

Inside this issue:

Motley water, wastewater work
Staples Chamber of Commerce expanding
Tennis team has strong finish
Mrs. Minnesota party at Frosty's



Wednesday, September 23, 2026

StaplesWorld

Staples, Minnesota

\$1.25



Inspiring message

Silas Claussen, above, was the speaker at the SM Breakfast Club gathering Sept. 9. He spoke about the peace of God. (Submitted photo)

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Weather

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2026

This Week's Forecast

	High	Low	Cond.
Sept. 23	65	53	M. Sunny
Sept. 24	60	55	Showers
Sept. 25	64	54	Cloudy
Sept. 26	65	56	Showers
Sept. 27	65	49	M. Cloudy
Sept. 28	63	53	Showers
Sept. 29	61	45	Showers

Last Year, 2025

	High	Low	Cond.
Sept. 23	75°	51	Sunny
Sept. 24	74	53	Sunny
Sept. 25	80	54	Sunny
Sept. 26	77	50	Sunny
Sept. 27	70	50	Sunny
Sept. 28	77	51	Sunny
Sept. 29	87	55	Sunny

Average Temps:

H = 64 ° Low = 45°

Compiled by

Dale Hausmann,

WCCO's Staples area

Weatherwatcher

Public Notices

City of Motley **9A**
Bullard Township **9A**
Todd Planning **9A**
Todd fee schedule hearing **9A**
Todd forfeited land sale **9A**
Todd Commissioners **9A-10A**

Obituaries

Frank Leidenfrost
Robert Rego
Cedric Steinkraus

'Breakfast Club' kicks off for new school year

By Dawn Timbs
Staples World reporter

The Staples-Motley Breakfast Club powered by FCA (Fellowship of Christian Athletes) has officially started for the 2026-27 school year.

"Cardinals Fed, Faith Led," is the group's logo. They meet the second Thursday of each month, 7 a.m., at the Staples Fire Hall for breakfast, fellowship, a faith-based message and prayer. A total of 47 students attended this year's first gathering Sept. 9.

Silas Claussen, a senior who's on the varsity baseball team at SM, was the speaker at the September gathering. He gave a message about the peace of God, and how to experience it.

The club's inaugural meeting, spearheaded by 2026 SMHS graduate Colbe Tappe, took place last May. At least 50 middle/high school students attended and it was clear that this was something they wanted to have continue. And it has.

Next month's gathering will take place on Thursday, Oct. 8, at 7 a.m.

The SM Breakfast Club is sponsored through local donations under LEAP SM Breakfast Club. Several volunteers are on board to help with organizing and serving at the monthly events. For more information about the club, contact via email staplesmotleybreakfast-club@gmail.com, or follow them on Facebook.

Farming and fellowship The Todd County Farm Bureau held their Fall Harvest Banquet at the Scott and Sheila Becker farm near Staples on Sept. 11. Farm families from all over Todd County came to the event. The Beckers' barn has been fixed up to accommodate a large crowd. (Photo by Mark Anderson)



Farm bureau comedy act

Ventriloquist James Wedgwood performed at the Todd County Farm Bureau Harvest Banquet on Sept. 11. The comedian encouraged audience participation in the act. He can be found at jameswedgwood.com. (Staples World photo by Mark Anderson)



The Wiese family checks in to the Todd County Farm Bureau banquet.



Todd County Farm Bureau President Delvin Durham speaks at the banquet.



Dustin and Katie Wiese spoke about their work with the National Farm Bureau at the Todd County banquet.



A new place to play

The preschool program at Staples Elementary School got a new playground this year, with more slides, a musical feature and a rubber mat to be safer and more accessible. Principal Ryan Koenigs said the prevous playground was put up in 1992 and the kids had worn a hole in slide. (Staples World photos by Mark Anderson)



The Kentucky Derby for edible beans

The Central Lakes College Field Day program included a talk about beans by Juan Osorno, right, a bean geneticist from North Dakota State University. Osorno reminded the group that 50 percent of all kidney beans in the USA are grown in the central Minnesota area, as well as 90 percent of the white kidney beans. This year, farmers are planting more black beans in this area because they are more resistant to soybean nematode parasites. NDSU and CLC team up for edible bean experiments to produce stable varieties that maintain quality beans with constant shapes and colors. Osorno said all the seed companies send their best varieties to grow side by side in Staples to see which ones work the best. "This is the Kentucky Derby for beans," said Osorno, while standing on a plowed field that looked somewhat like a racetrack. He said it takes seven to ten years to develop a new variety of bean, which is why long term experiments are needed. (Staples World photo by Mark Anderson)



Robots are coming in local agriculture

Attendees at Field Day for Central Lakes College observe a flying drone during one of the demonstrations. Drones can be used for spraying crops with fertilizer or pesticides, seeding cover crops, or analyzing fields. During the lunch program at the event, AgCentric Executive Director Keith Olander said they are developing a curriculum for robotics and automation in farming, where students will learn to use robots for other possible uses, such as planting, weeding or harvesting. (Staples World photo by Mark Anderson)

Work being done at Motley's water and wastewater plants

By Dawn Timbs
Staples World reporter

Motley's Public Works Department has been busy keeping up with issues at both its water treatment and wastewater treatment plants.

Public Works Director Bruce Brotherton gave an update on these issues during his report at the Motley City Council's regular meeting Sept. 14.

Regarding the water treatment plant, Brotherton said they're getting a build-up of iron and manganese in the line running from the wells to the water plant, which is causing restriction in the pipe and reduced flow. To combat this, they will be trying the chemicals Clearitas and Azone. Brotherton said that the issue should be cleared up in six-12 months if it works as the salesman claims.

The average cost for the chemicals, Brotherton said, will be \$52 per day, plus a \$2,500 fee for equipment costs.

If that doesn't solve the problem, Brotherton said they'd have to go the more expensive route, about \$50,000, which would entail a process called Ice Pigging to break up the buildup in the pipe line and help flush it out.

Brotherton went on to note that Fredericella bryozoa (commonly known as moss animals) have been attaching themselves to the aerators at the wastewater treatment plant. He said that he's not yet found an effective way to get rid of them, other than physically scraping them off.

In other matters the council:

- APPROVED the preliminary 2026 tax levy for both Cass and Morrison counties, collectible in 2027.

The proposed total certified levy is \$441,303.00, which is a three percent increase from last year's final levy. It was noted that the final levy can go down, but it cannot go up.

- APPROVED a motion not to waive the monetary limits on municipal tort liability established by Minnesota Statutes Section 466.04. Motley is a member of the League of Minnesota Cities Insurance Trust (LMCIT), the company from which they obtain their liability coverage.
- APPROVED purchasing Familyr wearable panic buttons for administrative staff. These can be activated while assisting customers anywhere in the office. The price is \$499 per device.
- APPROVED purchasing two signs from Froggy's Signs regarding the Industrial Property that's for sale. The 4' x 8' maximal sign will say "Industrial Property For Sale. Up to 15 Acres, 218-352-6709." It's cost is \$445. The second sign, a 3' x 3' double sided sign that says 'Industrial Property for sale' with arrows on both sides that point in the same direction. Made of corro plastic, it's price is \$65.
- LEARNED the fire department's new tanker truck has arrived. They've nicknamed it "The Beast."
- LEARNED that Reid Judd was recently recognized as 'Youth of the Year' by Staples Motley Area Community Foundation (SMACF). Reid, who is the son of Motley Fire Chief Todd Judd, has been a member of the fire department's Explorer's Program. It was mentioned that there is a video available from the SMACF about Reid and his award.
- APPROVED a resolution clarifying and confirming the delegation of cannabis and lower-potency hemp edible retail registration and compliance checks to Morrison County.
- APPROVED a resolution committing funds to the capital projects fund.
- APPROVED a resolution closing the 2015A Beaulieu Project Bond Debt Service Fund and transferring the residual balance to the Street Improvement Fund.
- APPROVED a resolution ordering preparation of report on improvement 2027 Street and Utility Improvements.
- APPROVED a motion to accept a resolution, with corrections, regarding donations to the city. These included \$500 from the Morrison County Agriculture Association for the Fire Dept. Fund; and \$1,000 from Roger Zetah designated for Veterans Park upkeep and improvements.
- APPROVED donating \$654 to Hilltop Regional Kitchen which prepares and delivers Meals on Wheels to people in the Motley area.
- SCHEDULED the Truth in Taxation/Final Levy Public Hearing for Monday, Dec. 14, 2026 at 6 p.m.
- HEARD from council member April Skeesick-Larson during the council forum. She suggested the city adopt a portion of Hwy 10, either at the north or south end of town. This would entail keeping two miles of the highway clean (on both sides), i.e., picking up litter. She felt the sign would be good advertising and help put Motley on the map. She noted that others in the community could join in and it would be a good volunteer project for people to do together. The council agreed this was a good idea, but felt it would be better if Skeesick-Larson organized it on her own, due to liability issues for the city.
- SET budget meeting for Monday, Oct. 5, at 4 p.m.
- SET planning and zoning commission meeting for Monday, Oct. 5, at 5 p.m.
- SET next regular council meeting for Monday, Oct. 12, at 4:30 p.m.
- NOTED that an Emergency/Disaster Preparedness Workshop will be held at city hall Wednesday, Oct. 14, at 4 p.m.



Sandbox fun

Staples-Motley preschool students explore the new playground, some making friends in the sandbox.



LAKEWOOD WELCOMES

Patrick O'Keefe, MD

ORTHOPEDIC SURGEON

Lakewood is pleased to welcome its newest **Twin Cities Orthopedic Surgeon, Dr. Patrick O'Keefe**. Dr. O'Keefe treats a wide range of orthopedic conditions and injuries—from active kids to adults looking to regain their quality of life. With well-rounded knowledge in general orthopedics, he provides experienced, comprehensive care for patients of all ages. He will be seeing patients at the Staples Clinic.

TO SCHEDULE AN APPOINTMENT,
CALL 218-894-8259
LAKEWOODHEALTHSYSTEM.COM



Looking back

75 YEARS Ago - 1951

Sept. 20, 1951 - Elmer Pederson and three of his children had a narrow escape from serious injury Sunday afternoon just north of Oylen.

Elmer, with the three children in his truck, had gone north of Oylen to get a horse he had purchased. They loaded the animal into the truck and started on their return home.

The horse broke loose from its halter, jumped on top of the cab of the truck, and in so doing one of his legs went through the top of the cab, narrowly missing the children, another through the windshield and one on the hood of the car.

Elmer grabbed the smallest of the boys and literally threw him out of the truck



Mystery photo

Hello readers. This week's archive photo is from 2001. 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.

Staples Police report

Recent incidents reported by the Staples Police Department included:

Sept. 8, Staples Police responded to report of a truck window broken by a sibling. Police cited one brother for damage to property.

Sept. 8, Staples Police responded to a report of a student who walked away from school. Student was returned to a group home.

Sept. 9, Staples Police observed a male party on his knees on the shoulder of Highway 10. Police paged ambulance; party has a laceration to their head.

Sept. 9, Staples Police investigated report of a person riding a scooter in the traffic lane on 2nd Ave.

NE.

Sept. 11, Staples Police assisted hospital staff with a male party who was destroying his room. Police assisted staff with getting the person into a transport vehicle to leave.

Sept. 11, Staples Police assisted with an injured owl that was brought to the police department.

Sept. 11, Staples Police unlocked the storm shelter at Dower Lake Recreation Area for incoming severe weather. Police advised campers.

Sept.11, Staples Police conducted a DWI traffic stop.

Sept. 11, Staples Police conducted a death investigation.

Todd Cty. court report

SEPT. 16, 2026

Staples Police

Alejandro Domingo Avila, Milwaukee, WI. Cannabis open package - Cannabis use in motor vehicle on street or highway prohibited. Fine \$100. Fee \$85.

