

Construction Fund: \$94,498.00

Debt Service: \$326,240.00

Fund 21 Student Activities: \$14.99

Fund 45: \$ 0.00

Motion by Reeck, second by Trout, to approve the July disbursements. **MC**

Approve the July receipts

General Fund: \$528,491.30

Food Service: \$ 33,271.76

Community Service: \$17,036.53

Construction Fund: \$84,690.73

Debt Service: \$ 112,399.20

Fund 21 Student Activities: \$ 873.00

Fund 45: \$0.00

Motion by Wright, second by Frisk, to approve the July receipts. **MC**

Cabinet Presentation

-by Buildings and Grounds Director Peterson

Personnel

Motion by Reeck, second by Frisk, to approve the addition of a .62 FTE School Readiness Teacher for the 2025/2026 school year. **MC**

Curriculum / Policy (Policy Committee Minutes 8-5-2025)

Approve the following MSBA policies with minimal changes.

414 – Mandated Reporting of Child Neglect or Physical or Sexual Abuse

418 – Drug Free Workplace and Drug Free School

501 - School Weapons Policy

503 – Attendance Policy

515 – Protection and Privacy of Pupil Records

515F – Protection and Privacy of Pupil Records Form

516 – Student Medication

516.5 – Overdose Medication

524 – Internet, Technology, and Cell Phone Acceptable Use and Safety

534 – School Meals Policy

621 – Read Act

704 - Fixed Assets

709 – Student Transportation Safety

806 – Crisis Management Policy

Motion by Reese, second by Wright to approve the MSBA policies with minimal changes. **MC**

Motion by Trout, second by Frisk, to approve the 2025/2026 MS/HS Handbook. **MC**

Motion by Freeman, second by Wright to approve the 2025/2026 Elementary Handbook. **MC**

Reports

School Board:

Freshwater - none

Sourcewell - none

Elementary Principal report by Principal Koenigs

Middle/High School Principal report by Principal Ferdon

Activities/Community Ed Director - CEAC Minutes 8-14-2025 and report by AD/CE Director Ahrendt

SMEA - Report by Representative Evans

Superintendent report by Superintendent Tappe

Motion by Reeck, second by Reese, to move into Closed Session for Superintendent performance review and discussion as permitted by MN Statute, section 13D.05, subdivision 3(a). **MC**

Motion by Wright, second by Reese, to call the Closed Session to order. **MC**

Motion by Reeck, second by Reese, to reconvene in Open Session. **MC**

Motion by Frisk, second byTrout, to adjourn the meeting at 7:04 p.m. **MC**

Trisha Larson, Clerk
ISD #2170

41pnc

Upcoming Meetings: Mon., Oct. 6, 2025: Board Work Session, District Office, 6 p.m.

WADENA COUNTY OWNED ON-LINE LAND SALE				
SEPTEMBER 24, 2025 - OCTOBER 24, 2025				
https://www.publicsurplus.com/sms/wadenacore.mn/list/current?orgid=1062975				
ADDITIONAL FEES AND TERMS OF THE SALE ARE AS FOLLOWS				
Recording Fee: \$46.00STATE DEED TAX: .33% OF PURCHASE PRICE ** ADMINISTRATION FEE: \$ 100.00**PUBLIC SURPLUS FEE: TBD				
SPECIAL ASSESSMENT DISCLAIMER				
IT IS THE BUYERS RESPONSIBILITY TO CONTACT THE MUNICIPALITY WHERE THE PROPERTY IS LOCATED TO SEE IF THERE ARE ANY OUTSTANDING SPECIAL ASSESSMENTS THAT MAYBE "REASSESSED" TO THE PROPERTY AFTER IT IS PURCHASED				
LAND LOCKED PARCELS				
IT IS THE BUYERS RESPONSIBILITY TO CONTACT THE ADJACENT LAND OWNER AND/OR PETITION THE TOWNSHIP IN WHICH THE PROPERTY IS LOCATED TO ESTABLISH AN EASEMENT FOR ACCESS				
**For More Information Please Contact Missy Lund @ 218-631-7785 or missy.lund@wcmn.us				
ITEM #	TOWNSHIP/CITY	DESCRIPTION	PROPERTY ADDRESS	MINIMUM BID
LEAF RIVER TWP				
#1	05.008.4010 & 05.009.3040	SECT-08 TWP-135 RANG-35 20.00 AC - PT SE1/4 SE1/4 TRACT A' 100-1 BEG AT SE COR OF SAID SEC 8; THN WSTLY ALG TH S LI OF SD SEC 8 627'; THN IN A NTHLY DIRECTION PARALLEL WITH THE E LINE OF SAID SEC 8 FOR A DIST OF 1287'; THN ESTLY PARALLEL WITH THE S LI OF SEC 8 TO THE E LI THEREOF; THN IN A STHLY DIRECTION ALONG THE EAST LI OF SAID SEC 8 TO THE POB; EXC PT CONVEYED TO CNTY FOR RD **AND** SECT-09 TWP-135 RANG-35 36.00 AC - 36 A OF SW1/4 SW1/4 EXC BEG AT THE SE COR OF SAID SW1/4 SW1/4; TH WTLY ALNG THE S LI OF SW1/4 SW1/4 200'; THN NTHLY PARALLEL WI E LI OF SAID 40 TO A POINT 165'S & 20'W FROM THE NE COR OF SAID SW1/4 SW1/4; THN WSTLY PARALLEL WI THE N LI OF SAID 40 180'; THN NTHLY PARALLEL WITH THE E LI OF SAID 40 TO THE N LI OF SAID SW1/4 SW1/4; THN ESTLY ALNG THE N LI OF SAID 40 TO THE NE COR THEREOF; THN STHLY ALNG THE E LI OF SAID SW1/4 SW1/4 TO POB	12214 200TH STREET - WADENA **THESE 2 PARCELS ARE SOLD - TOGETHER**	\$250,000.00
#2	05.016.2035	SECT-16 TWP-135 RANG-35 2.30 AC - THAT PT OF N1/2 NW1/4 DESC AS FOLLOWS: BEG AT A PT ON THE N LI OF SAID SEC 16 SAID PT BEING 1167' ESTLY FRM THE NW CORNER OF SAID SEC 16; THN IN A STHLY DIR PARALLEL WITH THE W LI OF SEC 16 400'; THN IN AN ESTLY DIR PARALLEL WITH THE N LI OF SEC 16 250'; THN IN A NTHLY DIR PARALLEL WITH THE W LI OF SEC 16 400' TO THE N LI OF SAID SEC 16; THN IN A WSTLY DIR ALNG THE N LI OF SAID SEC 16 TO POB		\$4,000.00
RED EYE TWP				
#3	10.019.1020	SECT-19 TWP-137 RANG-35 10.00 AC - E1/4 OF NE1/4 NE1/4		\$7,500.00
WADENA CITY				
#4	22.006.1050	SECT-06 TWP-134 RANG-35 5.43 AC - THAT PT OF THE SW1/4 NE1/4 LYING NTHLY OF A LI DESC AS FOLLOWS: COMM AT THE NW CORNER OF SW1/4 NE1/4; THN S 00° 29'29"W ON AN ASSUMED BEARING ALNG THE W LI OF SW1/4 NE1/4 9.37' TO POB OF SAID LI; THN S 89° 28'35"E 51.60'; THN SESTLY ON A TANGENTIAL CURVE CONCAVE TO THE SW HAVING A RADIUS OF 1500' & A CENTRAL ANGLE OF 27° 10'07" FOR AN ARC DIST OF 711.27'; THN S 62° 18'28"E 656.08' TO THE E LI OF SW1/4 NE1/4 & SAID LI THERE TERMINATING *SUBJ TO EASEMENT		\$25,000.00

