

Inside this issue:

Wrestlers sending 11 to state individual tournament
Snow birds returning to Minnesota
Cardinal Chronicle - Kindergarten Round Up
Boys basketball gets big conference win



Wednesday, February 25, 2026

Staples World

Staples, Minnesota

\$125

Large crowd gathers for speech The Staples-Motley Middle/High School cafeteria was a meeting place for speakers during the 49th Annual Staples Host Lions Invitational Speech Tournament Feb. 21. There were 350 competitors from 17 different schools that participated. (Staples World photo by Dawn Timbs)

Lakewood Health System to assume ownership of Staples Eye Clinic

Lakewood Health System, Staples, announces it will assume ownership of the Staples Eye Clinic effective May 1, 2026. At that time, the clinic will officially become Lakewood Eye Clinic and relocate to its new home at The Plaza. The transition strengthens Lakewood's commitment to expanding local access to high-quality, comprehensive eye care. The move also aligns the eye clinic more closely with Lakewood's impressive variety of patient-centered health services. The new clinic space at The Plaza is twice the size of the current location, providing room for enhanced patient care and future service growth. "Integrating eye care more deeply into our health system allows us to better coordinate services and support patients

throughout their entire healthcare journey," said Lisa Bjerga, president and CEO of Lakewood Health System. "We're grateful for the long-standing partnership with Dr. Dokken and the Staples Eye Clinic team and are excited to carry that legacy forward." The Staples Eye Clinic has served the community for roughly 50 years, with the last 15 years under ownership of the Dokkens. Their team has been working closely with Lakewood to ensure a smooth transition for patients and staff. "We're proud of the care our team has provided and are excited for this next chapter," said Dr. Seth Dokken, owner of Staples Eye Clinic. "Dr. Jesse Fenstermacher, our entire team, and I will continue providing the same high-quality eye care our patients are

accustomed to—now with the added support and resources of Lakewood. This partnership allows us to spend more of our time where it matters most: caring for our patients, rather than managing the day-to-day operations of a business. We look forward to continuing those relationships as we move into our new location at The Plaza." Staples Eye Clinic patients will receive additional details about the transition directly, including any updates related to appointments, insurance and clinic processes. Both organizations emphasize that continuity of care remains the top priority throughout the change. For more information, patients can call Staples Eye Clinic at 218-894-1331.

Chamber growing with new membership

By Mark Anderson
Managing Editor

The Staples Area Chamber of Commerce grew from 43 members to 66 last year. The chamber is also expanding to a new office space and starting new programs to allow local busi-

nesses to become involved. At the January chamber board meeting, the board reviewed some of the accomplishments from 2025, including: • Hosted successful community events including Oktoberfest, the Ham & Wham Annual Dinner,

and partnered with Polar Express event. • Welcomed new businesses and celebrated ribbon cuttings across the community. • Increased member engagement and strength- See **CHAMBER** on page 14a



Chamber board ready for 2026

The Staples Area Chamber of Commerce at their January meeting, held at Timberlake Hotel in Staples. From left, Victoria Nitti, Kim Ziegler, Trevor Haasch (Events Director), Paul Augustinack (Vice

President), Marlo Corona (President), Kylie Matteson (Outreach Director), Mandi Polito (Treasurer) and Mark Anderson. (Photo by Christine Johnson, chamber member)

Staples-Motley hosts 49th Staples Host Lions Invitational Speech Tourney

On Saturday, February 21st, the Staples-Motley Competitive Speech Team hosted and competed in the 49th Annual Staples Host Lions Invitational Speech Tournament. Staples welcomed 350 competitors from 17 different schools to an excellent day of competition! The Staples-Motley team did well, with many competitors placing. In the category of Creative Expression, Walker Johnson won first place, Maddock Harvey second, and Joshua Cushing third. In Discussion, Bella Hines placed fourth and Charlotte Aldrich placed fifth. In Drama, Raina Mikhaeil placed second and in the next-in final, Brynn Bestland placed first, Jackson Alexander placed second, and Kai Bestland placed sixth. In the category of Extemporaneous Reading, Walker Johnson placed first, Meredith Hoemberg placed second, Molly Hoem- See **SPEECH** on page 14a



Visiting with Cardinal Speech alum

A few current Cardinal Speech Team members chatted with speech alumni at the home speech meet Feb. 21. From left are current members Kai Bestland,

Joshua Cushing and Lydia Tkalcich; and speech alum Caden Mrazek and Jonah Johnson, both past state speech champs. (Staples World photo by Dawn Timbs)

Weather

2026			
This Week's Forecast			
High	Low	Cond.	
Feb. 25	17	9	P. Cloudy
Feb. 26	38	29	M. Sunny
Feb. 27	40	2	M. Sunny
Feb. 28	12	-7	M. Cloudy
Mar. 1	14	0	M. Cloudy
Mar. 2	24	12	M. Cloudy
Mar. 3	35	14	P. Cloudy

Last Year, 2025			
High	Low	Cond.	
Feb. 25	46"	25	P. Sunny
Feb. 26	45	31	Sunny
Feb. 27	40	29	Cloudy
Feb. 28	36	17	M. Cloudy
Mar. 1	22	6	Sunny
Mar. 2	42	16	Sunny
Mar. 3	45	25	P. Sunny

Average Temps:
H = 31° Low = 12°

Compiled by
Dale Hausmann,
WCCO's Staples area
Weatherwatcher

Public Notices

ISD #2170	9A
Becker	10A
Bullard	10A
Fawn Lake	10A
Thomastown	10A
Staples	10A
Meadowbrook	10A
Moose Lake	10A
Motley	10A
Freshwater	10A
Todd Notice of Expiration of Redemption	11A

Obituaries

Sandra Trana
William Wicht



Cardinal Speech team members celebrate



The Cardinal Speech team received several awards at their home tournament Feb. 21. Above is the full team picture.

Back row, from left: Maddock Harvey, Addie Brenny, Joshua Cushing, Bella Hines, Hailey Richardt, Meredith Hoemberg, Molly Hoemberg, Alex Tkalcich, Matthew Jewison.

Middle: Kai Bestland, Lydia Tkalcich, Caleb Bestland, Landon Zeigler, Ava Davis, Nadia Santos.

Front: Charlotte Aldrich, Sadye Anderson, Raina Mikhaeil, Brynn Bestland, Walker Johnson, Tristan Rendon, Lexi Ann, Jackson Alexander, Jackson Bitzer.

In lower photo are the champion speakers at the recent home speech meet. From left: Addie Brenny, Walker Johnson, Tristan Rendon. (Submitted photos)



Donation to Staples-Motley volleyball team

Miran Creek Furniture, Inc. and the Staples Fire Department together donated \$6,400 to the Staples-Motley volleyball program to help purchase a new three-court practice net system and a new game day net system for The Nest. Pictured above from left are, back: Jake Holder, Chase Farrel, Kyle Karolus, Jake Denning, Brandon Brusewitz, Staples Fire Dept. members; Chloe Trantina, Addison Potter, Hannah Cole, Keira Mevissen, Jasmyne Hove, Kyleena Rudlang, Jada Ellingsen, Milli DeWard, Rose Mevissen, Ella Judd, Sadie Claussen, Eva Weber,

Staples-Motley volleyball team members; and Abby, Tom, Aimee and Lily Brichacek representing Miran Creek Furniture. Front: Jocelyn Lenk, Katelyn Schotzko, Izzy Becker, Kylee Chenoweth, Maggie Grunewald, Berkley Nelson, Chadia Schultz, Jocy Vogt, Belle Mevissen, Taylee Reese, Mari Duran, Staples-Motley volleyball team members. (Submitted photo)

25th anniversary of missing person Rachel Anthony

Motley area law enforcement

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

Feb. 13 - Motley Police assisted Morrison County deputies at a crash at Hwys 10/210 in Motley.

Feb. 12 - Motley Police received information from a special agent that the FBI had received over social media regarding a possible CSC (Criminal Sexual Conduct) in Motley.

Feb. 11 - Motley Police received a report of a vulnerable adult crime at Harmony House in Motley.

Feb. 17 - The MCSO received a report of a structure fire at the 4800 block of Red Fox Rd SW in Motley, Cass County. Motley Fire was paged out.

Feb. 15 - Morrison County deputies responded to a report of a vehicle all over the roadway that crashed at Dove Rd and 350th St., Cushing. The vehicle was located and the driver, Karlee Renee Chenoweth, 31, was arrested.

Feb. 13 - Morrison County deputies assisted state patrol with an accident at Hwys 10/210 in Motley.

Cass County Sheriff Bryan Welk reports that Feb. 27, 2026, will mark the 25th anniversary of the disappearance of Rachel Anthony from the Ultimate Liquors store in Pine River. The Cass County Sheriff's Office and the Minnesota Bureau of Criminal Apprehension Investigators hope that someone will come forward with information that can help investigators solve this crime and provide answers for her family.

Just before 10 p.m. on Feb. 27, 2001, Rachel Anthony was finishing her shift at Ultimate Liquors. The store was scheduled to close at 10 p.m. and she had already started her car so that it could warm up. A police officer discovered Rachel's car still idling in the parking lot around 1 a.m. The back door at the store was unlocked and Rachel's purse and coat were still inside the store, but Rachel was missing. Her body was found six weeks later about 15 miles away near Breezy Point. Investigators have determined that the last transaction of the night was a purchase at 9:57 p.m. – someone purchased a bottle of Mickey's Malt Liquor and Kool cigarettes. Investigators have not been able to identify the individual who made that purchase. This individual is considered a person of interest in Rachel's murder.

"We are hopeful with highlighting the anniversary of Rachel's disappearance that someone who has information, even if it's the smallest detail, will come forward and share that information with law enforcement," Cass County Sheriff Bryan Welk said. "The Cass County Sheriff's Office and BCA are committed to following up on all leads and hope that one will bring us to the successful outcome of this tragic case."

Rachel Anthony is featured on the "Five of Spades" playing card the MN BCA developed to bring awareness to cases across the State of Minnesota. The Cold Case Playing Cards highlight 52 violent unsolved homicides, missing persons and unidentified person cases that have occurred throughout Minnesota in the past 50-plus years. Decks were sent to all 515 Minnesota police departments and sheriff offices, plus 75 county jail and annex facilities. In addition, over 10,000 decks have been supplied to Minnesota state prison inmates. The goal is to gain information and tips to help solve Minnesota's cold cases.

Investigators are asking anyone with information that could help them identify the person to come forward. Information can be provided to the Cass County Sheriff's Office at 218-547-1424 or 800-450-2677, or the BCA at 651-793-7000 or 877-996-6222. Your tip can be anonymous. The organi-

March is Food Share Month

The Minnesota Food Share Campaign is in its 45th year of bringing organizations, businesses, faith communities and individuals together, to keep food shelves statewide stocked throughout the year.

Last year Minnesota made a record-breaking 8.9 million visits to food shelves. Annual food shelf visits are now 150 percent higher than they were prior to the Covid 19 pandemic.

Food insecurity in Minnesota sees one in five households who can't afford the food they need. Twenty-six percent of households with children are food insecure and 18 percent of households rely on the emergency food system.

The Motley Area Food Shelf (MAFS) continues to see an increase in clientele. Ten years ago, a good day was eight to 12 families each week. Today we have served as many as 33 families on a Thursday morning. With the system of having the clientele filling out a shopping list of all the food items we carry, we can fill the shopping list, boxed and out the door to the clients in 10 minutes. We have a great staff of volunteers, each with their own assignment to assist with completing the order.

The Motley Area Food Shelf also has garden plots and raised beds for community use. A garden hose and water is available. If you have extra garden produce, we ask you share with the food shelf.

Year round, we accept food donations. Check the expiration date before donating. We are not allowed to put expired food items on our shelves.

We are beyond grateful for the support we get from our community during the March Campaign and throughout the year.

The Motley Area Food Shelf is open each Thursday 9 a.m. – noon and on the third Thursday 5 p.m. – 7 p.m. The food shelf is located at 697 3rd Ave. S., Motley.



Crash in Staples Township

First responders were at the scene of a two-vehicle crash at Hwy 210 and Cty Rd 21 in Staples Township Feb. 22, at approximately 5 p.m. According to the MN State Patrol, a 1999 Kenworth semi tractor trailer, driven by Brady Charles Greenwaldt, 32, of Baxter, was eastbound on Hwy 210 and a 2013 Chevrolet Impala, driven by James Douglas Criss, 35, of Bertha, was southbound on Cty Rd 21, when the two vehicles collided at the intersection. Criss, who sustained non life-threatening injuries, was transported by ambulance to Lakewood Health System Hospital in Staples. Greenwaldt was not injured. Road conditions were dry, both drivers were wearing seatbelts and alcohol was not a factor for either. First responders included Staples Police and Fire Departments, Staples Ambulance, Todd County Sheriff's Office deputies, and MN State Patrol. (Staples World photo by Dawn Timbs)

Transform Your Bathroom and Change Your Life.



FREE TOILET + \$1,500 OFF*

For your FREE information kit and our Senior Discounts, Call Today Toll-Free

1-833-966-3882



*Free toilet with purchase and installation of a walk-in tub or walk-in shower only. Offer available while supplies last. No cash value. Must present offer at time of purchase. Cannot be combined with any other offer. Market restrictions may apply. Offer available in select markets only. CSLB 1082165 NSCB 0082999 0083445 13VH11096000

5

♠

HOMICIDE



Rachel Anthony

50 Year Old White Female

Rachel Anthony was last seen alive working at Ultimate Liquors in Pine River, MN on February 28th, 2001. The victim's body was later recovered in a ravine near Breezy Point in Cass County, MN on April 14th, 2001. The victim died as a result of homicidal violence.

If you have any info regarding this case

Call the MN BCA Tip Line

1-877-996-6222



Five of Spades playing card

Rachel Anthony is featured on the "Five of Spades" playing card that was developed to bring awareness to missing person cases across Minnesota. Anthony was last seen on Feb. 28, 2001 in Pine River. (Submitted)

Shape your community: Wadena County invites public input for Comprehensive Plan

What should Wadena County look like in ten or 20 years? Whether you're concerned about how and where the county allows new homes, the future of our local parks, the strength of our economy, or how the transportation system works, now is the time to make your voice heard.

Wadena County is officially launching a process to update its 2013 Comprehensive Plan. This document serves as the roadmap for the county's future, and after over a decade, it's time for a refresh. We are seeking direct input from residents, business owners, and community members to identify the most critical issues facing our region today.

County officials are looking for feedback in five key areas:

- Land Use: Where should more housing or business development be allowed? Where should land be preserved for agricultural and recreational uses?
- Economic Development: How do we attract new businesses and support those that are already here?
- Transportation: Where are improvements needed for our roads and other transportation systems?
- Facilities & Services: Are our county buildings and services meeting your needs?
- Parks & Recreation: What would make our public outdoor spaces even better?

Join the Conversation
To ensure everyone has a seat at the table, the county will host two public input meetings. Both sessions will begin at 6 p.m.

- Thursday, Feb. 26 –

CHAMBER continued from page 1a

Chamber makes big plans for 2026

ened communication through newsletters, social media, and direct outreach.

- Advocated for local economic development initiatives that support long-term growth.

New office, new ideas
The chamber board heard two proposals on where to keep the chamber office.

In a secret ballot, they settled on using space at Mandi's Accounting Services in downtown Staples, which also has the American Family Insurance branch.

One of the new plans for the chamber is to develop an ambassador program, where chamber members who do not want to be a full board member can still be a part of chamber activities, such as welcoming new members and attending ribbon cuttings. Ambassadors can also help with chamber events and other business connections.

Similarly, the board is exploring adding ex-officio members from institutions that are not traditional chamber of commerce

Wadena County Courthouse, 415 Jefferson St S, Wadena

- Thursday, March 19 - Sebek Senior Center, 114 Minnesota Ave NW, Sebek

Think Big: A Few Questions to Get You Started

There will be a short presentation at the beginning of each meeting, but they are both primarily for the purpose of hearing from you. To help spark some ideas before you arrive, consider these questions:

- What types of businesses are most needed in Wadena County? How can we support people starting and growing businesses?
 - What are the most significant barriers to new residents moving to Wadena County and how can we help eliminate them?
 - How can we allow more homes while still preventing conflict with agricultural and recreational (i.e. hunting) uses of land?
 - If you were in charge of the county budget, what are two-three improvements to transportation, facilities or services that you would prioritize?
- Why Attend?
- These meetings aren't just about "checking a box." The feedback gathered at these meetings will directly influence policy decisions, grant applications, and infrastructure projects for years to come. Whether you have a specific concern or just want to learn more about the process, we encourage you to attend.
- For more information regarding the update process, please visit: <https://www.hometownplanning.com/wadena-county-comprehensive-plan-update>

75 YEARS Ago - 1951

- Feb. 22, 1951 - Seven students of the Staples high school were admitted to the National Honor Society at services held at the high school auditorium Feb. 16.

Miss Alice Hotchkiss, principal of the high school, presented the following students for admittance to the society: Harold Barrett, Donald Edwards, John Strom, Richard Read, Richard Randgaard, Eleanor Scott and Helen Amundson.

- Feb. 22, 1951 - The March of Dimes is over, and people of Staples contributed more than 4,900 dimes to the drive to help fight polio, and to carry on the research work connected with the dread

- O -
Compiled by Dawn Timbs
- O -

disease.

A total of \$498.47 was remitted to the office of H. C. Barker, chairman of the Staples drive.

- Feb. 22, 1951 - Three Staples dentists: Dr. F. W. Bens, Dr. E. J. Laberee, and Dr. E. A. St. Pierre, were in attendance at the 68th annual Minnesota state dental association convention Feb.. 19 -21, held in the Minneapolis auditorium.
- Feb. 22, 1951 - Staples Cards won a hard fought basketball game, and one which was a thrilling climax to the home games from a highly rated Alexandria quint on the Staples hardwood court Feb. 17, by a two point margin of 44 to 42.

Don Carlson was the hero of the evening when he tossed in a set-up shot in the closing seconds of the final quarter to put the Staples Cards in front two points, and which score held good until the remaining five seconds of the game had run out.

