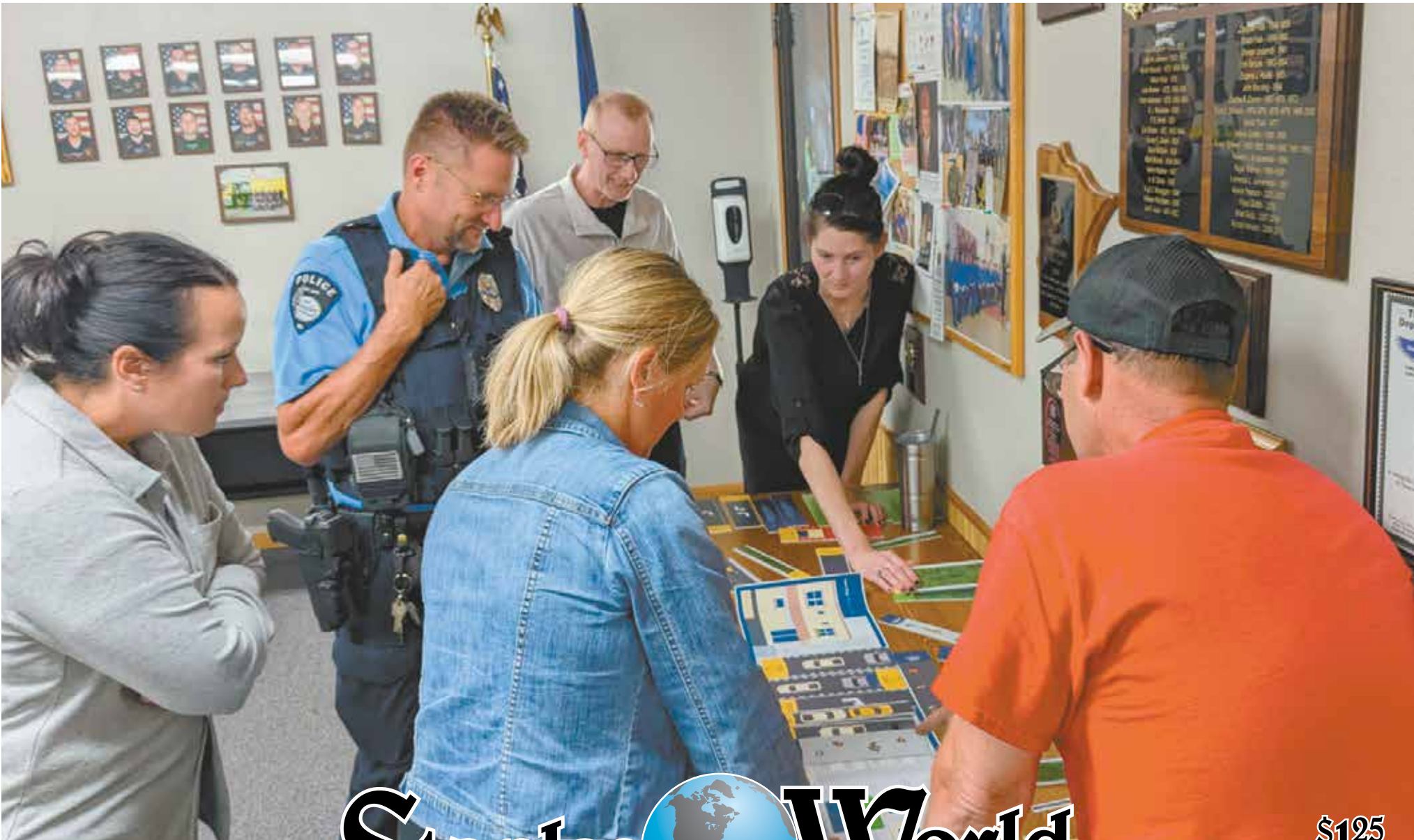


Inside this issue:

Cross country, volleyball seasons start
Exercise classes for Parkinson's disease patients
Class reunions '64, '65, '66
New educators at Sacred Heart Area School



Staples City Council to wait on food truck change

By Mark Anderson
Managing Editor

The Staples City Council at their August 26 meeting decided to table a proposed change to their food truck ordinance, while they look into the situation that prompted the proposed change.

The council was considering changing their mobile food ordinance to define what a “private auction” means in the ordinance.

City Administrator Jerel Nelsen said the original intent of the ordinance was to allow a food truck at an estate sale or other private residence for a one time event. He said the purpose of the ordinance was to prevent food trucks on city streets that take business away from a restaurant or coffee shop that’s paying taxes to the city.

At the previous council meeting, Aug. 12 they were told there had been complaints about a food truck on 4th St NE in front of

Don’s Auctions. The item on the council’s agenda was to define “private auction” to not include an auction business.

Before voting on the ordinance change, the council allowed public comments about the issue. The owner of the auction business, Don Handeland, was unable to attend the council meeting, but two other people familiar with his business did speak in favor of allowing the food truck during auctions.

Trevor Haasch, owner of the building where Don’s Auctions is leasing, told the council that the information they cited at the previous meeting was not correct. At the Aug. 12 meeting, the council was told that auctions are being held weekly, but Haasch said there have only been five auctions in the first five months of the business leasing the building. Two of those auctions were on Sundays when there is nothing else going on in downtown Staples.

Haasch also said that nei-

ther he nor Handeland had been contacted by the city or the council members to ask about the operation.

“Not a single person has called me,” said Haasch.

He questioned how the council could vote on the food truck ordinance without first learning about the situation.

Mark Bounds, local businessman, told the council that this auction business “brings in a tremendous amount of people to this town on a Sunday.”

He said the food truck trailer isn’t any bigger than a vehicle that could be parked in the parking space there. He also said the food is a convenience for the people bidding at the auction, because they may not have time to go to a restaurant.

See **STAPLES** on page 12a

Planning road issues in Motley Discussing issues pertaining to traffic along Highways 10 and 210 in Motley was the topic of Motley’s Comprehensive Plan meeting Aug. 26, at Motley City Hall. The meeting was facilitated by Savannah Winkler, Regional Development Planner with Region Five, and Tad Erickson, with MnDOT. Pictured above, a group brainstorms possible solutions for traffic congestion and pedestrian safety, which included taking out the medians and changing the width of the sidewalks. Clockwise, from left, are April Skeesick-Larson, city council member; Duane Larson, Motley Police Chief Al Yoder, Gretta Trantina, Lisa Bjerga and Bruce Brotherton, Public Works Director. (Photo by Dawn Timbs)

Todd County to consider cannabis growing permit

Todd County Planning Commission will hold a public hearing Thursday, Sept. 4, at 6 p.m. at the Todd County Courthouse in Long Prairie, to consider three proposals, including a cannabis growing operation along Cty Rd 21, near the intersection with Cty Rd 81, south of Staples.

The other two items are for a recreational development near Cushing and a permit for a sawmill near Long Prairie.

The cannabis proposal is requested by Donniel Robinson, who owns a farm field property in Moran Township. The request is to build a 60 foot by 120 foot building to grow cannabis indoors as a licensed microbusiness.

Public comment is allowed at the public hearing. The public hearing will take place at the commissioner’s board room at the courthouse, at 215 1st Ave. South in Long Prairie.



Landmark in Staples

Sacred Heart Area School has been a cornerstone of faith and learning in Staples since 1914. Its brick building on 4th St, St. NE, above, was erected in 1923. The school is currently facing a critical financial challenge - it must raise \$280,000 by this Thanksgiving to keep its doors open for the 2026-27 school year. For more information, visit www.sacredheartareaschool.com. (Staples World photo by Dawn Timbs)

Weather

2025

This Week's Forecast

	High	Low	Cond.
Sept. 3	62	44	Cloudy
Sept. 4	69	47	P. Cloudy
Sept. 5	75	52	M. Sunny
Sept. 6	71	51	Rain
Sept. 7	70	51	Sunny
Sept. 8	73	53	M. Cloudy
Sept. 9	74	54	M. Sunny

Last Year, 2024

	High	Low	Cond.
Sept. 3	77°	57	Sunny
Sept. 4	81	60	Sunny
Sept. 5	67	59	M. Cloudy
Sept. 6	69	47	Sunny
Sept. 7	70	48	Sunny
Sept. 8	74	48	Sunny
Sept. 9	81	54	M. Sunny

Average Temps:
H = 72° Low = 54°

Compiled by
Dale Hausmann,
WCCO's Staples area
Weatherwatcher

Public Notices

Leader Com. Board 9A

Becker Township 9A

Todd Cty. Commissioners 9A

Obituary

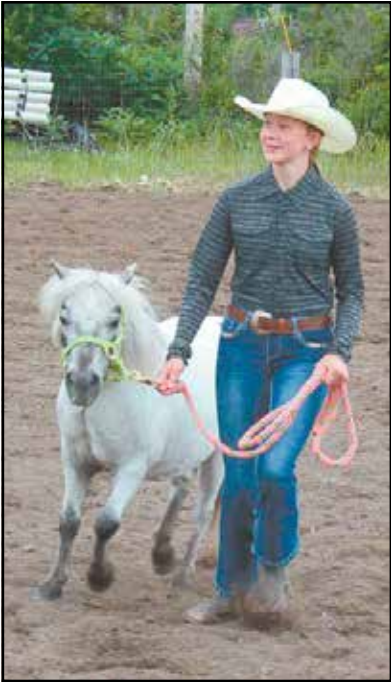
Amanda McCoy



England Prairie’s Pioneer Days

The 45th Annual England Prairie Pioneer Days was held Aug. 22, 23 and 24, in rural Wadena. The event featured an antique tractor pull, draft horses field demos, food, parade, kids’ games, worship service at the log chapel, horse drawn wagon rides and more.

Pictured above, from left, are Danielle Hanson, Natalie Hanson, Garry Carpenter, Jr. and David Hanson in front of their Model T Ford; and Lester Bain giving wagon rides. At right, Bruce Brotherton of Motley, an England Prairie event volunteer, hauls more hay to the baling exhibition. (Submitted photos)



Obstacle course

The ‘Obstacle Course’ event was a highlight at the Pillager Fair Horse Show July 18. Pictured at left is Taylor Kavanaugh of Cushing with her miniature pony Buddy. Kavanaugh competed in a variety of events at the horse show, taking home several ribbons. (Staples World photo by Dawn Timbs)



Ahhh...summertime!