Christian Alex Demetr Corey, Staples. Driving after revocation. Fine \$200. Fee \$85. Motorcycle - Driving on street or highway without endorsement. Fine \$50. Operate Unregistered Vehicle/Without Plates Displayed. Fine \$100.

Seth Anthony Prekker, Crosby. Speed 74/65. Fine \$40. Fee \$85.

Thressie Marie Sadler, Deerpark. Driving after revocation. Fine \$200. Fee \$85. Driver Who Is Not Owner Must Later Produce Proof of Insurance. Fine \$200.

Jerald Renell Jr. Shelly, Fayette, MS. Speed 43/30. Fine \$50. Fee \$85.

Jaclyn Sue Tyrrell, Staples. Passing parked authorized vehicle - 2 lanes in same direction. Fine \$50. Fee \$85.

Todd County Sheriff

Gregory Scott Behnman, Randall. Liquor-Consumption by persons under 21. Fine \$100. Fee \$85.

Junior Lee Etpison, Long Prairie. Driving without a valid license for vehicle class or type. Fine \$100. Fee \$85.

Jordan Scott Kluver, Alexandria. Operate Vehicle With Expired Registration. Fine \$30. Fee \$85.

Brian Don Kuelbs, Clarissa. Driver Must Carry Proof of Insurance. Dismissed. Operate Vehicle With Expired Registration. Fine \$30. Fee \$85.

Alex Robert Nystrom, St. Cloud. Liquor-Consumption by persons under 21. Fine \$100. Fee \$85.

Emmanuel Ortiz Rosario, Starbuck. Driving after revocation. Fine \$200. Fee \$85.

Jouniel Rivas Berdecia, Long Prairie. Motorcycle - Driving on street or highway without endorsement. Fine \$50. Fee \$85.

Enmanuel Antonio Rodriguez Pena, Long Prairie. Speed 70/60. Fee \$40. Fee \$85.

Veronica Rose Scheffers, Rice. Liquor-Consumption by persons under 21. Fine \$100. Fee \$85.

Xavier Perez Torres, Long Prairie. Driving after revocation. Fine \$200. Fee \$85.

MN State Patrol

Kenneth Raymond Buck, Fargo. Hands-Free Law. Fine \$50. Fee \$85.

Martin Diaz Gallardo, Sauk Centre. Speed 76/60. Fine \$60. Fee \$210. Driver/owner allow open bottle. Dismissed.

Jeffery Jason Draper, Victorville, CA. Speed 79/70. Fine \$40. Fee \$85.

Benjamin Govea, Long Prairie. Display expired registration. Fine \$30. Fee \$85.

Mason James Groen, Prinsburg. Seat belt required. Fine \$25. Fee \$85.

Alfred Raymond Kramer, Wadena. Speed 86/70. Fine \$60. Fee \$85.

Saim Abdulha Mushtaq, Winnipeg. Speed 90/70. Fine \$70. Fee \$155.

Steven Russel Noland, Oro Valley, AZ. Speed 65/55. Fine \$40. Fee \$85.

Elizabeth Emma Ohrberg, Little Falls. Speed 65/60. Fine \$40. Fee \$85.

Nicholas Robert Peters, New York Mills. Hands-Free Law. Fine \$50. Fee \$85.

Michelelange Velerius, Long Prairie. No MN Driver License after 60 days residency/30 days CDL. Fine \$100 Fee \$85.

Daniel Lee Wasniak, Highland Ranch, CO. Speed 80/70. Fine \$40. Fee \$85.

The following cases were heard before Heidi L. Hovis, Seventh District Court in Todd County September 9, 2026.

Dwin Abran Garcia Ruiz, Long Prairie. Driving After Cancellation - Inimical to Public Safety. Sentenced. Unsupervised probation, 2 Yr. Local Confinement 364 Days, Stay 0 Yr 0 Mo 360 Days For 2 Yr. Credit for time served: 4 Days Fine \$200. Fee \$350.

Zackry Gust Meidinger, Verndale. Driving after Cancellation-Inimical to Public Safety. Sentenced. Local Confinement 23 Days, Stay 0 Yr 0 Mo 0 Days Credit for time served: 23 Days. Driving Without Ignition Interlock. Dismissed.

Jose Guadalupe Rodriguez, Long Prairie. Burglary-2nd Degree-Dwelling. Dismissed. 3rd Degree DWI - Operate Motor Vehicle - Alcohol Concentration 0.08 Within 2 Hour. Dismissed. Domestic Assault. Dismissed. Disorderly Conduct Dismissed. DWI - Operate Motor Vehicle - Alcohol Concentration 0.08 Within 2 Hours. Sentenced. Supervised probation, 2 Yr. Local Confinement 90 Days, Stay 0 Yr 0 Mo 85 Days For 2 Yr Credit for time served: 5 Days. Fine \$50. Fee \$225.

--Court reports are received from the Long Prairie Leader.

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Compiled by Dawn Timbs

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to avoid being injured. He could not reach the little girl, and it was then the truck started rolling along.

Raymond, his 11 year old son, ran after the truck and in some way got inside the cab and stopped the truck. The smallest boy received two or three bumps on his face and head. Elmer got two pieces of glass in one of his eyes and this was quickly removed by one of the men on the place where the horse was purchased.

They left the horse there and returned to their home, glad that they were not more seriously injured. The truck was badly damaged in the accident.

Sept. 20, 1951 - Staples Produce Company, Inc., of which W. F. Hall is one of the owners, has gone in, in a big way, for baby chicks for next season.

Monday, Sept. 17, a special plane from Morris, Ill, zoomed over the city of Staples and landed at the Staples Municipal airport north of the city, carrying 5,000 day old baby chicks with delivery made to the Staples Produce company of this city.

The baby chicks are White Rock chicks. They have been placed in the starting pens at the Staples Hatchery and when two weeks old will be taken to the poultry farm of the produce company where they will finally become mature chickens.

The plane landed at noon carrying the White Rock chicks which are a special meat type chick which will eventually mature into broilers for the company. Four hours of flying time was required to make the trip, and the chicks came out 100 percent upon arrival

here.

Sept. 20, 1951 - Coach Burle Force's Motley high school six man football team got away to a successful Crow Wing Valley conference debut here Friday afternoon, thumping Pequot Lakes 50-12.

A 70 yd. run by Richard Thomson put Motley in front and Thomson broke away for another long scoring dash, 55 yds., for a second score. Mel Greenwaldt also went 55 yds. to make it 18-0 at the quarter's close.

50 YEARS Ago - 1976

Sept. 9, 1976 - For Rent: 2 room apartment. Downtown location. \$95.00 monthly. Hengel Realty, Staples.

Sept. 9, 1976 - For Sale: 1974 Rollahome 14 x 52, 2 bedroom, lived in two weeks, \$6,000. Leader, MN.

Sept. 9, 1976 - The Motley Lionettes were the winners of the Women's Softball League in Staples this year. They finished with a record of 10 wins and suffered one lone loss.

Members of the championship team are Mary Kampa, Bonnie Willoughby, Putsie Swecker, Marie Macheel, Marion Engstrom, Liga Shake, Marian Willoughby, Linda Neterval, Lorna Hanson, Jo Smith, Mollie Skeesick, Lorraine Cleveland, and Steve Shake, manager.

Sept. 9, 1976 - Mr. and Mrs. Greg Frisk will leave on Sept. 14, for Catania, Sicily, where he will be stationed for two years. Greg is a pilot in the U.S. Navy in the Search and Rescue Operation.

Sept. 9, 1976 - Master Charge. The Interbank

Card. Stop in now and get your application blank for your own Master Charge card at Staples State Bank, Staples, Minn. 894-1522.

25 YEARS Ago - 2001

Sept. 20, 2001 - For family and friends of Jill Mertens, this week is a big week in their lives.

The 2000 graduate of Staples Motley High School is the current Miss North Dakota, and has been competing all this week in the Miss America pageant events in Atlantic City, New Jersey. The Miss America finals will be televised Saturday night, Sept. 22 on ABC television.

Sept. 20, 2001 - The Cardinal girls last week downed Park Rapids 3-0 in Mid State Conference volleyball action. Coach Linda Card's spikers were in control all the way, winning 15-7, 15-8 and 15-9 at Park Rapids on Sept. 11.

Front line players Michelle Honek, Mary Hasselberg and Steph Rice led the hitting attack. Honek was 16 for 19 with 10 kills, Hasselberg was 7 for 10 with 4 kills and Rice, who was 12 for 12, had 6 kills.

Sept. 20, 2001 - The Staples Motley girls tennis team last Saturday claimed a team championship at the Mid State Conference tournament, with victories in six of seven matches.

Laura Warn won the Mid State first singles title. Winning the second singles title was junior Jenna Vogel; and stepping it up at third singles was freshman Jacque Peterson.

Sept. 20, 2001 - Trees are more than a passing interest of Jeremy Triepke, winner of the Minnesota Depart-

ment of Natural Resources (DNR) Commissioner's 2001 FFA Youth Award.

Triepke, who attends Staples Motley High School, earned the honor for the high quality of his supervised agricultural experience at Gene's Tree Farm near Staples. He received the award from DNR Commissioner Allen Garber Aug. 31, at the Minnesota State Fair.

Triepke's interest in trees was sparked when Kerry Lindgren, Future Farmers of America (FFA) chapter advisor, enlisted his help in a community service project that involved transplanting 150 trees from Gene's Tree farm to a farm enrolled in the Conservation Reserve Program.

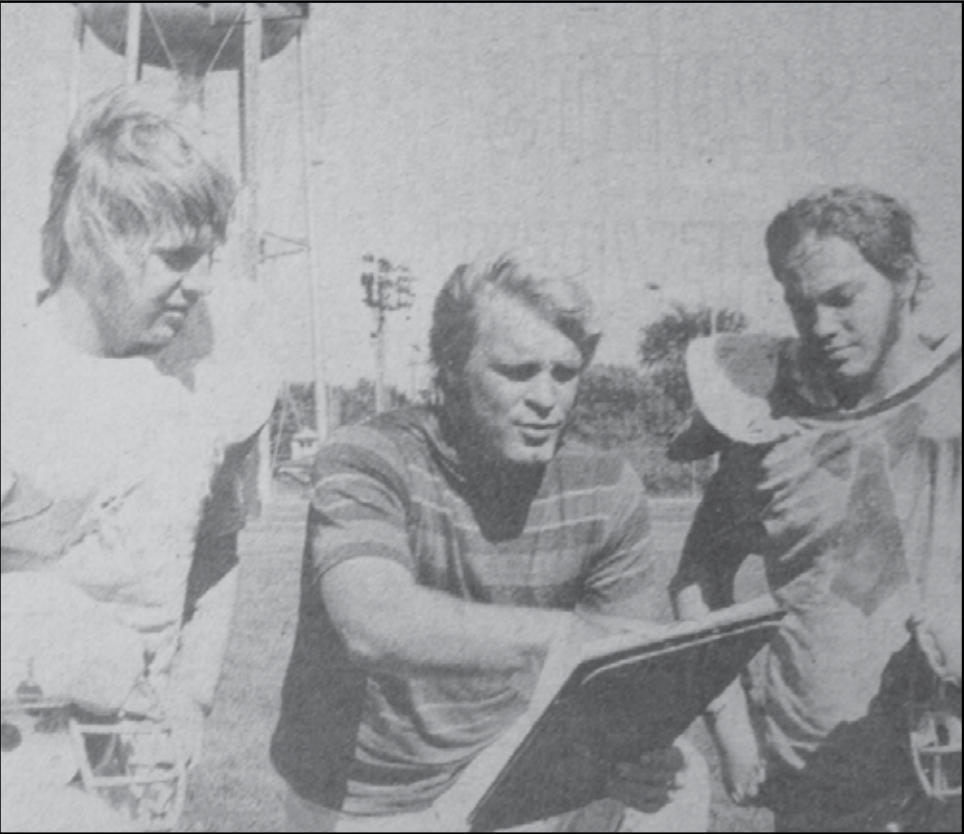
Sept. 20, 2001 - District 5M8 Zone Chair, Jenelle Shriver installed remaining '93 Lions officers at a recent meeting. They are Bea Hoxter, Tail Twister; Bobbe Anderson, Second Vice President; Joey Hirschey, one year Director; and Jan Pogreba, Secretary.

