Inside this issue:

Tennis players take positive attitudes to state
Fourth street project paved
Ly family voices appreciation of Staples

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Wednesday, October 28, 2026 **Staples World** Staples, Minnesota $1.25

Riverside fall foilage The fall view from the landing at McGivern Park, Staples offered thumbprint-like clouds and turning trees reflected in the water. The season is offering many photo opportunities in the area. (Staples World photo by Janice Winter)

Performing Arts Center rolling out fundraising drive

By Mark Anderson
Publisher

The fundraising portion of the Staples-Motley Performing Arts Center has begun, with a goal of transforming Centennial Auditorium into a first class entertainment and arts center. The auditorium is a community hub that brings in thousands of people to the high school building every year. It has also been vital to launching countless students into careers in the arts.

The project started decades ago when the auditorium was built in 1989 but the final vision has never been completed. In the past two years, an independent committee compiled feedback from all parties involved, conducted an acoustics study and developed priorities according to the large amounts of information gathered.

See **AUDITORIUM** on page 12a

Women's Chorus 'Divas and Desserts' concert Nov. 1

To kick off the start of their musical season the Staples Area Women's Chorus (SAWC) is hosting their annual Divas and Desserts concert at the Staples Alliance Church on Sunday, Nov. 1, at 2 p.m.

Under co-directors Rob Freelove and Brianna Robertson, the chorus will perform a variety of fun music, served with cheesecake, coffee and apple cider.

Attendance is free and open to the public; free will donations are welcome. All funds raised at this event will go toward the SAWC's annual musical festival – 'Our Voice Our Song' which will take place on Feb. 27, 2027, at the Staples-Motley High School Legacy Gym.

The Staples Area Women's Chorus is beginning their 50th season and looks forward to a wonderful year of making music for their community together. In addition to hosting the 'Our Voice Our Song' event in February, they will be part of the Community and Alumni Christmas Concert on Dec. 5.



Beginning their 50th season

The Staples Area Women's Chorus (SAWC) will kick off their 50th season with a concert Nov. 1, 2 p.m., at the Staples Alliance Church. See story for details. (Submitted photo)

Wanted: Choir alumni and others for 'A Community and Reunion Christmas Concert'

'For All the Saints'

The 'For All the Saints - A Community and Reunion Christmas Concert,' will be held Saturday, Dec. 5, at the Staples-Motley (SM) Legacy Gymnasium in Staples. The event is sponsored by the Staples Area Men's and Women's Choruses.

The program will include the processional, "For All the Saints" and the moving finale, Handels' "Hallelujah! Chorus." It's a tradition that was started decades ago by longtime SM choir director Stan Carlson, and one that continues today with the Cardinal Choir's current director, Cade Bestland.

Bill Spar, president of the Staples Area Men's Chorus (SAMC) said that this concert creates a unique opportunity for alumni parents, children and grandchildren to sing these Christmas classics together. "What screams 'Christmas' more than family?" Spar asked.

Do you have to be a Staples-Motley choir member or alumnus to participate?

No.

Alumni of any of the area school districts are invited to be part of this multi-community, multi-generational event. Anyone who loves to sing is welcome to participate in and experience this special Christmas tradition. In addition to the two pieces mentioned earlier, the concert will feature other favorite songs of the season.

See **CONCERT** on page 3a

Weather

2026
This Week's Forecast

	High	Low	Cond.
Oct. 28	56	32	P. Cloudy
Oct. 29	55	37	Sunny
Oct. 30	54	44	Cloudy
Oct. 31	55	45	Showers
Nov. 1	59	45	Cloudy
Nov. 2	56	46	Showers
Nov. 3	51	40	Showers

Last Year, 2025

	High	Low	Cond.
Oct. 28	44°	38	Showers
Oct. 29	46	35	P. Cloudy
Oct. 30	47	31	Cloudy
Oct. 31	40	35	Showers
Nov. 1	39	33	Cloudy
Nov. 2	50	32	M. Cloudy
Nov. 3	54	34	Sunny

Average Temps:
H = 47 ° Low = 31°

Compiled by Dale Hausmann, WCCO's Staples area Weatherwatcher

Public Notices

ISD #2170 **9A**
Moran Township **9A**
City of Motley **9A**
Todd Planning **9A**
Todd Voting **10A**



Cardinal Choir closes with a spiritual

The Staples-Motley High School Cardinal Choir, directed by Cade Bestland, performed three songs at the Fall Concert Oct. 23, closing with the traditional African-American spiritual, "I Believe This is Jesus." Soloists during the choir's performance included Meredith Hoemberg, Maddock Harvey, Maci Mithun, Joshua Cushing, Molly Hoemberg and Addison Potter. (Staples World photo by Dawn Timbs)





Singing, "The Auctioneer"

Members of the Tenor-Bass Junior Chorus, under the direction of Caleb Horn, sang the Leroy Van Dyke classic, "The Auctioneer," at the Tenor-Bass Festival in Staples Oct. 24. (Staples World photo by Dawn Timbs)



Fourth Street project

Ideal Construction crews were laying the final strip of the new roadway on Fourth Street Oct.22. Most curb and gutter plus new sidewalks have been laid, leaving work along private driveways to be finished, such as the Mid Minnesota Credit Union parking lot. The final surface of Fourth Street is expected to be completed early in the 2027 construction season. (Photos by Tom Crawford).





Cardinal Band performs

Kristina Haataja directed the Cardinal Band at the Staples-Motley High School Fall Concert Oct. 23. The band played two numbers, "Aventura" and "Instant Swing Concert." Flutist Kaleb Harman was a soloist. (Staples World photo by Dawn Timbs)

PAID ADVERTISEMENT

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SHERIFF MICHAEL D. CARR | CHIEF DEPUTY JOE SCHOON

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VOTE SAVALOJA

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 3, 2026

Paid for by the campaign of Bryan Savaloja for Wadena County Sheriff

w45p



Halloween photo ops

Following the Staples-Motley Middle/High School Fall Concerts Oct. 23, people had the opportunity to pose for photos with a Halloween display. Pictured are brothers Caleb and Malakai Bestland. (Staples World photo by Dawn Timbs)



Giants in the Earth

A giant skeleton emerges from the soil at a home on Park Ave. NE in Staples, one of many giant Halloween displays in the area.

For Halloween activities this year, the Staples Area Chamber of Commerce is sponsoring Treats on the Streets on Friday, Oct. 30, from 3:30-5:30 p.m. Children are invited to put on their Halloween costums and head downtown and to other participating businesses for trick or treats. A trunk-or-treat event will be in the parking lot behind Monte Azul Restaurant in Staples.

On Saturday, Oct. 31, Staples Alliance Church is hosting a Halloween Trunk or Treat from 4-5:30 and Motley United Methodist Church is holding Trunk or Treat from 4-6 p.m. (Staples World photo by Mark Anderson)

Staples Police report

Oct. 11, Staples Police assisted with a vehicle in the ditch on Todd Line Road, with one occupant trapped in the vehicle. Police found a vehicle on its side with one male occupant who did not report any injury. Staples Fire Dept extracted the driver from the vehicle. Driver stated he was dropping off a Walmart order at an address and went into the ditch while backing out of the driveway. Driver said there was no insurance on vehicle.

Oct. 12, Staples Police responded to a call of suspicious activity. Police found a person walking with a samurai sword.

Oct. 12, Staples Police investigated a report of a camper pulled up by a house on Forest Ave. SE. Driver got a hose out and are draining something from the RV.

Oct. 15, Staples Police investigated a welfare check on a possible suicidal subject. Subject was contacted and said he did not want to harm himself.

Oct. 15, Staples Police investigated a report of a vehicle with front end damage swerving all over the road and cutting people off. Reporting party said they could see a female driver doing her makeup.

Oct. 16, Staples Police conducted predatory offender registration on one person and predatory offender compliance check on four individuals.

CONCERT continued from page 1a

For All the Saints' Christmas concert asking choir graduates to come back for reunion

Several directors are slated to be a part of the concert event, including Caleb Horn, the new director of the SAMC; Paul Pappenfus, associate director of the SAMC; and SAWC directors Paul Freelove and Brianna (Granby) Robertson. Steve Hoemberg, former director of both the SMHS Choir and SAMC, has agreed to direct the traditional pieces, "For All the Saints" and "Hallelujah!"

Chairs for the event include Bill Spar, Mike and Cindy Gold, and Megan Trout. They are hoping to send music out to all interested singers in the near future, as well as event details, including rehearsal times.

For more information, email Spar at bills@wcta.net or reach out to a member of the men's or women's choruses.

Todd Cty. court report

OCT. 21, 2026

Long Prairie Police

Jocelyn Achille, Long Prairie. Failure to Obey Traffic Signs on Controlled Access Highway. Fine $40. Fee $85.

Adriana Garcia, Long Prairie. Windshield Tinted or Glazed. Fine $ 50. Fee $85.

Louchard Gedime, Florida City, FL. Disorderly Conduct. Local Confinement 1 Days Credit for time served: 1 Days. Fine $50. Fee $200. Giving Peace Officer False Name of Another Person. Dismissed. Trespass-Return to Property Within One Year. Dismissed. Trespass-Premises of Another-Refuse to Depart. Dismissed.

Sebastian Molina, Long Prairie. Driving After Suspension. Fine $200. Fee $85.

Elliott Jason Vandenheuvel, Little Falls. Speed 37/30. Fine $40. Fee $85.

Todd County Sheriff

Guadalupe Jose Chavez, Long Prairie. Driving without a valid license. Fine $100. Fee $85.

Alexander John Cropper, Osakis. Speed 70/60. Fee $40. Fee $85.

Mason Jason Laforge, Long Prairie. Speed 65/55. Fine $40. Fee $85.

Lyle Stafford Martin, Long Prairie. Duty to Drive with Due Care - Speed Greater than Reasonable. Fine $40. Fee $85. USDOT Numbers-Fail to Apply for USDOT number. Fine $100. Vehicle Transporting Firewood in Unsafe Manner. Fine $50.

Daniel Martinez Corrales, Melrose. Speed 70/60. Fine $40. Fee $85.

Anderson Medina Alvarado, Staples. Driving After Revocation. Fine $200. Fee $85.

Ryan William Schmidt, Browerivlle. Driving After Revocation. Fine $200. Fee $85.

Maxwell Erin Schwartz, Osakis. Driver Must Carry Proof of Insurance. Fine $200. Fee $85. Driving After Revocation. Fine $200.

Staples Police

David Myron Ratcliff, Staples. Dog running at large. Fine $50. Fee $85.

Lamesha Keneisha Spivey, Roseau. Driving after revocation. Fine $200. Fee $85.

Osakis Police

Freedy Mejia, Long Prairie. Uninsured Vehicle. Fine $200. Fee $85. Speed 111/60. Fine $150.

MN State Patrol

Camden Paul Lines, Milan. Speed 96/65. Fine $150. Fee $235.

Madison Mekayla Smith, Shell Lake, WI. No Proof MV Insurance. Fine $200. Fee $85.

Brady Clifton Cline, Long Prairie. Hands-Free Law. Fine $50. Fee $85.

Dennis T. Dingle, Cincinnati, OH. Speed 70/60. Fine $40. Fee $85.

Joseph Warren Druga, South Haven. Speed 79/70. Fine $40. Fee $85.

Maria Karina Hernandez, Long Prairie. Windshield Tinted or Glazed. Fine $ 50. Fee $85. Window Tint less than 50% light transmittance. Fine $50.

Pamela Hernandez, Long Prairie. Seat Belt Required. FIne $25. Fee $85.

Juvenal Hernandez-Luna, Long Prairie. Seat Belt Required. Fine $25. Fee $85.

Charles Anderson Jensen, Alexandria. 50. Fee $85.

Tyler Dale Kuklok, Osakis. Speed 65/60. Fine $40. Fee $85.

James Eric Lowery, Okeechobee, FL. Speed 65/55. Fine $40. Fee $85.

Ariana Melkoian, Lynnwood, WA. Speed 84/70. Fine $50. Fee $85.

Datrick Dewayne Mitchell, Long Prairie. Hands-Free Law. Fine $50. Fee $85.

