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- Increased bear activity
- Square dancing activities coming up
- Tennis team starts season
- Little Red Caboose Variety Show



Wednesday, September 2, 2026

Staples, Minnesota

\$1.25

School explores moving football to sports complex

By Mark Anderson
Publisher

The Staples-Motley School District is looking to see if it makes sense to move the varsity football field to the track infield near the Staples-Motley Elementary school, in the area where they currently have varsity tennis, softball, baseball and track and field.

The \$42 million Staples-Motley building referendum passed in April included funding to update outdoor sports facilities, specifically the football field and the track. The original idea was to build permanent restrooms and a new announcer/coaches/media booth at the current varsity field.

At the Aug. 24, 2026 Staples-Motley School Board meeting, Superintendent Shane Tappe said they are looking to see if it makes sense to put the football field at the track location, so that all the school-owned outdoor fields would be in the same complex. The track infield is currently used as the practice football field.

“We are doing an athletic

complex review,” Tappe told the board, “we want a result that does not duplicate services.”

He said items like sound systems, lighting and restrooms would all have to be duplicated if both the current football field and track were fully updated.

Tappe said other districts have undergone a similar full rehabilitation and they were not able to host home games for a year or two.

“We would lose one to two seasons at home, that would factor into revenue,” said Tappe.

If the numbers add up financially, Tappe said “Right now the arrow is pointing that the best case scenario is to go west of the elementary so we are not duplicating services and duplicating resources.”

If the varsity field is moved, the current varsity field would still be used as a green space for the middle/high school, for physical education classes and as a practice field for football teams.

Construction for the referendum is expected to

start in the spring of 2027, but the first priority is building new spaces such as new fifth grade classrooms at the elementary school, new CTE shop space and a new entrance for the high school.

School grounds

Building and Grounds Supervisor LeRoy Peterson gave the board an update on improvements and changes this year.

He said one big change is the Centennial Auditorium orchestra pit filled in and concrete poured over to extend the stage.

He said 240 yards of sand, or 15 dump truck loads, filled the pit. The sand was halued in wheelbarrows by students and volunteers.

The auditorium also has new acoustic panels on the ceiling to project sound out to the audience.

Tappe said after the first performance on the new stage, there was “a lot of buzz” about the new stage and the acoustics.

“I could hear what people were saying” was one of the comments Tappe heard.

The elementary playground has more changes, as the school tore out features that were not in com-

See **SCHOOL** on page 3a

Field Day potato patch Families felt comfortable sitting down in the middle of the garden while digging for potatoes at Central Lakes College’s Field Day on Aug. 28. Children were able to dig for potatoes, cut flowers and smash apples to make apple juice. (Staples World photo by Mark Anderson)



Art in the park

At the Aug. 29 Music in the Park concert, children were invited to do art work. The Staples Motley Area Arts Council brought in Heijeu Arts to provide the materials and prompt kids to paint and draw. (Staples World photo by Mark Anderson)

∞

Weather

∞

2026

This Week’s Forecast

	High	Low	Cond.
Sept. 2	81	59	M. Sunny
Sept. 3	82	65	P. Sunny
Sept. 4	84	64	P. Cloudy
Sept. 5	83	66	Sunny
Sept. 6	82	64	M. Cloudy
Sept. 7	79	61	P. Cloudy
Sept. 8	78	60	P. Cloudy

Last Year, 2025

	High	Low	Cond.
Sept. 2	70°	60	Rain
Sept. 3	57	51	Cloudy
Sept. 4	53	42	Cloudy
Sept. 5	55	41	M. Cloudy
Sept. 6	58	42	M. Cloudy
Sept. 7	62	36	Sunny
Sept. 8	76	50	M. Sunny

Average Temps:

H = 74 ° Low = 53°

Compiled by

Dale Hausmann,

WCCO’s Staples area

Weatherwatcher

Public Notices

Leader Community Hall Board
ISD #2170 9A 9A

Obituaries

Kelly Decker
Terry Farber

School could gain \$30,000 per year with constitutional amendment on ballot

By Mark Anderson
Publisher

The Staples-Motley School District could gain an additional \$30,000 per year if the state passes a constitutional amendment for the way the state’s Permanent School Fund is used. The amendment would not raise taxes, only change the way the fund is distributed.

At the Aug. 24 Staples-Motley School Board meeting, Business Manager Ellie Hill told the board that the current state fund only pays interest and dividends. The change would allow schools to invest on the principal of the \$2.3 billion fund, which should have a much higher return.

Hill said instead of receiving \$68 per pupil, the school’s allocation would rise up to \$101 per pupil, gaining around \$30,000 per year that would go to the

school’s general fund.

The amendment will be on the Nov. 3 statewide ballot. Hill said a blank ballot would count as a “no” vote.

Construction contracts

Superintendent Shane Tappe told the school board that for their upcoming construction projects, they are looking to use Sourcewell’s IDIQ program, which pre-approves contractors and sets prices for specific construction projects.

Tappe said the program allows the school to choose a contractor without sifting through multiple bids, because the bidding process has already been done by Sourcewell. All the contractors in the program have been vetted by Sourcewell.

That way the school knows the price of all the projects before work begins so there won’t be as many

change orders to approve. Tappe said that will be important as the high school undergoes major construction.

“In a building that has been added onto 11 times, there will be surprises,” said Tappe. “That will go under contract and will control the controllables.”

He said the program also stresses using local companies as subcontractors.

Tappe said the Sourcewell IDIQ process has shown that it is more likely to get a project done on time, on budget and with better satisfaction. He said he will bring the recommendation to the board at a later meeting. Tappe said the school’s building consultants, ICS, would still do their same job of overseeing the construction process.

In other news, the board

- Approved resignations

- Approved assignment of Jennifer Dobson to Media Center paraprofessional.
- Approved hire of Heidi Mintz, Fall Musical Director; Morgan Ward, kindergarten teacher; Ashlee Lucas, custodian; and Bren Salo, junior high football coach.
- Approved reduction of two fulltime special education positions at middle/high school.
- Approved special education teacher Amanda Keplin from .5 to full time.
- Approved revised elementary and middle/high school handbooks for 2026-27.
- Approved grants and donations in the amount of \$30,469.
- Approved sealed bids for miscellaneous items.



Cleaning at Veterans Park in Motley

Members of Motley United Methodist Church met recently to clean up the memorial pavers and surrounding area at Veterans Park in Motley. Pictured, from left: Florence Berndt, Bill and Fran Kokett, Terry and Randy Carlson. Fran Kokett reported that the cleanup needed to be done anyway, but they wanted to make sure the park looks nice for the repatriation of WWII Veteran Duane Payne on Sept. 11. When the veteran’s remains are moved from the Brenny Funeral Home in Staples to the Veterans Cemetery at Camp Ripley that day, the procession may stop in Motley. (Submitted photo)

Increased bear activity, with human/bear encounters in Cass Cty

The Cass County Sheriff’s Office (CCSO) is reminding residents and visitors to take precautions following an increase in bear activity and human/bear interactions throughout the area.

Recently, the CCSO and local law enforcement have responded to a number of incidents involving bears, including:

- Three separate incidents involving bears entering occupied homes
- A bear entering a tent at a campground
- Motor vehicle crashes involving bears.
- Bears getting into garbage or attempting to access garbage.
- A bear damaging a vehicle while attempting to get into a rear tonneau cover.
- Bears repeatedly hanging around residential properties while searching for available food sources.

These incidents are a reminder that bears are opportunistic animals and will quickly take advantage of easily accessible food. Once a bear finds a reliable food source, it may return

to the same location and become increasingly comfortable around people.

Help prevent bear conflicts

Residents and visitors can help reduce bear encounters by removing or securing potential food sources around homes, cabins, campsites and businesses.

Remember to:

- Secure garbage in a bear-resistant container or keep it in a secure building until collection day.
- Remove bird feeders, especially during periods of increased bear activity. Bears are attracted to both bird seeds and the food beneath feeders.
- Do not leave pet food outside.
- Clean outdoor grills and cooking areas thoroughly after use.
- Keep windows and doors closed and secure when not occupied.
- Do not leave food, coolers or other attractants outside overnight.
- Secure food and other attractants when camping.
- Avoid intentionally

feeding or approaching bears.

The CCSO also reminds the public never to intentionally approach, corner, chase or attempt to photograph a bear at close range. Give bears plenty of space and allow them an opportunity to leave the area. If a bear is repeatedly entering a home, vehicle or other structure, or is displaying aggressive or unusual behavior, contact local law enforcement or the appropriate wildlife authorities.