Faces painted

Siblings Reese, three (left), and Roy, six, Sterriker of Staples had their faces painted at the circus in Motley July 19. (Staples World photo by Dawn Timbs)



Souvenir coloring books

Souvenir coloring books were available at the Culpepper & Merriweather Circus that came to Motley July 19. Pictured above, from left, are Harley Praska, her grandmother, Anita Sutton, and her mother,

Ariel Praska, all of Motley. Pictured below, getting their books signed by Leo the Circus Clown, are Rylie Dabbs and Sarina Huepenbecker, both of Staples. (Staples World photos by Dawn Timbs)



Portrait drawn by Leo the Clown



Kody Skeesick of Motley (lower photo left) was recruited by Leo the Clown to join him during an “audience participation” portion of the circus show in Motley July 19. Leo even offered to draw a portrait of Skeesick, free of charge. At top, Skeesick holds the portrait gifted to him by the circus clown. Also pictured, from left, are Kash and Nevaeh Skeesick, and Elliana Cornforth, all of Motley. (Staples World photos by Dawn Timbs)



Scenes from the circus

In between acts at the Motley circus July 19, children had the opportunity to ride a pony, have their faces painted and buy souvenirs. Attendees of all ages

enjoyed the variety of treats available for purchase, including fresh roasted circus peanuts.



Staples Police report

Recent reports taken by SPD:

Aug. 18, Staples Police took two reports of a motorcycle on Michigan Ave NE, almost hitting a child.

Aug. 18, Staples Police received a crash detection notification. Police found a Smart phone on Hwy 10; there was no vehicle crash.

Staples Police investigated a vehicle with no tail lights and loud exhaust. Police cited driver for underage possession of alcohol and no proof of insurance/valid driver's license.

Aug. 19, Staples Police took a report of a subject walking across a roof throwing garbage over the edge. Subject stated they were taking the garbage out. Police advised it needed to stop.

Aug. 20, Staples Police investigated a report of a domestic assault at an apartment along Airport Rd.

Suspect reportedly grabbed person by the throat, threw her down and locked her out of the apartment.

Aug. 21, Staples Police investigated a report of two youths walking and being harassed by a male party following them and making meowing sounds. Police spoke to the subject and found the allegations to be unfounded.

Aug. 23, Staples Police investigated a report of domestic abuse at a residence on 8th St NE. Suspect reportedly pushed a female while she was holding a child. The subject left but was later arrested for domestic assault.

Aug. 28, Staples Police investigated a report of an intoxicated subject threatening to drive a vehicle into a lake. Police contacted the subject who said they were depressed but did not have any thoughts of self harm.

Court report Aug. 27

Long Prairie Police
Stacey Ahedo, Cold Spring. Driving after suspension. Fine \$200. Fee \$85.
Edgar Avimael Elizondo, Long Prairie. Speed 45/30. Fine \$60. Fee \$85. Driver must carry proof of insurance when operating vehicle. Fine \$200.
Marisa Ileana Benjamin Stapleton, Browerville. Seat belt required. Fine \$25. Fee \$85. Child passenger restraint. Fine \$50.
Yomar Mercedes Quinones, Browerville. Operate motor vehicle after license suspension/revocation/cancellation. Fine \$200. Fee \$85.
MN Dept. of Natural Resources
Donald Martin Frieler, Swanville. Watercraft-fail to affix valid registration sticker. Fine \$25. Fee \$85.
Wendy Alice Theisen, St. Joseph. ATV-prohibitions on youthful operators-permit unlawful operation. Fine \$100. Fee \$85.
MN State Patrol
Seth Robert Briard, Frazee. Speed 70/60. Fine \$40. Fee \$85.
James Edward Charles Koons, Sebeka. Driving after revocation. Fine \$200. Fee \$85. No proof MV insurance. Fine \$200. Fee \$85.
Brooke Monet Martinez, Staples. Speed 75/65. Fine \$40. Fee \$85.
George Benjamin Sankar, St. Paul. Speed 83/65. Fine \$60. Fee \$85.
Natalie Irene Sarbaum, Staples. Speed 75/65. Fine \$40. Fee \$85.
Horacio Aguilar Cardona, Long Prairie. Speed 70/60. Fine \$40. Fee \$85.
Dominique Marguerite Avalos Padilla, Oakdale. Speed 80/70. Fine \$40. Fee \$75.
Adrian Douglas Bearson, Long Prairie. Windshield tinted or glazed. Fine \$50. Fee \$85.
Gary Lynn Bryans, Minot, ND. Speed 79/70. Fine \$40. Fee \$85.
Jeffrey Nathan Carter, Bedford, TX. Speed 70/60. Fine \$40. Fee \$85.
Noah Lee Feldewerd, Alexandria. Speed 80/70. Fine \$40. Fee \$85.
Isaias Gonzalez Oporta, Pelican Rapids. Fine \$50. Fee \$85.
John Brian Guerra Faribault. Speed 80/70. Fine \$40. Fee \$85.
Abraham Enoch Hale, Palemer Township, AK. Speed 99/60. Fine \$150. Fee \$235. Careless driving. Dismissed.
Konnor Wade Hemmingson, Long Prairie. Window tint. Fine \$50. Fee \$85.
Brooklyn Paige Holmquist, Long Prairie. Speed 65/60. Fine \$40. Fee \$85.
Luis Fernando Ledesma, Long Prairie. Speed 65/60. Fine \$40. Fee \$85.
Alexander Toby Lee, Glenwood. Speed 70/60. Fine \$40. Fee \$85.
Robert Sheridan Oakes, Hopkins. Speed 84/70. Fine \$50. Fee \$85.
Marvin Andru Pechan-Klemish, Swanville. Seat belt required. Fine \$25. Fee \$85.
Pop Garcia Pedro, Fergus Falls. Speed 85/70. Fine \$60. Fee \$85. No MN drivers license. Fine \$100.
Chadwick Theodore Pinnock, St. Catherine. Speed 100/70. Fine \$100. Fee \$185. Careless driving. Fine \$100.
Steven Robert Price, Oviedo, FL. Speed 89/70. Fine \$60. Fee \$85.
Patricia Saavedra, Brownville, TX. Speed 80/70. Fine \$40. Fee \$85.
Jesus Gutierrez Valentin, Long Prairie. Driving after cancellation. Fine \$200. Fee \$85.
Joseph Donald Vanderwiel, Eau Claire, WI. Speed 79/70. Fine \$40. Fee \$85.
Alison Janelle Vanoverbeke, Brooten. Hands free law. Fine \$50. Fee \$85.
Hajjah Eve Washington, Fargo, ND. Child restraint. Fine \$50. Fee \$85.
Sarah Jayne Wohlforth, Edina. Speed 84/70. Fine \$50. Fee \$85.
James Charles Wright, Belton, TX. No MN drivers license. Fine \$100. Fee \$85.
Todd County
Eury Alcantara Bonilla, Browerville. Driving without a valid drivers license for class or type. Fine \$100. Fee \$85.

Jackie Lynne Bruder, Browerville. Expired registration. Fine \$30. Fee \$85. Driver must carry proof of insurance when operating vehicle. Fine \$200.
Cody Allen, JR. Emery, Carlos. Expired registration. Fine \$30. Fee \$85.
Adrian Allen Gomez, Staples. Speed 80/55. Fine \$70. Fee \$155.
Carmen Lillia Gonzalez Alejandro, Wadena. Driver fails to Stop at STOP sign. Fine \$50. Fee \$85.
Traffic regulation-unsafe tires-prohibitions. Fine \$50. Fee \$85. Careless driving. Fine \$100.
Cristian Daniel Sosa Ruiz, Cushing. Driving without a valid license for vehicle class or type. Fine \$100. Fee \$85.
Braden James Thom, Long Prairie. Wireless communication devise. \$50. Fee \$85.
Angel Gabriel Torres Martinez, Long Prairie. Driver must carry proof of insurance when operating vehicle. Fine \$200. Fee \$85. Driver fails to stop for STOP sign. Fine \$50.
The following cases were heard before Judge Daniel A. Benson in Seventh District Court in Todd County August 19, 2025.
John Edward Cromwell, Baxter. Sentenced. Speed 70/60. Fine \$40. Fee \$75.
Travis William Becker, Clarissa. DWI-4th degree driving while impaired. Dismissed. Traffic-DWI-operate motor vehicle under influence of controlled substance. Sentenced. Local confinement (90 days, stay 0 yr 0 mo 90 days for 2 yr). Supervised probation, 2 yr. Fine \$400. Fee \$105.
Roland Wesley Dorr, East Grand Forks, ND. CRM-assault-5th degree-inflict or attempt bodily harm. Dismissed. Disorder conduct-offensive/abusive/boisterous/noisy/obscene. Local confinement (90 days, stay 90 days for 1 yr). Super-vise probation, 1 yr. Fine \$50. Fee \$75.
Kelly Joe Simon, Browerville. Assault-5th degree inflict or attempt bodily harm. Dismissed. Disorderly conduct-offensive/abusive/boisterous/noisy/obscene. Sentenced. Local confinement (90 days, stay 0 yr 0 mo 87 days for 1 yr credit for time served: 3 days). Unsupervised probation, 1 yr. Fine \$50. Fee \$75.
The following cases were heard before Judge Daniel A. Benson in Seventh District Court in Todd County August 18, 2025.
Ricky Lee Peterson, Osakis. 5th degree-possess Schedule 1, 23,4 or paraphernalia residual-not cannabis/hemp. Continued. Supervised probation, 2 yr. Fine \$150.
Felipe Alejandro Bustos Estrada, Long Prairie. 3rd degree driving while impaired. Dismissed. 3rd degree driving while impaired-blood alcohol content greater than .08 within 2 hours. Sentenced. Local confinement (364 days, stay 0 yr 0 mo 364 days for 2 yr). Supervised probation. Fine \$550. Fee \$105. Open bottle, possession. Dismissed. Driving without valid license. Dismissed.
Antonio Terrero Medina, Browerville. DWI-3-operate motor vehicle-alcohol concentration 0.08 within 2 hours. Sentenced. Local confinement (364 days, stay 0 yr 0 mo 334 days for 4 yr). Supervised probation, 4 yr. Fine \$600. Fee \$105. DWI 3-operate motor vehicle under influence of alcohol. Dismissed.
Anthony Michael Witt, Henning. Issue dishonored check-value more than \$250-\$500. Sentenced. Unsupervised probation, 1 yr. Restitution \$409.57.
The following cases were heard before Judge Daniel A. Benson in Seventh District Court in Todd County August 14, 2025.
Sasha Lea Gangl, Grey Eagle. Disorderly conduct. Continued. Local confinement (4 days credit for time served: 4 days). Supervised probation, 1 yr. Fine \$50. Disorderly conduct. Dismissed. Disorderly conduct-offensive/abusive/boisterous/noisy/obscene. Dismissed.

