

Inside this issue:

Essentia combining with Health Partners
Mother/daughter tea photos
Better Breathers support group
Close Homecoming game against ranked team



Wednesday, October 7, 2026

Staples World

Staples, Minnesota

\$125



King Kaleb, Queen Katelyn
Kaleb Harman and Katelyn Schotzko were crowned the 2026 Staples-Motley Homecoming King and Queen Sept. 30, at Centennial Auditorium in Staples. (Staples World photo by Dawn Timbs)

Measles identified in one Todd County resident

Todd County has a case of laboratory confirmed measles (rubeola), as identified by the Minnesota Department of Health Laboratory. This case is reflected on the Minnesota Department of Health Measles Disease Statistics website as of Oct. 1.

The case involves an unvaccinated adult who contracted measles while traveling within the United States. In accordance with data privacy laws and practices, no additional information about the individual is provided.

See **MEASLES** on page 3a

Weather

2026

This Week's Forecast

	High	Low	Cond.
Oct. 7	69	43	M. Sunny
Oct. 8	67	44	P. Cloudy
Oct. 9	63	50	M. Sunny
Oct. 10	74	55	P. Cloudy
Oct. 11	66	47	M. Sunny
Oct. 12	52	38	Cloudy
Oct. 13	57	43	P. Sunny

Last Year, 2025

	High	Low	Cond.
Oct. 7	53°	43	Sunny
Oct. 8	63	33	Sunny
Oct. 9	70	50	Cloudy
Oct. 10	63	42	Sunny
Oct. 11	64	40	M. Sunny
Oct. 12	59	55	Showers
Oct. 13	51	37	Sunny

Average Temps:
H = 58° Low = 39°

Compiled by
Dale Hausmann,
WCCO's Staples area
Weatherwatcher

Public Notices

Evergreen Hill Cemetery 9A

Todd Accuracy Testing 9A

Todd BOA 9A

Obituaries

Ronald Miller Sharon Weyer

Lakewood introduces da Vinci 5 robotic-assisted surgical system

Lakewood Health System, Staples, has expanded its surgical capabilities with the addition of the da Vinci 5 robotic-assisted surgical system, bringing advanced surgical technology closer to patients in central Minnesota.

Lakewood's first three procedures using the new system were successfully completed on Sept. 29, 2026, by general surgeon Dr. Thomas Ruttger, marking an important milestone for Lakewood's surgical program.

The da Vinci 5 is the latest generation of Intuitive's robotic-assisted surgical technology. The system is designed to provide surgeons with enhanced visualization, precision and control during minimally invasive procedures. The surgeon remains in control throughout the procedure, using the system to translate their hand movements into precise movements of specialized instruments.

For patients, robotic-assisted surgery may offer benefits associated with a minimally invasive approach, which can include smaller incisions,

See **ROBOT** on page 12a

Harvest scene Families gather in front of the pumpkin patch at the Hometown Harvest festival Oct. 3 at Northern Pacific Park in Staples. The event was hosted by the Staples Area Chamber of Commerce. (Photo by Mark Anderson)

Property tax rate drop for City of Staples

Mark Anderson
Publisher

The City of Staples cut into their projected budget increase, setting their preliminary budget at a 6.93 percent increase, after their initial budget called for an 8.47 percent increase. The new budget number means the city portion of property taxes will be an average of \$38 less than last year, because the city tax rate decreased 2.24 percent.

At the Sept. 21 Staples City Council meeting, City Administrator Jerel Nelsen

explained the city's budget and how it relates to the tax rate. He said the city put three TIF (tax increment finance) districts fully onto the tax rolls because they met their dollar limit or the duration of the district expired. That put the city's TIF amount from \$308,000 to \$155,000. The city is also growing with more development being put on the tax roll every year.

For the budget, the city is projecting an increase of \$6,000 to come in from Local

See **STAPLES** on page 3a

Remembering Frank Leidenfrost

Dawn Timbs
Staples World reporter

The Staples community lost one of the best Sept. 11, 2026, when Frank Leidenfrost left this world at the age of 91.

Most anyone that knew Frank would agree that he was one of the good guys... devoted husband, tireless volunteer, faithful church goer, inspiring educator and proud veteran.

Born May 20, 1935, Frank grew up on a dairy farm east of Little Falls. He attended country school through the fourth grade, then transferred to St. Mary's Catholic School through the eighth grade and later graduated from Little Falls High School.

Frank's love of sports, particularly football, started at an early age. He played throughout high school and into his college years at Moorhead State, where he earned his teaching degree in 1957. That was the same year he enlisted in the Fargo Air National Guard, later transferring to the Fargo Army National Guard, where he became the Battalion Supply Sergeant.

When he started his teaching and coaching career in Waubun, Frank transferred to the Detroit Lakes Army National Guard unit.

According to his obituary, Waubun is also where Frank would meet "the love of his life, Amy." They

were married in Menahga on Aug. 3, 1963, and would spend the next 63 years together...sharing a love for education, travel and service.

The Leidenfrosts moved to Staples in 1966, where they both taught Physical Education and Frank coached football. As noted in his obit, "Frank also taught Driver's Education and was very proud of the passing percentage of his students."

Known affectionately as "Frosty" to his many students over nearly three decades teaching at Staples High School and Staples-Motley High School, Frank's recent passing triggered an outpouring of love at the Survivors of Staples High School (SHS) Facebook page.

Stace Johnson wrote, "A great man with a kind heart. He reinforced my love of running, respect of burpees and most importantly, being a good person. RIP-thank you."

Raye Ludovissie shared, "Frosty was the best, always happy to see ya, also loved hearing, 'I hear burpees!'"

Dan Holst, now of Box Elder, S.D., commented, "A great teacher and friend. I had Frosty and Amy on my paper route for years. Always so kind and so many of us who had him for PE will never forget the burpees when you screwed up in his classes."

Mark Scioli of West St.



Quite a team

Frank and Amy Leidenfrost, longtime residents of Staples, devoted much of their lives to education and community service. Married for 63 years, the Leidenfrosts both taught Phy Ed at Staples High School (later, Staples-Motley) for nearly 30 years. In addition to their work at school, Frank and Amy served together at the Staples Area Food Shelf, the Lions Club and Sacred Heart Catholic Church. The above faculty photo is from the 1975 Staples High School yearbook.

Paul, wrote, "Mr. Leidenfrost was one of my favorite teachers and coaches. He always had kind words of encouragement for me when playing football for him. I became a PE teacher and coach partly because of him, RIP Sir. Know you were loved by many."

Commenting from Oelwein, Iowa, Steve Latham said, "A great teacher. I took several PE classes because he was teaching them. I took his trap shooting class

and now I have been teaching and coaching shooting classes for almost 25 years."

In addition to his teaching and coaching, Frank's legacy includes his years of community service, most notably with the Staples Host Lions Club, the Staples Area Food Shelf and at Sacred Heart Catholic Church. With the Lions, Frank served in a variety of positions over the years,

See **LEIDENFROST** on page 12a



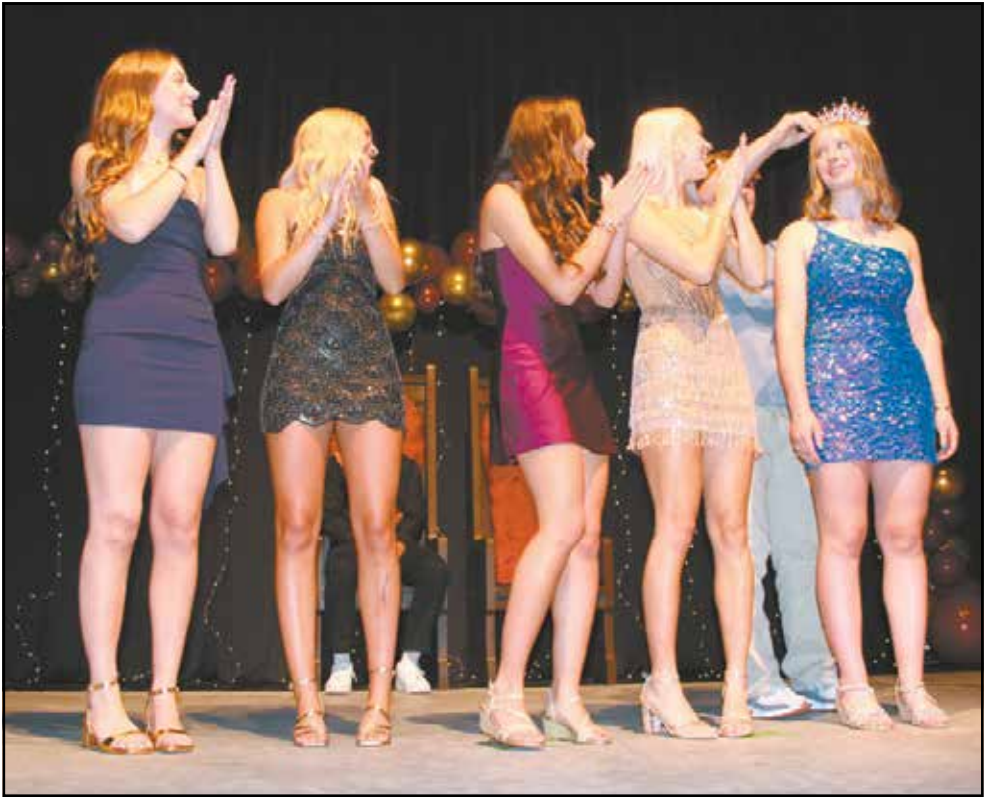
Mother/Daughter Tea at Landmark Inn

A number of mothers and their daughters attended the Mother/Daughter Tea at the Landmark Inn in Staples Sept. 27. The event was hosted by the non-profit organization Staples Motley Area Women of Today (WOT). Those in attendance enjoyed a variety refreshments served in true 'high tea' fashion, as well as a time for crafts and visiting with others. At top, WOT member Nicky Anderson (standing) serves some goodies to Stacy Harthan and her daughter Ensley. (Staples World photos by Dawn Timbs)