“Bears are an important part of our natural environment, and most bear encounters can be prevented by eliminating access to food sources,” said Cass County Sheriff Bryan Welk. “We are asking everyone to take a few simple precautions now to reduce the likelihood of a bear becoming comfortable around people or property.”

The Cass County Sheriff’s Office appreciates the cooperation of residents, property owners, campers and visitors as they work to reduce human-bear conflicts and keep their communities safe.



House gets moved to a new home

A two-story log house owned by Denny Blowers of rural Motley, was moved approximately 12 miles to its new location about two miles south of Lead-er. Pictured above, the journey takes the movers down Cty Rd 102. According to a neighbor of the Blowers, professional movers were hired to lift the house off its foundation and put it on a large moving dolly with dual wheels at various positions.

Since the house was wider than County Rd 102, the venture required trimming a few tree branches along the way, as well as removing mailboxes temporarily. In addition, Crow Wing Power needed to take down electric power lines that crossed the road, resulting in some residents on the route being without power until crews were able to put the lines back up. (Submitted photo)

Motley area law enforcement

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

Aug. 24 - Motley Police assisted MN State Patrol with a two-vehicle crash at SB Hwy 10 and 385th St., Motley. According to a report from state patrol, a 2015 Nissan Rogue SUV, driven by Braden Bean Fletcher, 23, of Eden Prairie was westbound on Hwy 10 and a 2024 Honda Civic, driven by Thomas Jay Erickson, 29, of Verndale, was eastbound on Hwy 10. The Nissan Rogue collided with the Honda Civic. Both drivers were transported to Lakewood Health System Hospital in Staples. Erickson was treated for non-life threatening injuries. Fletcher was not injured. Both were wearing seatbelts and alcohol was not suspected for either. Assisting at the scene were Staples Ambulance, Motley Fire and Rescue and Morrison County deputies.

Aug. 24 - Motley Police received a call

from a person who said she was bit by a dog while visiting someone at an apartment in Motley. The subject stated she had not provoked the dog. Motley Police delivered a potentially dangerous dog form to the dog’s owner.

Aug. 24 - Motley Police received a complaint of an unwanted subject at an antique shop in Motley.

Aug. 21 - Motley Police received a call from the Motley Post Office, reporting that a male subject was coming into the post office and says uncomfortable things to them. An on call social worker was contacted.

Aug. 20 - Motley Police received a welfare concern report regarding a resident in Motley. The caller stated that she and others are afraid to check on the subject because of her dogs, which have bitten people in the past.



LAKEWOOD WELCOMES

Thomas Ruttger, MD

GENERAL SURGEON

Lakewood is pleased to welcome the newest member of its general surgery team, **Dr. Thomas Ruttger**. As a general surgeon, Dr. Ruttger provides a wide range of surgical procedures for patients of all ages. He has special interests in minimally invasive and robotic-assisted surgery, hernia repair, and cancer operations. Originally from Brainerd, Dr. Ruttger is excited to return to the area and provide the best possible care for his patients.

TO LEARN MORE,
VISIT OUR WEBSITE AT:
LAKWOODHEALTHSYSTEM.COM



SCHOOL continued from page 1a

Roads to be paved before school starts

pliance. They put together a new structure with more slides, and they plan to put a rubber mat under it.

Some repairs made this year included repairing a crack in the walk-in freezer and patching a spot on the new track at The Nest. Peterson said the company that installed the track found that they had done it the wrong way, causing the crack.

Construction on 4th Street NE in front of the ele-

mentary school is expected to be completed by the time school starts.

“We finally got a sidewalk that runs the full distance” in front of the school, said Peterson of the biggest change from the street construction project.

The Legacy Arboretum also had several updates this year, including a new pavilion provided by Staples Rotary and more trees planted.

Staples Police report

Recent reports taken by SPD included:

Aug. 16, Staples Police observed person smoking MJ in vehicle. Vehicle was turned off. Police advised the driver to get out and go elsewhere or he could be arrested for DWI.

Aug. 16, Staples Police investigated middle aged women at Dower Lake Recreation Area, screaming in a foreign language and making threats. Police spoke with the female, checked her welfare and advised her on their behavior.

Aug. 17, Staples Police investigated report of a vehicle driving past 8th Street NE and Summit Ave. NE at high rate of speed. Subject keeps calling back and yelling at dispatch. Stated vehicle is continuing to circle past the residence at a high rate of speed, putting the vehicle in neutral and revving the engine. Officer did not observe any speeding vehicles in the area.

Aug. 18, Staples Police investigated a report of an argument. Police advised on obtaining an Order For Protection, provided a victim rights card and information on a safe house.

Aug. 19, Staples Police investigated a report of two small children on tricycles riding on highway at Todd Line Rd. and County 83.

Aug. 20, Staples Police

stopped a vehicle for fail to signal, driver arrested for 3rd degree DWI and controlled substance.

Aug. 21, Staples Police stopped a vehicle for no front license plate. Driver was agitated and said they had been stopped recently. Driver was found to have an open package of cannabis in glove box. Police searched vehicle and found a Glock 45 9mm pistol in the center console. Pistol was loaded with 15 rounds and one bullet in the chamber of the firearm. Police seized the firearm for unlicensed carry. Police reached out to Minneapolis Police and Mahnommen Police and advised of contact with the individual.

Aug. 22, at 2:32 a.m., Staples Police investigated report of people at park on Nebraska Ave. SW flipping things over. Police found two people and told them the park was closed.

Aug. 22, Staples Police investigated report of a toddler running on Cty Rd. 7 and Cty 26. Child was reunited with parents. The child had driven a child's electric vehicle away from the house and was located by passersby.

Aug. 22, Staples Police located a female party sitting by railroad tracks. Person appeared intoxicated. Police gave the subject a ride to residence of a family member.

Todd Cty. court

AUGUST 26, 2026
Long Prairie Police
Chaz Charles Johnson, Long Prairie. Window Restrictions Windshield Tinted or Glazed. Fine \$50. Fee \$85
Melchor Irving Vilchis Jara, Long Prairie. Dog or Cat Running at Large. Fine \$50. Fee \$85.
Todd County Sheriff
Kylan Louis Benning, Eagle Bend. Speed 64/60. Fine \$40. Fee \$85.
Brooklyn Faith Budeau, Grey Eagle. Liquor-Possession by Person Under 21. Fine \$100. Fee \$85.
Brandon Markus Chartrand, Farmington. Speed 64/55. Fine \$40. Fee \$85.
Loretta Dee Coon, Bertha. Driver Fails to Stop for Stop Sign. Fine \$50. Fee \$85.
Chancey Kevin Johnson, Sebeka. Liquor-Consumption by persons under 21. Fine \$100. Fee \$85.
Carter Alan Kelly, Long Prairie. Speed 68/60. Fine \$40. Fee \$85.
Kassondra Nichole Kubesh, Brainerd. Operate Vehicle With Expired Registration. Fine \$30. Fee \$85.
Xitlaly Maria Lara-Ruiz, Wheaton. Speed 88/55. Fine \$150. Fee \$235
Johnathan David Leaf, Saint Cloud. DWI - Operate Motor Vehicle - Alcohol Concentration 0.08 Within 2 Hours. Sentenced. Supervised probation, 2 Yr. Local Confinement: 364 Days, Stay 360 Days For 2 Yr Credit for time served: 4 Days. Fine \$50. Fee \$155
Preston Richard Martin, Ipswich, SD. Speed 73/60. Fine \$50. Fee \$85. Driver Must Carry Proof of Insurance when Operating Vehicle. Fine \$200.
Angel Manuel Martinez Rosario, Long Prairie. Driving without a valid license for vehicle class or type. Fine \$100. Fine \$85.
Samuel August Reid, Minneapolis. Speed 94/60. Fine \$150. Fee \$235.
Anella Barbara Sahr, Little Falls. Speed 78/60. Fine \$60. Fee \$85.
Jose Alberto Sanchez De La Rosa, Long Prairie. Speed 94/60. Fine \$150. Fee \$235.
Gorvin Andres Torrez Carrasco, Melrose. Driver Must Carry Proof of Insurance when Operating Vehicle. Fine \$200. Fee \$85. Driving without a valid license for vehicle class or type Fine \$100.
Staples Police
Joseph Arley Hillstad, Wadena. Windshield General Prohibitions - No Cracked or Discolored Windshields. Fine \$40. Fee \$85.
MN Dept. of Natural Resources
Shawn Michael Tyler Hoadley Henning. Fish and Game - Take fish without angling license. Flnr \$100. Fee \$85.
Alejandro Lemus Flores, Long Prairie. ATVs-Operate Unregistered Vehicle. Flnr \$50. Fee \$85. Driving Without a Valid License for vehicle