Mu'aad Abul Mohamed, Bloomington. Speed 85/70. Fine $60. Fee $85. Window Tint less than 50% light transmittance. Fine $50. Expired Registration. Fine $30.

Hunter Robert Moore, Little Falls. Hands-Free Law. Fine $50. Fee $85.

Kevin Ray Muellner, Burtrum. Seat Belt Required. Fine $25. Fee $85.

Logan Matthew Peterson, Deerwood. Speed 70/60. Fine $40. Fee $85.

Jacob Vernon Pulak, Pierz. Speed 65/60. Fine $40. Fee $85.

Shawn Bryon Scheerle, Cushing. Seat Belt Required. Fine $25. Fee $85.

The following cases were heard before Heidi L. Hovis, Seventh District Court in Todd County October 8, 2026.

Lester Daniel Bruder, Long Prairie. Fail to yield right of way making a left turn. Unsupervised probation, 1 Yr. Fine $100. Fee $175 .

The following cases were heard before Heidi L. Hovis, Seventh District Court in Todd County October 12, 2026.

Edrick Xavier Sandoval Rojas, Long Prairie. DWI Fourth-Degree Driving While Impaired. Dismissed. DWI - Operate Motor Vehicle - Alcohol Concentration 0.08 Within 2 Hours. Sentenced. Local Confinement 90 Days, Stay 0 Yr 0 Mo 90 Days For 1 Yr. Supervised probation, 1 Yr. Fine $300. Fee $400.

The following cases were heard before Heidi L. Hovis, Seventh District Court in Todd County October 13, 2026.

Hailey Patricia George, Menahga. DWI - Fourth-Degree Driving While Impaired. Dismissed. DWI - Operate Motor Vehicle Under Influence of Alcohol Dismissed. DWI - Operate Motor Vehicle - Alcohol Concentration 0.08 Within 2 Hours. Local Confinement 90 Days, Stay 89 Days For 2 Yr Credit for time served: 1 Days. Sentenced. Supervised probation, 2 Yr. Fine $400. Fee $500.

--Court reports received from the Long Prairie Leader.

Looking back

75 Years Ago - 1951

∘ Oct. 25, 1951 - The first meeting of the fall season of the Staples Men's Chorus was held in the high school band room Tuesday evening of this week with an unusually good attendance for the call for first practice.

During the business session of the organization Duane Lund was elected president for the 1951-52 year, succeeding Kenneth Greeno, who automatically goes to the office of governor of the organization.

Other officers elected with Mr. Lund include Vernon Drake, vice president; Glenn Sansburn, re-elected secretary, and Robert Blessing, re-elected treasurer.

- o -
Compiled by
Dawn Timbs
- o -

∘ Oct. 25, 1951- Ten men from Todd county reported for induction into military service at Long Prairie on Oct. 10, according to a bulletin received from Irene Muenzhubner, chief clerk of the Todd county draft board. None of the men were from Staples, but those listed included David W. Piere, Verndale; Robert J. Smieja, Cushing.

∘ Oct. 25, 1951 - Keep in mind the Motley High School Junior Class Play, "Off the Track" which will be presented in the school auditorium Nov. 1 and 2, under the direction of Mr. Backen and Miss Clark. A very entertaining evening is in store for you.

∘ Oct. 25, 1951 - Headline: *It was a "whale" of a fish that Roy caught...Kennedy lands whopper of a walleye.* Mr. and Mrs. Roy Kennedy and Bob Bates were fishing at the east end of Lake Shamineau Monday afternoon and evening of this week. They report that their luck was mediocre until the final minutes of their fishing expedition.

The World went on to report quite an exciting story of how Roy landed the impressive fish which tipped the scale at 9-3/4 pounds, the largest walleye caught in Lake Shamineau that season. The fish measured 32 inches in length and 16 inches in girth.

Roy stated that he has always wanted to land a whopper, and now his dreams have been realized.

∘ Oct. 25, 1951 - Three numbers, including the famous Centennial Singers, Minnesota's own quartet of young people, will comprise the 1951-52 series of the Staples Concert Association, it was announced the first of this week by Erling I. Lian, president of the group. Also on the talent lineup for the season are The Quantz Trio, combining flute, piano and cello; and Irene Rosenberg, concert pianist.

∘ Oct. 25, 1951 - Donald Meech lost his 24 by 30 garage and machine shed by fire Saturday night. Just how the fire started has not been determined as yet.

Carol Sowers was also a loser in the fire as her bicycle was stored in the garage. Mr. Meech estimates his loss at about $3,500 part of which was covered by insurance.

50 Years Ago - 1976

∘ Oct. 14, 1976 - Sixty-three of Minnesota's 87 counties actually lost 2,678 dairy farms during the last fiscal year, but a net gain of 149 new dairy farms in eight counties reduced the state's loss to 2,529 dairy farms.

Seven of Minnesota's leading milk producing counties are among the biggest losers. The top four, respectively are: Stearns lost 203 dairy farms, Otter Tail lost 179, Todd lost 136 and Morrison lost 71.

Cass County shows 159 dairy farms for 1975 and 197 in 1976, which is a gain of 38. Cass was one of eight counties in the state showing a gain.

∘ Oct. 14, 1976 - Randy Frisk, a 6'2", 215 pound senior from Motley, plays defensive end for the Concordia College, Moorhead, varsity football team.

Frisk is a 1973 graduate of Motley Public school and is majoring in business administration at Concordia. He is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Douglas Frisk, Motley.

∘ Oct. 14, 1976 - The members of the Staples Fire Department were called out on two separate occasions during the past week.

About 9:50 p.m. Oct. 5, the fire alarm sounded in Staples calling the local firemen to a house fire just east of the D & G Northside Grocery. The house is owned by Darrell Miller. Leo Fahnlander, fire chief, reported that the fire apparently started in the basement of the house and caused considerable damage to the basement area and the ground floor.

Friday morning, Oct. 8, about 4:30 a.m., the services of the Staples Fire Department were needed to extinguish a grass fire along the railroad tracks near the old dumpground area.

∘ Oct. 14, 1976 - Election '76 is a course in the Social Studies department at Staples High school that is causing considerable interest and much enthusiasm among the approximately 600 students participating.

Election '76 is a required Social Studies course for the first quarter of this school term for all students in grades nine through 12. It covers the entire election process on the national level, from the precinct caucus to the General election.

Instructors of the course are Larry Werder, Russ Lee, John Rutherford, Mrs. Judith Newton and Ron Storbakken.

∘ Oct. 14, 1976 - The 38 employees of Transco, Inc., Staples, returned to work Tuesday morning of this week after being out on strike since midnight Sept. 30.

It was reported to The World that settlement of the strike came Monday at a negotiation meeting between Transco officials, unknown representatives and the State mediator.

25 Years Ago - 2001

∘ Oct. 25, 2001 - Staples Motley's rushing game was finally augmented by a passing attack as the cards downed Perham 27-10 in their final game of the regular season Oct. 17.

The Cardinals finished the 2001 season with a 6-2 record and are co-champs of the Northern Lakes Conference with a 5-1 mark.

∘ Oct. 25, 2001 - The Staples Motley Cardinal girls swim team Tuesday, Oct. 16 passed another milestone in the young swimming program, defeating regional power Detroit Lakes for the first time in the girls' team history.

The Cardinal team, including girls from Staples Motley, Verndale and Wadena-Deer Creek, won first place in five individual events and won two out of the three relays to down DL 126-117. At the same time, Perham finished with 77 points.

∘ Oct. 25, 2001 - Twenty-four volunteer Scouts and leaders from Staples Boy Scout Troop #61 pitched in to help Nate Beard with his Eagle project of planting, mulching and pruning 141 new trees in the City of Staples Oct. 18 and 19. A photo in the World featured Beard working with Erick Klein and Jon Brenna.

10 Years Ago - 2016

∘ Oct. 20, 2016 - Lilli Schneider, Staples-Motley student, paid tribute to Jacob Wetterling and his family by painting the large rock located at Odden's Park on 8th St. NE in Staples. "I thought it was a devastating story that happened quite close to us," said Schneider. Wetterling, age 11, was abducted from near his St. Joseph home and murdered in 1989. His remains were found this summer near Paynesville.

"I wanted something that fit in the park and had meaning and purpose," she said.



Mystery photo

Hello readers. This week's archive photo is from 1992. 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.



Mystery solved

Last week's mystery photo published in the May 24, 1984 edition of the Staples World featured the co-valedictorians and salutatorian for the Staples High School class of 1984 which were, from left, Andrea Toedter, Ellen Weyer and Joy Prindle. They're pictured with trophies received at the awards night program at the high school.

Ellen (Weyer) Jones, now of Dallas, Texas, correctly identified all and the context of the photo. She said, "I haven't seen that photo in a while, but do have it in a scrapbook." She went on to share that after graduating from the College of St. Benedict, she moved to the Dallas, Texas area, but still has family in the Staples area. Ellen also shared that Joy Prindle became her sister-in-law in 1984 (Joy is married to Mike Weyer). "Thanks for the memory!" she said.

Joy (Prindle) Weyer, Staples, also correctly identified all, as well as the context. She noted that Ellen is now her sister-in-law and lives in Texas. She wasn't sure where Andrea Toedter lives now.

Thanks for participating in our mystery photo.



Staples World
DEADLINES
Newspaper deadline for copy and advertising: 12 noon Fridays

Staples World
Across from the old Staples Theatre marquee
The Staples World office,
moved to 207 4th St. NE
Located two doors south of Stomping Grounds Coffee Shop.
Regular advertising and copy deadline is Friday, noon.
The office closes at noon on Friday.


Fifty years in America

Ly family still grateful for their first home in Staples

From Charles (TxujCi) Ly



Feeling blessed

Charles (TxujCi) Ly and his wife, Kristine K., reside in Arkansas. They have two grown children, Grace and Calvin. Charles Ly says he is forever grateful for Staples Alliance Church and the Staples community for their kindness. More photos on pg. 5a. (Submitted photo)

Oct. 27, 2026, marks 50 years since the Ly family arrived in Staples, Minn. in 1976. As we approach this important milestone, I want to thank Staples Alliance Church for sponsoring the Ly family.

Looking back over the past 50 years, I realize how much we have to be thankful for. When our family first arrived in Staples (from Thailand), we were beginning a new chapter of our lives in America. We stayed there for more than two wonderful years, and the kindness and support we received from the church and the local community helped make those early years special for our family.

My parents are no longer with us, and one of my siblings (Kablia) has also gone home to be with the Lord. Today, there are four of us siblings remaining: me, Doua Chi, Leng, and Ka Doua. Our youngest sibling, Doua Hley, was born in Staples shortly after our family arrived.

On behalf of my siblings, and in loving memory of our parents, I want to express our sincere gratitude to Staples Alliance Church for welcoming our family back in 1976. We will always remember the church and the people who helped us during those early years as we began building our lives in America.

I remember that a few days after our arrival, there was a gathering at the church we attended. During the gathering, the church celebrated my dad's birthday belatedly and sang, "What a Friend We Have in Jesus."

Not long after that gathering, it was Halloween. I think the church sent two young children to our home on 6th Street. At first, we didn't understand why they were there. Each time someone knocked on the door, the two children would open it and step outside. They kept doing this for the next few hours before eventually leaving.

They left behind a white bag and when we looked inside, we found candy. We thought the people knocking on our door were simply bringing us candy. It wasn't until the following year that we learned about Halloween and understood what had happened.

On Jan. 7, 1977, my younger brother was born at the hospital in Staples. I remember the hospital was on the way we would go to the church, across from a park. Dr. Garland, who lived in the house next to the hospital, was a dentist. He also went to our church.

While living in Staples, we were fortunate to make wonderful friends who became like family to us. The Schimpp family was one of those families, and I still remember those connections. I recall that Mr. Schimpp (Gary) and my father talked together quite often. Since both of them had served in the military, they had something meaningful in common and could share their experiences with each other.

Those memories have stayed with me over the years. Although we eventually moved away from Staples, the friendships and kindness we experienced there were an important part of our family's early journey in America.

Our family remained in Staples for more than two years, until my father completed technical school and was able to find a job in St. Paul. After that, we moved to St. Paul, where we continued building our future.

