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Boys basketball soars in first playoff game
Five Wings has emergency grants for artists
Happenings in Staples - Mayor Ron Murray
New mural up at Legacy Gym



Wednesday, March 11, 2026

StaplesWorld

Staples, Minnesota \$125

Cardinal students inducted to National Honor Society

Pictured are Staples-Motley High School students who were recently inducted into the National Honor Society. Back row, from left: Gabriel Kroll, Evan Schultz, Eli Rutten, Justin Olson, Thomas Johnson. Front: Paige Warren, Allison Dukowitz, Emmalee Dobson, Bella Hines, Madison Perius, Mia Pesta, Kylie Wilson, Ronnie Noska. Inductees not pictured: Hannah Cole, Maddock Harvey, Kyleena Rudlang, Katelyn Schotzko, Tyson Turner. (Submitted photo)

National Honor Society induction ceremony held

The induction ceremony for the 2026 Staples-Motley National Honor Society (NHS) was held Feb. 1, at Centennial Auditorium in Staples. Staples-Motley High School students selected included Gabriel Kroll, Evan Schultz, Eli Rutten, Justin Olson, Thomas Johnson, Paige Warren, Allison Dukowitz, Emmalee Dobson, Bella Hines, Madison Perius, Mia Pesta, Kylie Wilson, Ronnie Noska, Hannah Cole, Maddock Harvey, Kyleena Rudlang, Katelyn Schotzko, Tyson Turner. Students were selected through a comprehensive application process focused on the four pillars of NHS: Scholarship, Leadership, Service and Character. Applicants detailed their academic achievements, extracurricular involve-

ment, leadership roles, community service, work experience, awards and personal values. Each student also submitted a reflective essay highlighting qualities such as respect, responsibility, trustworthiness, fairness, caring and citizenship, along with a letter of recommendation. After careful review, selected students were chosen for exemplifying the core principles of NHS and serving as leaders who reflect our school's cardinal priorities. "This is my 3rd year as the NHS Advisor with the help of Debbie Ferdon (middle/high school principal), and I can only say how incredibly proud of the dedication and commitment these students consistently demonstrate - not only to this club, but to our entire school and community," said

Bobbyjo Johnson, 7th/8th grade Resource Teacher at the school. She went on to share, "Their willingness to give their time, energy, and talents speaks volumes about their character. They lead by example, serve with compassion and strive for excellence in everything they do. Whether they are volunteering at events, supporting their peers, or representing our school with integrity, they embody the true spirit and values of our organization. Our club is stronger because of their hard work, and our school and community are better places because of their leadership and service."

CLC joins Bemidji State for nursing pathways program

Central Lakes College has joined Bemidji State University's Operation LEAD consortium, further expanding opportunities for Minnesota's nurses to quickly and affordably complete bachelor's degrees. Operation LEAD creates pathways for nursing students to "Learn to lead; Expand their knowledge; Advance their careers; and Discover new jobs." Here's how it works: Students start at CLC, completing their two-year Nursing A.S. Degree. Then they can transfer seamlessly to BSU with a guaranteed spot in the university's RN-to-bachelor's degree in nursing completion program, which they can complete in as little as one year. "Central Lakes College is proud to join Bemidji State University in Operation LEAD because this partnership is truly student-centered," Dr. Cheryl Norman, Vice President of Academic and Student Affairs at CLC. "It creates a clear, afford-

able, and seamless pathway for our nursing students to move from an associate degree to a bachelor's degree without losing time or momentum. Together, we are removing barriers, expanding opportunity, and ensuring that nurses in our region can advance their education, grow their leadership skills, and step confidently into high-demand, high-impact careers that strengthen healthcare across Minnesota." About Operation LEAD Operation LEAD was designed to help working professionals pursue these career-expansion opportunities, built around a flexible, accommodating schedule. Students have five opportunities each year to start courses which only last eight weeks each and are offered 100 percent online. Nurses also have the option to enroll part-time if that best fits their schedules. Nursing students can begin working on bache-

lor's degrees before completing their NCLEX — a national licensing examination for entry-level nurses. However, nurses who have passed the exam will receive 15 upper-division course credits through BSU's RN Advantage program. Other benefits include the opportunity to apply for one of 20 scholarships — either a \$1,000 transfer scholarship, a \$2,500 Minnesota Workforce Development Scholarship, or both — that are reserved specifically for Operation LEAD nursing students, opportunities to meet with BSU academic advisors and register for BSU courses on-site at their two-year college. Every Operation LEAD student also receives a personalized graduation plan, and BSU nursing graduates also complete Public Health Nurse Registration and End-of-Life Nursing Education Consortium certifications, in addition to a bachelor's degree.



Agreement for Operation LEAD nursing program

Signing the Central Lakes College and Bemidji State University Operation LEAD agreement, front row from left, Dr. Marah Jacobson, BSU provost & vice president of academic affairs; Dr. John L. Hoffman, BSU and Northwest Technical College president; Dr. Hara Charlier, CLC president; Cheryl Norman, CLC vice president of academic and student affairs. Back row, Ben Hoffman, BSU vice president for enrollment management; Jaimee Duffy, BSU director of career advancement; Dr. Christy Cook, BSU profes-

sor of nursing; Nicholle Bieberdorf, BSU senior nurse administrator and Northwest Technical College dean of allied health; Dan Voss, BSU director of academic partnerships; Jodi Elness, CLC academic advisor for nursing programs; Jill Lechner, CLC associate degree nursing instructor; Anne Nelson-Fisher, CLC dean of liberal arts & sciences; Paul Preimesberger, CLC dean of enrollment management and student success. (Submitted photo)

Weather

2026

This Week's Forecast

	High	Low	Cond.
Mar. 11	37	21	P. Cloudy
Mar. 12	41	24	Rain/Snow
Mar. 13	33	19	M. Sunny
Mar. 14	33	18	Snow
Mar. 15	24	3	P. Cloudy
Mar. 16	22	10	P. Cloudy
Mar. 17	31	21	Cloudy

Last Year, 2025

	High	Low	Cond.
Mar. 11	37°	27	Cloudy
Mar. 12	50	26	Sunny
Mar. 13	59	30	Sunny
Mar. 14	66	43	Sunny
Mar. 15	26	18	Snow
Mar. 16	29	9	Sunny
Mar. 17	46	29	Sunny

Average Temps:
H = 39° Low = 20°

Compiled by
Dale Hausmann,
WCCO's Staples area
Weatherwatcher

Public Notices

May Township 9A
Moran Township 9A
Old Wadena Society 9A
Thomastown Township 9A

Obituaries

Kelly Etzler
Timothy Mikish



Cardinal speech team at Bemidji

Staples-Motley speech team at the Bemidji Invitational included, front row: Sadye Anderson, Walker Johnson, Raina Mikhaeil, Brynn Bestland, Lexi Ann.

Second row: Molly Hoernberg, Tristan Rendon, Landon Zeigler, Jackson Alexander, Meredith Hoernberg, Lydia Tkalcich, Ava Davis, Bella Hines.

Third row: Kai Bestland, Anna Hurlig, Hayden Anderson, Lexa Graves, Haily Richardt, Nadia Santos;

Back: Addie Brenny, Maddock Harvey, Christopher Mikhaeil, Matthew Jewison, Jackson Bitzer, Caleb Bestland, Alec Tkalcich.

Speech team places at Lumberjack Invite

The Staples-Motley Competitive Speech team competed in the 21st Annual Bemidji Lumberjack Invitational Speech Tournament February 28.

The Staples-Motley team placed second, with many individuals having an excellent showing as well. In the category of Creative Expression, Maddock Harvey took first place and Walker Johnson took third. Bella Hines placed third in the Discussion honor final. In Drama, Brynn Bestland third, Jackson Alexander sixth in the honor final and Raina Mikhaeil received a ribbon. In Extemporaneous Reading, Walker Johnson, first, in the honor final, Molly Hoernberg, fifth and Ava Davis, sixth. In Great Speeches, Tristan Rendon, third and Raina Mikhaeil, sixth. In Humor, Caleb Bestland, fifth in the honor final. In Poetry, Addie Brenny, second and Nadia Santos, fifth in the honor final. In the category of Prose, Tristan Rendon, first, Brynn Bestland, second and Lexi Ann, second in the honor final. In Storytelling, Maddock Harvey, first in the honor final.



Lumberjack champions

First place medalists at the Bemidji Lumberjack Invitational Speech Tournament, Walker Johnson (smiling), Maddock Harvey (showing) and Tristan Rendon (flexing).

Staples Area Food Shelf March is Food Share Month

The Staples Area Food Shelf would like to call attention to the Annual March Food Share Month. During March, Minnesota Food shelves conduct their major campaign for funds and food shelf items. The funds and food collected help determine our budget for the coming year.

All funds and food items collected in March help determine the grant amounts available from Hunger Solutions of Minnesota. The non-donated items are purchased from Second Harvest Heartland Food Bank in Brooklyn Park, and Ernie's Market and Jon's Family Foods in Staples.

World wide it is estimated that over 800 million people go to bed hungry every night. Our Staples Area Food Shelf has had a dramatic increase in usage. We've had 286 new families this past year. This past year, we've served 2,891 individuals and 1,110 families by providing over 79,503 pounds of food items and other household necessities such as toilet paper, laundry soap, dish soap and some hygiene items. In addition, we provide milk or milk vouchers monthly to be used at local food vendors.

The Staples Area Food Shelf, located at 402 Wisconsin Avenue SE, Staples, is open Mondays and Tuesdays from 2 - 4 p.m.

While March is a major event, we greatly appreciate the support we receive throughout the year. Donations can be made through your church, or to the Staples Area Food Shelf, PO Box 82, Staples, MN 56479, or by calling 218-894-1935.

Without your help, the Staples Area Food Shelf could not possibly survive. All the Staples Area Food Shelf workers are volunteers and do not receive any compensation.

We want to thank everyone for their past support and we respectfully ask for your continued generosity and support. With your assistance and generosity, the Staples Area Food Shelf will be able to continue providing for those needing assistance.

Staples Area Food Shelf Board.



Donation to Staples Area Food Shelf

The Knights of Columbus from Sacred Heart Church in Staples recently donated \$900 to the Staples Area Food Shelf. The money was raised at a pancake breakfast held at the church. Pictured, from left, are Arlyn Mack, Knights of Columbus member; Frank Leidenfrost, SAFS Director; and Rick Adameitz, Knights of Columbus member. (Staples World photo by Dawn Timbs)



Lions Club donates

The Staples Host Lions Club recently made several donations to area organizations, including \$1,207 to Staples-Motley Speech, and \$1,000 to Staples-Motley Grad Blast. Pictured above, from left, are SM Speech Head Coach Kip Hines, SM Speech Team captains Brynn Bestland and Raina Mikhaeil; and Staples Host Lion Blaine Quast. Below, from left, Amy Rutten, Grad Blast; Staples Host Lion Blaine Quast; Aimee Brichacek, Grad Blast. (Staples World photos by Dawn Timbs)



Lions Club donates

The Staples Host Lions Club recently made several donations to area organizations, including \$3,000 to Staples-Motley Dollars for Scholars (DFS) and \$1,000 for the Polar Express. Pictured above, from left, DFS committee member Mary Kobliska; Staples Host Lion Blaine Quast; and DFS committee members Lauren Houslog and Jill Albee. Below, from left, Rick Brichacek, Polar Express volunteer; Staples Host Lion Blaine Quast; Polar Express volunteer John Wolak. (Staples World photos by Dawn Timbs)



Lions donate to food shelf

The Staples Host Lions Club recently donated \$5,000 to the Staples Area Food Shelf. Pictured, from left, SAFS Director Frank Leidenfrost and Staples Host Lion Blaine Quast. (Staples World photo by Dawn Timbs)

‘Flock foundations’ poultry workshop

The University of Minnesota Extension will host a poultry workshop for small flock and backyard poultry owners on March 17, from 4-6 p.m. in the Commissioner's Board Room at the Historic Courthouse in Long Prairie. This workshop is designed to provide essential knowledge for raising a healthy and productive small flock and to address common poultry care misconceptions.

