Inside this issue:

Motley City Council attorney policy
New opportunities for hunters
Girls wrestling prepares for section meet
First place for speech team

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Wednesday, February 5, 2025 Staples World Staples, Minnesota $1.25

Big scoreboard generates the hype The new scoreboard at The Nest has been playing "hype videos" before the player introductions at games. Staples-Motley Activities Director Josh Lee told the school board that the opposing teams have been taking notice of the videos. "They are saying 'I want that,'" said Lee. Pictured above, the Pequot Lakes team views the boys basketball video. Below, the Frazee girls take in the hype video. (Photos by Mark Anderson)



Calls trending up for Staples Fire Department

By Mark Anderson
Managing Editor

The Staples Fire Department had the same number of calls in 2024, 95, as they did in 2023, but there is still a five year history of increasing calls.

At the Jan. 28 Staples City Council meeting, Fire Chief Cold Yungbauer said they are called to more fire alarms and car crashes over the past five years.

In 2024, the Staples Fire Department was called to 22 vehicle crashes, 14 grass fires and seven structure fires. They had 14 calls to provide mutual aid to neighboring fire departments.

Yungbauer said the department has four new firefighters who have started trainig and two who completed training and are on the squad. There is one retirement this year, Scott Braith has been on the department for 27 years, including several as fire chief.

The council approved fire officers for this year, Chief Cole Yungbauer, 1st Assistant Chief Blake Gerard, 2nd Assistant Chief Scott Meech, 3rd Assistant Chief Brandon Brusewitz and Safety Officer Wayne Storry.

The council also approved a resolution accepting a donation from the Staples Fire Relief Association to purchase firefighting equipment.

In other news, the council

• Approved hazard mitigation grant to build a storm shelter at the Dower Lake Recreation Area.

• Heard from Parks and Recreation Advisory Board meeting that the city has collected $300,000 in sales tax to fix up the Staples Community Center, so they will start rennovations soon.

• Heard from Planning and Zoning Commission meeting about revising the sign ordinance, including temporary signs so that they can still be placed in the city without becoming a public nuisance or safety hazard.

• Noted the passing of Dr. John Gorton, who was involved with the city for close to 50 years, working with community services, forest beautification and pars and recreation.

Weather

2025
This Week's Forecast

	High	Low	Cond.
Feb. 6	19	1	Snow
Feb. 7	7	-6	Cloudy
Feb. 8	15	5	P. Sunny
Feb. 9	20	1	Snow
Feb. 10	16	-5	M. Sunny
Feb. 11	10	-11	M. Sunny
Feb. 12	8	-5	P. Cloudy

Last Year, 2024

	High	Low	Cond.
Feb. 6	46°	34	Sunny
Feb. 7	45	35	Sunny
Feb. 8	43	40	Cloudy
Feb. 9	23	22	Cloudy
Feb. 10	30	23	Cloudy
Feb. 11	40	22	M. Sunny
Feb. 12	35	23	Sunny

Average Temps:
H = 23° Low = 5°

Compiled by Dale Hausmann, WCCO's Staples area Weatherwatcher

Public Notices

City of Staples **8A**
ISD #2170 **8A**
Evergreen Cemetery **8A**
Todd bituminous **8A**

Obituaries

John Gorton
Philip Larsen



Transportation talk

Staples-Motley Transportation Director Norby Klimek talks about his program at the school board meeting. (Staples World photo by Mark Anderson)

School district enrollment slide stopped this year

By Mark Anderson
Managing Editor

The Staples-Motley School District is maintaining enrollment numbers and is expecting to grow this year.

At the Jan. 27 Staples-Motley School Board meeting, Business Manager Ellie Hill gave the board an update on student enrollment, saying there are "cool things going on" with their enrollment projection model.

"We had a lot of new enrollment and also had a lot of families leave," said Hill. "Families are very mobile right now."

Hill said student numbers have decreased by 100 in the last five years. But every year for the last six years, the district gained students throughout the school year, then the enrollment numbers go down before the next school year starts.

This year they did not see as big of a decline over the summer, their count was 890 on Oct. 1, which the state uses for their enrollment figures. That was two more than last year at the same date. Last year that count rose by 24 during the school year, to a daily average of 912 students by the end of the year. Hill said the school is projecting a similar increase this year, with a total of 910 students expected by the end of the year.

Education changes at state capitol

Hill said there are some positive proposals in the state legislature that would help the Staples-Motley School District.

The biggest item would be changing how the school is paid for school meals and other compensatory programs. Families will still be asked to fill out free and reduced lunch forms, but families that have been identified by other state programs as income-qualified will be automatically included in the district's count.

Superintendent Shane Tappe said the work stoppage at the Minnesota House of Representatives could affect school budgets because they won't know what the requirements will be until much later this year.

"There is a ton of uncertainty," said Tappe. "A lot of things have to get figured out. Some of our budget could have to be adjusted for the following year."

Transportation

District Transportation Director Norby Klimek gave an update on the district's busing program.

Klimek gave the board an idea of the scope of the work done, including 13 regular daily routes and two contracted routes supplied by Greigs Bus Service of Motley. Klimek said the contracted routes are cost neutral because they are on the eastern side of the district where it would take extra mileage if the routes started at the Staples bus garage. They also do four special needs routes and several mid-day routes each day.

For extra-curricular activities, Klimek said they have around 400 bus trips each year, with up to six in one day.

He said it can be difficult to schedule drivers for all the different events, even though they are fully staffed at the moment. Klimek said they are always in need of part time drivers.

Besides the 20 regular yellow school buses, the district has two special education buses, three 10-passenger vans, one 8-passenger van, three dodge caravans and one wrecker. Most of the maintenance and repairs are done at the Staples bus garage.

Klimek said the district has seen six stop-arm violations this year, in which a vehicle drives past a bus with its stop sign out.

"If the lights are flashing and the kids are on the ground, it is a gross misdemeanor, that's serious business," said Klimek.

Because of a flurry of stop-arm violations at the end of the school year last year, they are now training drivers not to let students off the bus until all the other traffic has stopped.

"We tell them don't plan that the cars are going to stop and make sure the kids are still looking both ways," said Klimek.

Klimek said he helps make cold weather decisions based on whether the buses can get to students before they have to wait too long outside, usually within 15 to 20 minutes. He said the district had one day this year that was 30 below, where there would be a risk of frostbite.