Special time together

Jennifer Arms and her daughter Katherine, of Baxter, enjoyed the recent Mother/Daughter Tea at Landmark Inn in Staples. Sponsored by Staples Motley Area Women of Today, the event included refreshments, crafts and an opportunity to have your picture taken together. (Staples World photo by Dawn Timbs)



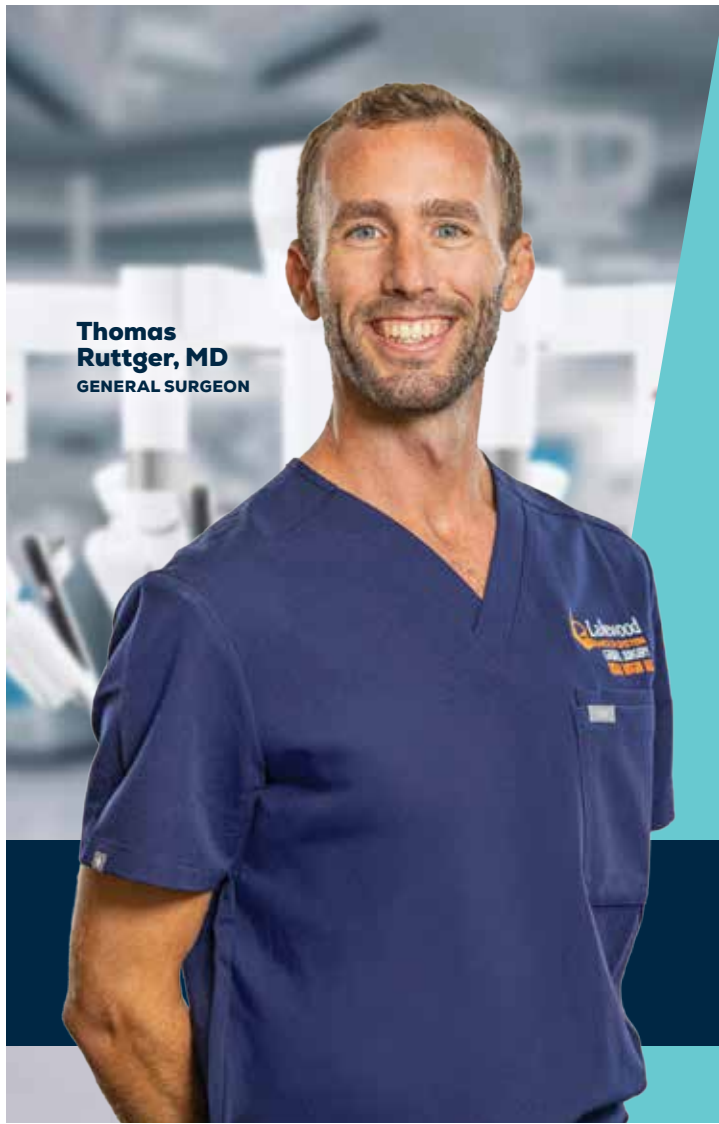
Crowning the king and queen

Last year's Homecoming King Riley Reese returned to his alma mater to crown the 2026 Staples-Motley High School Homecoming king and queen. Above, Katelyn Schotzko receives the crown as fellow candidates cheered for her. Queen candidates, from left, Izzy Becker, Leighton Bettis, Chloe Trantina, Kyleena Rudlang. Below, Reese crowns Kaleb Harman the new Homecoming King. Other king candidates, from left, Thomas Johnson, Justin Olson, Evan Schultz, Reese Headley. (Staples World photos by Dawn Timbs)



Red Hats club meets for lunch in Staples

Members of the Staples area Red Hats Society club met for lunch recently at The Boxcar in Staples. Pictured, from left, Rose Hoemberg, Gloria Marden, Amy Lindstrom, Liz Lindgren, Maryann Donovan, Maryann Riewer, Carol Kollodge (Queen Mum), Mary Waldorf (guest), Linda Bartylla, Jude Vrdoljak, Diane Harbiger, Dawn Larson. (Staples World photo by Dawn Timbs)



Thomas Ruttger, MD
GENERAL SURGEON

Two Experts. One Surgical Team.

ROBOT-ASSISTED SURGERY. RIGHT HERE.

Advanced technology can make a difference. So can the people using it. Lakewood's da Vinci 5 surgical system provides our surgeons enhanced visualization, precision and control during minimally invasive procedures. For patients, that can mean smaller incisions, less pain and a faster recovery. It's advanced technology in the hands of an experienced team focused on one thing: helping you get back to the life you love.

LESS INVASIVE, FASTER RECOVERY.





FOR MORE INFORMATION,
VISIT OUR WEBSITE AT
LAKEWOODHEALTHSYSTEM.COM



MEASLES continued from page 1a

Measles vaccinations available through Todd County or from area clinics

vidual or known contacts will be released.

Todd County Health & Human Services is working to identify individuals who may have been exposed to measles and anyone experiencing symptoms consistent with the disease.

“We are working to prevent the spread of measles in our community,” said Todd County Health & Human Services Director Jackie Och. “Residents who are unvaccinated are at the greatest risk of infection.”

Measles is a highly contagious disease that spreads easily through the air when an infected person breathes or coughs. Symptoms include a high fever, which may exceed 104°F, cough, runny nose, red or watery eyes and a characteristic rash. The rash typically begins at the hairline and spreads to the face, neck and then the rest of the body. Symptoms generally appear seven to 14 days after exposure.

If you have symptoms of measles, stay home and avoid visitors until you have spoken with your health care provider. Seek medical care promptly, as measles can cause serious complications, including pneumonia, encephalitis (swelling of the brain) and, in rare cases, death.

Complications are more common among children younger than five years of age and adults older than 20. Measles during pregnancy can increase the risk of premature labor, miscarriage and low birth weight.

The safest and most effective way to prevent measles is through vaccination with

the MMR (measles, mumps, and rubella) vaccine. Talk with your health care provider if you have questions about vaccination. Vaccination also helps protect infants, pregnant individuals and people with certain immunocompromising conditions who may not be able to receive the vaccine.

Todd County Health & Human Services encourages all residents to:

- Report measles symptoms to their health care provider or Todd County Health & Human Services.
- Seek medical care promptly and obtain testing if you develop measles symptoms. Always call ahead so the health care provider can prepare for your arrival.
- Review your vaccination status and get vaccinated if needed.

Additional information about measles is available from the Minnesota Department of Health: <https://www.health.state.mn.us/diseases/measles/index.html>.

For information about measles, testing, exposures or vaccination status, contact: Todd County Health & Human Services at 320-732-4500.

Vaccination assistance

Individuals with private health insurance should contact their primary care provider. Those who are uninsured, underinsured or enrolled in a Minnesota Health Care Program should contact Todd County Health & Human Services at 320-732-4500.

75 YEARS Ago - 1951

• Oct. 4, 1951 - Two reports came to Staples, one by telegram, and the other by letter to relatives, stating that two Staples soldiers who are with the fighting men in the Korean Battle had been reported missing in action and wounded.

In a telegram from Wm. E. Bergin, Major General U.S.A. dated Oct. 3, at 12:26 p.m. the following information was given:

“The secretary of the army has asked me to express my deep regret that your son, Pfc. George Bradway, has been missing in action in Korea since the 27 of August. Upon receipt of further information in this office you will be advised immediately. Confirming letter follows. I regret notification was so long delayed.”

- O -
Compiled by
Dawn Timbs
- O -

Mr. and Mrs. Bradway had received a letter from their son, Sgt. John Bradway dated Sept. 3, that a medic had told him George had been dressed for a leg wound. A week later a clerk of the company told John that they had no record of where George had been taken to a hospital.

The Bradway brothers had been in the front lines in active battle for over 60 days, with only a 4-day rest period in that time.

The first of this week Mrs. Birten Herman received a letter from a “buddy” of her husband, telling her that Birten had been injured and had been flown from behind the battle front to Tokyo where he was hospitalized.

No official information has been received by Mrs. Herman at the present time, so she does not know the nature of his injuries or the exact cause of them.

Both the Bradways and Mrs. Herman are anxiously awaiting further information relative to their son and husband.

• Oct. 4, 1951 - Thursday evening, Sept. 27, as Mrs. Milton Finn, her son Tom and daughter Floris, and a nephew and niece, Harold and Donna Finn, were enroute to their home north of Staples after the first show, they had a narrow escape from possible death as their car crashed into the rear of a pickup truck which was parked along the road without lights.