50 YEARS Ago - 1976

- Feb. 19, 1976 - Peggy Finn and Steve Gardner, both seniors at Staples High School, were recently selected by the Staples Rotary Club as their delegates to the Model United Nations Assembly in Winnipeg, Canada. Richard Donat and his wife, Kerwin, will serve as chaperones.
- Feb. 19, 1976 - Under the sponsorship of the Motley Lions Club, snowmobile races will be held in Motley Sunday, Feb. 22. Officers of the club reported that the purpose of the races is to raise funds for their tennis court project.
- Feb. 19, 1976 - Due to an outbreak of flu in the area, visiting hours at the United District Hospital, Staples, and at the Mary Rondorf Home have been stopped until further notice, according to information released today by administrators of each facility (Gary Kenner and Sister Mary Bernard, respectively).
- Feb. 19, 1976 - The slogan, "This is the Year of the Cards," held true for Coach Don Dravis's Car-

dinal Wrestling team last Thursday and Saturday as they completely dominated the action and walked away with the District 24 mat crown.

In claiming their sixth District 24 championship, the Cards rolled up a total of 214 1/2 points. Their nearest rival was New York Mills, who finished 59 points behind the Cards with 155 1/2.

The power of the Staples Cardinals was evident throughout the tourney as they came through with all 12 men winning opening rounds and then 11 men of Coach Dravis were entered into the semi-finals and the 11-team tournament. Eight Cardinals gained the finals and the grapplers of Staples High school claimed six individual championships, namely Dave Sowers, Dave Sikora, Dave Roberts, Jim Johnson, Jeff Cizek and Tony Van Buren.

- Feb. 19, 1976 - Kenneth T. Barrett, a well known resident of this city and a man who spent 58 years in the business profession of Staples before retirement, died at the United District Hospital Sunday, Feb. 15. He was 78 years of age.

Masonic services were conducted at the Belling Funeral Chapel Tuesday, Feb. 17, at 7 p.m.

- Feb. 19, 1976 - The Motley Rocket wrestling fans are very proud of their team's showing at the District 24 Tournament held at Staples Feb. 12 and 14.

The team scored 65 1/2 points, a record for the school, and came home with a fourth from John Huff at 183, a third from Tom Windschitl at 122 and its first district champion, Paul Windschitl at 132. Other Rocket wrestlers who participated included: Bruce Martin, Mike Swecker, Mike Emery, Jim Greible, Mike Welle, Karl Moon, and Todd Kraft.

25 YEARS Ago - 2001

- Feb. 22, 2001 - On Monday, Feb. 19, Frank Gardner no longer was filling out prescriptions ordered by local doctors. For the first time in 33 years, he was not helping people fighting their illnesses and coughs.

The local Staples Rexall Drug Store that he and his wife Loretta have operated since Feb. 1, 1968, is going out of business. They transferred their medical and prescription records to Longbella Drug as of Monday.

"I'm quitting because it's time to quit. I'm 70 years old. For heaven's sake, don't say I'm quitting because business is bad. The store has been good for us, right up to and including this last year.

- Feb. 22, 2001 - The Motley Staples Middle School will present the musical, "Annie, Jr." at Centennial Auditorium in Staples March 9 and 10.

The musical production will be co-directed by Kevin Olsen and Gloria Palmer.

Principle members of the cast include Jenny



Mystery photo

Hello readers. This week's archive photo is from 1994. 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.

Mueller as "Annie," Sarah Fellman as "Miss Hannigan; Mitch Sams as "Oliver (Daddy) Warbucks," "Ben Spar as "Rooster Hannigan," Andrew Paskewitz as "Drake" and Ryan Murray as "Sandy" (the dog).

- Feb. 22, 2001 - The Minnesota Center for the Book has announced the finalists for the 13th annual Minnesota Book Awards. Included is "The Haymakers: A Chronicle of Five Farm Families" written by Steve Hoffbeck who was a social studies teacher in Staples from 1980 to 1988.

Hoffbeck was the Staples Teacher of the year in 1985 and a finalist for Minnesota Teacher of the year in 1985. He was a member of the Methodist Church in Staples, where he was a youth group leader and sang in the choir. He is now a professor of history at Minnesota State University Moorhead and lives in Barnesville, with his wife, Dianne and four children.

- Feb. 22, 2001 - Loren "Lefty" Cameron of Staples was acknowledged as a Helen Keller Sight Award recipient recently at the Lions District 5M-8 Midwinter Convention held at the Grand Casino in Hinckley.

As recipient of the award, \$1,000 was donated to the Lion's eye program in Cameron's name.

- Feb. 22, 2001 - Michelle Honek and Rachel Landecker represented the Staples Motley High School's SADD (Students Against Destructive Decisions) at a recent Youth Jam 2001 event sponsored by Minnesota MADD.

10 YEARS Ago - 2016

- Feb. 25, 2016 - By spelling "laceration" and "Collary" in the 16th and 17th rounds, Rose Han outlasted 14 other students to win the Staples Motley District Spelling Bee held Feb. 17, at Centennial Auditorium in Staples.



Mystery solved

Last week's mystery photo published in the Feb. 28, 1985 edition of the Staples World featured Stacy Stanek, left, and Wayne Hannahs, named as Motley High School's February Students of the Month. Stacy, a sophomore, is the daughter of Dennis and Elaine Stanek; and Wayne, an 8th-grader, is the son of Ronald and Christine Hannahs.

Dana Fischer of Motley recognized both students, noting that Stacy (Stanek) Kennelly graduated from Motley High School in 1987; and Wayne Hannahs graduated from Staples-Motley in 1989. Thanks for participating in our mystery photo.

Todd County court report Feb. 18, Seventh District Court

Long Prairie Police
Ruben Javier Gonzale-Ortiz, Long Prairie. Driving after revocation. Fine \$200. Fee \$85.
Pedro Luis Maldonado Pierrot, Brownville. Driving after revocation. Fine \$200. Fee \$85. Expired registration. Fine \$30.
Christian Rafael Melen Perales, Long Prairie. Driving without a valid license for vehicle class or type.
Dept. of Natural Resources
Nicholas Jacob Dvorak, Oak Grove. Fail to display ATV registration/decals as required. Fine \$25. Fee \$85.
Anthony Allen Jacobson, Little Falls. Fishing extra line. Fine \$50. Fee \$85.
MN State Patrol
Nicolas Barrios Barrios, Sauk Centre. Careless driving. Fine \$100. Fee \$85.
Kevin James Baxter, Long Prairie. No Insurance owner. Fine \$200. Fee \$85. No MN Drivers license. Fine \$100.
Yvonne Margo Block, Minneapolis. Speed 80/70. Fine \$40. Fee \$85.
Jusuli Castillo Vasquez, Long Prairie. Duty to drive with due care. Fine \$40. Fee \$85.

Reina Rippin Fujioto, St. Cloud. Speed 89/70. Fine \$50. Fee \$85.
Victor Giovanni Galicia Mejia, Melrose. Window time. Fine \$50. Fee \$85.
Timothy Daniel Herrera, Sauk Centre. Driving after cancellation. Fine \$200. Fee \$85.
Aiden Lee Kolby, Champlin. Speed 79/70. Fine \$40. Fee \$85.
Mohamed Abdulkadir Noor, Eagan. Speed 80/70. Fine \$40. Fee \$75.
Michaela Heising Nyland, Argusville, ND. Speed 84/70. Fine \$40. Fee \$75.
Jose Francisco Orozco Vazquez, Long Prairie. Window restrictions. Fine \$50. Fee \$75.
Shuomang Shi, Fargo, ND. Speed 82/70. Fine \$50. Fee \$85.
Jean Mary Vogel, Osakis. Window restrictions. Fine \$50. Fee \$85.
Maurice Dweh Zarzar, Fargo, ND. Speed 87/70. Fine \$60. Fee \$85.
Staples Police Dept.
Cortoren Andrew Shegog, Brainerd. Driving after revocation. Fine \$200. Fee \$85.
Todd County Sheriff
Emily Rae Anderson, Osakis. Speed 78/60. Fine \$60. Fee \$85.

Rosendo Cortes Quintero, Willmar. Driving without a valid license for vehicle class or type. Fine \$100. Fee \$85. Driver must carry proof of insurance when operating vehicle. Fine \$200. Duty to drive with due care-speed greater than reasonable. Fine \$40.
Noah David Roggenkamp, Henning. Liquor-consumption by persons under 21. Fine \$100. Fee \$85.
The following cases were heard before Judge Tammy L. Merkins in Seventh District Court in Todd County February 11, 2026.
Santos Ezequiel Gonzalez, Sauk Rapids. DWI-operate motor vehicle under influence of alcohol. Sentenced. Local confinement (90 days, stay 0 yr 0 mo 0 days credit for time served: 15 days). Fine \$50. Fee \$105. Driving after revocation. Dismissed.
The following cases were heard before Judge Gary R. Larson in Seventh District Court in Todd County February 11, 2026.
Melissa Sue Wyman, Brownville. 3rd degree driving while impaired. Dismissed. Careless driving. Sentenced. Local confinement (90 days,

stay 0 yr 0 mo 30 days for 1 yr credit for time served: 3 days. Supervised probation, 1 yr. Fine \$700. Fee \$75. Driving after revocation, Dismissed.

The following cases were heard before Judge Gary R. Larson in Seventh District Court in Todd County February 10, 2026.
Alejandra Aguilar, Long Prairie. Snow removal. Sentenced. Unsupervised probation, 6 mo. Fine \$50. Fee \$75.

Oswaldo Montanez Gomez, Long Prairie. 3rd degree driving while impaired. Dismissed. 4th degree driving while impaired-blood alcohol content greater than .08 within 2 hours. Sentenced. Local confinement (90 days, stay 0 yr 0 mo 88 days for 1 yr credit for time served: 2 days). Supervised probation, 1 yr. Fine \$500. Fee \$100. Open bottle. Possession. Dismissed.

Grady Joseph Wood, Delano. Liquor-consumption by persons under 21. Continued. Supervised probation, 6 mo. Give Peace Officer false name/birthdate/ID card. Dismissed.

The following cases were heard before Judge Dwayne Knutsen in Seventh District

Court in Todd County February 9, 2026.
Patrick John Lamusga, Brownville. Disorderly conduct. Dismissed. Domestic assault. Dismissed. Disorderly conduct. Sentenced. Fine \$25. Fee \$75.

The following cases were heard before Judge Gary R. Larson in Seventh District Court in Todd County February 9, 2026.

Jacquelyn Beth Gilman, Staples. Domestic Assault. Dismissed. Assault-5th degree-inflict or attempt bodily harm. Dismissed. Disorderly conduct. Dismissed. Domestic abuse no contact order-violate no contact order. Continued. Local confinement (7 days, stay 0 yr 0 mo 0 days credit for time served: 7 days). Supervised probation, 1 yr. Fine \$250. Obstruct legal process-interfere with Peace Officer. Dismissed.

Ethan Gregory Graton, Staples. 3rd degree driving while impaired. Dismissed. 3rd degree driving while impaired-blood alcohol content greater than .08 within 2 hours. Dismissed. Underage drinking and driving. Sentenced. Local confinement (90 days, stay 0 yr 0 mo 89 days for 1 yr credit for time served: 1 day). Supervised probation, 1 yr. Fine \$500. Fee \$75.

The following cases were heard before Judge Dwayne Knutsen in Seventh District Court in Todd County February 6, 2026.

Dawda Bah, St. Cloud. DWI-operate motor vehicle under influence of alcohol. Dismissed. Reckless driving. Sentenced. Local confinement (90 days, stay 0 yr 0 mo 88 days for 1 yr credit for time served: 2 days). Supervised probation. Fine \$400. Fee \$75.



DEADLINES
Newspaper deadline for copy and advertising: 12 noon Fridays



Some wild snowbirds already returning to Minnesota

It may still be February, but already it pays to keep one’s eyes on the skies. Some of the migratory birds that left us in autumn are already returning. Unlike many human snowbirds, these migrants aren’t waiting for a good weather guarantee. They’re coming back early to get a jump on the most important season of their year: the breeding season.

On Valentine’s Day weekend, as my wife and I left home for a long drive south toward the Twin Cities, we were still enjoying that welcome February thaw. Statewide temperatures had been in the upper 40’s almost everywhere in Minnesota, with 50-plus degrees in some places. It was tempting to ignore the forecasts of impending snow and cold that could soon bring us back to late seasonal reality.

Clear blue skies and morning sun made it easy to spot motion above the horizon ahead of us. Especially easy when that object in motion is bomber-size compared to most birdlife. It was an apt description for the echelon of swans we saw gliding low and angling toward us, their flight line taking them over the road and above a field of corn stubble, where snow then lay only in scattered, remnant patches.

Unless both the larger trumpeter and the tundra swan are seen together, it can be difficult to tell one from the other. “Trumpeter” was my guesstimate, based on their close range and altitude. Both swan species are field feeders, and last fall’s harvested fields still hold waste grain that will be a staple for them until lo-

cal wetlands lose their covering of ice. Unfortunately, their field foraging has been made more difficult by the recent snow.

Several rivers that flow through our county are beginning to open, offering a foothold to swans and other migratory waterfowl, despite the fact that lakes, marshes, and seasonal wetlands remain ice-covered. Some of the earliest waterfowl I expect to see, besides swans and geese, are goldeneyes, hooded mergansers, and buffleheads, ducks that are adapted to diving for small fish, snails, and other invertebrate life that are found in deeper, flowing waters. Waterfowl that depend most heavily on aquatic plant foods—like blue-wing and green-wing teal—typically arrive later, after small wetlands have become ice-free.

Those who make a habit of observing birds soon find that they can identify many species by silhouette, or profile, as readily as they can by plumage. This is useful when a bird is viewed at long range, or when light is poor, and plumage is indistinct. A case in point: if you’ve seen a great blue heron cautiously stalking its prey in the shallows of a lake or marsh, with its long, serpentine neck, stilt-like legs, and dagger-like bill, you’ll almost always recognize one, near or far, in good light or poor.

This recognition can be just as true when a bird is in flight. One bird that has an in-flight silhouette that’s hard to misidentify is the sandhill crane. In shape and size it resembles a heron, and is similarly equipped with long legs, and a long, sharp bill for stab-and-grab feeding. But its habitat is fields and wetland edges, where it finds an amazingly diverse diet of waste grain, tubers, berries, snakes frogs, lizards, rodents, and even small birds. And in flight, its appearance is far from that of the slow, lumbering heron!

Not long after our swan

encounter, high overhead we caught the motion of a flock of large birds, numbering a half dozen or so. Obvious against the clear sky above them was the silhouette of their broad wings and wide wingspan, characteristic of birds that soar on thermal currents. Those great wings—spanning as much as seven feet—the long outstretched necks, and gangling legs trailing behind them, made a “sandhill crane” identification obvious. In the bird world, the sandhill crane has always seemed the equivalent of the legendary U-2 spy plane, so renowned for its high-altitude, soaring flight capabilities.

As already noted, soon thereafter came a wet, heavy snow that covered our local landscape, followed by deep cold. This may make the sandhill cranes’ early arrival an uncomfortable one. But migratory birds are surprisingly hardy, and more cold-tolerant than we might expect. The key for most species is finding sufficient food resources to see them through until spring arrives and unlocks the pantry of greater abundance.

Another early migrant sometimes caught off-guard by adverse weather is the American woodcock, an upland game bird whose closest relatives are shorebirds, the snipe and sandpipers. Woodcock subsist mostly on earthworms, with insects and the occasional supplement of grass and sedge seeds to round out their diet. They’re surprisingly early migrants, gravitating to places where the ground thaws first; places like stream edges, and seeps and springs where water emerges from underground.

Occasionally woodcock arrive too soon, and an extended sub-freezing period can spell death for them. It’s generally believed that a week or so of weather that deprives them of their invertebrate foods is about all they can tolerate. A timely example is the recent wintry weather that hit the

East Coast of the United States with deep snow, and sub-freezing temperatures that lasted more than a week. In its aftermath came the discovery of more than 170 dead woodcock—probably not even a complete count—on the Cape May Peninsula of New Jersey, a traditional stopover for northbound migrants of many bird species.

There are no comparable woodcock migration concentration points here in Minnesota. And it’s unlikely that many woodcock have yet returned from their southern wintering grounds; a possible exception being far southern Minnesota. But if the 24 to 36-inch snowfall recently experienced in Minnesota’s Arrowhead region were to come in mid- or late March, a similar outcome could be the result.

Migratory birds generally do not respond to unexpected weather setbacks by reversing their migratory course and winging their way back to warmer latitudes until conditions improve. In the case of woodcock, actual telemetry data confirms this. Migratory birds of most species typically “hunker down” to wait out bad weather.

When all goes well, early migration leads to early nesting, which—when brood rearing is successful—leads to early-maturing offspring that will have a head-start in life. But early migration can also lead to weather-driven mortality, as this unfortunate woodcock tale bears out.

Spring won’t officially arrive until Friday, March 20th. But the advance guard of bird migration is on the move, and some are already here. There may be more seasonal setbacks; this is Minnesota, after all. But there’s little doubt about the eventual outcome. Spring will transform our landscape, and part of that transformation will be an explosion of returning birdlife.

Quote of the week

“To appreciate the beauty of a snowflake, it is necessary to stand out in the cold.”
— Aristotle

Fraud is top priority for house session

By Mike Weiner
State Representative

The 2026 legislative session officially started on Tuesday which means we are back in committees and floor sessions. This session I still am a member of taxes and the energy committee. As this is not a budget year most bills we will be hearing are going to be policy and with a still tied house of 67-67 bills that make it to the floor will require bipartisan support.

House Republicans have six pillars that we will be a focusing on this session:

1. Stop the Fraud
Minnesotans are sick and tired of having their tax dollars taken by fraud. House Republicans will prioritize rooting out waste, fraud, and abuse in state government and make sure that those who steal from taxpayers are held accountable.
2. Minnesota Affordable
Minnesotans have been struggling under the weight of crushing inflation caused by Democrats’ out-of-control spending and increasing taxes by \$10 billion. Our goal is to make Minnesota affordable by repealing the things that hurt family budgets like Democrats’ automatic gas tax increase, delivery taxes, and other policies that drive up the costs of goods and services.
3. Make Minnesota Safe
House Republicans will work with law enforcement to make sure they have the resources they need to keep our communities safe and hold violent criminals responsible for their actions.
4. Raise Standards, Reduce Mandates
House Republicans will work to reduce the burden

some mandates Democrats have placed on school districts and work with local school boards to make sure they have the flexible funding they need to address their unique needs.