Participants will connect with University of Minnesota Extension educators and other poultry enthusiasts while discussing mobile poultry housing, heritage breed research, and practical biosecurity measures to keep flocks disease-free. Jed Fiskness, Fiskness Family Farm, will discuss tips, tricks and best practices for raising healthy chicks that will turn into productive birds for your farm.

Dr. Carol Cardona, Pomeroy Chair in Avian Health at the University of Minnesota College of Veterinary Medicine, will provide an update on the status and continued risks of avian influenza. Participants will learn practical tips for sustainable use of personal protective equipment. Action plans will be developed to use in the event of an outbreak. Most importantly learners will review how to keep their flock safe and healthy.

Pre-registration is preferred, but walk-ins are welcome. Pre-register by contacting Brenda Miller at: nels4220@umn.edu, 320-533-4655 or 215 1st Ave S, Suite 101, Long Prairie, MN 56360. The cost to attend includes all handouts. Refreshments and snacks will be provided.

Learn more about small flock poultry at z.umn.edu/smallpoultry.

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Atom X



Staples Police report

Recent items from the Staples Police report include:

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.

Feb. 16, Staples Police investigated a suicidal male who was trying to get a gun

away from a female. The subject walked to the shed with a knife. Subject left in a vehicle before arrival of law enforcement. Staples Police investigated the vehicle driving eastbound in the westbound lane of Highway 10.

Feb. 16, Staples Police investigated a shed on fire at a residence on 12th Street NW. The shed is close to the house.

Feb. 17, at 2:22 a.m., Staples Police located a vehicle running behind B&B’s Sports Bar with two individuals inside. The subjects appeared to be residing in the vehicle. Police advised the subjects.

Feb. 18, Staples Police received a report of a German Sheperd in a yard on Dakota Ave. SE. The reporting party caught the dog and brought it to the veterinarian.

Feb. 18, Staples Police stopped a vehicle for failure to use turn signal. Upon investigation, the driver admitted to having marijuana in the vehicle, within reach. Police advised the driver to contact a sober driver.

75 YEARS Ago - 1951

• March 8, 1951 - Twin calves were born at the E. E. Kephart farm northeast of Staples on March third, to a Holstein cow. The twins were both heifers. Their mother was sired by artificial breeding of the Staples unit.

• March 8, 1951 - This area is just now digging itself out from under one of the heaviest snow falls of the season, as a result of two storms last week, which left traffic at a stand-still for many.

The first storm came Wednesday when a total of about 12 inches of light fluffy snow fell, making highway traffic precarious throughout the entire area.

Roads were just cleared, traffic was approaching

- O -
Compiled by
Dawn Timbs
- O -

the normal stage when the second storm came Friday evening, completely covering everything with 10 inches of snow in this area. Traffic was almost at a standstill for several hours, but the city of Staples was as live as could be on Saturday afternoon because people from District 24 towns were coming into Staples for the finals of the basketball tournament here that evening.

• March 8, 1951 - Samuel Moses Shefner, 84, pioneer settler in Cass county, died Sunday, Feb. 25 at his home near Motley.

Born in Russia, he home-steaded near Ellis, north of Motley in 1887.

• March 8, 1951 - Loren, youngest son of Mr. and Mrs. E. L. Morey, observed his 11th birthday on March 5.

After school, Mrs. Morey was hostess to a group of Loren’s friends, who included Sheila and Ervin Bjerga, Kathy Jacobs, Mildred Hanson, Ronald Holub, Ronald Skeesick and Eldon Morey.

50 YEARS Ago - 1976

• March 4, 1976 - Dave Sowers and Jim Johnson returned home Sunday afternoon as State individual wrestling champions and the Cardinal team (coached by Don Dravis) brought home the third place trophy in State team competition following action Thursday, Friday and Saturday at the St. Paul Civic Center in the 39th annual Minnesota State High school wrestling tournament.

Sowers won his championship in the 98 pound division of the Class A individual tournament and Johnson was the title winner at 138 pounds. They become the third and fourth wrestlers from Staples High school to capture a State championship, having now joined Loren Bendson, who won in 1971 at 133 pounds and Gordy Thompson, the state champion in 1972 at 126 pounds.

• March 4, 1976 - Stanley Carlson, director of the Staples High school choral

program, announced that the Chamber Choir will undertake a short mini-tour March 9 and 10. The first concert will be at Macalester College in St. Paul. On their return trip, they will sing at St. John’s University. To round out the tour, the choir will sing at Milaca High school.

The Chamber Choir is made up of 23 selected voices. Members are Bruce Baustian, Dave Blanchard, Kim Cleveland, Clark Dahl, Larry Dumpprope, Charles Gillespie, Dan Haglin, Marn Longbella, Kathy Lund, Jane Olander, Jerry Rengel, Cheryl Sauer, Pam Seipkes, Randy Snyder, Rick Wise, Dave Evans, Mary Hegre, Lori Johnson, Chris Longbella, Pam Quance, Kathy Tomsich, Natalie Wise and Steve Gardner.

• March 4, 1976 - The Motley Public School today announced its policy for free and reduced-price meals, free milk for children unable to pay the full price of meals and milk served under the national School Lunch, School Breakfast, and Special Milk Programs. The income scale used by Motley Public School to determine eligibility for reduced-price meals during the 1975-76 school year ranges from \$5,040 for a family size of one, to \$20,000 for a family of 12. Each additional family member, \$1,180.

• March 4, 1976 - An organizational meeting was held Feb. 26, at Holm’s Cafe for the official formation of the Calvary Baptist Church of Staples.

The following 10 adults signed the charter: Pastor and Mrs. David Rogers, Mr. and Mrs. Art Green, Mr. and Mrs. Jack Hirschey, Archie Smith, all of Staples, Mr. and Mrs. Gary Bertram of Bertha, and Mrs. Esther McCoy of Motley.

The new pastor, David Rogers, is a graduate of Pillsbury Baptist Bible College of Owatonna and Central Baptist Theological Seminary of Minneapolis.

25 YEARS Ago - 2001

• March 8, 2001 - A city of Staples street department worker got the experience of a lifetime last week.

Bruce Grondahl, snow plow operator for the city, was in the early stages of removing snow from downtown streets about 2:40 a.m. Wednesday. Working near the Batcher building, at the intersection of Hwy 10 and Fifth Street, Grondahl was surprised to see a man come out of a downtown building, approach his road grader and ask for help. The man had been shot.

Grondahl contacted the police officer on duty, Doug Case, who was on the scene in a few minutes and found Antonio Mitchell, 29, slumped over near the Ken’s Photos and Frames building, with two gunshot wounds.

Case was in the process of helping Mitchell into the squad car when Eric Parmlee, 20, came running out of the apartment building at 126 Fifth Street, and stated, “Case, I shot him.”

Since Case was on duty alone and there were no

Driver who is not owner must later produce proof of insurance. Fine \$200. Fee \$85.

Todd County Sheriff

Katelyn Ann Berg, Staples. Liquor consumption by persons under 21 Fine \$100. Fee \$85.

John Christopher Jr. Harrington, Long Prairie. Speed 64/55. Fine \$40. Fee \$85.

Ana Rosa Rodriguez Betancourt, Sauk Centre. Driving after suspension. Fine \$200. Fee \$85.

The following cases were heard before Judge Heidi L. Hovis Seventh District Court in Todd County February 25, 2026.

Miguel Botello Rodriguez, Brainerd. Disorderly conduct. Dismissed. Threaten crime of violence. Dismissed. Disorderly conduct-offensive/abusive/boisterous/noisy/obscene. Dismissed. Domestic assault-commits act to cause fear of immediate bodily harm or death. Supervised probation, 1 yr. Fine \$75. Restitution \$15.36.

Dennis Edward Walsh, Swanville. Ignition interlock violation-not equipped. Continued. Unsupervised probation, 1 yr. Fee \$75.

Dennis Gordon Lee, Staples. Short-barrel shotgun-own, possess,



Mystery photo

Hello readers. This week’s archive photo is from 1976. Do you know who these people are and perhaps the context of the photo? Do you have a memory to share? Email your answers and where you’re from to dtimbs@staplesworld.com by Friday, or call 218-894-1112. The answers will be published in next week’s paper, as well as a new mystery photo.

other officers in the area, he placed Parmlee in the front seat of his squad car and Mitchell in the back. After transporting Mitchell to the hospital, he took Parmlee to the Staples Government Center for questioning.

Parmlee has since been charged with first degree assault and has made two appearances in Todd County District Court in Long Prairie.

Mitchell was initially treated at the Greater Staples Hospital and then transferred to St. Cloud Hospital. He suffered a gun shot wound to each arm, with the bullet that struck the left arm also penetrating into his chest.

• March 8, 2001 - A native of the Staples and Motley area pleaded guilty to a Texas murder and received a 60-year prison sentence in a plea agreement on Feb. 28.

Tom Raper Jr., 30 pleaded guilty to the shotgun slaying of Clifford Espinoza, whose body was found in a

west Texas field Nov. 13. He will have to serve 30 years before being eligible for a parole.

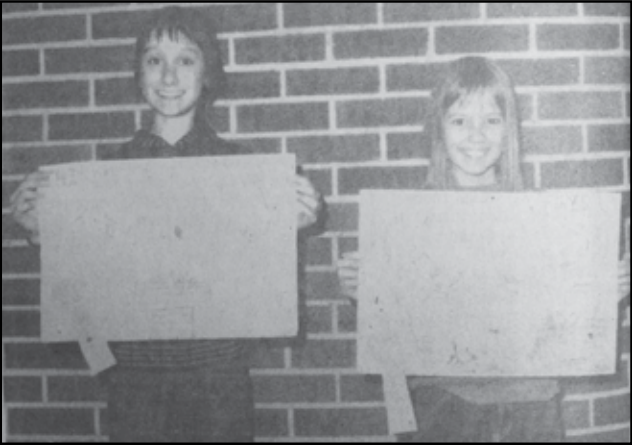
• March 8, 2001 - The Staples Motley girls basketball season came to an end last week with a loss in the first round of the Section 8AA tournament.

The Cardinal girls lost a 60-48 contest to the Wadena-Deer Creek Wolverines in a game that was close through the first half.

“We played a fairly good first half, but in the third quarter they made adjustments and we did not react,” Coach Joe Joerger said.