• Oct. 4, 1951 - Sharon Scharf has been elected president of the recently organized Staples Chapter of the Jr. Future Homemakers of America. Sharon, with the help of vice president, Mary Anderson; secretary, Rosalie Olander; treasurer, Deanna Brolard; song-leaders, Janice DeWald and Judith Holderbak; reporter, Margaret Edin; historian, Rita Jenkins; and committee chairman, Lois Ingersoll, will work on plans for this year's program.

• Oct. 4, 1951 - Pvt. Waldo Frisk, Motley, is now stationed in Korea with the anti-aircraft artillery, north of Seoul.

50 YEARS Ago - 1976

• Sept. 23, 1976 - A devotee of the traditional Japanese dance is the newest member of the Staples high school

junior class. Her name is Naoko Yanagihara, a foreign exchange student, and her foster family for the coming school year are Mr. and Mrs. Jack Wilson and Kristy.

Naoko is 17, and had been a junior in the Takada senior high school of her home city of Tera-machi, Joetsu-shi, Japan. Her parents are Shoji and Fusae Yanagihara, and she has a brother, Toshiaki, 15.

• Sept. 23, 1976 - Homecoming 1976 will be observed by the students of Staples High school all next week, according to information released today by the Student Council, sponsors of the event.

The homecoming festivities will kick off Monday, Sept. 27, with the coronation of the Homecoming Queen. Coronation ceremonies are slated in the Staples Auditorium, starting at 8 p.m.

Five girls of the Class of 1977 were named last week as candidates for the title of SHS Homecoming Queen. Vying for the honor are Natalie Wise, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Floyd Wise; Sandy Denning, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Raymond Denning; Julie Pluth, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. R. M. Pluth; Nancy Kern, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Albert Winkels; Terry O'Keefe, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Gerald O'Keefe.

• Sept. 23, 1976 - Donovan's Bowling Center will open Thurs., Sept. 23 at 5 p.m. Stop in and see our new lanes or for any league information. Lounge will also be opening Thurs., Sept. 23 at 5 p.m. Located at West Hwy. 10, Staples, Minn.

• Sept. 23, 1976 - The following Staples high school cross-country varsity members participated in the Sebeka Invitational recently: Jim Ziegler, Randy Carlson, Mike Heldman, Kevin Crocker, Chris Longbella, Bob Backberg and Paul Mertens.

• Sept. 23, 1976 - A total of 2,356 students are attending classes in all Staples schools for the 1976-77 term, according to information released this week by the various schools.

The 2,356 figure shows an increase of 29 students from those in attendance the opening weeks of school one year ago. The total figures released include enrollments at the Staples Elementary school, Staples High school, Lincoln Model Nongraded school, Sacred Heart school and the Staples Area Vocational-Technical Institute.

25 YEARS Ago - 2001

• Oct. 4, 2001 - Dr. Ted Lewica retires after 36 years... but two new doctors have begun their practices after joining the Lakewood Clinic in Staples this past summer. They bring to nine the total number of family practice doctors at the local clinic.

Although both Dr. Jonathan Claussen and Dr. Arden Beachy began taking regular clinic shifts this summer on a part time basis, they officially became part of the local medical scene as of Sept. 1.

• Oct. 4, 2001 - The Staples Motley Area Chamber of Commerce recently welcomed new business Giovanni's Pizza restaurant, located at 304 Second Ave. NE, Staples. The owners/managers of Giovanni's



Mystery photo

Hello readers. This week's archive photo is from 1976. 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.

Pizza are Fran and Shawn O'Rourke. Chamber members at the ribbon cutting were Pat O'Regan, Andre Sebasky, Jennelle Shriver and Darla Peterson.

• Oct. 4, 2001 - Jason Tholl followed his blockers through a hole and took the opening kickoff back 82 yards for the Cardinals to begin a 31-14 homecoming game victory over the very tough East Grand Forks Green Wave on Friday, Sept. 28.

“I just followed my two blockers, Adam Johnson and somebody else, and headed up the middle,” Tholl said after the game. “They made a hole so big even (Coach Ryan) Beachy could have made it through.”



Mystery solved

Last week's mystery photo published in the Sept. 2, 1976 edition of the Staples World featured Mrs. Gladys Motl serving Bruce Hayenga of the Faith Lutheran Church a hot bowl of homemade soup in appreciation of the church's donation of a stove and refrigerator for the Staples Community Center. Motl is the coordinator of the Senior Citizens Nutrition Program which is offered at the Community Center. Their first meal served was a chicken dinner for \$1.

Alan Judd of Browerville correctly identified both Gladys and Bruce. He shared that Gladys was his aunt and that she was a wonderful lady and a fun person, in addition to being a great cook. Judd recalled that Gladys was a cook at the Frost Top Diner in Staples, which later became KFC (Kentucky Fried Chicken), at which she also worked. Their family still has the delicious coleslaw recipe that Gladys “stole” from that era, Judd laughed.

Judy Wolak of Staples correctly identified Bruce Hayenga, but thought the woman was Mrs. Macho, who was a cook at the high school. Wolak went on to share that Hayenga was the head chef at the Staples Vocational School at that time. Thanks for participating in our mystery photo.



The Hometown Harvest event had straw bale benches for people to rest in quiet.

Staples World

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.

Across from the
old Staples Theatre
marquee



Latest duck stamp winner triggers fond memories

Last week the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service announced the winner of this year's federal "duck stamp" contest. The contest is an annual competition among wildlife artists. The prize for winning is the privilege of having your artwork featured on the special stamp that must be purchased by all who hunt waterfowl; which, for all intents and purposes, means ducks and geese. The stamp purchase requirement for hunters dates back to 1934, instituted as a conservation measure to raise funds for the acquisition and protection of vital wetland habitat, including securing conservation easements.



Mike Rahn

Winning the contest is a highly-sought honor, but it may surprise the unfamiliar that there is no cash awarded. What the artist does get is the right to publish and profit from the sale of limited-edition art prints of the winning image. Not to mention the acclaim that comes with this prestigious accomplishment. More than a few wildlife artists have launched successful careers in this narrow art niche with duck stamp contest wins.

This year's winning image will go on the 2027 duck stamp. As readers may know, the 2026 Minnesota waterfowl hunting season is already in full swing. It began with the 5-day early teal season the first week of September, followed by Youth Waterfowl Weekend for hunters age 17 and under, and the general opener—all hunters, all legal species—on September 26th.

This year's duck stamp contest winner is Bob Hautman. His last name is likely to sound like a broken record, given the fact that he and his two brothers—Jim, and Joe—have among themselves won the federal duck stamp contest seventeen times. For the record, this year's winner Bob has now won four times, ace-high brother Jim seven times, and sibling Joe, six. When you consider that any duck stamp contest winner is ineligible to enter for the following three years, the Hautman trio—Minnesotans all—has been at this game for a very long time.

What the Hautmans seem to have is a knack for knowing what the judges are looking for, and delivering it. There are some generally understood criteria. First and foremost is anatomical accuracy. As much as some of us appreciate impressionism, there is little room for it in the duck

stamp contest world, where a true-to nature image is the name of the game. The bird, or birds, should be large, central within the overall image, and realistic. The artwork must depict one of five pre-chosen species. This year the options were blue-winged teal, cackling goose, mottled duck—a bird of more southern climes—king eider, and long-tailed duck.

Some form of habitat element, or elements, must be there, too, and must be authentic and ecologically correct. High contrast, bright design, and good line and color definition are uniquely important in this contest, because judges must also evaluate how well the mandatory 9-inch by 12-inch original artwork will look when it has been reduced down to a tiny 1-3/4 inch by 1-1/2 inch stamp. In keeping with the contest's 90-plus year tradition, no image element that is photographic—or today, digital—is permitted.

What immediately struck me about this year's winning image was the species depicted. That bird—a showy drake, with a smaller, more subtly-plumed female in the background—was of the same species that graced the federal duck stamp in the first year that I hunted waterfowl. This bird is the renamed long-tailed duck, previously known to generations of waterfowl hunters as the oldsquaw, until the American Ornithologists Union renamed it a quarter century ago.

That renaming might have been interpreted as political correctness displacing tradition. But the truth is, this duck was—even before that time—already known as the long-tailed duck in Europe and Asia, where it also is found. And, admittedly, its former name was anything but flattering.

That first duck stamp I purchased for the privilege to hunt waterfowl was the 1967-68 stamp. I have it in a tiny 3 1/2 inch by 4 inch blue frame that is a close match to a blue tone in the stamp itself. Unlike Bob Hautman's two long-tailed ducks in flight, the two depicted in my stamp from 59 years ago are standing on ice; fitting, considering that this is a bird that breeds on the Arctic and sub-Arctic tundra and taiga.

As with most ducks, the male long-tailed is the more colorful, a concession to needed concealment for a female brooding eggs and young. In winter the male is one of the most handsome of ducks; predominantly white, with angular patches of black or brown on neck, breast, wings, and back. A small pink patch adds contrast to a black bill. Two extremely long, black, central tail feathers are responsible for its new name.

It has a circumpolar range that includes not

only North America but also Greenland, Iceland, northern Europe, and Russia. The long-tailed duck winters in ice-free northern waters along the Atlantic and Pacific coasts of North America, as well as in our Great Lakes, the latter making it an honorary winter Minnesotan.