Tappe said the district tries not to make weather cancellations based on predictions, they wait until they know the actual conditions before calling off school or calling for two hours late.

"A lot of families work, they don't want kids sitting at home alone for two hours,"

See **SCHOOL** on page 10a

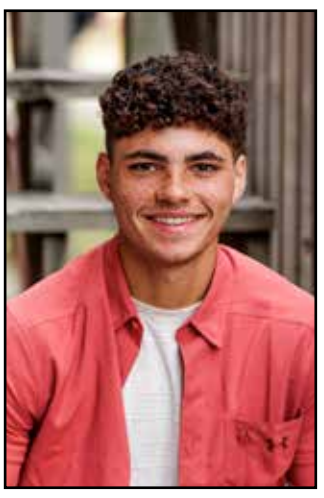
Staples-Motley High School students recognized by MSHSL



Abby Brichacek



Noah Larson



Sawyer Ferdon



Miranda Schotzko

Four high school students at Staples-Motley were nominated for the ExCEL (Excellence in Community, Education and Leadership) Award, and the Triple 'A' (Academics, Arts, and Athletics) Award which are sponsored by the Minnesota State High School League (MSHSL).

Abby Brichacek and Noah Larson, juniors at SMHS, were selected as the school's ExCEL Award winners for 2024-2025. Sponsored by the Minnesota State High School League, The ExCEL Award - Excellence in Community, Education and Leadership - is a unique recognition program designed exclusively for Minnesota high school juniors who are active in school activities, leaders in their schools, and who demonstrate a strong commitment to community service.

Brichacek and Larson will represent Staples-Motley at the state level for this prestigious award.

Sawyer Ferdon and Miranda Schotzko, seniors at SMHS, were selected as the school's 2024-2025 Triple 'A' Award winners. Sponsored by the Minnesota State High School League, AAA is a recognition program designed for Minnesota high school seniors. Students who are active in fine arts, athletics, who show leadership qualities, who are model citizens in their community, and excel with their academics are eligible for the award.

Ferdon and Schotzko will represent Staples-Motley as they move on to the second round of selections at the state level.

Below is a description of each of the award winners.

Abby Brichcek

Abby Brichacek, the daughter of Tom and Aimee Brichacek, is active at SMHS, participating in a variety of activities. In the area of sports, Brichacek is active in volleyball, track, trap shooting and skeet shooting. She's also a member of FFA, and enjoys taking Ag classes taught by Dan Rowe. In addition to being one of her favorite teachers, Rowe is also the FFA advisor.

Brichacek has found fulfillment volunteering in a number of areas, both at school and in her community. She enjoys helping out at FFA events, as well as at track events and the school's Spring Blast. Brichacek has also volunteered at Sacred Heart Church in Staples, of which she is a member.

Noah Larson

Noah Larson, the son of Cam and Trisha Larson, participates in a number of activities at SMHS, including basketball, football, track, student council, choir and drama.

One of his favorite classes at the moment, Larson said, is Crime and Justice taught by Erik Johnson. It's an interesting class and Larson's also enjoyed participating in mock trials. He went on to say that Johnson is one of his favorite teachers, adding that, "He cares for the students...he wants us to succeed."

Larson enjoys helping out at the school as he is able. He's been a volunteer at basketball and football camps, at Special Olympics, and the Polar Plunge. Larson's also volunteered in his community, including at Railroad Days in Staples.

Sawyer Ferdon

Sawyer Ferdon, the son of Keith and Debbie Ferdon, is active in a variety of activities at SMHS, including football, track, student council, and playing baritone in the band. A sports enthusiast, Ferdon also plays hockey.

He likes a variety of class subjects, but has particularly enjoyed studying biology and environmental biology. Ferdon plans to continue his education at The University of Wisconsin-Superior, where he plans to major in exercise science.

One of Ferdon's favorite teachers at Staples-Motley is Allison Vangsness who teaches social studies. He described her as having a good work ethic and is involved in a lot of areas at the school.

Miranda Schotzko

Miranda Schotzko, the daughter of Tony and Kelly Schotzko, is active in a variety of activities at SMHS. She's been a member of both the volleyball and basketball teams, plays viola in the orchestra, is a member of the Honor Society, and participates in Dollars for Scholars.

Schotzko enjoys studying science, and noted that science teacher Lorna Birkholtz is one of her favorite teachers. "She's wise and understanding, and goes out of her way to help you," Schotzko said.

In addition to her regular classes at SMHS, Schotzko is involved in the PSEO (Post Secondary Enrollment Options) program, studying medical ethics and psychology. After she graduates from high school, Schotzko plans to study physical therapy at the University of Mary in Bismarck, N.D.

Caller ID scam in Cass County

Cass County Sheriff Bryan Welk reports that the Cass County Sheriff's Office and Walker Police Dept. have received a report of a caller ID Scam, in which the victim reported receiving a phone call from the "Cass County Sheriff's Office" and phone number 218-547-1424.

The victim reported the male caller advised that the party had a warrant for their arrest and that they needed to take care of it; by paying for and gathering pre-loaded gift cards from the Dollar General and then calling a phone number to pay for the warrant with the gift cards.

While this is not a new fraud tactic it is the first in recent years that we have been made aware of scammers using our identity and phone number to initiate the communication and fraud. It is important to know that law enforcement NEVER calls or emails individuals requesting money or action to be taken in this way.

Scammers often pose as law enforcement using the following methods:

- Demanding payment for a missed court date, jury duty or other legal matter
- Claiming there is a warrant issued in your name
- Threatening or issuing arrest warrant unless you pay a fine
- Directing you to buy a prepaid money transfer card and give the card number to them
- Faking their phone number so it appears valid on caller ID also known as caller ID Spoof Tactic.
- Using real names of actual local law enforcement officers, especially in the jurisdiction or area that you reside.

With all forms of scam and fraud it is important to protect yourself.

- Refuse to give the scammer any information
- Don't send them any payments
- Hang up and don't trust that caller ID shows their real identity
- Record their number and save any voicemails
- Look up the real number for the law enforcement agency the scammer mentioned and contact that office directly

Sheriff Welk shares that "The best way for someone to protect themselves from these scams is simply to hang up."