WADENA COUNTY TAX FORFEITED ON-LINE LAND SALE				
SEPTEMBER 24, 2025 - OCTOBER 24, 2025				
https://www.publicsurplus.com/sms/wadenacore.mn/list/current?orgid=1062975				
ADDITIONAL FEES AND TERMS OF THE SALE ARE AS FOLLOWS				
ASSURANCE FEE: 3% OF PURCHASE PRICE (as per Minnesota Statute 284.28, Subd. 8) **STATE DEED FEE: \$ 25.00 **RECORDING FEE: \$ 46.00				
STATE DEED TAX: .33% OF PURCHASE PRICE ** ADMINISTRATION FEE: \$ 100.00PUBLIC SURPLUS FEE: TBD				
SPECIAL ASSESSMENT DISCLAIMER				
IT IS THE BUYERS RESPONSIBILITY TO CONTACT THE MUNICIPALITY WHERE THE PROPERTY IS LOCATED TO SEE IF THERE ARE ANY OUTSTANDING SPECIAL ASSESSMENTS THAT MAYBE "REASSESSED" TO THE PROPERTY AFTER IT IS PURCHASED				
LAND LOCKED PARCELS				
IT IS THE BUYERS RESPONSIBILITY TO CONTACT THE ADJACENT LAND OWNER AND/OR PETITION THE TOWNSHIP IN WHICH THE PROPERTY IS LOCATED TO ESTABLISH AN EASEMENT FOR ACCESS				
**For More Information Please Contact Missy Lund @ 218-631-7785 or missy.lund@wcmn.us				
ITEM #	TOWNSHIP/CITY	DESCRIPTION	PROPERTY ADDRESS	MINIMUM BID
MEADOW TWP				
#1	07.032.3030	SECT-32 TWP-137 RANG-34 8.21 AC - SW1/4 SW1/4 SW1/4 EXC E 118'	16952 280th ST Sebeka	\$40,000.00
ORTON TWP				
#2	09.014.1040	SECT-14 TWP-137 RANG-33 40 AC - SW1/4 NE1/4 **LAND LOCKED**		\$56,000.00
THOMASTOWN TWP				
#3	13.001.2020	SECT-01 TWP-134 RANG-33 LOT 5 **LAND LOCKED**		\$10,000.00
#4	13.001.2025	SECT-01 TWP-134 RANG-33 LOT 8 **LAND LOCKED**		\$4,000.00
#5	13.127.3010	SECT-27 TWP-135 RANG-33 .20 AC - LOT 2 **LAND LOCKED**		\$2,000.00
#6	13.380.0010	SECT-12 TWP-134 RANG-33 SCENIC SIMON LAKE LT 1 BLK 1 & OUTLOT A	14411 273rd Ave Staples	\$75,000.00
MENAHA CITY				
#7	17.300.0460	ORIGINAL TOWNSITE - W 30' OF LOTS 11 & 12 BLK 2		\$500.00
SEBEKA CITY				
#8	19.370.0640	SLOVER & ANDERSON'S ADDITION - N 150' OF LOT "H"	10 Slover Ave N Sebeka	\$45,000.00
#9	19.134.4030	SECT-34 TWP-137 RANG-35 .15 AC - PT SW1/4 SE1/4; COM AT PT ON N LI OF MN 169' E OF ROW GNRY; THN N PARA WITH ROW 150'; W AT R/ANG 46'; TH S PARA WI R/W 150'; THN E 46' TO POB	208 Minnesota Ave E Sebeka	\$24,000.00
#10	19.370.0090	SLOVER & ANDERSON'S ADDITION - LOT 9 BLK 1	212 1st ST NE Sebeka	\$76,400.00
WADENA CITY				
#12	22.530.0080	SUNNY VIEW LOT 8	1028 2nd ST SE - Wadena	\$16,300.00

NOTICE EVERGREEN HILL CEMETERY MEETING

Evergreen Hill Cemetery, Staples, will hold a meeting at 5 p.m., Tuesday, October 14, 2025 at the Mausoleum.

Following the meeting a fall clean-up of the cemetery will be held. Flowers must be maintained in an attractive manner or they will be removed. If you wish to save your decorations, please remove before Oct. 14.