Over the years, my siblings and I completed high school, technical school, and college, and eventually found good-paying jobs. We were able to establish ourselves and build our own lives (have family of our own). Looking back, I'm thankful that we had the opportunity to grow, learn, work and contribute to our communities.

My own journey began with humble jobs at Dairy Queen, washing dishes, working at McDonald's, and doing other jobs along the way. Eventually, I became a police officer and continued serving in law enforcement until my retirement. It was a long journey, and I am grateful for the opportunities God gave me along the way.

Interestingly, a few years before I retired from the police department, I had an unexpected encounter with a young police officer whose name I can no longer remember. We were both waiting for a tow truck to remove two cars involved in an accident, and we had an opportunity to talk while we waited.

During our conversation, he told me that he was from Staples and had attended Staples Alliance Church. He also mentioned that Gary Schimpp had been his Awana teacher. I thought that was quite a coincidence. Here I was, a police officer who had grown up in St. Paul after spending our family's early years in Staples, and I was now meeting a young officer whose childhood was connected to the same town and church that had been part of our family's history.

Hearing him mention Mr. Schimpp's name and the church brought back those old memories. It reminded me that the people who touched our lives many years ago continued to make a difference in the lives of others, even long after our family had moved away.

My siblings still live in St. Paul, Minn. After a few years of retirement, I moved to Arkansas, where I now enjoy a different pace of life.

As Oct. 27 approaches, I cannot help but reflect on how far our family has come since arriving in Staples 50 years ago. Our parents are no longer here to share this milestone with us, but we carry their memories with us. I believe they would have been grateful to know that we still remember the people and the church that welcomed us and helped us during those early years.

That is why I would like to recognize this special anniversary. It is not simply about celebrating 50 years; it is also about remembering our parents, honoring the journey our family has taken, and thanking the people who helped make our beginning in America a little easier.

How high does that migrant fly?

- o -
Inside the Outdoors
Mike Rahn
- o -



For those who pay attention to seasonal events in the wild, evidence of the annual fall migratory exodus is already apparent. It's been a long time since I've seen a hummingbird, so dependent are they on flower blooms that are now scarce or nonexistent here. I've not heard those unmistakable, mournful notes of mourning doves lately, either, though you can't rule out a straggler. Waterfowl hunters may still see a blue-winged teal zip over their decoys in late October, but that would be uncommon in the northern part of the state, our recent warm weather notwithstanding. Absence, too, is a sign of change.

During the past week, as I drove along a local county road, I crossed paths with an airborne, undulating black ribbon. When I got closer, I could see it was made up of hundreds if not thousands of birds flying just above treetop level, their direction a compass-true southward. After a quick glance in the rearview mirror, I pumped the brakes, slowed, and passed under the aerial procession at a slow crawl.

The birds I could identify were red-wing blackbirds, though in migration they may be joined by starlings, grackles, and brown-headed cowbirds. This communal migrating habit offers the obvious benefit of mass alertness for possible avian predators, chiefly hawks. It also offers a degree of "herd immunity," a term we heard often during the COVID 19 pandemic. It means that the odds of any one bird being the victim of a predator go down mathematically as their total numbers go up!

The strung out, undulating flock extended northward as far as my eyes could see. Out of curiosity, I turned north at the next crossroad to parallel the birds' line of flight, to hopefully see where the flock's terminal end might be. I watched the faint, dark specks against the bright sky for over a quarter mile.

Based on the birds' low altitude, this could have been a feeding flight, for this area now has many acres of harvested corn and soybeans, with lots of leftovers to feed on. When they leave us for good, it will be in daytime, for these species are among the "diurnal" migrants, rather than those that migrate primarily by night. They will migrate at altitudes much lower than many birds, and may not get above several hundred feet. Staying relatively close to the ground helps them maintain visual contact with their flock, spot landmarks, and remain directionally oriented.

Birds that do much of their migratory traveling at night tend to do so at higher altitudes. This makes sense simply from the standpoint of avoiding collisions with manmade structures, like communication and power line towers, wind turbine installations, and tall buildings. Then there is also the factor of unimpeded winds that aid them. Ducks and geese, well-known for their nighttime migratory flights, may commonly cruise at up to 4,000 feet.

How high can they fly, potentially? In 1962, a Lockheed Electra passenger aircraft in the skies over Nevada reported that its tail assembly was struck by a mallard at 21,000 feet. The bird in question was supposedly confirmed by the recovery of mallard feathers in the tail assembly after the incident. This is believed to be the highest flight altitude recorded for any North American waterfowl.

Migratory flight altitudes are commonly influenced by such things as topography and prevailing winds. While generally unable to distinguish bird species, weather radar stations are able to detect flocks in migration. Data from these stations tells us that, in general, many birds migrate at higher altitudes in the West than in the rest of the country. One obvious reason is the vertical obstacles of foothills and mountains. But perhaps even more important are the altitudes at which birds can find tailwinds that help push them along their migratory route. Based on these weather station findings, favorable winds seem to be found at higher altitudes in the West.

The American woodcock, the only migratory upland gamebird common in Minnesota, is both a nighttime migrant and a low-level flyer. The nighttime element can be explained by the fact that the woodcock is primarily nocturnal in its everyday life. Though woodcock have occasionally been recorded at much higher altitudes, they are believed to typically make their migratory flights as low as 50 to 100 feet; usually independently or in small, loose groups.

This aligns with the fact that woodcock migrate in what some call a hop-and-stop manner. They do not travel 800 miles in one day as some waterfowl do. Instead, they make migratory moves southward as cold temperatures harden the soils in which they probe with their long, hinged bills for the earthworms that are their primary food source. They seem in no particular hurry to get to their winter residence, and let weather-influenced food availability dictate their travel itinerary. Their fall migration to the Southeast and Gulf Coast states may take four weeks or more, with a handful of stops along the way.

Mourning doves, summer residents that are relatively early in leaving us, are low altitude, daytime migrants. They generally fly at less than several hundred feet, and—like woodcock—cover shorter distances daily than many species.

Unlike most migratory birds that rely on constant, active wing flapping, the migratory hawks—also daytime migrants—can benefit from soaring. They use thermal updrafts to gain altitude, then "glide downhill," so to speak, catching another updraft, or falling back on wing flapping as becomes necessary. Depending on the hawk species, altitude may be anywhere from roughly 700 to 5,000 feet.

Most migratory songbirds, like the warblers, thrushes, sparrows, and orioles, migrate at night. Nighttime migration offers the advantages of calmer air, cooler temperatures, fewer avian predators, and—when visible—the aid of stars to navigate by. Depending on species, terrain, and weather, their altitudes may vary from 800 to 3,000 feet.

When humans migrate, whether for a seasonal escape or just a brief getaway, our main concerns are likely to be comfort, timeliness, and value. For migratory birds it's a matter of survival. The when, where, and how of their flights are the product of eons-long evolutionary trial and error, a process that has ultimately given them the best chances of successfully navigating the perils of migration.

(Resources for this column include the Cornell Laboratory of Ornithology, Audubon Society, Ducks Unlimited, and the University of South Florida Libraries.)

Quote of the week

"What's another word for Thesaurus?" — Steven Wright

Quote of the week

"You cannot have integrity of elections without integrity of facts." — Maria Ressa, journalist and Nobel Peace Prize laureate

Letter to the Editor

Rep in Congress doing her job

I got a kick out of the Tribune making such a big deal about Erik Osberg traveling around the district and holding fish fries.

Good for him. But campaigning is what he's doing full time. Michelle Fischbach has to actually serve in Congress, and Washington, D.C., is more than 1,200 miles away. As an former Minnesota Legislator, I fully understand the inner conflict that office holders experience during campaigns. Go home and campaign or stay and do my job. Cannot have it both ways.

Here's a number the editorial board ought to consider. According to GovTrack, Michelle missed just nine of 2,915 roll call votes between January 2021 and September 2026. That's 99.7% of votes she showed up for.

Meanwhile, she's been working on farm taxes, crop insurance, rural lending, and legislation to help small towns finance hospitals and childcare facilities. She has no time to go fishing.

There's a pretty big difference between spending your days asking people for a job and actually having to do your job in Washington D.C.

Bruce Nelsen
Staples, Minnesora
(Former Minnesota Legislator)

Quote of the week

"The right to vote is the crown jewel of American liberties, and we will not see its luster diminished." — Ronald Reagan

Quote of the week

"The ballot is stronger than the bullet." — Abraham Lincoln

Staples World

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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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Mark Your Calendar

October 31

Free Community Breakfast Saturday, Oct. 31, 9 - 10:30 a.m., at Motley United Methodist Church, 847 3rd Ave. S., Motley.

Trunk Or Treat - Free Family Event Saturday, Oct. 31, 4 - 5:30 p.m., Staples Alliance Church, 1512 8th St. NE, Staples. All ages welcome.

November 3

Old Time Dance is held the first Tuesday of every month at the Wadena VFW. For information, call 218-639-0132.

GriefShare - Weekly Seminar And Support Group Tuesdays, 6 - 8 p.m., at Motley Free Methodist Church, 33 Wellwood Street E., Motley. Through Dec. 15. For info., call 218-352-6888, or visit www.griefshare.org.

Ly family's American journey began 50 years ago in Staples



First day in the U.S.A

Chy and Xiong My Ly, along with their four children, are pictured upon their arrival to the United States in October, 1976, having spent several months in a refugee camp in Thailand. Their home country, Laos, had been taken over by the Communists in April of 1975. Their first home in America was in Staples, Minn.



Settling in to their new country

The Ly family pictured around 1977. Chy and Xiong My, and their children TxuJCi, Kablia, Doua Chi, Leng, Ka Doua and baby Doua Hley, who was born in Staples in January of 1977. Chy and Xiong My have passed away, as has Kablia (far right), who suffered a stroke in 2002. She was in her early 30s. (Submitted photo)

Painting class held



At right: Painting class was recently held at the Staples Public Library. Mary Waltzing provided step by step instructions on painting a waterfall scene with acrylic on canvas. Participants were encouraged to use different brushes and different stroke techniques. The program was through the Arts & Cultural Heritage Funds from Minnesota's Clean Water, Land, and Legacy Amendment. Upcoming programs can be found by stopping at the library or checking the webpage at www.griver.org.

Right with their paintings: Daniel and Candace Fritz, Carolyn Carlson, Theresa Perish, Allison, Malaina and Jaden Carry, Julie Grondahl, Janelle Rex, Nancy Grunau and Artist Mary Waltzing. (Submitted photo)

Mark Your Calendar

October 29

'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

October 30

Women's OPEN AA Recovery Meeting Fridays in person, 10:30 a.m., Motley Free Methodist Church (lower level), 33 Wellwood St. E. Motley. All women welcome.

October 31

Free Community Breakfast Saturday, Oct. 31, 9 - 10:30 a.m., at Motley United Methodist Church, 847 3rd Ave. S., Motley.

Trunk Or Treat - Free Family Event Saturday, Oct. 31, 4 - 5:30 p.m., Staples Alliance Church, 1512 8th St. NE, Staples. All ages welcome.

November 1

Celebrate Recovery Group Meetings Sundays, 6 p.m., at Motley Free Methodist Church, 33 Wellwood St. E., Motley.

November 3

Old Time Dance is held the first Tuesday of every month at the Wadena VFW. For information, call 218-639-0132.

GriefShare - Weekly Seminar And Support Group Tuesdays, 6 - 8 p.m., at Motley Free Methodist Church, 33 Wellwood Street E., Motley. Through Dec. 15. For info., call 218-352-6888, or visit www.griefshare.org.

Experience Strength And Hope AA Group Mtgs In Staples Tuesdays, 7 - 8 p.m., at Church of Christ, 27343 490th St., Staples. For info., call Dan at 218-640-7228.

Cardinal Calendar

SM school events

October

Cross Country - Home Thursday, Oct. 29. Section 6A Meet, boys and girls, at The Vintage, Staples.

All Staples-Motley Upcoming Events are subject to change. Go to www.isd2170.k12.mn.us for up to the minute information.