House Republicans will get politics out of the classroom and work with local school districts to emphasize teaching the basics like reading, writing, and math.

5. Minnesota Tax Dollars for Minnesotans

Minnesotans expect their tax dollars to be spent for the benefit of Minnesotans who are here legally. We will work to repeal programs that provide free, taxpayer funded insurance, college tuition, and more for illegal immigrants.

6. Build for the Future
House Republicans will work to make it easier to maintain and improve our critical infrastructure and other projects through permitting reform, keeping standards high and removing unnecessary burdens to progress.

My goal is to get tax reductions for Minnesotans. Many people always tell me that they can barely afford to live and get by. These are hard working people and they deserve tax breaks and the ability to plan for the future. I will continue to fight because we need to support our families, small businesses, and communities. We need to focus on practical, commonsense solutions that truly serve Minnesotans. My focus will remain on delivering results for the people of our district.

It is an honor to represent you at the Capitol. Please continue to reach out with your questions, concerns, and ideas. I look forward to keeping you updated throughout the 2026 legislative session.

Pesticides contribute to cancer rates

By Heather Close
The Rural Blog

As cancer diagnosis rates among Midwesterners continue to be higher than the national average, a “growing body of research indicates that pesticides are partly to blame,” reports Ben Felder of Investigate Midwest. Pesticide use helped U.S. agriculture become an international commodity powerhouse, but that success may be coming at the expense of Midwestern communities.

Because more than half of U.S. cropland is in the Midwest, Midwesterners who don’t live in a major metro area are likely to live near a farm that uses pesticides. Felder explains, “Sprayed from airplanes, drones, tractors and handheld devices, these chemicals can drift through the air or run off into nearby rivers and streams.”

“Most of the 500 counties with the highest pesticide use per square mile are located in the Midwest,” Felder reports. “Sixty percent of those counties also had cancer rates higher than the national average of 460 cases per 100,000 people, according to an analysis of data from both the U.S. Geological Survey and

the National Cancer Institute.”

Lisa Lawler from Hardin County, Iowa, believes that pesticides are the primary driver of cancer diagnoses in her community, including her mother’s and her own. Felder writes, “The county is home to around 800 farms, has a pesticide use rate more than four times the national average and a cancer rate among the highest in the state.”

Lawler had extensive testing completed to see if her cancer was hereditary. She told Felder, “The genetic test they ran for me was one that covered 81 genes that are typically related to breast cancer. . . .They told me my cancer is likely not genetic, but likely environmental, based on these 81 genes.”

Pesticide manufacturers have continued to reject claims that pesticides have any part in regional cancer diagnosis trends. “But scientific research linking pesticides with certain types of cancers has been growing,” Felder writes. A 2024 study published in Frontiers in Cancer Control and Society linked “pesticides to prostate, lung, pancreas and colon cancers. Pesticides have also been associated with lymphoma and Parkinson’s disease.”

Quote of the week

“Facts do not cease to exist because they are ignored.”
— Aldous Huxley

Cardinal Showcase

Kindergarten Round-Up starts process of education transition

By Ryan Koenigs
Staples-Motley Elementary Principal

Staples-Motley Elementary to Hold Kindergarten Round-Up on February 24

Kindergarten Round-Up has been a long-standing practice in schools, designed to help families better understand what to expect as their child enters kindergarten. The purpose of the event is to support a smooth transition into formal schooling by sharing information, introducing families to the school environment, and helping students begin to feel comfortable in a new setting.

Kindergarten at Staples-Motley Elementary offers a balanced learn-

ing experience that builds upon the play-based foundation many students experience in preschool while gradually introducing a more traditional instructional model. Students engage in hands-on learning while developing essential literacy and math skills through structured lessons, guided practice, and small-group instruction.

Throughout the week, kindergarten students transition to different learning spaces as part of their school day. They attend physical education to build strength, coordination, and teamwork, participate in STEAM activities that encourage curiosity and problem-solving, and attend music classes focused on rhythm, movement, and musical exploration. These expe-

riences help students become comfortable navigating the school and learning from a variety of teachers.

The kindergarten program is designed to help students adjust to daily routines, expectations, and classroom structures while still allowing time for exploration and play. Teachers focus on creating a supportive and engaging environment where students can grow academically and socially as they begin their elementary school journey.

Families interested in learning more about the kindergarten experience are encouraged to attend Kindergarten Round-Up on February 24. Questions may be directed to the Staples-Motley Elementary School office.

StaplesWorld

Established in 1890. USPS 518-760
©2026 RMM Publications
Published Wednesdays by RMM Publications
Office located at 224 4th Street NE
Periodicals postage paid at Staples, Minnesota 56479.

Mailing Address: P.O. Box 100
Telephone: 218-894-1112 - Fax: 218-894-3570
Toll Free: 1-888-894-1112
www.staplesworld.com - E Mail: editor@staplesworld.com
Deadline: 12 noon, Friday
Official Newspaper for:
City of Staples, Todd County,
Staples-Motley School District,
Freshwater Ed. District and area townships.

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.

Printed at Quinco Press, Lowry, MN

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.

PublisherRMM Publications LLC
Owners Rick Gail, Mike Kremer, Mark Anderson
Managing Editor..... Mark Anderson editor@staplesworld.com
Advertising Rep..... editor@staplesworld.com
Photo Tech/production..... Janice Winter jwinter@staplesworld.com
Bookkeeping/Circulation/
..... Kathy Odden kodden@staplesworld.com
Reporter..... Dawn Timbs dtimbs@staplesworld.com
Front Office..... office@staplesworld.com

Subscription Rates:
Local: (Todd, Wadena, Morrison, Cass Counties) \$53 per year
Website: \$50 per year
Minnesota: \$58 per year - Out of State: \$63 per year
Foreign: on-line only - Student Rate: (Sept. through Apr./in-state) \$43
There is a \$5 charge for address change from local to out-of-state.

Member: Minnesota Newspaper Association, MCAN Advertising



1,000 Books Before Kindergarten

Elijah Johnson recently completed the 1,000 Books Before Kindergarten program at the Staples Public Library. The program goal is to help children enter school ready to learn. Reading is one of the most important things parents can do to ensure their child's success when they begin school. The program is sponsored by the Staples Friends of the Library who

provide a free book backpack when the child is signed up and is awarded a book with matching stuffed animal when the child completes the program. Call the library, 218-894-1401 for information. Above: Gabriel, Josh, Elijah and Jamie Johnson with Library Assistant Angie Johnson. (Submitted photo)

Mark Your Calendar

Menu

Feb. 26

'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, Feb. 26, 7 - 9:30 p.m., at St. Michael's Church, 280 1st Ave. S., Motley. Brian Freed, caller. For info., 612-743-3480.

Feb. 27

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.

Jan. 31

FREE COMMUNITY BREAKFAST Saturday, Feb. 28, 9 - 10:30 a.m., at Motley United Methodist Church, 847 3rd Ave. S., Motley.

Mar. 1

CELEBRATE RECOVERY GROUP MEETINGS Sundays, 6 p.m.,

at Motley Free Methodist Church, 33 Wellwood St. E., Motley.

Mar. 3

OLD TIME DANCE is held the first Tuesday of every month at the Wadena VFW. For information, call 218-639-0132.

RUBY'S PANTRY will be held Tuesday, Mar. 3, from 4:30 - 6 p.m. at the parking lot of Central Lakes College in Staples.

REPUBLICAN CANDIDATE FORUM - MN HOUSE 5B Tuesday, March 3, 6 - 9 p.m., Hewitt Community Center, 514 N. Wisconsin St., Hewitt. Come meet the candidates seeking endorsement at the upcoming convention. Attendees will have the opportunity to hear from the candidates, ask questions, and learn more about their priorities. Participating candidates: Dr. Jon Claussen, Jeremiah Dwire, Drew Peterson. Coffee and cookies provided.

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.

Senior Nutrition Program
Call mornings (218-979-4118) the Thursday before to reserve next week's meal(s) and current suggested donation info. LSS Meals - traditional older adult menu. Menu is 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 218-979-4118 March 2 - 6

MONDAY - Baked pork chop, pork gravy, scalloped potatoes, mixed veggies, wheat bread, marg., oatmeal raisin cookie, 1% milk.

TUESDAY - Chicken Cordon Bleu, sliced carrots, rice pilaf, applesauce cup, wheat dinner roll, marg., 1% milk.

WEDNESDAY - Salisbury steak, mashed potatoes, brown gravy green beans, dinner roll, marg., vanilla cookie, 1% milk.

THURSDAY - Tater tot hot-dish, whole kernel corn, apple crisp, wheat bread, marg., 1% milk.

FRIDAY - Cheese ravioli, marinara sauce, country veggie blend, fruit crumble, dinner roll, marg., 1% milk.

wk10

Staples-Motley speech meet at Browerville

On February 14, the Staples-Motley Speech team competed in the Talk of the Tigers tournament in Browerville. The team made an excellent showing, with many competitors bringing home awards.

In the category of Creative Expression, Walker Johnson, Maddock Harvey, and Joshua Cushing took first, second, and third place respectively. Bella Hines won first place in Discussion and Angie Paklonsky placed second in Extemporaneous Speaking. In the category of Extemporaneous Reading, Walker Johnson placed first, Meredith Hoemberg placed fourth, and Molly Hoemberg placed fifth.

In Great Speeches, Tristan Rendon placed second and Raina Mikhaeil placed third. Hailey Richardt placed third and Anna Hurtig placed fifth in Original Oratory. In Drama, Raina Mikhaeil placed second and in Poetry, Sadye Anderson placed fifth. In Prose, Tristan Rendon placed second and Lexi Ann placed fifth. Maddock Harvey placed second in Storytelling.



Tiger hunters, medal winners

Staples-Motley medal winners at Browerville Talk of the Tigers tournament, back row left to right: Molly Hoemberg, Tristan Rendon, Joshua Cushing, Maddock Harvey;

Middle: Angie Paklonsky, Hailey Richardt, Sadye Anderson;

Front: Anna Hurtig, Bella Hines, Raina Mikhaeil, Meredith Hoemberg, Lexi Ann; (Submitted photo)



Be Safe

Stay clear of downed power lines

NEVER TOUCH A DOWNED POWER LINE.
Always assume it is energized and call 911 immediately.

- POWERFUL STORMS** can damage power lines. If you see a downed power line:
- Stay at least 50 feet away from it and assume it is energized. The ground may also be energized making the entire area extremely dangerous.
 - Never touch anything that is touching a downed power line. It is as dangerous as the line itself.
 - If a power line falls on your vehicle while you are in it, stay inside your vehicle until help arrives.

Great River Energy—Powering what's possible

Agrilite Electric Cooperative • Arrowhead Cooperative, Inc. • BENCO Electric Cooperative • Brown County Rural Electrical Association • Cooperative Light & Power • Dakota Electric Association • East Central Energy • Federated Rural Electric Association • Goodhue County Cooperative Electric Association • Itasca-Mantrap Cooperative Electrical Association • Kandiyohi Power Cooperative • Lake Country Power • Lake Region Electric Cooperative • McLeod Cooperative Power Association • Meeker Cooperative • Mille Lacs Energy Cooperative • Minnesota Valley Electric Cooperative • Nobles Cooperative Electric • North Itasca Electric Cooperative, Inc. • Redwood Electric Cooperative • Runestone Electric Association • South Central Electric Association • Stearns Electric Association • Steele-Waseca Cooperative Electric • Todd-Wadena Electric Cooperative • Wright-Hennepin Cooperative Electric Association



greatriverenergy.com

DEADLINE
for all classified
ads and copy is
12 noon Friday

For the
Staples World

SUBSCRIBE

Staples World newspaper subscription rates, one year:

Local: \$53
(Todd, Wadena, Morrison, Cass counties)

Minnesota: \$58.

Out-of-State: \$63.

Foreign: on-line only

Student Rate: \$43
per school year, in-state (Sept.-April)

On-Line: \$50

Print with on-line: \$76

P.O. Box 100
224 4th St. NE
Staples, MN 56479
218-894-1112
www.staplesworld.com



Anyone can say they can fix it, **only we guarantee it...for life!**

- Basement Waterproofing
- Foundation Repair
- Crawl Space Repair

SAFE BASEMENTS Schedule your free inspection: (844) 839-1112

*Certain terms and conditions apply. Ask your Foundation Specialist for details. Contractor ID#R09775

Are You Getting Enough Fiber in Your Work Day?

Sign up today and get a \$100 gift card!*

*Terms and conditions apply

EarthLink®

Reliable Internet **NOW!** **844-453-6983**



Come, help us
CELEBRATE
Gordon Martin's
90th
Birthday!
Friday, March 6
4 to 7 p.m.
**Casino Assembly
of God Church**
(No gifts, please)

W10-11p

Student Achievements

THE UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA DULUTH has announced its graduates for the 2025 Fall Semester. Local graduates include:

- Maxwell Strickland, Motley, Marketing BBA
- Cayden Kleffman, Pillager, Psychology BASc

Hello World

ONLINE BIRTHS REMOVED
AT THE REQUEST OF LAKEWOOD
HEALTH SYSTEM.

Obituaries

Sandra Trana

Sandra “Sandy” Ann Trana, 80, of Staples, passed away peacefully on February 11, 2026 at Lakewood Health System Care Center, Staples, surrounded by her family.

A celebration of life will be held Friday, March 6 at Taylor Funeral Home in Staples. Visitation will begin at 1:30 p.m., with the service at 3:30 p.m.

Interment will be held at a later date at Evergreen Hill Cemetery in Staples.

Sandy was born March 6, 1945 to Orin and Emma (Christenson) Christensen in Minneapolis.

Sandy was a devoted mother, grandmother, great-grandmother, sister, aunt and friend whose life was defined by quiet strength and unwavering love for her family. Her greatest joys were found in the pages of a good book and in the precious moments she shared with those she loved the most.

She will be remembered for her warm smile, kind heart and incredible resilience. Her love will continue to guide her family and her memory will forever remain in the hearts of all who knew her.

Sandy is survived by two daughters, Cindy (Jeff)



Spandl and Kandi Trana; two sons, Gary (Kristi) Trana and Randy Trana; five grandchildren, Stephanie (Matt), Aaron, Alicia, Sean and Nick; three great-grandchildren, Finlay, Brekken and Haisley; two sisters, Diane Dickman and Terri (Ken) Rubel; one brother, Rick (Bonnie) Pohl and many nieces and nephews.

She was preceded in death by her husband, Clinton “Bud” Trana, Jr.; one brother, Robert Christensen; two sisters, Beverly Dukowitz and Bonnie Carsten; one sister-in-law, Connie Christensen and two brothers-in-law, Ronald Dukowitz and Robert Dickman.

w10p A00006B2026FB25

William Wicht

William Wicht, 77, of West Union, passed away February 14, 2026.

A visitation will be held Thurs., February 26 from 5 p.m. to 7 p.m. at the Brenny Family Funeral Chapel in Staples. Services will be held Fri., February 27 at 11

a.m. at Trinity Lutheran Church, Staples with visitation one hour prior to services at the church.

Arrangements are by Brenny Family Funeral Chapel, Staples.

w10c A00006B2026FB23

Student Achievements

LAUREN RUTTEN Staples, has been named to the 2025 Fall Semester President’s Honor Roll at Bemidji State University. To qualify, students must earn a grade-point average of 4.0 for the semester and be enrolled in at least 12 credits of coursework.

BEMIDJI STATE UNIVERSITY has announced its 2025 Fall Semester Dean’s List. To qualify, students must enroll in at least 12 credits and earn a grade point average of 3.5 or higher for the semester. Local students named include:

- Hailee Colgrove, Motley
- Anna Janssen, Staples
- Naila Mikhaeil, Staples

MINNESOTA STATE COMMUNITY AND TECHNICAL COLLEGE (M STATE) has announced its 2025 Fall Honors List. Students on the President’s List earned a grade point average of 4.0 and students on the Dean’s List earned a grade point average of 3.50 to 3.99. Students on both lists also completed a minimum of six college-level

credits and 75 percent of the courses in which they enrolled for the semester. Local students named include:

- Keller Anderson, Staples, President’s List
- Kathleen Connell, Staples, Dean’s List
- Jennifer Dobson, Staples, Dean’s List
- Aleeah Halverson, Staples, Dean’s List
- Alexis Hunter, Staples, President’s List
- Julia Lau, Staples, President’s List
- Aspen Orlando, Staples, President’s List
- Paige Woodwick, Staples, Dean’s List
- Cooper Baillif, Pillager, President’s List

ALEXANDRIA TECHNICAL & COMMUNITY COLLEGE has announced its 2025 Fall Semester Dean’s List. To qualify, students must achieve a grade point average of 3.5 or higher while enrolled in 12 or more credits. Local students named include:

- Cassandra Rice, Motley
- Ellie Lange, Staples

Needing/Wanting a Granite Memorial FOR YOUR FAMILY?



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

Rep. for Fergus Falls Monument Co.

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

DEADLINE

for all classified
ads and copy is
12 noon Friday

For the
Staples World

Life Currents Policy

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

Obituaries received from private parties, funeral homes, will be edited to our format and paid for prior to running at our obituary rate (\$10.25 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.

Staples Area Church Directory

Staples

Staples Alliance
1512 8th St. NE, Staples.....218-894-2891
Jonny Olson, Associate Pastor
Sunday Worship.....9:30 a.m.
Sunday School.....11:00 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
Sonlight (kids ages 4 yrs.-6th grade).....After school to 5:30 p.m.
Youth Group (Teens, 7th-12th grade).....After school to 5:30 p.m.

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

Faith Lutheran
430 12th Street. NE., Staples.....218-894-1546
Pastor Carl Larson
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.....218-631-1598
info@marysacc.org
Rev. JC Duncan, 218-632-7314
Rev. Rick Aubol, 218-632-7310
Rev. Greg Sauer, 218-632-7319
Mass: Sunday.....8:30 a.m.