If any duck can be called a bottom-feeder, the long-tailed would qualify. It can dive to depths of more than 200 feet, dining on clams, mussels, fish, fish eggs, aquatic insects, with a lesser amount of vegetable matter thrown in. Certainly a duck on the stronger-tasting side, and worthy—though some might argue otherwise—of a recipe concocted to temper strong flavor.

Another Minnesota connection was the artist who created that first stamp of my long waterfowl hunting life. It was none other than Les Kouba, an artist certainly as legendary as the Hautmans. In those days you did not purchase your hunting license or necessary additional stamp online. Hunting licenses were commonly purchased at hardware stores and sport shops. The federal duck stamp was often purchased at a post office, even though it was not a legal means of sending mail. That same hardware store might also have a supply of duck stamps, something you hoped for if you happened to forget to stop at a post office during open hours before the waterfowl opener.

I was not as dedicated as some in keeping the duck stamps from every year I have hunted waterfowl. But the one in the tiny blue frame over my desk speaks to me as much as any full collection could. No other, not even a collection, could be as meaningful.

Frank Odell

Heavy is the silence after goodbye. Not loud, not crashing—no thunder, no trumpet—just a quiet that sits beside you like an uninvited guest who refuses to leave. And in that silence, echo the memories do. The laugh. The touch. The way they said your name like it actually meant something. Gone they are. And broken, you feel.

Strange it is, how the world keeps spinning when yours has stopped. Coffee still brews. Traffic still crawls. People still argue about things that suddenly feel very small. Meanwhile, standing you are at the base of a mountain—an emotional Everest—steep with grief, slick with tears, and shadowed by the question no one really wants to answer: How do I go on?

Climb it, you must. Not because you want to. Not because it's fair. But because life, stubborn as a mule, keeps nudging you forward. One step, then another. Some days crawling. Some days sliding backward. Progress, messy it is. And oh, the hurt—sharp as shattered glass, heavy as wet cement. A broken heart is not poetic when you're living inside it. It's raw. It's restless. It's relentless. Miss them, you do. In the morning light. In the empty chair. In the quiet moments where their absence is louder than their presence ever was.

Funny, almost cruel, how love works. The deeper the love, the steeper the climb. The stronger the bond, the sharper the break. You don't just lose a person—you lose routines, rhythms, shared jokes, half-finished sentences. You lose the "we" and inherit the "me." And "me" feels awfully small sometimes.

But here's where belief steps in— Because if love

is real—and deep down, you know it is—then it doesn't just vanish like smoke in the wind. It changes form. It shifts. It settles into places you don't expect: a song on the radio, a memory that sneaks up on you, a strength you didn't know you had. Gone from sight, yes. Gone from existence? No.

"Go rest on that mountain," we say. A simple phrase. Almost gentle. But behind it stands a powerful belief—that there is peace beyond pain, rest beyond struggle, and life beyond this life. Comforting, that is. Accepting that? Not easy it is. Doubt will visit. Questions will knock. Anger may even sit down and stay awhile. "Why them?" "Why now?" "Why me?" No tidy answers come. No neat explanations tied with a bow. But acceptance is not about understanding everything. It's about choosing to trust something. To trust that love matters. To trust that life has meaning. To trust that goodbye is not the final word. Not gone, never gone. Grief doesn't disappear; it changes shape. What once crushed your chest becomes something you carry differently. Still heavy, but manageable. Still present, but not paralyzing. Laugh again, you will.

Feel joy again, you can. Love again... yes, even than. Not replacing—never replacing—but continuing. Expanding. Honoring what was by living what is.

Think of the mountain again. At the base, overwhelming it feels. Impossi-

ble. Halfway up, exhausting it is. Doubt creeps in. But near the top... perspective changes. See farther; you can. Breathe deeper; you do. And though the climb cost you tears, sweat, and pieces of your heart, stronger you've become. Not because you wanted to be. But because you had to be.

So, what now? Live, you must. Not perfectly. Not fearlessly. But faithfully. Carry them with you—not as a weight that drags you down, but as a presence that lifts you up. Speak their name. Tell their stories. Laugh at their jokes—even the bad ones. Especially the bad ones. Because love remembered is love still alive. And one day—far from now, but certain as sunrise—you'll reach your own mountain's end. And maybe, just maybe, there they'll be. Not broken. Not hurting. Not gone. Rested. Waiting.

Until then, step by step, climb you will. Through tears, through memories, through moments that sting and moments that strangely shine. Because though broken your heart may be, beating it still is. Though heavy your grief may feel, moving you still are. Though deep your loss may run, deeper still your love goes. And love—stubborn, enduring, eternal love—will guide you up that mountain. One step at a time.

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

Quote of the week
"You get old and you realize there are no answers, just stories."
— Garrison Keillor

Many things going on in Staples

Ron Murray
Mayor of Staples

Hi everyone. I'm going to start to write these letters more often because there's so much going on and I want to let everyone know. Our "Music in the Park" series was a great success again and as I sat at the park on Sunday, it was so cool to sit in this beautiful park with the majestic pines watching all the people who came to enjoy the beautiful night of music and weather. I looked around and on the streets surrounding the park people were walking with dogs and kids, it was small town at its best. Since I last wrote here, the Farmer's Union meat processing plant had its ribbon cutting ceremony, tours and is open for business. A very impressive small scale plant to meet the needs of our local producers. I'm hopeful that it grows from word of mouth

from area producers and look forward to the store front to come in the future.

I was out again on the newest walking trail in Staples at the Ag Center and Legacy Gardens. So nice to have a connection and finished loop from the paved trail on Airport Road with an added 1.7 mile loop. What a unique view as you walk around the fields. It was even used for the 5K Run during Railroad Days. Speaking of Railroad Days, what a great few days with Saturday being spectacular with weather and turnout. The parade route was shorter but the spectators were there in numbers. I enjoyed the Hwy 10 Marching Corps, and the candy, of course. Next year is the 50th Anniversary of Railroad Days so be watching for details related to the celebration.

I mentioned in previous letters about collaboration and it was in good form at

the RR Days celebration. The crowd was so big that there was an emergent need for more chairs and tables and we were able to secure some quickly from the Sacred Heart Church and School nearby, got them out and up with a quick group of volunteers. Everywhere you looked people were working together to make this event so great. Timberlake organization provided extra help with some of the things needed to support the downtown festivities and their staff lifting and hauling. Awesome.

LEAP (Leadership, Engagement, Advocacy and Positivity) executive committee recently held a collaboration meeting of city, chamber and Discover Staples tourism and community leaders to discuss ownership of key areas related to growth, development and promotion related to Staples. Great discussion and decision making occurred to help us moving forward and to reduce duplication of efforts.

The 4th Street project is nearing completion, at the last weekly construction meeting, work was to be done on curbs and gutters on the next section with sidewalks to follow. All of the infrastructure is in the ground and it will now be getting the finishing touches, cleaning up and getting the first layer of pavement on the road. The intersections to Fourth street will be ramped up with black top to ease the driving. The project should wrap up for the year by the end of October and then the final over lay of 4th Street in the spring. Thanks for all the patience of our citizens, businesses and homeowners.

Our local Cub Scout pack, along with Long Prairie and Browerville, are working towards a combined Boy Scout program. Ben Underhill is our current Cub Master. Our local Rotary Club sponsored them with financial needs and with programming.

Our local area Chamber of Commerce is involved in many community events and visibility is increasing to promote our local and area businesses. Their big fall event, Hometown Harvest took place October 3. I was hoping to encourage everyone to go but this letter will come out afterwards. I hope it was a huge success. Speaking of businesses, we'll have another new business in town, Junction Nutrition. Owners Jason and Jen Cave are both from the area and filled with energy to bring this to Staples.

I spoke at the CLC RaiderCon student activity day last week which allowed students to have some fun but also think about bigger life or career aspects such as the concepts Build, Grow and Connect. Mike Hajek, Renee Kroll and myself spoke between the student led events. Dean of students Erich Heppner emceed the event.

Staples is in the process of hiring a new Economic Development Director. The previous people in this position have done the work to provide many new business and grants of upwards of over \$500,000.

For improvements for the City including the community center. We're fortunate to have the ability to have a person to promote our city economically. We have a list of things to work on to bring business to Staples for the new hire. Let me know what you think we need.

The Lights in the Pines, the winter light display at Pine Grove Park, is having a community work day for any and all volunteers on Oct. 24. If you have time and would like to see and be a part of this fun event, stop out and someone will put you to work.

As always, I would like to hear your feedback and solutions to things you would like to see different. We're at work and a lot of people are working hard for Staples.

Staples World

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

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

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

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

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Costume friends

At the Hometown Harvest celebration, two friends loved each other’s costumes. (Staples World photo by Mark Anderson)

Mark Your Calendar

October 8

‘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>

WADENA WHIRLWAYS SQUARE DANCE GROUP DANCING Thursday, Oct. 8, 7 - 9:30 p.m., at Lakewood Health System Care Center, 401 Prairie Ave NE, Staples. Brian Freed, caller. For info., 612-743-3480.

October 9

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 11

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

October 12

THE STAPLES-MOTLEY CHAPTER OF THE RETIRED EDUCATORS OF MN (REAM) Monday, Oct. 12, 9:30 a.m., Sacred Heart Church basement, Staples. Access through the south door. Bring a friend.