Robert Reeck
Secretary

41-42pnc

TODD COUNTY NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

2026 COUNTY FEE SCHEDULE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Board of County Commissioners (the “Board”) of Todd County, Minnesota (the “County”), will hold a public hearing of the Board beginning at 9:15 a.m., on October 7, 2025, to be held at the Todd County Historic Courthouse, 215 1st Ave. South, Long Prairie, Minnesota, to solicit public input in order to determine the 2026 County Fee Schedules for the County Departments including but not limited to: Administration, Attorney, Assessor, Auditor-Treasurer, Environ-

mental Health, GIS/MIS, Health & Human Services, Planning & Zoning, Public Works, Recorder, Sheriff and Solid Waste (Transfer Station).

The proposed 2026 County Fee Schedule is available on the Todd County website at <https://www.co.todd.mn.us/> and at the Todd County Auditor-Treasurer’s Office, located at 215 1st Avenue South, Suite 201 Long Prairie, MN during regular business hours.

All interested persons are invited to attend the hearing in-person or submit written testimony prior to the hearing date. Written testimony submissions should be directed to the County Auditor-Treasurer’s Office, 215 1st Avenue South, Suite 201 Long Prairie, MN 56347 or by email to clerk@co.todd.mn.us. Individuals requiring accommodations should contact the County Auditor-Treasurer’s Office prior to the date of the public hearing by calling 320-732-4414..

BY ORDER OF THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF TODD COUNTY, MINNESOTA

/s/ on file
Denise Gaida, County Auditor/Treasurer

Clerk to the County Board
40-41pnc

TODD COUNTY NOTICE OF ONLINE SALE OF FORFEITED LANDS

October 27, 2025 - November 13, 2025
Estimated market value auction

And
November 26 - December 5, 2025
Minimum bid price sale

Todd County will sell to the highest bidder, per Minn Statute 282.005. All properties will be offered at an initial auction sale for no less than estimated market value, as determined by the most recent assessment.

Any properties that do not sell at auction will be offered for a second auction. The sales price for the second auction will be the amount of delinquent taxes, special assessments, penalties, interest, and costs.

You will need to register with bid4assets prior to bidding. The registration link will be provided on the county web page.

Information about the sale of tax-forfeited land in Todd County can be obtained at the office of the County Auditor/Treasurer, Todd County Courthouse, 215 1st Avenue So, Suite 201, Long Prairie, Minnesota, 56347. Telephone: (320) 732-4469, or online.

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**NOTICE OF
CANCELLATION OF
CONTRACT FOR DEED****YOU ARE NOTIFIED:**

1. Default has occurred in the Contract for Deed ("Contract") dated April 25, 2025, and filed for record on April 28, 2025, as Document Number A545543, in the Office of the County Recorder of Todd County, Minnesota, in which MIDSOTA CONSTRUCTION, a sole proprietorship, as Seller, sold to CLIFFORD DIXON, as Purchaser, the real property in Todd County, Minnesota, described as follows:

Lot Eighteen (18) and Lot Nineteen (19), Block One (1) Little Pine Shores, according to the plat thereof on file in the office of the Todd County Recorder;

2. The default is as follows:

No payment received for the months of May 2025 through August 2025, totaling \$1,600.00.

3. Minnesota Statute

559.21 Subd. 4. (f) has been complied with

4. THIS NOTICE IS TO INFORM YOU THAT BY THIS NOTICE THE SELLER HAS BEGUN PROCEEDINGS UNDER MINNESOTA STATUTES, SECTION 559.21, TO TERMINATE YOUR CONTRACT FOR THE PURCHASE OF YOUR PROPERTY FOR THE REASONS SPECIFIED IN THIS NOTICE. YOU ARE ALLOWED NINETY (90) DAYS AFTER THE FIRST PUBLICATION OF THE NOTICE TO COMPLY WITH THE CONDITIONS OF THE CONTRACT AND THE CONTRACT WILL TERMINATE NINETY (90) DAYS AFTER THE FIRST DATE OF PUBLICATION OF THIS NOTICE UNLESS BEFORE THEN:

(A) THE PERSON AUTHORIZED IN THIS NOTICE TO RECEIVE PAYMENTS RECEIVES FROM YOU:

(1) THE AMOUNT THIS NOTICE SAYS YOU OWE;

PLUS

(2) THE COSTS OF SERVICE (TO BE SENT TO YOU); PLUS

(3) FOR CONTRACTS EXECUTED ON OR AFTER MAY 1, 1980, ANY ADDITIONAL PAYMENTS BECOMING DUE UNDER THE CONTRACT TO THE SELLER AFTER THIS NOTICE WAS SERVED ON YOU; OR

(B) YOU SECURE FROM A COUNTY OR DISTRICT COURT AN ORDER THAT THE TERMINATION OF THE CONTRACT BE SUSPENDED UNTIL YOUR CLAIMS OR DEFENSES ARE FINALLY DISPOSED OF BY TRIAL, HEARING OR SETTLEMENT. YOUR ACTION MUST SPECIFICALLY STATE THOSE FACTS AND GROUNDS THAT DEMONSTRATE YOUR CLAIMS OR DEFENSES.

IF YOU DO NOT DO ONE OR THE OTHER OF THE ABOVE THINGS WITHIN THE TIME PERIOD SPECIFIED IN THIS NOTICE,

YOUR CONTRACT WILL TERMINATE AT THE END OF THE PERIOD AND YOU WILL LOSE ALL THE MONEY YOU HAVE PAID ON THE CONTRACT; YOU WILL LOSE YOUR RIGHT TO POSSESSION OF THE PROPERTY; YOU MAY LOSE YOUR RIGHT TO ASSERT ANY CLAIMS OR DEFENSES THAT YOU MIGHT HAVE; AND YOU WILL BE EVICTED.

IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS ABOUT THIS NOTICE, CONTACT AN ATTORNEY IMMEDIATELY.