Seventh Day Adventist
421 Dakota Ave. SE, Staples
Pastor Joshua Jerecek
218-894-0033
Saturday Worship.....9:30 a.m.
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 SMA.....218-837-5831
jre227@yahoo.com
Sunday Worship.....8:30 a.m.

Cushing

Bethany Lutheran
25430 Bison Rd.Cushing, MN
320-749-2140
Pastor Carl Larson
www.bethanylutherancushing.org
Sunday Worship.....9:00 a.m.
Communion.....1st and 2nd Sunday of each month

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

Cushing Baptist

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

Leader

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

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

Motley

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

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

St. Michael Catholic Church

280 1st Ave S, Motley.....218-631-1598
Rev. JC Duncan, 218-632-7314
Rev. Rick Aubol, 218-632-7310
Rev. Greg Sauer, 218-632-7319
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
City. 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
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 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. Frederick Catholic Church

20 Mason Avenue NW
Verndale.....218-631-1598
info@marysacc.org
Rev. JC Duncan, 218-632-7314
Rev. Rick Aubol, 218-632-7310
Rev. Greg Sauer, 218-632-7319
MASS: Saturday.....6:00 p.m.

St. Hubert Catholic Church

Bluegrass.....218-631-1598
info@marysacc.org
Rev. JC Duncan, 218-632-7314
Rev. Rick Aubol, 218-632-7310
Father Greg Sauer, 218-632-7319
Sunday Service.....10:30 a.m. i. (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
Rev. JC Duncan, 218-632-7314
Rev. Rick Aubol, 218-632-7310
Father Greg Sauer, 218-632-7319
Mass: Sunday.....10 a.m.

“Ice Out!”

Pastor Don Reigstad, Lincoln Evangelical Free Church

I can feel it. We’re going to have an early ice out this year. Maybe even in March. (This has nothing to do with immigration.) The two feet of frozen water on our lake is beginning to thaw. It gives me hope.

Years ago the prophet Zechariah longed for a day when there would be “no cold or frost” (Zechariah 14:6). You might ask how much cold and frost does the middle eastern part of our world get anyway?

Apparently, enough for Zechariah to yearn for warmer days. The cold and frost were a metaphor for the frigid relationship of the Israelites to their God. The metaphor remains to this day. Is your connection to God warm and vibrant? Or is it cold and distant? Stop fretting about Minneapolis and St. Paul. Get the ice out of your own soul. “Draw near to God and he will draw near to you.”

THE STAPLES AREA CHURCH DIRECTORY IS SPONSORED BY THESE AREA BUSINESSES:

To become a Church Directory supporter, call 218-894-1112.

Ernie’s Food Market
Groceries - Gas - Convenience - more
Staples, MN 218-894-1072

Staples Veterinary Clinic
"Complete Animal Care"
Staples, MN 218-894-1775

Tower Pizza
Pizza, Pasta, Salads, Sandwiches
Staples, MN 218-894-3299

Central Building Supply
Hwy. 10 West, Staples, MN
218-894-3794

Staples World
Your community newspaper since 1890
224 4th St. NE, Staples, MN
218-894-1112

The Church Directory is supported by the advertisers listed above and the Ministerial Association.

*****To update your church information or to advertise on the Church Directory, email: jwinter@staplesworld.com. or call 218-894-1112. Continue to email your Ministerial pastoral message or advertisement to: jwinter@staplesworld.com.**

Cardinals send eleven to state

Bjerga, Kramer, Neisen, Bjerga, Greenwaldt, Carlson, Tappe, Reese, Bjerga, Tabatt, Gomez all qualify

By Mark Anderson
Managing Editor

The Staples-Motley boys wrestling team had seven section champions and four second place finishers, qualifying 11 wrestlers for the state tournament. Two wrestlers did not make state, one placed third and the other pulled out because of illness.

The Section 7A individual tournament was held Feb. 20 at The Nest in Staples.

Of the section champions, five of them were number one seeds who bulldozed through their weight bracket. Garrett Bjerga, Caden Kramer, Cayden Neisen, Gage Bjerga and Colbe Tappe scored pins or technical falls in all of their matches for their title.

It wasn't always easy, Garrett Bjerga faced a wrestler with a 40-3 record in his championship match. He earned a takedown in each period and had a 13-0 lead when he win with a pin.

Adrian Gomez was the number one seed in the heavyweight bracket and had a challenge in the final. He stayed out of trouble while creating a lot of action, winning 8-2 behind a throw and near fall that earned seven points.

Elijah Greenwaldt was the number two seed who won the section title with a comeback win in the 145 pound final. Greenwaldt got into the leg of his opponent twice, but both times he was countered and ended up on the wrong side of the takedown.

"I kind of relaxed right before I finished the takedown," said Greenwaldt, "he was really good at scrambling so he got out of it."

Down 6-1 after the first period, Gre-nwaldt did not panic.

"I felt I was dominant the whole way,

I just had to keep going," said Green-waldt.

He completed a takedown in the second period but was still down 8-5 after a reversal and escape. In the third period, Greenwaldt chose the bottom position and quickly earned an escape. He scored another takedown to take a 9-8 lead with a minute to go and rode out his opponent to claim the section title.

Two Cardinals faced the state's top-ranked wrestler in their weight class in their championship match. Beau Carlson lost by a major decision and Zach Tabatt lost by decision, but they both made their opponents work hard.

"He's really strong and he's really good at his defense," said Tabatt, "I just have to get better at my defense if I face him again." This is his first trip to state as an individual.

Carlson had to wrestle a true second match because the third place match was won by a wrestler he hadn't faced in the tournament. He wasted no time with a takedown in the first five seconds of the match and cruised to a 19-3 lead before earning his first trip to state with a pin.

Riley Reese also had a true second match after challenging the state's second ranked wrestler at 172 pounds, only to fall 4-1. Reese won the true second match against a tough opponent with a second period pin.

Luke Bjerga earned his spot at state with an overtime win in his semifinal. With three wrestlers ranked in the top five at state, he had to win the semifinal. Bjerga's opponent was very cautious and nothing but escapes were scored In the match. After the first period, Bjerga got the choice for position to start the second.

"I usually defer, but the coaches told

me to go down," said Bjerga.

That proved to be important because in the final overtime, the wrestler with the first point got the choice to choose their spot. Bjerga chose down in the second period and got the escape, so he also had the choice in the final overtime, where he had 30 seconds to get out for the win. If he didn't get out, his opponent would win. On his second attempt, Bjerga stood up, broke his opponent's grip, spun and ran away for the escape and the win. His final also went to overtime tied 1-1, when he lost on a takedown. Bjerga said he doesn't usually like to wrestle cautiously like he did in those last two matches, but he was feeling ill and had to be careful against two high level opponents.

Justin Olson placed third in the section, missing out on state qualifying by one spot. In his semifinal match, he had trouble generating offense and lost 11-2. He came back strong with two aggressive wins to place third.

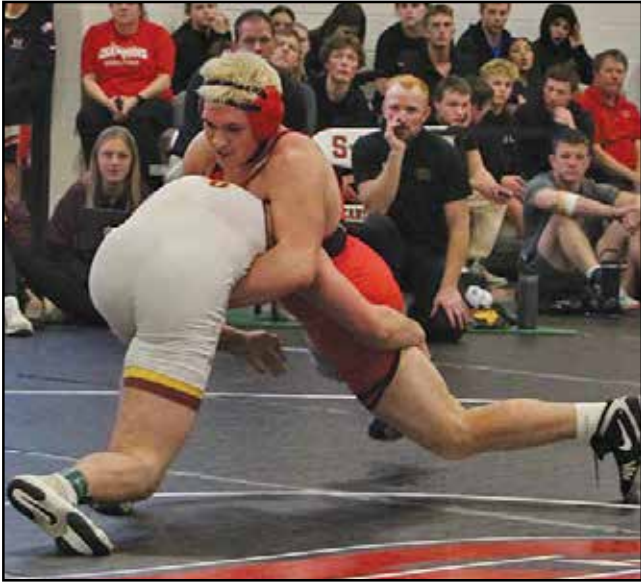
At 127 pounds, Turner Beachy had been ill. He tried to go out for one match and won, but he then was pulled out because of illness.

Team results

Section 7A individual tournament
107 Garrett Bjerga 3-0, 1st place
114 Justin Olson 3-1, 3rd place
121 Caden Kramer 3-0, 1st place
127 Turner Beachy 1-0, medical forfeit, 6th place
133 Cayden Neisen 3-0, 1st place
139 Gage Bjerga 2-0, 1st place
145 Elijah Greenwaldt 3-0, 1st place
152 Beau Carlson 3-1, 2nd place
160 Colbe Tappe 4-0, 1st place
172 Riley Reese 3-1, 2nd place
189 Luke Bjerga 2-1, 2nd place
215 Zach Tabatt 2-1, 2nd place
285 Adrian Gomez 3-0, 1st place



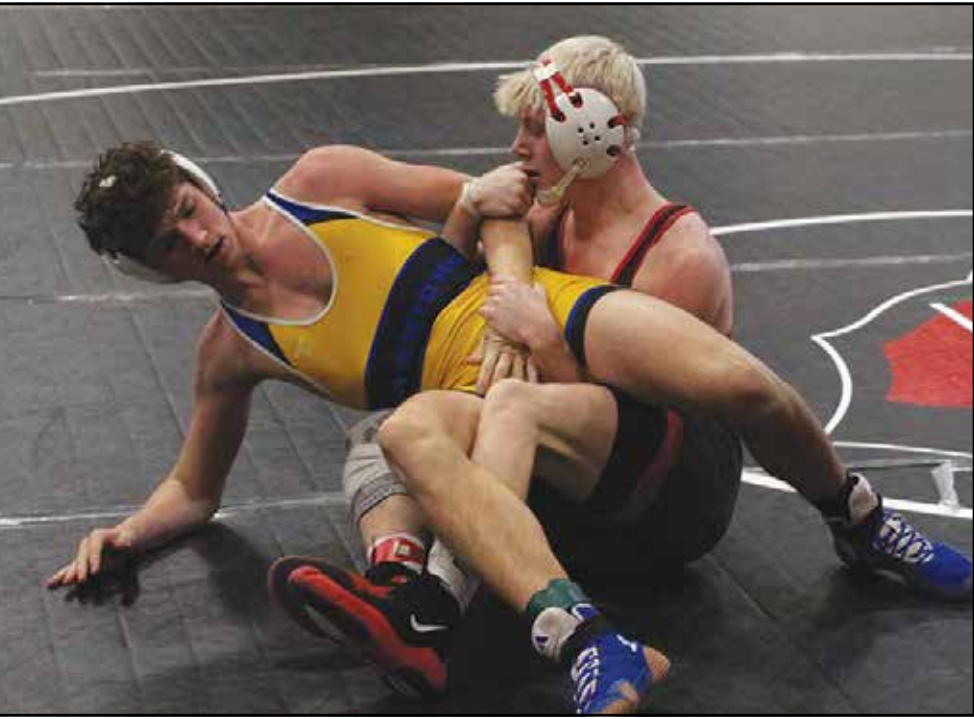
Justin Olson applies the Staples Cradle.



Luke Bjerga counters a shot and brings his opponent down.



Zach Tabatt, right, makes life tough for the state's top ranked wrestler at his weight.



Beau Carlson tilts his opponent while winning his true second match.

Top seed for team tourney

As expected, Staples-Motley is the number one seed for the state team wrestling tournament. They will face Kenyon-Wanamingo on Wednesday, Feb. 25, starting at 6 p.m.

The winner of that match will face the winner of Jackson County Central and United North Central (Sebeka and Menahga) in the semifinal, to be held after first round matches are completed.

On the other half of the bracket, second seeded Minnesota faces LeSueur-Henderson and third seed Chatfield faces West Cen-

tral Area/Ashby/Brandon-Evansville.

The finals will be the following evening, Thursday, Feb. 26, with placing matches starting at 4 p.m. and finals at 7 p.m.

The individual tournament will start on the morning of Thursday, Feb. 26, with more rounds all day Friday, Feb. 27 and Saturday, Feb. 28.

State wrestling will be held in the same stadium as in the past, formerly the St. Paul Civic Center and Xcel Center, but it has been renamed Grand Casino Arena.

Four top seeds for individuals

At the individual state wrestling tournament, Staples-Motley has four number one seeds at their weight class. Garrett Bjerga at 107 pounds, Caden Kramer at 121, Gage Bjerga at 139 and Colbe Tappe at 160 have the top seed, while Cayden Neisen is the number two seed at 133 pounds. Of that group, Neisen is ranked third in the state at the enuil-

are ranked first.

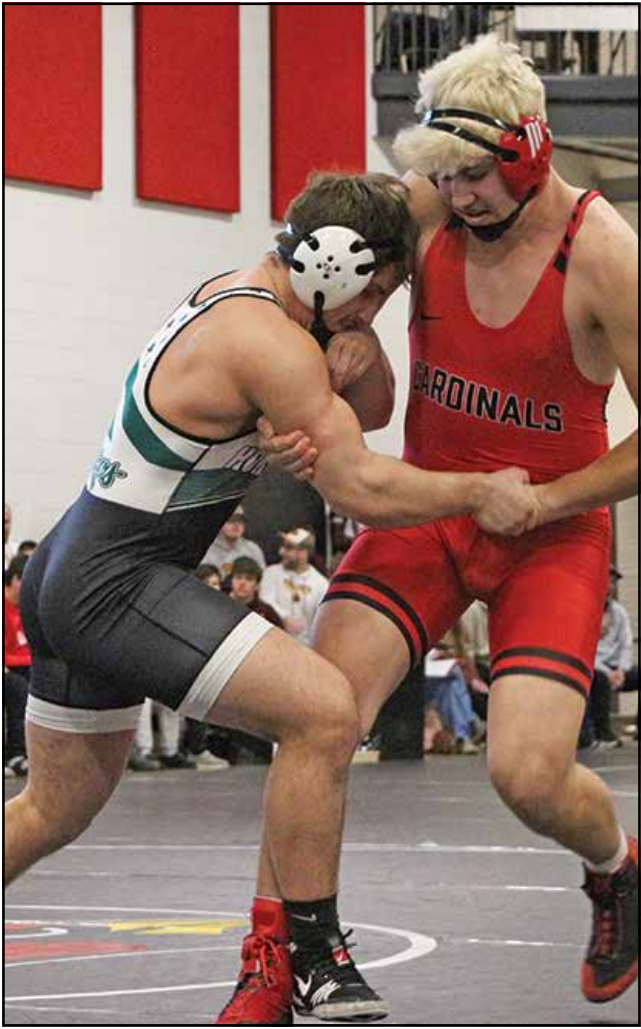
The girls individual tournament starts the morning of Thursday, Feb. 26, with three Staples-Motley wrestlers. Anika Tureson is scheduled to face Asia Brown of Shakopee in the first round, Leah Greenwaldt will face Dayna Kielty of Lester Prairie, and Kana Reese drew Natalee Friedrichs of Sauk Centre-Mel-



Elijah Greenwaldt gets in on the leg of his opponent while winning his section championship match.



Riley Reese clamps down before earning a pin.



Adrian Gomez, right, moves his feet to counter his

Public Notices

ISD #2170 continued from page 9a

with an out-of-field placement, effective at the end of the 2025-2026 School Year. **MC (Roll Call Vote: In favor - Trout, Frisk, Reeck, Reese, Freeman, Wright; opposed - none)**

Motion by Trout, seconded by Reese, to approve the Non-Renewal of Holt Truax, a Probationary Teacher with an out-of-field permission, effective at the end of the 2025-2026 School Year. **MC (Roll Call Vote: In favor - Wright, Trout, Frisk, Reeck, Reese, Freeman; opposed - none)**

Motion by Freeman, seconded by Reeck, to approve the Non-Renewal of Emili Vieths, a Probationary Teacher with an out-of-field permission, effective at the end of the 2025-2026 School Year. **MC (Roll Call Vote: In favor - Frisk, Reeck, Reese, Freeman, Wright, Trout; opposed - none)**

Motion by Freeman, seconded by Reeck, to adjourn the meeting at 6:15 p.m. **MC**

Trisha Larson, Clerk
ISD #2170 10pnc

Upcoming Meetings/Events:
Fri., Feb. 27, 2026: Absentee voting opens
Mon., March 2: School Board Meeting/Work Session, District Office, 905 4th St. NE, Staples, 6 p.m.
Mon., March 23: School Board Meeting, District Office, 6 p.m.
Fri., April 3: No school; all offices closed
Mon., April 6: School Board Meeting/Work Session, District Office, 6 p.m.
Tues., April 14: Election Day
Mon., April 20: School Board Meeting, District Office, 6 p.m.

SERVICES & EMPLOYMENT

REAL ESTATE

208
Storage

FOR RENT
Japke's North 8th Street Mini Storage, 894-1551
6x20, 10x12, 10x20, 10x24

209
Business Services

PAUL DRAKE TREE SERVICE, Staples, Since 1978: Snow Removal, Firewood Sales. 218-894-2871. 50tfc

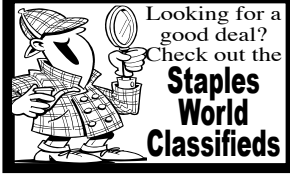
FOR SALE
610

Parcel for Sale
FOR SALE BY OWNER: Luann McGrane for \$85,225. Tenants in common with 3 other siblings. 1/4 parcel 01-0035600. Contact daughter, Christine, POA, 218-639-3173. 51tfc

602
Apartments for Rent

FRONTIER TOWNHOMES
FOR RENTAL INFO CALL 218-296-5031
Under new ownership

We are accepting applications for 2 and 3 bedroom townhomes in Staples, a community you can get attached to. Rent based on income. Now professionally managed by
BRUTGER EQUITIES, INC.
Income guidelines apply.