10 a.m. to 3 p.m.
Rifle Sight-In Day
November 1
•Sight-In Targets provided
•Assistance avail. if needed
Staples Sportmen's Club
27158 McGivern Dr., Staples
Info/ ?'s call 218-296-1519
w45c

Trunk or Treat
CANDY - HOT DRINKS
S'MORES - COSTUMES
31 Oct
Saturday, 4:00-5:30pm
Staples Alliance Church
1512 8th St. NE
FREE FAMILY EVENT; ALL AGES WELCOME
w44-45c

Hello, I'm Tom Bisek.
I'm running for
May Township Supervisor
and would like your vote.
I'm currently serving on the Cass County Planning & Zoning Board of Adjustment.
I'm a good listener and want to help the township service the residents. I'd appreciate your vote.
Prepared and paid for by Tom Bisek.
w44-45p

VOTE
NOVEMBER 3RD
MILO SCOTT
FOR
WADENA COUNTY SHERIFF
★ Over 22 Years Law Enforcement Experience
★ Fiscally Responsible
★ Proponent of the Constitution
★ Committed to our Community
★ Experienced Leadership
PAID FOR BY MILO SCOTT FOR WADENA COUNTY SHERIFF
42-45p

★ RE-ELECT ★
Denise GAIDA
AUDITOR-TREASURER
TODD COUNTY
30+ Years
OF SERVING TODD COUNTY
Proven Experience
38 years with Todd County, including 12 years as Auditor-Treasurer.
Trusted Stewardship
A strong record of fiscal responsibility, accuracy, and transparency.
Knowledge of County Government
Extensive hands-on experience with county financials, budget preparation, property tax calculations, tax collection & settlement, Board duties, ditches, and licensing.
Commitment to Our Community
Dedicated to honest, efficient, and people-focused service.
Experienced. Dependable. Committed.
Continuing to work for a stronger Todd County today and tomorrow.
TRUSTED EXPERIENCE ★ PROVEN SERVICE
Prepared and paid for by the Denise Gaida Committee
w45p

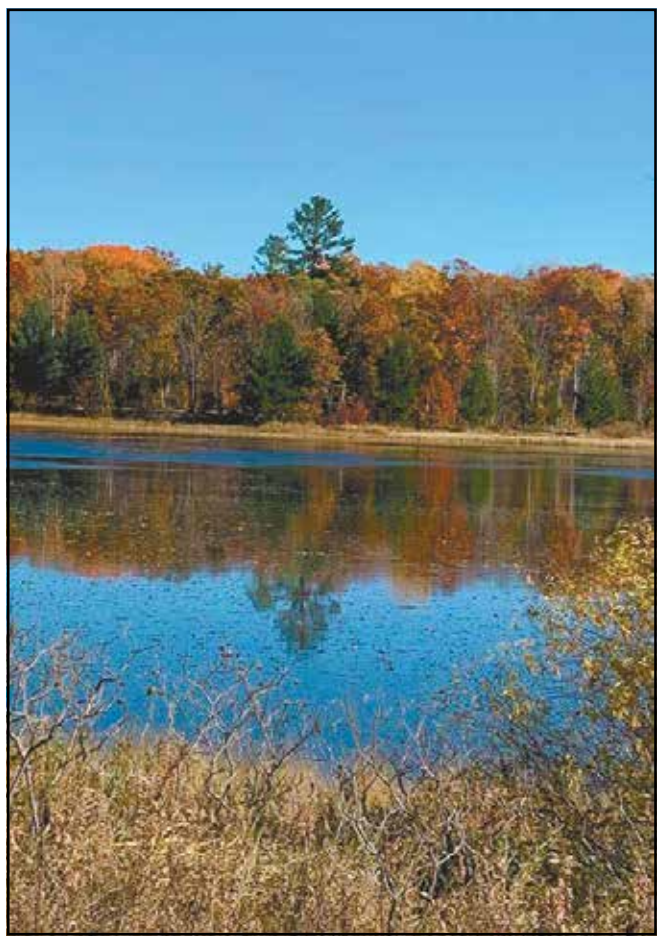
VOTE
NOVEMBER 3
7TH DISTRICT CONGRESS
Michelle FISCHBACH
REPUBLICAN FOR CONGRESS
DELIVERING FOR WESTERN MINNESOTA
Sample
U.S. Representative
District 7
Michelle Fischbach
Republican
✓ FIGHTING FRAUD
Introduced legislation to investigate state officials who helped cover up fraud and send those responsible to jail.
✓ STANDING WITH FARMERS
Helped pass a full five-year Farm Bill out of the U.S. House to provide certainty and relief for farmers.
✓ CUTTING TAXES FOR WORKING FAMILIES
Increased the Child Tax Credit and cut taxes on tips, overtime pay, and Social Security benefits.
Make a plan | Be a Voter November 3rd
To find your polling place, please call 320-593-3145
or visit mn07.link/vote26
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207 4th St. NE, Staples, MN 56479
218-894-1112

Hello World

Online births removed at the request of Lakewood Health System.



Fall scenery, back of Dower Lake, Staples.

Staples Area Church Directory

Staples

Staples Alliance
1512 8th St. NE, Staples 218-894-2891
Pastor John Pavlica, Lead Pastor
Sunday Worship.....9:30 a.m.
Sunday School .....11:00 a.m.
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.
Sunday Worship Service.....10:30 a.m.
Children's Church (Kids start in main worship service).....11:00 a.m.
Prayer Meeting .....5:00 p.m.
WEDNESDAY
Sonlight (Kids ages 4 yrs - 6th grade .....After school to 4:30 p.m. 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 Robert Drake
Sunday Worship Service.....8:30 a.m.
Sunday School and Coffee Fellowship.....9:30 a.m.

Sacred Heart Catholic Church
310 4th St. NE, Staples
Church.....218-894-2296
parishsecretary@marysacc.org
Rev. JC Duncan, 218-632-7314
Rev. Greg Sauer, 218-632-7319
SUNDAY
Mass.....8:30 a.m.

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

Thomastown Covenant
15940 251st Ave., Staples.....218-894-3923

SUNDAY
Sunday School .....9:15 a.m.
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
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
Sunday Worship.....8:30 a.m.

Cushing

Bethany Lutheran
25430 Bison Rd., Cushing, MN
320-749-2140
www.bethanylutherancushing.com.
Pastor Robert Drake
SUNDAY
Sunday Worship.....10:00 a.m

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

Cushing Baptist
26298 Bear Rd., Cushing
www.cushingbaptistchurch.org
Pastor Dan Holmes
320-749-2583
SUNDAY
Sunday School .....9:30 a.m.
Worship.....10:30 a.m.
WEDNESDAY
Bible Study.....7:30 p.m.

Leader

Swan Valley Lutheran
Leader
218-397-2470
Sandy Knight, Syndically Authorized Minister of Word and Sacrament
SUNDAY
January - July .....9 a.m.
August - December .....11:00 a.m.

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

Motley

Motley Free Methodist
33 Wellwood St. NE, Motley 56466
218-352-6141
Jim Johnson, Senior Pastor
Casey Reynolds, Assistant Pastor
SUNDAY
Sunday Worship..... 9:00 and 10:30 a.m.
facebook live.....9:00 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
Sunday School and Bible Class .....8:30 a.m.
Sunday Worship.....9:30 a.m.

St. Michael Catholic Church
280 1st Ave S, Motley
218-631-1593
Rev, JC Duncan, 218-632-7314
Rev. Greg Sauer, 218-632-7319
SUNDAY
Mass.....10:30 a.m.

United Methodist
847 3rd Ave. S. Lane, Motley
218-352-6466
Pastor Jonathan Holland
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, 218-472-3316
Pastor Neal Malcore
SUNDAY
Sunday School .....10:00 a.m.
Sunday Worship.....11:00 a.m.

Pillager

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

Casino Assembly of God
N. of Motley, Hwy. 64, E on Cty 34 to Cty. 104
218-746-3839
Pastor Dan Johnson
SUNDAY
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 S, Pillager
218-746-3768
Pastor Jake Anderson
curious@fbcpillager.com
SUNDAY
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 56453
218-924-2028
Jim and Linda McGaffey, Pastors
SUNDAY
Sunday School .....9:30 a.m
Sunday Worship.....10:45 a.m.
WEDNESDAY PRAYER .....7:00 p.m.

Trinity Lutheran Church (LCMS)
524 Front St, PO Box 116, Hewitt, MN 56453
Pastor Robin Fish
SUNDAY
Sunday Worship.....10:30 a.m.

Hewitt Community Church
Hwy. 210, Hewitt, MN 56453
Pastor Kenneth Uhren
SUNDAY
Sunday Worship.....10:30 a.m.

Verndale

Verndale Alliance
109 Brown Street NW, Verndale 56481
218-445-5619
Senior Pastor, Tony Stanley
Youth Pastor, Joe Ward
SUNDAY
Sunday Worship.....9:30 a.m.
Sunday Bible Fellowship Class .....11:00-11:45 a.m.

Hope Chapel Alliance
18126 County Road 7, Verndale 56481
218-445-5643 or 218-472-3316
Pastor Neal Malcore
SUNDAY
Sunday Worship.....9:00 a.m.
Sunday School .....10:30 a.m
WEDNESDAY.
Weds. Family Night .....5:30 p.m.

Family Life Church
402 NE Clark Drive, Verndale 56481
Pastor Amos Self 218-371-7189
Churcht.....218-445-5568
Tahna Rurup, Connections & Media Pastor
Tilman 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.....5:00 p.m.
WEDNESDAY
Life Groups .....6:30 p.m.

Hope Chapel Alliance
18126 County Road 7, Verndale 56481
218-445-5643 or 218-471-3316
Pastor Neal Malcor
SUNDAY
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 56481
Pastor Robin Fish
SUNDAY
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
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
Sunday Service ..... 9:30 a.m.
Bible Study ..... 8:00 a.m.
WEDNESDAY
Seeds of Hope..... 6:00 p.m.

St. Hubert Catholic Church
Bluegrass.....218-631-1593
Rev. JC Duncan, 218-632-7314
Father Greg Sauer, 218-632-7319
parishsecretary@marysacc.org
SATURDAY
Mass.....5:00 p.m.

Wadena

St. Helen's Episcopal Church
22 Dayton Ave. SW, Wadena, MN 56482
218-631-3928
SUNDAY
Sunday Worship.....10:00 a.m.

St. Ann's Catholic Church
514 1st Street SE, Wadena, MN 56482
218-631-1593
Rev. JC Duncan, 218-632-7314
Father Greg Sauer, 218-632-7319
parish secretary@marysacc.org
SUNDAY
Mass (livestream) .....10:00 a.m.

"A Few More Tire Tracks"

Pastor Robert Drake, Faith Lutheran and Bethany Lutheran Churches

At the end of the month, Protestants recognize Reformation Sunday. This is the day in 1517 when Martin Luther nailed his 95 Theses on the door of the chapel at Wittenberg University. His action that day started the second major split in the unified body of Jesus Christ (the first being the split in 1054 between the Eastern Orthodox Church and the Western Roman Catholic Church).

A few weeks ago when I was on vacation, I had a wonderful chat with a young man who was lamenting the many divisions amongst churches and denominations. Raised Baptist, he was looking for a spiritual place to call home, not just a church and not just a denomination, but, in his own words, "A way of living with other believers that is the full expression of why Jesus died, you know, the body of Christ." He then asked, "Why do we have all these different churches, all these divisions, shouldn't there be just one, unified body of Christ. Jesus did not want all this."

He then asked one of the major questions for Christians, "I'm looking for the one, true church, and I wonder which one it is."

Needless to say, we had a long (and enriching) conversation.

Let me ask you: Do you think there is one, true church? And if so, which one do you think it is? Is it Lutheran? Or Catholic? Or Alliance? Or Methodist? Or Church of Christ? Or maybe it's one of those new, non-denominational churches?

Which is it?

Here's what I think (and here's what I told that young man): "It's kinda like tire tracks on a dirt road. There's lots of tire tracks going down the road. Some turn off this way or that way. Some turn off heading to home. Some turn down towards the creek. Some go all the way until the dirt road meets the highway. Some stop and turn around. Some even stop in the middle and whip donuts. But as long as we're searching for God and we never stop searching and we never stop listening for God's call on our life, I think most of these tire tracks eventually lead to God."