5. The name, mailing address, street address or location and telephone number of the person authorized by the seller to accept payments pursuant to this notice is:

Nicole M. Philippi, 27297 Ode Circle, Browerville, Mn. 56438. (320) 428-9448.

40-42pnp

Who's watching out for you?

NEWSPAPERS! Naturally.

Eighty percent of people polled believe that governments should be required to publish public notices in newspapers. But for years, government has tried to "hide" public notices by either posting them on government websites only, or by not publishing them at all.

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Staples World Staples World

• SOURCE: 2011 Readership Survey by National Newspaper Association.

Todd County Board of Commissioners

**MINUTES OF THE
SPECIAL BOARD
MEETING OF THE TODD
COUNTY BOARD OF
COMMISSIONERS HELD
AUGUST 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 August, 2025 at 1:00 p.m. The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Byers. The meeting was opened with the Pledge of Allegiance. All Commissioners were present.

Agenda

On motion by Becker and second by Denny, the agenda was acknowledged as presented.

Administration

The County Commissioners held discussion regarding factors influencing the potential salary adopted for the County Commissioner position in 2026.

On motion by Neumann and second by Denny, the following resolution was introduced and adopted by majority vote with Noska against:

2026 COUNTY**COMMISSIONER SALARY**

WHEREAS, the Todd County Board of Commissioners is responsible for setting compensation of county employees, elected officials, appointed officials and board members, and;

WHEREAS, the Todd County Board of Commissioners considered the duties and responsibilities of each individual position; and

WHEREAS, the Todd County Board of Commissioners considered the salaries of elected officials in other comparable counties; and

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Todd County Board of Commissioners approve setting the County Commissioners salary at \$-36,312 (3.5 percent (%) increase from 2025) plus \$ 2,500 supplemental pay for Board Chair and \$2,000 supplemental pay for the Board Vice-Chair in 2026.

The County Attorney held discussion with the County Board regarding factors influencing the salary requested for the County Attorney position in 2026.

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

2026 COUNTY ATTORNEY**SALARY**

WHEREAS, the Todd County Board of Commissioners is responsible for setting compensation of county employees, elected officials, appointed officials and board members, and;

WHEREAS, the Todd County Board of Commissioners considered the duties and responsibilities of each individual position; and

WHEREAS, the Todd County Board of Commissioners considered the salaries of elected officials in other comparable counties; and

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Todd County Board of Commissioners approve setting the County Attorney salary at \$155,492 in 2026.

The County Auditor-Treasurer held discussion with the County Board regarding factors influencing the salary requested for the County Auditor-Treasurer position in 2026.

On a motion by Noska and second by Denny the following resolution was introduced and adopted by majority vote with Becker and Neumann against:

2026 COUNTY AUDITOR/**TREASURER SALARY**

WHEREAS, the Todd County Board of Commissioners is responsible for setting compensation of county employees, elected officials, appointed officials and board members, and;

WHEREAS, the Todd County Board of Commissioners considered the duties and responsibilities of each individual position; and

WHEREAS, the Todd County Board of Commissioners considered the salaries of elected officials in other comparable counties; and

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Todd County Board of Commissioners approve setting the County Auditor/Treasurer salary at \$117,087 in 2026.

The County Recorder held discussion with the County Board regarding factors influencing the salary

requested for the County Recorder position in 2026.

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

2026 COUNTY RECORDER**SALARY**

WHEREAS, the Todd County Board of Commissioners is responsible for setting compensation of county employees, elected officials, appointed officials and board members, and;

WHEREAS, the Todd County Board of Commissioners considered the duties and responsibilities of each individual position; and

WHEREAS, the Todd County Board of Commissioners considered the salaries of elected officials in other comparable counties; and

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Todd County Board of Commissioners approve setting the County Recorder salary at \$84,000 in 2026.

The County Sheriff held discussion with the County Board regarding factors influencing the salary requested for the County Sheriff position in 2026.

On a motion by Noska and second by Byers the following resolution was introduced and adopted by unanimous vote:

2026 COUNTY SHERIFF**SALARY**

WHEREAS, the Todd County Board of Commissioners is responsible for setting compensation of county employees, elected officials, appointed officials and board members, and;

WHEREAS, the Todd County Board of Commissioners considered the duties and responsibilities of each individual position; and

WHEREAS, the Todd County Board of Commissioners considered the salaries of elected officials in other comparable counties; and

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Todd County Board of Commissioners approve setting the County Sheriff salary at \$134,599 in 2026.

Adjourn

On motion by Denny and second by Noska, the meeting was adjourned by unanimous vote at 1:34 p.m.

On a motion by Becker and second by Denny, the preceding minutes of the Special County Board meeting held August 28, 2025 were duly approved by unanimous vote at the Todd County Board of Commissioners at the Regular Board Meeting held on September 16, 2025.

/s/ on file: Bob Byers,

County Board Chairperson

/s/ on file: Denise Gaida,

Todd County Auditor-Treasurer

41pnc

**MINUTES OF THE
MEETING OF THE TODD
COUNTY BOARD OF
COMMISSIONERS HELD
SEPT. 2, 2025****Public Comment**

Greg Hansen expressed his support for the value of law enforcement's service to the citizens of Todd County and throughout the state.

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 2nd day of September, 2025 at 9:00 a.m. The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Byers. The meeting was opened with the Pledge of Allegiance. All Commissioners were present with Commissioner Neumann absent.

Approval of Agenda

On motion by Noska and second by Denny, the following motion was introduced and adopted by unanimous vote: To adopt the agenda as presented.

Consent Agenda

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

To approve the Todd County Board of Commissioner's Meeting Minutes for August 19, 2025 as presented.

Accept Brandon Cline resignation effective 08/20/2025.

Accept Chet Hudalla resignation effective 08/20/2025.

Approve the resignation of Eligibility Worker Ryan Rhodes, effective August 22, 2025.

Approve the resignation of Resource Navigator/Interpreter Elizabeth Rodriguez Partida, effective September 5, 2025.