Looking for a good deal? Check out the Staples World Classifieds



GARAGE SALES

701

STAPLES ASSEMBLY OF GOD YOUTH: NOW accepting donations for upcoming missions garage sale. Call Kathy at 218-296-1647 for drop off or pick up. 8-17c

Prairie View Neighborhood

2 AND 3 BEDROOM HOMES FOR SALE IN STAPLES

2 NEW HOMES NOW AVAILABLE

TWO STALL GARAGES
LANDSCAPED YARDS
COMPETITIVE PRICES

CALL MICHELLE 218-326-6098
MIKE IVES REALTY

www.prairieviewneighborhood.com

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	
210 Animal Care/Supplies	VEHICLES	GARAGE SALES
211 Work Wanted	401 Automobiles	701 Garage Sales
	402 Trucks/Vans	702 Flea Market/Crafts
	403 Recreational Farm	
	404 Equipment	
	405 Heavy Equipment	
	406 Parts/Repair	

MINNESOTA NEWSPAPER ASSOCIATION

MCAN
Minnesota Classified Advertising Network



HELP WANTED
AGE 55+ WORKERS

needed for part-time custodial work at rest areas and state parks in Minnesota. Apply online at greenviewmn.com or call 651/639-1913

HEALTH

GASTROPARESIS/STOMACH PARALYSIS ("FROZEN STOMACH") or vision loss after use of weight-loss GLP-1 drugs, you may be entitled to compensation. Contact Charles Johnson 800/535-5727

Statewide Advertising ONLY \$279
Call Today! 612/332-8844

WANTED TO BUY

ALL 1970S MOTORCYCLES
Running or not. Titled or not. Will pick up. Cash in exchange. Sell now before prices fall. Call Dan at 612/720-2142

WE BUY HOUSES

for cash AS IS! No repairs. No fuss. Any condition. Easy three step process: Call, get cash offer and get paid. Get your fair cash offer today by calling Liz Buys Houses: 844/978-0683

MISCELLANEOUS

SATELLITE TV + INTERNET!
Get Dish! Free install, free HD-DVR upgrade, 80,000 on-demand movies, plus limited time up to \$600 in gift cards. Call today! 855/562-4309

CHOOSE EARTHLINK FIBER

Internet for speeds up to 5 Gigs, no data caps, no throttling. Prices starting at \$54.95. Plus, a \$100 gift card when you make the switch. Call 844/453-6983

MISCELLANEOUS

SAFE STEP
North America's #1 Walk-In Tub. Comprehensive lifetime warranty. Top-of-the-line installation and service. Now featuring our FREE shower package and \$1,600 off for a limited time! Call today! Financing available. Call Safe Step 833/966-3882

GET A BREAK ON YOUR TAXES!

Donate your car, truck, or SUV to assist the blind and visually impaired. Arrange a swift, no-cost vehicle pickup and secure a generous tax credit for 2025. Call Heritage for the Blind Today at 844/220-9501 today!

DON'T LET THE STAIRS LIMIT YOUR MOBILITY!

Discover the ideal solution for anyone who struggles on the stairs, is concerned about a fall or wants to regain access to their entire home. Call AmeriGlide today! 866/852-5506

*SERVICE DIRECTORY*SERVICE DIRECTORY*SERVICE DIRECTORY*SERVICE DIRECTORY*SERVICE DIRECTORY*SERVICE DIRECTORY*SERVICE DIRECTORY*SERVICE DIRECTORY

SERVICE DIRECTORY

GIZA

EST 1934

PLUMBING & HEATING

• PLUMBING
• HEATING
• AIR CONDITIONING
• GEOTHERMAL
• NEW CONSTRUCTION
• REMODEL
• SERVICE

MN LIC. #PC644417
218-894-2284
WWW.CALLGIZA.COM

Ultimate Septic Service LLC

David Odden - Owner/Operator

Services:
•Septic Pumping •Jetting
•Emergencies

Call USS for all your septic pumping needs!
218-296-1137
ultimatesepticservice@gmail.com

ALBIE

ELECTRIC LLC

CELL 218-838-0581

RESIDENTIAL AND LIGHT COMMERCIAL ELECTRICAL INSTALLATIONS

Altrichter

Excavation & Septic Service

218-575-2222

•Septic System Installation
•Camera Inspection, Tank Pumping and Cleaning

Mn State Certified
6685 330th St., Cushing, MN. 56443

LPS Inc.

Long Prairie Sanitation
Long Prairie, MN

218-631-3101 888-878-5578

*SERVICE DIRECTORY*SERVICE DIRECTORY*SERVICE DIRECTORY*SERVICE DIRECTORY*SERVICE DIRECTORY*SERVICE DIRECTORY*SERVICE DIRECTORY*SERVICE

PROFESSIONAL

Mandi's Accounting Services

Tax Prep • Bookkeeping • Payroll •Financial Planning

Mandi Polito
Accountant 218-296-5006
mandipolito1384@gmail.com
138 4th St, Staples, MN 56479
PO Box 95, Staples, MN 56479

Sellnow Law Office, P.A.

Thomas H. Sellnow*
sellnowt@sellnowlaw.com
Jason R. Sellnow
sellnowj@sellnowlaw.com

218-894-4618 • 133 4th St. NE, Staples
229 Central Ave., Long Prairie
320-732-1919 • Toll free: 877-297-1125

**Thomas Sellnow is a Real Property Law Specialist certified by Real Property Section of Minnesota State Bar Association.*

• Probate and Trusts
• Estate Planning • Family Law
• Real Estate • Business Law
• Title Insurance • Elder Law
• Personal Injury • Auto Accidents

www.sellnowlaw.com

*SERVICE DIRECTORY*SERVICE DIRECTORY*SERVICE DIRECTORY*SERVICE DIRECTORY*SERVICE DIRECTORY*SERVICE DIRECTORY*SERVICE DIRECTORY*SERVICE

CONSTRUCTION

IDEAL

PAYING THE WAY FOR YOU!

Staples, MN 56479

218-894-3105

SINCE 1958

Asphalt Paving • Seal Coating • Excavating • Driveways
Roads • Parking Lots • Site Prep • Gravel • Rock • Black Dirt
Fill • Peat • Ponds • Demolition • Hauling • Landscaping
Recycled Concrete and Asphalt

Statema Backhoe Service, LLC

MPCA CERTIFIED SEPTIC SYSTEMS

•FREE ESTIMATE FROM DESIGN TO INSTALLATION
•COMPLIANCE INSPECTIONS

Site Prep • Basements • Waterlines • Driveways • Landscaping • Black Dirt • Gravel • Construction & Abandonment of Manure Pits • Fill Dirt
Clearing & Grading • Ditch Cleaning • Snow Plowing: Commercial & Residential

Andy Statema •320-594-2912 • 320-594-6347

LICENSED
BONDED
INSURED

PHB

Excavating Inc.

Phil Bjerga
218-639-5007
Licensed / Bonded / Insured

Septics • Waterlines • Trenching • Basements • Retaining Walls
Landscaping & Site Preparation • Backhoe & Skid Loader Work
Sewer Pipe Cleaning and Steaming • Custom Pressure Washing
Equipment, Buildings, Driveways, etc. • Snow Plowing & Removal

*SERVICE DIRECTORY*SERVICE DIRECTORY*SERVICE DIRECTORY*SERVICE DIRECTORY*SERVICE DIRECTORY*SERVICE DIRECTORY*SERVICE DIRECTORY*SERVICE

SW 2024 changed wk #3



Staples-Motley School Board Minutes

MEETING #11
ISD #2170
SCHOOL BOARD
Jan. 20, 2026
6:00 p.m.
District Office

MINUTES

Call to Order

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

Roll Call was taken, members Wright, Frisk, Reeck, Trout, Reese and Freeman were present, comprising a quorum. Also present were Superintendent Tappe, Business Manager Hill, Principal Ferdon, Princi-

pal Koenigs, Staples World Managing Editor Anderson, students, staff and community members. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Motion by Freeman, seconded by Reeck, to adopt the agenda. MC

Chair Wright recognized and welcomed those in attendance

School/Community Forum

None

Consent Agenda

Approve minutes from the December 22, 2025 Board Meeting

Approve minutes from the January 5, 2026 Organizational Board Meeting

Approve the MOA student teaching agreement with MSUM

Approve the lane change requests from: Heather Wiegand - MA to MA15

Staci Schultz - BA to BA15
Jake Kuehl - BA30 to BA45

Rebeka Kappedal - BA30 to MA

Emily Benson - BA to BA30

Selket Jewett - MA to MA15

Kasey Odden - MA15 to MA30

Dawn Weite - MA to MA30

Approve the resignations of:

Melissa Richards, MS/HS Food Service effective 2/13/26

Avery Amerud, Elementary Paraprofessional effective 1/27/26

Approve the fundraiser request from Debbie Ferdon, Middle/High School Principal

Approve the hire of: Trevor Wentworth JH Boys Basketball Coach

Kevin Trierweiler, JH Boys Basketball Coach

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

Donations and In-Kind Contributions

Motion by Reeck, seconded by Wright, to approve the Resolution to accept Grants and Donations in the amount of \$5,991.40. MC

Finance Items

Financial Report by Business Manager Hill

Motion by Freeman, seconded by Trout, to approve the December disbursements. MC

General Fund: \$736,750.83
Food Service: \$57,938.92
Community Service: \$12,572.97

Construction Fund: \$26.30

Debt Service: \$0.00
Fund 21 Student Activities: \$3,457.61

Fund 45: \$0.00

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

General Fund: \$1,231,563.75
Food Service: \$71,296.32
Community Service: \$48,382.64

Construction Fund: \$0.00
Debt Service: \$174,630.98
Fund 21 Student Activities: \$2,416.95

Fund 45: \$0.00

Cabinet Presentation

-by Health Services Director Cindy Denning

Personnel

Motion by Reeck, seconded by Trout, to accept the retirement of Laurie Paske-witz, Elementary Teacher, effective May 26, 2026. MC

Thank you, Laurie, for your 25 years of service to the Staples-Motley School District.

Motion by Freeman, seconded by Frisk, to accept the retirement of Laurie Trout, Middle School Teacher, effective at the end of the 25/26 contract year. MC

Thank you, Laurie, for your 11 years of service to the Staples-Motley School District.

Reports

School Board: Freshwater - none - meets next week

Sourcewell - none

Elementary Principal - Report by Principal Koenigs

Middle/High School Principal - Report by Principal Ferdon

Activities/Community Ed Director

SMEA - Report by Jill Kneisl

Superintendent - Report by Superintendent Tappe

Other

Motion by Reeck, seconded by Freeman, to adjourn the meeting at 6:43 p.m. MC

Trisha Larson, Clerk
ISD #2170

10pnc

STATE OF MINNESOTA

COUNTY OF TODD SEVENTH JUDICIAL DISTRICT

DISTRICT COURT PROBATE DIVISION

Court File No. 77-PR-26-113

Estate of EDWARD DANIEL ZIEGLER, SR., Decedent

NOTICE OF INFORMAL PROBATE OF WILL AND APPOINTMENT OF PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE AND NOTICE TO CREDITORS

Notice is given that an application for informal probate of the Decedent's will dated January 20, 2023 ("Will"), has been filed with the Registrar. The application has been granted.

Notice is also given that the Registrar has informally appointed ANGELA BENESCH whose address is 679 Schilling Circle NW, Forest Lake, MN 55025, as personal representative of

MEETING #12
ISD #2170
SCHOOL BOARD
Feb. 2, 2026
6:00 p.m.
District Office

MINUTES

Call to Order

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

Roll Call was taken, members Wright, Frisk, Reeck, Trout, Reese and Freeman were present, comprising a quorum. Also present were Superintendent Tappe, Business Manager Hill, Recording Clerk Larson, Staples World Managing Editor Anderson, and Buildings and Grounds Director Peterson. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Motion by Reeck, seconded by Reese, to approve the addition of item 3d to the agenda. MC

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

Chair Wright recognized and welcomed those in attendance

Consent Agenda

Approve minutes from the January 20, 2026 Board Meeting

Approve the fundraiser request from 2026 Grad Blast Committee

Approve the resignations of:

Claire Grunewald, JH Softball Coach

Melissa Jewison, Adventures Assistant

Jessica Williams, Elementary Paraprofessional

Approve the hire of Madelyn Ziegler, Elementary Social Worker

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

Personnel

Motion by Frisk, seconded by Reese, to accept the retirement of Sandy Opheim, MS/HS Teacher effective May 26, 2026. MC

Thank you, Sandy, for your 26 years of service to the Staples-Motley School District.

Motion by Trout, seconded by Reeck, to approve the Non-Renewal of Samantha Schimpp, a Tier 1 Teacher, effective at the end of the 2025-2026 School Year. MC (Roll Call Vote: In favor - Reeck, Reese, Freeman, Wright; opposed - none)

Motion by Freeman, seconded by Trout, to approve the Non-Renewal of Kristi Odden, a Tier 1 Teacher, effective at the end of the 2025-2026 School Year. MC (Roll Call Vote: In favor - Trout, Frisk, Reeck, Reese, Freeman, Wright; opposed - none)

Motion by Reeck, seconded by Freeman, to approve the ULA of Kim Prestidge, a tenured teacher with an out-of-field placement, effective at the end of the 2025-2026 School Year. MC (Roll Call Vote: In favor - Reeck, Reese, Freeman, Frisk, Wright, Trout; opposed - none)

Motion by Trout, seconded by Frisk, to approve the Non-Renewal of Melissa Wright, a Probationary Teacher with an out-of-field

permission, effective at the end of the 2025-2026 School year. MC (Roll Call Vote: In favor - Frisk, Reeck, Reese, Freeman, Wright, Trout; opposed - none)

Motion by Freeman, seconded by Reese, to approve the Non-Renewal of Teneesa Mumm, a Probationary Teacher, effective at the end of the 2025-2026 School year. MC (Roll Call Vote: In favor - Freeman, Wright, Trout, Frisk, Reeck, Reese; opposed - none)

Motion by Reeck, seconded by Reese, to approve the Non-Renewal of Jeff Sterriker, a Tier 1 Teacher, effective at the end of the 2025-2026 School Year. MC (Roll Call Vote: In favor - Reese, Freeman, Wright, Trout, Frisk, Reeck; opposed - none)

Motion by Trout, seconded by Reeck, to approve the Non-Renewal of Aaron Carter, a Tier 1 Teacher, effective at the end of the 2025-2026 School Year. MC (Roll Call Vote: In favor - Trout, Frisk, Reeck, Reese, Freeman, Wright; opposed - none)

Motion by Frisk, seconded by Frisk, to approve the Non-Renewal of Jocelyn Anderson, a Tier 2 Teacher, effective at the end of the 2025-2026 School Year. MC (Roll Call Vote: In favor - Frisk, Reeck, Reese, Freeman, Wright, Trout; opposed - none)

Motion by Freeman, seconded by Frisk, to approve the Non-Renewal of Amanda Keplin, a Tier 2 Teacher, effective at the end of the 2025-2026 School Year. MC (Roll Call Vote: In favor - Reeck, Reese, Freeman, Frisk, Wright, Trout; opposed - none)

Motion by Reeck, seconded by Reese, to approve the Non-Renewal of Tina Mitts, a Tier 2 Teacher, effective at the end of the 2025-2026 School Year. MC (Roll Call Vote: In favor - Frisk, Reeck, Reese, Freeman, Wright, Trout; opposed - none)

Motion by Frisk, seconded by Freeman, to approve the Non-Renewal of Angela Jares, a Tier 2 Teacher, effective at the end of the 2025-2026 School Year. MC (Roll Call Vote: In favor - Frisk, Reeck, Reese, Freeman, Wright, Trout; opposed - none)

Motion by Freeman, seconded by Frisk, to approve the Non-Renewal of Kristopher Mumm, a Tier 2 Teacher, effective at the end of the 2025-2026 School Year. MC (Roll Call Vote: In favor - Wright, Trout, Frisk, Reeck, Reese, Freeman; opposed - none)

Motion by Trout, seconded by Reeck, to approve the Non-Renewal of Bobbyjo Johnson, a Probationary Teacher with an out-of-field permission, effective at the end of the 2025-2026 School Year. MC (Roll Call Vote: In favor - Reese, Freeman, Wright, Trout, Frisk, Reeck; opposed - none)

Motion by Frisk, seconded by Freeman, to approve the ULA of Lisa Koenigs, a Tenured Teacher

See ISD#2170 on page 8a

NOTICE OF MORTGAGE FORECLOSURE SALE

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

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

DATE OF MORTGAGE: July 1, 2003

ORIGINAL PRINCIPAL AMOUNT OF MORTGAGE: \$57,524.00

MORTGAGOR(S): Shawn Habiger, a single person

MORTGAGEE: Washington Mutual Bank, FA

DATE AND PLACE OF FILING: Recorded on July 2, 2003 as Document Number 418965 in the Office of the County Recorder of Todd County, Minnesota.

ASSIGNMENTS OF MORTGAGE: Assigned to: Wells Fargo Bank, N.A. by assignment recorded on December 26, 2006 as Document Number 446443 in the Office of the County Recorder of Todd County, Minnesota.

LEGAL DESCRIPTION OF PROPERTY: Beginning at the Northwest Corner of the Southwest Quarter of Section 11, Township 133 North, Range 34 West; thence Southerly 1070 feet to the point or beginning of the land to be described; thence Easterly 660 feet; thence Southerly 660 feet; thence Westerly 660 feet; thence Northerly 660 feet to the point beginning, Todd County, Minnesota.

STREET ADDRESS OF PROPERTY: 49206 COUNTY 11, ALDRICH, MN 56434

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

THE AMOUNT CLAIMED TO BE DUE ON THE MORTGAGE ON THE DATE OF THE NOTICE: \$24,581.26

TRANSACTION AGENT: None

NAME OF MORTGAGE ORIGINATOR: Washington Mutual Bank, FA

RESIDENTIAL SERVICER: Wells Fargo Bank, N.A.

TAX PARCEL IDENTIFICATION NUMBER: 01-0011000

TRANSACTION AGENT'S MORTGAGE IDENTIFICATION NUMBER: None

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

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

DATE AND TIME OF SALE: April 02, 2026 at 10:00 AM.

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

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

twelve (12) months from the date of sale.

TIME AND DATE TO VACATE PROPERTY: Unless said mortgage is reinstated or the property redeemed, or unless the time for redemption is reduced by judicial order, you must vacate the premises by 11:59 p.m. on April 2, 2027

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

MORTGAGOR(S) RELEASED FROM FINANCIAL OBLIGATION ON MORTGAGE: Shawn Habiger

Dated: January 27, 2026

WELLS FARGO BANK, N.A. Mortgagee

TROTT LAW, P.C.
By: /s/ N. Kibongni Fondungallah, Esq.*
Samuel R. Coleman, Esq.
Alexa Marsh, Esq.
Attorneys for Mortgagee
25 Dale Street North
St. Paul, MN 55102
(651) 209-9760
(26-0023-FC01)

THIS IS A COMMUNICATION FROM A DEBT COLLECTOR.