I think that's what Martin Luther was doing over 500 years ago. As a monk, priest, and professor, who was passionately devoted to his church, parishioners, and students, Luther was just trying to suggest that maybe it was acceptable for there to be a few more tire tracks on the dirt road leading towards the pasture of Jesus Christ.

wk45

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Staples, MN 218-894-3299

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Your community newspaper since 1890
207 4th St. NE, Staples, MN
218-894-1112

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"Complete Animal Care"
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To become a sponsor of the Church Directory call 218-894-1112.

To update your church information or to advertise on the Church Directory, email: office@staplesworld.com, call 218-894-1112.

Email your Ministerial pastoral message or advertisement to: office@staplesworld.com.

Motley area law enforcement

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

Oct. 17 - Motley Police received a report from Lakewood Health System Hospital, Staples, of a dog bite in the City of Motley. A Morrison County deputy handled the call and issued the dog owner a potentially dangerous dog notice on Oct. 20. The dog's owner subsequently brought in a copy of the dog's rabies shots, which were current.

Oct. 17 - Motley Police received a complaint of an erratic ATV driver at the 300 block of Birch St E, Motley. A deputy arrived and checked the area but was unable to locate the vehicle.

Oct. 20 - Morrison County deputies resonded to a report of a domestic assault at the 33000 block of Aspen Ln, Motley. Subsequently, they arrested Hubert Emanuel Wolbeck, 40.

Oct. 20 - Jaclynn Renae Evje, 23, was cited for speeding 98 mph in a 65 mph zone. She was stopped at Hwy 10 and Aztec Rd, Motley.

Oct. 18 - The MCSO received a report of suspicious activity at Dove Rd and Lake Camilie Dr, Cushing.

Oct. 18 - The MCSO received a call from Cass Cty regarding a two vehicle accident at State Hwy 64 SW and 76th St SW, Motley with unknown injuries. Motley Fire was paged.

Oct. 16 - The MCSO received a report from the FBI National Operations Center regarding a suicidal subject in Motley.

Oct. 14 - The MCSO received a call from a male at the 39000 block of Darby Trl, Pillager, who said he thought small blue circles were falling from the sky, landing in his truck's tool box. He thought someone might be burning something that traveled through the air, landing in his truck. While the deputy was responding, the subject called back to cancel, stating he realized what he saw was fluff from a blanket.

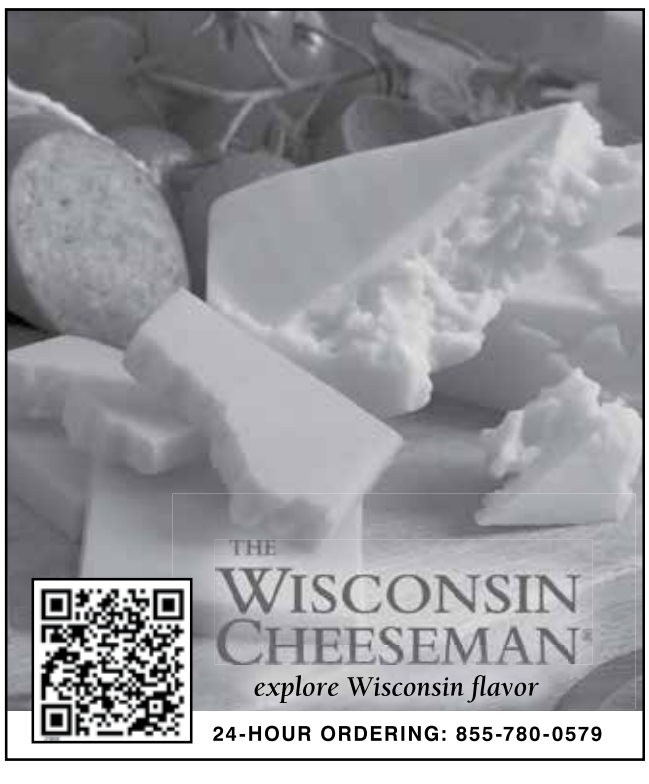
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Positive attitude sends tennis players to state

By Mark Anderson
Publisher



State tennis qualifiers

From left, Sarah Kroll, Madison Perius, Kaylee Perius and Natalie Hanson. (Submitted photo)

Staples-Motley tennis player Ronnie Noska is entering her fifth state tournament, while the Cardinal tennis team pulled a couple of upsets to get two doubles teams to state, Madison and Kaylee Perius, who placed first in the section, and Natalie Hanson and Sarah Kroll, who placed second.

All five players are taking their positive attitude into the state tournament, starting Thursday, Oct. 29.

Noska began focusing on state before the section tournament even started. Without a rival in the section this year, Noska knew she was the heavy favorite. But she also knew that she would have to step up her game for the upcoming state tournament.

"Playing at state the last four years, it really is a jump up to that level," said Noska, a senior. At the section meet, "I could have just gone out and played for fun, but I knew I would have to turn my head towards state, so I gave it 120 percent."

She said her tennis game starts with her feet, and everything else follows from there. The mental side of the state tournament is another jump as the pressure also increases, but Noska said she is ready to face it.

"I put more pressure on myself, but I also have nothing to lose," said Noska. "You have to show up, you have to work for everything."

As the fifth ranked player in state, Noska is hoping to earn a medal this year. A couple of ranked players are playing doubles this year, but there are still many high level singles players in the tournament.

Noska is mostly looking forward to having a lot of team support at the state tournament, including the two doubles teams who qualified for state.

"There are always so many people there to support me, and this year it could be an even bigger crowd," she said.

Despite the big Cardinal presence in the individual state tournament, Noska said she feels bad that they didn't qualify for the team tournament.

"After losing a player from last year's team, we had a lot of adversity this season," said Noska. "The younger girls all stepped up and did exactly what they needed to do," but the team fell one match short.

Doubles

Madison and Kaylee Perius entered the section tournament as a sister duo doubles team, after Madison played most of the season at number one doubles with Hanson, while Kaylee played most of her matches at number two singles.

They breezed through the first two rounds before facing the same team that had beaten them in the team tournament the day before. The first time the two teams faced each other, they played a lot of long points and it led to a lot of duece games.

"We knew it was going to be a battle," said Kaylee.

Just one day removed from their team loss, they took a new attitude to this match.

"It was about resetting, going at it and having fun," said Madison.

"We wanted to play free, have fun and just play our best," said Kaylee.

They also decided to be a bit more aggressive at the net, poaching more shots to close the points out quickly.

The result was a decisive 6-3, 6-4 win to reach the section final, where they faced the other Staples-Motley doubles team.

"It was awful playing against our own teammates," said Kaylee.

But they ended up with the win and suddenly realized they had qualified for the state tournament.

"We realized that we had fully made it," said Madison.

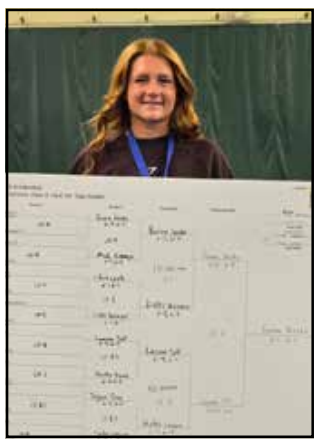
Their goal for the state tournament is to continue to have fun with tennis.

"After making it to state, everything is a bonus," said Madison. "We just want to play tough and have fun."

"We'll take it as it comes, and make memories at state," said Kaylee.

•••

Kroll and Hanson had only played together as a doubles team a couple of times this season, but they didn't think that mattered because all of the players had switched around to play different positions in many matches this year.



Ronnie Noska

"The diversity of playing with different people with different personalities helped us," said Kroll, "it's also good for life in general."

In the section tournament, they got to know how to play with each other in the first two rounds.

"We realized we can trust each other, that we can pull through to win the tough points," said Kroll.

They made it to the semifinal where they faced the second seeds in the tournament. The Cardinal duo won the first set 7-5, then were tied 6-6 in the second, but lost in a tiebreaker.

"We had to keep that positive mentality and bring more energy for the third set," said Hanson.

"We decided that we made it this far, we weren't going to get this far just to lose," said Kroll.

That attitude reenergized the third set, where they won 6-3, another long set that ran the full match time to nearly four hours.

As an upset state entry, Hanson and Kroll are hoping to get in some good matches.

"It will be great to be there, we will try our hardest," said Kroll.



Tackle in the middle

Adrian Caldwell (55) and Seth Cossentine (58) make a stop at the line of scrimmage against Pelican Rapids. (Staples World photos by Mark Anderson)

Football momentum stopped in 49-13 loss

The Staples-Motley football team lost their final regular season game 49-13 against Pelican Rapids on Oct. 20. Their first playoff game was scheduled for Tuesday, Oct. 27, at Menahga. The winner of that game will play Saturday, Oct. 31, at 2 p.m. at Osakis.

The arc of improvement over the last three weeks came to a halt when the Cardinals were unable to stop the Pelican Rapids passing attack. Staples-Motley had a few good offensive plays but were unable to sustain drives, getting hurt with sacks and penalties.

Staples-Motley started with the ball but had to punt. Pelican Rapids scored on their first offensive play of the game, a pass play where the receiver caught a ball in the middle, then cut through the defense and ran to the end zone.

The Staples-Motley offense punted again and Pelican Rapids turned another short pass into a touchdown run to make the score 14-0.

Staples-Motley started driving but lost the ball on a fumble. Pelican Rapids capitalized with another one-play touchdown drive, on a long pass.

Staples-Motley finally got a spark with a long kickoff return by Beau Carlson, a pass from Cooper Tappe to Cayden Neisen, and another run by Carlson to the seven yard line. But a penalty and a sack set the Cardinals back and they were held scoreless.

Again, Pelican Rapids passed their way down the field to score again.

Neisen scored the first Cardinal touchdown on a kickoff return where he broke a tackle, kicked out around the left side, then cut back to the right and ran to the end zone.

Pelican Rapids scored again late in the half to make it 35-7 at halftime. They scored one more touchdown in the third quarter and one in the fourth to go up 49-7.

Late in the game, Ben Rutten threw a long pass to the end zone, where Jayden Rogers jumped higher than the defenders to catch it for a touchdown, making the final score 49-13.

Staples-Motley finished the regular season with a 3-5 record.



Cayden Neisen takes off on a running play with blockers Beau Carlson (1), Russell Milton (77), Zach Tabatt (67) and Owen Roline (65) making a lane.



Jayden Rogers runs for a first down with QB Ben Rutten (11), JJ Winter (66), Aaron Oeltjenbruns (62) and Peter Oeltjenbruns (78) blocking.

Cross country teams to host section meet

The Staples-Motley cross country teams ran in the Heart O Lakes Conference meet on Oct. 22 at Hawley.

The girls team finished in sixth place, with teams in fourth through sixth place separated by just a few places. The top two teams are ranked in the top ten in the state.

The boys race had three ranked teams. Staples-Motley finished in eighth place in a very fast conference.

Section 6A preview

Staples-Motley will host the Section 6A meet on Thursday, Oct. 29, at The Vintage golf course, with one varsity boys race and one varsity girls race, starting at 4 p.m. State qualifiers will be the top two teams and top six individuals who are not on a qualifying team.

The girls section race will feature the top ranked team in the state in Class A, New London-Spicer. Several teams will be in the running for the second team qualifying spot, including Sauk Centre, Ottertail Central, Staples-Motley, Ashby-Brandon-Evansville and Wadena-Deer Creek.

The section has two girls individuals ranked in the top ten, Kendra Miller of Bertha-Hewitt and Karissa Anderson of Border West.

The boys field is wide open with no teams ranked in the top 12 in the state, but there are still some good teams battling for the top two spots, including Wadena-Deer Creek and Sauk Centre. Many other teams will be running for a top five spot, including Breckenridge-Wahpeton, West Central Area, Benson/KMS and Staples-Motley.

Individually, Logan Wiehoff of Sauk Center is ranked third in the state.