To approve the hire of Nicholas Katehis to fill the open Eligibility Worker position. Grade F/6, Step B, \$26.18. Start date: TBD

To approve the hire of Ryan Rhodes to fill the open Social Worker Intern position.

GAMBLING PERMIT – NWTF STRUTTIN BLACKBEARDS

WHEREAS, the Todd County Board of Commissioners are establishing their approval for a Gambling Permit for the NWTF Struttin Blackbeards through this resolution;

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Todd County Board of Commissioners approve a Gambling Permit for the NWTF Struttin Blackbeards to hold a raffle event at the Little Sauk Legion in Little Sauk Township at the address of 16268 County 50, Long Prairie, MN on November 1, 2025.

Auditor-Treasurer

On motion by Noska and second by Denny, the following motion was introduced and adopted by unanimous Roll Call vote: to approve the August 2025 Auditor Warrants number (ACH) 905269 through 905347 in the amount of \$560,964.43 (Manual) 1113 through 1123 in the amount of \$114,136.11 and (Regular) 244894 through 245031 in the amount of \$1,373,327.02 for a total of \$2,048,427.56.

On motion by Becker and second by Denny, the following motion was introduced and adopted by unanimous Roll Call vote: To approve the Commissioner Warrants number (ACH) 404043 through 404064 in the amount of \$39,634.45 and (Regular) 59171 through 59201 in the amount of \$19,584.28 for a total of \$59,218.73.

On motion by Denny and second by Becker, the following motion as introduced and adopted by unanimous Roll Call vote: To approve the Health & Human Services Commission Warrants number (ACH) 806795 through 806822 and (Regular) 713339 through 713374 for a total of \$73,539.84.

On motion by Noska and second by Becker, the following motion was introduced and adopted by unanimous Roll Call vote: To approve the Health & Human Services SSIS Warrants number (ACH) 601777 through 601790 and (Regular) 518577 through 518599 for a total amount of \$118,815.87.

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

**TRANSFER OF FUNDS FROM
COUNTY DITCH FUND TO GENERAL REVENUE FUND**

WHEREAS, The County Ditch Authority has approved to have the hours worked by the County Ditch Inspector charged back to that ditch, and;

WHEREAS, the calculations have been made for the County Ditch Inspector's time for the period of July 1, 2024 through June 30, 2025 per attached copy;

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Todd County Board of Commissioners approve the transfer of \$5,005.00 from the Fund 40-County Ditch Fund to the Fund 01-General Revenue Fund per the attached list.

On motion by Becker and second by Noska, the following motion was introduced and adopted by unanimous vote: To set the County Fee Schedule Public Hearing for October 7, 2025 to begin at 9:15 a.m. in the County Commissioners Board Room and instruct all appropriate legal notices be generated and published accordingly.

Public Works

On motion by Becker and second by Byers, the following motion was introduced and adopted by unanimous vote: Set the 2025 Fall Road Meeting for November 6, 2025 at 9:00 a.m. at the Long Prairie Shop.

Long Prairie Hockey Association

Agenda item 7.1 Long Prairie Hockey Association - Expo Building Access was tabled due to lack of representation present from the requesting organization.

Solid Waste

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

Director to submit comments to the MPCA.

Health & Human Services

On motion by Denny and second by Becker, the following motion was introduced and adopted by unanimous vote: Approve the elimination of one PERA Phased Retirement Eligibility Worker position from the organizational chart.

Administration

On motion by Noska and second by Becker, the following motion was introduced and adopted by unanimous vote: Approve the elimination of the Coordinator On Aging Position, effective September 30, 2025.

On motion by Denny and second by Becker, the following motion was introduced and adopted by unanimous vote: Approve the discontinuation of Rep. Payee Services effective December 31, 2025.

Finance Committee

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

FISCAL YEAR 2026 FUNDING REDUCTION TO THE NEW LONG PRAIRIE SHOP SAVINGS ACCOUNT WHEREAS, on July 1st, 2014, the Todd County Board of Commissioners approved a resolution that created a dedicated savings account for the sole purpose of the construction of a new Long Prairie Public Works Shop with annual deposits funded at no less than a minimum of \$200,000 annually until the construction of the new Long Prairie Shop is completed, and;

WHEREAS, the Todd County Board of Commissioners adopted funding reductions for FY2015 via BA #20141202-11, FY2016 via BA #20151103-18 and FY2018 via BA #20170919-04 which reduced the annual funding for the Long Prairie Shop Savings Account for these years, and;

WHEREAS, on September 19, 2017, the Todd County Board of Commissioners adopted a restructuring of the funding plan for the future construction of a new Public Works Long Prairie Shop to include the resolve that future annual deposits be sourced from and remain within Fund 01-General Revenue at no less than a minimum of \$219,000 annually until the construction of the new Long Prairie Public Works Shop is completed or other direction is passed by the County Board, and;

WHEREAS, during the preparation of the County's Fiscal Year 2024 Budget it was approved that a reduction of the required annual savings deposit to \$0 would be in the best interest of the county via BA #20231207-12, and;

WHEREAS, during the preparation of the County's Fiscal Year 2025 Budget it was approved that a reduction of the required annual savings deposit to \$0 would be in the best interest of the county via BA #20240903-17, and;

WHEREAS, during the preparation of the County's Fiscal Year 2026 Budget it was determined that reduction of the required annual savings deposit to \$0 would be in the best interest of the county to reduce the overall financial impact to the County's local levy.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Todd County Board of Commissioners does hereby reduce the required annual \$219,000 deposit to the New Long Prairie Shop Savings Account to \$0 for Fiscal Year 2026 only.