8-13pnc



Public Notices

NOTICE
THOMASTOWN
TOWNSHIP
ANNUAL ELECTION
OF OFFICERS

Annual Election of Officers for Thomastown Township will be held Tuesday, March 10, 2026 at the Thomastown Town Hall, 11417 241st Ave., Staples, MN 56479. Polling hours are 5:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.

The Annual Township meeting will be held after canvassing the election at 8:10 p.m.

Running for office:
•Three- (3) year term for Supervisor:
Troy Barrett
Jay Tyrrell
•Two- (2) year term for Clerk:
Write-in
*Write-ins on the ballot are acceptable.

In the event of bad weather, this event in its entirety will be changed to March 17, 2025. Times will remain the same.

Sue Walsvik, Clerk
Thomastown Township
9-10pnc

NOTICE
BULLARD TOWNSHIP
ELECTION AND
ANNUAL MEETING

Notice is hereby given to qualified voters of Bullard Township, Wadena County, Minnesota, that the Annual Election of Officers and Annual Meeting will be held Tuesday, March 10, 2026, at the Bullard Township Hall. Election poll hours are 5:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m., at which time voters will elect:

One (1) Supervisor, three (3) year term;
One (1) Supervisor, one (1) year term;
One (1) Clerk, two (2) year term.

The Board of Canvass will meet at 8:05 p.m., and the Annual Meeting will begin at 8:10 p.m.

In case of inclement weather, the election and meeting will be postponed until Tuesday, March 17, 2026, with the same times and location.

Janelle VanAlst, Clerk
Bullard Township
10pnc

NOTICE
FAWN LAKE
TOWNSHIP
ANNUAL MEETING
AND TOWNSHIP
ELECTION

Fawn Lake Township will hold it's township election for:

One (1) clerk, two (2) year term
And
One (1) supervisor, three (3) year term

Election will be held Tuesday March 10, 2026 from 5:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.

Canvassing will immediately follow the election, with the annual meeting following the canvassing.

Any questions contact the clerk at 218-531-0287.

Kelly Miller, Clerk
Fawn Lake Township
10pnc

NOTICE
MEADOWBROOK
TOWNSHIP 2026
ANNUAL MEETING

Meadowbrook Township will hold its Annual Meeting on Tuesday, March 10, 2026 at 6:30 p.m. at the Leader Community Hall.

In case of inclement weather the Annual Meeting will be held the following Tuesday, March 17, 2026, same time and place.

Ty Peterson, Clerk
Meadowbrook Township
10-11pnc

NOTICE
MOOSE LAKE
TOWNSHIP
2026 ANNUAL
MEETING/
MAINTENANCE BIDS

Moose Lake Township will hold its annual meeting on Tuesday, March 10, 2026 at 5 p.m. at the Leader Community Hall.

The township is now accepting bids for road maintenance and cemetery maintenance. Send bids to: Moose Lake Township Clerk, 5335 51st Ave. SW, Pine River, MN 56474.

In case of inclement weather, the alternate meeting date will be Tuesday, March 17, 2026 at 5:00 p.m. at the Leader Community Hall.

Karen Roubel, Clerk
Moose Lake Township
10-11pnc

NOTICE
STAPLES TOWNSHIP
ELECTION AND
ANNUAL MEETING

The Staples Township Election and Annual Meeting will be held Tuesday, March 10, 2026 at the Staples Town Hall located at 25750 490th St., Staples, MN. The Polling Hours are 4:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.

Positions to be filled are:
One (1) Supervisor, three (3) year term;
One (1) Clerk, two (2) year term.

Board of Canvass will follow the election with the Annual Meeting immediately after.

Board of Reorganization will follow the Annual Meeting.

In case of inclement weather, the election and Annual Meeting will be held one week later on Tuesday, March 17, 2026.

Bonnie Thoele, Clerk
Staples Township
10pnc

NOTICE
BECKER TOWNSHIP
ANNUAL MEETING

The Becker Township Annual Meeting will be held Tuesday, March 10, 2026 at 7 p.m. at the Becker Township Hall, with the regular meeting to follow. In case of bad weather, the Annual Meeting will be held on March 17, 2026 at 7 p.m. All township residents are encouraged to attend.

Mary Fitcher, Clerk
Becker Township
10pnc

NOTICE
MOTLEY TOWNSHIP
ELECTION AND
ANNUAL MEETING

The Motley Township Election and Annual Meeting will be held at the Motley Township Town Hall Tuesday March 10, 2026. The polls will be open from 5:00 p.m. until 8:00 p.m. followed by the board of canvass and then the annual meeting.

Ken Swecker, Clerk
Motley Township
10pnc

MINUTES OF THE
MEETING OF THE TODD
COUNTY BOARD OF
COMMISSIONERS HELD
JAN. 20, 2026

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 20th day of January, 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.

Approval of Agenda
On motion by Noska and second by Denny, the following motion was introduced and adopted by majority vote with Becker against: To adopt the agenda as presented with addition of item 4.8 Hire Human Resources Manager - Lisa Guzek and removal of item 9.1 Generalist to Deputy County Recorder transition.

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

To approve the Todd County Board of Commissioner's Meeting Minutes of January 6, 2026 as presented.

To approve the promotion of Patricia Fischer to fill an open Eligibility Worker position. Grade F/6, Step G, \$31.15. Start date: TBD

To approve the hire of Fernando Ramirez to fill an open Eligibility Worker position. Grade F/6, Step A, \$26.36. Start date: TBD

GAMBLING PERMIT - MIDWEST OUTDOORS UNLIMITED PRAIRIE PARTNERS CHAPTER

WHEREAS, the Todd County Board of Commissioners are establishing their approval for a Gambling Permit for the Midwest Outdoors Unlimited Prairie Partners Chapter through this resolution;

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Todd County Board of Commissioners approve a Gambling Permit for the Midwest Outdoors Unlimited Prairie Partners Chapter to hold a raffle event at Shatuck's Hub Supper Club in Burnhamville Township at the address 30905 County 13 Burtrum, MN on March 15, 2026.

To approve an Off Sale and On Sale 3.2 Malt Liquor License for BDKMN Inc dba Head of the Lakes Resort at the address of 15080 Gardenia Drive, Osakis, MN in Leslie Township effective January 5, 2026 through March 31st, 2026.

To approve a Setup License for BDKMN Inc dba Head of the Lakes Resort at the address of 15080 Gardenia Drive, Osakis, MN in Leslie Township effective January 5th, 2026 through March 31, 2026.

To hire Lisa Guzek to fill the open Human Resources Manager Position, Grade 13/M, Step B, \$46.45/hour, Start Date TBD

Auditor-Treasurer

On motion by Denny and second by Noska, the following motion was introduced and adopted by unanimous Roll Call vote: To approve the Commissioner Warrants number (ACH) 404306 through 404329 in the amount of \$10,449.38 and (Regular) 59512 through 59544 in the amount of \$45,786.99 for a total of \$56,236.37.

On motion by Becker and second by Noska, the following motion was introduced and adopted by unanimous rollcall vote: To approve the Health & Human Services Commissioner Warrants number (ACH) 807178 through 807249 and (Regular) 713736 through 713812 for a total of \$115,437.32.

On motion by Neumann and second by Becker, the following motion was introduced and adopted by unanimous Roll Call vote: To approve the Health & Human Services SSIS Warrants number (ACH) 601900 through 601913 and (Regular) 518774 through 518798 for a total amount of \$76,070.43.

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

TRANSFER OF FUNDS FROM GENERAL FUND TO TODD COUNTY DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION FUND

WHEREAS, the 2026 Budget for Todd County's support to the Todd County Development Corporation has been approved at \$104,000, and;

WHEREAS, a letter was received from the Todd County Development Corporation requesting for the allocation of funds from the County General Fund to be provided.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Todd County Board of Commissioners hereby approve the transfer of funds in the amount of \$104,000.00 from Fund 01-General Revenue to Fund 74-Todd County Development Corporation.

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

TRANSFER OF FUNDS FROM THE GENERAL FUND TO THE TODD WADENA COMMUNITY CORRECTIONS FUND FOR THE 2026 ALLOCATION

WHEREAS, the 2026 Budget for Todd County's support to Todd Wadena Community Corrections has been approved at \$664,333; and

WHEREAS, a letter was received from the Todd Wadena Community Corrections requesting for the allocation of funds from the General Fund to be provided;

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that The Todd County Board of Commissioners hereby approve the transfer of funds in the amount of \$664,333 from Fund 01-General Revenue to Fund 75-Todd Wadena Community Corrections.

Public Works

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

ESTABLISHING SPONSORSHIP OF A TRANSPORTATION ALTERNATIVES GRANT APPLICATION FOR STAPLES NORTHERN PACIFIC RAILWAY DEPOT 2nd FLOOR ACCESS IMPROVEMENTS

WHEREAS, the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) and the Minnesota State Department of Transportation (MnDOT) administer the Transportation Alternatives Program to fund eligible transportation projects that improve accessibility, safety and multimodal connectivity; and;

WHEREAS, the Staples Historical Society is the owner and operator of the Staples Northern Pacific Railway Depot, an active intercity passenger rail station served by Amtrak, and is submitting a Transportation Alternatives Grant application for the project entitled Staples Northern Pacific Railway Depot Second-Floor Access Improvements; and;

WHEREAS, the proposed project includes ADA-compliant and life-safety improvements that support continued public use of the Depot as a transportation facility, including stair refurbishment, construction of a new northwest stair and installation of a passenger elevator; and;

WHEREAS, under MnDOT Transportation Alternatives program requirements, an eligible local unit of government must serve as the sponsoring agency for federal transportation funding; and;

WHEREAS, Todd County is an eligible sponsoring agency and has experience administering federally funded transportation projects in compliance with MnDOT and FHWA requirements; and;

WHEREAS, Todd County has reviewed the scope of the proposed project and determined that it is eligible, appropriate, and consistent with transportation and accessibility goals within the County.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Todd County Board of Commissioners does hereby agree to serve as the sponsoring agency for the Transportation Alternatives Grant application submitted by the Staples Historical Society for the Staples Northern Pacific Railway Depot Second-Floor Access Im-

provements project; and;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that Todd County agrees to enter into the necessary agreements with MnDOT and the Staples Historical Society to administer Federal Transportation Alternatives Funds, provide project oversight and ensure compliance with all applicable state and federal requirements; and;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that Todd County's sponsorship is limited to project administration and fiscal oversight, while ownership, operation, and long-term maintenance of the Depot and all project improvements shall remain the responsibility of the Staples Historical Society, as documented in its adopted maintenance resolution.

Todd County Attorney

On motion by Noska and second by Becker, the following motion was introduced and adopted by unanimous vote: Approve the 2026 Prosecution Service contracts with the Cities of Burtrum, Grey Eagle, West Union, Browerville, Clarissa, Eagle Bend and Hewitt.

Todd County Extension Office

Tony Hansen and Brenda Miller provided updates from the University of Minnesota Extension regarding their work and current programming opportunities in Todd County.

Planning & Zoning

The January 2026 Planning Commission minutes and staff reports were provided for board review and discussion.

On motion by Neumann and second by Denny, the following motion was introduced and adopted by unanimous vote: Adopt the findings of the Planning Commission and grant the amendment as requested for CUP #C-20080512696 on parcel 03-0008202 to amend condition #5 to increase the capacity of the site from 14 to 22 people.

On motion by Neumann and second by Noska, the following motion was introduced and adopted by unanimous vote: To adopt the findings of the Planning Commission and approve the preliminary plat of First Creek Addition on parcel 03-0019400 with the following conditions.

1. New accesses from the township road shall be approved by the local township prior to installation.
2. Property owners must obtain appropriate permitting as necessary from other governmental agencies including but not limited to the Sauk River Watershed District.
3. Applicant must abide by all other applicable federal, state, and local standards.

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

A RESOLUTION ESTABLISHING MINIMUM SALARY FOR ELECTED COUNTY OFFICERS

WHEREAS, the County Board of Commissioners is required to set the minimum salary for elected county officers for the next term following pursuant to the following state statutes:

County Attorney MN State Statutes 388.18
County Auditor/Treasurer MN State Statutes 384.151
County Recorder MN State Statutes 386.015
County Sheriff MN State Statutes 387.20
County Commissioner MN State Statutes 375.055

WHEREAS, each of these elective positions are scheduled for general election on November 3, 2026 with terms of office beginning January 4, 2027.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, the minimum salaries are hereby established as follows:

County Attorney: \$100,000
County Auditor/Treasurer: \$75,000
County Recorder: \$60,000
County Sheriff: \$95,000
County Commissioner: \$36,312
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Todd County Board reserves the right, as set out in the above cited statutes, to set the salary for any or all of the above offices for 2026 at whatever it deems appropriate so long as it is at or above the minimums.

On motion by Neumann and second by Denny, the following motion was introduced and adopted by unanimous vote: To approve the 2026 Pay Equity Compliance Report

County Auditor-Treasurer's Report

The County Auditor-Treasurer informed of all of the upcoming elections including the Osakis School District, March Townships, Little Falls School District and Staples-Motley School District events.

County Commissioner's Report

The County Coordinator reported attending personnel, paycom, interviews, wellness and department head meetings.

County Commissioner's Report

The Commissioners reported on meetings and events attended.

Commissioner Becker attended meetings including the Rainbow Rider and West Central Regional Juvenile Center.

Commissioner Denny has attended meetings including Ag Society, Personnel and Department Head.

Commissioner Noska has attended meetings including TCDC and TWCC.

Commissioner Byers attended meetings including SWCD, TCDC, HR Interviews, Personnel, Park Board and Department Head.

Commissioner Neumann attended meetings including the Solid Waste, Rainbow Rider, HR Interviews and Park Board.

Adjourn

On motion by Becker and second by Denny, the meeting was adjourned for the month of January 2026.

COMMISSIONER WARRANTS
VENDOR NAME \$ AMOUNT
ASSOC OF MN COUNTIES

MACQUEEN.....	\$2,013.00
SHI CORP.....	2,717.32
SUMMIT COMPANIES.....	4,680.00
TRAFERA LLC.....	11,100.00
52 PAYMENTS LESS	
THAN \$2,000.....	22,551.19
Total:.....	\$56,236.37
HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES	
VENDOR NAME \$ AMOUNT	
MCCC, MI33.....	10,993.33
METRO SALES INC.....	2,729.52
11 PAYMENTS LESS	
THAN \$2,000.....	4,902.25
ASSOC OF MN COUNTIES	
.....	5,345.00

CENTRAL MN COUNCIL	
ON AGING.....	2,610.00
CHILDREN YOUTH & FAMILIES DEPT.....	2,602.46
FRESHWATER EDUCATION	
DISTRICT 6004.....	16,955.00
VENDOR #4106.....	2,474.50
VENDOR #17094.....	5,614.80
RURAL MN CEP INC.....	8,944.00
TODD COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE.....	2,553.13
128 PAYMENTS LESS	
THAN \$2,000.....	49,713.33
Total:.....	115,437.32
HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES	
VENDOR NAME \$ AMOUNT	
HEARTLAND GIRLS	
RANCH.....	\$33,417.69
J & J HOLMES INC.....	7,340.88
LUTHERAN SOCIAL SERVICE	
OF MN - ST PAUL.....	2,430.85
LUTHERAN SOCIAL SERVICE	
OF MN - ST PAUL.....	3,597.86
#15442.....	2,365.92
STEP.....	4,496.96
#16359.....	2,242.54
32 PAYMENTS LESS	
THAN \$2,000.....	20,177.73
Total:.....	\$76,070.43

On a motion by Denny and second by Neumann, the preceding minutes of the County Board meeting held January 20th, 2026 were duly approved by unanimous vote at the Todd County Board of Commissioners at the Regular Board Meeting held on February 3rd, 2026..

Witness my hand and seal:
/s/ on file: Bob Byers,
County Board Chairperson
/s/ on file: Denise Gaida,
Todd County Auditor-Treasurer
10pnc

Freshwater Education District

FRESHWATER
EDUCATION
DISTRICT #6004
Board Meeting,
January 28, 2026
Wadena, MN

MINUTES

The meeting was called to order at 5:00 p.m. by Chair Rod Huttunen.

Present: R. Huttunen (Sebek), B. Tumberg (Wadena-Deer Creek), S. Veronen (Verndale), J. Hillmer (Browerville), R. VanDenheuvel (Bertha-Hewitt), R. Thalmann (Henning), K. Howard (Menahga), R. Wright (Staples-Motley), C. Wolf (Long Prairie-Grey Eagle).

Superintendents: L. Westrum, S. Vedbraaten.

Admin: E. Weber, J. Wothe, J. Anderson, S. Thiel.

Others: J. Osberg, S. Lenz, Brady Martz and Associates Representatives.

Agenda

Motioned by VanDenheuvel and seconded by Tum-

berg to approve the agenda as presented. Vote: U/C

Organizational Business:

Appointments approved for 2026 officers: Chair - Huttunen; Vice Chair - Tumberg; Clerk - Veronen; Treasurer - Hillmer. Vote: U/C

Authorized signers, official depositories, electronic fund transfers, board per diem rates, regular meeting dates, official newspaper (Long Prairie Leader), committee appointments, collaborative appointments, MSBA/MREA memberships, policy review acknowledgment, legal counsel appointments, and MDE E-Service contacts were approved. Vote: U/C

Presentation

FY25 Audit Report presented by Brady Martz and Associates.

Motioned by Howard and seconded by Tumberg to approve the consent agenda, which included: prior meeting minutes, payments, policy readings, seniority lists,

agreements, audit receipt, and personnel actions. Vote: U/C

Reports Received

Superintendent, Special Education Director, and Finance Manager reports.