Sept. 20, 2001 - Father Tim Wenzel rang the Sacred heart Church bells in Staples at noon last Friday, Sept. 14. Throughout the nation, church bells rang in a show of support and moment of prayer in memory of the approximately 5,000 American lives lost in the Sept. 11, 2001 terrorist attacks aimed at the World Trade Center, the Pentagon and possibly other targets in Washington.

10 YEARS Ago - 2016

Sept. 15, 2016 - Lisa Bjerga, CPA, MBA, FHFMA, recently accepted the position of Chief Financial Officer (CFO) at Lakewood Health System in Staples. Bjerga has held several positions at Lakewood beginning in 2008, as an accountant and moving up to become finance director, director of revenue cycle and vice president of finance and revenue cycle.

Sept. 15, 2016 - At least 25 people attended a concert at the Lake Shamaineau home of Pat Held recently, featuring the music of jazz pianist George Maurer and vocalist Leslie Vincent, both of the Twin Cities. The annual event, named 'Heldstock' by Pat and his late wife, Carolyn, has been going strong since 1992.



Mystery solved

Last week's mystery photo published in the Sept. 2, 1976 edition of the Staples World featured Staples high school football co-captains Doug Heldman (left) and Pete Card (right), with their head coach Myron Smith. The three were going over one of the plays they planned to use against Pelican Rapids Friday night in the opening grid game of the season.

Marlene (Card) Reeck of Staples correctly identified all in the photo which included her brother, Pete Card III, "with hair." She said the picture brought back a lot of great memories.

Ken Klose of Staples recognized the football coach, Myron Smith.

Thanks for participating in our mystery photo.



Across from the old Staples Theatre marquee

The Staples World office, moved to 207 4th St. NE

Located two doors south of Stomping Grounds Coffee Shop.

Regular advertising and copy deadline is Friday, noon.

The office closes at noon on Friday.





DEADLINES
Newspaper deadline for copy and advertising: 12 noon Fridays

Find Treasure Within

Just show up

By Frank Odell

Sometimes the hardest part is not climbing the mountain, fighting the battle, or solving the mystery. It is simply getting dressed and walking through the door.

People are strange. We will drive twenty miles for half-price mozzarella sticks, yet hesitate to pursue a dream right in front of us. We will binge-watch twelve episodes of strangers surviving on deserted islands while avoiding our own Monday morning. Somewhere along the way, regret became a quiet roommate—eating our cereal, borrowing our courage, and whispering, “Maybe tomorrow.”

But life rarely changes tomorrow. Life changes when people simply show up.

That is the message today:

- Not be perfect.
- Not be famous.
- Not be fearless.
- Just show up.

Because regret is not usually born from failure. Regret is born from absence. The empty chair. The missed opportunity. The phone call never made. The hand never raised. The apology never spoken. Failure bruises the ego, but regret gnaws at the soul like a raccoon trapped in an attic at 2 a.m.—loud, persistent, and oddly athletic.

Most people think courage looks like fireworks. In reality, courage often looks like a tired person dragging themselves into the arena saying, “Well... here goes nothing.” History celebrates the grand victories, but heaven and earth are often moved by ordinary persistence.

Consider the farmer. He

cannot control the rain, the wind, or whether a squirrel declares war on his cornfield. Yet every spring he walks outside and plants anyway. Why? Because harvest only visits fields where someone showed up.

The same is true in relationships. Friendships survive because somebody shows up. Families heal because somebody shows up. Communities rise because somebody shows up. Even love itself is less about dazzling speeches and more about presence. Flowers are nice, but being there during difficult seasons—that is gold. Anybody can attend the party. Showing up during suffering separates the spectators from the saints.

Now let us be honest. Showing up can feel terrifying. Fear is creative. Fear deserves an honorary doctorate in exaggeration. It tells us:

- “You’ll embarrass yourself.”
- “You’re too old.”
- “You’re too late.”
- “You’ll fail.”

Fear is basically a motivational speaker working for the wrong team.

But logic tells another story. Every skilled person was once awkward. Every champion was once uncertain. Every speaker once sounded like a blender full of marbles. Nobody begins polished. Growth is clumsy before it becomes graceful.

A child learning to walk does not hold a press conference after falling down. Imagine that:

- “Ladies and gentlemen, after careful consideration, I have decided crawling is my final form.”

No. The child gets back up. Again and again. Humanity’s first lesson is persistence. Somewhere along

adulthood we traded resilience for reputation. We became more afraid of looking foolish than remaining stuck.

There is dignity in effort. There is honor in trying. The cemetery is filled with unwritten songs, unstarted dreams, and words people were too afraid to say. Regret often whispers one haunting sentence:

“What if I had gone?”

So go.

Show up to the interview.

Show up to the class.

Show up to the difficult conversation.

Show up to your own future.

Just show up.

Years from now, people rarely regret the risks they took with sincerity. They regret hesitation. Silence. Delay. The opportunities they left untouched because fear convinced them they were unworthy.

But you do not have to let regret write your biography. Today can become a turning point. Not because the road suddenly became easy, but because you decided to appear for your own life.

So when doubt knocks on your door tomorrow morning, greet it politely if you must—but do not hand it the keys.

Stand up.

Take the step.

Enter the arena.

And if all you can manage today is one shaky, uncertain, caffeine-assisted act of courage—wonderful.

That is still called showing up.

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

Staples Chamber expands, creates opportunities

Marlo Corona, President
Staples Area Chamber of Commerce

This has been a year of tremendous growth, renewed energy and meaningful progress. With the support of our members, we have worked to build a stronger, more active Chamber that brings real value to local businesses and our community.

Over the past year, the Chamber has:

- Grown to more than 65 member businesses and organizations
- Opened a new downtown Chamber office that also serves as a visitor information and community welcome center
- Launched Hometown Highlights in partnership with the Staples World to share the stories of our members and community
- Expanded member promotion through business spotlights, event advertising, social media, referrals and community marketing
- Increased visits to our Facebook page by nearly 48 percent (%) and grew our following by more than 13 percent (%)
- Supported ribbon cuttings, grand openings, Chamber socials, networking opportunities and business connections
- Promoted Shop Local campaigns, Chamber Bucks, member specials and seasonal shopping opportunities
- Helped organize and support community events, including Hometown Harvest, Railroad Days member promotions, the Polar Express celebration, summer events and other community partnerships
- Strengthened relationships with local businesses, schools, healthcare organizations, nonprofits and community leaders
- Welcomed new board members, updated Chamber policies and continued developing a stronger and more accountable organization

•Worked to ensure local businesses have a voice in conversations affecting economic development, tourism and the future of our community.

Membership benefits

Membership helps make all of this possible. It supports the marketing, events, programs, visitor services, business advocacy and community partnerships that strengthen our entire area.

As a Chamber member, your business receives opportunities for:

- Increased visibility through our website, social media, print promotions and member spotlights
- Business referrals and inclusion in our online membership directory
- Networking and relationship-building with other local leaders
- Promotion of your events, specials, milestones and employment opportunities
- Participation in Shop Local campaigns and community events
- Sponsorship, leadership and community involvement opportunities
- A collective voice advocating for a strong local business environment

When you renew, you’re doing more than purchasing a membership. You’re investing in the continued growth of your business community and helping us create a welcoming, connected and vibrant place to live, work, shop and visit.

You can renew online at www.staples-chamber.org. There’s no additional charge for registering online. If you prefer a printed application or need assistance with your renewal, contact us at 218-894-3974 or stapleschambermarketing@gmail.com.

Thank you for your past support and for the important role your business plays in our community. We hope you will continue growing with us in the coming year.

After the chase, don’t waste

It was not a complete surprise when my five-year-old New York City-dwelling granddaughter expressed displeasure at that the idea of her “poppi”—me, her grandfather—being a hunter. Her mother, my daughter, grew up in Minnesota with hunting as a normal and routine autumn activity. But, unlike genetic traits rooted in our DNA, attitudes are not necessarily passed down to offspring.

I say “not a complete surprise” because—to a great degree—young people are shaped by the “habit” in which they live. Given that my granddaughter lives in what is probably America’s most urbanized environment, odds are that few—if any—of her pre-school and kindergarten classmates and friends have come from homes where hunting is a part of family culture. And, if that is the case, neither would it surprise me if hunting may be characterized in less than a positive way. That seems to be the way of things these days when hunting traditions are absent, or not a part of cultural history.

Whether she will come to accept the fact, or under-



Mike Rahn

stand why her grandfather is a hunter, only time will tell. But her questioning the practice has prompted me to reflect on both the “why” and the “how” of my hunting. For me the why is partially answered by the fact that so many creatures—humans, too—are predators, in one way or another. My granddaughter is, as well, as an enthusiastic consumer of steak, sea food, and hamburgers. That’s predation by proxy, though the connection may not be obvious to everyone; especially to a five-year-old.

The how part of hunting matters, too. I may not consciously and ceremonially pay thanks to the grouse or duck I shoot, as we’re told many Native Americans did. But I do owe something to that grouse, duck, or other game I pursue. Beyond observing the letter of the law, it’s my responsibility to acquire the skill to harvest as humanely as possible, as contradictory as that description of taking a life may seem. Equally important is to make every effort to recover game after a shot is made. Judgement and restraint are part of the process, and involve limiting myself to shots within my capabilities. These are ideals that we as hunters may not always fully measure up to. But they’re ideals we should strive for.

I also owe it to the game I harvest not to waste it. If it’s wasted, then harvest begins to look more like mere killing. It starts with expeditious cooling and cleaning of game, within reason. Under common fall hunting conditions, typically in late October or November, cooling is aided by air temperature. In warmer weather it’s a good idea to have a cooler filled with ice to keep birds cool until they’re cleaned.

There are some who believe that game birds should be hung intact for a period of time before they are cleaned. In theory, this can make them more tender due to the breakdown of connective tissue in a bird’s meat. Some also believe that flavor is enhanced. Vital to this practice is maintaining a sufficiently cool temperature, said by some to be between 35 and 50 degrees.

This is not a universally held belief. An older gentleman with whom I hunted grouse many years ago made it a practice to “field dress” each grouse immediately after it had been shot and retrieved by one of his English setters. The bird’s body cavity was emptied of all “innards,” and stuffed loosely with grasses to keep

it open and enhance cooling. Those innards were hung from a branch high enough not to be a temptation to the dogs, hopefully to be found and consumed by a scavenger.

The digestive enzymes of a grouse, my friend pointed out, are strong enough to break down even the tough, woody catkins, twigs, and buds these birds consume. If these enzymes escape their normal place in the bird’s digestive tract—as can easily happen when shot pellets penetrate it—the likely outcome is unsavory, or at least poorer, meat. A similar outcome can happen with other game birds, too.

The next step in doing justice to the game you’ve harvested is the one that should be the most pleasurable: consuming it. There is more enthusiasm for wild game on the menu in some households than in others. Sometimes this leads to wild game spending more time in the freezer than it should. Left there long enough, freezer burn is a probable outcome; dry, toughened meat, with altered texture and taste. I have been guilty of this more than once over the years, and have weakly fallen back on the excuse that no one else in the household cared for wild duck, or venison.