75 YEARS Ago - 1950

- Sept. 7, 1950 - Robert Paskewitz, a member of the A-1 4-H Club, Ward Twp., has been selected to represent Todd County at the 4-H State Conservation Camp in Itasca Park Sept. 14 - 17, R. W. Palmby, county Agent, announced.
- Sept. 7, 1950 - Two little boys, ages about ten or twelve years, broke into Booner's Drive In just east of Staples Saturday morning, Sept. 2, but before the boys could make off with any of the candy and confections they were discovered in the act.
- Leon Wilson and Miss Jean Kirchgessner were to be on duty at the Drive In at 12 o'clock. Earl Wilson,

- O -
Compiled by
Dawn Timbs
- O -

owner of the place, and his brother had gone to the Drive In and found one of the lads inside of the structure, he having gained entrance by breaking a window at the north side of the building. The other little fellow tried to run away and hide in the bushes, but was caught by Leon Wilson.

The little fellows were taken to their parents by the Wilson brothers and the parents made good for the damage the youngsters had done.

• Sept. 7, 1950 - The Rev. Ralph D. Cushing is the new pastor of the Church of the Nazarene in Staples. The church is located at 421 Sixth St. South in Staples and will hold its first service Sunday morning, Sept. 10.

Rev. and Mrs. Cushing have two children and at the present time are living at Pat's Cabins east of Staples until their home at 307 Third North is ready for them.

• Sept. 7, 1950 - Mr. and Mrs. Clayton Huckenpoe-hler who have operated Huck's Cafe in Staples for a year or more, have sold their interest to Mr. and Mrs. George Meyer of Easton, Minn., who took possession of the business on Tuesday morning, Sept. 5.

Mr. and Mrs. Meyers have four children who are attending Sacred Heart Parochial school in Staples. They are living temporarily at the home of Mrs. C. H. Clabots until they can find a home.

It is reported that Mr. Huckenpoe-hler has obtained a position teaching in a school in the state of South Dakota, but neither Mr. or Mrs. Huckenpoe-hler could be contacted to find out the facts.

50 YEARS Ago - 1975

• Sept. 4, 1975 - A 27-yard touchdown run by Jeff Cizek with 8:05 remaining to be played in the third quarter was the only scoring in the game as the Staples Cardinals took a 6-0 opener from Pelican Rapids on the home gridiron last Friday evening.

Following Cizek's touchdown, the Cardinal defense stiffened to stave off any Pelican Rapids threat and key plays by Jon Tevlin and Clark Dahl and the entire Card squad was credited with obtaining the victory.

• Sept. 4, 1975 - Community Fish Fry, Friday, Sept. 12, 4:30 to 8 p.m., at the Community Center. \$2 per ticket.

Sponsored by organizations and churches of Staples. Proceeds to be used for nutrition and social activities for elderly, shut-ins and handicapped.

Home Football Game - 7:30 p.m. Support your team - "Eat 'em up" against Detroit Lakes!

• Sept. 4, 1975 - Dance at the Staples V.F.W. Friday, Sept. 5, Music by Bill & Gus; and Saturday, Sept. 6, Music by The Glass Condor.

Looking back



Mystery photo

Hello readers. This week's archive photo is from 1989. Do you know who these people are and perhaps the context of the photo? Do you have a memory to share? Email your answers and where

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



Mystery solved

Last week's mystery photo published in the Aug. 28, 1975 edition of the Staples World featured Cheryl Sauer, right, who, according to the article, "lost her shirt-tail last Thursday morning! The loss came as the result of her first solo, which is a sort of tradition among first-timers in an airplane. Russ Lee (left), her instructor, said Cheryl was the first high school girl to solo under his instruction in Staples in the four years he's been here. Cheryl, 17, took a little over eight hours of dual instruction before climbing into the Cessna 150 2-place trainer for her first flight alone. The shirt tail was clipped after she landed. Russ has so-

loed about a dozen other students since he's been here."

Walt Trantina of Browerville and Roger Smith of Philbrook both identified Russ Lee. Smith, a 1970 Staples High School grad, shared, "That's Russ Lee. He was a flight instructor. Behind him, I believe, is the cub plane, a Cessna 150 that my dad, Lawrence Smith and brother Lee Smith both got their pilot's license in. I soloed the same year in a Piper L-4 that the Civil Air Patrol had out there and Russ Lee was also my instructor. Russ also taught history at the Staples high School for many years. He passed away in February of this year."

girls and Tara Snyder then teamed up to win the 400 yard free style relay in 4 minutes, 21.19 seconds.

• Sept. 7, 2000 - About 50 students and five former teachers or teacher trainees attended the all class reunion for Meadow Brook School on Sunday, July 2, at Leader Hall.

They were among the more than 30 people who came to see former classmates and catch up on as much as 70 years of history. They came as far away as California, Oregon, Florida, Michigan and Texas.

The Meadow Brook school was built in 1888 on the Stole place. A new building was built on the southwest corner of Byron Township, where it stands to this day. It was closed in 1967.

The oldest teacher and a student herself was Mrs. Myrtle Bendson, age 91. She was unable to attend due to her poor health. She died a few days later.

The next oldest teacher and also a student was Marie Eckes Sullivan. She is 90 and still living in Brainerd. She was unable to attend, due to poor health.

• Sept. 7, 2000 - The Central Minnesota Boys Choir has named Mary Moen of Wadena as its first Music director.

Stan Carlson, Secretary of the Choir's Board of Directors and a veteran choral director himself,

made the announcement. "I am very pleased," said Carlson, "that Mrs. Moen has agreed to be the director of the Boys Choir. She is just what we were looking for. She combines high artistic standards, fine musicianship and a real desire to give young people the tools to become independent musicians."

• Sept. 7, 2000 - Three Staples Motley School District people were honored for having 25 or more years of service when school resumed with teacher workshops on Wednesday, Aug. 30. Those given plaques for 25 years of service included Marian Engstrom, a kitchen worker at Motley Staples Middle School; Wayne Haglin, who has 11 years with the district as a teacher and 18 years as a school board member; and Bonnie Thoele, honored for having 25 years with the district business office as its risk management clerk.

10 YEARS Ago - 2015

• Sept. 3, 2015 - For the next year, Samantha Svendsen of Staples will be sailing the world on a tall ship, helping people in need and learning from an international experience.

"It's my passion," Svendsen, a junior at Staples Motley High School, said about sailing aboard the Sorlandet, which she has done for the past three summers.



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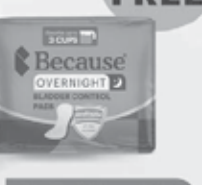
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Quote of the week

“An investment in knowledge pays the best interest.”
— Benjamin Franklin

Quote of the week

“If you think education is expensive, try ignorance.”
— Derek Bok

Quote of the week

“Some people drink from the fountain of knowledge, others just gargle.”
— Robert Anthony

Quote of the week

“When in doubt, look intelligent.”
— Garrison Keillor

Town fined \$49 million for limiting wine industry

By Heather Close
The Rural Blog

Long known for its cherry orchards and scenic bay, Old Mission Peninsula, Michigan, is a winery destination with a contentious history between winery owners and residents.

“On one side: wineries seeking alternative revenue streams,” reports Jim Barrett of The Wall Street Journal. “On the other: farmers and homeowners who fear rowdy weddings and brides gone wild will shatter their agricultural enclave.”

Years of feuding over development restrictions ended in winery operators suing the town, and this summer “a federal judge in Kalamazoo ordered the tiny locale (pop. 6,000) to pay the wineries \$49.3 million in lost revenue over zoning ordinances the court found unconstitutional and in violation of Michigan law,” Barrett writes.

While town leaders appealed the massive judgment, Town Supervisor Maura Sanders asked officials to consider selling parts of the town to raise funds. Barrett explains, “She wants to appraise properties like public parks (including two with beaches), a historic 1870 lighthouse and vacant lots for potential sale. She has floated ending maintenance of the local cemetery and closing the township hall.”

Joseph Infante, a lawyer for the 11 winery owners,

“called the talk of selling off local jewels ‘a P.R. stunt to paint the wineries in a bad light,’” Barrett reports. “One frustrated resident summed up his opinion of town leaders on a roadside sign: ‘\$49 mil. Resign.’”

The ire began with town requirements that curtailed winery development. Residents and town officials worked to prevent winery growth by designing “intricate rules, including tying guest counts to grape purchases and dictating which music genres could grace vineyards,” Barrett explains. “Peninsula producers say myriad restrictions kept them from establishing the vibrant tourism they observed in other wine destinations.”

Wine owners tired of rules and infighting filed suit in 2020. “As the lawsuit continued, the township repealed certain ordinances, and the wineries now hold more events without seeking government approval each time, though they remain cautious about larger activities,” Barrett reports.

Some townspeople don’t believe the winery owners will push to collect. “Some local leaders expressed confidence they would win on appeal — or that the wineries won’t actually force the town to pony up,” Barrett writes. “The wine operators have said they could be flexible on the payout and are waiting for a sense of what the town’s insurers will pay before proceeding.”

As incomprehensible as it might seem, another hunting season is just around the corner. Though we have all been down this seasonal road before, still somehow we seem surprised when “endless summer” approaches its end, and August is about to give way to September.

Soon, those who both fish and hunt will be making choices between whether to cast plugs to aggressive autumn bass, or troll the steadily cooling waters for walleyes, to shoulder shotguns to pursue waterfowl and upland game, or to ready their bow and portable deer stand.

For some it will be a balancing act while open water remains, made more difficult by the fact that fall can provide some of the best fishing of the year. For them, it can be a bitter-sweet choice between two passions.

Others, however, will find the transition easier. They’ll “flip the switch,” put down the rods and pick up the shotgun, bow, or rifle—perhaps all three, by turns—until favorite hunting seasons end and ice forms on Minnesota lakes.

The official start to the 2025 hunting season is Labor Day, September 1. It’s the season for mourning doves, which are pursued primarily across the state’s agricultural and semi-agricultural landscape. Doves draw only a small fraction of the state’s upland bird hunters. Peak hunter numbers since 2004 have been as

high as 15,000, with present numbers now estimated at only about 10,000.

Unlike the state’s other upland game birds, the mourning dove’s identity varies depending on who you ask. Some still view it as a songbird, which it was classified when the season was closed in 1947 by the Minnesota Legislature, until its reopening in 2004. Strong opinions aside, it’s the most hunted upland bird in the country, with the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service (USFWS) estimating that roughly one million hunters harvested 17 million doves in 2023.

Far more anticipated by Minnesota hunters are the early teal and Canada goose seasons, which begin September 6th, three weeks before the regular waterfowl hunting season. The current early teal hunting format began as a three year experiment in 2021, the logic being to allow Minnesota hunters to harvest more early-migrating blue-wings before they leave the state. This early five-day season has since been given extended approval by the USFWS.