class or type. Fine \$100.
Hugo Martinez Hernandez Swanville. Fish and Game - Take fish without angling license. Fine \$100. Fee \$85.
Juan Antonio Martinez Hernandez, Swanville. Fish and Game - Take fish without angling license. Fine \$100. Fee \$85.
Brandi Jean Monti, Clarissa. Fish and Game - Take fish without angling license Fine \$100. Fee \$85.
Benjamin Vincent Sanvik, Maple Grove. Fish and Game - Take fish without angling license. Fine \$100. Fee \$85.
Cade James Sanvik, Maple Grove. Fish and Game - Take fish without angling license. Fine \$100. Fee \$85.
MN State Patrol
Yasser Hassan Mohamed Hussein Elattar, Minneapolis. Speed 75/65. Flnr \$40. Fee \$85.
Tristen Ryley South, Deer Creek. Speed 69/55. Fine \$50. Fee \$85.
Eleazar Villanu Acuna, Winnipeg, MB. Speed 80/70. Fine \$40. Fee \$85.
Nadiuska Arias Mayi, Long Prairie. No mn driver's license (after 60 days residency/30 days cdl). Fine \$100. Fee \$85. Fail to yield right of way. Fine \$50.
Nephthali Perez Bailon, Addison, IL. Speed 87/70. Fine \$60. Fee \$85.
John Charles Beckrich, Pillager. Speed 70/60. Fine \$40. Fee \$85.
Sidney Alexandra Bisek-Seeber, Homestead, FL. Speed 92/70. Fine \$70. Fee \$85.
Jackson Paul Brouillard, Andover. Speed 79/70. Fine \$40. Fee \$85.
Lindsay Rose Dolney, Saint Cloud. Speed 79/70. Fine \$40. Fee \$85.
Tyler Ann Getty, Saint Michael. Window tint - less than 50% light transmittance. Fine \$50. Fee \$85.
Gabriel Gil Jairo, Brownville. Speed 70/60. Fine \$40. Fee \$85.
Jack Carlton Gilbert, Prior Lake. Speed 79/60. Fine \$60. Fee \$85.
Patrick Harold Hooker, Alexandria. Speed 74/55. Fine \$60. Fee \$85.
Brandon Lee Kasper, Little Falls. Expired Registration. Fine \$30. Fee \$85. Loud muffler/loud exhaust. Fine \$50. Window tint - less than 50% light transmittance. Fine \$50.
Logan Virgil Klein, Sauk Centre. Unsafe lane usage on laned highway. Fine \$50. Fee \$85.
Courtney Lynn Koshenina, Atwater. Speed 65/70. Fine \$40. Fee \$85.
Alexandra Kate Lien, Helena, MT. Hands-Free Law. Fine \$50. Fee \$85.
Samuel Joseph Lively, Park Rapids. Speed 65/60. Fine \$40. Fee \$85.
Rachel Marie Majerus, Long Prairie. Hands-Free Law. Fine \$50. Fee \$85.
Preston Scott Pedersen, Litchfield. Speed 85/70. Fine \$40. Fee

75 YEARS Ago - 1951

• Aug. 30, 1951 - Mr. and Mrs. Leo Wettstein are planning the formal opening of their new grocery, confectionery and lunch room in Staples on Saturday, Sept. 1.

The couple has rented the former Gripne Appliance building on Third Street North between First and Second Avenues. The building, 34 by 20 feet, has been thoroughly cleaned and redecorated. New shelving has been installed along with counters, refrigerators and a meat refrigerator.

Mr. and Mrs. Wettstein with their daughter, Joyce, plan to operate the business by themselves and the new place will be known as “Wettstein’s Grocery and lunch.”

• Aug. 30, 1951 - Thirty-five Cubs and their par-

Compiled by Dawn Timbs

ents enjoyed the second summer picnic staged at Pine Grove Park south of Staples Monday evening.

The Cub pack in Staples has eight dens, and six of these were represented at the meeting. A picnic potluck dinner was served in the park, following which baseball was played by the youngsters.

The Cubs will start their regular den meetings the first part of September, according to Rev. J. M. Amundson, who is the Cubmaster.

• Aug. 30, 1951 - Construction of a city-owned women’s rest room and lounge has been underway in Staples for the past two weeks, and it is expected that the new building will be ready for use within a short time.

The building is located just west of the city jail, and to the south of the west entrance to the jail structure. It has dimensions of 12 by 20 by 8 feet, and is being constructed of tile, and concrete.

Laurence Odden is doing the tile laying but the general contract is under the supervision of Leslie Jenkins.

• Aug. 30, 1951 - Hi-Way Lanes Bowling center in Staples officially opened for the fall and winter season Friday, Aug. 24, and a large crowd attended the opening night and on Saturday, according to W. C. DesMarais, owner of the place. The place had been closed all summer, during which time extensive improvements were made to the place.

50 YEARS Ago - 1976

• Aug. 19, 1976 - A total of 149 elementary students will be attending classes in levels one through six at the Lincoln Model Nongraded school, Staples, when the 1976-77 term gets underway Monday, Aug. 30.

Don Droubie is the principal of the school, with Mrs. Rose Mary Blessing as kindergarten teacher, Mrs. Joyce Snyder for level one, Stephanie Rossi for level two and Don Flaten for level three.

The intermediate teachers are Gwynne Gildow, Ray Gildow, Bruce Tollefson, Judy Tollefson and Marge Evans. Mrs. Bernita Jasmer is the SLBP instructor and Mrs. Kay Tomsich will be the librarian.

• Aug. 19, 1976 - The farm of Representative Bruce

\$85.
Yesliany Paola rivera Robles, Sauk Centre. Speed 65/60. Fine \$40. Fee \$85.
Sabri Serdar Sabri, Moorhead. Speed 84/70. Fine \$50. Fee \$85.
Lalie Rose Scaccio, Rochester. Speed 84/70. Fine \$50. Fee \$85.
Saybah Saybeth Wesseh, Dayton. Speed 80/70. Fine \$40. Fee \$85.
Donald David Winkles, Avon. Speed 65/60. Fine \$40. Fee \$85.
The following cases were heard before Sharon Grewell Doug Clark, Seventh District Court in Todd County August 14, 2026.
Juan David Lopez Rodriguez, Long Prairie. Disorderly Conduct. Unsupervised probation, 1 Yr. Local Confinement: 2 Days, Stay 0 Yr 0 Mo 0 Days Credit for time served: 2 Days. Flnr \$75. Fee \$150.
--Court reports are received from the Long Prairie Leader.

Looking back

Nelsen was a busy place this past Sunday during the third annual Nelsen sweet corn feed. There was a large crowd in attendance to enjoy a menu of sweet corn and barbecues. The event was hosted by the Bruce Nelsen family, in their backyard, with various friends and relatives assisting with the serving.

• Aug. 19, 1976 - Five thefts, a break-in, and vandalism dominated the Staples police report for the past week.

H. Michael Carr, police chief, reported to The World that Thursday, Aug. 12, two juvenile females from Fridley were arrested at 3 p.m. for the theft of checks belonging to Bjerga Feed at Motley.

Earlier that day, at 1:20 a.m., Staples police arrested a 33-year-old Staples man for theft of materials from Lampert Building Center.

Friday, Aug. 13, at 3:30 a.m., Staples police discovered an attempted break-in at the rear entrance of Our Own Hardware in Staples.

At 6:30 a.m. the same day, police received a report from George Marden that there had been vandalism at the Lincoln Model school. A window had been broken but nothing appeared to be missing.

At 11:10 a.m. Aug. 13, Hilary Scheffler and Robert Solomon, both of Staples, each reported the theft of a motorcycle helmet.

Mark Evans reported at 10 a.m. Friday, Aug. 13, that a double snowmobile trailer had been taken from the yard of his residence.

• Aug. 19, 1976 - George Peters of Motley was awarded the Legion of Merit medal recently, the highest peacetime award presented by the Army. Peters was given the medal on the occasion of retiring from the Army after 24 years of service. Making the presentation was Gen. Bresnahan, commander of Readiness Region V, Fort Sheridan, Ill. The ceremony took place Aug. 3, at Fort Ripley.