If wild game is going to spend time in the freezer, there are ways to minimize the downsides. Air and moisture are enemies of freezer-stored meat. Meat should feel dry to the touch before packaging. A vacuum sealer that removes nearly all air from heavy duty storage bags is highly recommended. If vacuum sealing is not an option, wrap tightly in plastic wrap, doing your best to force out air. Then wrap in freezer paper or heavy duty aluminum foil.

Better, though, is to use wild game before you have a chance to forget about it, or for it to be buried beneath other freezer fare that comes home in Costco-size quantities. Few of us are likely to put wild game on the menu with a frequency that matches our non-game consumption. But few of us harvest wild creatures in quantities too great to make a dining experience out of them within a reasonable period of time after they’re harvested.

Good rule number one should be to not shoot something you don’t intend to eat. Good rule number two should be to show that creature respect and gratitude by taking nourishment from it when it’s at its best.

Quote of the week

“How we spend our days is, of course, how we spend our lives. What we do with this hour and with that one, is what we are doing.”

— Annie Dillard, 1945-2026

Montana city mapping wildlife conflicts

Ivy Brashear
The Rural Blog

As natural habitats for wildlife continue to shrink, wildlife-human interactions continue to rise, causing big problems for fish and wildlife departments most often tasked with alleviating the problems such interactions can cause (e.g., property damage, crop destruction, livestock loss, human casualties). Emily

Senkosky reports for High Country News about how one Western town is trying to prevent the problems before they start.

Neighborhoods in Bozeman, Montana, have expanded their way outward

into surrounding wild areas, and wildlife-human interactions have increased as a result. “The city’s south side is home to an estimated 60 to 80 deer per square mile, and bears and mountain lions visit Bozeman trails, green spaces and backyards,” Senkosky writes.

Noah Starling is a wildlife technician with Montana’s Fish, Wildlife and Parks service, and told Senkosky that a big part of his job is to “euthanize animals whose behavior poses a risk to public safety.” Drivers hit so many deer in the winter of 2022 that Starling was euthanizing up to six deer per day. He euthanized three

bears on a single day in 2023. He enrolled in a master’s program at Montana State University’s to study human-wildlife interaction, spurred by his experiences.

Starling is creating an interactive map of Bozeman and Gallatin County showing where human-wildlife conflicts are most likely in the hope that city, county and state officials can work together to reduce the number of fatal encounters for wildlife. “This is a tool that I hope will give decision-makers a way to know where conflict is occurring,” said Starling. “We can’t stop the increase of humans, but we can help increase knowledge.”

StaplesWorld

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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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Staples Senior Citizen’s Sept. gathering

The Staples Senior Citizens gathered Sept. 16, in the Staples Community Center Senior Citizen’s room for lunch, coffee and bingo. The group gets together every third Wednesday of the month at 11 a.m. The next gathering will be held Wednesday, Oct. 21, with the option to dress up for Halloween. Above, front row, left to right: Maryann Riewer, Linda Christensen, Tootie Moris, Mary Wetzel; back: Jeannie Huebner, Amy Lindstrom, Lois Kneisl, Gloria Marden, Mary Peterson. (Staples World photo by Janice Winter)



Staples Host Lions donate to LEAP

The Staples Host Lions recently donated \$2,500 to LEAP for their community Brick and Mortar fund. From left, Shane Tappe, Jerel Nelsen, Staples Host Lion President Bob Schafer, Lisa Bjerga. (Staples World photo by Dawn Timbs)

England Prairie antique tractor pull results

Antique tractor pull results from the contest held at England Prairie August 22, 2026 during Pioneer Days included:

- Stock Class 3500**
1st: Eugene George, Battle Lake, 1940 Farmall H 219.40 ft.
2nd: Ben Hausman, Alexandria, 1949 Mpls. Moline 2, 214.19 ft.
- Stock Class 4000**
1st: Kevin Arnhart, Fergus Falls, 1953 Farmall Super H, 274.84 ft
2nd: Ben Hausman, Alexandria, 1949 Mpls. Moline 2, 250.51 ft.
- Stock Class 4500**
1st: Devon Egress, Clarissa, 1956 Oliver 88, 365.01 ft.
2nd: Russ Oliver, Nisswa, 1937 John Deere A, 347.33 ft.
- Stock Class 5000**
1st: Devon Egress, Clarissa, 1957 Oliver 88, 269.77 ft.
2nd: Devon Egress, Clarissa, 1956 Oliver 88, 250 ft.
- Stock Class 5500**
1st: Devon Egress, Clarissa, 1957 Oliver 88, 295.67 ft.
2nd: Matthew Goodman, Swanville, 1964 Oliver, 770 ft.
- Stock Class 6500**
1st: Riley Dietzrd, Osakis, 1959 Farmall 560, 291.84. ft.
2nd Karl Hausman, Al-

- exandria, 1954 Farmall 400, 289.84 ft.
Stock Class 7500
1st: Riley Distzrd, Osakis, 1959 Farmall 560, 296.91 ft.
2nd: Jon Hausman, Alexandria, 1958 Farmall 400, 290.69.ft.
Stock Class 8500
1st Riley Dietzrd, Osakis, 1959 Farmall 560, 396.45 ft.
2nd: Jon Hausman, Alexandria, 1958 Farmall 400, 365.58 ft.
Stock Class 9500
1st: Karl Hausman, Alexandria, 1954 Farmall 400, 290.23 ft.
2nd: David Sarff, Eagle Bend, 1965 Oliver 1850, 288.25 ft.
Stock Class 10,500
1st: Troy Riski, Clarissa, 1972 John Deere 4320, 344.61 ft.
2nd: David Sarff, Eagle Bend, 1965 Oliver 1850, 289.59 ft.
Improved Class 4500
1st: Wayne Kimber, Hewitt, 1959 IH 460, 290.41 ft.
2nd: Dustin Lehmann, Vergas, 1947 John Deere, 235.44 ft.
Improved Class 5000
1st: Jason Dietz, Osakis, 1960 Farmall 460, 288.35 ft.
2nd: Dustin Lehmann,

- Vergas, 1947 John Deere A, 253.32 ft.
Improved Class 5500
1st: Wayne Kimber, Hewitt, 1959 IH 460, 379.82 ft.
2nd: Daniel Kimber, Hewitt, 1959 H 560, 369.82 ft.
Super Open Class 5000
1st: Jason Dietz, Osakis, 1960 Farmall 460, 335.78 ft.
2nd: Wayne Kimber, Hewitt, 1959 IH 400, 312.49 ft.
Oldest, youngest and person coming from the farthest away to compete were:
Oldest Puller: Thomas Nathe, 80, Sauk Center
Youngest Puller: Hayden Wallace, 119, Garfield
Farthest Away Puller: Kevin Arnhalt, Fergus Falls.

Motley area law enforcement

Recent reports from the Motley Police Dept. (MPD) and Morrison County Sheriff’s Office (MCSO) included the following:
Sept. 11 - Motley Police assisted with funeral traffic at the intersection of Main St and Hwy 10 in Motley.
Sept. 10 - Motley Police assisted with funeral traffic on Front St and Hwy 10 in Motley.
Sept. 15 - Morrison Cty deputies responded to a report of a bear that had been hit by a vehicle at Dove Rd in Cushing. The MN Hwy Dept was at the scene re-

moving the animal.
Sept. 12 - Morrison County deputies arrested Curtis Daniel Venske, 47, for driving while intoxicated. The incident took place at Bison and Basswood Rds, Cushing.
Sept. 11 - The MCSO received a report of a skid loader on fire at Bison Rd and 260th St, Cushing. Randall Fire was paged.
Sept. 9 - A Morrison County deputy responded to a report of suspicious activity at the 33000 block of Cherry Ln, Motley.

Menu

Senior Nutrition Program, Staples
Staples: Call mornings (218-979-4118) the Thursday before to reserve next week’s meal(s) and current suggested donation info. LSS Meals - traditional menu (subject to change).
LOCATED AT: Staples Hi-Rise, 615 4th St. NE, Staples. Seniors welcome to dine-in at 11:00 a.m., with meal reservations.
• **Staples Site: 218-979-4118.**
• **Motley Site: 218-824-3820.**
Sept. 28 - Sept. 30
MONDAY - Tuna noodle casserole, green peas, hot spiced peaches, dinner roll, marg., vanilla pudding/topping, 1% milk.
TUESDAY - Sloppy Joe/bun, country veggie blend, fruit crumble, summer pasta salad, 1% milk.

wk40



Storytime at Staples Library

PreSchool Storytime has started at the Staples Library. Children can look forward to stories, crafts and snacks. The next Storytime will be held Wednesday, Oct. 21 at 10:30 a.m. 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. Above: Irelyn Basara, Lincoln Mast and Addison Mast with their apple crafts. (Submitted photo)

Mark Your Calendar

September 23

PRAYER AT THE POLE will take place Wednesday, Sept. 23, 7:15 a.m., at the flag pole in the of the entrance at Centennial Auditorium in Staples.

September 24

‘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, Sept. 24, 7 - 9:30 p.m., at Lakewood Health System Care Center, 401 Prairie Ave NE, Staples. Brad Neutz, caller. For info., 612-743-3480.

September 25

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.

September 26

FREE COMMUNITY BREAKFAST Saturday, Sept. 26, 9 - 10:30 a.m., at Motley United Methodist Church, 847 3rd Ave. S., Motley.

September 27

CELEBRATE RECOVERY GROUP MEETINGS Sundays, 6 p.m., at Motley Free Methodist

Church, 33 Wellwood St. E., Motley.

September 29

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., call 218-352-6888, or visit www.griefshare.org.

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

FALL
Chicken Dinner
Sat., Sept. 26
Serving: 4:30-7:30 p.m.
Bethany Lutheran Church
25430 Bison Road, Cushing
“Gorka’s” chicken & fixings.
Silent Auction, Grandma’s Pantry and 50/50 Raffle.
Ages 11+: \$15
Ages 4-10: \$8
Ages 3 and under: Free
To go orders available.

Bingo!
Sunday, Oct. 4, 1 p.m.
Guaranteed \$500 Blackout
Sunday, Oct. 11, 1 p.m.
\$1,000 or less Blackout
TEN HI, MOTLEY
Come, join the fun, Oct. - March.
-Bingo hosted by Ten Hi and the Motley Lions
Lic. #05943