Blue-wings have historically been among the top three ducks harvested in Minnesota. That pattern appears to be in flux with the advent of the early teal season. In 2022, the second year of the experimental hunt, the blue-wing harvest jumped to 126,000, from just 81,000 the year before. That made the blue-wing the most harvested Minnesota duck in 2022. It was estimated that 38 percent of the teal harvest that year occurred during the September early season.

It’s ironic that just last month the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (DNR) reported in its spring breeding waterfowl survey a drop in blue-winged teal numbers of 60

percent from 2024. This decline in breeding birds has been attributed by the DNR to dry conditions across the Minnesota landscape in April, when many waterfowl returned from their wintering areas in the South.

Especially acute, says DNR, was a shortage of the shallow, grass-bordered wetlands that teal prefer. The conclusion drawn by the DNR was that many teal may have moved on to other locations where water conditions were more favorable for nesting success. Nevertheless, the bag limit on teal—blue-winged, green-winged, and the uncommon-in-Minnesota cinnamon teal, combined—is set to remain unchanged at six during this year’s special September 6-10 season.

Beginning on the same September 6 date is the state’s early Canada goose hunting season, which will run through September 21st and end a week before the general waterfowl opener on September 27. Goose hunting is a specialty quite apart from most duck hunting. Though they are sometimes hunted over open water, much of Canada goose hunting is field hunting, often with very large spreads of decoys, requiring serious calling skills to be reasonably successful, and armament that packs a bigger punch than is needed for much smaller ducks.

Canada geese are a definite bright spot in the waterfowl hunting picture. While duck numbers overall are barely managing to hold their own due to habitat loss both North and South—with some species in decline—Canada goose numbers are increasing. Canadas have high reproductive and nesting success rates, can live for many years, and are able to live and nest successfully in widely varying habitats,

including parks, golf courses, and even suburban landscapes.

September 13 will be a watershed date for 2025 Minnesota hunting seasons. That date will see the opener for ruffed, sharp-tailed, and spruce grouse, archery deer hunting, squirrel hunting, as well as Youth Waterfowl Weekend, an annual event reserved for waterfowl hunters age 17 and younger.

Woodcock, those mysterious members of the shorebird family that are often encountered where ruffed grouse dwell, can be hunted beginning on September 20th. A week later is the start of the general waterfowl hunting season. Then on October 11 comes the statewide pheasant opener, and on November 8th the firearms deer season.

Thus begins the cavalcade of 2025 Minnesota hunting seasons. Their details—including restrictions based on such variables as location, sex, weapon, or bag and possession limits—are far too lengthy and complex to enumerate here. Such details can be found on the DNR web site, under Minnesota Hunting & Trapping Regulations, at https://files.dnr.state.mn.us/rhp/regulations/hunting/full_regs.pdf.

For many of us, fall presents the delightful dilemma of whether to be hunting or fishing, with its choices of where, when, and for what. Just as summer has slipped away, fall will pass more rapidly than we’d like. Perhaps the best advice is to remember that time has a habit of turning tomorrows into yesterdays, when these opportunities will definitely be beyond reach.

As a chariot-borne Roman hunter might have put it, “carpe diem!” Seize the day.

Inside the Outdoors



Mike Rahn

Lack of local news tied to govt. secrecy

By John Volk
Medill Local News Initiative

The loss of local news is linked with increased government secrecy, according to a new study conducted by the Brechner Center for the Advancement of the First Amendment at the University of Florida.

The findings lend the first empirical evidence to the connection long intuited between the declining health of local news ecosystems and decreased government transparency. They add to the growing body of research that demonstrates the impact of news deserts on democracy, including increased partisanship, lower voter participation, and diminished civic engagement.

“Where there are no newspapers and weakened newspaper systems, government secrecy is flourishing,” said David Cuillier, director of the Freedom of Information Project at the Brechner Center and author of the report. “Government officials see

that journalists are hurting, and they’re taking advantage of that.”

To measure transparency, Cuillier and his colleague Brett Posner-Ferdman, a law student at Penn State, requested the same seven records from 44 state governments under each state’s public records law. They found that the states with fewer newspapers per capita were more likely to deny or ignore their requests. They also found that responsiveness to requests improved in states with stronger press associations. Overall, about a quarter of requests were fully complied with, while another quarter were outright denied or not responded to.

The Medill Local News Initiative has tracked a net loss of more than 3,300 local newspapers and 45,000 newspaper journalists in the US since 2005. Those losses represent drops of about 33% and 60%, respectively.

The researchers did not find a significant connection

between the density of digital-only local news sites and government transparency. Cuillier argued that these typically small start-ups can’t be expected to replace the work once done by large newspaper teams.

“They’re stretched so thin in trying to produce content that they often don’t have time to pursue public records, let alone sue for them,” Cuillier said of digital-only local news sites.

David Cuillier, director of the Freedom of Information Project at the Brechner Center, explained the local news crisis may lead public officials to feel emboldened to withhold documents. “This is a terrible, terrible situation for democracy,” Cuillier said.

Former Washington Post journalist and Fulbright Scholar Miranda Spivack explained that government secrecy can take its most damaging form at the state and local levels where most citizens encounter government. She documented local officials’ attempts to hide critical information about issues ranging from toxic chemicals in firefighter gear to dirty drinking water in her book “Backroom Deals in Our Backyards: How Government Secrecy Harms Our Communities and the Local Heroes Fighting Back” published earlier this year.

“It paralyzes communities in a lot of ways,” Spivack said of local governments’ noncompliance with transparency laws. “It puts a lot of power in the hands of officials and private companies, usually, that they’re doing business with.”

Medill researchers requested records from a sample of 165 news desert counties earlier this year, looking to learn who, if anyone, was requesting records from these local governments. Almost half did not respond to the requests. Of the 54 counties that produced records in full, more than 70% received no records requests from journalists in a full year.

Journalist and scholar Miranda Spivack described noncompliance with records requests as depriving

citizens of a critical avenue to exercise oversight of state and local governments.

In many cases, news desert counties are small and rural. Cindy Ornsbey, the county clerk and recorder in Slope County, North Dakota said she had no memory of any records requests in her five years on the job. “The population here is about 740 people,” Ornsbey wrote over email. “There would be no reason that any news media organizations would need any records from Podunk.”

Long wait times and copying fees also stood in the way of access to documents, both in Medill’s look at the local level and Cuillier’s look at the state level. The Department of Natural Resources in Iowa asked Cuillier for more than \$16,000 for access to records on hunting and fishing licenses.

Cuillier listed four paths toward improving government compliance with records requests: Strengthened local news ecosystems; stronger laws that mandate attorney’s fees and monetary penalties if an agency is found improperly withholding documents; independent information commissions in each state; and bolstered litigation efforts.

He noted The Reporters Committee for Freedom of the Press has made strides on this final point. It launched the Local Legal Initiative in 2020 to provide on-the-ground legal support for local journalists with backing from the Knight Foundation and Press Forward, a nationwide philanthropic coalition working to strengthen local news.

Eric Feder, the director of the Local Legal Initiative, explained that the initial request is only the starting point of the battle for public records. He hopes that increased litigation from initiatives like his can change the culture around government transparency.

“Bringing a lawsuit gets results,” Feder said. “It doesn’t win every time, but keeping the pressure on, holding agencies accountable has this almost immediate effect.”

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

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Breastfeeding benefits both baby and mom

Todd County Health and Human Services

Breastfeeding has health benefits for both babies and mothers. Breast milk provides a baby with ideal nutrition, supports growth and development. Breastfeeding can also help protect baby and mom against certain illnesses and diseases.

Five great benefits of breastfeeding:

1. Breast milk is the best source of nutrition for most babies. As the baby grows, the mother's breast milk will change to meet her baby's nutritional needs.
2. Breastfeeding can help protect babies against some short and long term illnesses and diseases. Breastfed

babies have a lower risk of asthma, obesity, Type 1 diabetes, and sudden infant death syndrome (SIDS). Breastfed babies are also less likely to have ear infections and stomach bugs.

3. Breast milk shares antibodies from the mother with her baby. These antibodies help babies develop a strong immune system and protect them from illnesses.

4. Mothers can breastfeed anytime and anywhere. Mothers can feed their babies on the go without worrying about having to mix formula or prepare bottles. When traveling, breastfeeding can also provide a source of comfort for babies whose normal routine is disrupted.

5. Breastfeeding can reduce the mother's risk of breast and ovarian

cancer, Type 2 diabetes and high blood pressure. Breastfeeding has health benefits for the mother too. Some cancers, Type 2 diabetes and high blood pressure are less common among women who breastfeed.

The American Academy of Pediatrics recommends exclusive breastfeeding for about six months, and then continuing breastfeeding while introducing complementary foods until a child is 12 months old or older.

Source: Centers for Disease Control & Prevention, Division of Nutrition, Physical Activity, and Obesity, National Center for Chronic Disease Prevention and Health Promotion

Obituary

Amanda McCoy

Amanda McCoy, 37, of Beaumont, Texas passed away July 17, 2025.

A Celebration of Life will be held Sunday, September 28, 2025 in Pine Grove Park, Staples. To RSVP email knosalla69@yahoo.com.

Amanda was born September 28, 1987 to Deborah Crosno and Joel McCoy.

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Staples Area Church Directory

Staples

Staples Alliance

1512 8th St. NE, Staples218-894-2891
Jonny Olson, Associate Pastor
Sunday Worship.....9:30 a.m.
Sunday School11:00 a.m.
WEDNESDAY
AWANA.....6:00 p.m.

Assembly of God

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

Church of Christ

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

Faith Lutheran

430 12th Street. NE., Staples.....218-894-1546
Pastor Carl Larson
Sunday Worship Service9:00 a.m.
Sunday School and
Coffee Fellowship.....10:05 a.m.

Sacred Heart Catholic Church

310 4th St. NE, Staples
Church.....218-894-2296
info@marysacc.org
Father JC Duncan, 218-632-7314
Father Rick Aubol, 218-632-7310
Father Greg Sauer
Mass: Sunday.....8:30 a.m.

Seventh Day Adventist

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

Thomastown Covenant

15940 251st Ave., Staples.....218-894-3923
Pastor Scott Jorgenson
Sunday Worship.....10:30 a.m.
WEDNESDAY NIGHT YOUTH.....6:30 p.m.

Trinity Lutheran

1000 4th St., NE, Staples.....218-894-2372
Pastor Vicar Paul Koehler
Sunday Divine Service.....9:00 a.m.
Sunday School and Bible Class...10:30 a.m.