October 13

GRIEF SHARE • 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.,

Cardinal Calendar

SM school events

October

- **HOME FOOTBALL** Oct. 8, 4:30 p.m., jr. high.
 - **HOME VOLLEYBALL** Oct. 8, 4:45 p.m., C team, Legacy gym; 6 p.m., jr. varisty, The Nest; 7:15 p.m., varsity, The Nest.
 - **HOME FOOTBALL** Oct. 9, 7 p.m., varsity.
 - **SMHS ATHLETIC HALL OF FAME INDUCTION CEREMONY** Oct. 10, 5:30 p.m., Centennial Auditorium, Staples.
 - **HOME VOLLEYBALL** Oct. 12, 4:45 p.m., C team, Legacy gym; 6 p.m., jr. varsity, The Nest; 7 p.m., varsity, The Nest.
 - **MEA - No School** Oct. 15-16.
 - **FALL CONCERTS - BAND/ORCHESTRA/CHOIR** Tuesday, Oct. 27, MS, 6 p.m.; HS, 7:30 p.m.
- All Staples-Motley Upcoming Events are subject to change. Go to www.isd2170.k12.mn.us for up to the minute information.

Lakewood Health System offers Better Breathers Support Group for those living with lung conditions

Living with a lung condition can bring unique challenges, but connecting with others who understand those experiences can make a difference. Lakewood Health System (LHS) of Staples, in partnership with the American Lung Association, offers the Better Breathers support group for individuals living with lung conditions such as COPD, pulmonary fibrosis, pulmonary hypertension or lung cancer. It’s a monthly opportunity to learn, share experiences and connect with others. Led by an American Lung Association-certified facilitator, the group provides a supportive environment

where participants can discuss the challenges of living with respiratory disease while gaining practical information to help manage their health and improve their quality of life. Topics may include how respiratory disease affects the lungs, breathing techniques, exercise and healthy eating, navigating the healthcare system, medications and treatment options, and more. Better Breathers meetings are held on the third Wednesday of each month from 1 to 2 p.m. in Classroom A at the LHS main campus, 49725 County 83, Staples.

Upcoming meetings are:

- Oct. 21, 2026
- Nov. 18, 2026
- Dec. 16, 2026
- Jan. 20, 2027
- Feb. 17, 2027
- March 17, 2027

Theres no cost to attend and no RSVP required. Participants are welcome to attend meetings as their schedules allow. For questions or more information about the Better Breathers Support Group, contact Lisa Hall at 218-232-8956 or lhall4096@gmail.com, or email respiratorytherapy@lakewood-healthsystem.com.



1,000 Books (read) Before Kindergarten

Langston Kleinschmidt recently completed the 1,000 Books Before Kindergarten program at the Staples Library. Help get your child ready for kindergarten, by signing up for the program and receive a free backpack. Call the library at 218-894-1401 to register or stop by 122 6th St. NE, Staples. The program is sponsored by the Staples Friends of the Library. Left: Library Asst. Angie Johnson and Langston Kleinschmidt. (Submitted photo)

MOTLEY United Methodist Church
Fall Harvest
Turkey Dinner
Weds., Oct. 14
Serving 4:00 - 6:30 p.m.
Turkey dinner with all the trimmings.
Adults \$15.
Ages 6-12 \$7.
5 & under Free
847 3rd Ave. So. Lane, Motley, Mn.

DEADLINE
for all classified
ads and copy is
12 noon Friday

**NOTICE**
Water Main Flushing
The City of Staples Water Department will be flushing water mains throughout the City as needed, **Oct. 5 - Oct. 16, 2026**. You may experience cloudy water during this time. If this occurs, allow the cold water to run until it clears.

**Steve’s Auto Salvage & G&L Service**
•Tires (New & Used)
•Tubes •Belts
•AG Tires •Bulbs •Oil •Antifreeze
•Used Auto Parts
218-445-6885 • Located in Verndale at Steve’s Auto

**Todd County**
WHERE THE FOREST MEETS THE PRAIRIE
• MINNESOTA • EST. 1855 •
HOW TO VOTE ABSENTEE FOR STATE GENERAL ELECTION NOVEMBER 3, 2026
Absentee voting is currently available for all eligible Todd County Voters at the Todd County Auditor-Treasurer’s office for the upcoming State General Election on November 3, 2026.
Regular office hours are Monday through Friday 8:00 a.m. – 4:30 p.m. at the address of 215 1st Avenue S, Suite 201, Long Prairie, MN.
There will be **additional** hours available on:
Saturday, October 24 9 AM to 3 PM
Tuesday, October 27 8 AM to 7 PM
Saturday, October 31 9 AM to 3 PM
Sunday, November 1 9 AM to 3 PM
Monday, November 2 8 AM to 5 PM
If visiting us in-person, parking is recommended on the courthouse hill lot and entry through the north door (nearest the statue and flag) of the Historic Courthouse building. Curbside service is available by calling 320-732-4469 when you arrive.
To absentee vote by mail, persons are welcome to mail, fax, or e-mail us a signed image of their Absentee Ballot Application form and our office will mail the absentee ballot materials as promptly as possible.
An Online Absentee Ballot Application Portal &/or printable Absentee Ballot Application forms can be found at <http://www.mnvotes.gov>.
Note: If you are currently a member of the Uniformed Services (or spouse/dependent) or temporarily or indefinitely overseas please use the website named above for alternate UOCAVA Application procedures.
Completed Absentee Ballot Envelopes can be returned by in-person delivery or mail delivery to the Todd County Auditor-Treasurer’s Office at 215 1st Avenue S #201, Long Prairie, MN 56347 located in the Todd County Historic Courthouse.
Please contact the County Auditor’s Office at 320-732-4469 or elections@toddcountymn.gov with any questions.

STAPLES ASSEMBLY OF GOD IS PROUD TO HOST
FRESH FIRE MINISTRIES
revival
renewal
refreshing
**FOR YOUR LIFE
FOR YOUR MARRIAGE
FOR YOUR MINISTRY
FOR YOUR CHURCH**
“rekindling and fueling the fire”
EVANGELISTS BILL & BETH JUONI
Whitewater, Wisconsin
WHEN:
OCTOBER 18-21, 2026
Sunday: 9:30 AM, 10:30 AM, 6:00 PM
Monday – Wednesday: 6:00 PM
WHO:
Evangelist Bill Juoni
Sharing on the Holy Spirit and End Times
WHERE:
Staples Assembly Of God
914 3rd Ave NE
Staples, MN 56479
REVIVAL | RENEWAL | REFRESHING | A FRESH WORK OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

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

VOTE NOVEMBER 3 7TH DISTRICT CONGRESS
Michelle FISCHBACH
REPUBLICAN FOR CONGRESS
DELIVERING FOR WESTERN MINNESOTA
**✓ 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.
U.S. Representative District 7
Michelle Fischbach
Republican
Make a plan | Be a Voter November 3rd
To find your polling place, please call 320-593-3145 or visit mn07.link/vote26
PAID FOR BY FISCHBACH FOR CONGRESS

Hello World

Obituaries

Needing/Wanting a Granite Memorial FOR YOUR FAMILY?



I can help!
Diane M. Hahn
32 years serving our area!

Rep. for Fergus Falls Monument Co.

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

ONLINE BIRTHS REMOVED
AT THE REQUEST OF LAKEWOOD
HEALTH SYSTEM.

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.
Weds., AWANA 6:00 p.m.

Assembly of God

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

Church of Christ

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

Faith Lutheran

430 12th Street. NE., Staples..... 218-894-1546
Pastor 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..... 218-631-1593
parishsecretary@marysacc.org
Rev. JC Duncan, 218-632-7314
Rev. Greg Sauer, 218-632-7319
Mass: Sunday..... 8:30 a.m.

Seventh Day Adventist

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

Thomastown Covenant

15940 251st Ave., Staples..... 218-894-3923
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 Worship..... 10:30 a.m.
(Nursery Available for Sunday Worship)

Aldrich

Balsamlund Lutheran

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

Cushing

Bethany Lutheran

25430 Bison Rd. Cushing, MN
320-749-2140
Pastor Robert Drake
www.bethanylutherancushing.org
Sunday Worship 10:00 a.m. i.
Communion 1st and 2nd Sunday
of each month

Lincoln Evangelical Free

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

Cushing Baptist

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

Leader

Swan Valley Lutheran

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

Maple Hill Lutheran

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

Motley

Motley Free Methodist

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

St. John's Lutheran

497 3rd Ave. S, Motley..... 218-352-6399
Pastor Vicar Paul Koehler
Sunday School and Bible Class 8:30 a.m.
Sunday Worship..... 9:30 a.m.

St. Michael Catholic Church

280 1st Ave S, Motley..... 218-631-1593
Rev. JC Duncan, 218-632-7314
Rev. Greg Sauer, 218-632-7319
Mass: Sunday..... 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 or 218-472-3316
Pastor Neal Malcore
Sunday School 10:00 a.m.
Sunday Worship 11:00 a.m.

Pillager

First Lutheran Church

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

Casino Assembly of God

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

First Baptist

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

Hewitt

Church of the Nazarene

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

Trinity Lutheran Church (LCMS)

524 Front Street, PO Box 116, Hewitt, MN
Pastor Robin Fish
Sunday Worship 10:30 a.m.

Hewitt Community Church

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

Verndale

Verndale Alliance

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

Family Life Church

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

Hope Chapel Alliance

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

Immanuel Lutheran Church of Bartlett Township (LCMS)

17097 460th St., PO Box 37, Verndale
Pastor Robin Fish
Sunday Worship 9:00 a.m.
WEDNESDAY
Bible Study..... 6:30 p.m.