25 YEARS Ago - 2001

• Aug. 30, 2001 - A groundbreaking program was held Monday evening at the home that will become the Brenda Suhl family’s home on Minnesota Avenue in southwest Staples.

The program was attended by a number of people from Staples and Wadena, a significant event in that it is the first Habitat For Humanity house slated for construction in the city of Staples.

Rev. Daryl Jacobson, in a message preceding the ground breaking, quoted from the book of Luke, saying, “If we do not hear His words and obey them, we have no foundation... today we are not just beginning a house, but a home,” he said.

Several partners in the house construction were on hand for the event, including Bruce Nelsen, representing the Staples Lions, Steve Sveom, representing area church partners, Ron Selvey from the city of Staples, and Brenda Suhl and her family. The family is expected to put in at least 800 hours of volunteer labor or ‘sweat equity’ in order to qualify for the house.

When finished, the family has to make a down payment and the monthly mortgage payments. However, there is no interest on HFH homes. The cost of this



Mystery photo

Hello readers. This week’s archive photo is from 1982. 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 Aug. 12, 1976 edition of the Staples World featured Phil Trout of Motley, who was grand champion driver in the Demolition Derby held at the Motley Fair. Trout took first place in the derby Monday evening, and repeated his performance with another first in the Wednesday evening event.

house is estimated to be in the vicinity of \$40,000 when finished.

• Aug. 30, 2001 - Nearly 150 cars - classic, collector and street rods - circled the high school football field Saturday during the Still Cruisin’ Car Club’s show.

This year the Staples car club gave out 39 awards, first, second and third in 13 categories, plus a best of show or People’s Choice award.

Bill and Becky Taszarek of Little Falls won the People’s Choice award with their 1971 Dodge Challenger R/T garnering the most votes from the crowd.

Car club President Scott Odden said this year’s event attracted a large audience, a good number of cars and

went off very smoothly.

10 YEARS Ago - 2016

• Aug. 25, 2016 - The Staples Motley Area Community Foundation has named the recipients of their 13th annual Outstanding Community Service Awards.

The recipients will be honored in a celebration at Ted & Gen’s, Aldrich, on Oct. 13.

Award recipients are: Mike Matanich - Duane R. Lund Award for Lifetime Achievement, awarded posthumously; Mary Sperley - Outstanding Citizen; Scott Braith - Chairman’s Award; Lakewood Physicians - Outstanding Organization; Staples Curves - Outstanding Business; Jordan Haglin - Outstanding Youth.



The Staples World office,
moved to 207 4th St. NE
open every weekday, 8 a.m. - noon.

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



Find Treasure Within

Be the peanut butter to someone’s jelly

By Frank Odell

Love, like a sandwich made at midnight with questionable judgment and heroic optimism, rarely asks permission from logic. It barges in, kicks over the furniture of reason, and says, “Scoot over—I’m sitting here now.” And sit it does... right in the middle of your carefully organized life, dripping sticky, sweet chaos all over your sensible plans.)

Consider the peanut butter and jelly sandwich. Alone, peanut butter is dense, stubborn, a little hard to spread—like that one friend who insists they’re “low maintenance” but owns three separate kinds of hiking boots. Jelly, on the other hand, is sweet, slippery, and liable to escape containment at the worst possible moment—like emotions during a sad commercial about puppies. Separately, they’re fine. Together? Culinary poetry. A masterpiece of mismatched magic.

And so it goes with love. Explain it, you cannot; justify it, you will try; understand it fully... well, good luck and pack a lunch.

Because logic—oh, logic tries its best. Logic says, “Find someone compatible. Shared interests. Similar values. Matching sleep schedules.” Logic builds spreadsheets for the heart, color-coded and cross-referenced. Logic wants love to be neat, predictable, and preferably with bullet points.

But love? Love laughs at bullet points. Love writes in crayon on the walls of your heart and calls it interior decorating

Why does one person make your pulse stumble-personification-like it just tripped over its own shoelaces? Why does a simple smile rearrange your entire mood like furniture in a tiny apartment? Why does their presence feel like gravity just got stronger and suddenly, you’re orbiting?

Logic shrugs. Love smirks.

The truth is, attraction is as physical as it is mysterious. It’s chemistry—real, biological, undeniable. A glance lingers half a second too long. A laugh lands just right. A voice wraps around your name like it’s been waiting its whole life to say it. And suddenly, your brain—once a proud fortress of reason—becomes a bouncy castle of feelings.

You notice things. Oh, you notice things you never signed up to notice. The way they tuck their hair. The rhythm of their walk. The sound of their silence. Yes, even silence has a sound-oxymoron-when it’s shared with the right person—it hums, like a quiet agreement that words are optional.

And let’s not pretend we’re in control here. Love doesn’t politely knock. It kicks down the door, raids the fridge, and rearranges your priorities while you’re still trying to remember what you were doing five minutes ago

“does it make sense?” we ask. – No. It does not. And that’s the point.

Because if love made perfect sense, it would lose its spark. If it followed strict logic, it would be predictable, safe, and frankly... a little boring. And nobody writes songs about “moderately reasonable affection.” No one stays up late thinking, “Wow, this person fits my criteria with admirable precision.”

No, love is wild. Love is inconvenient. Love is showing up unannounced and refusing to leave

And yet—oh, and yet—it is powerful.

It softens the hardest edges. It bridges the widest gaps. It takes two completely different people—two different flavors, textures, histories—and says, “Let’s see what happens when you stick together.” Be the peanut butter. Be the jelly. Better yet, be both when needed--be ready when

they’re scattered, sweet when they’re sour, patient when they’re prickly. Because love isn’t about finding someone identical; it’s about finding someone complementary.

Someone who balances your chaos with calm... or matches it, if we’re being honest. Someone who sees your mess and says, “Well, that’s interesting—let’s make a sandwich out of it.”

And yes, there will be sticky moments. Times when things don’t spread evenly. When the bread feels thin and everything threatens to fall apart. But that’s part of the deal. The mess is not a flaw; it’s evidence that something real is happening.

So, be the peanut butter to someone’s jelly.

Stick when things get slippery. Sweeten when life turns bland. Hold together what might otherwise fall apart. And when logic throws up its hands and walks out of the room, smile and say, “Good. Now we can get to the good stuff.”

Because love isn’t meant to be solved. It’s meant to be savored.

Frank Odell grew up in Willmar, MN with roots on a small farm not far from Svea, MN. Formal education includes Willmar Community College, MN-Morris, Master’s in Education at Hamline University; Taught English, Theatre, and Speech for thirty years in Milan and Staples.

Quote of the week

“My dream was to make as many people happy as I could in this life.”
— *Dolly Parton*

988 Minnesota Lifeline sees four years of increased calls

Minnesota Department of Health

988 Minnesota Lifeline centers have answered over 370,000 contacts since the program launched in July 2022

More Minnesotans than ever are getting the mental health help they need. Calls, texts and chats routed to 988 Minnesota Lifeline centers have increased year after year since the national mental health lifeline launched in July 2022. Contacts climbed from about 25,000 in the first six months of the program to about 83,000 in the first half of 2026.

Gov. Tim Walz and the Minnesota Legislature passed legislation in 2023 to provide funding support for 988 to meet increasing needs as more Minnesotans learn about and use 988. The funding supports local 988 Minnesota Lifeline centers, which allows Minnesotans to connect with in-state specialists. These specialists are trained to listen, help callers be heard and reduce danger by guiding them to a calmer place. Specialists also can help callers with making a safety plan and connecting them to local community resources.

“Everyone has mental health, and anyone can struggle to maintain their wellbeing,” said Tanya Carter, supervisor of the Minnesota Department of Health (MDH) Mental Health and Suicide Prevention Unit. “When you need someone to talk to, 988 is your reliable resource to help work through emotions and challenging times. Just call, text or chat 988 to talk to someone who will honor your stories and listen with care.”

The 988 Minnesota Lifeline is a free, 24/7, confidential resource for anyone needing emotional or mental health support. People can call or text 988 or chat online at 988Lifeline.org. People who prefer to receive sup-

port in Spanish can call 988 and press 2 or text “Ayuda” to connect with a Spanish-speaking 988 specialist. 988 specialists can also patch in interpreters in more than 200 languages to help callers.

In 2022, Minnesota’s age-adjusted suicide rate was at a historic high of 14.8 per 100,000 residents (860 deaths by suicide). That rate declined in 2023 and 2024; however, it saw a slight uptick in 2025 but is still below the high. More information can be found in the recent data brief on the MDH Suicide Data and Reports webpage.