•Bring a Friend: 2 rings possible•
VERY LARGE FARM AUCTION
As I have sold my place and am moving the following property will be sold at auction located from Brainerd, at the intersection of Hwy 18 / Hwy 25, approx. 2 mi. east to Fire #12438 State Hwy 18, Brainerd, MN 56401 (next to Oak Lawn Town Hall). Follow signs on:
Saturday, September 26, 2026
SALE TIME: 9:00 A.M. RESTROOMS AVAILABLE LUNCH ON GROUNDS
2002 GMC XLT, 4 wh. dr., ext. cab, 1/2 ton, Vortec 5.3, clean, 106,693 mi.
1650 Oliver tractor, wide front, with Schwartz loader, gas, 6,400 hrs.
Allis-Chalmers D-15 tractor, gas powered, wide front
17 ft. Lowe canoe, like new
Rooster collection
2022 X590 JD rider w/snow blower, like new, 267 hours
1982 Lund boat, 16 ft., 50 hp Mariner motor, live well, depth finder on Shore Landr trailer
Generac generator, Robin Subaru eng., 10,000 watt
Cattle gates, various sizes
Lg. amt. mixed firewood, approx. 5-6 cords
Pig feeders on stands
Treated lumber
Sawhorses
Galv. tanks, wood tank
Gas heater
Convection heater, in box
ProTuff aerator
Manure spreader
Pull behind ATV sprayer, 30 gal.
Agri Fab lawn spreader
Scrap iron
8 hp Yard Machine snow blower
Push mowers, Lawn Boy w/bagger
Brover Built chicken plucker, 220v
Craftsman portable compressor
Industrial pallet racks
Pull behind ATV sprayer
2 field cultivators, 3 pt. 8 ft.
INDUSTRIAL MEAT EQUIPMENT
Lg. Hobart meat cutting saw, 220v
Lg. Hobart grinder/mixer
VacuTec commercial vacuum machine
Stainless steel meat tubs
Stainless steel meat table
Brover Built chicken plucker, 220v
Chicken scaldler, stainless steel
Assorted sizes galv. tubs
20 lb. electronic scale
SPORTING
12 ft. Kayak, like new
Fishing tackle
Tackle boxes
Workout weights
Camping items, stove
Ice augers
Portable ice house
Fishing items
Sled, Royal Racer, nice
ANTIQUES/ COLLECTIBLE/ OLDER
Antique collectible glassware
Galvanized tubs, all shapes/sizes
Old wagon running gear
Cream cans
Old pot driven Spred-All No. 110
Old JD corn planter, 4 row, w/ fertilizer attachment
Vintage pedal bike
Old fanning mill
Duchess
Gambles Coronol
Old cow horns
Gambles Coronol
Duchess
wringer/ washer machine
Antique 2-row corn planter, iron wheels, 1H?
3-bottom plow, 3-16", 1H
Old 2-wheel corn planter for parts
Old potato digger
HOUSEHOLD
Microwave
3 pc bedroom set
Cabinet on wheels
Stereo cabinet
Misc. metal shelving
Refrigerators
Stained glass lamp
High chair
Lg. oriental rug
Porcelain table
Slate pool table (3 pc.)
Telescope
Folding tables
3 pt. dishwasher
Old piano
Bench
Pedal bikes
Schwinn Varsity and Breeze bicycles
Sm. roll top desk
Lg. file cabinets
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Frank Leidenfrost

Frank J. Leidenfrost, 91, of Staples passed away September 11, 2026 in Staples. Mass of Christian Burial was held September 19, at Sacred Heart Catholic Church in Staples. A graveside service with Military Honors was held September 21 at the Minnesota State Veterans Cemetery in Little Falls. Arrangements were by the Brenny Family Funeral Chapel, Staples.



w40c A00006B2026SP23

Robert Rego

Robert Rego, 71, of St. Michael, died of complications of kidney disease on September 12, 2026. A memorial service will be held Sunday, September 27 at 1 p.m. in the Monticello High School auditorium, 5225 School Blvd in Monticello. A livestream of the service will be available under facebook.com/sunrise.rummage.



Robert (Bob) Henry Rego was born February 25, 1955 to Robert and Agnes (Webber) Rego in St. Paul. The Rego family moved to Staples in 1965. Bob graduated from Staples High School in 1973. He attended North Dakota State University on a football scholarship, majoring in Architecture. Bob married his high school sweetheart, Susan LeVasseur, in 1975. After a camping trip to the North Shore they left for West Berlin, Germany, where Susan was stationed at Tempelhof U.S. Air Force Base. Bob went to work with base supply and learned German from his co-workers. In their free time Bob and Sue enjoyed exploring Berlin, backpacking by train and ferry to Rome, Athens, London, Amsterdam, Frankfurt and Munich. After returning to the States and finishing his degree and licensure, Bob began his 40-year career as an architecture with a firm in St. Louis Park that specialized in school design. He became a partner in 1987. He worked with dozens of

school districts throughout the state including Staples-Motley. He retired in 2020. In 1984, Bob and Sue moved to a hobby farm on the north shore of Ganz Lake in St. Michael to raise their family. He extensively remodeled their 1906 farm house. In retirement he took up model railroading. Bob is survived by his wife; one daughter, Katy (Adam) Cutter; two sons, Isaac (Hannah) Rego and Ben (Kristy) Rego; one sister, Jeanne (Greg) Severson; one sister-in-law, Diane (Mike) Sauer; one brother-in-law, Dave (DeAnna) LeVasseur; six grandchildren and nine nieces and nephews. The family thanks the skilled staff at Fresenius Kidney Care in Buffalo; the dedicated nurses at Mercy Hospital in Coon Rapids; Jim from Schu-Tran, Kelly from Allina Home Health, Shala and Stephanie from Comfort Keepers. In lieu of flowers, donations are suggested to Central Minnesota Habitat for Humanity.

w40p A00006B2026SP23

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 Jersek
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.....9 a.m.
January - July.....11 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
218-631-3928
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.

"Everything Has Its Time"

Pastor Roy Miles, Staples Assembly of God

Ecclesiastes 3:1-8 (NKJV)
"To everything there is a season,
A time for every purpose under heaven:
A time to be born, And a time to die;
A time to plant, And a time to pluck what is planted;
A time to kill, And a time to heal;
A time to break down, And a time to build up;
A time to weep, And a time to laugh;
A time to mourn, And a time to dance;
A time to cast away stones, And a time to gather stones;
A time to embrace, And a time to refrain from embracing;
A time to gain, And a time to lose;
A time to keep, And a time to throw away;
A time to tear, And a time to sew;
A time to keep silence, And a time to speak;
A time to love, And a time to hate;
A time of war, And a time of peace."

I can't believe it's (late) September already. Every year that goes by, it seems to go faster and faster. All the topics listed in Ecclesiastes 3, are happening, all at once. With our current technology we hear about the tragedies of the world within minutes of them happening. Then there are all the different opinions on how we are to look at life. So let me share my thoughts on

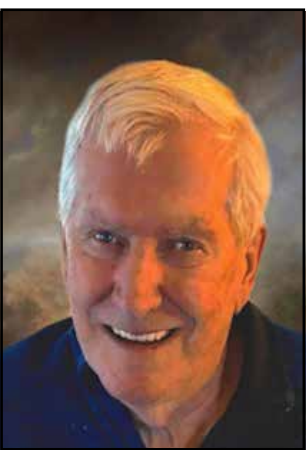
life. In the Bible Jesus said, "I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me. (John 14:6) . I believe this is true. So what time is it for us? Paul the apostle put it this way in 20-GDDXZ Corinthians 6:2, "For He says: 'In an acceptable time I have heard you, And in the day of salvation I have helped you. Behold, now is the accepted time; behold, now is the day of salvation.'" I have found that life is so short. In James 4:14, James, under the anointing of the Spirit of God says, "whereas you do not know what will happen tomorrow. For what is your life? It is even a vapor that appears for a little time and then vanishes away."

Do you really know what is going to happen tomorrow? Now is the accepted time; NOW IS the day of salvation. But no one comes to God the Father except through Jesus. Your time is now to choose eternal life. Acts 4:12 says, "Nor is there salvation in any other, for there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved."

Will you make Jesus your Lord today? Admitting I needed a savior in Jesus was the greatest day of my life, recognizing Him as my Lord and confessing my sin before Him has brought the most freedom I could ever experience.

Cedric Steinkraus

Cedric "Ced" Steinkraus, 83, of Hutchinson, passed away September 7, 2026, at Park Nicollet Methodist Hospital in St. Louis Park. Memorial Services were held September 18, at Hutchinson Evangelical Free Church in Hutchinson. Interment will be held at a later date at Minnesota State Veterans Cemetery in Little Falls. Online Obituaries and Guest Book available at www.hantge.com.



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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 pci) 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.



Cardinals score twice against ranked team

The Staples-Motley football team played strong against a ranked opponent on Sept. 18, but ended up losing 40-14 in their first home game of the season. The Cardinals fell behind 14-0 before earning a first down. They started making plays after that, with Cayden Niesen and Beau Carlson making good gains on the ground, and Cooper Tappe completing short passes. The Cardinals drove into Hawley territory

twice in the first half but were turned away on fourth down. Evan Schultz intercepted a tipped pass to give them another spark. On defense, the Cardinals stacked the line on several plays, but were caught on misdirection runs and screen passes as Hawley took a 26-0 lead into halftime. In the second half, Hawley scored twice, including after a turnover

by Staples-Motley. Ayden Hovland stopped a Hawley drive by forcing a fumble on a fourth down try. In the fourth quarter, quarterback Cooper Tappe found Niesen open behind the defense and hit him for a touchdown pass. Towards the end of the game, Liam Jennissen threw a long touchdown pass to Jayden Rogers. Jennissen ran in the extra point to make the final score 14-46.



Cayden Niesen (9), Ryder Thompson (72) and Russell Milton (77) open a hole.



Cayden Niesen brings in a pass before evading a tackler and scoring a touchdown.



Chase Blue (6) runs down a ball carrier.



Jayden Rogers hauls in his touchdown catch.



Cooper Tappe throws on the run.



Ayden Blue (74) gets the tackle.



John Schotzko goes up for a catch.

CC teams place second at PR-B Invitational

The Staples-Motley cross country teams both placed second in the Pine River-Backus Invitational on Sept. 17. Andrew Dobson led the boys team with a third place finish and Elise Trif was the top girls finisher in seventh place. With smaller numbers this year, the Cardinals were still able to assemble two teams that placed second because of their depth, with their fourth and fifth runners outpacing the other teams behind them. “We are seeing socially

strong teams developing in these early stages,” said Coach Bruce Fuhrman. “This is a team program, centered on learning and growing. The successes just seem to evolve out of this: ordinary kids doing extraordinary things.” **Girls results** Crosby-Ironton 22, Staples-Motley 59, McGregor 69, Deer River/N/HC 83 7. Elise Trif 22:34, 11. Suhaila Mikhaeil 23:16, 12. Anna Warner 23:52, 18. Alexis Odden 25:18, 19.

Elizabeth Kroll 25:26, 30. Cydney McGree-Schmidt-bauer 33:02 **Boys results** Crosby-Ironton 23, Staples-Motley 59, McGregor 60, Pillager 86, Cass Lake-Bena 109 3. Andrew Dobson 18:18, 11. Reed Leach 20:20, 16. Jackson Odden 20:48, 19. Spencer Olsen 21:11, 25. Alex Leach 22:20, 30. Brayden Moore 24:24, 44. Jackson Bitzer 27:02 **Team results** Staples-Motley 6, Park Rapids 1 Singles: Ronnie Noska W 6-1, 6-1; Kaylee Perius W 6-1, 6-0; Mia Pesta L 0-6, 1-6; Charlie Noska W 6-4, 6-0 Doubles: Madison Perius/Natalie Hanson W 6-4, 6-4; Sarah Kroll/Lydia Roelofs W 3-6, 6-2, 6-1; Alexa Dolezal/Katelyn Erickson W 6-3, 4-6, (10-6) Staples-Motley 7, Wadena-Deer Creek 0 Singles: R. Noska W 6-1, 6-0; K. Perius W 6-0, 6-1; Roelofs W 6-1, 6-3; Pesta W 6-1, 6-1 Doubles: M. Perius/Hanson W 6-2, 6-2; C. Noska/Kroll W 6-3, 6-2; Erickson/Dolezal W 6-4, 4-6, (10-5)

Cardinals tennis team comes on strong in win

The Staples-Motley tennis team finished strong to take a 6-1 win against section rival Park Rapids on Sept. 17. They also beat Wadena-Deer Creek 7-0 that day. Against Park Rapids, the doubles matches were extremely competitive. Madison Perius and Natalie Hanson found themselves behind 4-3 in the second set, but won the next three games to win 6-4, 6-4. Perius said their consistency was key to the win, never giving up. Hanson said the two are benefiting from teamwork after two years of playing

as the number one doubles team. At two doubles, Sarah Kroll and Lydia Roelofs lost their first set, then rolled in the next two, 6-2, 6-1. Alexa Dolezal and Katelyn Erickson started to solidify the number three doubles spot, using power serves and strong net play to win their second tiebreaker of the day. Three of the Cardinal singles players breezed to a win, while Mia Pesta went up against a player who rarely loses at number three singles.



Lydia Roelofs reaches high for a ball at the net.