"Don't let your guard down and don't be intimidated into providing personal details or financial information. As always contact the Cass County Sheriff's Office if you have questions about a phone call or email received or think that you have been victim of a scam."

Todd County Sheriff's report

Jan. 23, 2025, 12:54 p.m.: According to the MN State Patrol a Hyundai Santa Fe driven by Patricia Hinzmann, 79, of Clarissa, was traveling northbound on Cty Rd 11 and a Toyota operated by Justin Ossefoort, 39, of Sioux Falls, SD, was traveling eastbound on Hwy 210 when the two vehicles collided. Hinzmann and Ossefoort sustained non-life threatening injuries and were taken to Lak wood Health System. The Todd County Sheriff's Office, Staples Fire Dept. and Ambulance assisted at the scene.

Recent reports from the Todd County Sheriff's Office included:

Jan. 22, 2025: Todd County Sheriff's Office (TCSO) responded to a disturbance involving a firearm and possible shots fired in the City of Hewitt. No injuries were reported. The incident is currently under investigation. TCSO was assisted on scene by the MN State Patrol.



Richard DeLong

Jan. 21, 2025: the West Central Task Force, Wadena-Hubbard SWAT and the Todd County Sheriff's Office executed a search warrant at a residence in Browerville. As a result of the search, multiple firearms, ammunition and controlled substances were seized. Richard Delong, 63, of Browerville, was placed under arrest. Delong is being held at the Todd County Detention Center.

Jan. 11, 2025: approximately 12:31p.m., TCSO deputies responded near the intersection of Cty 21 and Creamery Ave N, Browerville, for a report of a rollover accident. Deputies arrived on scene and learned the driver, Brian Michael Schwitters, Clara City, went into the ditch, hit a dirt pile and rolled the vehicle onto its roof. The passenger in the vehicle, Sheryl Lou Schwitters and the driver were both treated for minor injuries by Browerville Ambulance. Assisting were Browerville Fire Dept and Browerville Ambulance.

Jan. 5, 2025: Approx. 6:25 p.m., TCSO received a report of a house fire at 46505 121st Ave, Hewitt. Sheriff's deputies, Hewitt Fire, Bertha Fire and Bertha Ambulance responded to the scene. It was reported everyone inside of the residence was able to get out safely. The fire was later able to be extinguished. The home appeared a total loss. Also assisting on scene were the Verndale and Wadena Fire Dept's and Todd-Wadena Power. The cause of the fire is currently under investigation by TCSO and the MN State Fire Marshal.

Motley's city clerk is the contact person for the city attorney

By Dawn Timbs
Staples World reporter

Motley's City Clerk/Treasurer Tami Brotherton will be the contact person for the city attorney, with the exception of the police department, which can contact the attorney on their own.

This was a decision made at the Motley City Council's second monthly meeting Jan. 27.

Council member Steve Johnson said he thought this had always been the policy, but he, like the rest of the council thought it was wise to make sure.

Prior to voting on this, the council had spent time discussing the amount of money paid to the city attorney. Johnson felt the cost to simply type a letter was "outrageous" and wondered if the city should explore other options.

Brotherton said she was happy with the service received from the city attorney, but didn't really know about the financial aspect. Being relatively new to her position, Brotherton said she didn't have anything to compare it to.

Brotherton went on to say that from what she learned at the city clerks event, it is difficult to find a city attorney. She also went on to clarify that the previously mentioned bill from their attorney included fees from a few emails and phone calls, not just typing a letter.

Johnson wondered if a city was required to have their own attorney, or if they can receive help from an organization like Sourcewell?

Brotherton said that prior to contacting the city attorney she first goes to the League of Minnesota Cities and tries to do a lot of the legwork herself.

At that point, Mayor Pat O'Regan asked if it would help keep costs down if all questions for the attorney went through one person. During the subsequent discussion, both Johnson and council member April Skeesick-Larson agreed with the mayor that Brotherton should be that contact person. Council members Nikki Bjerga and Dennis Erickson were not at the meeting.

In other matters the council:

- APPROVED the pay equity compliance report, as presented by City Clerk/Treasurer Tami Brotherton. Brotherton noted that this has to be done every three years.
- APPROVED trading in any of the city's Apple electronic products that are outdated and not being used for a Costco Shop Card. Those devices that are traded, will be data-wiped.
- HEARD an update on the city's Personnel Manual which is in the process of being updated. The committee has met twice recently, and looked at all of the proposals for changes.

Brotherton noted that the manual had been submitted to the city attorney in October of 2023, and she had since made suggestions. One of the changes to be added in is a drug testing policy. Brotherton went on to say that over the past two years the council has approved some changes, but they have never been put into the Personnel Manual. "That's what we are ironing out now," Brotherton said.

New clean energy officer at Initiative Foundation

The Initiative Foundation announced that Elizabeth Mboutchom has joined the team as clean energy and community resiliency program officer.

Mboutchom will lead the Foundation's clean energy work and will support programming, grants coordination, and the advancement of economic opportunities in collaboration with local units of government, nonprofits and state partners.

Mboutchom is from St. Cloud and gained foundational experience during her time in the Peace Corps in Madagascar. She has a master's degree in environmental management and sustainability from the University of South Australia. Mboutchom has extensive experience in community engagement and will use those skills to work with Central Minnesota leaders to understand their needs and identify resources to help.

"I am excited to work with amazing people who are dedicated to creating lasting, positive change," she said. "I love the strong sense of community in Greater Minnesota, where people are kind, supportive and willing to work together." In her free time, she enjoys spending time with family and friends and traveling.

"Elizabeth brings strong experience to the community development team at the Initiative Foundation," says Don Hickman, outgoing vice president for community and workforce development. "I look forward to seeing her use her career experience to benefit the Foundation's work in clean energy, disaster preparedness and community development."



Elizabeth Mboutchom

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Thank you for reading the Staples World

Motley area law enforcement

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

Jan. 22 - 28

Jan. 23 - Motley Police received a report of a minor crash at Cedar St. E and Meadow Ave., Motley. The incident was handled by a Morrison County deputy.

Jan. 22 - Motley Police received a call from a Motley resident reporting they had received a fake $100 bill from a gas station in Cass County.

Correction

In the Jan. 2, 2025 edition of the Staples World, the cutline identifying the front page photo should have read, "taken looking west" across Hwy. 10, Staples. The World regrets the error.