10 YEARS Ago - 2016

• March 10, 2016 - A picture of Mitch Anderson of Cushing showed him celebrating after reaching the summit of Mount Kilimanjaro in Tanzania, Africa. It took the 30 year old seven days to climb to the top of the mountain which stands 19,341 ft. above sea level.



Mystery solved

Last week’s mystery photo published in the Nov. 11, 1976 edition of the Staples World featured winners in the Fire Prevention Week poster contest held at Motley School. Pictured, from left, Motley School fourth graders Terri Bartle, first prize, and Susan Smith, second prize.

Terri (Bartle) Ekert of Motley called in to say she recognized herself and classmate Susan Smith. She remembers this contest and how exciting it was to win the first place ribbon. She even recalled what she drew on the poster, including a campfire. Terri said she had the newspaper clipping with this photo for many years. To see it again brought back good memories. Thanks for participating in our mystery photo.

FEBRUARY 25

Long Prairie Police

Damayri Mendez Guerroero, Long Prairie. Driving after revocation. Fine \$200. Fee \$85.

Edens JN Noel, Long Prairie. Driving without a valid license for vehicle class or type. Fine \$100. Fee \$85.

Kurt Allister Kent, Verndale. Driving without a valid license for vehicle class or type. Fine \$100. Fee \$85.

Erick Jael Perez Davila, Long Prairie. Speed 41/30. Fine \$50. Fee \$85.

MN State Patrol

Jane Marie Goetze, Bertha. Speed 69/60. Fine F40. Fee \$85.

Samantha Jo Ann Berry, Otsego. Speed 79/70. Fine \$40. Fee \$85.

Yvonne Margo Block, Minneapolis. Speed 80/70. Fine \$40. Fee \$85.

Johmuel Abner Casillas Rodriguez, Long Prairie. No MN Driver’s license. Fine \$100. Fee \$85.

Sira Ann Christians, Parkers Prairie. No Insurance owner. Fine \$200. Fee \$85. No Insurance Driver. Fine \$200.

Victor Giovanni Galicia Mejia, Melrose. Window tint. Fine \$50. Fee \$85.

Timothy Daniel Herrera, Sauk Centre. Driving after cancellation. Fine \$200. Fee \$85.

Ryan Christopher Jensen, Minneapolis. Speed 91/70. Fine \$70. Fee \$155.

Tateana Ashanti Marcelin, Miltona. Speed 80/70. Fine \$40. Fine \$85.

Callaway Mae Neumann, Burnsville. Hands free law. Fine \$50. Fee \$85.

Alexander Thomas Plombon, Coon Rapids. Speed 79/70. Fine \$40. Fee \$85.

Kyle Thomas Punton, Minneapolis. Speed 82/70. Fine \$50. Fee \$85.

Nathaniel Chad Rakotz, Albany. Expired registration. Fine \$30. Fine \$85.

Natasha Whitney Reiger, Cando, ND. Speed 79/70. Fine \$40. Fee \$85.

Zachary Thomas Shanley, Speed 80/70. Fine \$40. Fee \$85.

Shuomang Shi, Fargo, ND. Speed 82/70. Fine \$50. Fee \$85.

Amantur Tala Talaibekov, Southampton, PA. Speed 86/70. Fine \$60. Fee \$85.

Kia Alvina Tarnanen, Buffalo. Hands free law. Fine \$50. Fee \$85.

Austin Anthony Thull, Sauk Centre. Window tint. Fine \$50. Fee \$85.

Noah Jeffrey Vanderbeekm Roy-alton. Speed 82/70. Fine \$50. Fee \$85.

Jean Mary Vogel, Osakis Window restrictions, windshield tinted. Fine \$50. Fee \$85.

Ryan Mitchell Youngbauer, Staples. Speed 65/60. Fine \$40. Fee \$85.

Todd County Sheriff

Emily Rae Anderson, Osakis. Speed 78/60. Fine \$60. Fee \$85.

Jaiden Mark Biley, Breezy Point. Speed 74/60. Fine \$50. Fee \$85.

Emma Rose Boser, Liquor-consumption by persons under 21. Fine \$100. Fee \$75.

Marcerson, Eliacin, Browerville. Driving after suspension. Fine \$200. Fee \$85.

John Christopher Jr. Harrington, Long Prairie. Speed 64/55. Fine \$40. Fee \$85.

Jacob Timothy McKnight, Bertha. Speed 64/55. Fine \$40. Fee \$85.

Juan Josue Melenciano Then, Long Prairie. Speed 65/55. Fine \$40. Fee \$85.

Colleen Loreen Miller, Long Prairie. Speed 74/60. Fine \$50. Fee \$85.

Seth Michael Punsack, St. Martin. Speed 71/55. Fine \$60. Fee \$85.

The following cases were

heard before Judge Dwayne Knutsen Seventh District Court in Todd County February 13, 2026.

Gary Lee Kittelson, III. Assault-5th degree-inflict or attempt bodily harm. Sentenced. Service-Adult (Community work service, 24 hours for indeterminate). Supervised probation, 1 yr. Fine \$500. Fee \$85.

The following cases were heard before Judge Gary R. Larson in Seventh District Court in Todd County February 17, 2026.

Hilaire Beauvoir, Long Prairie. Domestic assault. Dismissed. Disorderly conduct. Sentenced. Local confinement 90 days, stay 0 mo 87 days for 1 yr credit for time served: 3 days). Unsupervised probation, 1 yr. Fine \$125.

Lukas Alexander Kamrowski, Foley. Theft. Sentenced. Local confinement (365 days, stay 308 days for 5 yr credit for time served: 57 days). Supervised probation, 5 yr. Fine \$50.

Ronald Boniface Austing, Freeport. DWI-operate motor vehicle-alcohol concentration 0.08 within 2 hours. Local confinement (90 days, stay 0 yr 0 mo 90 days for 2 yr). Supervised probation, 2 yr. Fine \$475. Fee \$100.

Yulisca Gissel Calzado Robinson, Long Prairie. Driver must carry proof of insurance when operating vehicle. Dismissed. Exceed posted speed in Special Zone set by Commissioner 70/60. Fee \$50.

MARCH 4

Long Prairie Police

Jhoana Altamirano Montanez, Long Prairie. Driving without a valid license for vehicle class or type Fine \$100. Fee \$85. Child passenger restraint system-age 4 or older/booster seat/safety. Fine \$50.

Lori A. Larson, Burnsville. Issuing worthless check. Continued for dismissal. Fee \$30.

Regina Pamela Nisbit, Fayetteville, TN. Driving after suspension. Fine \$200. Fee \$85.

MN Dept. Natural Resources

Craig Allen Blommel, Eagle Bend. ATV-prohibitions on youthful operators/passengers-under 18-helmet required. Fine \$50. Fee \$85.

Reuben James Mathison, Browerville. ATV-Fail to renew registration. Fine \$50. Fee \$85.

Nathan Henry Walter, Villard. Fish and Game-dark house, fishhouse or shelter on ice without license. Fine \$50. Fee \$85.

MN State Patrol

Gelbis Lorenzo Fernandez Diaz, Long Prairie. Speed 91/65. Fine \$100. Fee \$185.

Ryan Dennis Proctor, Battle Lake. Speed 69/60. Fine \$40. Fee \$85.

Junior Desyl, Indianapolis, IN. Speed 76/60. Fine \$60. Fee \$85.

David Andrew Deuel, Avon. Speed 65/55. Fine \$40. Fee \$85.

Dominik Crystal Estrella Becerra, Sauk Centre. Window tint. Fine \$50. Fee \$85.

Alexis Noelle Humphrey, Pine River. Hands free law. Fine \$50. Fee \$85.

Ryan Christopher Jensen, Minneapolis. Speed 91/70. Fine \$70. Fee \$155.

Dexter Joel Leer, Vadnais Heights. Speed 80/70. Fine \$40. Fee \$85.

Cole Thomas Lundahl, Belle Plaines. Speed 80/70. Fine \$40. Fee \$85.

Ethan William McMillian, Lilburn, GA. Speed 95/70. Fine \$70. Fee \$155.

Farah Abdi Mohamud, St. Cloud. Speed 94/70 Dismissed. Hands free law. Fine \$50. Fee \$75.

Callaway Mae Beumann, Burnsville. Hands free law. Fine \$50. Fee \$85.

Positive happenings coming up for Staples this spring

By Ron Murray
Staples Mayor

Hello to the citizens of Staples. Winter is starting to release its grip on us. Warm days and more grass showing up. Also, high school state tournaments of which we have a lot to be excited and proud of in our wrestlers as I write this letter. A special note of accomplishment for our first girl's wrestler to medal at the first state tournament. Congratulations.

As always as I sit down to compose my quarterly letter to all of you, I find that there is plenty going on and much work being prepared in our city. I find much for us to be grateful. We have hired a new staff member who you will see at the city building when you come to pay bills or have questions, Steph Lenk. Welcome her, we are glad to have her. Also, we are interviewing for a replacement for our economic director position now. Soon this spring, you will see the buildings starting to go up in the Valley View neighborhood on north end of town. We are rezoning a parcel between 4th street and 5th street with hopes of some building to be done there as well. We are now set to begin the next stages of the 4th street project with a preconstruction meeting planned and then some public meetings to make sure everyone and especially those directly affected can be kept up to date on the plans. Watch for details.

Our Holiday lights display was viewed by people

in 589 vehicles. A big thank you to all the people who dedicated time to that project. Our community meals at Thanksgiving and Christmas broke a record for donations to assure that the event will be sustainable for future years. Another thanks for the people who worked with that project especially the staff of Timberlake hotel and volunteers. The Polar Express continues to grow in the contents of the event and another good turnout. Our community continues to attempt to bring events in the cold of winter including the Christmas parade , chamber shopping event and Frosty's inaugural winter party. Thanks to all.

Our Staples fire department saved a life in the Hi – rise when a fire started in one of the apartments. Our crew had a quick response time and was able to rescue the tenant from the apartment and he is doing great. We recognized the life-savers at our city council meeting. We also had a serious medical event at our community center and thanks to quick response of Lacey our community center director saved his life and he is also doing well. So much to be proud of with our staff.

Our local chamber of commerce is also doing well and growing members and getting out to educate people on the workings of the chamber. They even have a new office downtown. Located in the Mandi's accounting building. Staffed M-W-F daytime hours. A recent article in the paper spoke in more detail. Check it out.

Our school district is proposing a referendum and Shane Tappe shared the details with community leaders. Addressing a wide range of needs to help our school with safety, aligning, with current education needs. It is a very comprehensive plan that makes sense and is addressing a school structure that is over 50 years old. Deferred maintenance to older existing parts of building. Go to: WWW. SpreadingOurWings.org/tax-impact

We recently voted to go ahead with the sale of our long standing industrial building out on Prairie Avenue with an interested private business.

This is a big year for our community center as we will complete the locker room renovation which started on Jan. 26 and is to be completed by May 26, new exercise equipment has been ordered to replace the current which is over 40 years old. I am hopeful that the community and surrounding area will embrace this new community center and sign up as members. 24 hour access is unique to this center along with all the new updates. I can hardly wait.