NOTICES

101

Card of Thanks

There truly aren't enough words to express how grateful I am for the incredible love and support you've all shown. To everyone who donated items, came out to support, called, texted, or sent messages - thank you from the bottom of my heart. Your kindness, generosity and encouragement have meant more to me than I could ever put into words. A very special thank you to Still Lefty's Bar and Grill (Staples) and all of the amazing employees who organized this event and worked so hard to make it happen. The time, effort and care you put into everything didn't go unnoticed and I will never forget it. I am beyond blessed, deeply humbled and forever grateful to each and every one of you. Thank you for standing by me, reminding me just how mazing this community truly is.

Korrin Carlson
Angevine
40p

SERVICES & EMPLOYMENT

205

Help Wanted

Full-time Employment Todd-Wadena Community Corrections

Todd-Wadena Community Corrections seeks one full-time Office and Administrative Specialist. This position includes providing word processing, data entry and retrieval, receptionist services, maintaining information tracking systems, and utilizing technology to fulfill assigned tasks. Successful applicant must be highly organized and efficient and demonstrate strong written and verbal communication skills. Minimum qualifications include a high school diploma, plus skills in data entry, database management, business English, customer service, word processing, typing/keyboard and experience with Microsoft Office Products.

Preferred qualifications include an associate degree or vocational/technical diploma in relevant field, experience entering data into information tracking systems and experience working in a correctional setting or office setting. Home office for this position is Wadena, MN. Travel between counties and office locations is required as determined by agency needs.

Salary range \$20.84 - \$27.62 per hour. Benefits-eligible positions include: paid time off for earned sick and vacation; paid holidays; excellent insurance plans (health, dental, vision, life, and short and long-term disability); pre-tax accounts for medical, dental, vision and daycare expenses; PERA pension plan; and 457(b) retirement options.

Normal working hours are M-F, 8:00 a.m.-4:30 p.m. Some non-traditional hours may apply. Must have valid MN driver's license and auto insurance, and reliable transportation. Must pass agency background check requirements prior to employment. Convictions, continuances or stays for crimes other than minor traffic offenses may disqualify the applicant from being hired.

Contact Megan Kruse, Administrative Assistant,
320-732-6165, megan.kruse@co.todd.mn.us for an application packet and/or to request a reasonable accommodation. Veteran's preference applies.

Submit cover letter, resume and completed application to Megan Kruse, Administrative Assistant, Todd-Wadena Community Corrections, 221 First Avenue South, Suite 200, Long Prairie, MN 56347.

Position will remain open until filled.
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38-40p

100 Events/ Announcements

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Friday, September 25th

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602

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701

SALE IN MODULAR: Thurs., Sept. 24, 8:30 a.m.-5:30 p.m., Fri., Sept. 25, noon-6 p.m. (half price). Books, dolls, dishes, clothing, guitar, scapbooking, chairs, much vintage. 5 miles west of Staples on Hwy 10, then 3 miles north on Cty Rd 26 to fire #13184. Watch for signs. Carlsons. 39x-40p

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501

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NOTICE
MOTLEY ADOPTS
AN ORDINANCE
AMENDING
CHAPTER 117 OF
THE MOTLEY CITY
CODE REGARDING
LOWER-POTENCY
HEMP EDIBLE RETAIL
REGISTRATION
AND COMPLIANCE
CHECKS

The City Council of the City of Motley has adopted an ordinance amending Chapter 117 to delegate to Morrison County the authority to process and issue lower-potency hemp edible retail registrations and conduct required compliance checks pursuant to Minn. Stat. § 342.22.

The ordinance requires retailers to obtain registration through Morrison County and clarifies that the City retains its authority over zoning, land use, building, nuisance, and other applicable regulations.

Ordinance No. 215 becomes effective following its passage and publication on September 14, 2026. A full text of the ordinance is available for review and inspection at the Motley City offices during regular business hours.

Tami Brotherton, Clerk
City of Motley
40pnc

PUBLIC NOTICE
AERATION WARNING

NOTICE: An aeration system creating thin ice will be in operation on the southeast shoreline on Lake Shamineau, 33203 and 33211, during ice conditions Fall of 2026 and continuing through Spring 2027. The purpose is to protect the shoreline from ice expansion.

Please be aware of open water and thin ice.
40-41pnp

NOTICE
BULLARD TOWNSHIP
WADENA COUNTY
SEALED BIDS FOR
ROAD MAINTENANCE

The Bullard Town Board is requesting sealed bids for the 11/01/26 - 10/31/27 road maintenance contract. Specifications are posted at Bullard Town Hall, 25500 170th Street, Staples, Minnesota. Bids must be received before 5:30 p.m. on Monday, October 12, 2026. Bids should be mailed to: Bullard Township Clerk 21858 Wilderness Dr. Verndale, MN 56481.

Janelle VanAlst, Clerk
Bullard Township
40pnc

TODD COUNTY
NOTICE OF
PUBLIC HEARING
2027 COUNTY FEE
SCHEDULE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Board of County Commissioners (the "Board") of Todd County, Minnesota (the "County"), will hold a public hearing of the Board beginning at 9:15 a.m., on October 6th, 2026, to be held at the Todd County Historic Courthouse, 215 1st Ave. South, Long Prairie, Minnesota, to solicit public input in order to determine the 2027 County Fee Schedules for the County Departments including but not limited to: Administration, Attorney, Assessor, Auditor-Treasurer, Environmental Health, GIS/MIS, Health & Human Services, Planning & Zoning, Public Works, Recorder, Sheriff and Solid Waste (Transfer Station).

The proposed 2027 County Fee Schedule is available on the Todd County website at https://www.toddcountymn.gov and at the Todd County Auditor-Treasurer's Office,

located at 215 1st Avenue South, Suite 201 Long Prairie, MN during regular business hours.

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

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

Denise Gaida,
Todd County Auditor/
Treasurer
Clerk to the County Board
40-41pnc

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

PUBLIC NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that the Todd County Planning Commission will hold a public hearing on Thursday, October 1, 2026 at 6:00 p.m. in the Commissioners meeting room, Historic Courthouse, 215 First Ave. South, Long Prairie, MN to consider the following applications.

NOTE: This meeting is again being held in-person and the public is encouraged to attend, and those who do attend in person can find parking atop the hill on the west side of the His-

toric Courthouse and enter through the north doors, near the American Flag and monument.

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

Agenda
•Call to Order
•Pledge of Allegiance
•Introduction of Planning Committee Members and process review
•Approval of agenda
•Approval of Sept. 3, 2026 Planning Commission meeting minutes
•The applicant is introduced

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

1. John H. Kessler and Jessie A. Kessler Jacobson, "Kessler's Bay Addition": Section 22, Kandota Township
Site Address: 11264 US 71, Sauk Centre, MN 56378
PID: 14-0025200

1. Request to Create a two-lot Plat in Recreational Development Shoreland Zoning District.
2. Oaks Tree Service LLC, Samson Sjogren: Section 26, Birchdale Township, Sauk Lake
Site Address: 10247 Alcott Drive, Sauk Centre, MN 56378
PID: 03-0037500

1. Request for CUP to operate Service Business from the site in Recreational Development Shoreland Zoning District.
3. Adam Miller: Section 29, Staples Township
Site Address: 23285 464th Street, Staples, MN 56479
PID: 22-0026402

1. Request for CUP operate a Truss Business in AF-2 Zoning District

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

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

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.

Adjournment.

Next meeting:
November, 2026

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

Todd County Planning
Commission
Jim Pratt, Chair
40pnc

Official Publication for
Todd County

NOTICE OF
ONLINE SALE OF
FORFEITED LANDS
2 PARCELS REPRICED

October 19, through
November 18, 2026
Online: Bid4assets

Parcel 29-0003201
Address: 43368 County 23
Previous Price:
\$80,000.00
Reduced Price: \$50,000.00

Parcel 30-0034900
Address: 741 Creamery
Ave N
40pnc

Todd County Board of Commissioners

MINUTES OF THE
MEETING OF THE TODD
COUNTY BOARD OF
COMMISSIONERS HELD
SEPT. 1, 2026

Public Comment

Dean Schultes expressed concerns regarding the after-the-fact permitting process that occurred on a parcel near Lake Latimer despite concerns being raised.

Call to Order

The Todd County Board of Commissioners met in the Commissioner's Board Room in the City of Long Prairie, MN on the 1st day of September, 2026 at 9:00 a.m. The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Byers. The meeting was opened with the Pledge of Allegiance. All Commissioners were present except Commissioner Denny.

Approval of Agenda

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

Consent Agenda

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

To approve the Todd County Board of Commissioner's Meeting Minutes for August 18, 2026 as presented.

To approve a one day Dance License for Saukinac Campground at the address of 21914 Bay Loop, Sauk Centre, MN in Kandota Township effective September 6, 2026.

GAMBLING PERMIT – SWANVILLE INNOVATIVE SCHOOLS PROJECT

WHEREAS, the Todd County Board of Commissioners are establishing their approval for a Gambling Permit for the Swanville Innovative Schools Project through this resolution:

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Todd County Board of Commissioners approve a Gambling Permit for the Swanville Innovative Schools Project to hold a raffle event at the Shattuck's Hub Supper Club in Burnhamville Township at the address 30905 Co Rd 13, Burtrum, MN on October 31st, 2026.

Approve the resignation of Eli Johnson, Clerical/Records Intern effective August 21, 2026.

Accept the resignation of Reilly Jones, PT Jailer effective 9/01/2026.

Accept the resignation of Marshall Carlson, Seasonal Rec Position 8/02/2026.

Hire Carter Lenk for the FT Correctional Officer Position effective 9/06/2026.

Hire Boe Garthus for the Investigator Position effective 9/06/2026.

Accept Brandon Cline resignation effective 08/20/2026.

Accept Chet Hudalla resignation effective 08/19/2026.

Approve the hiring of Mr. Jason Biel to fill the vacant Public Work mechanic position at Grade G, Step H (\$34.59/hour).

Auditor-Treasurer

On motion by Neumann and second by Becker, the following motion was introduced and adopted by unanimous Roll Call vote: To approve the Commissioner Warrants number (ACH)

404654 through 404668 in the amount of \$18,190.37 and (Regular) 60036 through 60068 in the amount of \$19,176.39 for a total of \$37,366.76.

On motion by Noska and second by Becker, the following motion was introduced and adopted by unanimous Roll Call vote: To approve the Health & Human Services Commissioner Warrants number (ACH) 807794 through 807835 and (Regular) 714433 through 714473 for a total of \$98,007.35.

On motion by Becker and second by Neumann, the following motion was introduced and adopted by unanimous Roll Call vote: To approve the Health & Human Services SSIS Warrants number (ACH) 602087 through 602095 and (Regular) 519077 through 519100 for a total amount of \$118,622.34.

On motion by Noska and second by Becker, the following motion was introduced and adopted by unanimous vote: To set the County Fee Schedule Public Hearing for October 6, 2026 to being at 9:15 a.m. in the County Commissioners Board Room and instruct all appropriate legal notices be generated and published accordingly.

Great River Regional
Library

Brandi Canter and Addie Carlson provided an update to the County Board regarding Great River Regional Library's 2027 Budget for discussion.

MIS

On motion by Neumann and second by Noska, the following motion was introduced and adopted by unanimous vote: To approve the purchase of Veeam data cloud for Microsoft 365.

Public Works

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

FINAL PAYMENT AUTHORIZATION – 2026 PAVEMENT MARKING MAINTENANCE CONTRACT

WHEREAS, the contract with Sir Lines-A-Lot, LLC for the 2026 Pavement Marking Maintenance Contract known as CP 77-26-03 located on various routes in Todd County, has in all things been completed, and;

WHEREAS, construction work on this contract was scheduled and completed in 2026 with the value of the total work certified being \$215,395.10, and;

WHEREAS, partial payments amounting to \$181,803.51 have been previously been made to the contractor as work progressed, and;

WHEREAS, it has been determined that \$33,591.59 still remains to be paid to Sir Lines-A-Lot, LLC.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Commissioners does here accept said completed project for and on behalf of the County of Todd and authorize final payment as specified.