New Business:

Motioned by VanDenheuvel and seconded by Hillmer to accept a \$300 donation from Lincoln Scandia Valley Lions Club, Motley, for Reading for the Future. Vote: U/C

Motioned by Thalmann and seconded by Wright to direct administration to evaluate and recommend potential program and position reductions. Vote: U/C

Motioned by Tumberg and seconded by Wright to approve the Wadena Cty FSC and FED WALC, as presented. Vote: U/C

Motioned by VanDenheuvel and seconded by Hillmer to approve the Wadena Cty FSC and FED WALC agreement as presented. Vote: U/C

Motioned by Tumberg

and seconded by Veronen to approve the FY26 revision II budget and assessment manual. Vote: U/C

Motioned by Thalmann and seconded by Hillmer to approve the updated 25/26 Employee Handbook as presented. Vote: U/C

Motioned by VanDenheuvel and seconded by Wright to authorize the FED Admin to advertise a request for proposal for Mental Health Services for the 26/27 SY Academy Program. Vote: U/C

Motioned by Howard and seconded by Thalmann to approve the master agreement between the FED #6004 and the Ed MN-FED No. 7335 for the period of 7/1/25 - 6/30/27. Vote: U/C

The meeting adjourned at 6:18 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Scott Veronen,
Board Clerk

10pnc

The Open Book
Now Online

Search public notices published in local newspapers from across the state in one convenient place. Stay in the know at

www.mnpublicnotice.com

A public service provided by Minnesota Newspapers and the Minnesota Newspaper Association.



NOTICE OF EXPIRATION OF REDEMPTION

(These parcels have forfeited to the State of Minnesota)

State of Minnesota
County of Todd

Denise Gaida
County Auditor/Treasurer

TO: ALL PERSONS WITH A LEGAL INTEREST IN THE PARCELS OF REAL PROPERTY DESCRIBED IN THE FOLLOWING NOTICE.

You are hereby notified that the parcels of real property described below and located in Todd County, Minnesota, are subject to forfeiture to the State of Minnesota because of the nonpayment of delinquent property taxes, special assessments, penalties, interest, and costs levied on these parcels. The time for redemption from forfeiture expires if a redemption is not made by the later of (1) sixty (60) days after service of this notice on all persons having an interest in the parcels or (2) **June 18th, 2026** whichever is later. The redemption must be made in the Todd County Auditor/Treasurer Office.

IMPORTANT: If the parcels forfeit, they will be sold. If the proceeds from the sale exceed the total amount of the delinquent taxes, special assessments, penalties, interest, and costs assigned to these parcels, you may be entitled to the excess proceeds from the sale. If there are excess proceeds, you will be notified and must submit the claim form included with the notification in order to receive the proceeds.

The following information is listed below: the names of the property owners, taxpayers, and interested parties who have filed their addresses under M.S. 276.041; the addresses of the parties at the election of the County Auditor/Treasurer; the legal description and parcel identification number of the parcels; and the amount necessary to redeem the parcels as of the date listed below:

Parcel No. Names & Addresses	Addition Owners/ Interested Parties	Legal Description	Amount Due
04-0042400 GERALD J & LINDA WALSH 32127 FOXTAIL DR SWANVILLE MN 56382-4536		HEDIN'S ADDITION LOTS 5 & 6 EX W 5 FT OF LOT 6	\$ 9,442.03
08-0024600 KATIE M & MICHAEL G STEWART 33026 ELM LN MOTLEY MN 56466		SECT-25 TWP-132 RANG-32 NE4 NE4 EX E 10 RDS & EX .06 AC CONDEMNED BACK TO STATE OF MN	\$ 6,207.38
08-0081800 MATTHEW JAMES AUSTIN 12690 FLANDERS ST NE BLAINE MN 55449		LOT-24 BLK-5 FAWN LAKE MEADOWS	\$ 22.71
08-0090200 JOHN T EISCHEID PO BOX 290 MOTLEY MN 56466	RONALD THOMPSON RICHARD NEISIUS KENNETH ZETAH	LOT-55 BLK-7 FAWN LAKE MEADOWS	\$ 131.20
08-0103900 RICHARD E JOHNSON PO BOX 91 CHAMPLIN MN 55316		LOT-3 BLK-10 FAWN LAKE MEADOWS	\$ 131.20
08-0124900 VITALIY & GALINA VORONIN 404 NE 104TH AVE VANCOUVER WA 98664		LOT-9 BLK-2 PINE ISLAND HEIGHTS ALSO IN MORAN TOWNSHIP	\$ 69.43
08-0133200 WALTER GOODRICH 14639 RIDGEWAY RD CROSSLAKE MN 56442-2773		LOT-20 BLK-4 PINE ISLAND HEIGHTS	\$ 131.20
08-0144000 HENRY R & SYLVIA LEAF 7061 N SUNRISE VISTA PRESCOTT VALLEY AZ 86314		LOT-59 BLK-6 PINE ISLAND HEIGHTS	\$ 141.07
08-0156700 JESSE DAVID RINGAMAN 226 N SWIFT AVE #1 LITCHFIELD MN 55355-2026		LOT-4 BLK-10 PINE ISLAND HEIGHTS	\$ 131.20
08-0157200 GREGORY S BROOKS 136 N HAVEN ST APPLETON MN 56208-1435	NICOLE & CHRISTOPHER PHILIPPI 27297 ODE CIRCLE BROWERVILLE MN 56438	LOT-9 BLK-10 PINE ISLAND HEIGHTS	\$ 121.33
15-0086300 JARED ROGER PAINE 1545 DUNKIRK LANE N PLYMOUTH MN 55447		LOT-8 BLK-1 OSAKIS COMMONS	\$ 1,317.36
16-0002800 RODNEY B BUE 32408-315TH AVE BROWERVILLE MN 56438		SECT-03 TWP-130 RANG-32 W2 SW4 EX S 330 FT	\$ 5,322.04
16-0039000 TRACIE J NORDSTROM 981 JESSAMINE AVE E #1 SAINT PAUL MN 55106		LOT-4 BLK-1 NORDSTROM'S SUBDIVISION	\$ 1,226.22
16-0039100 TRACIE J NORDSTROM 981 JESSAMINE AVE E #1 SAINT PAUL MN 55106		LOT-5 BLK-1 NORDSTROM'S SUBDIVISION	\$ 1,216.34
17-0029900 LAWRENCE & MARY BARKER NICOLE BARKER 22780 FAWN TRAIL ROGERS MN 55374		SECT-27 TWP-128 RANG-34 COMM AT SW COR OF GOVT LOT 4, E 100 FT, N 500 FT TO LAKE FOR PT OF BEG, S 400 FT, E 25 FT, S 100 FT, E 214.63 FT, NW 46.34 FT, NW 20.19 FT, N 63.31 FT, W 97.58 FT, NW 30.26 FT, NE 37.08 FT...	\$ 2,570.28
18-0003802 EFREN SUAREZ RAMOS ROCIO RUIZ GOMEZ 630 2ND AVE NE LONG PRAIRIE MN 56347		SECT-05 TWP-129 RANG-33 SE4 NW4 LYING EERLY OF CENTERLINE OF HWY #71 EX HWY R.O.W.	\$ 2,591.53
18-0049300 SAMUEL DAN MATTI 24910 HOPE DRIVE LONG PRAIRIE MN 56347	DANIEL R NORLINGER 24910 HOPE DRIVE LONG PRAIRIE MN 56347	LOT-5 RIVERVERVIEW PLACE	\$ 1,006.41
19-0042500 FRED I FREEDMAN 3616 FAR WEST BLVD STE 117 AUSTIN TX 78731-3198		LOT-27 BLK-4 SYLVAN SHORES VILLA	\$ 85.87
19-0042600 FRED I FREEDMAN 3616 FAR WEST BLVD STE 117 AUSTIN TX 78731-3198		LOT-28 BLK-4 SYLVAN SHORES VILLA	\$ 85.87
19-0042700 FRED I FREEDMAN 3616 FAR WEST BLVD STE 117 AUSTIN TX 78731-3198		LOT-29 BLK-4 SYLVAN SHORES VILLA	\$ 85.87
19-0042800 FRED I FREEDMAN 3616 FAR WEST BLVD STE 117 AUSTIN TX 78731-3198		LOT-30 BLK-4 SYLVAN SHORES VILLA	\$ 85.87
19-0042900 FRED I FREEDMAN 3616 FAR WEST BLVD STE 117 AUSTIN TX 78731-3198		LOT-31 BLK-4 SYLVAN SHORES VILLA	\$ 85.87
19-0043700 PETER V & LILIYA T USTIMCHUK 2718-137TH LN NW ANDOVER MN 55304-3700		LOT-4 BLK-5 SYLVAN SHORES VILLA	\$ 93.37
19-0043900 PETER V & LILIYA T USTIMCHUK 2718-137TH LN NW ANDOVER MN 55304-3700		LOT-6 BLK-5 SYLVAN SHORES VILLA	\$ 103.24
19-0044900 MICHAEL ANDREW 127 N GARRISON RD VANCOUVER WA 98664		LOT-16 BLK-5 SYLVAN SHORES VILLA	\$ 73.82
19-0045300 MICHAEL ANDREW 127 N GARRISON RD VANCOUVER WA 98664		LOT-20 BLK-5 SYLVAN SHORES VILLA	\$ 81.31
19-0046600 PIOTR USTIMCHUK 2718-137TH LN NW ANDOVER MN 55304-3700		LOT-33 BLK-5 SYLVAN SHORES VILLA	\$ 130.11
19-0054700 ILIA KRINITSYN 194 BONDALE DR SPARTANBURG SC 29303		LOT-55 BLK-6 SYLVAN SHORES VILLA	\$65.12
19-0073100 DINO & VLADIMIR YEVTUSHENKO PO BOX 873844 VANCOUVER WA 98687-3844		LOT-34 BLK-4 PRAIRIE RIVER HEIGHTS	\$ 71.4
19-0089000 VITALIY & GALINA VORONIN 404 NE 104TH AVE VANCOUVER WA 98664		LOT-9 BLK-2 PINE ISLAND HEIGHTS ALSO IN FAWN LAKE TOWNSHIP	\$ 61.76
19-0100700 ROY A & JUDY MAGNUSON E8075 COUNTY ROAD B COLFAX WI 54730		LOT-10 BLK-5 SYLVAN SHORES SOUTH	\$ 83.67
19-0115800 JON KENNETH KRATTENMAKER KYLE RYAN KRATTENMAKER 205 EAST CURRAN ST DARWIN MN 55324		LOT-1 BLK-5 LITTLE PINE SHORES	\$ 85.87
19-0126500 PETER V & LILIYA T USTIMCHUK 2718-137TH LN NW ANDOVER MN 55304-3700		LOT-3 BLK-2 TIMBER RIDGE	\$ 98.33
20-0030702 GEORGANN & JAMES LARSON & GEORGE W LARSON 18674 COUNTY 10 LONG PRAIRIE MN 56347		SECT-28 TWP-129 RANG-34 PART OF W2 SW4 DESC AS: COMM AT SW COR OF SEC 28 E 709.45 FT E 184.63 FT TO PT OF BEG; THENCE N 550 FT W 184.63 FT N 299.10 FT W 242 FT NW 955.44 FT E 509.12 FT SE 241.08 FT E 207.21 FT S 433.81 FT W 293.39 FT S 163.95 FT E 193.39 FT S 957.32 FT TO S LINE W 66 FT TO BEG	\$ 2,149.84
21-0013600 ROBERT F MIRON 18766 COUNTY ROAD 59 GREY EAGLE MN 56336		SECT-11 TWP-128 RANG-33 S 666 FT OF SE4 SE4	\$ 5,999.85

22-0042500 DAVID A DAVIS 4116 16TH ST SW BACKUS MN 56435-2226		KENNEDY ADDITION TO STAPLES LOTS 2 TO 4 BLK 8	\$ 1,495.54
25-0056200 JAMES W MARTIN 929 - 14TH AVE NE ROCHESTER MN 55906		LOT-1 BLK-2 TRAPPER ADDITION	\$ 374.29
26-0037800 WESLEY ERIC AZARIAH 3414 PLEASANT AVE S MINNEAPOLIS MN 55408		LOT-22 BLK-1 PRAIRIE RIVER HEIGHTS	\$ 886.82
26-0038000 NEUT L STRANDEMO 9835 CONRAD AVENUE EAST INVER GROVE HEIGHTS MN 55076		LOT-2 BLK-4 PRAIRIE RIVER HEIGHTS	\$ 137.59
26-0039600 PETER V & LILIYA T USTIMCHUK 2718-137TH LN NW ANDOVER MN 55304-3700		LOT-9 BLK-7 SYLVAN SHORES SOUTH	\$ 95.02
28-0015800 LOREN R COYER DONNA M LARSON 36054 OTTERTAIL LINE RD EAGLE BEND MN 56446		SECT-18 TWP-131 RANG-35 COMM AT SW COR OF S2 SW4 N 355 FT E 600 FT N 251 FT E 720 FT S 606 FT W 1320 FT TO BEG	\$ 2,982.23
29-0007900 CHAD L RISCHE KAYLA C WALTZ 540 1ST ST WATSON MN 56295		ORIGINAL TOWNSITE OF BERTHA LOTS 3 & 4 BLK 2	\$ 856.78
33-0001701 JONATHAN DANIEL GARCIA RAMIREZ AMBER ROSE GARCIA 6811 ELLIOTT AVE S RICHFIELD MN 55423		SECT-12 TWP-131 RANG-35 PART OF SW4 SE4 OF SEC 12 DESC AS: COMM AT NE COR OF SEC 13 W 2154.16 FT TO PT OF BEG THENCE NW 119.88 FT TO S-RLY R.O.W. OF CSAH #22 W-RLY 152.09 FT SW 3.01 FT TO NE-RLY LINE OF LOT 1 BLK 1 OF EAGLE BEND RAILROAD...	\$ 50.95
33-0004100 JONATHAN DANIEL GARCIA RAMIREZ AMBER ROSE GARCIA 6811 ELLIOTT AVE S RICHFIELD MN 55423		SECT-13 TWP-131 RANG-35 E 7.66 CH OF NW4 NE4 N OF RY EX N 4.25 CH	\$ 273.54
33-0006601 JONATHAN DANIEL GARCIA RAMIREZ AMBER ROSE GARCIA 6811 ELLIOTT AVE S RICHFIELD MN 55423		SECT-13 TWP-131 RANG-35 PART OF NW4 NE4 OF SEC 13 DESC AS: COMM AT NE COR OF SEC 13 W 2154.16 FT TO PT OF BEG THENCE NW 119.88 FT TO S-RLY R.O.W. OF CSAH #22 W-RLY 152.09 FT SW 3.01 FT TO NE-RLY LINE OF LOT 1 BLK 1 OF EAGLE BEND RAILROAD...	\$ 61.18
33-0011300 JEREMIAH WILLIAM KERN SR. 502 NELSON STREET WEST EAGLE BEND MN 56446		AUDITOR'S PLAT W2 NW4 W 50 FT OF LOT 8	\$ 4,277.21
33-0038600 JONATHAN DANIEL GARCIA RAMIREZ AMBER ROSE GARCIA 6811 ELLIOTT AVE S RICHFIELD MN 55423		LOT-1 BLK-1 EAGLE BEND RAILROAD ADD	\$ 2,135.41
33-0040200 LIONEL SANTOS-COLON 8338 MILLWOOD DR HUDSON FL 34667		TOWNSITE OF EAGLE BEND W 26 FT OF LOT 3 BLK 1	\$ 9,114.97
33-0040300 LIONEL SANTOS-COLON 8338 MILLWOOD DR HUDSON FL 34667		TOWNSITE OF EAGLE BEND 13-131-35 W 26 FT OF E 33 FT OF LOT 11 AND S 6 FT OF VACATED ALLEY	\$ 575.17
34-0002000 ANA YESENIA JUAREZ OROZCO 215 MAPLE ST N GREY EAGLE MN 56336		LOT-1 AUD SUBD SE4 NE4 & GOVT LOT 4 S 50 FT OF W 200 FT OF E 233 FT	\$ 870.80
34-0008700 ANA YESENIA JUAREZ OROZCO 215 MAPLE ST N GREY EAGLE MN 56336		LOT-1 BLK-1 TOWNSITE OF GREY EAGLE	\$ 2,575.20
35-0006900 GLENN P NORTON 223 NORTH DAKOTA STREET HEWITT MN 56453		SECT-22 TWP-133 RANG-35 PART OF NW4 NW4 DESC AS: COMM AT NW COR OF NW4 NW4, E 132 FT, S 520.36 FT TO N LINE OF HWY 71, SE 234.82 FT TO PT OF BEG; THENCE SE 230.26 FT TO E LINE OF W 30 RDS, N 192.09 FT, W 179.79 FT, S 41.05 FT TO BEG	\$ 479.22
35-0009900 J & L HAULING LLC C/O JASON MOTL PO BOX 53 HEWITT MN 56453		TOWNSITE OF HEWITT LOTS 4, 5, 6 & 7 BLK 3	\$21,655.28
35-0011700 KEVIN B & CARISA C HAVILAND 605 E 3RD AVE HEWITT MN 56453		TOWNSITE OF HEWITT E2 OF S 20 FT OF 10 & E2 OF 11 & 12 BLK 4	\$ 3,956.27
36-0003400 ANDREW JACOB KROUSE 405 6TH STREET NE LONG PRAIRIE MN 56347	PATRICK JOHN KAYE JOHN	SECT-17 TWP-129 RANG-33 BEG AT A PT 33 FT W & 344.30 FT S OF NE COR OF SE4 SE4, W 160 FT, S 115 FT 7 INCHES, E 160 FT, N 115 FT 7 INCHES TO PT OF BEG	\$ 3,765.61
36-0024100 ROBERT M SOULE 221-2ND AVE N LONG PRAIRIE MN 56347		LOT-3 BLK-16 TOWNSITE OF LONG PRAIRIE	\$ 2,383.37
36-0006100 MELINDA TRIGUEROS 610 1ST STREET SOUTH LONG PRAIRIE MN 56347		SECT-20 TWP-129 RANG-33 COMM AT NE COR OF LOT 3 OLIVER'S FIRST ADD E 66 FT TO PT OF BEG, THENCE E 231 FT, S 66 FT, W 231 FT, N 66 FT TO BEG	\$10,824.86
36-0059200 MARTIN MONTANEZ MORELOS PO BOX 306 LONG PRAIRIE MN 56347		LOT-8 BLK-27 TWEED'S FOURTH ADDITION	\$9,938.41
36-0086200 DARREN HOLEN C/O ALLAN RAMUSSEN 1720 S 10TH ST BRainerd MN 56401		LOCKE'S ADDITION TO LONG PRAIRIE (20 & 21) N 10 FT OF LOT 6 & ALL OF LOT 7 BLK 4	\$ 9,041.91
36-0089500 ROCIO RUIZ GOMEZ 630 2ND AVE NE LONG PRAIRIE MN 56347		POWELL'S ADDITION TO LONG PRAIRIE (16) E 50 FT OF W 100 FT OF LOTS 1 & 2 & E 50 FT OF W 100 FT OF S2 OF LOT 3 BLK 6	\$ 7,304.89
38-0037501 WAYNE E RENN 300 DAKOTA AVE SW STAPLES MN 56479		SHELLABARGER'S FIRST ADDITION LOTS 1, 2, 3, 4, 9, 10, 11 & 12 BLK 13	\$ 741.77
38-0039600 TAD J & LISA A FREEMAN 121 WISCONSIN AVE SE STAPLES MN 56479	LAWRENCE & DONNA J SCHMIDT 25223 THUNDER RD STAPLES MN 56479	LOTS 1 & 2 BLK 3 DRAKE & BARTRAW ADDITION	\$ 4,306.92
38-0039700 TAD J & LISA A FREEMAN 121 WISCONSIN AVE SE STAPLES MN 56479		LOT-3 BLK-3 DRAKE & BARTRAW ADDITION	250.52
38-0041000 RUTH WILKINS 615 4TH ST NE APT 204 STAPLES MN 56479		DRAKE & BARTRAW ADDITION W 40 FT OF LOTS 13 TO 17 BLK 7	\$ 5,171.09
38-0054400 JESS A KNOSALLA 704 DAKOTA AVENUE SE STAPLES MN 56479		STEWART & BARTRAWS ADDITION LOTS 2 & 3 BLK 9	\$ 3,337.85
38-0111628 DAVID M RATCLIFF 519 MCKINLEY ST SW STAPLES MN 56479		11 & LOTS 5 & 6 BLK 3 BIGELOW ADDITION TO STAPLES	\$ 2,956.87
38-0111701 TARA OTTOMOELLER 602 4TH ST SW STAPLES MN 56479		LOT-10 BLK-9 BIGELOW ADDITION TO STAPLES	\$ 524.86
38-0111702 TARA OTTOMOELLER 602 4TH ST SW STAPLES MN 56479		LOT-11 BLK-9 BIGELOW ADDITION TO STAPLES	\$ 121.14
38-0115600 BARBARA MARES 501 LONG PRAIRIE RD SW STAPLES MN 56479		LOTS 1 & 2 BLK 8 JENKIN'S FIRST ADDITION	\$ 3,776.76