Despite the rapid growth of 988, many Minnesotans still don’t know about the lifeline or are hesitant to use it. MDH conducted a statewide public awareness campaign in 2025 that generated over 200 million impressions and 50 million video views. A key driver of the campaign, which is running again this summer, includes the “I am 988” video series featuring real 988 Minnesota Lifeline specialists and advocates sharing their personal experiences and showing the people who are there for Minnesotans who contact 988.

Investing in the 988 Minnesota Lifeline is part of the Minnesota Suicide Prevention State Plan. As part of this plan, MDH works to prevent suicides by building strong, connected community systems so Minnesotans can get support early, get help during a crisis and receive care after a suicide loss. The goal is to improve wellbeing across the state and make sure every Minnesotan knows they’re not alone, that help exists and that healing can happen.

If you, or someone you know, need immediate emotional or mental health support, call or text 988 or visit the 988lifeline.org to connect online with a trained counselor.

Quote of the week

“Don’t dream it. Be it.”
— Tim Curry as
Dr. Frank-N-Furter, The
Rocky Horror Picture Show

Quote of the week

“Gratitude is the wine for the soul. Go on. Get drunk.”
— Rumi

StaplesWorld

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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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tions where drivers may not expect them. Even where riding is not expressly prohibited, operating carelessly can still lead to crashes, injuries, or enforcement action.

Parents should pay close attention to what their children are riding. A product sold as an “e-bike” or “electric scooter” may exceed Minnesota’s legal limits. Before allowing a child to ride, check the motor wattage, assisted top speed, throttle function, and whether the device has the required pedals if it is being represented as an e-bike. Minnesota law prohibits anyone under age 15 from operating a legal electric-assisted bicycle.

- Riding an underage operator’s e-bike. A person under 15 may not legally operate an electric-assisted bicycle in Minnesota.

- Using a modified bike as if it were a legal e-bike. If the motor output or speed has been increased beyond legal limits, the vehicle may fall outside the e-bike definition.

- Ignoring traffic signs and signals. E-bike riders are required to obey traffic control devices just like other roadway users.

- Unsafe riding on sidewalks or trails. Even where access is allowed, speed and rider behavior matter. Local and site-specific rules may apply.

- Riding after dark without required equipment. Bicyclists must use a headlight and rear reflectors when it is dark.

E-bikes and e-scooters can be a useful form of transportation, but they are not toys. Riders should wear a helmet, stay alert, slow down in pedestrian areas, and know the legal classification of the device they are operating. Drivers should watch carefully for riders at intersections, on road shoulders, and near crosswalks.

The safest approach is simple: know what you are riding, know where you are allowed to ride it, and ride responsibly. Taking a few minutes to understand Minnesota law can prevent injuries, avoid confusion, and keep roads and trails safer for everyone in Cass County.

Legal e-bikes

Under Minnesota law, a legal electric-assisted bicycle must meet specific requirements. It must have fully operable pedals, a motor of no more than 750 watts, and assisted speed limits that fit within the state’s e-bike classifications. Minnesota recognizes Class 1, Class 2, and Class 3 e-bikes, with a maximum assisted speed up to 28 mph for certain class-compliant bikes. Riders must be at least 15 years old to operate an electric-assisted bicycle.

If a machine has been modified for higher speed or greater motor output, it may no longer qualify as an e-bike under Minnesota law. In that case, it may be considered a different type of motor vehicle and may not be legal to ride on bike paths, sidewalks, or public roads without meeting additional requirements. The biggest point for families to remember is that many high-speed “e-motos” sold online may not be legal e-bikes even if they are marketed that way.

What riders need to know

Minnesota law also regulates motorized foot scooters and similar micromobility devices. These devices may be allowed in certain public spaces, but the rules can depend on the type of device and the local jurisdiction. Not every electric scooter is treated the same way under the law, especially if it exceeds speed limits or has features that place it into another vehicle category.

Because equipment and classifications vary, riders should not assume that a powerful electric scooter can be used anywhere a bicycle can. Local ordinances, park rules, and trail regulations may place additional limits on where e-scooters can be ridden. That matters in communities across Cass County, especially on trails, sidewalks, and shared-use paths.

Where e-bikes can be ridden

In general, e-bike riders must follow the same traffic laws as traditional bicyclists. That means obeying traffic signs and signals, using turn signals when able, riding predictably, and using a headlight and rear reflectors when riding in the dark. Motorists must also do their part by giving bicyclists at least three feet when passing. Minnesota allows e-bikes in many of the same places as bicycles, but there are important exceptions. Trail access can vary depending on the class of e-bike and the authority managing the trail. On Minnesota state trails, additional rules may apply, and some motorized devices are prohibited. Riders should always watch for posted signs before entering a trail, park, or path.

Safety and sidewalk concerns

One of the most common concerns reported by law enforcement agencies is riding fast electric devices on roadways and sidewalks. Sidewalk use can create serious risks for pedestrians, especially when a rider is traveling faster than walking speed or approaching driveways and intersec-



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Hello World

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Obituaries

Kelly Decker

Kelly Decker, 50, of Coon Rapids, passed away peacefully on August 13, 2026, surrounded by her loving family.

Services for Kelly will be held Saturday, September 5, at 3:00 p.m. at the Free Methodist Church in Motley. Visitation will be held one hour prior to the services at the church.

A Celebration of Kelly's Life will be held Sunday, September 27, from 1:00 to 5:00 p.m. at Pavilion #3 at Coon Rapids Dam Regional Park, 9750 Egret Blvd., Coon Rapids. (Please note a \$7 vehicle entrance fee applies).

Kelly was born August 8, 1976, in Brainerd. She attended school in Brainerd until her family moved to Motley. She graduated from Staples-Motley High School in 1995. Shortly after graduation, she moved to the Coon Rapids area, where she met her soulmate for life and best friend, Steve. The two were married on August 16, 2003, and built a wonderful life together.

Her career included sales at Stylelite Studios, team lead at Showdown Displays, and most recently, a dispatcher at Copart. She was blessed to have co-workers who also became her close friends.

Kelly loved getting together with family and friends for bonfires, drinks and pontoon rides. She enjoyed fishing, cooking, entertaining, watching movies, cooking shows, listening to country music and attending concerts. She had a blast bowling with her league teammates, "The Pin Ups", and was a passionate Minnesota Vikings fan who loved hosting football parties - Skol.

Above all, she loved her family and devoted her heart to their boys, Dylan and Devin. She adored her little dog, Wade.

Kelly will be deeply



missed by her loving husband, Steve; two sons, Dylan and Devin; her mother, Debbie Greig; seven siblings, Trevor (Patti) Banks, Paul (Stephanie) Kozitka, John (Bryn) Greig, Jill (Digger) Derner, Dave Greig, Jeanna Greig, Adam (Sandy) Greig; her father and mother-in-law, Clarence and Barb Decker; one brother-in-law, Phil (Kay) Decker; one sister-in-law, Susie (Steve) Schulte and many nieces, nephews, extended family members and cherished friends who were blessed to know her.

She was preceded in death by her father, John Greig and her grandparents.

In lieu of flowers, donations to the family to assist with unexpected expenses would be deeply appreciated, or via the family's GoFundMe page at <https://gofund.me/acb2b03ce>.

w35p A00006B2026SP03

Terry Farber

Terry Lee Farber, 77, of Parkers Prairie, passed away peacefully August 15, 2026, at St. William's Living Center.

Visitation will be held Wednesday, September 9, from 5:00 to 7:00 p.m. at Brenny Family Funeral Chapel in Staples.

Funeral services will be held at 11:00 a.m. on Thursday, September 10, at the Free Methodist Church in Motley, with Pastor Jim Johnson officiating. Visitation will be held at 10:00 a.m. at the church.

Following the service, family and friends are invited to join together for lunch before traveling to Fort Ripley, where Terry's military ceremony will be held at 2:00 p.m., followed by his interment.

Terry was born September 21, 1948, in Foster County, Carrington, North Dakota. He graduated from Staples High School in 1966.

Terry proudly served his country in the United States Army from July 1967 through 1969, including service during the Vietnam War. He attained the rank of Sergeant E-5, AUS Infantry and was honorably discharged. He remained proud of his military service throughout his life and received numerous awards and commendations, including the National Defense Service Medal, Vietnam Service Medal, Vietnam Campaign Medal with Device 60, two Overseas Bars, Air Medal, Silver Star, Sharpshooter (Rifle) and Marksman (Pistol). He completed training in the Code of Conduct, Geneva Convention, Military Justice and CBR training.