Looking back

75 Years Ago - 1950

• Feb. 9, 1950 - A freak (farm) accident, the final outcome of which cannot be definitely forecast as yet, put 12-year-old Arthur Farber, son of Mr. and Mrs. Lloyd Farber residing 5 miles northeast of Staples, in the Staples Municipal hospital late Sunday afternoon.

Arthur, with his uncle Derald Fornshell, 14 were at the Fornshell farm and were getting the cows into the barn. The animals are a little "ornery" sometime, so Derald picked up an old iron rim from a pail and threw it at the cows.

- o -

Compiled by
Dawn Timbs

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The rim caught in his mit, and instead of going toward the cows, sort of "richoted" off his mitt and struck Arthur in the forehead.

The force of the rim caused the missile to pierce his forehead near the temple, following a course in a circular way, and embedding in his head about 2 3/4 inches. He was immediately brought to Staples Municipal Hospital, and on Tuesday of this week he was progressing as satisfactorily as could be expected.

• Feb. 9, 1950 - An early morning fire on Feb. 6, destroyed a milk house on the Gale DeWald farm in Poplar township.

The fire was first seen by Lucille Johnson, a neighbor girl, and it was only by her quick work in summoning help that the farm home was saved.

• Feb. 9, 1950 - The Staples Men's Chorus concert, which was presented at the Staples Auditorium Jan. 31, will be broadcast from Station KWAD on Friday evening, Feb. 10, from 7 to 7:30 o'clock, and on Sunday, Feb. 12, from 7:30 to 8 o'clock.

Arrangements for the broadcast were made with Carl Holt, manager of station KWAD last week.

• Feb. 9, 1950 - Friday, Jan. 13, was an unlucky day for Mrs. Sebastian Knosalla, 94, when she fell at her home near Staples and broke her left hip.

She remained at her home until Jan. 20, when she was brought to the Staples Municipal hospital, where she is at the present time.

50 Years Ago - 1975

• Feb. 6, 1975 - Motley's matmen managed to retain the Little Brown Stump, the traditional traveling trophy, at Thursday's home wrestling match with Pillager. The final score, 29-25, indicates the excitement of the evening.

Parents' night festivities included the conduction of the program by Miss June Doty, Gary Blake's rendition of the Star Spangled Banner, and corsages for the mothers of the wrestlers and cheerleaders.

• Feb. 6, 1975 - Navy Aviation Officer Candidate Gregory D. Frisk, whose wife Sherry is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Carroll L. Miller of Route 1, Staples, Minn., made his first solo flight in a Navy aircraft at Pensacola, Fla., recently.

Soloing is a major step toward becoming a Naval Aviator.

Frisk is a 1974 graduate of Moorhead State College, with a Bachelor of Arts degree. He joined the Navy in March, 1972.

• Feb. 6, 1975 - The Staples Public Library will hold an open house in its new quarters Feb. 9, from 2 - 5 p.m. The new library is located in the lower level of the city hall.

The lower level has been completely renovated, the ceiling lowered, carpeting laid on the floor, new bookshelves added, and a new desk for the librarian.

A library in Staples first came into being in 1909, when it was located in downtown stores. In 1917, the library was moved to the then-new high school. When the new city hall was reconstructed in 1929, the library was moved to this structure.

Elsie Ahlbrecht, present librarian, has held that post since 1951, when she succeeded Carrie Mayer. At the present time, the library has about 14,000 books on its shelves.

• Feb. 6, 1975 - Karen Stevens has been named Staples high school 1974-75 Betty Crocker Family Leader of Tomorrow. Karen won the honor by competing with other seniors in the written knowledge and attitude examination Dec. 3. Karen is the daughter of the Rev. and Mrs. Edward Stevens of Staples.

• Feb. 6, 1975 - The Student Council at Staples High school recently started and furnished a new lounge,which is shared with the Drama department and located on the stage in the cafeteria.

25 Years Ago - 2000

• Feb. 10, 2000 - Love Is... Sirloin Steak for Two! On Valentine's Day, Feb. 14, at Mr. Ed's in Motley. 22 oz. Sirloin with Salad Bar, $14.95, or Prime Rib, $9.95.

• Feb. 10, 2000 - Jerry Riewer, who coached the Staples and Staples Motley cross country teams for just under 30 years, has been honored with an award named after him. Melanie Wilson, a member of this fall's cross country team, was the first recipient of the award.

The award, according to Gene Mattila, cross country coach, is intended for "a member of the team who you would love to have as a friend." He added it does not have to go to a great athlete, but to someone who puts the team and her teammates' success ahead of her own.

Mattila said it was created to honor Riewer, who retired from teaching and coaching, but who has stayed involved with cross country.

• Feb. 10, 2000 - Cardinal basketball coach Lynn Peterson became the 18th coach in state history to win 500 games with his 75-58 win Feb. 1 over Brainerd.

Peterson's accomplishment was noted with a "500 wins" banner unfurled in the closing moments of the game and a reception following the game in the school cafeteria.

Peterson, 51, is in his 25th year of coaching, has been the Cardinal coach since the 1979-80 season. He coached four years at Deer Creek prior to coming to Staples in 1979, taking Deer Creek to the Region 6 tournament twice.

• Feb. 10, 2000 - Since he was born on Feb. 2, Bob Reeck of Staples calls himself just another groundhog. To celebrate his 50th birthday, he traveled to Punxsutawney, Penn., last week to take part in all the Groundhog Day Festivities at the place where it all began.

• Feb. 10, 2000 - Matt Shaffer in U.S. Extemp. Speaking and Jacob Swenson in Humor won first place medals in their categories to lead the Staples Motley High School Speech Team to a tie for second place in the Verndale Lions Club Invitational Speech Contest at Verndale High School on Feb. 5.