Verndale United Methodist

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

Central Community Church

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

St. Hubert Catholic Church

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

Leaf River Township

The Old Country Church

Leaf River Twp., Wadena County Rd. 6
Info. 218-837-5690 Call first.

Wadena

St. Helen's Episcopal Church

22 Dayton Ave. SW, Wadena, MN
218-631-3928
Sunday Worship 10:00 a.m.

St. Ann's Catholic Church

514 1st Street SE, Wadena(218) 631-1593
Rev. JC Duncan, 218-632-7314
Father Greg Sauer, 218-632-7319
parishsecretary@marysacc.org
Mass: Sunday (livestream)..... 10 a.m.

Sharon Weyer

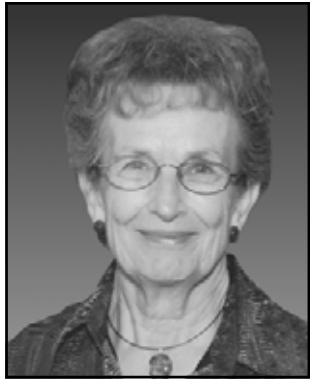
Sharon Irene Weyer, 83, of Mission, TX, and formerly of Staples, passed away September 19, 2026, in Bettendorf, IA, surrounded by her family.

Funeral services will be held at 11:00 a.m., Friday, October 16, at Sacred Heart Catholic Church in Staples. Visitation will be held one hour prior to services at the church. A luncheon will follow at 12:00 p.m.

Her final resting place will be at Fort Snelling National Cemetery in Minneapolis.

Sharon was born December 24, 1942, to Leo and Gertrude (Tauer) Koll in Morgan. She was the oldest of nine children. After high school graduation, she went to a secretarial school in Minneapolis. After completing the training, she worked in the secretarial pool for the CIA in Washington, D.C. until she married the love of her life, Larry Weyer, on November 25, 1961, in Olivia.

Sharon enjoyed being a military wife for almost 20 years, before they retired in 1975 to a “hobby farm” in Staples. During her time in Staples she enjoyed attending her children’s school events, maintaining a large garden, participating in bowling leagues and being a long-time member of Circle 5 at Sacred Heart Catholic Church. After their retirement from farming, Sharon and Larry traveled full-time in their fifth wheel trailer before settling in Mission. As the youngest resident of Bentsen Palm RV Park, Sharon enjoyed participating in all of the activities there. Her greatest joys were bowling, going to dances several times a week



and sewing baby quilts for the local hospitals.

Sharon is survived by two sons, Michael (Joy) of Staples and Steven of Mission; three daughters, Ellen (Jeffrey) Jones of The Colony, TX, Janis (Chuck) Fagin of Deer River and Brenda (Stephen) Sorensen of Long Grove, IA; 10 grandchildren, Jason (Laura) Weyer, Megan (Alex) Wohl, Tera (Jesse) Kohn, Renee Paskewitz, Cameron Jones, Kelsey Jones, Erin (Adrian) Pop, Callum Fagin, David Sorensen and Rachel Sorensen; seven great-grandchildren, Grace, Ava and Ruby Paskewitz, Abigail and Ian Weyer, Isaiah and Zachary Wohl; six siblings, Audrey White, Quentin Koll, Mavis Lamka, Cynthia Koll Tengwall, Jody Strommer and Shelly Gatewood.

Sharon is preceded in death by her husband and infant daughter, Eileen Weyer; her parents and two brothers, Loren and Galen Koll.

Memorial contributions in lieu of flowers may be made directly to the Alzheimer’s Association (donor-services.alz.org).

w42p A00006B2026OT07

~IN MEMORIAM~

Ronald S. Miller



Ronald (Ron) Spencer Miller, 79, died peacefully on September 25, 2025, at his home in Mission, Texas with his wife of 34 years at his side.

Ron was born March 24, 1946 to Jay and Edith Miller in Staples, MN.

Ron graduated in 1964 from Staples High School. He served four years in the U.S. Navy and two years in the National Guard, serving from 1965 to 1971.

Ron is survived by his loving wife, Kate. The couple met in 1992 while in the optical business as opticians ABOC. They retired in Staples together, became winter Texans, moving to Mission, TX. Kate loved Staples and following Ron’s death, relocated there in June, 2026, where she enjoys living and is looking forward to many more years.

Kate wanted to honor her husband’s memory in a special way and volunteers at the Staples Veterans Store. The organization has helped fulfill a purpose, while honoring her husband and all the veterans who fought for our country - thank you veterans!

Ron is survived by his wife, Kate; one son, Joel Miller, DDS; one step-daughter, Jennifer Dukek and special, loving caregiver, Rubin Mijo; one sister-in-law, Lorie (James) McLellan and many wonderful friends.

Ron was preceded in death by his beloved daughter, Heidi (Miller) Quam whom he loved, calling her his little mouse. Now they are together in Heaven.

“I will always think of you and smile. You were my best friend.” Thank you, always.

PAID ADVERTISEMENT w42p A00006B2026SOT07

Life Currents Policy

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

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

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

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

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Cardinals never give up in Homecoming loss

The Staples-Motley football team played their best game of the season against the toughest team on their schedule, coming close to upsetting Dilworth-Glyndon-Felton before falling one touchdown short in a 34-26 loss. This was the Cardinal Homecoming game on Oct. 2.

The Cardinals kept their opponents off balance with quarterback Cooper Tappe completing passes all over the field and mixing up effective running plays with Beau Carlson and Cayden Niesen.

The Staples-Motley defense allowed some big plays early in the game but learned how to shut down the DGF attack by the end of the game.

Tappe scored a touchdown on a keeper play late in the fourth quarter to get within eight points, but the team never got another chance to pull even after DGF converted on a fourth down play and were able to run out the clock.

DGF came into the game as a top ten team in Class AAA, the class with larger schools than the Class AA Staples-Motley team, which had a record of 1-3.

The game started poorly, with the Cardinals fumbling the ball away on their first possession. DGF ran the ball several times before getting into the end zone, but the Cardinal defense made a stop on the extra point.

Tappe got back to work picking apart the defense and after more first downs, he found Niesen behind the defense for a long touchdown pass. Niesen kicked the extra point for a 7-6 lead. DGF scored quickly again with a big run and again were stopped on the extra point to make the score 7-12 after the first quarter.

Staples-Motley made another nice drive to the 30 yard line, but were stopped on fourth down. DGF scored quickly again to make it 7-20.

After another first down, the Cardinals had to punt. Russell Milton pinned them back at the five yard line with a great punt. The defense started to show signs of stopping DGF when Owen Roline punched the ball out while making a tackle and Ayden Blue fell on it for a turnover. Unfortunately, they gave it right



Evan Schultz weaves through defenders after making a catch.

back with an interception.

Late in the half, DGF started passing down the field until Niesen leaped over a receiver for an interception. The half ended with Staples-Motley down 7-20.

The second half started with Zach Tabatt plugging up the inside and preventing DGF from getting long runs. Linebackers Tristan Moore and Adrian Caldwell were able to fill the other gaps for tackles and DGF was forced to punt for the first time in the game.

The Cardinals gave it back right away with a fumble and DGF made another touchdown for a 7-26 score.

It looked like the game was getting out of reach, but Staples-Motley wouldn't give up and started another scoring drive. On 4th and 1 at the DGF 40 yard line, Carlson ran around the left side and outran everyone to the end zone to make the score 14-26.

After DGF scored on a

long pass to go up 14-34 to start the fourth quarter, the game turned around for good. Passes to Evan Schultz and Carlson, a draw play to Carlson and three runs by Niesen brought the ball down to the two yard line. Carlson took it in for the touchdown, narrowing the lead to 20-34.

Schultz, Tabatt and Caldwell made stops to force DGF into a three-and-out punt, then Carlson made a nice return to the 37 yard line. Tappe passed to Niesen and two more runs by Niesen brought it to the one yard line, where Tappe scored on a keeper play to make the score 26-34.

In the final minute, Moore, Caldwell and Schultz stopped DGF on third down to set up a punting situation, but DGF faked the punt and ran for a first down to end the game.



Turning the game upside-down

The Dilworth-Glyndon-Felton blockers could only stand and watch as three Cardinal tacklers got past them to stuff a running back late in the game. From

left, Evan Schultz (4), Tristan Moore (35) and Adrian Caldwell (55) stay low for the tackle. (Staples World photos by Mark Anderson)



Beau Carlson races two defenders to the end zone for a touchdown.

Offensive line clears holes against ranked team

Either protecting the quarterback or making holes for the running game, the Staples-Motley offensive line took a big step in improvement against Dilworth-Glyndon-Felton. In photo at right, Bryson Dumpprope (51), Adrian Caldwell (55), Liam Jennissen (5) and Russell Milton (77) block for the running backs. Below, the line clears a hole for running back Tristan Moore. (Staples World photos by Mark Anderson)



Competitive matches but two losses

The Staples-Motley volleyball team played their third straight five-set match against Pine River-Backus on Sept. 28, falling 3-2 at home. Against Frazee on Oct. 1, they played evenly until late in the first two sets, then gave up a string of points to lose at the end. They fell behind in the third set and were unable to catch up.