Terry continued to honor his military service as a member of the VFW, American Legion, Disabled American Veterans and Vietnam Veterans organizations.

For 20 years, Terry worked in construction with Crossing Inc., followed by another 20 years with Trident Seafoods, Motley. He was a hard working man who took great pride in his work.

Terry loved the outdoors and enjoyed hunting, fish-



ing, camping and traveling. He especially cherished his friendships and the time he spent in Texas. He found great joy in working with young people. For five years, he served as an assistant coach with the Staples Cross Country teams. Terry often spoke about how rewarding the experience was and how proud he was of the wonderful young people he had the opportunity to work with.

Family was very important to Terry, and he loved his children and grandchildren dearly.

He is survived by one daughter, Shannon Farber (Will Robertson), who proudly served 20 years on active duty with the U.S. Navy Seabees and now retired; one son, Charles Farber (Brianna), both currently serving in the United States Air Force; Terri (Dingman) Martin and Richie Dingman (Amy); many grandchildren, whom he loved dearly; three sisters, Shirley (Mike) Longbella, Kimm Farber (Jim Neelan) and Lorree (Troy) Shereck; two brothers, Brad (Jody Mueller) Farber and Jeff (Tammy Nordell) Farber; one brother-in-law, Ron Kramer and many beloved nieces, nephews and dear friends.

He was preceded in death by his wife, Bonnie (Beers) Farber; her parents, Paul and Mary Beers; her sister, Carol Kramer; his parents Charles and Betty Farber and one brother-in-law, Mike Longbella.

Terry leaves behind a lifetime of memories, a family who loved him, friends who will miss him and the legacy of a man who proudly served his country and cared deeply about the people around him. His family will forever remember his love of the outdoors, his stories, his friendships, his dedication to his country and the special place he held in the lives of his children, grandchildren, siblings and friends.

Rest easy, Terry. Thank you for your service, your friendship and the many memories you leave behind. You will be deeply missed and forever remembered.

w37c A00006B2026SP02

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
Sunday Worship Service.....9:00 a.m.
Sunday School and
Coffee Fellowship.....10:05 a.m.

Sacred Heart Catholic Church

310 4th St. NE, Staples
Church.....218-631-1593
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 Jerešek
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 Carl Larson
www.bethanylutherancushing.org
Sunday Worship.....9:00 a.m.
Communion.....1st and 2nd Sunday of each month

Lincoln Evangelical Free

1354 320th Street, Cushing, MN 56443
Phone: 218- 575-2449
www.lincolnefree.org
Facebook Lincoln E Free
Office Hours: Tues. - Thurs., 9 a.m. - 12 p.m.
Senior Pastor: Don Reigstad
SUNDAY
Church Worship Gathering.....10:00 a.m.
YouTube Channel.....10:00 a.m.
Cushing Baptist
26298 Bear Rd., Cushing
Pastor Dan Holmes.....320-749-2583
Sunday School.....9:30 a.m.
Worship.....10:30 a.m.
WEDNESDAY
Bible study.....7:30 p.m.

Leader

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

Maple Hill Lutheran

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

Motley

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

St. John's Lutheran

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

St. Michael Catholic Church

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.
Phone.....218-746-3839
Sunday School.....9:30 a.m.
Worship.....10:30 a.m.
Sunday Worship.....7:00 p.m.
WEDNESDAY.....7:00 p.m.

First Baptist

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

Hewitt

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

Trinity Lutheran Church (LCMS)

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

Hewitt Community Church

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

Verndale

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

Family Life Church

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

Hope Chapel Alliance

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

Immanuel Lutheran Church of Bartlett Township (LCMS)

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

Verndale United Methodist

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

Central Community Church

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

St. 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
218-331-3928
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.

"Is Your Church a Bible-based Church?"

Rev. Robert Drake, Faith Lutheran, Staples / Bethany Lutheran, Cushing

I hear some version of this phrase used a lot: "I'm looking for a Bible-based church" or "My church is a Bible-based church."

I've always thought it confusing when someone uses that phrase because I'm pretty sure that every church is a church precisely because they base their identity and mission on the Bible. I've been an ordained pastor at three churches and prior to ordination I served in various capacities at three other churches. I know first-hand that all of them were Bible-based churches.

In fact, I think all churches are Bible-based churches. But that doesn't mean that I agree with the mission, vision and values of all churches. It also doesn't mean that I think all churches serve the mission of Jesus Christ in the exact same way.

Instead, I think that when someone uses the phrase "Bible-based church" what they're really doing is using coded language to accuse a particular church of corrupting the message of Jesus

or at least ignoring certain parts of the Bible.

When it comes to the overarching purpose of Jesus' life, death and resurrection, I find it extremely divisive to categorize a particular church or denomination as not adhering to the divine message communicated through the word of God. If there were only one, true and perfect way to live out the message of Jesus, then we would not have as many churches or denominations as we do. No one church or denomination can claim that they alone are the true church, though many do.

As difficult as it sometimes is to maintain friendly and Christ-centered relationships with other churches and denominations, I actually believe that this may be a part of God's plan. The breadth of God's love is wide enough for all of us to live out our uniquely individual lives in a way that adheres to the Bible. I think we can all be different, while still being "Bible-based."

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Tennis action

In action from the Highway 10 Tournament, left, Mia Pesta redirects a shot at the net. Above right, Madison Perius sends a cross-court shot over the net as partner Natalie Hanson is ready for the next shot. (Staples World photos by Mark Anderson)



Natalie Hanson hits an overhead.



Lydia Roelofs reaches a lob shot.



Alexa Dolezal winds up for a smash.



Lauren Dolezal blocks a hard shot at the net.

Tennis team wins Hwy 10 tourney

The Staples-Motley girls tennis team started the season with some solid wins, then mixed it up with state-level competition, playing strong but coming up a little short in a triangular meet at Grand Rapids and in a tournament at St. James.

The season started quickly on Aug. 21 when they beat Long Prairie-Grey Eagle and Belgrade-Brootten-Elrosa 7-0.

On Aug. 25, the Cardinals hosted the doubles portion of the Highway 10 Tournament while singles played in Wadena. The Staples-Motley number one doubles team of Madison Perius and Natalie Hanson rolled through the bracket to place first. Three Cardinal singles players also placed first in their bracket, Ronnie Noska, Kaylee Perius and Charlie Noska.

With the other entries all getting wins and placing second or third, the Cardinals won the tournament solidly to keep the trophy for another year.

They got back on the court the next day, driving to Grand Rapids for a meet that included East Grand Forks.

Staples-Motley fell a little short in each match, but played evenly in most of the matchups.

“We feel confident once we pin down our line ups and make the right adjustments, those are both teams we could defeat later on in the season,” said Coach Katie Noska, “especially on fresher feet, not after a big tourney day.”

The team took another long road trip to St. James, to face even better competition. They lost 7-0 to the defending state champion St. James team and also lost against big schools Chanhassen and Hutchinson.

“That will prove to be some of the toughest in-season play we will see, and the girls gained great experience,” said coach Noska. “It was especially good for our 1st singles and 1st doubles to see state level competition, since they haven’t been pushed to that level yet this year and it showed them where they need to be at the end of the season.”