On motion by Neumann and second by Noska, the following motion was introduced and adopted by unanimous vote: To set the 2026 Fall Road Meeting for November 5, 2026 at 8:30 a.m. at the Long Prairie Shop.

Facilities

On motion by Noska and second by Becker, the following motion was introduced and adopted by unanimous vote: Accept the low bid from Busker Concrete for a total replace-

ment cost of \$17,485.

Ditch/Ag Inspector

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

HOLD HARMLESS AGREEMENT – DITCH MAINTENANCE – COUNTY DITCH 33

WHEREAS, Wally and Lorie Miller, parcel 20-0031200 and Triple M Dairy Inc, parcel 20-0031700 are requesting to maintain approximately 4,041 feet of the Main Ditch, on County Ditch 33 in Reynolds Twp, Section 29. A Hold Harmless Agreement has been signed and submitted to the Ditch Authority, and;

WHEREAS, an onsite inspection has been done, and;

WHEREAS, applicant is allowed to maintain the drainage ditch to the original width and depth. An improvement by lowering or widening the ditch bottom is not allowed. Sediment and vegetation can only be removed to the extent of the original ditch bottom elevation. Spoil may be side cast and leveled, staying within 16-1/2 feet of the ditch.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, the Todd County Ditch Authority gives permission to Wally and Lorie Miller (parcel 20-0031200) and Triple M Dairy Inc. (parcel 20-0031700) to maintain a portion of the Main Ditch of CD33 located in Reynolds Twp Section 29. The maintenance will be done on their own properties at their own expense.

On motion by Becker and second by Neumann, the following motion was introduced and adopted by unanimous vote: Approves the CAI pursuing the County Agricultural Inspector Grant by submitting an application.

Planning & Zoning

On motion by Noska and second by Becker, the following motion was introduced and adopted by unanimous vote: Adopt the Agreement of Services and authorize the Chair to sign for the Leaf, Wing, Red Eye Watershed Agreement.

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

FINAL PLAT APPROVAL – "HALVES" SUBDIVISION

WHEREAS, Applicant Jeffrey A. Halverson applied to subdivide a property owned by Jeffrey A. and Karen J. Halverson, Trustees of the Jeffrey A. Halverson and Karen J. Halverson Revocable Trust that is described as part of Section 18 of Villard Township with the plat to be known as "Halves",

WHEREAS, Halves consists of two (2) lots: Block 1, Lot 1, 2.47± acres and Lot 2, 13.69± acres located in Shoreland Natural Environment and Residential-2 Zoning Districts,

WHEREAS, On July 2, 2026, the Todd County Planning Commission recommended the following property be considered for Subdivision pursuant to Todd County Subdivision Regulation and Ordinance:

The South 300 feet of the South half of the Southwest Quarter (S1/2 of SW1/4) of Section 18, Township 133 North, Range 32 West, subject to reservations, restrictions, and easements of record.

WHEREAS, On July 21, 2026, the Todd County Board of Commissioners considered the Preliminary

Plat for the above described property and approved the Halves preliminary plat with two (2) conditions,

1. New accesses from the road shall be approved by the road authority prior to installation.

2. Applicant must abide by all other applicable federal, state, and local standards.

WHEREAS, the Planning & Zoning Department has completed the necessary final plat review and find that all items required for final plat approval have been completed.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, the final plat of "Halves" be approved as presented.

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

FINAL PLAT APPROVAL – "PRAIRIE COUNTRY ESTATES" SUBDIVISION

WHEREAS, Applicant and property owners Impact Technology, represented by Randy Mechels, applied to subdivide a property that is described as part of Section 16 of Long Prairie Township with the plat to be known as "Prairie Country Estates",

WHEREAS, consisting of five (5) lots: Block 1, Lot 1, 2.97± acres, Lot 2, 2.85± acres, Lot 3, 2.72± acres, Lot 4, 2.80± acres, and Lot 5, 3.50± acres located in Residential-2 Zoning.

WHEREAS, On June 4, 2026, the Todd County Planning Commission recommended the following property be considered for Subdivision pursuant to Todd County Subdivision Regulation and Ordinance:

That part of the Southeast Quarter of the Northwest Quarter of Section 16, Township 129 North, Range 33 West, described as follows:

Commencing at the southeast corner of said Southeast Quarter of the Northwest Quarter;

thence on an assumed bearing of North 0 degrees 45 minutes 07 seconds West along the east line of said Southeast Quarter of the Northwest Quarter, a distance of 126 feet to the intersection with the north line of the south 126 feet of said Southeast Quarter of the Northwest Quarter, said intersection to be the point of beginning of the land to be described;

thence South 89 degrees 05 minutes 27 seconds West along said north line of the south 126 feet of the Southeast Quarter of the Northwest Quarter, a distance of 668.61 feet to a point that is distant 116.68 feet from the easterly right-of-way line of C.S.A.H. No. 5, as measured along said north line of the south 126 feet of the Southeast Quarter of the Northwest Quarter;

thence North 0 degrees 54 minutes 33 seconds West 141.05 feet to said easterly right-of-way line;

thence southwesterly along said easterly right-of-way line and along a non-tangential curve concave to the northwest, radius 769.42 feet, central angle 13 degrees 39 minutes 49 seconds, 183.49 feet, the chord of said curve bears South 38 degrees 41 minutes 17 seconds West, 183.05 feet to said north line of the south 126 feet of the Southeast Quarter of the Northwest Quarter;

thence South 89 degrees 05 minutes 27 seconds West along said north line of the south 126 feet of the Southeast Quarter of the North-

west Quarter, a distance of 75.57 feet to the centerline of said C.S.A.H. No. 5;

thence northeasterly along said centerline and along a non-tangential curve concave to the northwest, radius 719.42 feet, central angle 54 degrees 50 minutes 02 seconds, 668.51 feet, the chord of said curve bears North 22 degrees 28 minutes 04 seconds East, 662.53 feet;

thence North 4 degrees 56 minutes 57 seconds West along tangent and along said centerline, 596.97 feet to the north line of said Southeast Quarter of the Northwest Quarter;

thence North 89 degrees 18 minutes 45 seconds East along said north line of the Southeast Quarter of the Northwest Quarter, a distance of 643.34 feet to the northeast corner of said Southeast Quarter of the Northwest Quarter;

thence South 0 degrees 45 minutes 07 seconds East along said east line of said Southeast Quarter of the Northwest Quarter, a distance of 1,201.15 feet to the point of beginning.

WHEREAS, On June 16th, 2026, the Todd County Board of Commissioners considered the Preliminary Plat for the above described property and approved the Prairie Country Estates preliminary plat with two (2) conditions,

1. New accesses from the County road shall be approved by the road authority prior to installation.

2. Applicant must abide by all other applicable federal, state, and local standards.

WHEREAS, the Planning & Zoning Department has completed the necessary final plat review and find that all items required for final plat approval have been completed.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, the final plat of "Prairie Country Estates" be approved as presented.

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

THE SAUK RIVER WATERSHED COLLABORATIVE WATERSHED BASED IMPLEMENTATION FUND (WBIF) FISCAL YEAR (FY) 24 GRANT PERIOD EXTENSION AND GRANT AGREEMENT AMENDMENT

WHEREAS, Todd County adopted the Sauk River Comprehensive Watershed Management Plan (CWMP) for the area of the county identified within the Sauk River Watershed.

WHEREAS, the Sauk River CWMP called for the development and adoption of biennial work plans, to be completed by a Policy Committee established via the execution of a joint powers collaborative agreement amongst partnering entities implementing the Sauk River CWMP.

WHEREAS, Todd County entered into a joint powers collaborative agreement with partnering entities to implement the Sauk River CWMP, and under this agreement a Policy Committee was established to, amongst other duties, review and recommend approval of any modifications or additions to the grant agreement to collaborative partner's governing boards.

WHEREAS, Todd County has received notice from said Policy Committee that: 1) The FY2024 WBIF Grant Period Extension and

Previous Price: \$30,000.00
Reduced Price \$25,364.14

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, that the parcels of Tax-Forfeited Land that is contained herein shall be sold to the highest bidder online with bid4assets. The sale will be governed by the provisions of Minn. Stat. § 282.01 and by the resolution of the Todd County Board of Commissioners authorizing such sale. The resolution reads as follows:

BE IT RESOLVED, that all parcels of tax-forfeited land listed on the List of Tax-Forfeited Land be classified as nonconservation land; that the basic sale price of each parcel on List of Tax-Forfeited Land, that is on file with the Clerk of the County Board, be approved and authorization for an online sale of this land be granted, pursuant to Minn. Stat. § 282.01; that the sale will be held at 10:00 AM, Monday, October 19, 2026 and closes November 18, 2026, by the Todd County Auditor/Treasurer online with Bid4assets, for not less than the basic sale price; and that all sales shall be full payment or on the terms set forth on the List of Tax-Forfeited Land.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the conditions and terms of the public sale shall be as described in the list of Tax-Forfeited Land contained here-in and approved by the Todd County Board of Commissioners.

Information about the sale of tax-forfeited land in Todd County can be obtained at the office of the County Auditor/Treasurer, Todd County Courthouse, 215 1st Avenue So., Suite 201, Long Prairie, Minnesota, 56347. Telephone: (320) 732-4469, or online with Bid4assets.

40pnc

Grant Agreement Amendment Request has been reviewed on August 20, 2026 and 2) the Policy Committee recommends approval of the same by each collaborative member's governing board.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, Todd County hereby approves the submission of the Sauk River Watershed Collaborative's FY2024 WBIF Grant Period Extension and Grant Agreement Amendment Request to the Minnesota Board of Water and Soil Resources.

ALSO, BE IT RESOLVED, Todd County adopts the FY2024 WBIF Grant Period Extension and Grant Agreement Amendment upon approval of the Minnesota Board of Water and Soil Resources and the Sauk River Watershed Collaborative Fiscal Agent.

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

ADOPTION OF THE 2026 TODD COUNTY COMPREHENSIVE PLAN

WHEREAS, Minnesota Statutes 394.21 gives authority to Counties to carry out Planning and Zoning, and;

WHEREAS, Minnesota Statutes § 394.23 gives authority to County Boards to prepare and adopt a comprehensive plan, and;

WHEREAS, the Todd County Board of Commissioners authorized hiring Region 5 Development Commission to serve as the plan writer for a comprehensive plan update, and;

WHEREAS, the Todd County Planning Commission has held a public hearing and reviewed the proposed Comprehensive Plan on July 2, 2026.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Todd County Board of Commissioners has had the opportunity to review the draft Comprehensive Plan, and;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the Todd County Board of Commissioners hereby adopts the Todd County 2026 Comprehensive Plan and directs its implementation.

Administration

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

A RESOLUTION ESTABLISHING SUPPORT FOR SEEKING FUNDING FROM SOURCEWELL FOR IMPACT GRANT FUNDS FOR LOCAL GOVERNMENT

WHEREAS, Sourcewell is providing Impact Grant Funds for Cities and Counties in Region Five, and;

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that Todd County Board of Commissioners approves the Sourcewell Impact Grant Funding application submitted by Todd County Administration and;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That Todd County Board of Commissioners fully supports Todd County Administration in submitting an Impact Grant for Local Governments Funding application to Sourcewell to request financial support for in the amount of \$50,000 for county projects.