Team results
Staples-Motley 2, Pine River-Backus 3
17-25, 26-24, 24-25, 25-21, 13-15
Lucy Maros - 23 assists, 1 kill, 9 digs
Katelyn Schotzko - 2 aces, 7 assists, 2 kills, 3 digs
Chloe Trantina - 2 aces, 6 assists, 1 kill, 30 digs
Kylee Chenoweth - 1 ace, 11

digs
Clara Maros - 1 assist, 5 kills, 1 dig
Kyleena Rudlang - 1 ace, 1 assist, 5 kills, 10 digs
Hannah Cole - 6 kills, 4 blocks, 2 digs
Addison Potter - 2 aces, 9 kills, 6 blocks, 2 digs
Jada Ellingsen - 1 kill
Jasmyne Hove - 6 kills
Jocelyn Lenk - 1 ace, 3 digs
Staples-Motley 0, Frazee 3
18-25, 19-25, 15-25
L. Maros - 1 ace, 13 set assists, 3 kills, 5 digs
Schotzko - 8 set assists
Trantina - 2 aces, 6 digs
Chenoweth - 2 aces, 3 digs
C. Maros - 7 kills, 1 dig
Potter - 5 kills
Cole - 1 ace, 3 kills, 2 blocks, 4 digs
Hove - 3 kills
Ellingsen - 1 kill

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Public Notices

NOTICE
LAKE SHORE
AERATION WARNING
LAKE SHAMINEAU

An aeration system will be in operation, west shore-line of Lake Shamineau, property address 34568 and 34524 from cover 2026 to ice out 2027.

Purpose: to prevent shoreline damage due to ice expansion. Please be aware of open water.

42-43pnc

NOTICE
LAKE SHORE
AERATION WARNING
LAKE SHAMINEAU

An aeration system will be operated in order to protect shoreline from ice expansion December 15, 2026 to May 1, 2027 on the south shore of Lake Shamineau located off shore of 2002 and 2014 Arras Lane, Motley MN 56466. Be aware of thin ice and open water.

DNR Permit 2025-3295.

42-43pnc

NOTICE
LAKE SHORE
AERATION WARNING
LAKE SHAMINEAU

Aeration system will be in operation, shoreline of Lake Shamineau, Lot #2196 from ice cover 2026 to ice out 2027. Purpose: to prevent shoreline damage due to ice expansion. Be aware of open water or thin ice.

42-43pnp

NOTICE
EVERGREEN HILL
CEMETERY
FALL CLEAN-UP

Evergreen Hill Cemetery, Staples, will be doing their fall clean-up at the cemetery on Thurs., Oct. 15, 2026. Flowers must be maintained in an attractive manner or they will be removed. Flowers must be on shepherd hooks, pedestal style pot holders or monument toppers. No other items allowed.

Bob Reeck, Secretary
Evergreen Hill Cemetery
42pnc

TODD COUNTY
NOTICE OF PUBLIC
ACCURACY TESTING

The public is welcome to observe the Public Accuracy Testing of the DS200 Vote Tabulator Machines and OmniBallot Assistive Voting Devices for the upcoming State General Election.

Testing will commence on Monday, October 12, 2026 beginning at 9:00 a.m. until complete.

This testing event will be located in the Main Street Government Center at 347 Central Avenue, Long Prairie, MN.

Contact 320-732-4414 with any questions.

Denise Gaida, Todd
County Auditor-Treasurer
42pnc

TODD COUNTY
BOARD OF
ADJUSTMENT
215 First Ave. South
Long Prairie,
Minnesota 56347
320-732-4420
toddplan.zone@co.todd.
mn.us

PUBLIC NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that on **Thursday, October 22, 2026 at 6:00 p.m.** the Todd County Board of Adjustment will hold a public hearing in the Commissioner's board room, 215 1st Ave South, Suite 301, Long Prairie, MN

NOTE: This meeting is again being held in-person and the public is encouraged to attend. 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? Call or email 320-732-4420 or **toddplan.zone@co.todd.mn.us**.

- Agenda
- Call to Order
- Pledge of Allegiance
- Introduction of Board of Adjustment Members and process review
- Approval of agenda
- Approval of September 24, 2026, Board of Adjustments meeting minutes
- The applicant is introduced

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

1. Dennis Waldvogel:
Section 25, Birchdale Township, Big Lake Lake

Site Address: 10736 Angler Trail, Grey Eagle, MN 56336
PID: 03-0059200

1. Request to reduce the Road Right-of-Way setback from 20' to 10' for the replacement of the garage.

2. Request to increase the allowed height for a non-conforming accessory structure from 18' to 25' for the replacement of the garage.

3. Request to increase the allowed roof surface coverage from 15% of the total lot size to 19.18% for the garage replacement all in Recreational Development Shoreland Zoning District.

2. David Skatarella:
Section 16, Burnhamville Township, Long Lake #27

Site Address: 31263 Enchanted Loop, Burtrum, MN 56318

PID: 06-0054300
1. Request to decrease the road right-of-way from 20' to zero for pantry addition

2. Request to reduce the OHW lake setback from 100' to 52' for pantry addition, both in Recreational Development Shoreland Zoning District.

Adjournment.
Next meeting:
November 19, 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 Board of Adjustment
Russell VanDenheuvel,
Chair

42pnc



Costume parade

The Golden King and his Minecraft knight protector lead a group of children across the stage at Northern Pacific Park, as part of the Hometown Harvest cos-

tume contest. Many people had already left because of rain, the a few stayed to show their costumes. (Photos by Mark Anderson)



Chili Cook-Off

Twelve pots of chili were entered into the Chili Cook-Off, part of the Hometown Harvest festival at Northern Pacific

Park on Oct. 3. Pictured, contestants rate the chili before choosing their favorite.



Harvest play

Bouncy houses were popular for children at the Hometown Harvest event.



Who is this stuffed animal?

A large stuffed cow was on display at the Hometown Harvest. The Staples Area Chamber of Commerce will be

sponsoring a coloring contest that will ask children to name the cow.

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3M donates to Motley Area Food Shelf

Members of the 3M Golf Club, all employees of 3M in Staples, recently donated \$5,000 to the Motley Area Food Shelf (MAFS). The funds were raised at their 3rd Annual 3M Charity Golf Tournament, held at The Vintage in Staples Sept. 12. A total of 18 teams participated, with all proceeds going to area food shelves. Pictured, from

left, Jeff Booth, Jason Brichacek, Reggie Thompson, Chris Erickson, Scott Lenk, Joe Baity, 3M employees; Jodi Reeck, MAFS Director; Scott Hillstrom, Dave Crider, Joel Haverkamp, Isaac Radniecki, Zach Hillstrom, Allan Robinson, Bob Stracek, Darrell Hoernberg, 3M employees. (Staples World photo by Dawn Timbs)



3M donates to Staples Area Food Shelf

Members of the 3M Golf Club, all employees of 3M in Staples, recently donated \$5,000 to the Staples Area Food Shelf (SAFS). The funds were raised at their 3rd Annual 3M Charity Golf Tournament, held at The Vintage in Staples Sept. 12. A total of 18 teams participated, with all proceeds going to area food shelves. Pictured, from left, Jeff Booth, Reggie Thompson, Chris Erickson,

Scott Lenk, Joe Baity, 3M employees; Amy Leidenfrost, SAFS Director; Scott Hillstrom, Dave Crider, Joel Haverkamp, Isaac Radniecki, Zach Hillstrom, Allan Robinson, Bob Stracek, Darrell Hoernberg, 3M employees. (Staples World photo by Dawn Timbs)



Curious about face painting

At the Hometown Harvest event on Oct. 3, a long line of children wait their turn while watching the process closely. (Staples World photo by Mark Anderson)

Essentia combines with HealthPartners

HealthPartners and Essentia Health announced that their boards of directors have approved an affiliation agreement to combine their organizations. Together, the two Minnesota-based nonprofit health systems will expand access to care and coverage, strengthen specialty services and leverage technology to better serve patients and support clinicians.

Essentia has locations throughout central and northern Minnesota, plus some in Wisconsin and North Dakota. HealthPartners is mainly in the Twin Cities area and is branching out into rural Minnesota locations such as Hutchinson and Olivia.

Essentia has been combined with St. Joseph's Medical Center, Brainerd. HealthPartners has been combined with Park Nicollet.

"This combination is about doing more for the people and communities who count on us," said HealthPartners President and CEO Andrea Walsh. "HealthPartners and Essentia Health share a belief that everyone deserves access to high-quality care and coverage, close to home and centered on their needs. Together, we can build on the strengths of both organizations to improve health, expand access and create a stronger future for the communities we serve."

"Our organizations share similar missions and values, deep roots in this region and a focus on improving health and well-being," said Essentia Health CEO David Herman, MD. "As a combined nonprofit health system, we will be able to better innovate and grow our workforce. That strong foundation will make us even better partners for our patients, working together to help people live their healthiest lives, wherever they call home."