I have had the pleasure of meeting several new residents to Staples and all have felt very fortunate to live here. I am giving my “I love Staples “buttons to the new enthusiastic members of our city. I visited with a new member of the Prairie View neighborhood when out for a walk on our walking trail and she said she really enjoys the new

home and is hopeful to get new neighbors soon. Such a nice development there now. I met the new manager of the recently purchased Love Hotel downtown. They are changing the name to the EconoLux hotel. Closed now for preparation for anticipated opening soon. I thanked them for investing in our community in another hotel. As I left, I noticed the lights on and lots of people of all ages at the Taekwondo training building downtown.

I was again asked to speak to the 4th graders of Staples-Motley Elementary about being mayor and answer questions about our city. Some very good questions were asked and we even talked budgets. They suggested a dog park be opened somewhere and a splash pad for the summer. They want a roller coaster at the school. They even suggested starting to fund raise. They were an eager bunch. So good to see such energy in the youth of our city.

I want to challenge everyone to look for the positive aspects of our city and be thankful for all the blessings we have but at the same time if you see a concern let us know and be respectful. We recently had a fire downtown and had to block off the street for a couple of days for safety and reopened as quickly as we could, we heard respectful and disrespectful feedback. A culture of positivity will always win the day as we continue to work towards a better Staples. God Bless you .

Quote of the week

“The story of America is a struggle between our better angels and our worst instincts.”
— Jon Meacham

Pushing for tax changes at state legislature

By Mike Wiener
State Representative

Across the country, policymakers are discussing the federal tax changes often referred to as the “One Big Beautiful Bill,” a phrase popularized by Donald Trump. Regardless of where people stand politically, several provisions in the federal tax plan are clearly designed to help working Americans.

Now the question for Minnesota is simple: Will our state conform to these tax changes so Minnesota workers actually receive the full benefit?

Tax Relief for Working People

Two of the most important provisions are designed specifically for the people who work the hardest.

1. No Tax on Tips

Service workers are the backbone of our hospitality economy, servers, bartenders, delivery drivers, and many others. Tips are often the difference between getting by and getting ahead.

Removing taxes on tips means:

- Workers keep more of the money they actually earn
- Restaurants and service industries become more attractive places to work
- Employees see immediate take-home pay increases

For thousands of Minnesotans who depend on tips, this change could mean real relief in the face of rising costs.

2. No Tax on Overtime

Many hardworking Minnesotans take on overtime to support their families. Under current tax structures, the government takes a large portion of those extra hours.

Eliminating taxes on overtime means:

- Workers keep the full reward for putting in extra time
- Families benefit from higher take-home pay
- Employers gain more flexibility during busy seasons

Simply put, when someone works extra hours, they should keep more of what they earn.

Why Minnesota Must Conform

When the federal government changes tax policy, states must decide whether their tax code will “conform” to those changes. If Minnesota refuses to conform, it could mean:

- Minnesotans still paying state taxes on tips or overtime
- Workers in Minnesota missing out on the full benefit other Americans receive
- A competitive disadvantage compared to neighboring states

If the goal is to support working families, the decision should be straightforward.

Stand With Workers

Minnesota prides itself on valuing hard work. Conforming to these tax changes would send a clear message:

- Work should be rewarded
- Extra effort should not be punished with higher taxes
- Service workers deserve to keep their earnings

At a time when families are facing higher prices for housing, food, and energy, allowing workers to keep more of their own money is one of the most direct ways government can help.

Minnesota workers deserve the same tax relief available to Americans across the country. Conforming to the federal changes in the “One Big Beautiful Bill” would ensure that:

- Tips stay with the worker who earned them
- Overtime actually pays off
- Working families keep more of their paychecks

If Minnesota truly wants to support the people who power our economy, conforming to these tax provisions is the right step forward.

Social Security warns of imposter scams

From SSA

The Social Security Administration (SSA) and its Office of the Inspector General (OIG) are partnering to fight back against Social Security imposter scams for the seventh annual “Slam the Scam” Day on March 5, 2026. The annual event, recognized as part of the Federal Trade Commission’s (FTC) National Consumer Protection Week, raises public awareness on the persistent and growing threat of Social Security impersonation scams that cost Americans hundreds of millions of dollars each year.

Government imposter scams – in which criminals falsely claim to represent SSA or other federal agencies to steal money or personal information – are among the most prevalent fraud schemes in the country. In 2025, the FTC received more than 330,000 complaints involving government impersonation, a 25 percent increase over the prior year. SSA remains one of the most frequently targeted agencies. In response, SSA is taking action through extensive outreach and investigative initiatives.

“All scams – especially imitations of the Social Security Administration – put Americans’ identity and financial security at risk,” said Commissioner Frank J. Bisignano. “National Slam the Scam Day is an important initiative in confronting the fraudsters who

viciously target America’s seniors and most vulnerable. I encourage all Americans to remain vigilant, today and every day, as we work to spread awareness about the danger of scams.”

Criminals use sophisticated tactics to target potential victims into disclosing personal and financial information. Be skeptical and recognize the common red flags. Typically, they use these P’s – Pretend, Prize or Problem, Pressure, and Payment. For example, scammers pretend they are from Social Security in phone calls, texts, emails, websites, or direct messages on social media, claiming there is an issue with the person’s Social Security benefits or Social Security number. The scammer’s caller ID may be spoofed to look like a legitimate government number. Scammers may also send fake documents to pressure people into complying with demands for information or money. Other common tactics include citing “badge numbers,” using fraudulent Social Security letterhead, and creating imposter social media pages to target individuals for payment or personal information.

“Scammers who impersonate the Social Security Administration prey on fear and a false sense of urgency to steal from hardworking Americans, causing real financial harm to individuals and families,” said Michelle L. Anderson, Assistant Inspector General for Audit as First Assistant

performing the duties of the Inspector General. “Awareness is one of the strongest tools we have – we encourage consumers to take an intentional pause when they get a message they weren’t expecting, guard their wallet, verify, and report suspected scams – knowing the red flags can prevent devastating financial losses.”

The Social Security Administration will never tell you that your Social Security number is suspended; contact you to demand an immediate payment; threaten you with arrest; ask for your credit or debit card numbers over the phone; request gift cards or cash; or promise a Social Security benefit approval or increase in exchange for information or money.

Social Security employees do contact the public by telephone for business purposes. Ordinarily, the agency calls people who have recently applied for a Social Security benefit, are already receiving payments and require an update to their record, or have requested a phone call from the agency. If there is a problem with a person’s Social Security number or record, Social Security will typically mail a letter.

To report a scam attempt, go to oig.ssa.gov. For more information, please visit www.ssa.gov/scam and www.ssa.gov/fraud.

More than 80 Minnesota Farmers Union (MFU) members traveled to St. Paul on March 3 for MFU’s Lobby Day.

Members met with nearly 40 policymakers, including Lt. Gov. Peggy Flanagan, Secretary of State Steve Simon, Assistant Attorney General Elizabeth Odette, Agriculture Commissioner Thom Petersen, Department of Natural Resources Commissioner Sarah Strommen, Revenue Commissioner Paul Marquart, Senate Agriculture Committee Chair Aric Putnam and House Agriculture Committee Co-Chair Rick Hansen.

Members spoke to policymakers about four key areas of concern:

- Supporting farmers during this difficult financial time by fully funding the Rural Finance Authority (RFA), and reauthorizing and strengthening the Farmer Lender Mediation program.
- Lowering healthcare costs and improving access, including by expanding public healthcare programs to cover every Minnesotan, capping insurance costs, lowering drug prices, investing in rural Emergency

Medical Services and opposing efforts to privatize healthcare programs.

- Investing in the next generation of farmers by fully funding the Beginning Farmer Tax Credit.
- Expanding programs that fight hunger and support new markets, including the Local Food Purchase Assistance program and Farm to School.

“Thank you to the more than 80 members who took time out of their schedule to come to St. Paul to meet with legislators and other state leaders,” said MFU President Gary Wertish. “Lobby Day is a great opportunity for members to share their concerns with lawmakers and advocate for policies that will help them succeed.”

“When members show up and share their experiences, they strengthen our democracy,” said MFU Vice President Anne Schwagerl. “Lobby Day builds lasting, working relationships between Farmers Union members and the people who represent them. It ensures rural voices are heard where decisions are made and helps shape a state that works for families, farmers and their communities.”

StaplesWorld

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Political debate at Hewitt

The Wadena County Republicans hosted a well-attended candidate forum on Tuesday, March 3, at the Hewitt Community Center for Minnesota House District 5B. Community members filled the room and engaged the candidates with thoughtful questions throughout the evening. Those participating in the forum were Dr. Jon Claussen, Jeremiah

Dwire and Drew Peterson, each seeking the Republican endorsement for House District 5B. Attendees had the opportunity to hear their priorities, learn where they stand on key issues, and interact directly during the Q&A portion. The endorsement will be decided at the March 21 Convention.

Energy assistance available from HHS

From Todd County Health and Human Services

The Energy Assistance Program (EAP) helps pay home heating costs and furnace repairs for income-qualified households. EAP is federally funded by the Department of Commerce and passed through the Minnesota Department

of Health and Human Services. Grants are available for renters or homeowners that reside in Todd County. Services may include payment of energy bills, help with utility disconnections or necessary fuel deliveries, repair or replacement of homeowner's malfunctioning heating systems and extra assistance for house-

holds with a member over 60 to pay their monthly utility bills.

To qualify you must be income eligible – there is no asset limit.

Apply with a paper application or apply online at mn.gov/home

Call 320-732-4516 or 888-838-4066 for more information.

Lakewood Health System to offer free CPR/AED training

Lakewood Health System, Staples, will be offering a free CPR and AED (automated external defibrillator) training to the public on Thursday, March 26, from 6:30 to 7:30 p.m. The training will take place in the lower-level classrooms at Lakewood's Main Campus (49725 Cty. 83 – Staples).

Lakewood EMS (emergency medical services)

and education team members will provide hands-on education and practice on how to perform hands-only CPR, how to confidently use an AED, and what to do in the first critical moments of a cardiac emergency. Join us for a fast, engaging and practical training session that will give attendees real-world skills that could help save a life.

There is no cost to attend the training, no experience is necessary, and people of all ages are encouraged to attend. Note: This training is educational only and does not include CPR certification.

No RSVP is required, but if you have questions, you can call 218-894-8010.

Mark Your Calendar

Menu

Mar. 12

'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 WHIRLAWAYS SQUARE DANCE GROUP DANCING Thursday, Mar. 12, 7 - 9:30 p.m., at St. Michael's Church, 280 1st Ave. S., Motley. Benjamin Stokes, caller. For info., 612-743-3480.

Mar. 13

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.

Mar. 15

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

Mar. 17

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.

Mar. 18

STAPLES ALL VETERANS AND COMMUNITY PARK ASSOCIATION'S MONTHLY MEETING will be held in the lower level of Lakewood Health System, 49725 County 83, Staples, on Wednesday, March 18, at 5:30 p.m. The public is invited to attend. To attend via Zoom, call Bob Hamann at 218-894-3139.

Mar. 24

WADENA COUNTY REPUBLICANS MONTHLY MEETING Tuesday, March 24, 7 p.m. Location change: Meet at the Verndale Community Center, as the Wadena VFW is unavailable. No food will be available.

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 16 - 20

MONDAY - Chicken/dumpings, green beans, diced pear cup, wheat bread, marg., cheesecake brownie, 1% milk.