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

See TCC on page 10a



Todd County Commissioners Minutes

TCC continued from page 9a

TODD COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS RESOLUTION INSTITUTING A HIRING FREEZE

WHEREAS, the Todd County Board of Commissioners recognizes the need to maintain fiscal responsibility and carefully manage County expenditures; and

WHEREAS, the Todd County Board of Commissioners desires to evaluate staffing levels, departmental workloads, operational efficiencies, and the financial impact of additional personnel before authorizing the addition of new positions; and

WHEREAS, current economic and budgetary considerations require the County to exercise additional diligence and restraint in the creation and filling of positions; and

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, the Todd County Board of Commissioners hereby institutes a hiring freeze, effective September 1, 2026, on all newly created positions within Todd County, effective immediately and continuing for an indefinite period; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, no new position shall be created, posted, or recruited for without prior approval of the Todd County Board of Commissioners; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the County Board may authorize an exception to the hiring freeze when it determines that filling a position is necessary to maintain essential County services, address public safety or legal requirements, or otherwise serves the best interests of Todd County; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the hiring freeze shall remain in effect until such time as the Todd County Board of Commissioners takes further formal action to modify, suspend, or terminate the hiring freeze.

County Auditor-Treasurer's Report

The County Auditor-Treasurer reported that the Primary Election processing is being finalized and the General Election preparations are well underway. Finance Committee has been working diligently to finalize the Preliminary Levy. A reminder that mobile home taxes were due on August 31, 2026.

County Coordinator's Report

The County Coordinator reported attending meetings including Personnel, Finance, AMC legislative update, met with TWCC, Facilities, Court Admin and Paycom.

County Commissioner's Report

The Commissioners reported on meetings and events attended.

Commissioner Becker attended meetings including Facilities and Region V.

Commissioner Noska has attended meetings business as usual and provided input regarding PZ regulation and next appropriate steps.

Commissioner Byers attended meetings including Extension, Op-oid, Finance, Personnel, and Fac-

ilities.

Commissioner Neumann attended meetings including Sauk River Millers Bay, SRWD, Sauk River 1W1P, Christie House Museum, and also expressed concerns regarding PZ regulation of violations.

Recess

On motion by Neumann and second by Becker, the meeting was recessed until September 15, 2026.

COMMISSIONER WARRANTS	
VENDOR NAME	\$ AMOUNT
CENTRAL APPLICATORS	
INC	\$13,443.18
KRIS ENGINEERING INC	5,027.00
LONG PRAIRIE LEADER	3,125.00
STAPP MANUFACTURING	2,155.33
44 PAYMENTS LESS	
THAN \$2,000	13,616.25
Total:	\$37,366.76

HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES WARRANTS	
VENDOR NAME	\$ AMOUNT
CHILDREN YOUTH & FAMILIES DEPT	\$2,983.90
DHS - SWIFT	15,449.61
FRESHWATER EDUCATION DISTRICT 6004	21,096.00
RURAL MN CEP INC	18,430.55
66 PAYMENTS LESS	
THAN \$2,000	27,812.46
US BANK	7,991.08
12 PAYMENTS LESS	
THAN \$2,000	4,243.75
Total:	\$98,007.35

VENDOR NAME	\$ AMOUNT
CENTRACARE - ST CLOUD HOSPITAL	\$10,686.90
CHILDREN'S HOME & LSS LLC	\$3,534.62
DHS - MOOSE LAKE RTC - 462	2,844.25
DHS - MSOP - MN SEX OFFENDER PROG - 462	4,929.00
FREEDOM RANCH/THE	12,358.06
GREATER MN FAMILY SRVS INC	4,988.36
LUTHERAN SOCIAL SERVICE OF MN - ST PAUL	2,192.95
MAIN STREET FAMILY SERVICES	2,861.02
NEXUS - MILLE LACS FAMILY HEALING	11,109.78
PRAIRIE LAKES YOUTH PROGRAMS	8,800.00
TRI-COUNTY COMMUNITY CORRECTIONS	3,320.00
VILLAGE RANCH INC	42,379.24
21 PAYMENTS LESS	
THAN \$2,000	8,618.16
Total:	118,622.34

On a motion by Denny and second by Neumann, the preceding minutes of the County Board meeting held September 1, 2026 were duly approved by unanimous vote at the Todd County Board of Commissioners at the Regular Board Meeting held on September 15, 2026.

Witness my hand and seal:
/s/ on file: Bob Byers,
County Board Chairperson
/s/ on file: Denise Gaida,
Todd County Auditor-Treasurer
41pnc



Playing in the rain

The Cardinal Pep Band persevered in the rain prior to the start of the home football game Sept. 18. As it turned out, the rain stopped before the football players hit the field, showing that musicians just might be tougher than athletes. (Staples World photos by Mark Anderson)



Cheering on Mrs. Minnesota!

Relatives and fans of Maren (Goff) Martin, the 2026 Mrs. Minnesota, donned crowns and met at Frosty's in Staples Sept. 3, to watch the Mrs. America Pageant broadcast live from the Westgate Resort in Las Vegas, Nevada. It was the 50th anniversary of the pageant.

Martin, who placed in the top 16 at the national pageant, lives in Baxter with her husband Joel. She is the daughter of Staples natives Pat and Bev (Mennis) Goff of Brainerd; granddaughter of Dr. Bill and Helen Mennis, Staples; and niece of Kay (Mennis) and Bob Mueller, Staples. Colleen Frost, owner of Frosty's, hosted the event in Staples. (Staples World photos by Dawn Timbs)



DEADLINES

Newspaper deadline for copy and advertising: 12 noon Fridays

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11 \$5,965	1600 \$1,340	13,540 \$1,340	1500 \$1,340	315 \$1,340	2,000 \$1,340	1,000 \$1,340	275 \$1,340	1,200 \$1,340
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Flu shots available at Lakewood Health System

Flu shots are now available at all Lakewood Health System clinic locations, including Browerville, Eagle Bend, Motley, Pillager and Staples, during regular business hours, Monday through Friday. Everyone age six months and older is eligible to receive a flu shot. FluMist is also available at the Pillager and Staples locations for those who qualify.

In addition to regular clinic availability, Lake-

wood Health System will host a flu shot clinic on Saturday, Oct. 10, from 9 a.m. to noon at the Staples clinic, located at 49725 County Road 83 (Main Entrance). While appointments are encouraged, walk-ins are welcome; however, wait times may vary.

According to the CDC (Centers for Disease Control and Prevention), a yearly flu shot remains one of the best ways to help reduce the risk of flu and its com-

plications. The CDC recommends it for everyone six months and older, with few exceptions. This is especially important for individuals at higher risk of serious flu-related complications, including:

- Adults age 65 and older
- Pregnant individuals
- Young children
- People living with: cancer; asthma; heart disease or a history of stroke; diabetes; chronic kidney disease; HIV/AIDS.

To schedule a flu shot during the Oct. 10 clinic, call 218-894-8611. Flu shots during regular business hours are available on a walk-in basis at all Lakewood clinic locations. Most insurance plans cover flu shots. Patients with questions about coverage or potential out-of-pocket costs are encouraged to contact their insurance provider before receiving their flu shot.



Making apple cider by hand

Children at Field Day Aug. 28 in Staples participated in making apple cider. Above, they help toss apples into the hand grinder. Below, they participate in pressing the apples until juice comes out the bottom. (Staples World photos by Mark Anderson)



Gathering in the barn

Scott and Sheila Becker's barn near Staples has been renovated to host their large family groups. They also opened it for the Farm Bureau banquet. (Staples World photo by Mark Anderson)



Lions donate to 'Hooked on Fishing'

The Staples Host Lions recently donated \$1,000 to the Staples Sportsmen Club for their 'Hooked on Fishing' event. Pictured, from left, James Kenyon, Mark

Holper, Staples Sportsmen Club members; Staples Host Lions President Bob Schafer. (Staples World photo by Dawn Timbs)



Vegetable archway

Visitors to Field Day at Central Lakes College on Aug. 28 were intrigued by the vine covered arch in the garden area. (Staples World photos by Mark Anderson)



Beautiful setting for beautiful music

Skål Klubb Spelmanslag, a Scandinavian orchestra, played traditional songs in the newly remodeled gazebo at the Living Legacy Garden in Staples, as part of the ice cream social following the Central Lakes College Field Day on Aug. 28. (Staples World photo by Mark Anderson)

Annie's Project retreat at Frog Tree Farm

University of Minnesota Extension

A hands-on two-night getaway designed to build confidence in farm business, financial strategy, and community leadership—capped at just 19 participants. Running an agricultural operation takes equal parts passion, grit and business savvy. To help producers understand the business side of farming, University of Minnesota Extension is bringing back its highly acclaimed Annie's Project Retreat from Thursday, October 24 to Saturday, October 26, 2026.

Held at the scenic Frog Tree Farm north of Verndale, in central Minnesota, this transformative time is specifically tailored for all those involved in agriculture—welcoming everyone from urban growers and rural ranchers to beginner, future and seasoned farm-

ers alike.

"Farming today requires wearing a dozen different hats—from CFO and risk manager to labor coordinator," said Susanne Hinrichs, U of M Extension Educator. "Annie's Project gives participants a supportive, collaborative space to demystify farm management, ask the tough questions, and walk away with a real-world action plan and a network of peers who have their back."

Elevating the Five Pillars of Farm Management

Rather than dry, sit-and-listen lectures, the weekend offers an interactive environment focusing on the core business areas critical to agricultural success: financial strategies, business planning, risk management and introduction to ag resources. Co-creation of some meal items and seed art activities, as well as walks at the tree farm, make this a truly re-ener-

gizing retreat.

High Value, Limited Space

To keep workshop sessions personal, collaborative, and high-impact, capacity is strictly capped at the first 19 attendees.

Attendees receive comprehensive course materials, full weekend workshop access, all meals, and two nights of lodging at Frog Tree Farm. For more information about cost and further details, go to z.umn.edu/APRetreat2026.

Event Details & Registration

- Dates: Thursday, October 24 – Saturday, October 26, 2026
- Location: Frog Tree Farm, 26279 County Road 9, Verndale, MN 56481
- Cost: Sliding scale (Includes two nights lodging plus all meals)
- Registration: Limited to 19 participants. Register early at z.umn.edu/APRetreat2026



Making music fun

Staples-Motley Elementary second grade students started the school year off with singing, moving, dancing and clapping during their music class with teacher Brandy Lyon. (Staples World photos by Mark Anderson)



LHS to hold ceremony for pregnancy and infant loss

October is Pregnancy and Infant Loss Awareness Month, a time to acknowledge the profound grief experienced by families who have lost a baby through miscarriage, stillbirth, or infant death. Pregnancy loss is more common than many people realize. According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, about one in four pregnancies ends in miscarriage, and approximately 21,000 babies are stillborn in the United States each year, affecting about one in every 175 births.

To honor these babies and support those who grieve their loss, Lakewood Health System, Staples, invites families, friends and community members to a Ceremony of Dedication and Remembrance on Monday, Oct. 5, at 6:30 p.m. The event will be held on the lower level of Lakewood's Main Campus, located at 49725 County 83 in Staples.

The non-denominational ceremony will feature time for reflection, a message from Chaplain Paul Johnson, luminary lighting, and a special water service at the Serenity Sanctuary fountain. Lakewood obstetrics nurses will also be available to offer support and encouragement to attendees.

"Pregnancy and infant loss can leave a lasting impact on families, regardless of how much time has passed," said Nan Hanson, obstetrics manager at Lakewood. "This ceremony provides an opportunity to remember, reflect and connect with others who understand that journey."

Whether a loss occurred recently or many years ago, all who have been touched by pregnancy or infant loss, including parents, grandparents, siblings, extended family members and friends, are welcome to attend.

For more information, call 218-894-8525 or 218-894-8505.



Show us your brains!

Staples-Motley Elementary second grade students learned about brains in science class with STEAM teacher Cathy Evans, below right. (Staples World photos by Mark Anderson)



► GET BACK TO FRIDAY NIGHTS.

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