Team results

St. James tournament
Hutchinson 5, Staples-Motley 2

Singles: Ronnie Noska W 6-2, 6-1; Kaylee Perius L 5-7, 4-6; Charlie Noska L 0-6, 6-1, 3-6; Sarah Kroll L 4-6, 2-6

Doubles: Madison Perius/Natalie Hanson W 6-1, 6-1; Mia Pesta/Lydia Roelofs L 3-6, 6-2, (9-11); Katelyn Erickson/Madison Zetah L 1-6, 4-6

St. James 7, Staples-Motley 0

Singles: R. Noska L 4-6, 2-6, K. Perius L 4-6, 2-6; Lauren Dolezal L 1-6, 0-6; Grace Halverson L 0-6, 0-6

Doubles: M. Perius/Hanson L 6-3, 4-6, (6-10); C. Noska/Kroll L 1-6, 1-6; Pesta/Roelofs L 4-6, 2-6

Chanhassen 7, Staples-Motley 0

Singles: R. Noska L 6-3, 4-6, (10-12); K. Perius L 7-6, 3-6, (8-10); Roelofs L 7-5, 6-4; C. Noska L 6-3, 6-2

Doubles: M. Perius/Hanson L 6-4, 2-6, (8-10); Pesta/Alexa Dolezal L 3-6, 0-6; Kroll/ Erickson L 2-6, 6-1, (6-10)

Grand Rapids Triangular
Staples-Motley 3, East Grand Forks 4

Singles: R. Noska W 6-2, 6-1; K. Perius W 6-2, 6-2; C. Noska L 5-7, 3-6; Kroll L 3-6, 0-6

Doubles: M. Perius/Hanson W 6-4, 6-1; Pest/Roelofs L 6-7, 2-6; A. Dolezal/L. Dolezal L 3-6, 2-6

Staples-Motley 3, Grand Rapids 4

Singles: R. Noska W 6-0, 6-0; K. Perius L 4-6, 3-6; C. Noska L 4-6, 7-5, (8-10); L. Dolezal L 2-6, 1-6

Doubles: M. Perius/Hanson W 6-4, 6-2; Kroll/Roelofs W 6-2, 1-6, (10-6); Pesta/A. Dolezal L 4-6, 1-6



Runners in the Railroad Days 5k fun run got to run through the fields at Central Lakes College in Staples. (Staples World photos by Mark Anderson)



NOTICES

100

Events/Announcements

AUCTION of 2 Storage Units at EEEz Storage in Staples MN Via Online Auction at [Storagetreasures.com](#), on behalf of Adam Mick and Janel Toppari. Auction starts 9/1/26 8:30 a.m. Belongings include household, bedroom, and garage items. 37-38p

101

Card of Thanks

Thank you, Staples Motley community, for all of your prayers, cards and support for David over the years and at the time of his passing. A very special thank you to the Lakewood Health System staff for their excellent care of David before and after he entered the care center. You are the best!

Tom and Lisa Kajer

37p

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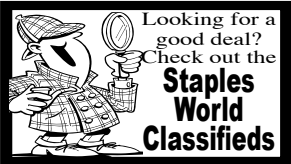
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GARAGE SALES

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YARD SALE: Thurs., Sept. 3, Fri., Sept. 4, Sat., Sept. 5, 9 a.m.-5 p.m. each day. 319 4th St NE, Staples. Bedding, duvet sets, comforters, wool blankets, afghans, towels; clothing: (like new brand name) men's/ladies larger size; new t-shirts \$1; misc. household, custom framed artwork. 37p

GARAGE SALE: Thurs., Sept. 3, Fri., Sept. 4, 8 a.m.- 6 p.m. both days. Clawfoot tub, antiques, glassware, household, Coca Cola stuff, wicker patio set, futon (free). 48191 251st Ave., Staples. Watch for signs. 37p

GARAGE SALE: Thurs., Sept. 3, 9 a.m.-5 p.m. Something for everyone. 249 Park Rd. Staples. Sorenson. 37p

GARAGE SALE: Thurs., Sept. 3, Fri., Sept. 4 and Sun., Sept. 6, (closed Sat.), 9 a.m.-5 p.m. 606 Wisconsin Ave., Staples. 36x-37p

HUGE MULTI-FAMILY SHED SALE: Thurs.-Sat. Sept. 3 - 5, 9 a.m.-7 p.m. Tons of toys, youth electric motorbike, Icehouse, clothing, homeschool, pool, furniture, kitchen appliances, Barbie, Lego, hunting/fishing, crafts, baked goods, much miscellaneous. 5 miles south of Motley on Hwy. 10 to 42991 335th Ave. 37p

EARLY GARAGE SALE DEADLINE/ LABOR DAY: Thurs., Sept. 4, by 3 p.m. for the Sept. 9 issue.

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Downtown Railroad Days

Downtown events at the Staples Railroad Days on Aug. 22 included many vendors, including the Staples Veterans Park sale, above. Children's activities included mini golf, dunk tank, inflatable



Staples Motley School Board Minutes

**MEETING #2
ISD #2170
SCHOOL BOARD
August 3, 2026
6:00 p.m.
District Office**

MINUTES

Call to Order

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

Roll Call was taken, members Wright, Frisk, Trout, Freeman and Reese were present, comprising a quorum. Member Reeck was absent. Also present were Superintendent Tappe, Finance Director Hill, Principal Ferdon, Principal Koenigs, AD/CE Wood, Recording Clerk Larson, Staples World Editor Anderson, ICS representative and staff members. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Motion by Freeman, second by Trout, to approve the addition of items 5d, 5e and 5f. MC

Motion by Frisk, second by Reese, to adopt the agenda. MC

Chair Wright welcomed and recognized those in attendance

Superintendent Per-

formance Review Summary was read by Chair Wright

School/CommunityForum

-None

Consent Agenda

Approve minutes from the July 21, 2026 Board Meeting

Approve the hire of Charles Holst, Bus Driver

Approve the hire of Melissa Holey, Nest Assistant

Approve the hire of Jenna Mann, Middle/High School Paraprofessional

Approve the hire of Ashton Bellefeuille, JH Football Coach

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

Building project presentation by ICS representative Walter

Motion by Frisk, second by Reese, to adjourn the meeting at 6:20 p.m. MC

Trisha Larson, Clerk
ISD #2170

37pnc

Public Notices

**NOTICE
LEADER COMMUNITY
HALL BOARD**

The Leader Community Hall Board will meet on Thursday, Sept. 10, 2026 at 7:00 p.m. at the hall.

Mark Strom, Secretary
36-37pnc

StaplesWorld

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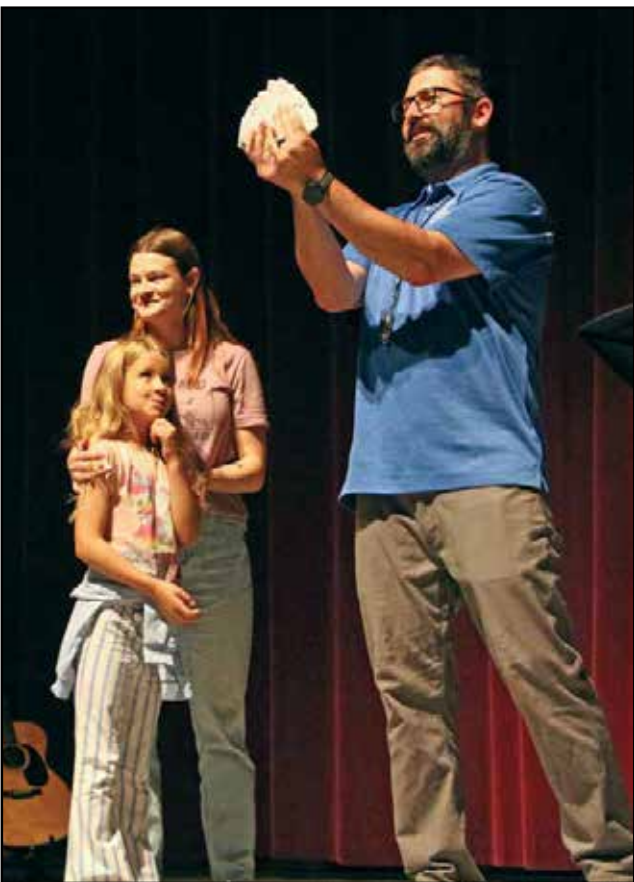
Little Red Caboose Variety Show



The Staples Area Women’s Chorus performed a “Girls Just Want to Have Fun” medley.

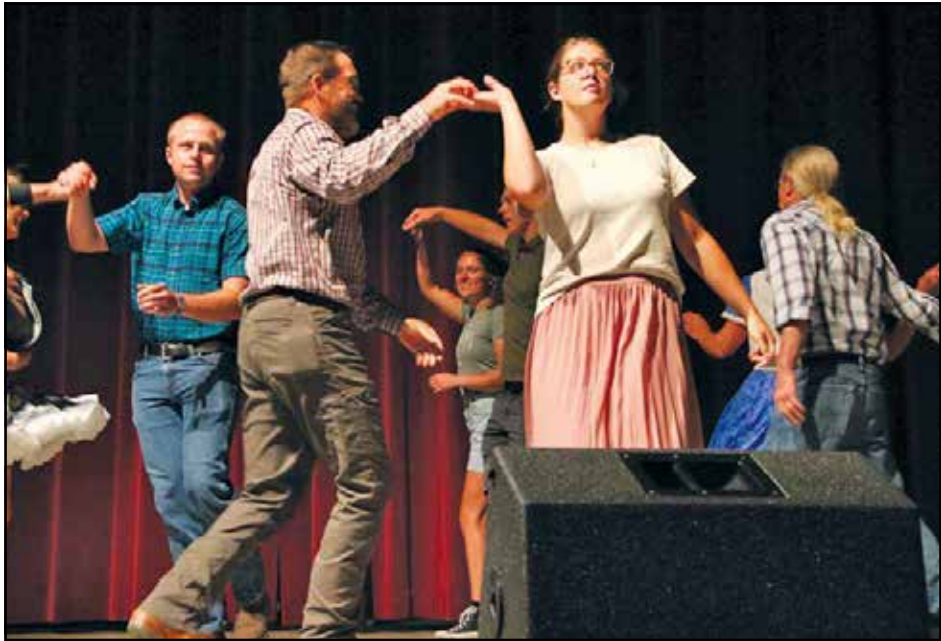


The Little Moran River Band closed the show with a few upbeat tunes, including, “When Will I Be Loved.”