TUESDAY Chicken broccoli rice casserole, sliced carrots, Gala apple, dinner roll, marg., 1% milk.

WEDNESDAY - Meatlof, baked potato, broccoli, applesauce cup, wheat bread, marg., sour cream, 1% milk.

THURSDAY - Diced turkey/gravy, mashed potatoes, stuffing, whole kernel corn, diced peach cup, dinner roll, marg., 1% milk.

FRIDAY - Potato crunch fish fillet, mashed sweet potatoes, mixed veggies, wheat dinner roll, marg., tartar sauce, snickerdoodle cookie, 1% milk.

wk12



DeCamp selected for honors percussion ensemble

Geoffrey DeCamp was recently chosen to perform in the High School Honors Percussion Ensemble at Minnesota State University Moorhead. Select students were nominated by their band directors and selected for their strong musicianship and technical skills. Under the direction of Dr. Kenyon Williams, the ensemble spent the day rehearsing advanced percussion repertoire, refining techniques, and collaborating with fellow young musicians. Geoffrey's selection reflects his dedication and hard work and the community is proud to celebrate his achievement. (Submitted photo)

Right, DeCamp on the pier at Dower Lake with his drum set.



STAPLES AREA MEN'S CHORUS

With Special Guest - The Staples Area Women's Chorus PRESENTS THEIR SPRING CONCERT:

Let There Be Peace ON EARTH

TICKETS: \$25

PRESALE TICKETS ONLY!
BUY BEFORE MARCH 18!

Concert starts 7:00 p.m.

Doors Open 6:00 p.m.

THE TIMBERS EVENT CENTER
1220 2nd Ave. NE, Staples
MARCH 21, 2026

TICKETS AVAILABLE AT THESE BUSINESSES, ANY SAMC MEMBER OR Scan the Code

Staples Ace Hardware,
Motley Hardware, Motley

Staplesmen.org
Eagle Bend Farm & Lumber Supply

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Out-of-State: \$63.

Foreign: on-line only

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On-Line: \$50

Print with on-line: \$76

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207 4th St. NE
Staples, MN 56479
218-894-1112
www.staplesworld.com

Staples World

Easter Egg Hunt

AT STAPLES ALLIANCE CHURCH

Saturday, April 5th 9-11 AM

Family Fun Event for All Ages

Bounce house, Face Painting, Crafts, Food, Program

DEADLINE

for all classified ads and copy is 12 noon Friday

For the Staples World

THE NOBLEST GIFT GOD HAS GIVEN

A DEAF MISSIONS FILM

JESUS

Staples Alliance Church
1512 Nth 8th St. Staples MN

Join us for this special Feature
March 13th, 2026 @ 6pm

Admission: Free

GENERAC

#1 standby generator worldwide.

Get whole-home power, automatically.

Call 855-984-8982 to schedule your free quote today!

*Terms & conditions apply

Hello World

BIRTHS REMOVED AT THE REQUEST OF LAKEWOOD HEALTH SYSTEM.

Motley School Faculty/Staff reunion May 1

A Motley School Faculty/Staff Reunion will be held Friday, May 1, at Pine Ridge Golf Course in Motley, 4 - 9 p.m.

The reunion is open to all faculty, staff, school board members, etc., who worked at the school building in Motley at any time (Motley Elementary, Motley High School, or Motley Staples Middle School). It will be a time of fun and reminiscing.

For information about the meal cost and to RSVP by April 1, text 218-296-1461 or email madsonb60@yahoo.com. Spouse/significant others welcome.

Obituaries

Kelly Etzler

Kelly Dean Etzler, “Tater,” 58, of Menahga, passed away unexpectedly from a heart attack February 24, 2026.

A service and celebration of life will take place at a later date.

Kelly was born March 6, 1967 to Adolph (Bud) and June (Stroman) Etzler in Little Falls. He grew up on the family farm in Lincoln. Alongside his dad and 11 siblings, Kelly helped run the family sawmill and planer. He developed skills in welding, mechanic work and excavating. Kelly’s spare time was spent building and racing demolition derby cars.

Kelly married Jamie Delores Haataja Juntti on September 20, 2003. Together, they made their home in Menahga where they were blessed with six children and started their own family farm.

Kelly enjoyed spending time hunting and teaching his children the skill and traditions. He was a talented craftsman who enjoyed blacksmith, crafting knives, woodworking and tending bees. He cherished being surrounded by those he loved.

He worked for several years at Renneberg Hardwoods, at Arvig and recently began his own excavating



business, Northland Clearing. He served on the Runeberg Township, Park Rapids Fair and the Relay Church boards.

Kelly is survived by his wife of 22 years, Jamie; six children, Ava, Malina, William, Ana, Charlie and Alise; nine siblings, Donald Etzler, Roger (Teresa) Etzler, Mike Etzler, Phyllis Plattner, Lois (Dwayne) Walters, Mark (Sheila) Etzler, Tom (Jeanine Johnson) Etzler, Nancy (Scott) Purington and Tony (Niki Carlson) Etzler and several nieces and nephews.

He was preceded in death by his parents; one brother, Paul Etzler; one brother-in-law, Thomas Carlson; grandparents and several aunts and uncles.

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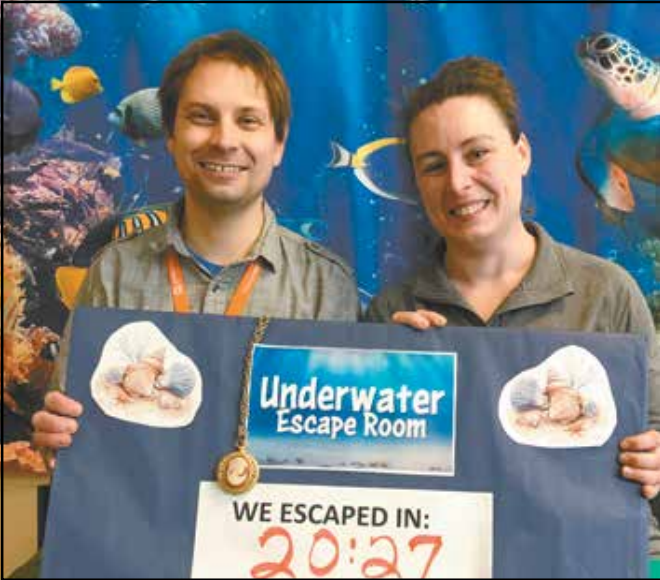
Timothy Mikish

Timothy Allen Mikish
Born November 3, 1956, died January 27, 2026.

This obituary has been written to honor Tim’s wishes. A celebration of life gathering will be held at a later date at the home of Bill and Vickie Busker.

A private burial will be held at the Motley Public Cemetery.

w12p A00006B2026MA11



Benjamin and Stacy Underhill

More Escape Room participants

The Underwater Escape Room at the Staples Public Library was completed Feb. 28. The Escape Room was sponsored by the Staples Friends of the Library. (Submitted photos)



Ron and Mary Murray (left); James and Kathy Rutten

Staples Area Church Directory

Staples

Staples Alliance

1512 8th St. NE, Staples218-894-2891
Jonny Olson, Associate Pastor
Sunday Worship.....9:30 a.m.
Sunday 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 Jersek
218-894-0033
Saturday Worship.....9:30 am.
Sabbath School.....10:45 a.m.

Thomastown Covenant

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

Trinity Lutheran

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

United Methodist

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

Aldrich

Balsamlund Lutheran

19550 490th Street, Aldrich
Janet Eckman 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

Cty. Rds, 7 and 9, Oylen
218-472-3440 or 218-472-3316
Pastor Neal Malcore
Sunday School.....10:00 a.m.
Sunday Worship.....11:00 a.m.

Pillager

First Lutheran Church

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

Casino Assembly of God

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

First Baptist

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

Hewitt

Church of the Nazarene

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

Trinity Lutheran Church (LCMS)

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

Hewitt Community Church

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

Verndale

Verndale Alliance

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

Family Life Church

402 NE Clark Drive, Verndale 218-445-5568
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. (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.

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***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

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Cardinals deliver in first playoff game

By Mark Anderson
Managing Editor

The Staples-Motley boys basketball team reached the section semifinals with a 73-50 win over Thief River Falls on March 7.

“Our goal all season has been to hold teams to 50 points or less and so to do that in a playoff game in the biggest game of the season so far was great to see,” said Coach Zack Qual.

The Cardinals next face Osakis on Wednesday, March 11, at 7:45 p.m. at the Concordia College gym in Moorhead. The other semifinal, played right before the Staples-Motley game, will be East Grand Forks against Perham. The section championship is Friday, March 13 at 8 p.m., also at Concordia.

The game against Thief River Falls started out with Staples-Motley racing ahead. Their first shot was a three point play by Josiah Burton. Eli Rutten hit a couple of three pointers, Avandre Brandt was getting to the basket, Noah Larson was clearing the rebounds and Conner Kuhns was pushing the pace and putting TRF on their heels.

Staples-Motley pulled ahead by 20 in the first half.

“It feels amazing to have a run like that,” said Larson.

But it didn’t last, TRF started coming back by getting aggressive on offense and keeping the Cardinals away from the basket. They eventually cut the lead to six.

“Our energy was low,” said Brandt.

Staples-Motley started building their lead again, with Brandt getting some crucial baskets when the team needed them. He was 3 of 6 on three point shots and made all eight of his free throws.

Brandt said he wasn’t looking to make the big baskets, he was just playing within the offense.

“I play in the moment, I let it flow to me,” said Brandt.

At halftime, the Cardinals reassessed what allowed TRF to cut into their lead.

“We changed our game plan and started taking away their drives,” said Burton.

“We adjusted and ran it really well,” said Larson.

The Cardinals had a size advantage in this game and many of those drives ended up with Burton swatting away a shot.

“I felt like Diekembe” (Mutumbo), a famous NBA shot blocker, said Burton.



Conner Kuhns runs the show.

He ended with six blocks on the stats sheet, but he prevented many more attempts from going in.

The size advantage worked on offense also, not just for scoring. Burton drew a lot of attention when he got the ball down low, allowing him to pass to teammates.

“I like to pass,” said Burton, “if I don’t have anything, then I’m looking for cutters.”

With the defense back on track, the Cardinals built their lead up to 20 points again in the second half before playing the reserves for the final minutes.

Section semifinals

Staples-Motley defeated Osakis 63-59 in a game earlier this season. It was a hotly contested game against a team with some great players and great athletes.

“Osakis is really tough and beating them twice in a season is a tall task,” said Qual. “They have two really talented guys in Andrew Jones and Trenton VanNyhuis with some nice pieces around those guys that we will have to be ready to slow

down.”

“That will be another defensive game, we have to hold them on defense,” said Brandt.

“Our guys have played a lot of basketball the last few seasons and they’ve played in some big games throughout their athletic career so I am excited to watch them compete in another one of those,” said Qual. “We’re going to work hard to get the prepared for what Osakis does and then be ready to go on Wednesday.”

“We put the work in and achieve our goal,” said Larson. “Like our coach tells us, ‘sometimes you, sometimes me, always us.’”