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

A RESOLUTION ADOPTING THE 2026 PRELIMINARY LEVY WHEREAS, the Laws of the State of Minnesota direct that the Todd County Board of Commissioners are required to approve by resolution a preliminary levy no later than September 30 annually, and;

WHEREAS, The Todd County Board of Commissioners have considered the financial situation of the County and had an opportunity to deliberate the levying of property taxes upon property owners within the County.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Todd County Board of Commissioners approve the 2026 Preliminary Levy for Todd County, for property taxes payable in 2026 per table below, with the authority to reduce this levy before the final levy deadline of December

30th 2025.	
Certified Levy	Program Aid Local Levy
General Revenue:	
14,219,896.00;	2,018,099.00;
12,201,797.00	
Road & Bridge:	2,262,357.00;
2,262,357.00	
Human Services:	4,137,488.00;
4,137,488.00	
Public Health:	282,945.00;
282,945.00	
Comp Water:	5,360.00;
5,360.00	
Regional Library:	362,537.00;
362,537.00	
Bonded Indebtedness:	
419,984.00;	419,984.00;
County Fair:	20,000.00;
20,000.00	
Parks & Trails:	25,000.00;
25,000.00	
Total:	21,735,567.00;
2,018,099.00;	19,717,468.00.

On motion by Becker and second by Noska, the following motion was introduced and adopted by unanimous vote: to set the Truth in Taxation Hearing for December 2, 2025 to begin at 6:00 p.m. in the Todd County Commissioner's Boardroom.

County Auditor-Treasurer's Report

The County Auditor-Treasurer reported that the fall reporting season and truth in taxation calculation processes are in full swing.

County Coordinator's Report

The County Coordinator reported that work has been focused on interviews and onboarding.

County Commissioner's Report

The Commissioners reported on meetings and events attended.

Commissioner Becker attended the RTCC, Facilities, Solid Waste, Region V, Special Board meeting and upcoming AMC District Conference meetings.

Commissioner Denny has attended regular meetings and encouraged participation on the discussion of the Cannabis Ordinance proposals

Commissioner Noska has attended regular meetings and also encouraged community participation on the discussion of the Cannabis Ordinance proposals.

Commissioner Byers attended Opioid, Facilities, Sourcewell training, Personnel, Tri-Cap and Special Board meetings.

Recess

On motion by Becker and second by Denny, the meeting was recessed until September 16, 2025.

AUDITOR WARRANTS	
VENDOR NAME	\$ AMOUNT
CANOKA CO GOVERNMENT CENTER	\$8,375.00
LONG PRAIRIE OIL COMPANY	5,079.64
PAYCOM PAYROLL, LLC	5,209.17
PETERS LAW OFFICE, P.A.	6,405.75
VERIZON	5,376.87
38 PAYMENTS LESS	
THAN \$2,000	20,714.09
BARR ENGINEERING COMPANY	2,371.00
BROWERVILLE TRUCKWASH/ BIG BOYZ	4,851.31
CARD SERVICES COBORNS	3,944.43
CENTRA CARE	12,714.58
COUNTIES PROVIDING TECHNOLOGY	8,006.00
FLEET SERVICES/WEX BANK	8,202.99
HEALTH PARTNERS DENTAL	8,389.24
HY-TEC CONSTRUCTION	676,744.18
LAKES AREA BLASTING	52,000.00
LITTLE BIRCH LAKE ASSOCIATION	2,139.55
LONG PRAIRIE SANITATION INC	11,144.34
MADDEN GALANTER HANSEN, LLP	4,655.85
MN DEPT OF FINANCE	9,265.00
MORRISON COUNTY	38,031.34
POPE DOUGLAS SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT	23,501.22
PRAIRIE LAKES MUNICIPAL SOLID WASTE AUTH	93,473.61
SHIRLEY'S GAS & GROCERIES INC	3,943.62
STEP	12,314.38
TODD CO AUD-TREAS	9,509.50
VOYANT COMMUNICATIONS, LLC	3,380.08
WEST CENTRAL TECH SERVICE AREA	7,702.62
33 PAYMENTS LESS	
THAN \$2,000	15,876.80
AITKIN COUNTY	4,757.41

CARDMEMBER SERVICE	2,502.92
CTC	5,300.90
GALLAGHER BENEFIT SERVICES INC	2,000.00
IDEAL CONSTRUCTION LLC	6,550.00
JS EVENT RENTAL	2,242.50
MINNESOTA POWER	16,605.70
PRO-TAINER INC	37,365.00
THIELEN/MARK AND LOU ANN	14,228.79
WATERGUARDS LLC	29,516.25
47 PAYMENTS LESS	
THAN \$2,000	19,721.56
EBSCO INC	308,577.00
FRANKLIN OUTDOOR ADVERTISING COMPANY	5,717.00
JENKINS IRON & STEEL INC	35,680.00
KNIFE RIVER CORP	5,898.78
LAKES AREA BLASTING	20,000.00
NORTH AMERICAN TRAILER	250,484.00
TOWER GARDEN LLC	2,770.00
TWARDOWSKI EXCAVATING INC	7,400.00
WEST CENTRAL REG JUVENILE CTR	26,954.00
WEX BANK-SINCLAIR	2,381.71
25 PAYMENTS LESS	
THAN \$2,000	13,752.20
SCHOOL DISTRICT #213	7,644.86
SCHOOL DISTRICT #2170	575.53
SCHOOL DISTRICT #2753	4,653.80
SCHOOL DISTRICT #787	11,801.62
TOWN OF BIRCHDALE	2,654.65
TOWN OF GORDON	3,676.49
TOWN OF WARD	2,747.16
TOWN OF WEST UNION	2,539.96
20 PAYMENTS LESS	
THAN \$2,000	10,269.50
US BANK	7,108.64
MN DEPT OF REVENUE	3,069.00
MN DEPT OF REVENUE	97,309.32
MN DEPT OF REVENUE	3,058.00
8 PAYMENTS LESS	
THAN \$2,000	3,591.15
TOTAL:	\$2,048,427.56

COMMISSIONERS WARRANTS	
VENDOR NAME	\$ AMOUNT
LONG PRAIRIE LEADER	2,448.00
METAL CULVERTS INC.	26,795.20
OLSON'S TRUCK & TRACTOR	
SER	3,607.50
SUMMIT COMPANIES	2,386.00
ZIEGLER INC.	4,147.61
48 PAYMENTS LESS	
THAN \$2,000	19,834.42
Total:	\$59,218.73

Lakewood Health System to host public open house for new cancer center



Lakewood Health System, Staples, invites the public to an open house for its highly anticipated new cancer center on Friday, Oct. 10, from 4 to 6 p.m. Attendees are asked to park and enter at Entrance B, located on the south end of the Staples clinic (49725 Cty. 83). The open house will feature tours of the new building, the opportunity to meet the oncology team and learn more about the new services being provided, and refreshments.