United Methodist

310 5th St. NE, Staples.....218-894-2248
Sunday Worship.....10:30 a.m.
(Nursery Available for Sunday Worship)

Aldrich

Balsamlund Lutheran

19550 490th Street, Aldrich
Janet Eckman SMA218-837-5831
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 Channel10:00 a.m.

Cushing Baptist

26298 Bear Rd., Cushing
Pastor Dan Holmes.....320-749-2583
Sunday School9:30 a.m.
Worship.....10:30 a.m.
WEDNESDAY
Bible study.....7:30 p.m.

Leader

Swan Valley Lutheran

Leader218-397-2470
Sandy Knight, Synodically Authorized Minister of Word and Sacrament
Sunday Worship
January - July9 a.m.
July - January11 a.m.

Maple Hill Lutheran

Sandy Knight, Synodically Authorized Minister of Word and Sacrament
Leader218-397-2470 (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 Group6:00-8:00 p.m.

St. John's Lutheran

497 3rd Ave. S, Motley.....218-352-6399
Pastor Vicar Paul Koehler
Sunday School and Bible Class.....8:30 a.m.
Sunday Worship.....9:30 a.m.
St. Michael Catholic Church
1st St. and Birch, Motley.....218-894-2296
info@marysacc.org
Fr. Aaron Kuhn Fr. Gabriel Walz
MASS:
Saturday.....4:00 p.m.

St. Michael

280 1st Ave S, Motley.....218-894-2296
Father JC Duncan, 218-632-7314
Father Rick Aubol, 218-632-7310 Father Greg Sauer
Sunday.....10:30 a.m. (May - Nov.)
Saturday.....4:00 p.m. (Dec - April)

United Methodist

847 3rd Ave. S. Lane, Motley.....218-352-6466
Pastor Greg Leslie
www.motleyumc.net
Sunday Worship Service.....10:00 a.m.
Monday AA meeting.....8:00 p.m.

Oylen

Oylen Alliance

Cty. Rds. 7 and 9, Oylen
218-472-3440 or 218-472-3316
Pastor Neal Malcore
Sunday School10:00 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 School9:30 a.m.
Worship.....10:30 a.m.
Sunday Worship.....7:00 a.m.
WEDNESDAY7:00 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 School9:30 a.m.
Sunday Worship.....10:45 a.m.
WEDNESDAY PRAYER7:00 p.m.

Trinity Lutheran Church (LCMS)

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

Hewitt Community Church

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

Verndale

Verndale Alliance

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

Family Life Church

402 NE Clark Drive, Verndale 218-445-5568
VerndaleFLC@gmail.com
Pastor Amos Self.....218-371-7189
Tahna Rurup, Connections & Media Pastor
Tillman Phagan, Kid's & Food Shelf Pastor
Ryan Wolfenden, Youth Pastor
SUNDAY
Youth Prayer.....9:20 a.m.
Worship Service10:00 a.m.
Prayer Meeting5 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 School10:30 a.m.
WEDNESDAY
Family Night.....5:30 p.m.

Immanuel Lutheran Church of Bartlett Township (LCMS)

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

Verndale United Methodist

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

Central Community Church

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

St. Frederick Catholic Church

20 Mason Avenue NW
Verndale218-894-2296
info@marysacc.org
Father JC Duncan, 218-632-7314
Father Rick Aubol, 218-632-7310 Father Greg Sauer
MASS: Saturday6:00 p.m.

St. Hubert Catholic Church

Bluegrass.....218-894-2296
info@marysacc.org
Father JC Duncan, 218-632-7314
Father Rick Aubol, 218-632-7310 Father Greg Sauer
Sunday Service.....10:00 a.m. (Dec. - April)
Saturday.....4:00 p.m. (May - Nov.)

Leaf River Township

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

Wadena

St. Helen's Episcopal Church

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

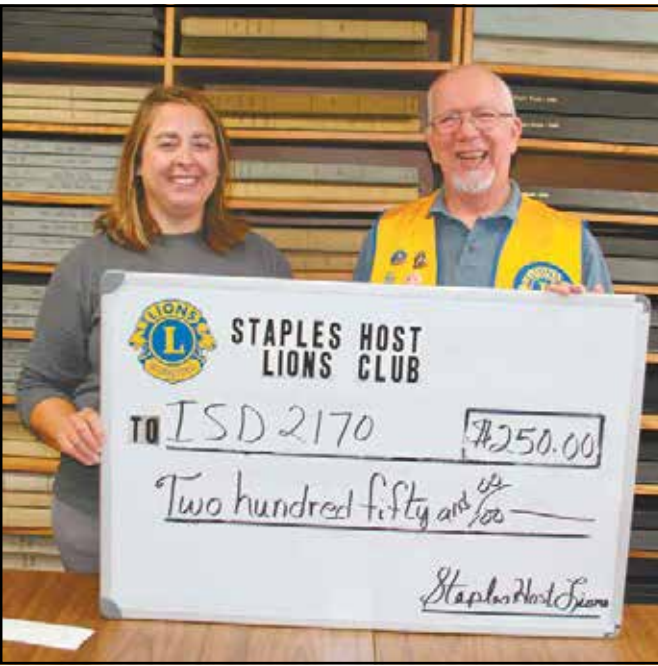
St. Ann's Catholic Church

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



More Lions donations

The Staples Host Lions recently donated \$500 to go toward Freshwater Education's Spring Fling; and \$250 for the Staples-Motley Elementary School (SMES) 4th grade field trip to the Mille Lacs Indian Museum held this past spring. Pictured above, from left, are Suzanna Holper, Freshwater Education teacher; and Lion Past President Dan Shaw. Pictured below, from left, are Dawn Weite, SMES 4th grade teacher; and Lion Shaw. (Staples World photo by Dawn Timbs)



Staples '93 Lions donate

The Staples '93 Lions recently donated \$900 to Staples-Motley Dollars for Scholars (DFS). Pictured above, from left, are Brian Winkles, DFS Chair; and Lion Beth Gedde, Past '93 Lions President. (Staples World photo by Dawn Timbs)

"Great Cloud of Witnesses"

Pastor Barry Klein, Staples Church of Christ

We need to be very careful. Careful for what? Careful about our speculations about heaven and what it's really like.

There's a growing dangerous trend about speculating on what and who's "on the other side" from this life. Thinking about these things can apply to conclusions we come up with to anything apart from seeing what God says in the Bible about anything and everything.

Proverbs 14:12 need to humble us all as we hear, "There's a way that appears to be right, but in the end, it leads to death." What does that mean? When we speculate on anything apart from God, we end up with wrong thoughts and directions. Albert Einstein was considered the most brilliant man of his time. I have a poster in my office with his portrait and a quote from him saying, "I want to know God's thoughts...the rest are details." We only can know truth when we know God's thoughts.

So how does this apply to our thoughts about heaven?

First off, listen to the language of our American funerals. Jesus says in Matthew 7:13-14 (NIV), "Enter through the narrow gate. For wide is the gate and broad is the road that leads to destruction. But small is the gate and narrow the road that leads to life and only a few find it." We understand the purpose of distinct narrow roads when we are driving, but we struggle at times to see the application spiritually. In our American funerals, we give the dangerous impression that 'everyone makes it to heaven.' Jesus says in John 14:6 (NIV) "I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me." Folks, we must be clear that a person must welcome "coming" to Jesus by accepting His gift of

forgiveness by His sinless blood on the cross. That can't be done for us even by family members. It doesn't happen by accident. We need to individually receive His gift into our lives.

So back to our title, "Great Cloud of Witnesses." That is made up of followers of Jesus. Incredibly for that group of people described in Hebrews 12:1, it was referring to people who were listed in Hebrews 11 from the Old Testament. As Jesus explains in Luke 24:27, "And beginning with Moses and all the Prophets, He explained to them what was said in all the Scriptures concerning Himself." In other words, for those who would perceive accurately, all Scripture points to Jesus and the Old Testament list in Hebrews 11 knew that.

Finally, what is heaven truly like? That's an ocean-sized question. But one thing it will surely be about is a welcomed preoccupation with giving Jesus the constant, continuing praise that He is worthy of. It isn't about 'fishing holes' or 'hunting grounds' in the sky. Neither is God 'the Old Man in the sky.' We were at a funeral recently where a brother of his deceased sister who was close to her dog dangerously speculated that she would become a dog. No Scripture on that.

Instead, heaven for Jesus' followers will be about the privilege of joining in on the eternal praises of God as in Revelation 4:8b (NIV) "Holy, holy, holy is the Lord God Almighty, Who was, and is and is to come" and in verse 11, "You are worthy, our Lord and God, to receive glory and honor and power, for You created all things and by Your will they were created and have their being."

Now that's an accurate description of who and what makes up "The Great Cloud of Witnesses!"

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For the
Staples World



Starting off in a big crowd

The Staples-Motley cross country team kicked off the season in a large home meet with 15 teams competing at The Vintage golf course in Staples. Pictured above,

the Cardinal boys start the race amid the giant crowd. Below, the girls team races off the starting line. (Staples World photos by Mark Anderson)



Football opener

The Staples-Motley football team opened their season Friday, Aug. 29 at home against East Grand Forks.

This newspaper went to press Friday morning, before the game was played, look for a recap in next week's newspaper.

Cross country teams compete in home meet

Staples-Motley cross country started their season with a home meet on Aug. 25. The Cardinals hosted 14 teams for the Central Minnesota River Run at The Vintage golf course.

Audrey Brownell won the girls race in 18:31, a course record that is a very fast time for the first meet of the year on a tough course. That is a good start for the defending state champion.

"We expect she has a great opportunity to defend her title," said Coach Bruce Fuhrman.

The girls team did not have five varsity runners, so their team score was incomplete. Elise Trif and Aleea Holst were both in the top 25 in this race.

"We look to Aleea and Elise to step up to be front runners for the team this season," said Fuhrman.

Gage Bjerga led the boys team in 16th place and Andrew Dobson was close behind in 19th place.

"We look to Gage and Andrew to be our front runners this season and a host of other young runners to emerge," said Fuhrman.

The boys team finished in fifth place.

"Our keys to having a successful season will hinge on building confidence, training and building positive relationships within our group," said Fuhrman. "We like what we're seeing in practice and the current development of our kids. We hope to be a surprise and

the end of the season - we do have some great athletes, but could be described as 'unproven' as runners."