Team results

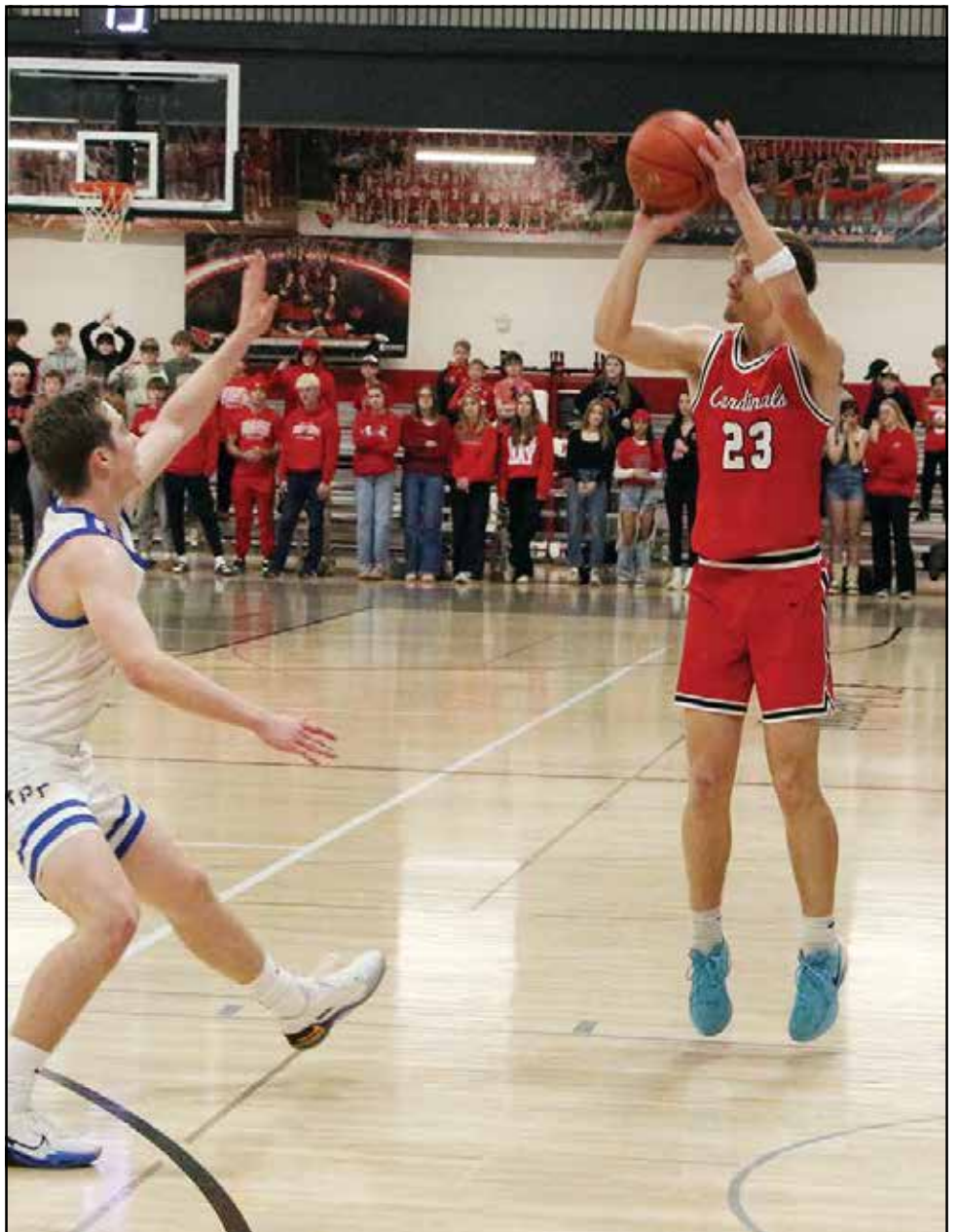
Staples-Motley 73, Thief River Falls 50

Scoring: Avandre Brandt 23, Eli Rutten 14, Josiah Burton 11, Noah Larson 8, Conner Kuhns 6, Carter Sarbaum 5, Areyu Eagle Tail 3, Tyson Turner 2, John Schotzko 1

Rebounds: Larson 11, Burton 11, Brandt 7, Rutten 4, Sarbaum 2, Kuhns 2

Assists: Kuhns 7, Brandt 4, Rutten 3, Burton 2, Larson 1, Evan Schultz 1

Steals: Brandt 3, Rutten 2, Burton 1, Kuhns 1



Eli Rutten puts up a deep three point shot



Carter Sarbaum cuts in for a layup.



Avandre Brandt reaches high for a score



Big game, big atmosphere

Staples-Motley cheerleaders get the crowd going during the playoff basketball game. (Staples World photos by Mark Anderson)

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The Staples World office, 207 4th St. NE, Staples open every weekday, 8 a.m. - noon.
•For afternoon availability, call 218-894-1112.
Regular advertising and copy deadline is Friday, noon.
The office closes at noon on Friday.

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*Thomas Sellnow is a Real Property Law Specialist certified by Real Property Section of Minnesota State Bar Association.
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SW 2024 changed wk #3



Murals at Legacy Gym highlight athletic hall of fame

Left, Sara and Josh Goble of Digital Ink Design start the process of putting up the new Staples-Motley Athletic Hall of Fame mural at the entrance to the Legacy Gym, with the help of Mike Hajek of the hall of fame committee. Below, the finished mural that features hall of fame swimmer Del Cerney diving out of the sky, surrounded by his fellow hall of famers. The murals were completed in January, in time for the several basketball games and the section wrestling meet in February. (Staples World photos by Mark Anderson)



Public Notices

NOTICE MORAN TOWNSHIP ELECTION AND MEETING

Notice is hereby given to the qualified voters of Moran Township, County of Todd, State of Minnesota that the Annual Election of Town Officers and Annual Town Meeting will be held on Tuesday, March 10, 2026 at the Moran Town Hall.

The Election Poll hours will be open from 5 p.m. to 8 p.m., at which time the voters will elect:

One (1) Supervisor for a three (3) year term
(Alan Halbersma or Write-in)

One (1) Treasurer for a two (2) year term
(Connie Becker or Write-in)

The Board of Canvass will meet March 10, 2026 at 8 p.m. to certify the official election results.

The Annual Meeting will commence at 3 p.m. to conduct all necessary business prescribed by law.

Diane Mack, Clerk
Moran Township

11-12pnc

NOTICE OLD WADENA SOCIETY ANNUAL MEETING/ELECTION OF BOARD MEMBERS

Old Wadena Society will hold their Annual Meeting and Election of Board Members Sunday April 12, 2026 at the Pirate's Den, Verndale, MN starting at 11:00 a.m.

Meal on your own; short meeting following around 12:00 p.m.

There will be a vote on a Board approved addition to the By-Laws followed by guest speaker, Nikki Rattila speaking on "The Women of the Fur Trade."

This meeting is open to the Public.

Lora Foust, Secretary
Old Wadena Society

12pnc

NOTICE MAY TOWNSHIP ANNUAL MEETING

The May Township Annual meeting will be held on Tuesday, March 10, 2026 7:00 p.m. at the May Township Hall.

Bianca Wyffels, Clerk
May Township

11-12pnc

TODD COUNTY BOARD OF ADJUSTMENT

215 First Ave. South
Long Prairie,
Minnesota 56347
320-732-4420

toddplan.zone@co.todd.mn.us

PUBLIC NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that on **Thursday, March 26, 2026 at 6:00 p.m.** the Todd County Board of Adjustment will hold a public hearing in the Commissioner's board room, 215 1st Ave South, Suite 301, Long Prairie, Minnesota.

NOTE: This meeting is again being held in-person and the public is encouraged to attend. Those who do attend in person can find parking atop the hill on the west side of the Historic Courthouse and enter through the north doors, near the American Flag and monument.

Questions? Call or email 320-732-4420 or toddplan.zone@co.todd.mn.us

Agenda

- Call to Order
- Pledge of Allegiance
- Introduction of Board of Adjustment Members and process review
- Approval of agenda
- Approval of January 22, 2026 Board of Adjustment's meeting minutes
- The applicant is introduced
- Staff report
- Applicant confirms if staff report accurately represents the request
- Site Visit Review
- Public comment

•Board review with applicant, staff, and public

1. Mathew Parker: Sections 13, 18 and 19, Birchdale Township, Long Lake

Site Address: 11899 Bluegill Dr., Sauk Centre, MN 56378

PID: 03-0072000

1. Request to reduce the lake setback from 150' to 90.3' for a dwelling addition
2. Request to reduce the lake setback from 150' to 90.3' for the addition of an attached garage
3. Request to increase the height limit from 18' to 28' for non-conforming dwelling addition all in Natural Environment Shoreland Zoning District.

2. Paul Hartmann: Section 08, Little Sauk Township, Maple Lake

Site Address: 19129 181st Ave., Long Prairie, MN 56347

PID: 17-0050300

1. Request to reduce the lake setback from 100' to 87' for the construction of an attached garage in Recreational Development Shoreland Zoning District.

3. Vertical Bridge - Alex Trueman: Section 27, Iona Township

Site Address: 290th Street, Browerville, MN 56348

PID: 13-0025100

1. Request to decrease the required setback from 230' to 82' 6" for proposed construction of a communications tower in AF-1 Zoning District.

Adjournment.
Next meeting: April 23, 2026

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

Todd County Board of Adjustment
Russell Vandenheuvel,
Chair

11pnc

(ABBREVIATED ADVERTISEMENT)

TODD COUNTY HIGHWAY SAFETY IMPROVEMENT PROJECTS Closing date: March 31, 2026

Sealed bids will be accepted until 10:00 a.m., March 31, 2026 by the Todd County Public Works Director/Engineer and County Auditor/Treasurer at 44 Riverside Drive, Long Prairie, Minnesota 56347 for the following construction projects:

**SP 077-070-017
6-Inch Ground-In Wet Reflective Multi-Component Edge Lines
Various County Roadways (12.5 miles)**

This is an abbreviated advertisement. A full advertisement can be viewed by going to the Public Works website at <https://mn-co-todd.app.rtvision.com/oneoffice/bidding>.

Loren Fellbaum
Todd County Public Works
Director/Engineer

11-13pnc

(ABBREVIATED ADVERTISEMENT)

TODD COUNTY 2026 PAVEMENT MARKING PROJECT Closing date: March 31, 2026

Sealed bids will be accepted until 10:00 a.m., March 31, 2026 by the Todd County Public Works Director/Engineer at 44 Riverside Drive, Long Prairie, Minnesota 56347 for the following construction project:

**C.P. 77-26-03
Pavement Marking Application
Various County Highways (262.58 miles)**

This is an abbreviated advertisement. A full advertisement can be viewed by going to the Public Works website at <https://mn-co-todd.app.rtvision.com/oneoffice/bidding>.

Loren Fellbaum
Todd County Public Works
Director/Engineer

11-13pnc

(ABBREVIATED ADVERTISEMENT)

TODD COUNTY 2026 GRAVEL SURFACING PROJECT Closing date: March 31, 2026

Sealed bids will be accepted until 10:00 a.m., March 31, 2026 by the Todd County Public Works Director/Engineer and County Auditor/Treasurer at 44 Riverside Drive, Long Prairie, Minnesota 56347 for the following construction projects:

CP 26:88

CP 26:93

This is an abbreviated advertisement. A full advertisement can be viewed by going to the Public Works website at <https://mn-co-todd.app.rtvision.com/oneoffice/bidding>.