10 Years Ago - 2015

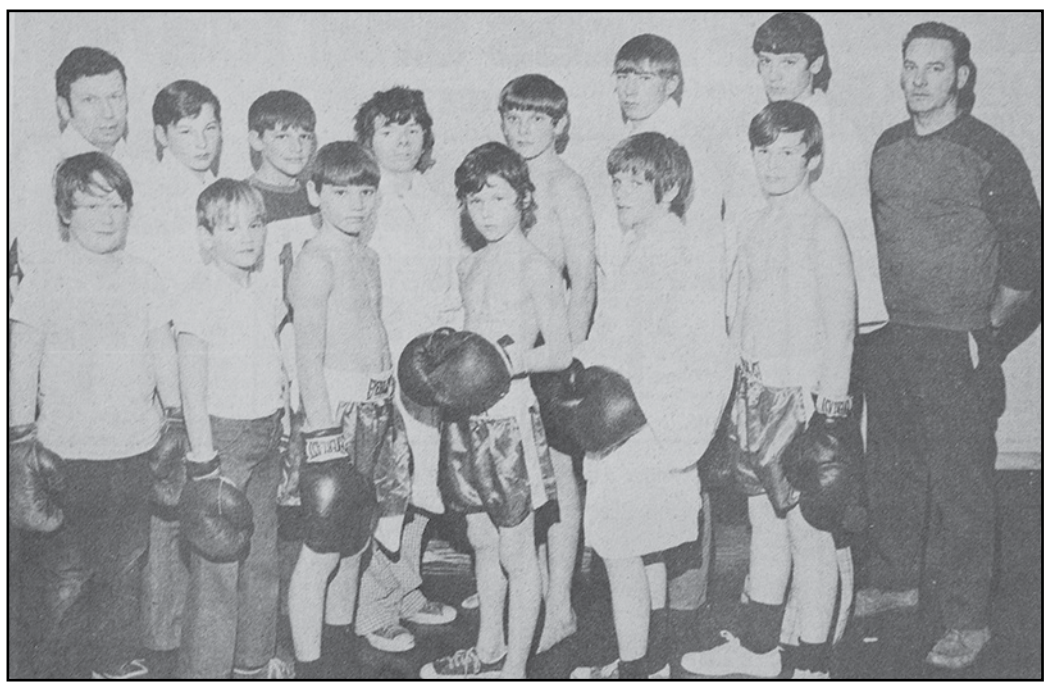
• Feb. 5, 2015 - A barn in rural Motley was destroyed by fire the evening of Feb. 2, reports Motley Fire Chief Steve Dille.

The fire, located at 38228 Hwy 10 So., was discovered and reported by MFD firefighter Chuck Gerad at approximately 8:30 p.m.

"He was coming home, thought he saw a fire, and stopped to notify the residents," Dille said, in regard to Jason and Allison Carry, and their daughters Malaina and Jaden.

Gerad helped Jason Carry get two vehicles out of the barn. The family's horse, Tammy, was also saved.

• Feb. 5, 2015 - Approximately 400 area high school choir members along with the Staples Area Women's Chorus gathered at the SM High School gym for the "Her Voice, Her Song" performance Jan. 31.



Mystery photo

Hello readers. This week's archive photo is from 1975. 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.

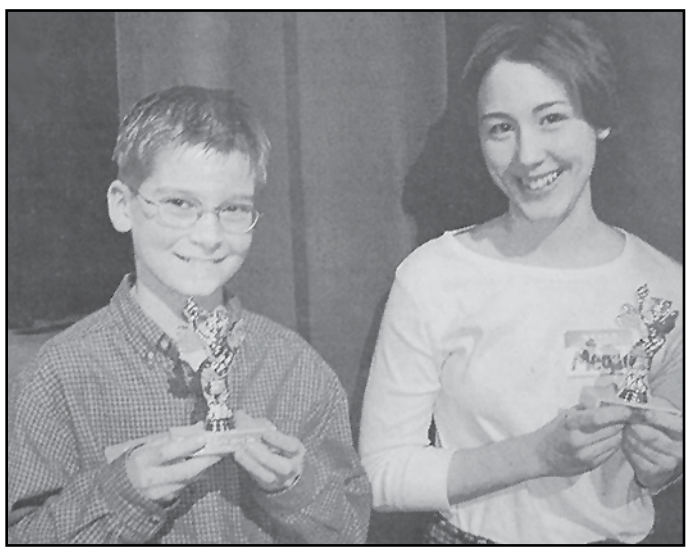


Correction

Pictured above, from an article in the Jan. 23, 1975 Staples World is Floyd Jares, a junior at Motley High School and member of the Motley Rockets wrestling team at that time.

The article noted that Jares, wrestling at 112 lbs., took his second straight title at the Lake Region Conference meet in Menahga Jan. 9. It went on to say that he pinned his first opponent, Rod Romine of Pequot Lakes early in the second period at 2:55. Pitted against Steve Windels of Sebeka in the second round, he scored a 15-6 decision. The finals saw him wrestle Pine River's Dan Raph and score a 10-3 decision.

This article had been mentioned in the Jan. 22 'Looking Back' column, but incorrectly identified Floyd Jares as Frank Jares. The Staples World regrets the error.



Mystery solved

Last week's mystery photo published in the Feb. 3, 2000 edition of the Staples World featured champion spellers Dan Sveom, left, and Megan Klose, winners at the District Spelling Bee who were advancing to the Regional Spelling Bee at Centennial Auditorium in Staples. The two had completed 19 rounds at the district bee, with eighth-grader Klose named the champion speller and sixth-grader Sveom runner-up champion.

Ken Klose of Staples correctly identified his daughter, Megan, but thought the boy was Isaac Landecker. Judy Wolak of Staples correctly identified both. Thanks for participating in our mystery photo

Law enforcement made more than 2,000 DWI arrests over the holiday season to keep people safe

Officers participated in the extra enforcement campaign Nov. 27 through Dec. 31

MN Dept. of Public Safety

Troopers, deputies and police officers made 2,079 driving while impaired (DWI) arrests during the holiday enforcement campaign Nov. 27 through Dec. 31. This campaign reinforces the importance of planning a sober ride, even if a person believes they're fine to drive after drinking.

Each DWI arrest tells a story of reckless, irresponsible behavior that puts lives at risk. In St. Paul, one driver stopped by police said she thought she was o ay to drive after having dinner with a friend. She had a 0.112 blood alcohol content (BAC). The legal limit is 0.08. In Minneapolis, a trooper arrested a driver who had three children in his vehicle. His BAC was 0.186. Two 911 callers helped Zumbrota police locate an impaired 27-year-old female driver. The woman had six prior DWI convictions.

The Minnesota Department of Public Safety's Office of Traffic Safety (OTS) coordinated the campaign, which included extra enforcement, with funding provided by the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration.