FAILURE TO REDEEM SUCH LAND PRIOR TO THE EXPIRATION OF REDEMPTION WILL RESULT IN THE LOSS OF THE LAND AND FORFEITURE OF SAID LAND TO THE STATE OF MINNESOTA.

The redemption amount is shown above is figured thru February 28th, 2026. This amount will increase monthly. Please contact the Todd County Auditor/Treasurer's Office to verify the amount due to redeem said parcel if paid on or after February 1st, 2026.

Inquiries as to these proceedings can be made to the Todd County Auditor/ Treasurer Office, whose address is listed below.

Witness my hand and official seal this 20th, day of February, 2026.

Denise Gaida
Denise Gaida, Todd County Auditor/Treasurer

by Beeky JagerMeis
Deputy Auditor/Treasurer
Todd County Courthouse
215 - 1st Avenue South, Suite 201
Long Prairie, MN 56347-1378
Telephone: (320) 732 - 4473

Cardinals earn win in last week of regular season

By Mark Anderson
Managing Editor

The Staples-Motley girls basketball team finished the regular season with a win and a good showing against a top team in the conference.

The win set them up as the 10th seed for playoffs this year, with their first game on Tuesday, Feb. 24, at Pierz.

The Cardinals beat Long-Prairie-Grey Eagle 69-40 on Feb. 17, then lost to Breckenridge 85-42 on Feb. 19, their final game of the regular season.

Although Staples-Motley finished the conference season without a win, they improved by playing against the high level of competition in the Heart O Lakes Conference.

“We’ve been playing better in the last part of the season,” said senior Pam Lawrence. “We have better ball control and have learned to play against pressure defense.”

Against Long Prairie-Grey Eagle, the Cardinals had an offensive explosion in the first half, with Sophia Luna and Isabel Cole combininb for the first 15 points for Staples-Motley. Luna finished with 16 points in the first half. The team reached 42 points in the first half.

On defense, they held LPGE to 21 points in the first half. The Cardinals still outscored their opponents in the second half, but their output was lower.

Clara Maros made eight of ten free throws in the game and had a total of 14 points. Hannah Cole was the third Cardinal to reach double figures, with 12 points.

Against Breckenridge, Staples-Motley fell behind early. To their credit, they started coming back early in the second half and kept hustling throughout the game, but the deficit had gotten too big.

Section playoffs

With a record of 6-20, Staples-Motley earned the 10th seed for the Section 7AA playoffs. The Cardi-



Jump shot form

Pam Lawrence follows through on a three point shot as a Breckenridge defender gets there late. (Staples World photos by Mark Anderson)

nals face Pierz in the first game, after Esko beat Pierz late in the season to jump them in the seedings.

Staples-Motley played a close game against Pierz in January, leading most of the way before falling behind at the end.

After playing their extremely tough conference schedule, the Cardinals have more confidence in how they are playing. Lawrence said the team will need to take a positive attitude into their playoff game.

“We have to have the mindset that we need to get it done, we want to be locked in mentally,” said Lawrence. “If we’re not be too worried, we can play and have fun.”

Team results

Staples-Motley 69, Long Prairie-Grey Eagle 40

Scoring: Sophia Luna 18, Clara Maros 14, Hannah Cole 12, Addison Potter 8, Chloe Larson 6, Joci Lenk 6, Isabel Cole 5

Staples-Motley 42, Breckenridge 85

Scoring: Potter 11, Larson 9, Pam Lawrence 9, Luna 6, Maros 4, Lenk 3



Scrambling basketball action

Above, Hannah Cole passes the ball back out after getting trapped by Breckenridge defenders. Right, Sophie Luna ends up with the ball after diving on the floor and getting surrounded by her opponents. (Staples World photos by Mark Anderson)



Big crowd, high technology at section wrestling

While hosting the Stection 7A individual wrestling tournament, The Nest at Staples-Motley High School was equipped with space and technology to assist the crowd. Above, the crowd packs in the stands and lines up along the walking track above the stadium. Below left,

the live stream company filmed all three mats of action for people to watch at home. Below right, the live stream was also shown at the concession stand at the school, so no action was missed even while getting food. (Staples World photos by Mark Anderson)



Addison Potter



Pressure shot

With his team behind in the last minutes of the game, Eli Rutten calmly drains a step-back three pointer jump shot with a defender right in his face. (Staples World photos by Mark Anderson)



Creating disruption

Conner Kuhns draws two defenders to him going to the basket.

Late game heroics by Kuhns, Rutten provide one point win

By Mark Anderson
Managing Editor

Conner Kuhns made a basket and free throw for a three point play in the last minute, providing the winning points for a 78-77 win over Breckenridge on Feb. 19. Right before that, Eli Rutten made a contested three point shot from the corner and scored on a drive to tie the game going into the final minute. “We have trust in each other,” said Kuhns about his winning score that came on a sideline inbound play. He also noted that several teammates made big shots to get to that point. It wasn’t just the late game heroics, Rutten made 13 of 17 shots in the game, including six of eight 3-pointers and Kuhns made 4 of 7, including two of three 3-pointers. Carter Sarbaum made five of eight shots, including two of three on 3-pointers and Josiah Burton shot 50 percent with four of eight shots made. “We hit shots when we had to,” said Kuhns. “If you’re a fan of basketball, that was just a really exciting game to watch,” said Coach Zack Qual. “The entertainment value was

through the roof.” With the win, the Staples-Motley boys basketball team solidified the second seed in Section 8AA and strengthened their position as third place in the Heart O Lakes Conference with three games left in the regular season. If the team stays in this position, they will have a bye for the first round of the playoffs, then round two is scheduled for Saturday, March 7, at Duluth Denfeld. Breckenridge came in tied for first place in the conference standings and Staples-Motley was third, three games behind. The game started with both teams gaining leads at different times in the first half. The Cardinals fell behind by seven before coming back to come within one at half-time. They shot well from the outside but struggled with fouls on defense. “Breckenridge is a really tough team and they have a really deep roster so they’re able to just come at you in waves,” said Qual. In the second half, Rutten caught fire, making two three pointers and driving in for a basket, helping the Cardinals get a five point lead. Avandre Brandt and

Burton scored inside and Rutten hit a jump hook in the lane to give the team their first 10 point lead at 57-47. Brandt made a steal and outraced two opponents to the rim for a dunk and another 10 point lead at 65-55. When Breckenridge started coming back, Kuhns hit a three point shot to go back up by seven with five minutes left. Breckenridge went on a run to take the lead again before Sarbaum made a basket to give the lead back to Staples-Motley with three minutes left. Down again 30 seconds later, Rutten rose up for a corner three pointer with a the other team’s top defender leaping up in his face. It swished through, but Breckenridge responded with another three pointer. With 1:30 on the clock, Rutten drove into the lane to tie the game. With a minute remaining after a defensive stop and the score tied at 75, Staples-Motley had the ball out of bounds on their own sideline after a time out. Kuhns passed the ball in, then sprinted straight for the basket. He got the return pass with two defenders in

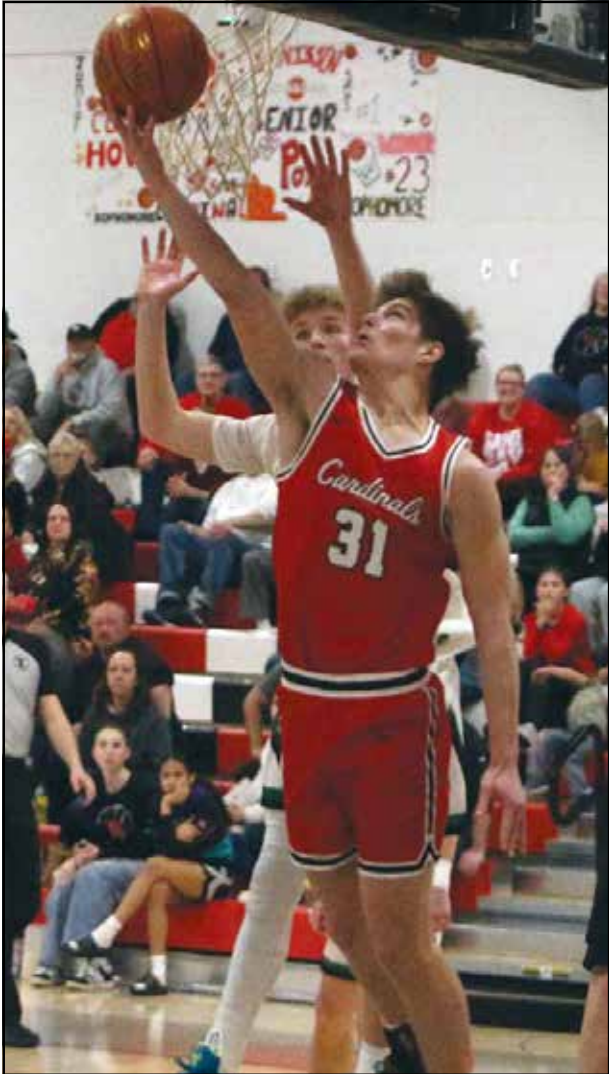
close pursuit, so he skidded to a halt under the basket. “I thought he would go up, but he didn’t,” said Kuhns. So he had to muscle the ball up through the defender. He made the shot and got fouled. “That was the play we called in the huddle,” said Kuhns about the give-and-go. Kuhns also made the free throw for a 78-75 lead with 52 seconds left. Breckenridge came back and got an inside basket to cut the lead to one with 41 seconds left. With a 35 second shot clock in high school basketball, Staples-Motley had to run their offense. With 15 seconds left, the Cardinals had a turnover on an inbound play and had to play tough defense. Breckenridge passed the ball around but couldn’t find an opening and finally had to shoot a contested three point shot that missed and the Cardinals ran out the last two seconds on the clock. “Our kids handled adversity really well when it came and also didn’t get too high when things were going well for us,” said Qual. “They’re really starting to understand it’s a 36 minute game and we have to play all 36 of them to win in this conference on a nightly basis.”

After a loss to Breckenridge earlier in the season, Rutten said thier focus in practice was how to beat this team. “It was the preparation we have had the last couple of days,” said Rutten. “We knew what they wanted to do, I have to give credit to our coaches for this one.” Rutten also said the team’s defense came up big in making key stops when they needed it. “It’s all about defense,” he said. Kuhns agreed, saying “we play defense together.” Kuhns and Rutten are two of the team’s seniors, which they said factored into the win. “We had extra motivation on senior night,” said Rutten.

Team results
Staples-Motley 73, Breckenridge 77
Scoring: Eli Rutten 32, Avandre Brandt 13, Carter Sarbaum 12, Conner Kuhns 11, Josiah Burton 8, Noah Larson 2
Rebound leaders: Burton 8, Rutten 7, Sarbaum 4, Larson 4
Assists leaders: Burton 6, Kuhns 4, Rutten 3, Brandt 3
Steals: Brandt 2, Rutten 2, Sarbaum 1



Josiah Burton



Noah Larson



Big game celebration

Eli Rutten hugs Coach Zack Qual, left, following the big win over Breckenridge, while the rest of the team, managers and coaches celebrate with them. (Staples World photo by Mark Anderson)



Expressive speakers

A number of Cardinal Speech team members were awarded medals/ribbons at the home speech meet in Staples Feb. 21. Pictured above, Walker Johnson performs a piece she wrote, “Whodunnit”, in the Creative Expression category. At right, Brynn Bestland performs “Junie B. Jones” in the Humor category. Below, Kai Bestland performs “Don’t Fall in Love with Your Monkey” in the Drama category.



All three advanced to the final round of their respective categories, with Johnson placing first in both Creative Expression and Extemporaneous Reading; Brynn Bestland placed second in Humor and first in Drama (next-in final) and; and Kai Bestland sixth in Drama (next-in final). (Staples World photos by Dawn Timbs)



SPEECH continued from page 1a

Medalists at home speech meet

berg placed fourth, while in the next-in final Ava Davis placed sixth. Tristan Rendon placed first in Great Speeches and Raina Mikhaeil placed first in the next-in final. In Humor, Brynn Bestland placed second and Caleb Bestland placed third, with Landon Zeigler placing fourth in the next-in final. In Original Oratory, Hailey Richardt placed fourth in the next-in final. In Poetry, Addie Brenny won first place, with Sadye Anderson placing third in the next-in final. In Prose, Tristan Rendon placed third, with Lexi Ann placing first in the next-in final. In Storytelling, Maddock Harvey placed fifth.



Showing their support

Staples Speech team member Walker Johnson, center, took a break between rounds at the 49th Annual Staples Host Lions Invitational Speech Tournament Feb. 21. The award-winning Cardinal is pictured with her mom, Carrie Johnson, and speech coach Brian Sams. (Staples World photo by Dawn Timbs)

Katie Haberkorn is newest behavioral health provider at Lakewood Health System

Lakewood Health System, Staples, welcomes licensed independent clinical social worker (LICSW) Katie Haberkorn as the newest provider to the behavioral health team. Originally from Aitkin, Haberkorn received her undergraduate degree from the University of Minnesota Morris and her Master of Social Work degree from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. Haberkorn has over 18 years of experience in the social work and therapy field and has worked in both outpatient and school-based settings. Her interests include working with children, adolescents and adults who have experienced trauma, depression, anxiety, attachment disruptions, out of home placement, and/or adoption.



Katie Haberkorn, LICSW

Haberkorn has provided crisis response services and has experience licensing families for foster care and adoption, as well as supervising visitation between children and their birth parents. She has also completed DC 0-5 training to assess/diagnose children

under the age of five. “I appreciate that Lakewood gives me greater opportunities to collaborate and integrate with medical providers, which in turn, helps provide better, more comprehensive care to patients. I’m excited to be part of this amazing team.” Haberkorn loves the Brainerd lakes area and all the opportunities it offers. She enjoys attending concerts, plays and musicals with her daughter and family, as well as being involved in her church community. In her free time, Haberkorn enjoys needlepointing, reading, swimming, playing board games, completing jigsaw puzzles and playing with her Tonkinese cat.



Looking at results

Cardinal speakers looked at the posted results to find out if they were advancing to the final round at the home speech meet in Staples Feb. 21. From left, Tristan Rendon, Molly Hoemberg and Addie Brenny. All three brought home awards. (Staples World photo by Dawn Timbs)

Staples Police report

Feb. 4, Staples Police investigated a report of youth smoking marijuana in their vehicles at a parking lot on 4th Street NE. Feb. 4, Staples Police assisted a resident who said she learned from her daughter that the dad has been drinking while driving with the daughter in the car. The reporting party said she knows the dad drives drunk all the time but just learned that he does it with the daughter in the vehicle. Feb. 5, Staples Police investigated a report of domestic assault. No weapon involved. Feb. 5, Staples Police investigated a report of a fake \$100 bill found outside a business. Written on the bill is “for motion picture use only.” Feb. 6, Staples Police received a call about a person trying to buy a gun. The person has a permit from the Staples Police Department, but does not speak a lick of English.

Spine Care *at* Lakewood

Through our partnership with **Twin Cities** **Orthopedics**, patients have access to advanced spine care with orthopedic surgeon Dr. Paul Crowe—right here at Lakewood. Whether you’re dealing with back or neck pain, injury, or complex spine concerns, our coordinated approach is designed to help you return to what you love—steadier, stronger, and moving forward.

Paul Crowe, MD
ORTHOPEDIC SURGEON

NO REFERRAL NEEDED | LAKEWOODHEALTHSYSTEM.COM | 218-894-8259