The open house coincides with pink-out day, where community members are encouraged to wear pink to honor and support breast cancer awareness. There will also be a special pink-out recognition at the Staples-Motley High School varsity football game that same evening.

The 19,270 square foot cancer center is located off the southwest corner of Lakewood's Staples clinic and includes a dedicated reception and waiting area. It also includes 14 infusion bays, 10 medical oncology and 2 radiation oncology exam rooms, a procedure room, in-house PET/CT, and a linear accelerator, used for radiation treatments. Oncology case managers will be located within the new space for easy access to patients.

Since 2022, Lakewood's oncology department has expanded to offer patients a wide spectrum of cancer care. The team now includes medical oncologists/hematologists, Drs. Wade Swenson, Emily McGovern and Aquino Williams, who joined in September 2022, September 2024 and

September 2025, respectively. Nurse practitioners Mariah Neiman and Jessica Nybakken became part of the team in March and November 2023, enhancing access and continuity of care. Further supporting patients through specialized services, Lakewood is proud to offer radiation oncology care with Dr. Sheilaine Mabanta and palliative care expertise with Dr. Nathan Dewey.

With the growth in provider coverage, came the need for additional space. The cancer center was built to meet these growing needs, which also allows Lakewood to add new services not previously available to patients in the area.

Lakewood Health System increases mammogram accessibility during Breast Cancer Awareness Month

To increase awareness and accessibility to mammograms during Breast Cancer Awareness Month, Lakewood Health System's radiology dept. will be offering mammogram appointments on Saturday, Oct. 4, from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Mammogram appointments are also available Mondays from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. and Thursday through Friday, from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. throughout the year. If you are age 40 or older, have a family history or increased risk of breast cancer, talk with your medical provider about getting a mammogram.

Lakewood Health

System, Staples, is among the first facilities in the area to offer Genius™ 3D Mammography™ exams, and recently announced the addition of the SmartCurve® breast stabilization system - designed to reduce discomfort and improve image clarity. 3D mammograms are clinically proven to significantly increase the detection of breast cancers while decreasing the need to return for additional testing. That means earlier diagnoses and a great variety of treatment options available.

To schedule an appointment, call 218-894-8465.

From idea to start-up, SBDC to host business sessions

The North Central Small Business Development Center (SBDC) at Central Lakes College announced the launch of Start Up North: FastTrac Cohort, a 13-week intensive program designed to guide aspiring entrepreneurs from idea to launch. Beginning Jan. 13, 2026, the program will use the nationally recognized Kauffman FastTrac curriculum to walk participants step-by-step through building a business, from ideation and market positioning to financial planning and growth strategies.

Throughout the course, entrepreneurs will engage in weekly sessions, alternating between in-person gatherings at Central Lakes College and virtual meetings via Zoom. These sessions are complemented by independent assignments and optional office hours with facilitators. By dedicating about 10 hours per week, participants will gain practical skills and knowledge to move their ideas forward.

Each participant will complete the program with a lender-ready business plan, a professionally filmed pitch video, and valuable local connections to help them launch and grow their business. The experience culminates in the Start Up North Show-

case in April 2026, where participants will present their filmed pitch video to a live audience.

Applications for the cohort are now open through Nov. 1, 2025. Accepted applicants will be notified by Nov. 7, 2025. There is a \$500 participation fee for those selected. To apply and to learn more about the cohort, visit www.northcentralsbdc.com/startupnorth.

"Too often, entrepreneurs are pulled in so many different directions that they don't have the time or space to truly focus on building their business," said Katie Heppner, Regional Director of the North Central SBDC. "Start Up North creates that dedicated time and environment where they can step back, refine their ideas, and move forward with clarity and confidence."

The North Central SBDC at Central Lakes College serves entrepreneurs and small business owners across an 11-county region by providing professional business consulting and training. As an Affiliate Partner of the Kauffman FastTrac program, the North Central SBDC is committed to helping rural business owners and innovators turn their ideas into thriving ventures.



CARE Community Meals have begun

The first Care Ministry Community Meal was held Sept. 23, at Faith Lutheran Church in Staples. Attendees enjoyed pulled pork sandwiches, scalloped potatoes, beans and a variety of desserts.

Pictured above, from left, are LaVonne Selleck, Janet Johnson, Carmen Nordell, Donna Selvey, Jan Trager, Pearl Dingman and Barba Best. In lower photo: Paul and Nancy Johnson, and Harley and Jeanne Daum. The free meals are offered on a monthly basis to promote fellowship, connection and nourishment. *The next CARE Community Meal will be held Tuesday, Oct. 28, at Trinity Lutheran Church in Staples.* (Staples World photos by Dawn Timbs)



Hangin' out with friends

Prior to the Cardinal Homecoming football game Sept. 19, Staples-Motley students met up with friends at the tailgate party event, held inside due to rain. Pictured, from left, are Andromeda Smith, 7th

grade; Aliza Alexander, 5th grade; Taylin Lind, Nevaeh Elifrits and Charlie Hoffman, all 7th grade. (Staples World photo by Dawn Timbs)



Young entrepreneurs

Three local boys set up a lemonade stand along 2nd Ave. NW in Staples Sept. 23, offering tasty, cold lemonade at a reasonable price to travelers along the way.