"A 27-year-old with six DWIs, and a man driving impaired with three children in the car - these examples are disturbing and heartbreaking, but we know there were drivers who chose to do the right thing and drive safe and sober this holiday," said OTS Director Mike Hanson. "To those sober drivers I say thank you; it really was a gift. For those who chose to drive impaired, we're grateful to our law enforcement partners who are relentlessly protecting Minnesotans from those reckless decisions."

Arrests and crashes highlight impaired driving dangers

A trooper responded to a call of wrong way driver on Interstate 35 in Duluth. He located the vehicle and arrested the driver for DWI with a 0.19 BAC.

A Mounds View police officer pulled over a driver for swerving and expired tabs. The woman denied drinking any alcohol. The results proved otherwise. She was three times the legal limit with a 0.24 BAC.

An impaired driver with 21 prior DWI convictions was taken off the road thanks to the efforts of a Hennepin County Sheriff's Office deputy. After speeding in Brooklyn Center and eventually crashing in Minneapolis, the driver was arrested for felony DWI.

White Bear Lake police stopped a driver for speeding and expired tabs. The driver was impaired and had an eight-month-old child in the vehicle.

The Minnesota State Patrol in the Marshall district responded to a vehicle rollover crash. The impaired driver had his two children in the vehicle.

A trooper responded to a two-vehicle rear-end crash in Maplewood. He determined one of the drivers was under the influence of alcohol. The trooper made an arrest after the driver tested 0.400 BAC.

Metro-area highest BACs

In the Twin Cities metro area, the highest BACs reported included:

Brooklyn Park Police Department: 0.38

Shakopee Police Department: 0.36

North St. Paul Police Department: 0.36

South St. Paul Police Department: 0.34

Greater Minnesota highest BACs

In greater Minnesota, the highest BACs reported included:

Elk River Police Department: 0.415

Itasca County Sheriff's Office: 0.37

Bemidji Police Department: 0.36

Sherburne County Sheriff's Office: 0.36

Wyoming Police Department: 0.36

Minnesota State Patrol Duluth district: 0.33

Minnesota State Patrol Mankato district: 0.33

DWI arrests by agency

In the Twin Cities metro area, agencies with the most DWI arrests during the campaign included:

Minnesota State Patrol west metro: 247

Minnesota State Patrol east metro: 115

St. Paul Police Department: 54

Minneapolis Police Department: 39

Woodbury Police Department: 37

Shakopee Police Department: 35

In greater Minnesota, agencies with the most DWI arrests during the campaign included:

Rochester Police Department: 57

Minnesota State Patrol St. Cloud district: 39

Wright County Sheriff's Office: 36

Minnesota State Patrol Virginia district: 35

Area participating agencies included: Baxter Police Dept., Brainered Police Dept. Cass County Sheriff's Office, Crosby Police Dept., Crow Wing County Sheriff's Office, Henning Police Dept., Long Prairie Police Dept. MN State Patrol, Dist. 2800 Brainerd, MN State Patrol, Dist. 2900 Detroit Lakes, Morrison County Sheriff's Office, Otter Tail County Sheriff's Office, Sebeka's Police Dept., Todd County Sheriff's Office, Wadena Police Dept.

View the complete list of participating agencies and BAC levels at dps.mn.gov.

Impaired is impaired

In addition to alcohol, substances ranging from cannabis and hemp-derived THC products to prescription medications and over-the-counter drugs can also affect safe driving abilities. It is illegal to drive while impaired by any substance - no exceptions.

About the Minnesota Department Public Safety

The Minnesota Department of Public Safety's 2,100 employees operate programs in the areas of law enforcement, crime victim assistance, traffic safety, alcohol and gambling, emergency communications, fire safety, pipeline safety, driver licensing, vehicle registration and emergency management. DPS activity is anchored by three core principles: education, enforcement and prevention.

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Hunters can use the off-season to find new opportunities

- o -
Inside the Outdoors



Mike Rahn
- o -

As we pass Ground Hog Day, and the midpoint of winter, the 2024-2025 hunting seasons—with several narrow exceptions—are behind us. Squirrels, cottontail rabbits, snowshoe hares, and jackrabbits can still be hunted until February 28th. The state's precious few falconers can still take any small game bird or animal up to that same date. This includes even closed-season birds, like grouse and pheasants, a concession to the fact that—to a falcon or a hawk—prey is prey; so few game birds are taken by falconry that the impact is of little consequence.

A crow hunting season lies just ahead, from March 1 to March 31, but there are few takers. April will bring a limited spring wild turkey hunt, too. But, for the vast majority of Minnesota hunters—big game or small—the next time they shoulder a shotgun or rifle, or draw back a bowstring, will be in the fall of 2025.

Other pursuits now occupy us. Many fish through the ice. A few hardy souls will abandon their heated shelters to fish the limited number of rivers and streams open to winter angling. Snowmobiling, skiing, snowshoeing, riding an ATV where snow depth allows, button-pushing on the TV remote, and other diversions—indoors or out—will help us get through the winter.

Still, for many die-hards, hunting is never entirely out of mind. Those who are of that persuasion can indulge this enthusiasm even when we can't hunt with the tools of harvest. One way is to prospect for new places to hunt.

For bird hunters—those who pursue pheasants, grouse, woodcock, ducks, or geese—there is no such thing as too many options. Grouse and pheasant hunters, especially, need multiple options. Not just because they may face substantial competition on popular public hunting areas, but because experienced, conscientious hunters know that concentrated hunting pressure and high harvest rates—especially on non-migratory game birds—can depress the coming year's numbers. In other words, spread the pressure around.

The need for alternate hunting spots may be less of an issue for most deer hunters. The typical deer hunter harvests but one deer in any given season. The firearms deer season is significantly shorter than the bird hunting seasons, and the pull of tradition commonly leads deer hunters to hunt familiar ground, season after season. Still, "grass is greener" thoughts run through the mind of the deer hunter, too.

Minnesota is a state richer than most in the quantity and quality of public hunting lands and waters. But as private lands that are open to hunters diminish, there is more pressure on those federal, state, and county lands open to all Minnesotans. Heightened competition is the predictable result. Being aware of alternate options is one antidote.

Only basic detective skills are needed to find these alternate places. Many resources are readily available, both online—some download-able to smart phones—as well as in good old-fashioned "hard copy" form. A good start is the maps available from the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (DNR), available at its web site.