- Boys results**
Central Minnesota River Run
Varsity (5,000 meters)
Park Rapids 37, Fergus Falls 43, West Central Area 81, Melrose 126, Staples-Motley 134, Breckenridge/Wahpeton 143, Ashby-Brandon-Evansville 212, Long Prairie-Grey Eagle 214, New York Mills 254, Verndale 271, Bertha-Hewitt inc., Osakis inc., Crosby-Ironton inc., Minnewaska inc.
16. Gage Bjerga 18:56, 19. Andrew Dobson 19:22, 40. Garrett Bjerga 20:30, 47. Gabriel Kroll 21:21, 52. Seth Cossentine 21:38, 54. Jackson Odden 21:55, 58. Alex Leach 22:06
JV - 22. Jacob Faulkner 23:59
Jr. High (2,500 meters) - 9.
Reed Leach 9:56, 43. Brayden Moore 12:09, 50. Kai Bestland 13:02
- Girls results**
Central Minnesota River Run
Varsity (5,000 meters)
Minnewaska 65, Breckenridge/Wahpeton 70, Fergus Falls 70, Park Rapids 93, West Central Area 137, Crosby-Ironton 147, Ashby-Brandon-Evansville 163, Osakis 194, Long Prairie-Grey Eagle 217, Staples-Motley inc., Bertha-Hewitt inc., Melrose inc., Verndale inc., New York Mills inc.
1. Audrey Brownell 18:31, 20. Elise Trif 22:45, 23. Aleea Holst 22:54, 32. Suhaila Mikhaeil 23:42
Jr. High (2,500 meters) - 5.
Alexis Odden 11:18, 12. Lizzie Kroll 11:45, 22. Mollie Larimore 13:04
Sixth grade (1,800 meters)
- 1. Anna Warner 7:40, 2. Ava Kroll 8:28



Gabriel Kroll



Jackson Odden



Seth Cossentine

Volleyball season starts with tournament, win

The Staples-Motley volleyball team had one win at the Royalton tournament on Aug. 22, then had a straight set win against Verndale on Aug. 26, winning 25-20, 25-23, 25-19. They finished the week with a 3-0 loss at home against Foley.

Against Verndale, the Cardinals used a wide-ranging attack, with 10 players contributing to the win. Hannah Cole had eight kills to lead the team, while Chloe Trantina had five ace serves.

The game against Foley was the first match played at The Nest, the new gym at Staples-Motley High School.

It was a tough match against an undefeated team. Izzy Becker had 21 digs after getting 35 in the Verndale game.

- Team results**
Staples-Motley 3, Verndale 0 (25-20, 25-23, 25-19)
Izzy Becker: Aces-2, Assists-2, Digs-35
Pam Lawrence: Assists-9, kills-1, Digs-3
Chloe Trantina: Aces-5, Digs-15
Hannah Cole: Assist-1, Kills-8, Blocks-1, Digs-2
Annie Schlosser: Aces-1, Assists-12, Kills-6, Blocks-1, Digs-10
Emersen Bettis: Aces-1, Digs-8
Abby Brichacek: Kills-2,

- Blocks-4, Digs-1
Addie Potter: Kills-2, Blocks-3
Katelyn Schotzko: Kills-3, Digs-1
Clara Maros: Kills-3, Blocks-2, Digs-6
Staples-Motley 0, Foley 3 (18-25, 15-25, 11-25)
Becker: Assists-4, Digs-21
Lawrence: Assists-1, Kills-2, Digs-12
Trantina: Aces-1, Digs-15
Cole: Kills-2, Blocks-2, Digs-2
Schlosser: Assists-16, Blocks-3, Digs-1
Bettis: Kills-1, Digs-4
Brichacek: Kills-3, Blocks-1
Schotzko: Assists-1, Kills-3
Potter: Kills-7
Maros: Kills-3, Blocks-2, Digs-4



Mid-race teamwork

Suhaila Mikhaeil and Elise Trif move up together



College golfer

Staples-Motley graduate Jaden Johnson is playing golf for Crown College in Saint Bonifacius this fall. The freshman is one of nine golfers listed on their men's golf roster at

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Classifications

NOTICES	FOR SALE	WANTED TO BUY
100 Events/ Announcements	300 Antiques/ Collectibles	501 Miscellaneous
101 Card of Thanks	301 Good Things to Eat	502 Livestock
102 In Memory	302 Lawn/Garden	REAL ESTATE
103 Lost & Found	303 Hay/Straw/ Feed/Seed	601 Wanted to Rent
104 Give Away	304 Livestock	602 Apartments for Rent
106 Personals	305 Pets	603 Houses for Rent
107 Notices	306 Sporting Goods	604 Commercial for Rent
SERVICES & EMPLOYMENT	307 Household	605 Mobile Homes for Rent
201 Business Opportunities	308 Musical	606 Land for Rent
202 Childcare Providers	309 Miscellaneous	607 Houses for Sale
203 Childcare Wanted	310 Health/Beauty	608 Farms for Sale
205 Help Wanted	311 Firewood	609 Mobile Homes for Sale
206 Positions Wanted	312 Christmas Trees	610 Land for Sale
207 Equipment for Rent	313 Computers/ Office Equip.	611 Business Property for Sale
208 Storage	314 Farm Services	612 Real Estate Wanted
209 Business Services	315 Camper Trailer	GARAGE SALES
210 Animal Care/ Supplies	VEHICLES	701 Garage Sales
211 Work Wanted	401 Automobiles	702 Flea Market/ Crafts
	402 Trucks/Vans	
	403 Recreational	
	404 Farm Equipment	
	405 Heavy Equipment	
	406 Parts/ Repair	

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Jason R. Sellnow
sellnowj@sellnowlaw.com

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**PUBLIC NOTICE
WADENA COUNTY
PLANNING
COMMISSION**

**PETITION TO
AMEND THE ZONING
ORDINANCE #1**

Notice is hereby given that on Thursday the 18th day of September, 2025, at 7:00 p.m. the Planning Commission will hold a public hearing in the Auditorium of the Wadena County Courthouse to consider an amendment to the Zoning Ordinance #1 Section 9: Signs and Billboards.

The full context of this amendment can be found on the County website calendar at www.co.wadena.mn.us by clicking on the date on the calendar. All persons interested are invited to attend said hearing and be heard on this matter. Written correspondence must be received by the Wadena County Zoning Office, 415 Jefferson St. S., Room 234, Wadena, MN 56482 before close of business the day of the hearing in order to be accepted and must include the **full name and address of the person sending the correspondence in order to**

By: Wadena County
Planning Commission

Date: August 25, 2025
37pnc

**NOTICE
BECKER TOWNSHIP
SPRAYING**

Becker Township will be spraying the ditches for noxious weeds and brush after September 13, 2025.

Mary Fitcher, Clerk
Becker Township
37pnc

**NOTICE
LEADER COMMUNITY
HALL BOARD**

The Leader Community Hall Board will meet Thurs., September 11, 2025 at 7:00 p.m. at the Hall.

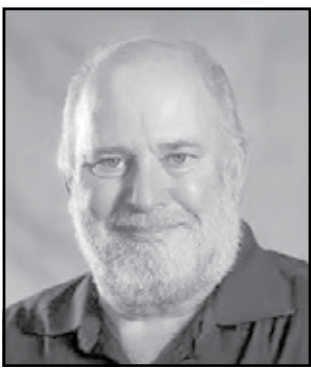
Mark Strom,
Secretary
36-37pnc

Bainer named to MN State Transportation Hall of Fame

Staples native Jim Bainer, diesel instructor at Minnesota State Community and Technical College, was named to the Minnesota State Transportation Center of Excellence Hall of Fame.

This award commemorates lifetime contributions to transportation education in Minnesota.

Each year, the Minnesota State Transportation Center of Excellence (TCOE) honors outstanding individuals and organizations who are making a difference in transportation-related education. The 2025 TCOE Award recipients - nominated by their peers and selected by a committee from our Executive Board - exemplify excellence, dedication and leadership across the field. Their remarkable contributions as educators, advocates, supporters and industry partners continue to shape the future of transportation.



Jim Bainer

About

Jim is a recently retired Diesel Equipment Technology Instructor at Minnesota State Community and Technical College (M State), closing out his teaching career in January 2025, after more than two decades of dedication to students and the diesel industry. He began teaching in 2004, bringing with him a deep well of technical expertise and real-world experience. A 1983,

graduate of Central Lakes College (formerly Staples Area Vocational & Technical Institute), Jim specialized in Diesel and Heavy Equipment Mechanics. His professional development didn't stop there - he earned factory certifications from Caterpillar, Cummins, Detroit Diesel, Ford and Iveco, and attended numerous OEM training seminars from industry leaders such as CNH, John Deere and Bobcat.

Before moving into education, Jim spent 14 years at Boyer Ford Trucks in Minneapolis as a master journeyman technician and six years with Bauerly Brothers Construction as an engine and field technician. He brought that industry experience into the classroom, helping bridge the gap between textbook and toolbox for his students. His commitment extended beyond the classroom through his volunteer work as a SkillsUSA

judge while at Boyer and later as a SkillsUSA advisor at M State. His most proud accomplishments included coaching six state champions in SkillsUSA and seeing them rank nationally - placing 8th, 6th (three times), 4th and 3rd.

Jim's contributions to technical education have not gone unnoticed. He is a two-time recipient of the Minnesota State Board of Trustees Outstanding Educator Award (2016 and 2023). He also serves on the boards of the Midwest Teachers of Transportation and Industrial Areas (MTTIA) and the American Technical Education Association (ATEA). Outside the classroom and the shop, Jim enjoys spending time on the lake with his wife, Angie, their two children, Megan and Nick and three grandchildren, Emma, Max and Macy.

Todd County Board of Commissioners

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE TODD COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS HELD JULY 15, 2025

Call to Order

The Todd County Board of Commissioners met in the Commissioner's Board Room in the City of Long Prairie, MN on the 15th day of July, 2025 at 9:00 AM. The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Byers. The meeting was opened with the Pledge of Allegiance. All Commissioners were present. Approval of Agenda On motion by Noska and second by Denny, the following motion was introduced and adopted by unanimous vote: To adopt the agenda as presented.

Consent Agenda

On motion by Becker and second by Neumann, the following motions were introduced and adopted by unanimous vote: To approve the Todd County Board of Commissioner's Meeting Minutes for July 1st, 2025 as presented.

County Attorney

On motion by Noska and second by Denny, the following motion was introduced and adopted by unanimous vote: To eliminate Assistant County Attorney 1 & 3 Job Descriptions and update job titles for the following employees to standardize the title of Assistant County Attorney: Jane Gustafson from Assistant County Attorney III to Assistant County Attorney, Christopher Brigman from Assistant County Attorney III to Assistant County Attorney, Alexandra Meyer from Assistant County Attorney III to Assistant County Attorney. On motion by Noska and second by Denny, the following motion was introduced and adopted by unanimous vote: To hire Christopher Mathews, FT Assistant Todd County Attorney. Approximate start date of August 11, 2025.