Above: Emcee Justin Edin entertained the crowd with audience participation magic tricks.

Below: Members of the Staples Area Men’s Chorus opened the show with the National Anthem, followed by, “No Time” and a Johnny Cash Medley.



The Wadena Whirlaways made their debut at the Little Red Caboose Variety Show, square dancing to some toe-tapping country favorites.



Above: Members of the Lamp Camp 2026 Ensemble played the Improv Game, “Back to Whenever.” Below, from left: Kathy Iverson, Jenessa Iverson and Kyle Simons Baker performed two original songs, “Earth Makes me Glad” and “Tulips.”



Family duets were a hit at the variety show. At left, Katie (Ziegler) Switzer and her niece, Mackenzie Wilds, sing, “Wagon Wheel.” At bottom left, sisters Molly and Meredith Hoemberg sing, “Purple Gas,” dedicated to their late grandpa, Steve Hoemberg, Sr.



Above: Mar Hajek performed, “I Have Nothing.” At left: Brian Sterriker and Nikki Paskewitz performed a tap dance routine to “Old Friends.”

-Photos by Mark Anderson



Area youth took the “Run Fast” sign literally during the kids fun run of the Railroad Days 5k on Aug. 27 . (Staples World photos by Mark Anderson)



RR Days 5K finishers

2026 Staples Railroad Days

5K:

Women – 24 Finishers

1. Ashley Phillips (Holst)– 23:42

2. Maryann Burrows – 27:41

3. Teagan Raddohl – 28:12

4. Nikki Paskewitz – 28:40

5. Reagan Brown — 30:21

6. Justine Brown — 30:21

7. Makinze Bounds — 33:00

8. Isabella Ismil — 33:11

9. Amy Youngbauer — 33:26

10. Marci Douts — 37:40

11. Nicole Davis — 38:03

12. Olivia Wagner — 39:45

13. Jennifer Hine — 40:55

14. Hazel Hine-Lawler — 40:55

15. Denise Graba — 41:05

16. Dawn Captain — 41:11

17. Amanda Mayer — 41:12

18. Danielle Smith — 41:13

19. Chloe Denning — 43:35

20. Shelby Brusewitz — 54:20

21. MacKenzie Zetah — 54:22

22. Karlee Dahlvang — 55:00

23. Jorie Liston — 55:00

24. April Avelsgard— 56:29

Men – 18 Finishers

1. Joe Webster – 20:33

2. Colton Paskewitz – 21:22

3. Brett Baumgartner – 22:38

4. Rylan Paskewitz – 23:00

5. Dalton Murdock – 24:38

6. Tyler Suhl – 24:44

7. Caleb Ismil – 26:14

8. Emerson Douts – 26:17

9. Kyle Mileski – 26:20

10. Ace De Coup Crank – 29:26

11. Austin De Coup Crank — 29:30

12. Levi Brown – 30:50

13. Oliver Brown – 30:51

14. Nick Sharma – 37:21

15. Ryan Lawler – 40:55

16. Terry Hietpas – 54:24

17. Kaleb Dahlvang – 55:00

18. Roger Avelsgard – 56:29



Smiling runners

Left, runners take off from the starting line for the Railroad Days 5k fun run, with runners enjoying the course around the Central Lakes College Ag and Energy Center, above. Below, runners, finish the races. (Staples World photos by Mark Anderson)





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At the Beck's Burger Co. Car Show on Aug. 21, left side of the page, entertainment besides the classic cars included dancing, a souped-up lawn tractor and skateboarding. At the Women of Today Car Show on Aug. 22, right side of the page, car owners found comfortable places to relax, families checked out the vehicles and a train passed by at the same time as a horse and buggy. (Staples World photos by Mark Anderson)



H

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Campfire Bay Resort A place where guests arrive as visitors and leave feeling like family

Nestled along the shores of Fish Trap Lake near Cushing, Campfire Bay Resort offers much more than a beautiful place to vacation. For owners Brian and Heather Sams, it is a place where people can slow down, reconnect, and feel genuinely welcomed.

The resort has been welcoming guests since 1947 and operated under three different names before Brian and Heather purchased it in 2002. The couple had searched throughout Minnesota for the right location to bring Heather's vision to life: a peaceful, natural setting where people could receive support and experience growth in every area of life.

They eventually found a small cabin and seasonal camper resort just three miles from Heather's parents, Terry and Jann Stumbe, and 14 miles from Brian's parents, Jan and Roddy Sams. With a two-year-old child and another baby on the way, being close to family made the location especially meaningful.

Both Brian and Heather graduated from Staples-Motley High School. "We love how Staples is full of family, friends, and good people," they shared.

Their connection to the community extends well beyond the resort. In addition to being members of the Staples Area Chamber of Commerce, Brian and Heather have spent more than 12 years coaching and mentoring middle and high school students. Brian coaches speech from December through April and also acts in independent films, documentaries, and commercials while writing screenplays. Heather leads Bible studies in the area, including one presented in Spanish.

Today, the Sams family is working to make Campfire Bay Resort a "third space" for the entire community—a welcoming place outside of home and work where people can gather, build relationships, learn, and grow. Sams family remains deeply connected to the community they call home.

Campfire Bay combines the amenities of a large resort with the warmth and personal attention of a medium-sized, family-owned destination. Guests can enjoy clean and comfortable cabins, organized family activities from Memorial Day through Labor Day, a large recreation center, full gym, fitness area, children's play area, and day spa. There is also Sam's Cabin which is the only cabin located on it's on island on Fish Trap Lake!

The resort also features a popular coffee, ice cream, and gift shop—and many area residents may not realize that it is open to the public! Visitors can stop in for coffee, browse the gift shop, or enjoy one of Campfire Bay's homemade waffle cones. Gluten and dairy-free options are also available. Current lodge hours can be found on the Campfire Bay Resort website. While the resort offers many amenities, Brian and Heather believe its greatest strength is its hospitality. The Sams family and their staff strive to make every guest feel seen, heard, and cared for while helping them create a memorable escape from everyday life.

"At Campfire Bay Resort, our mission is to be a gathering place that welcomes everyone as family. We strive to listen well, serve with warmth, and create the kind of lakeside experience that brings people together—just like friends around a campfire."

Campfire Bay is also expanding its role as a gathering place through several upcoming community events. On October 24, the resort will host its first 5K/10K trail run benefiting marginalized and sexually abused women locally and in Nepal. Area women are invited to walk, run, volunteer, or cheer on participants.

Additional events include the second annual Wellness Retreat, November 6–8; the third annual Craft Camp, February 26–28; and the third annual Outdoor Learning Retreat, April 22–25. Details are available on the resort's special events page.

Looking toward the future, Brian and Heather hope to offer bilingual classes focused on whole-person transformation, including mental, physical, relational, and financial well-being. They also hope to expand the reach of this nonprofit work beyond the local community.

Every cabin stay, latte, and boat rental helps support Campfire Bay's efforts to serve others both locally and globally.

Another surprising Campfire Bay offering can be found far beyond Minnesota. The resort on Roatán, an island off the coast of Honduras is called Morada Coralina, which means coral dwelling, since it's right near the reef. The Caribbean cabin is available for anyone to rent and can be viewed on the Campfire Bay Resort website.

When Brian and Heather have an opportunity to visit Staples, they enjoy calzones from Tower Pizza and playing disc golf at Pine Grove Park or Dower Lake Recreation Area. Although Campfire Bay Resort is about 18 miles from Staples, the Sams family remains deeply connected to the community they call home.

Whether you are planning a family vacation, attending a retreat, stopping in for coffee and a homemade waffle cone, or simply looking for a welcoming place to gather, the Sams family invites you to come join them at the campfire.

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