Here are just a few examples. Forest Legacy Program maps show a quarter million acres of actively managed forest lands in nine northern Minnesota counties that are open to hunting and other public recreations; a Hunter Walking Trails map depicts trails likely to appeal to grouse and woodcock hunters; Landview maps show public state and federal lands, accesses, fishing sites, trails, water bodies, roads, and current and historical aerial photos; Lakefinder maps show 4,500 water bodies across Minnesota; Recreation Compass maps show state and federal parks, forests, land and water trails, water bodies, wildlife refuges and management areas, waterfowl production areas, scientific and natural areas, water accesses, and private land Walk In Access Program sites; the Wildlife Management Area Finder shows dedicated areas open to public small game, big game, and waterfowl hunting. And there are more. Not only are these maps available online—some as printable PDFs—but many are also available in local or regional DNR offices. Google Minnesota DNR Maps.

United States Geological Survey (USGS) topographic maps have long been relied on for navigating in remote places. They accurately depict distance, elevation, and landscape features like forested uplands, lakes, ponds, stream courses, swamps and wetlands. Many of us have a store of these in paper form that we have relied on for decades. They, too, are now available digitally, but can also still be ordered in printed form for old-schoolers like me. Google USGS topographic maps.

An experienced hunter can often predict from evidence on these maps whether an area is likely to hold the game he seeks. In the north, upland forest that intersects with lowland swamps and marshes is likely a place to find grouse and woodcock. In west central, western, and southern Minnesota, cattail sloughs adjacent to grassland or agricultural ground are likely to harbor pheasants. Experience gained over many past hunts can help you predict which areas discovered on maps are likely to be worth exploring.

Not to be overlooked are county plat books. They not only identify lands in county, state, and federal ownership, but identify private land owners, too. These maps can be the first step in securing permission to hunt private lands. Approaching private land owners in the off season is good psychology, a time when they're not fending off a multitude of petitioners.

Back in the present, once you have identified an area that seems worth checking out, you can more thoroughly investigate it by putting on a pair of hiking boots, skis, snowshoes, or cruise it by ATV or snowmobile if motorized access is allowed. In the off season, without the temptation to go back to familiar places "where I know the birds are," you're more likely to be adventurous and investigate and discover new options.

When it comes to hunting options, there's is no "too much of a good thing."

Quote of the week

"The stock market is filled with individuals who know the price of everything, but the value of nothing."
— Ken Fisher

Quote of the week

"I made a killing in the stock market. I shot my broker."
— Groucho Marx

Bots steal news, pretend to be local

By Heather Close
The Rural Blog

Matthew Henderson might be the most productive "journalist" in the country. The busy publisher of Good Daily newsletters "operates in 47 states and 355 towns and cities across the U.S.," reports Andrew Deck of Nieman Labs. Henderson's newsletter empire is fueled by busy bots scrubbing local news created by real humans to create newsletters. The publication is emailed to unsuspecting residents who have no idea machines wrote their news by taking the real work at other publications.

The newsletters do all name the same founder and editor: Matthew Henderson, who a serial internet start-up founder and software engineer.

In an interview, "Henderson didn't shy away from the fact that each newsletter is produced using near full automation," Deck reports. "These automated agents 'read the news' in every town where Good Daily operates, curate the most relevant stories, summarize them, edit and approve the copy, format it into a newsletter, and publish." Henderson said.

Except, of course, for the fact that his publications do no original reporting and only take from others doing the real work.

Henderson touts his bot news as "boosting the work of struggling local news outlets," Deck writes. Henderson told him, "Local news providers appreciate our work promoting their best local content for free, and often seek out ways for us to promote even more of their content."

The news outlets don't share Henderson's "rosy" view. Rodney Gibbs, the head of audience and product at the National Trust for Local News, told Deck, "His claim is, frankly, horses---. The suggestion that he's helping news deserts is absurd." Deck adds, "Gibbs points out that, in order to operate, AI newsletters rely on human labor at existing local news publishers."

How to improve your town

By Becky McCray
Saveyour.town

Sometimes officials ask, "What should we do first?"

It's not just officials, either. All kinds of people and groups want to know, 'what should we do first?' You can find 10 things you can choose from, or do them all, right here.

I've numbered them, but there are no rules. Do one or a few, or pick and choose. Just start small.

1. Coffee and calendars

Bring different groups together over coffee, compare schedules, and learn a little bit about each other. Do this in person. You're there for community building, not for creating an online calendar. This is a perfect first step to build connections locally.

2. Community success list

Be prepared for those folks who say, 'We're a dying town' or 'nothing good happens.' This is another one that is a perfect starting point.

3. "What to do in ..." Pinterest list

Answer those people who say, 'There's nothing to do here' with a Pinterest board sharing things to do. Make it easy for everyone to contribute to the board.

4. Local networking time

Have you scheduled a conference or workshop? Remember to add networking time. Even people who know each other want a chance to talk.

5. Do good, but kinda secretly

Join with some friends and become ninjas-for-good in your own town. The city doesn't have to do everything.

Adopt downtown planters and flower boxes, pull some weeds and clean up some windows ninja-style.

6. Community honey-do list

Make it easier for just anyone to be a ninja-for-good. Start a list of small projects that anyone might do.

7. Paint something (anything)

Those downtown utility poles with the faded paint? Paint 'em. Tired of looking at cracks in the cement? Paint it with some crack art. Boring bollards? Make 'em minions.

8. Do lots of ribbon cuttings and shovel events

Ribbon cuttings and shovel events can be held for more than just new businesses. By hosting a ribbon cutting, you can keep folks current with your ongoing projects.

9. Pop-ups at all events

Want more people to come to your event? Add pop-up businesses.

10. Tiny business opportunities

Turn those pop-ups into businesses in a building – shared spaces and sheds are two ways.

Bonus: fill empty buildings

- Get some sheds or divide a building for tiny businesses to share.
- A retail building divided into smaller stores, including a one wall bookstore.
- Do you have empty buildings? (Who doesn't). Show them off instead of trying to ignore them.
- Hold a Tour of Empty Buildings and follow up over and over.

Our democracy isn't perfect, but we can improve it

By Lee H. Hamilton

Is the United States a model democracy? Not that long ago, I suspect, most Americans would have answered with a resounding yes. But times have changed. We've lost confidence in our own system of government.