Facilities

On motion by Neumann and second by Noska, the following motion was introduced and adopted by majority vote with Byers against: To approve the low bid of the Historic trim project from HYTEC construction for a total cost of \$364,000

County Sheriff

On motion by Denny and second by Noska, the following motion was introduced and adopted by unanimous vote: To correct the motion adopted via BA #20250701-19 to hire Christopher Manders for the FT Jailer position, start date TBD, at Grade 6, Step 1, \$22.55/hr in accordance with County Policy.

Planning & Zoning

On motion by Neumann, the following motion was introduced and tabled: Smieja & Wiener request for rezoning to request input from the Long Prairie Airport Commission. On motion by Denny and second by Noska, the following motion was introduced and adopted by unanimous vote: Adopt the findings of the Planning Commission and grant the CUP for parcel 09-0025700 for Temporary Family Housing with the following condition: 1. Applicant shall abide by Section 9.17 of the Todd County Planning and Zoning Ordinance. On motion by Noska and second by Becker, the following motion was introduced and adopted by unanimous vote: Adopt the findings of the Planning Commission and grant the CUP on parcel 26-0034300 to expand an existing greenhouse operation with the following conditions. 1. The conditions of CUP#2022-009 shall be applied to granting of the proposed expansion of 4 additional greenhouses. 2. The applicant shall be limited to 4 additional greenhouse structures. Additional greenhouses shall require the review of the Planning Commission. On motion by Denny and second by Becker, the following motion was introduced and adopted by unanimous vote: Adopt the findings of the Planning Commission and grant the CUP on parcel 07-0008801 to expand an existing feedlot with the conditions below. 1. Issuance of the NPDES Feedlot permit and verification supplied to the County prior to issuance of any land use permits for expansion to the feedlot operation. 2. Expansion to the existing liquid manure storage area shall be conducted in compliance

with Section 9.11 of the Todd County Planning and Zoning Ordinance. 3. Air quality exemption notices shall be provided to Todd County prior to all future manure application events. 4. In the event of a manure spill or other discharge, applicant must notify the County and the Minnesota Duty Officer immediately upon discovery of said discharge. 5. Applicant must abide by all other applicable federal, state, and local standards. On motion by Neumann and second by Noska, the following motion was introduced and adopted by unanimous vote: Adopt the findings of the Planning Commission and grant the CUP on 21-0007702 and 21-0007703 to establish an outdoor shooting range with the following conditions. 1. Discharge of firearms on the site shall be limited to 7 am to 10 pm. 2. Off-street parking shall be provided for all business traffic. 3. Upon closure of the operation, the site shall be closed in compliance with Minnesota Pollution Control Standards. 4. Construction Stormwater Permitting shall be obtained prior to the start of construction, if applicable. 5. Establishment of a 911 address number and placement of a physical sign for emergency services. 6. All onsite lighting shall be affixed in a downward direction and shall not cast light across any property boundary. 7. Restroom facilities shall be provided onsite. 8. Construction of shooting range baffles on the rifle and handgun ranges in compliance with the NRA Range Source Guide. 9. Shooting range shall be limited to 7 shooting lanes and one 30'x20' structure as identified in the application. Additional lanes and structures shall require the review of the Planning Commission. 10. Perimeter fencing shall be established around the entire perimeter of the shooting range. Fencing shall consist of mesh or similar style fence no less than 6' in height. 11. Applicant shall obtain all additional permitting and/or licensing from additional government agencies including the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources and the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency.

Solid Waste On motion by Denny and second by Neumann, the following motion was introduced and adopted by unanimous vote: Authorize Solid Waste Director to sign the attached five-year Waste Delivery Agreement with Waste Management of Minnesota.

Health & Human Services

On motion by Becker and second by Noska, the following motion was introduced and adopted by unanimous vote: To approve the hire of Hannah Elfering to fill the open Accounting Specialist position. Grade E/5, Step C, \$24.93/hr. Start date: TBD

Administration

On motion by Noska and second by Becker, the following motion was introduced and adopted by unanimous vote: To authorize the adoption of the LELS-Jailer/Dispatchers Collective Bargaining Agreement for 2025-2027. On motion by Noska and second by Becker, the following motion was introduced and adopted by unanimous vote: To approve the Paycom Software Agreement pending contractual adjustments and legal review.

County Auditor-Treasurer's Report

The County Auditor-Treasurer reported that the Finance Committee

has met multiple times, mobile home tax statements have been generated and mailed and Wadena Deer Creek school has notified of an upcoming special election for an operating referendum this November.

County Attorney's Report

The County Attorney extended appreciation and gratitude that this office is now fully staffed during current tenure.

County Coordinator's Report

The County Coordinator reported attending employee interviews, media day for the new transfer station building, Finance Committee, assisting Grey Eagle City and West Union grant opportunities and childcare solutions meetings.

County Commissioner's Report

The Commissioners reported on meetings and events attended. Commissioner Becker attended the Rainbow Rider and media day at Solid Waste meetings. Commissioner Neumann attended the JD2 Miller Bay, Solid Waste and Rainbow Rider meetings. Commissioner Noska attended the regular meetings with mention of TWCC Director Langer's retirement announcement and TCDC meetings. Commissioner Denny attended the regular meetings with mention of Finance and extended thanks for support during recent family loss. Commissioner Byers attended the Finance, TCDC, SWCD and Personnel meetings. Adjourn

On motion by Becker and second by Noska, the meeting was adjourned for the month of July, 2025.

Total:	\$61,996.27
HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES WARRANTS	
VENDOR NAME \$ AMOUNT	
VENDOR-C1	\$3,232.00
VENDOR-C2	\$3,810.00
RURAL MN CEP INC \$15,023.15 84 PAYMENTS LESS	
THAN \$2,000	\$41,619.79
AMAZON CAPITAL SERVICES	\$2,278.02
DANIEL FUNERAL HOME \$3,500.00 KARVONEN FUNERAL HOME	\$3,500.00
MCCC, MI33	\$6,724.35
TODD COUNTY MIS DEPT \$61,673.37 9 PAYMENTS LESS	
THAN \$2,000	\$3,601.43
Total:	\$144,962.11
VENDOR NAME \$ AMOUNT	
#17598	\$4,053.90
NORTH HOMES CHILDREN & FAMILY SRVS	\$33,266.40
STEP	\$6,141.75
#16359	\$2,020.20
#17734	\$2,835.00
TRI-COUNTY COMMUNITY CORRECTIONS	\$11,780.00
31 PAYMENTS LESS	
THAN \$2,000	\$15,199.22
Total:	\$75,296.47
COMMISSIONER WARRANTS	
VENDOR NAME \$ AMOUNT	
SOURCES	\$4,500.00
NESCREEN	\$3,599.00
POPE DOUGLAS SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT \$11,287.51 PRAIRIE LAKES MUNICIPAL SOLID WASTE AUTH	\$93,473.61
SHIRLEY'S GAS & GROCERIES INC	\$2,679.52
SIR LINES-A-LOT, LLC	\$173,770.48
STAPLES ADVANTAGE	\$4,752.92
STEP	\$1,536.63
VOYANT COMMUNICATIONS, LLC	\$3,397.78
WATERGUARDS LLC	\$23,638.88
WIDSETH SMITH NOLTING INC	\$3,668.00
37 PAYMENTS LESS	
THAN \$2,000	\$16,298.35
CEBULLA/PAUL	\$2,195.92
COUNTIES PROVIDING TECHNOLOGY	\$7,926.00
EBSO INC	\$310,631.00
GALLAGHER BENEFIT SERVICES INC	\$2,000.00
HEALTH PARTNERS DENTAL	\$8,389.29
LONG PRAIRIE OIL COMPANY	\$6,228.35
MINNESOTA POWER	\$7,318.92
MORRISON COUNTY	\$35,218.72
MORRISON SWCD	\$3,732.47
NORTHERN STAR COOP	\$2,229.52
STEP	\$10,499.63
TODD CO AUD-TREAS	\$8,778.00
US BANK	\$17,465.00
USPS-POC	\$13,651.97
WAGNER/MICHAEL	\$2,362.50
WEST CENTRAL REG JUVENILE CTR	\$14,054.00
44 PAYMENTS LESS	
THAN \$2000	\$18,978.90
ARNZEN CONSTRUCTION INC	\$19,351.30
CENTERPOINT ENERGY	\$2,150.69
HEALTH PARTNERS DENTAL	\$8,309.00
HY-TEC CONSTRUCTION	\$1,497,206.58
KNIFE RIVER CORP	\$112,076.91
MARK SAND & GRAVEL CO	\$1,862,407.66
NORTH COUNTRY CHEVROLET	

BUICK GMC	\$106,980.56
PEMBERTON SORLIE RUFER & KERSHNER	\$3,364.50
REGION V DEVELOPMT COMMISSION	\$19,250.00
SAFEASSURE CONSULTANTS, INC	\$12,412.53
STANTEC CONSULTING SERVICES INC	\$9,468.38
31 PAYMENTS LESS	
THAN \$2,000	\$12,797.85
ARNZEN CONSTRUCTION INC	\$29,837.45
GREAT RIVER REGIONAL LIBRARY	\$86,976.25
INNOVATIVE OFFICE SOLUTIONS, LLC	\$4,399.00
NOW MICRO INC	\$4,318.00
REGENTS OF THE UNIV OF MN	\$43,750.00
28 PAYMENTS LESS	
THAN \$2,000	\$15,099.21
MN DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE	\$110,411.59
US BANK - CC	\$14,933.58
MN DEPT OF REVENUE	\$3,597.00
MN DEPT OF REVENUE \$53,713.82 8 PAYMENTS LESS	
THAN \$2,000	\$5,186.84
TOTAL:	\$5,329,678.55
COMMISSIONER WARRANTS	
VENDOR NAME \$ AMOUNT	
CENTRAL APPLICATORS INC	\$9,631.67
COMMISSIONER OF TRANSPORTATION	\$7,175.38
DAKOTA WHOLESALE TIRE	\$4,220.00
EVANS CONSOLE INCORPORATED	\$7,876.60
LONG PRAIRIE LEADER	\$7,604.00
LONG PRAIRIE PLUMBING & HTG INC	\$3,250.00
WOLTERS BODY SHOP INC	\$2,357.58
51 PAYMENTS LESS	
THAN \$2,000	\$19,881.04
Total:	\$61,996.27
HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES WARRANTS	
VENDOR NAME \$ AMOUNT	
BVENDOR-C1	\$3,232.00
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#16359	\$2,020.20
#17734	\$2,835.00
TRI-COUNTY COMMUNITY CORRECTIONS	\$11,780.00
31 PAYMENTS LESS	
THAN \$2,000	\$15,199.22
Total:	\$75,296.47
On a motion by Neumann and second by Becker, the preceding minutes of the County Board meeting held July 15, 2025 were duly approved by unanimous vote at the Todd County Board of Commissioners at the Regular Board Meeting held on August 5, 2025.	
Witness my hand and seal: /s/ on file: Bob Byers, County Board Chairperson /s/ on file: Denise Gaida, Todd County Auditor-Treasurer	
	37pnc