Girls results

Heart O Lakes Conference cross country

Perham 25, Barnesville 51, Hawley 100, Pelican Rapids 158, Frazee 163, Staples-Motley 167, Park Rapids 172, Dilworth-Glyndon-Felton 198, Lake Park-Audubon 208, Breckenridge 218

20. Elise Trif 21:19, 36. Anna Warner 22:22, 38. Elizabeth Kroll 22:33, 46. Suhaila Mikhaeil 22:52, 54. Alexis Odden 23:55, 93. Cydney McGree-Schmidtbauer 30:13

Boys results

Heart O Lakes Conference cross country

Perham 20, Park Rapids 62, Hawley 105, Frazee 125, Breckenridge 141, Dilworth-Glyndon-Felton 144, Barnesville 173, Staples-Motley 195, Pelican Rapids 239

21. Andrew Dobson 18:44, 46. Reed Leach 20:07, 61. Jackson Odden 20:36, 68. Spencer Olsen 21:14, 74. Alex Leach 21:33, 105. Brayden Moore 24:52, 111. Jackson Bitzer 26:52

Volleyball season finishes against conference teams

The Staples-Motley volleyball team continued playing against tough competition as they finished the regular season against two of the Heart O Lakes Conference leaders, losing to Hawley on Oct. 19 and against Perham on Oct. 22.

Against Perham, one bright spot was the return of Izzy Becker to the court, after being out all season.

The Cardinals finished the regular season with a 6-17 record, 1-7 in the conference. They were scheduled to play their first playoff game Oct. 26 at Sauk Centre, after this newspaper went to print.

Team results

Staples-Motley 0, vs Hawley 3

17-25, 14-25, 13-25

Lucy Maros: assists-6, digs-3

Katelyn Schotzko: assists-11, digs-2

Chloe Trantina: digs-5

Kylee Chenoweth: aces-1, digs-4

Hannah Cole: kills-3, digs-3

Addison Potter: kills-8, blocks-1, digs-5

Kyleena Rudlang: assists-1, kills-2, digs-1

Clara Maros: aces-1, kills-4, blocks-1

Jasmyne Hove: kills-2, blocks-1

Taylee Reese: digs-2

Staples-Motley 0, Perham 3

18-25, 7-25, 19-25

L. Maros: 15 assists, 1 dig

Jada Ellingson: 2 assists, 4 digs

Trantina: 7 digs

Chenoweth: 5 digs, 1 ace

C. Maros: 1 kill

Cole: 6 kills, 2 digs, 1 block

Potter: 5 kills

Rudlang: 3 kills, 1 block

Hove: 4 kills, 1 block

Millinda Dewald: 2 assists

Jocy Lenk: 3 digs

Izzy Becker: 1 dig

Public Notices

MINUTES continued from page 9a

ICS Update

-by representative Walter

Policy

(PolicyCommittee Meeting Minutes 9-16-2026)

Motion by Frisk, seconded by Reese, to approve the review of ISD #2170 policies with changes. **MC**

509-2 - Early Admission to Kindergarten

509-2F - Early Admission Forms

Motion by Freeman, seconded by Trout, to approve the review of MSBA policies with no changes. **MC**

406F - Public and Private Personnel Data Form

704 - Fixed Assets

907 - Rewards

Motion by Reeck, seconded by Trout, to approve the review of MSBA policies with changes. **MC**

208 - Development, Adoption, and Implementation of Policies

402 - Disability Nondiscrimination Policy

406 - Public and Private Personnel Data

423 - Employee - Student Relationships

509 - Enrollment of Nonresident Students

514 - Bullying Prohibition

534 - School Meals Policy

621 - Literacy and the READ Act

Cabinet Presentation

-by Transportation Director Klimek

Other

Deep Portage Trip Presentation by Principal Ferdon

Motion by Freeman, seconded by Reese to approve the Deep Portage Trip request for October 28-30, 2026. **MC**

Reports

School Board:

Freshwater *-8-19-2026 Minutes*

Sourcewell -None

Elementary Principal -Report by Principal Koenigs

Middle/High School Principal -Report by Principal Ferdon

Activities/Community Ed Director -None

SMEA -None

Superintendent -Report by Superintendent Tappe

Other

Motion by Reeck, seconded by Frisk, to adjourn the meeting at 6:48 p.m. **MC**

Trisha Larson, Clerk
ISD #2170

45pnc

Upcoming Meetings/ Events:

Mon., Nov. 2, 2026: School Board Meeting (worksession), District Office, 905 4th St. NE, Staples, 6 p.m.

Nov. 3, 2026: ***General Election***

Mon., Nov. 23, 2026: School Board Meeting, District Office, 905 4th St NE, Staples, 6 p.m.

Services & Employment

208 Storage

FOR RENT
Japke's North 8th Street Mini Storage
218-884-9356
6x20, 10x12, 10x20, 10x24
cl42p

209 Business Services

PAUL DRAKE TREE SERVICE, SINCE 1978: General, lot clearing, storm damage clean-up, stump grinding, brushing, 55 ft. bucket truck. 218-894-2871, Staples. 20tfc

Wanted to Buy

501 Miscellaneous

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607 Houses for Sale

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Garage Sales

701

VERY LARGE GARAGE/YARD SALE: Thurs., Oct. 29, Fri., Oct. 30, Sat., Oct. 31, 8 a.m.-5 p.m. each day. 5-1/2 mi. west of CLC North Campus, Staples (corner of Cty Rd 2 and Cty Rd. 26). Watch for signs. 1,000's of items! New Toro leaf vac/ chipper, scuba diving equip., many fishing items, appliances, refrigerators/freezers, tools, more. **Also veggies and pumpkins.** 45p

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END OF SEASON SALE!
CHRISTMAS ITEMS!

Services & Employment

205 Help Wanted

Todd-Wadena Community Corrections
FULL-TIME EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY
DIRECTOR

Monday - Friday, 8:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.
Annual Salary range: $130k - $140k

The purpose of this position is to provide overall administration of Todd-Wadena Community Corrections; to ensure policy and program implementation; to supervise all staff; and to promote the successful adjustment and integration of clients into the community.

Minimum Qualifications:

- Bachelor's degree in Criminal Justice, Psychology, Social work or related field
- Experience demonstrating successful performance in progressively responsible management assignments
- Valid MN driver's license and auto insurance; reliable transportation
- Excellent communication and organizational skills as well as the ability to establish and maintain working relationships with a variety of people.

Criminal background checks are required for this position to meet Agency policy regarding criminal history and offender association. Submit to criminal history checks per Agency policy. Convictions, continuances, stays of adjudication, or other dispositions for crimes other than minor traffic offenses may disqualify individuals from the position. Must immediately report any disqualifying changes to criminal history post-employment.

Benefits: Benefits-eligible positions include: paid time off for earned sick and vacation; paid holidays; excellent insurance plans (health, dental, vision, life, and short and long-term disability); pre-tax accounts for medical, dental, vision and daycare expenses; PERA pension plan; and 457(b) retirement options.

This position is Exempt under the Fair Labor Standards Act. Some non-traditional hours including some evening/weekend hours are required at times in order to meet the needs of the position.

How to Apply:

Contact Megan Kruse, Administrative Assistant, at megan.kruse@toddcountymn.gov or Tel: 320-732-6165, for an application packet. Submit cover letter, resumé, and completed application to Megan Kruse, Administrative Assistant, Todd-Wadena Community Corrections, 221 First Avenue South, Suite 200, Long Prairie, MN 56347.

https://app.partners.jobcase.com/job/hngv5yzV9zX0BJvK3JT0v1iCPwm9WN/

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SW 2026 changed wk #35

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NOTICE OF MORTGAGE FORECLOSURE SALE

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

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

DATE OF MORTGAGE: May 8, 2020

ORIGINAL PRINCIPAL AMOUNT OF MORTGAGE: $263,532.00

MORTGAGOR(S): Jatty D. Zondo, married woman

MORTGAGEE: Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc., as nominee for Guardian Mortgage, a division of Sunflower Bank, N.A.

DATE AND PLACE OF FILING: Recorded on May 13, 2020 as Document Number 519346 in the Office of the County Recorder of Todd County, Minnesota.

ASSIGNMENTS OF MORTGAGE: Assigned to: Guardian Mortgage, a division of Sunflower Bank, N.A. by assignment recorded on October 6, 2023 as Document Number A538428 in the Office of the County Recorder of Todd County, Minnesota.

LEGAL DESCRIPTION OF PROPERTY: The Southwest Quarter of the Southeast Quarter, except the East 33 feet thereof, in Section 4, Township 132, Range 35, Todd County, Minnesota.

STREET ADDRESS OF PROPERTY: 13134 COUNTY 24, BERTHA, MN 56437

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

THE AMOUNT CLAIMED TO BE DUE ON THE MORTGAGE ON THE DATE OF THE NOTICE: $235,754.97

TRANSACTION AGENT: Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc.

NAME OF MORTGAGE ORIGINATOR: Guardian Mortgage, a division of Sunflower Bank, N.A.

RESIDENTIAL SERVICER: Sunflower Bank, N.A.

TAX PARCEL IDENTIFICATION NUMBER: 02-0003900

TRANSACTION AGENT'S MORTGAGE IDENTIFICATION NUMBER: 1005554-1200011864-0

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

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

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

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

to pay the debt then secured by said mortgage and taxes, if any actually paid by the mortgagee, on the premises and the costs and disbursements allowed by law. The time allowed by law for redemption by said mortgagor(s), their personal representatives or assigns is twelve (12) months from the date of sale.

TIME AND DATE TO VACATE PROPERTY: Unless said mortgage is reinstated or the property redeemed, or unless the time for redemption is reduced by judicial order, you must vacate the premises by 11:59 p.m. on December 10, 2027.

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

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

Dated: October 07, 2026

GUARDIAN MORTGAGE, A DIVISION OF SUNFLOWER BANK, N.A.
Mortgagee

TROTT LAW, P.C.

N. Kibongni
Fondungallah, Esq.
Samuel R. Coleman, Esq.
Alexa Marsh, Esq.
Attorneys for Mortgagee
25 Dale Street North
St. Paul, MN 55102
(651) 209-9760
(23-1001-FC05)

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

THIS IS A COMMUNICATION FROM A DEBT COLLECTOR.

43-48pnc

Public Notices

STATE OF MINNESOTA COUNTY OF TODD DISTRICT COURT SEVENTH JUDICIAL DISTRICT PROBATE DIVISION
Court File No.
77-PR-26-1049

In Re: Estate of Daniel C. Owen Sr. (a/k/a Daniel Owen) Decedent

NOTICE OF AND ORDER FOR HEARING ON PETITION FOR FORMAL ADJUDICATION OF INTESTACY, DETERMINATION OF HEIRS, FORMAL APPOINTMENT OF PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE AND NOTICE TO CREDITORS

It is Ordered and Notice is given that on November 30th, 2026 at 11:14 a.m., a non-appearance hearing will be held in this Court at 221 First Avenue S., Long Prairie, Minnesota, on a petition for the adjudication of intestacy and determination of Decedent's heirs, and for the appointment of Donald Brusewitz, whose address is 27212 124th Street, Staples, MN 56479, as personal representative of the Decedent's estate in an unsupervised administration.

Any objections to the petition must be raised at the hearing or filed with the Court prior to the hearing. Any objections filed will result in an appearance hearing to be set at a future date. If the petition is proper and no objections are filed or raised, the personal representative will be appointed with the full power to administer the Decedent's estate, including the power to collect all assets; to pay all legal debts, claims, taxes, and expenses; to sell real and personal property; and to do all necessary acts for the Decedent's estate.

Notice is further given that, subject to Minn. Stat § 524.3-801, all creditors having claims against the Decedent's estate are required to present the claims to the personal representative or to the Court within four (4) months after the date of this notice or the claims will be barred.

BY THE COURT

Dated: October 19, 2026

Heidi Hovis,
Judge of Distric Court

SKOOG LAW
Grant K. Skoog
MN #0403246
24 Colfax Ave. SW
PO Box 623
Wadena, MN 56482
Telephone: (218) 631-1228
E-mail: Grant@Skooglaw.com
ATTORNEY FOR PETITIONER

45-46pnc

Staples-Motley School Board Minutes

MEETING #4
ISD #2170
SCHOOL BOARD
Sept. 21, 2026
6:00 p.m.
District Office

MINUTES

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by Vice Chair Trout at 6:00 p.m.