Loren Fellbaum
Todd County Public Works
Director/Engineer

11-13pnc

STATE OF MINNESOTA COUNTY OF TODD DISTRICT COURT SEVENTH JUDICIAL DISTRICT PROBATE DIVISION

Court File
No. 77-PR-26-214

**In Re: Estate of
Gary R. Mueller,
Decedent**

NOTICE OF AND ORDER FOR HEARING ON PETITION FOR FORMAL ADJUDICATION OF INTESTATE AND DETERMINATION OF HEIRS AND APPOINTMENT OF PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE AND NOTICE TO CREDITORS.

It is Ordered and Notice is given that on April 13, 2026 at 10:14 A.M., a hearing will be held in this Court at 221 1st Ave. S., Long Prairie, Minnesota, on a petition

for the formal adjudication of intestacy and determination of heirs and for the appointment of Randy Mueller, whose address is 416 4th St. NE, Staples, MN 56479, as personal representative of the Decedent's estate in an unsupervised administration.

The hearing will be an administrative hearing, and your appearance is not required. If there is an objection to this petition, you will be notified of another date and time.

Any objections to the petition must be raised at the hearing or filed with the Court prior to the hearing. If the petition is proper and no objections are filed or raised, the personal representative will be appointed with the full power to administer the Decedent's estate, including the power to collect all assets, pay all legal debts, claims, taxes, and expenses; sell real and personal property; and do all necessary acts for the Decedent's estate.

Notice is further given that, subject to Minn. Stat. § 524.3-801, all creditors having claims against the Decedent's estate are required to present the claims to the personal representative or to the Court within four (4) months after the date of this notice or the claims will be barred.

Dated: March 4, 2026

BY THE COURT

Heidi Hovis,
Judge of District Court

Kim Peterson
Court Administrator

SKOOG LAW
Grant K. Skoog
MN# 0403246
24 Colfax Ave. SW
PO Box 623
Wadena, MN 56482
Telephone: (218) 631-1228
E-mail:
Grant@Skooglaw.com

ATTORNEY FOR PETITIONER

12-13pnc



CONGRATULATIONS!



TEAM CHAMPIONS

Front row from left, coaches Holton Truax and Jim Jackson, manager Avery Japke, wrestlers Justin Olson, Luke Bjerga, Colbe Tappe, Riley Reese, Turner Beachy, Caden Kramer, Jayden Rodgers, coaches Dan Bjerga and Eric Kramer; back row, coaches Steve Jennissen and Chris Dobson, managers Livia Trif and Summer Anderson, wres-

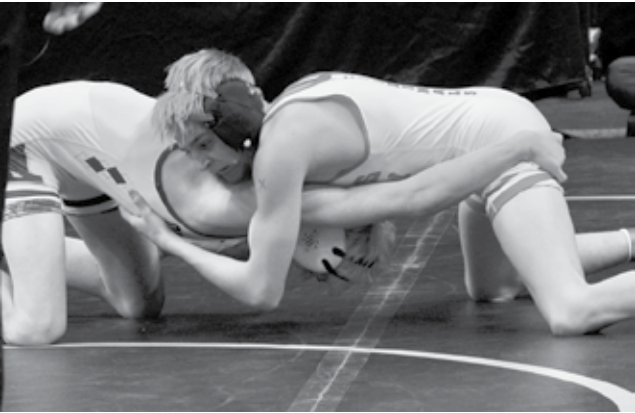
tlers Cooper Tappe, Garrett Bjerga, Gage Bjerga, Beau Carlson, Elijah Greenwaldt, Zach Tabatt, Adrian Gomez, Cayden Niesen, Reece Headley, Jackson Odden, Philip Rapp, Camrick Tappe, Seth Cossentine, coaches Shane Tappe and Mark Carlson



Cardinals on Minnesota All-Tournament Team: (back row in white) Colbe Tappe, Elijah Greenwaldt, Luke Bjerga; front row, Garrett Bjerga, Gage Bjerga.



Staples-Motley 60, Kenyon-Wanamingo 9
Staples-Motley 63, Jackson County Central 3
Staples-Motley 41, Chatfield 14



Staples World photos by Mark Anderson

These area businesses support the Cardinal Wrestling team in their excellent season and as the 2026 State Wrestling Champions

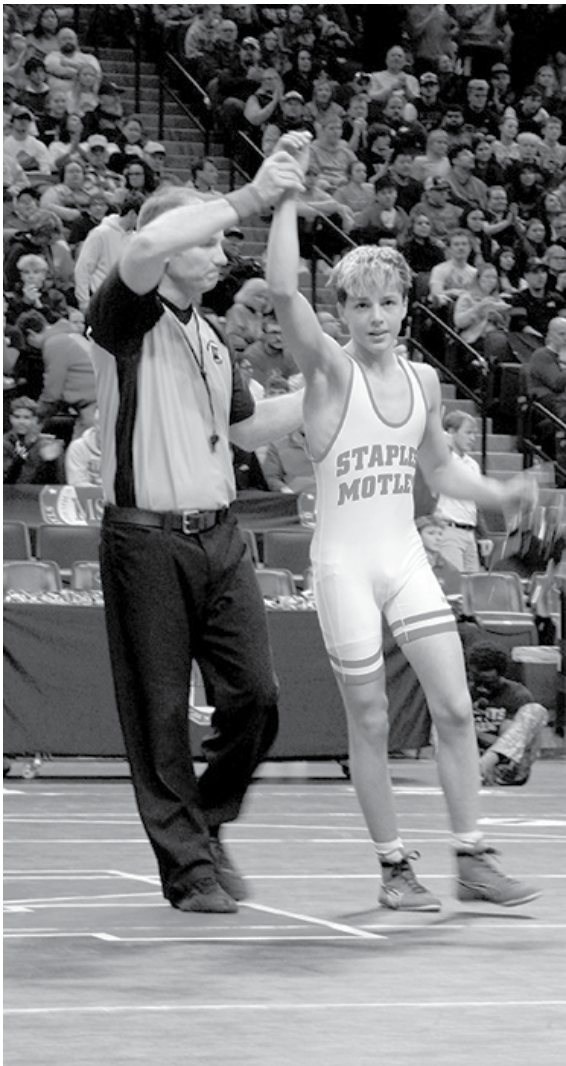
Essentia Health, Staples Clinic
Jon's Family Foods
Giza Plumbing and Heating
Ideal Construction
Staples Ace Hardware
Todd-Wadena Electric
Cooperative
Lakewood Health System
Staples Auto License Bureau
National Insurance Brokers,
Veronen Agency
Brichacek Stone
Still Lefty's

Central Building Supply
Elite Title & Escrow
Edina Realty - Nikki Bjerga
First International Bank
and Trust
Simplicity Salon
Edina Realty - Sandy Knosalla
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DQ Staples and Motley
State Farm Insurance -
Daniel Douts
Ernie's Food Market
Twin Cities Orthopedics

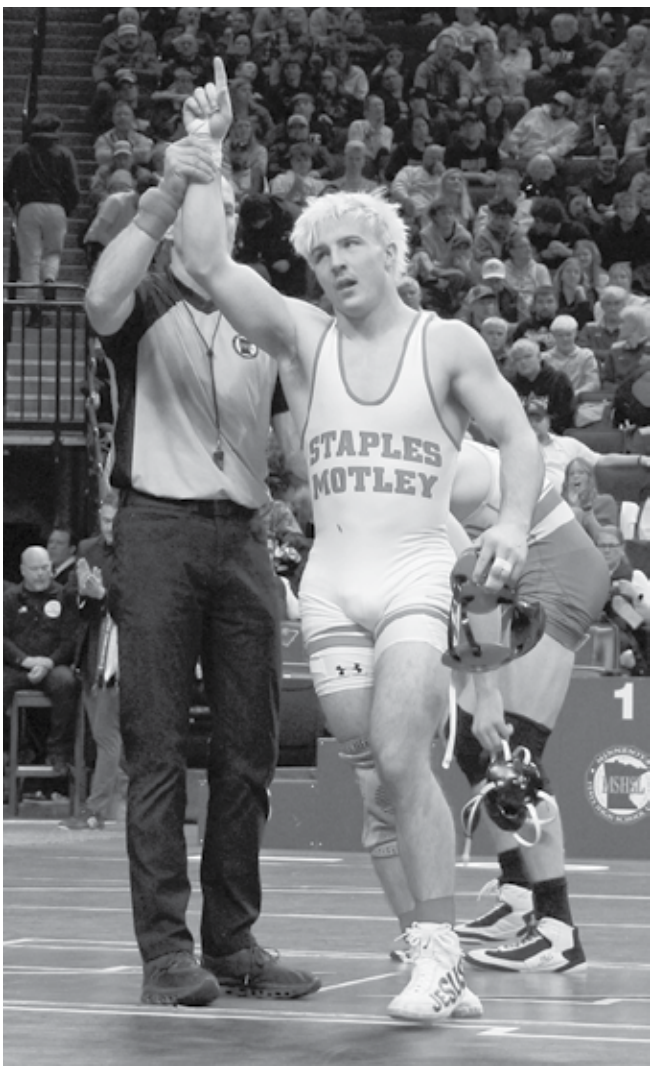
Stomping Grounds
Orth Insurance
Mandi's Accounting Services
Magic Forest Preschool
and Daycare
Spot Cafe
Unity Bank
Beck's Burger Co.
Old 10 Apparel
3M
Tower Pizza
Stern Rubber
Staples World



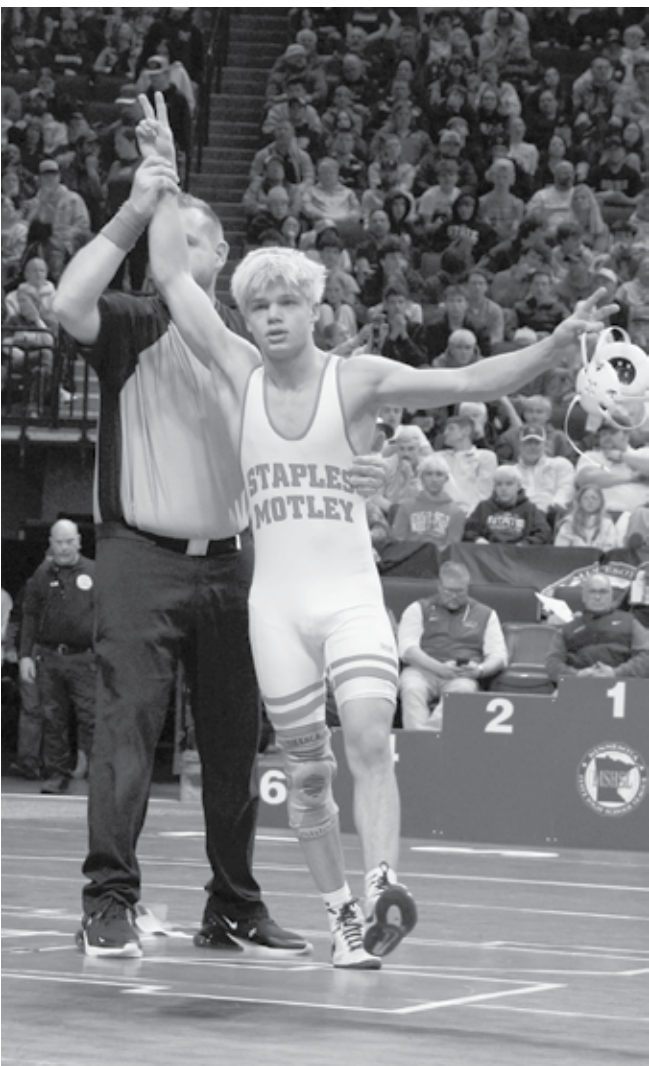
★CONGRATULATIONS!★
STATE MEDAL WINNERS



Garrett Bjerga: state champion



Colbe Tappe: state champion



Gage Bjerga: state champion



Elijah Greenwaldt: 2nd place



Caden Kramer: 3rd place



Luke Bjerga: 6th place



Cayden Niesen: 4th place



Riley Reese:
4th place



Zach Tabatt: 4th place



Adrian Gomez: 4th place

Staples-Motley seniors wrestling records 2026, career

Turner Beachy 17-7, career 142-49
Luke Bjerga 28-6, career 121-55
Adrian Gomez 43-8, career 110-62
Eli Greenwaldt 41-6, career 199-38
Riley Reese 43-15, career 151-101
Colbe Tappe 46-1, career 258-22
Total of 981 wins
75% win percentage



Thank you, Staples-Motley wrestling families and fans!