Pictured, from left, are Jackson Elifrits, 11; Maverick McKenna, eight; Jeffrey Hruza, 11. (Staples World photo by Dawn Timbs)



‘Fogbow’ sighting in Staples

While walking on the bike path along the west edge of Staples the morning of Sept. 23, Linda Arndt of Staples shared that she “saw the most amazing thing...a white rainbow.” She later researched this and found there is a name for this phenomenon...a fogbow. Arndt noted that the area was cloaked in grey, with visibility at a quarter to half mile. She went on to share that the next day’s morning fog was similar - thick, from the ground up to 25 ft. or so, but found that above the tree line, blue sky was visible. (Submitted photos)



ENROLLMENT continued from page 1a

Strong, diverse economy means enrollment will stay up

could drop by three percent over 10 years, with class sizes remiaining fairly consistent. They also speculated that the school should be ready if the two year trend of increasing enrollment continues. Bergeron said one positive trend that should help enrollment is that students who start school at Staples-Motley tend to stay in the district

at a higher rate. Bergeron said they feel the trends should continue because the Staples-Motley area has a diverse economy that is in good shape, with Lakewood Health System as a primary economic driver. There are also new businesses, such as the new Essentia clinic and Minnesota Farmers Union processing plant. He noted that both

Staples and Motley have new housing units to keep the population growing. The next step of the process is to compare the enrollment projection to future district building needs. “We’ll use this projection to see where we are at a space standpoint, how do we adjust spaces to meet this enrollment projection?” said Bergeron.

School district increases substitute teacher pay

By Mark Anderson
Managing Editor

The Staples-Motley School Board approved setting their preliminary tax levy at the maximum level. They discussed the school’s budget at the Sept. 22 school board meeting. The board also made some changes to the school’s budget. They added a classroom for first grade, with Elementary Principal Ryan Koenigs saying that increased numbers in the grade reached the level of needing a new classroom. The board approved hiring Rebeka Kappedal as the full time first grade teacher. The board also approved a proposal to increase substitute teacher pay to \$160 per day, plus the amount that the substitute employment service gets. Superintendent Shane Tappe said they are doing this because the district has been struggling to get substitutes when needed. “Districts around us have increased their sub pay,” said Tappe. “If we don’t do this, we won’t be competitive in the market.” The board set their truth in taxation meeting

for Monday, Dec. 1 at 6 p.m. This is the meeting where the district explains how tax money is spent at the district. In other news, the board

- Approved hiring of: Ashley Orth, assistant cross country coach; Brad Anderson, Head Boys/Girls Golf Coach; Teneesa Mumm, School Readiness teacher; Nick Schultz, weight room supervisor; Jeff Sterriker, weight room supervisor; Daren Blanck, Fall Play Director; Justin Thorne, assistant boys basketball coach; Jace Thompson, C-squad boys basketball coach; Craig Wolhowe, C-squad boys basketball coach.
- Approved hiring of paraprofessional staff: Avery Amerud, Bailey Weiland, Allie Anderson, Katie Muller; and Kyra Stangle.
- Approved resignation of Ezra Johnson, IT technician; and Taylor Miller, paraprofessional.
- Approved fundraiser requests from REACH, music department, student council, middle school student council, basketball boosters and volleyball boosters.

SEDA continued from page 1a

Christmas festival now looking at coordinating with Motley winter events

building does not have parking access except the city hall parking lots. Staples Economic Development Director Lucas Wakefield had suggested if the city wanted to buy it, they could use it for new businesses that need space to get started or for co-working office spaces. It could also be used as for promotional businesses, such as a visitor’s bureau. “A lot of businesses nowadays are digital or use 3D printing,” said Wakefield. “Lots of places have co-working spaces, places for people to get together.” Board member Doug Case said fixing up the building would cost more than purchasing and he wanted to have a more concrete plan of what they would use it for. He suggested that because there was no parking and a high cost to fix it up, nobody will want to buy it and the city could wait until the price comes down to purchase it. “I see it being a burden on the city,” Case said about purchasing it. City council and EDA members were able to tour the building. SEDA board member Blake Gerard said “The building is worth nothing, the land is worth something.” SEDA board member Shane Tappe said one thing to think about if the city doesn’t purchase the building, will they be willing to see what does go there if someone else purchases the building? “It may be something that you don’t want next to city hall,” said Tappe. “If somebody buys it, you will never have another opportunity to do something with it.” Tappe expanded on the idea that the city purchase the building and explore other ideas, such as putting in a park or splash pad area. He also thought they could tear down the building, put a parking lot in that space and sell the parking lot next to Casey’s convenience store to build a new business there. Staples City Administrator Jerel Nelsen told the board “ultimately you are going to have to know the

cost of buying it and the cost of tearing it down.” Wakefield said he could get quotes on demolition of the building and talk more with the Brenny Funeral Services about a possible purchase cost. The board also brought up whether the city would get pushback about tearing down such a prominent historical building. “This is one of the most visible buildings in Staples,” said Wakefield, “are you willing to let that decay for another decade and let people see it when they drive through town?” Christmas festival Wakefield updated the SEDA on the LEAP committee that is working on tying together Christmas activities in Staples, and now they are talking to Motley about adding their Christmas events. He said they have decided to spend the remaining \$23,000 of the Blandin community grant to purchase downtown Christmas lights, light pole snowflakes and an interactive Christmas train display where people can sit on the train and take photos. The group is also putting together a Santa Run 5K race, where contestants can run wearing a Santa Claus outfit. “We want to make it a festival rather than a collection of events,” said Wakefield. He also said some of the people in Motley want to get involved and they are developing ideas of putting up lights between Staples and Motley or doing displays that tells a story as drivers travel between the two cities. In other news, Wakefield said there is a business interested in renting the last open space in the EDA’s industrial park building. Wakefield also said the Blue Spruce construction company is planning to build homes in the Valley View subdivision next spring. Nelsen said they are looking for properly zoned property to build multi-family housing, possibly a 4-plex, in Staples starting this fall. He said there is a privately owned property that could fit their project.

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