Roll call was taken, members Frisk, Trout, Freeman, Reeck and Reese were present, comprising a quorum. Member Wright was absent. Also present were Superintendent Tappe, Finance Director Hill, Principal Ferdon, Principal Koenigs, Recording Clerk Larson, Staples World Editor Anderson, members of the public, students and staff members. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Motion by Reeck, seconded by Frisk,to adopt the agenda. **MC**

Vice Chair Trout recognized the public and those in attendance

School/Community Forum

- None

Consent Agenda

Approve minutes from the August 24, 2026 Board Meeting

Approve the hire of Josiah Critten, Elementary Paraprofessional

Approve the fundraiser requests from:
Volleyball
REACH
ISC
STUDCO

Approve the 2026-2027 Advisors

Approve the 2027-2028 School District Calendar

Approve the 2028-2029 School District Calendar

Approve the resignation of Blaine Plattner, Custodian

Approve the resignation of Janelle Thompson, Van Driver

Approve the 2026-2027 Agreement with Training HAUS

Motion by Freeman, seconded by Frisk, to approve the consent agenda. **MC**

Donations and In-Kind Contributions

Motion by Reeck, seconded by Trout,to approve the Resolution to accept In-kind Donations in the amount of $255. **MC**

Finance Items

Financial Report by Finance Director Hill

Motion by Freeman, seconded by Reese, to approve the August disbursements. **MC**

General Fund: $797,440.92
Food Service:$8,002.64
Community Service: $20,984.51
Construction Fund: $375,567.80
Debt Service: $0.00
Fund 21 Student Activities: $190.40
Fund 45: $0.00

Motion by Frisk, seconded by Reeck, to approve the August receipts. **MC**

General Fund: $1,953,802.08
Food Service: $5,379.53
Community Service: $22,519.46
Construction Fund: $186,910.65
Debt Service: $0.00
Fund 21 Student Activities: $3,111.16
Fund 45: $0.00

Motion by Reeck, seconded by Trout, to certify the proposed tax levy at maximum; payable in 2027. **MC**

(Public Announcement: The Truth in Taxation meeting will be held on Monday, Dec. 7, 2026 at 6:00 p.m. in the District Office Conference Room at which time the budget and levy will be discussed and the public will be allowed to speak.)

See **MINUTES** on page 8a

Public Notices

NOTICE LAKE SHORE AERATION WARNING LAKE SHAMINEAU

Open water along the shore with thin ice around the edge on the South shores of Lake Shamineau starting November 2026 and early months of 2027. For inquiries contact 320-309-3783.

43-45pnp

NOTICE LAKE SHORE AERATION WARNING LAKE SHAMINEAU

Open water along the shore with thin ice around the edge on the West shores of Lake Shamineau. Starting November 2026 and early months of 2027. For inquiries call 218-821-1470.

45-46pnp

NOTICE MORAN TOWNSHIP REGULAR MEETING

The Moran Township November monthly meeting will be moved to Monday, November 2, 2026 at 7:00 p.m. at the town hall.

General Elections will be held at the township hall from 7 a.m. to 8 p.m. Tuesday, November 3, 2026.

Diane Mack, Clerk
Moran Township

44-45pnc

NOTICE THOMASTOWN TOWNSHIP GENERAL ELECTION

Thomastown Township, Wadena County, will be open for General Elections on Tuesday, November 3, 2026, from 7:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. at which time the polls will close.

Jon Hamberg, Clerk
Thomastown Township

44-45pnc

NOTICE VILLARD TOWNSHIP GENERAL ELECTION

Villard Township in Todd County, will be open for General Elections on Tuesday, November 3, 2026, from 7 a.m. to 8 p.m. at which time the polls will close.

Mary Trantina Koenig,
Clerk
Villard Township

45pnc

ORDINANCE NO. 216 CITY OF MOTLEY COUNTIES OF MORRISON & CASS STATE OF MINNESOTA

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE COMPENSATION OF THE MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL MEMBERS

The City Council of the City of Motley, Minnesota, ordains as follows:

Section 1. Authority.
This ordinance is adopted pursuant to Minnesota Statutes, Section 415.11, and other applicable law.

Section 2. Monthly compensation.
Effective January 1, 2027, subject to Minnesota Statutes, Section 415.11, the compensation of the Mayor and City Council members shall be as follows:

1. Mayor: $242.00 per month, increased from $220.00 per month.

2. City Council Members: $198.00 per month per member, increased from $180.00 per month.

3. Special Meetings: Compensation for special meetings shall remain unchanged at $25.00 per meeting, subject to existing city policies and applicable law.

Section 3. Effective date.
This ordinance shall take effect upon publication as required by law, with the compensation increases specified in Section 2 commending January 1, 2027, provided that the commencement date complies with Minnesota Statutes, Section 415.11, subdivision 2.

Section 4. Remaining provisions.
All other provisions of the City Code concerning elected official compensation that are not expressly amended by this ordinance shall remain in full force and effect.

Section 5. Publication.
The City Clerk shall publish this ordinance as required by applicable Minnesota law.

Tami Brotherton, Clerk
City of Motley

45pnc

NOTICE OF HEARING ON 2027 STREET AND UTILITY IMPROVEMENTS

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN:

Notice is hereby given that the City Council of Motley will meet in the Council Chambers of the City Hall at 4:30 p.m. on Monday, November 9, 2026, to consider the proposed 2027 Street and Utility Improvements, composed of the making of improvements on Front Street from US Highway 10 to 300 feet east of 1st Avenue, Main Street, Beaulieu Street, Ash Street, and Cedar Street from US Highway 10 to 1st Avenue, and 1st Avenue from Ash Street to Front Street consisting of the replacement of streets, sidewalks, driveway entrances, storm drainage systems, water services, water mains, and sanitary sewer spot repairs, pursuant to Minn. Stat. § 429.011 to § 429.111. The area proposed to be assessed for such improvement is composed of the properties abutting these streets and properties directly served via these streets and utilities. The estimated cost of the improvement is $1,934,500. A reasonable estimate of the impact of the assessment and methodology used to calculate individual assessments will be available at the hearing. Such persons as desire to be heard with reference to the proposed improvement will be heard at this meeting.

Tami Brotherton, Clerk
City of Motley

45-46pnc

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

PUBLIC NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that the Todd County Planning Commission will hold a public hearing on **Thursday, November 8, 2026** at **6:00 p.m.** in the Commissioners meeting room, Historic Courthouse, 215 First Ave. South, Long Prairie, MN to consider the following applications.

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

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

Agenda
•Call to Order
•Pledge of Allegiance
•Introduction of Planning Committee Members and process review
•Approval of agenda
•Approval of Oct. 1, 2026 Planning Commission meeting minutes
•The applicant is introduced
•Staff report
•Applicant confirms if staff report accuretly represents the request
•Correspondence
•Site Visit Review
•Public Comment
•Board review with applicant, staff and public

1. John H. Kessler and Jessie A. Kessler Jacobson, "Kessler's Bay Addition": Section 22, Kandota Township
Site Address: 11264 US 71, Sauk Centre, MN 56378
PID: 14-0025200
1. Request to Create a two-lot Plat in Recreational Development Shoreland Zoning District.

2. Oaks Tree Service LLC, Samson Sjogren: Section 26, Birchdale Township, Sauk Lake
Site Address: 10247 Alcott Drive, Sauk Centre, MN 56378
PID: 03-0037500
1. Request for CUP to operate Service Business from the site in Recreational Development Shoreland Zoning District.

3. Emery C. Miller: Section 06, Iona Township
Site Address: 32422 165th Avenue, Eagle Bend MN 56446
PID: 13-0006100
1. Request for CUP to operate the Wholesale Production of Sheds and Chicken Coops in AF-1 Zoning District.

4. Brian and Roxanne Becker, Beckers Retreat, PUD: Section 04, Round Prairie Township
Site Address: 25158 204th St., Long Prairie, MN 56347
PID: 21-0050700
1. Request for CUP for a 1.64 acre Proposed Planned Unit Development in Recreational Development Shoreland Zoning District.

5. Raymond Birkholtz: Section 27, Villard Township
Site Address: 31336 Spruce Road, Motley, MN 56466
PID: 25-0028300
1. Request for CUP for Temporary Family Housing in AF-2 Zoning District.

6. Samuel Yoder: Section 09, Germania Township
Site Address: 43908 County Road 11, Bertha, MN 56437
PID: 09-0005900
1.Request for CUP for Retail Greenhouse for selling flowers and vegetables in AF-2 Zoning District.

7. Atlee Hershberger: Section 13, Little Sauk Township
Site Address: 22397 190th Street, Long Prairie, MN 56347
PID: 17-0011302
1. Request for CUP for Cabinet Making Business/ Retail in AF-1 Zoning District.

8. Henry Gingrich, Eastwood Estates Plat Two: Section 09, Gordon Township
Site Address: 19941 139th Avenue, Osakis, MN 56360
PID: 10-0006401
1. Request for 3.39-acre one lot Plat in General Development Shoreland Zoning District.

9. Paul Hershberger: Section 08, Little Sauk Township
Site Address: 18701 County Road 93, Long Prairie, MN 56347
PID: 17-0005500
1. Request for CUP for Retail Lumber Yard with proposed 48' x 84' addition to existing structure in AF-1 Zoning District.

10. Chrissie B. Miller: Section 25, Wykeham Township
Site Address: 15690 344th Street, Eagle Bend, MN 56446
PID: 28-0021901 & 28-0021900
1. Request to Rezone the SW ¼ of the NW ¼ of Section 25, Township 131, Range 35 from R-10 to AF-1 Zoning District.

11. Proposed Amendment to Section 9.22, Riparian Protection, of the Todd County Planning and Zoning Ordinance.

12. Proposed Amendment to the Todd County Planning and Zoning Ordinance to create Section 9.24 - Data Centers.

Adjournment.

Next meeting:
December 3, 2026

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

Todd County Planning Commission
Jim Pratt, Chair

45pnc

Notice to Voters

November 3, 2026

Statewide General Election

I Will Vote

Review the information below to learn about upcoming elections.

Access Your Sample Ballot

- Your official ballot will have the names of all candidates for your precinct.
- To see a list of the names of candidates and questions that will be on the ballot for your precinct visit: **mnvotes.gov/myballot**
- You may also be able to view your sample ballot online by scanning:
- You may request to have a free copy of your sample ballot mailed to you.

Find Your Polling Place

- Election Day is Tuesday, November 3.
- You can find your Election Day Polling Place by visiting: **mnvotes.gov/pollfinder**

Voting Before Election Day

- You can vote early with an absentee ballot starting Friday, Sept. 18.
- You can vote early by mail, in person, or from the military or abroad.
- Learn more by scanning:

Additional Election Information

- Most Election Day Polling Places are open 7am to 8pm.
- You may live in a precinct where a ballot is mailed to you as a mail ballot voter.
- If voting by mail, return your ballot no later than 8pm on Election Day.
- Election results will be available starting after 8pm on Election Day at: **https://www.toddcountymn.gov/**
- Check to see if you are pre-registered to vote by scanning:

Contact Your Local Election Official

Your county election official:

- Can mail you a sample ballot for free
- Keeps your voter registration record
- Handles other parts of the voting process

Election official:	Todd County Auditor-Treasurer
General phone:	320-732-4469
Website:	https://www.toddcountymn.gov/
Email:	elections@toddcountymn.gov
Absentee Voting and Mailing Address:	215 1st Avenue S, Suite 201 Long Prairie, MN 56347

45pnc

Notice is Published Pursuant to M.S. 204D.16 and 204D.09 subd 2



Morning Choir performs at concert

Members of the Staples-Motley High School Morning Choir performed "(I've Had) The Time of My Life" at the 2026 Fall Concert Oct. 23. The ensemble meets early in the morning once a week to rehearse, which is how their name was derived. (Staples World photo by Dawn Timbs)



Sam Jennissen launches a pass.

Cebulla family uses technology for farm conservation

Todd County Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD)

For nearly a century, the Cebulla family has cultivated the soil of Hartford Township in Todd County. Today, the fourth-generation operation blends decades of deep-rooted agricultural tradition with modern precision technology. At the heart of the farm is Paul Cebulla, whose unique background, commitment to conservation, and dedication to family define the modern era of this historic homestead.

From Ag Finance to the Family Farm

Paul's journey back to the land was shaped by a strong foundational education and professional experience in agricultural finance. After earning a Bachelor of Science degree in Agricultural Economics from the University of Minnesota (Morris and St. Paul), Paul spent five years working for the Farmers Home Administration. Managing agricultural and residential loans across rural Minnesota - including Mora, Morris, and Willmar - gave him perspective on the economic realities of modern farming.