Staples World photos by Mark Anderson

These area businesses support the Cardinal Wrestling individuals and state placers.

Essentia Health, Staples Clinic
Jon's Family Foods
Giza Plumbing and Heating
Ideal Construction
Staples Ace Hardware
Todd-Wadena Electric
Cooperative
Lakewood Health System
Staples Auto License Bureau
National Insurance Brokers,
Veronen Agency
Brichacek Stone
Still Lefty's

Central Building Supply
Elite Title & Escrow
Edina Realty - Nikki Bjerga
First International Bank
and Trust
Simplicity Salon
Edina Realty - Sandy Knosalla
STEP
DQ Staples and Motley
State Farm Insurance -
Daniel Douts
Ernie's Food Market
Twin Cities Orthopedics

Stomping Grounds
Orth Insurance
Mandi's Accounting Services
Magic Forest Preschool
and Daycare
Spot Cafe
Unity Bank
Beck's Burger Co.
Old 10 Apparel
3M
Tower Pizza
Stern Rubber
Staples World

Congratulations!

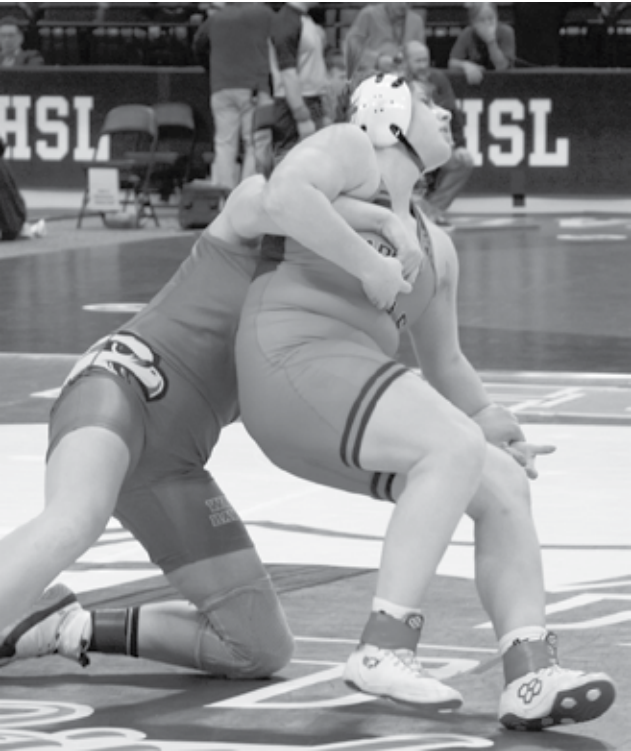
State pioneers: the first three Staples-Motley girls to wrestle at the state tournament



Annika Tureson: 1 win



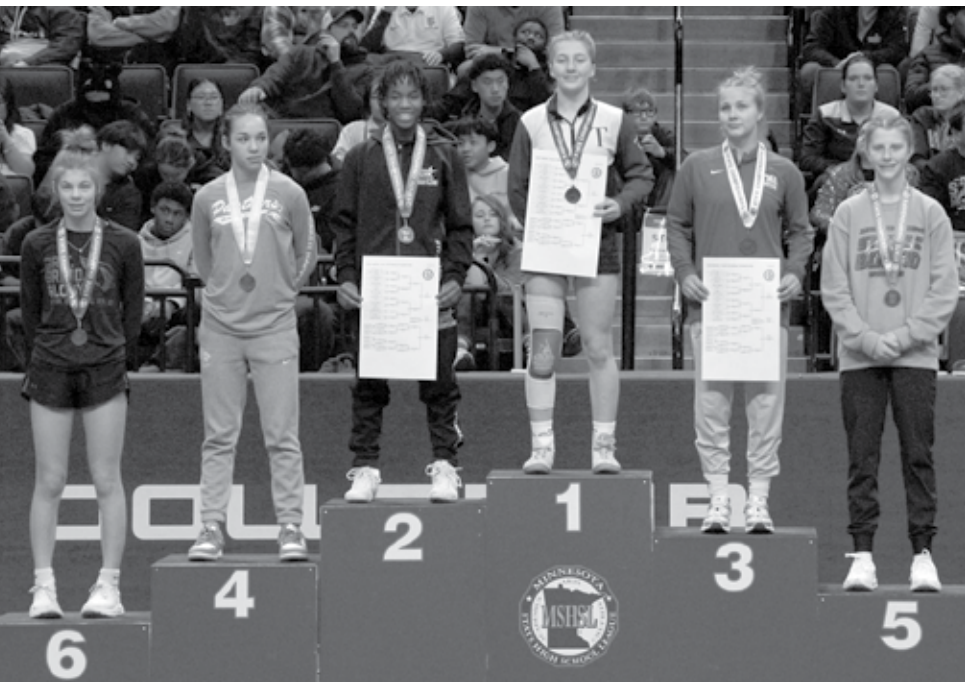
Kana Reese: 1 win



Leah Greenwaldt: 6th place



Thank you, Staples-Motley girls wrestling fans!



Staples World photos by Mark Anderson

These area businesses support the Cardinal Girls Wrestling Team and Individuals on their exemplary season.

Essentia Health, Staples Clinic Jon's Family Foods Giza Plumbing and Heating Ideal Construction Staples Ace Hardware Todd-Wadena Electric Cooperative Lakewood Health System Staples Auto License Bureau National Insurance Brokers, Veronen Agency Brichacek Stone Still Lefty's	Central Building Supply Elite Title & Escrow Edina Realty - Nikki Bjerga First International Bank and Trust Simplicity Salon Edina Realty - Sandy Knosalla STEP DQ Staples and Motley State Farm Insurance - Daniel Douts Ernie's Food Market Twin Cities Orthopedics	Stomping Grounds Orth Insurance Mandi's Accounting Services Magic Forest Preschool and Daycare Spot Cafe Unity Bank Beck's Burger Co. Old 10 Apparel 3M Tower Pizza Stern Rubber Staples World
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Atreyu Eagle Tail hits a three point shot.



Josiah Burton walls up on defense.



Staples-Motley fans packed The Nest for the playoff basketball game.



Kody Dause



Tyson Turner cateches up to a long pass.



John Schotzko

Key environmental agency chooses denial over facts

These can be confusing times for those who believe that the trajectory of scientific knowledge and its application move more or less in forward, positive directions. Not that science does not sometimes take sidetracks, and even make wrong turns from time to time. But, for the most part, the path of science is generally a path of progress and understanding.

Of course, when things go wrong it may not be science that makes the wrong turns. Sometimes it's what individuals and the instruments of policy and governance do with science that leads to those wrong turns.

Over several recent months there has been both regulatory action and policy announcements from the federal government that signal what many believe to be a wrong turn. In particular, in a major shift in our nation's environmental policy. Notable was the announcement in February by the federal Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) that it is reversing a stance the agency has held since 2009. The position it is abandoning is that unregulated exhaust emissions from sources like motor vehicles, power plants, industry, and oil and gas production endanger public health and welfare.

That stance over a period of 16 years was based on findings that carbon dioxide and other components of exhaust emissions collect in the atmosphere, trap sunlight, and are leading to ever-higher average global temperatures. Global warming, leading to climate change, to be more specific.

Current EPA administrators have now taken the new regulatory position that these so-called "greenhouse gases" are not air pollution of the kind the agency is charged to regulate, because they don't threaten immediate public health through direct exposure. The danger is claimed to be indirect and cumulative, unlike such immediate threats as toxic gases or suspended pollutants.

In February the EPA announced its new position that the Clean Air Act of 1963 does not give it authority to regulate emissions from vehicle and other exhaust emissions based on their potential contribution to global warming, and ultimately to climate change.

What we have already seen in EPA's new position is a suspension of the emission standards for coming years that motor vehicle makers were going to be required to meet. The present administration claims that by relieving this burden on vehicle manufacturers their production costs will go down, and thus also will costs to consumers.

Given the fact that emission standards and fuel consumption often go hand in hand, it is likely that progress in improving motor vehicle fuel economy will come to a standstill, an outcome that should be a net benefit only for oil producers.

This is consistent with the administration's position of encouraging fossil fuel production, articulated in a now-familiar "drill, baby drill" declaration. Consistent, also, with the widely-publicized description of global warming and climate change as "a hoax." This, despite the fact that multiple climatological sources confirm not just a steady rise in average global temperatures since the 1980's, but that the years 2023, 2024, and 2025, were the three warmest on record.

The motor vehicle industry will be the first and most direct beneficiary of the new EPA stance that it has no authority to regulate greenhouse gases. But, it is widely expected that in the months to come this EPA "can't regulate" position will also be applied to emissions of U.S. power plants, energy-intensive industries,

and oil and gas production.

Equally revealing, this EPA regulatory reversal was preceded in 2025 by the administration's elimination of previous tax incentives for electric vehicle purchase and use, and for alternative energy production from wind, solar, and other sources. Not to mention withdrawal of the U.S. from participation in worldwide climate change initiatives, notably the 2015 Paris Agreement.

Science has unfortunately become a political football, with politicians and leaders adopting and promoting positions they think will make points, or capture votes. It involves issues as disparate as climate science, the safety of vaccines in fighting diseases, and even such surprising things as whether U.S. astronauts actually landed on the moon!

I recall a past Minnesota governor who embraced the fight against climate change when he held that office in St. Paul, but suddenly became a climate science skeptic when he was seeking the nomination for the U.S. presidency. It's called bending with the political wind.

There is a difference between compromise and denial. Compromise is an acknowledgement that—despite the facts—we might have to settle for less than what we think is ideal. Denial is refusing to see or to acknowledge facts, including—in this case—the facts of science.



Mike Rahn