The organizations have complementary strengths in care delivery, health plan coverage, urban and rural community health, research, medical education and innovation. Combining the strengths of each organization, the nonprofit health system will:

- Expand access to care across urban and rural communities. The combined organization will include 22 hospitals, more than 135 clinics and 6,000 clinicians, creating one of the region's largest nonprofit health systems and extending access to care across Minnesota and the Upper Midwest.
- Build on a proven record of quality and outcomes. Both organizations have been consistently recognized as top performing health systems for quality

by Minnesota Community Measurement and have earned national recognition for excellence in quality, patient experience, innovation and clinical performance.

- Make care and coverage easier to navigate and more affordable. HealthPartners combines care delivery and health plan expertise in a nationally recognized integrated model that consistently delivers lower total costs of care compared with national benchmarks.

- Strengthen local care while expanding specialty expertise. Patients will benefit from a greater depth of expertise and expanded access to specialists, advanced clinical programs, telehealth and coordinated care through strong local care teams and community relationships built over decades of partnership.

- Accelerate innovation, research and workforce development. Together, the organizations will expand investments in digital health, research, data analytics and workforce development. Essentia's research and education programs provide more than 500,000 hours of training each year for future healthcare professionals. HealthPartners trains more than 600 residents and fellows annually and brings research to patients and community members through hundreds of clinical trials and research studies.

- Support a team of 45,000 colleagues. Colleagues will have access to expanded career pathways, educational opportunities, academic partnerships and shared expertise across a larger integrated organization. HealthPartners is one of Minnesota's top ranked employers, including being recognized as a Top Workplace by the Star Tribune, Newsweek and other organizations. Essentia has been recognized as a top 100 in-state workplace by Forbes for eight consecutive years.

The combined organization will be called HealthPartners. Current HealthPartners President and CEO Andrea Walsh will lead the new organization. David Herman, MD, who has been CEO of Essentia Health since 2015, will serve as president of combined clinical care group operations. Essentia facilities will retain the Essentia Health name while operations are integrated.

Pending regulatory approvals, the organizations anticipate the combination will be effective Jan. 1, 2027. Patients and members should not experience any changes or interruption to their care or coverage.

For more information, visit healthpartners-essentiahealth.com.

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Cardinals race fast on wet course at B-H

The Staples-Motley cross country teams continued improving with two third place finishes at the Bertha-Hewitt Invitational on Sept. 29. The teams competed on a wet course at the Double Eagle Golf Course near Eagle Valley.

The boys team benefited from a good performance by their fourth and fifth runners, who are needed for the team score. Alex Leach and Brayden Moore had their fastest races of the year despite the wet course with puddles in some places. In the team score, the Cardinals ended up tied for second place, so Jackson Bitzer became a varsity scorer as the sixth runner. He came in just behind Ashby-Brandon-Evansville's

sixth runner, so the Cardinals lost the tiebreaker and ended up in third place.

The girls team all had their fastest times of the year as their five scorers placed in the top 21 places for a low team score, but two other teams had more runners in the top ten, dropping Staples-Motley to third place.

Team results
Bertha-Hewitt Invitational
Boys results (5,000 meters)
Wadena-Deer Creek 18, Ashby-Brandon-Evansville 107, Staples-Motley 107, Ottertail Central 119, Long Prairie-Grey Eagle 120, Pillager 144, Menahga 149, New York Mills 178, Vern-

dale 241

11. Andrew Dobson 19:12, 19. Spencer Olsen 19:53, Jackson Odden 20:02, 33. Alex Leach 21:00, 46. Brayden Moore 22:18, 71. Jackson Bitzer 26:40

Middle school (3,200 meters): 16. Gustavo Lozano 14:59, 23. Kai Bestland 15:51

Girls results (5,000 meters)
Menahga 55, Ottertail Central 61, Staples-Motley 73, Wadena-Deer Creek 93, Parkers Prairie 99, Brandon-Evansville 137, Long Prairie-Grey Eagle 172

8. Elise Trif 21:31, 14. Anna Warner 22:00, 21. Suhaila Mikhaeil 22:44, 24. Elizabeth Kroll 22:55, 26. Alexis Odden 23:20, 61. Cydney McGree-Schmidt-bauer 32:39



Elise Trif (center, 5141) competes with a pack of runners in the first mile of the Bertha-Hewitt Invite. (Staples World photos by Mark Anderson)

Tennis team overcomes tough competition

Against Osakis, the match started out with Staples-Motley falling behind in four of the first six matches being played, while singles players Kaylee Perius and Charlie Noska powered out way in front. The first and third doubles teams got back in front and won in straight sets. By the time Ronnie Noska started the number one singles match, the Cardinals were well on their way to a 5-2 victory.

Against Pine City, the number three doubles team of Charlie Noska and Mia Pest brought very strong

positive energy to the court and rolled through their opponents. The top singles and doubles players for Staples-Motley had uncharacteristic off nights during their second set. Madison Perius and Natalie Hanson got it back in the third set. Ronnie Noska did the same in the second set, hitting the ball just inches wide on several baseline shots. She played a 10 point tiebreaker for the third set, but lost.

Team results
Staples-Motley 5, Osakis 2
Singles: Ronnie Noska W

6-1, 6-1; Kaylee Perius W 6-0, 6-0; Lydia Roelofs L 6-7 (4-7), 4-6; Charlie Noska W 6-0, 6-0

Doubles: Madison Perius/Natalie Hanson W 6-3, 6-1; Mia Pesta/Sarah Kroll L 3-6, 6-4, (9-11); Alexa Dolezal/Katelyn Erickson W 6-4, 6-3

Staples-Motley 4, Pine City 3
Singles: R. Noska L 6-2, 5-7, (7-10); K. Perius W 6-3, 6-0; Erickson W 6-0, 6-0; A. Dolezal L 2-6, 5-7

Doubles: M. Perius/Hanson W 6-2, 4-6, 6-3; Kroll/Roelofs L 3-6, 4-6; C. Noska/Pesta W 6-2, 6-3



Ronnie Noska



Setting up for a sprint to the line

With the whole crowd watching, as two competitors try to catch him. (Staples World photos by Mark Anderson)



Brayden Moore



Jackson Bitzer



Alexis Odden kicks past a competitor in the finishing stretch.

ROBOT continued from page 1a

Advanced surgical technology experience now at LHS

less pain, reduced blood loss and shorter recovery times, depending on the individual patient and procedure.

“By bringing advanced technology into the surgical experience, Lakewood is helping create a smoother path from procedure to recovery, with patients and their quality of life at the center,” said Ruttger. “I’m excited to see how the da Vinci can add to the already great work our team is doing.”

Lakewood is among a small number of health-care facilities in Minnesota with a da Vinci 5 system, providing patients in the region access to some of the newest robotic-assisted surgical technology without having to travel to a large metropolitan medical center.

The addition of the da Vinci 5 builds upon Lakewood’s commitment to investing in technology, services and expertise that allow patients to receive high-quality care close to home. While robotic-assisted technology provides surgeons with additional capabilities, each patient’s care plan is individualized, and the surgical approach used depends on the procedure and the patient’s specific needs.

The da Vinci 5 will support Lakewood’s growing surgical program and expand the options available for minimally invasive procedures at Lakewood Health System.

For more information about surgical services at Lakewood Health System, visit lakewoodhealthsystem.com.



Harvest parade of costumes

A big blue monster was part of the Hometown Harvest costume parade on Oct. 3. (Photo by Mark Anderson)

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LEIDENFROST continued from page 1a

Community, school minded individual



Dedicated volunteer

In 2016, Frank Leidenfrost of Staples represented Todd County as Outstanding Senior Citizen at the Minnesota State Fair. He was selected for all of his volunteer work in the Staples community, including the local food shelf and Staples Host Lions. In this photo from the July 21, 2016 edition of the Staples World, Leidenfrost holds the Progressive Melvin Jones Fellow award he’d received.

both locally and at the district level, including that of District Governor. The food shelf was another shared passion of he and Amy’s, the place they could be found each week helping to stock shelves, or unloading monthly food deliveries. “The food shelf involvement was one way of giving back to their Staples community,” as was noted in Frank’s obit.

In fact, not too long before his passing, Frank was still giving back... helping coordinate Lion’s donations to non-profit organizations, and offering assistance at the food shelf during last March’s Food Share Month.

Staples native Kari (Wolhowe) Hartley, now of Bentonville, Ark., shared at the SHS alumni Facebook page, “So sad! He was a great teacher and such an amazing ambassador of the Food Shelf helping so many people. He will be missed.” He will indeed.



Beloved coach

Frank Leidenfrost was the head football coach at Staples High School in the late 1960s and early 70s. He’s pictured above around 1969, with his fellow coaches and the football captains. From left, Coach Penfield, co-captains Larry Kern and Tom Rach, Coach Leidenfrost and Coach Mergens.



‘Frosty’

Affectionately called “Frosty” by his students, Frank Leidenfrost taught at Staples High School (later Staples-Motley High School) from 1966 until his retirement in 1995.



LAKEWOOD WELCOMES

Cassidy Peterson, MD

OBSTETRICS & GYNECOLOGY

Lakewood is pleased to welcome **Dr. Cassidy Peterson** to its obstetrics and gynecology team. A former Rural Physician Associate Program student at Lakewood, Dr. Peterson is excited to return and serve the community.

Dr. Peterson provides comprehensive obstetric and gynecologic care, with special interests in robotic and minimally invasive surgery and supporting positive birth experiences for every patient. She is committed to patient education and shared decision-making throughout the care journey. She will be seeing patients at Lakewood’s Staples Clinic.

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