In 1995, Paul returned to the home farm full-time. When he isn't managing crops or livestock, Paul is driven by his passions for conservation, deer hunting, woodworking, and putting his problem-solving skills to work fixing his children's vehicles.

Paul's family is central to his life and the farm's daily rhythm. He and his wife, Tammy, have raised four children who are now establishing their own diverse careers: Moriah (27), a registered dietician; Isaac (26), an agronomist; Kaitlyn (23), currently a graduate student; and Asher (20), who is also an agronomist. The family framework extends to Paul's parents, Ivan (91) and Connie (87) Cebulla, who remain a vital presence on the homestead.

Century-Long Legacy

The origin of the farm dates to 1928, when the family first moved onto the main 40 acres. The current homestead was officially established in 1945 by Fred and Mary Cebulla. In those early days, the operation relied on two simple log barns - the other for dairy cows.

Diversification and Soil Stewardship

Today, the farm manages a diversified operation consisting of corn, soybeans, hay, pasture and cover crops, alongside a thriving cow/calf enterprise.

To protect the land for future generations, Paul has steadily shifted the farm's management techniques away from heavy tillage. While a small amount of conventional tillage and irrigated ground remains, the farm has gradually transitioned from conventional tillage to minimum-tillage and half no-till practices. This evolution was born out of necessity and stewardship. Hartford Township is known for its varied topography, making soil health important to preserve. By shifting tillage styles, the family has seen a decrease in soil erosion, conserved vital moisture, and maximized input efficiency.

Innovation in the Fields

Precision agriculture defines day-to-day fieldwork on the Cebulla farm. Paul utilizes grid sampling for soil tests, ensuring that fertilizer is applied strictly where it provides the maximum benefit.

To execute these high-efficiency practices, the farm relies on farm equipment with modern modifications:

•A no-till planter equipped with hydraulic down pressure, precision planting technology and pneumatic row cleaners.

•A no-till drill and a seeding drone for cover crops and pastures.

•A combine equipped with yield mapping.

•Tractors fully equipped with autosteer systems.

These tools do more than just streamline fieldwork; they bridge generational gaps. At 91 years young, Ivan still spends many hours operating the tractor, a feat made comfortable and accessible thanks to autosteer capabilities. When he isn't in the tractor, Ivan's favorite vehicle is his side-by-side.

In 1957, brothers Ivan and Jim took over the reins, managing the farm through decades of shifting agricultural landscapes. When Paul returned in 1995, he took his place in a legacy that spans almost 100 years of active, continuous farming in Hartford Township.

For Paul, the precision agriculture systems and the combine are his favorite aspects of the job, allowing him to analyze data and see the tangible return on investment at the end of a demanding season.

A True Family Operation

The Cebulla farm is a collective family effort. Ivan and Connie live on the farm, with Ivan helping out in the fields and Connie keeping everyone fueled with homemade lunches when they are available. Tammy serves as a vital sounding board for major decisions and steps into the tractor cab or runs crucial errands whenever she isn't at school. Of course, no day on the farm is complete without Abby, Paul's beloved Chocolate Lab, who stays glued to his side through every project and field check.

Though the children have grown, their roots remain on the farm. Gathering to vaccinate cattle remains a favorite family activity when everyone is home. Furthermore, Paul leans heavily on the professional expertise of his two agronomist sons, Isaac and Asher, to build and refine the farm's cropping system recommendations.

Community Roots

The Cebullas are active members of Christ the King Church in Browerville and have dedicated years to the Long Prairie Hockey Association. Additionally, they are involved in the Todd County Corn and Soybean Growers Association and Tammy stays active with local school functions.

The family relies on local co-ops and regional suppliers for parts, repairs, seed purchases and agronomic advice. Paul also credits the Farm Service Agency, Natural Resources Conservation Service and the Todd County Soil and Water Conservation District for providing technical advice. To them, community is a mutual ecosystem of support.

Looking to the future, the family offers timeless wisdom for the next generation:

"Hang in there through thick and thin. Some years are good and some are bad."

— Ivan Cebulla

"Don't be afraid to try new things. Grow relationships with folks in the ag field who you can reach out to for help."

— Paul Cebulla



The Cebulla family at their Todd County farm. (Submitted photo)

Todd SWCD conservationists of the year



COW COLORING CONTEST & COW NAMING CONTEST!

Kids ages 0–12 are invited to color our Hometown Harvest cow and show us their creativity! One winner in each age group: Ages 0–4 • Ages 5–8 • Ages 9–12 Color it, make it your own, and turn it in for your chance to win a prize!

Our adventurous cow wandered away from his pasture to see what was happening at Hometown Harvest... but there's one little problem: He doesn't have a name yet! Kids ages 0–12 can submit their best, funniest, cutest or most creative name.

Name: _____ Age:

Parent's Phone or Email:

Winner will be announced on our Facebook page November 15, 2026, and all will be displayed at the Circle K gas station. Circle K will be the drop off point for all entry's!

LHS Care Center recognized as CMS 'Top Performer'

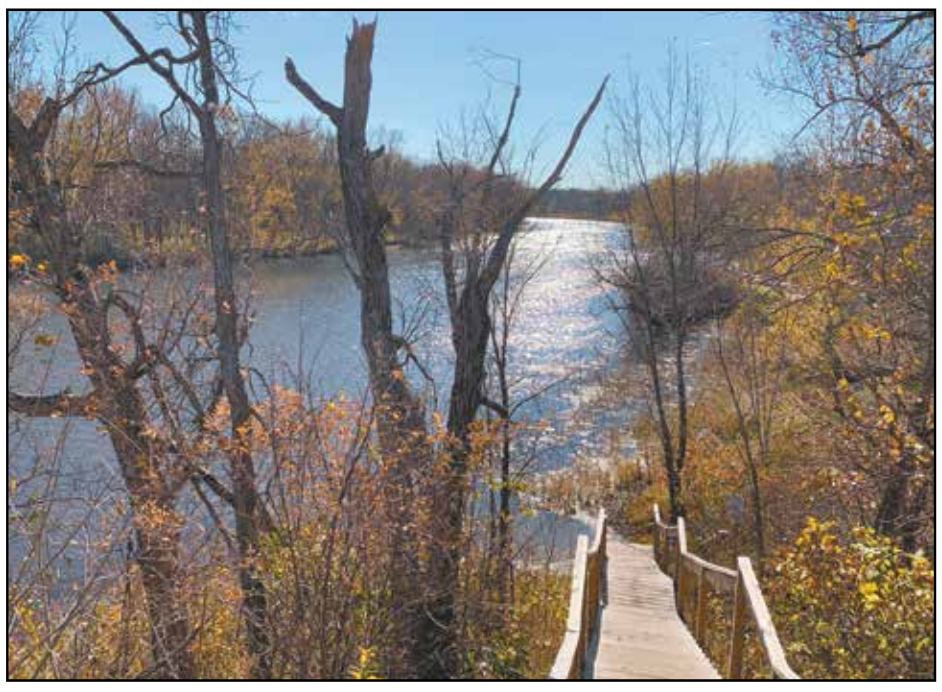
Lakewood Care Center, Staples, has been recognized as a Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) "Top Performer," an achievement earned by fewer than 15 percent of care centers in Minnesota.

This recognition means Lakewood Care Center met a rigorous set of standards established by CMS for quality, staffing, regulatory compliance and resident care. As a result, the care center is eligible for a streamlined Minnesota Department of Health recertification process, known as a Risk-Based Survey, during its next survey cycle.

To earn this designation, facilities must achieve high performance across multiple measures, including quality ratings, staffing levels, survey results, data accuracy and regulatory compliance. They must also demonstrate strong inspection outcomes and a consistent commitment to safe, high-quality care.

The recognition reflects Lakewood Care Center's dedication to excellence and its ongoing commitment to providing exceptional care and positive outcomes for residents and their families.

"This recognition is a significant accomplishment and a testament to the dedication and hard work of our entire team," said Kathy Dobson, Lakewood's vice president of senior services. "Every day, our staff goes above and beyond for our residents, and this honor reflects the excellence they bring to their work. I couldn't be prouder to be part of this team."



Old Wadena Park, Staples, stairway access to the Crow Wing River. (Staples World photos by Janice Winter).



Old Wadena Park bridge.

AUDITORIUM continued from page 1a

Performing Arts Center more than a school auditorium, it is also crucial to community economic development

Their estimate was it would take $1.6 million to get the auditorium completely fixed up. The school's recent referendum will provide around $1 million to pay for physical assets such as rigging, curtains, flooring, and lighting. The school will also provide audio/visual systems and the ability to broadcast events online.

The other needed finishing touches will come from community donations. The committee is looking to raise $425,000 to complete specific portions of the project.

The committee has already started on the improvements, with concrete poured for the new thrust stage and some sound panels installed to help with acoustics.

"We've just started and the progress really shows," said committee member Mike Gold.

There have been a few performances in the auditorium and feedback is showing that people can hear voices from the stage better. They still plan on installing more sound absorbers and reflectors to distribute the sound to every seat without diminishing it.

The fundraising will also provide a new sound system. Gold said the auditorium is operating with one of the oldest sound systems still in use.

The committee is being fiscally responsible with sweat equity and creative purchasing. They plan to build the next sound reflectors locally and they assembled a large group of volunteers with wheelbarrows to fill the orchestra pit with sand when estimates came in higher than their original budget estimates.

The committee considers the project to be more than a school project, but rather something that will improve the community as a whole.

Committee member Ron Denning said the arts and events are something that unite the community.

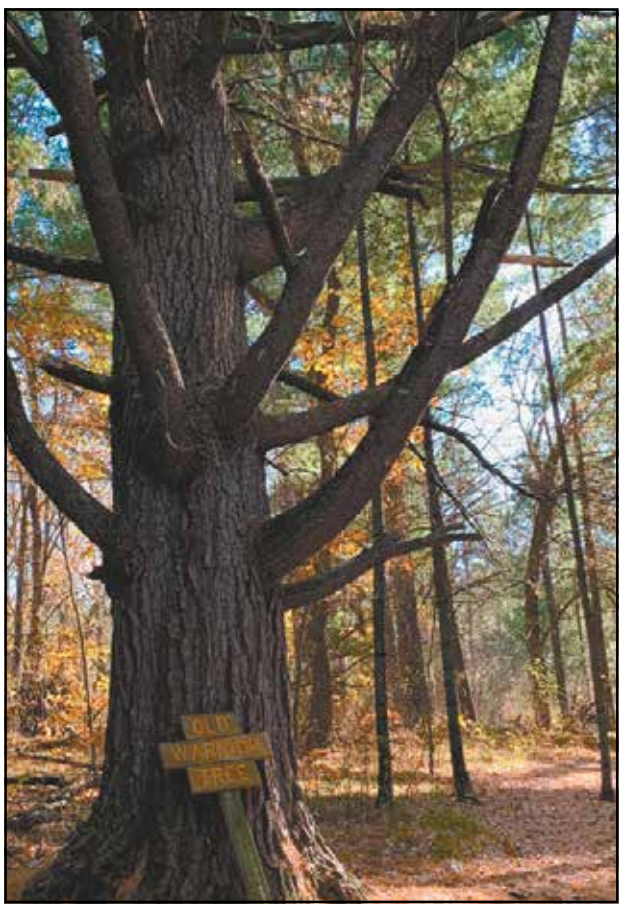
Committee member Tim Rice said the arts can be an economic driver.

"If there is a large arts community, people want to live here," said Rice. "There is a real community benefit to holding successful events."

The fundraising will be rolling out during community activities and art activities over the next few months. Donations can be made monthly or get spread out over time. The project is also set up to accept stocks as payment or donations from an estate.

Donations for the project are going through the Staples Motley Area Arts Council. To get involved or find out more about the project, contact Tim rice at timrice513@gmail.com.

The web site for the auditorium project is smperformingarts.com.



Old Warrior Tree, located at the access to the Bog Walk at Old Wadena Park.



Sunset west of Staples

Colors in the sky were vibrant as the sun set west of Staples Oct. 24. (Staples World photo by Dawn Timbs)