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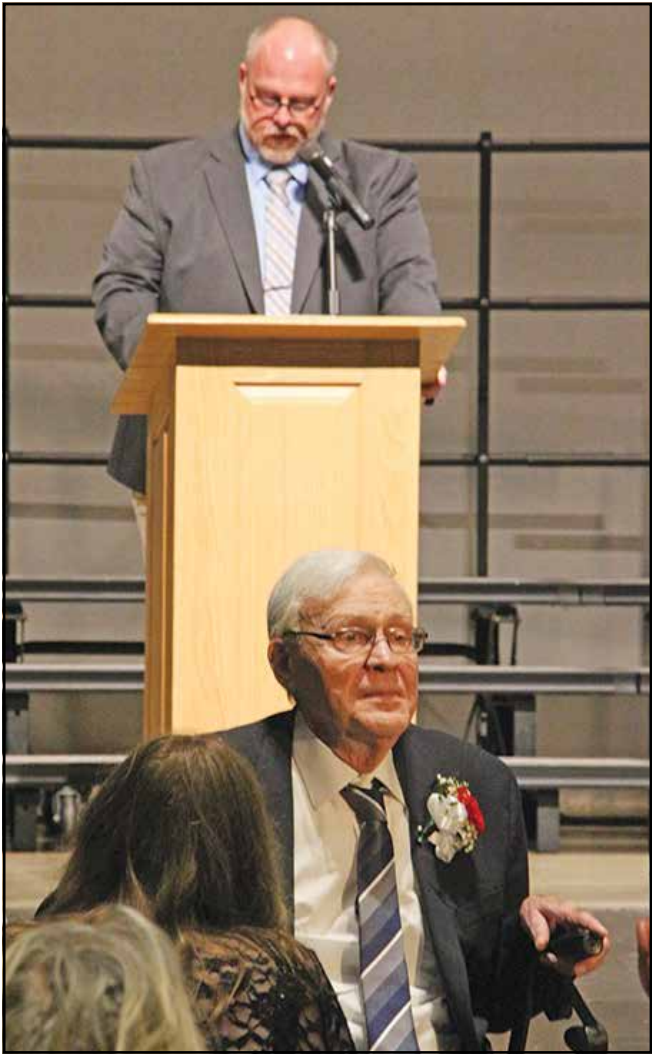
SHS Class of 1966 reunion

The Staples High School Class of 1966 held their reunion Aug. 16, at Holst Acres in Staples. Pictured, from left, are Tom Brever, Staples; Eloise (Tyrrell) Thorson, Browerville; Marge (Adamietz) Tepley, Motley; Bonnie (Chilberg) Thoele, Staples; Mary (Foster) Vogel, Staples; Mary (Lubke) Wilson, Clearwater; Barbara (Pribbenow) Dahl, Staples. (Staples World photo by Dawn Timbs)



SHS Class of 1965 reunion

The Staples High School Class of 1965 held their 60th reunion Aug. 16, at Holst Acres in Staples. Pictured, from left, are Mike Blessing, Staples; Bonita (Kempe) Hansen; DeEtta (Wicht) Bilek, Aldrich; Sandy (Smith) Richmond, Philbrook; Ralph (Skip) Klinkhammer, Moorhead; Sharon (George) Ernster, Walker; Stan Borle, Brainerd; Terry (Anderson) Stohlanske, New Hope; Dan Toedter, Wadena; Marilyn (Miller) Holst, Staples; Sandra (Halverson) Becker, Brooklyn Center; Ray Wilson, Clearwater; Allen Smith, Red Wing; Jim Vogel, Staples; Doug Vukelich, Staples; Larry Fleisher, Park Rapids. (Staples World photo by Dawn Timbs)



Mentor memento

Stan Carlson, foreground, listens to his Artistic Hall of Fame speech read by Steve Hoemberg, his former music student who came back to continue the music program when Carlson retired. For the induction ceremony, Carlson asked that the speech be read by Hoemberg. (Staples World photo by Mark Anderson)



Submitted photo)

SHS Class of 1964 reunion

The Staples High School Class of 1964 held their reunion Aug. 16, at Holst Acres in Staples. Pictured from left, are Bob Bjerga, Breezy Point; Dennis Stohlanske, New Hope; Harold (Huck) Holst, Staples; Ron Wicht, Verndale; David Noska, Staples; Adeline (Tepley) Noska, Browerville; George Warner, Hibbing. At right is Doug Judd, Staples. (Staples World photos by Dawn Timbs)



First volleyball game at The Nest

The Staples-Motley Cardinal Volleyball team played their inaugural game in The Nest Aug. 28, competing against the Foley Falcons. The Falcons defeated the Cards 3-0. (Staples World photo by Dawn Timbs)





Storm shelter nearing completion

The new Dower Lake Recreation Area storm shelter has the foundation, floor and walls built. At the Aug. 26 Staples City Council meeting, City Administrator Jerel Nelsen said they are putting in 15,000 pound roof units and will have four inches of poured concrete on top of

that. The shelter is located between the campground and softball fields, above the parking lot at the beach area. The shelter is being built with the help of a FEMA grant. (Staples World photos by Mark Anderson)



CLC brings in robotics and automation training

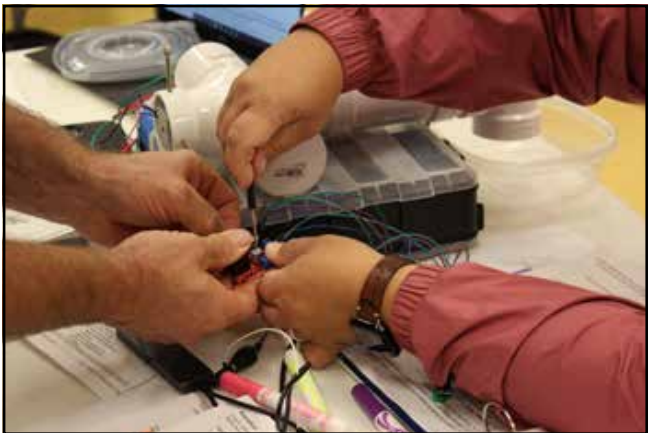
Central Lakes College recently hosted two back-to-back field tests of the Agricultural Robotics and Automation Technology (ARAT) curriculum. A total of 31 high school instructors from across the country to CLC's Staples campus and participated in this multi-day professional development training, designed to help educators bring robotics, automation, and sensor technology into their agriculture, science and technology classrooms.

The ARAT curriculum is being developed by the Curriculum for Agricultural Science Education (CASE) in partnership with AgCentric, the Minnesota State Northern Agricultural Center of Excellence. The project is supported by funding from the National Science Foundation (NSF). This innovative course introduces students to hands-on learning in robotics, coding, engineering concepts, and automation systems—all within the context of real-world agriculture.

The first field test was held from Monday, July 28 through Wednesday, July 30, with 15 instructors participating. The second field test, held from Wednesday, July 30 through Friday, August 1, included 16 instructors. Both sessions were hosted at Central Lakes College and designed to deliver the full ARAT curriculum while collecting structured feedback to refine content and implementation strategies.

Key Components of the Training Included:

- Building and programming robotic arms and



Hands-on training

Area educators work on a project during the ARAT training. (Submitted photos)

conveyors to simulate agricultural automation

- Integrating and coding environmental sensors for real-time data collection and system response

- Designing and assembling an automated turkey feeder as a collaborative capstone project

- Touring Central Lakes College's robotics and agriculture labs, linking high school content to postsecondary career pathways

- Providing detailed feedback to inform final curriculum development prior to broader distribution

ARAT builds on the foundation of CASE's Technical Applications in Agriculture (TAA) course, which is now called Ag Equipment Maintenance and Technology (AEMT). It responds to the increasing need for agriculture programs to integrate STEM-based content such as robotics, automation, and precision systems. Designed for high school learners, the

curriculum engages students in problem-solving, applied technology, and cross-disciplinary learning that mirrors today's ag-tech industry.

Both field test cohorts included high school teachers representing a wide range of educational backgrounds and program types, including agriculture education, general science, and robotics. Their participation is central to ensuring that the final curriculum is flexible, relevant, and accessible to a variety of schools and student populations.

Feedback gathered during both field tests will be used by CASE and AgCentric to finalize the ARAT curriculum before it becomes available to instructors across the CASE network.

To learn more about the project, visit: www.agcentric.org/education-training/agcentric-case-nsf



Lions donate to LAPS

The Staples Host Lions recently donated \$1,000 to Lakes Area Pregnancy Support (LAPS), with the monies going toward building renovations and new limited ultrasound equipment, which will be offered free to women. Pictured above, from left, are P. J. Bolstridge, LAPS Center Director for Staples; Lion Past President Dan Shaw; and Dan Nichols, Executive Director for LAPS. (Staples World photo by Dawn Timbs)



Lions club donates to Old Wadena

The Staples Host Lions recently donated \$500 to Old Wadena, for the Rendezvous event Aug. 8 and 9. Pictured from right are Jim Hofer, Old Wadena Rendezvous Vice-Chair; Lion Past President

Dan Shaw; Darlys Hamberg, Old Wadena Rendezvous Chair, and Hamberg's granddaughter, Grace Geray, St. Francis. (Staples World photo by Dawn Timbs)



Donation to Hooked on Fishing

The Staples Host Lions recently donated \$500 to Hooked on Fishing. Pictured, from left, are Mark Holper, Vice President of Sportmen's Club; Lauri Thew,

with Hooked on Fishing; Lion Past President Dan Shaw; and Jeremy Reeck with Hooked on Fishing. (Staples World photo by Dawn Timbs)



Lions donate to REACH

The Staples Host Lions recently donated \$800 to the Staples-Motley Middle/High School REACH program. The money went toward a three-day trip to Deep Portage, which was attended by 15

students. Pictured, from left, are Melissa Elfstrum, REACH Paraprofessional; Lion Past president Dan Shaw; and Valerie Turner, REACH teacher. (Staples World photo by Dawn Timbs)

of goodies. The cottage is owned by Carmen Schimpp.
(Staples World photo by Dawn Timbs)