And it's not just Americans who question our democracy. Both here and around the world, many people say U.S. democracy used to be a model but no longer is.

The evidence comes from a recent Pew Research Center survey, which found that only one in five Americans think U.S. democracy is a good example for other countries. Fully 72% said it used to be a good example but hasn't been for several years.

Those are bleak findings. The survey doesn't tell us why Americans have lost faith in our democracy as a model, but we can guess. For one thing, it has been through a difficult time. Some of its essential principles – respect for the rule of law and for others' rights, confidence in free and fair elections, etc. – have been under attack.

Some of the survey results may reflect the extreme political polarization that our country is experiencing. With Joe Biden in the White House, Democrats were a little more likely than Republicans to say U.S. democracy was a good model. It won't be surprising if the numbers flip when Donald Trump is president and Republicans control both houses of Congress.

But the fact remains that many Americans, regardless of party, don't think the system is working for them. Income inequality, inflation, high housing costs and other factors have taken a toll. For the past decade or so, trust in government has been at its lowest point in generations. In 1964, when I was first elected to Congress, almost 80% of Americans trusted government to do the right thing. Now only about 20% do.

In 34 other countries where Pew conducted the same survey, a plurality of respondents agreed that that U.S. democracy used to be a good model, but it no longer is. In some of those countries, a significant number said U.S. democracy has never been a good example.

Other research produces similar findings. A Gallup poll from early 2024 found that only 28% of Americans were satisfied with how democracy was working, down from 61% in 1984. In another poll, more than half said the U.S. is a "poorly functioning democracy." Even more worrisome, one survey found nearly a third of Americans would prefer to have a strong leader who could act without interference from other branches of government.

There are plenty of reasons to critique our democracy. Some flaws are part of its design: for example, the lack of equal representation in the Senate. While our elections are generally free and fair, money has had a corrupting influence. Gerrymandering means that many elections are not competitive. The Electoral College concentrates presidential competition in a handful of battleground states. Trump has worsened matters by refusing to accept the result of the 2020 election, threatening to use his appointments to punish political adversaries, and ceding influence to Elon Musk, the world's richest person.

It's understandable that Americans are discouraged about our democracy, but I believe its fundamentals are sound. Our system of checks and balances, the balance of power between the three branches and the concern for individual liberties embedded in the Bill of Rights have served us well for 250 years.

Winston Churchill famously said that democracy is the worst form of government except for all the other forms that have been tried. Yes, it can be disappointing, and ours has never been perfect. But our history has been a story of strengthening democracy, expanding rights and making government more responsive. If we're disappointed with democracy, the answer is to reform it, not abandon it.

Lee Hamilton is a distinguished scholar at the IU Hamilton Lugar School of Global and International Studies.

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Fairness: The Staples World tries conscientiously to report fairly and accurately. If you feel we fall short of this objective at any time, please direct your complaint to the manager whose name appears on this page.

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Mark Your Calendar

February 6

'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

February 7

Women's OPEN AA Recovery Meeting Every Friday in person, 10:30 a.m., Motley Free Methodist Church (lower level), 33 Wellwood St. E. Motley. All women welcome.

February 9

Celebrate Recovery Group Meetings are held every Sunday at 6 p.m., at Motley Free Methodist Church, 33 Wellwood St. E., Motley.

February 10

AA group Mtgs In Motley are held at the United Methodist Church, 847 3rd Ave. S., on Mondays at 8 p.m.

February 11

Women's AA Mtg Tuesdays, from 6 - 7 p.m., at Staples Church of Christ, on Hwy 210, south of Staples.

Experience Strength And Hope AA group Mtgs In Staples are held at the Church of Christ, 27343 490th St., Tuesdays, 7 - 8 p.m. For info., call Dan at 218-640-7228.

Dine-in meal at Staples Senior Dining Site Feb. 19

Senior Nutrition Program
218-894-2556

A congregate dine-in meal followed by **penny bingo** will be offered at the Senior Dining Site, Staples Community Center senior's room on **Weds., Feb. 19 at 11 a.m.** The Senior Dining Site is located at the Staples Community Center, 425 4th St. NE, Staples.

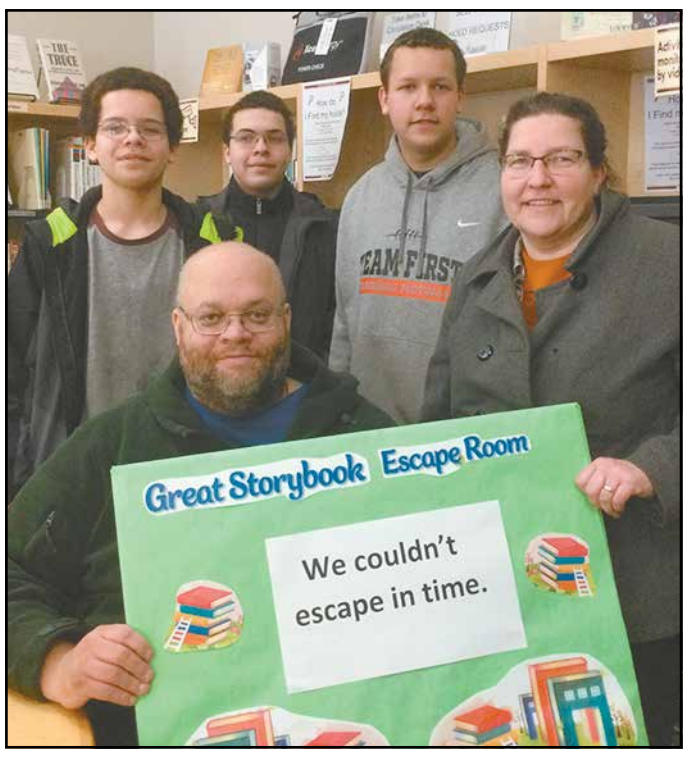
Bring your pennies for penny bingo which will be played following the meal.

The Feb. 19 meal may be reserved through the nutrition site by calling Lu-Ann at 218-894-2556. **Those wishing to attend should order the meal by 10 a.m. Fri., Feb. 14.**

Feb. 19 menu: Salisbury steak w/gravy, mashed potatoes, green beans, dinner roll/marj., brownie, 1% milk.

The Meals on Wheels lunch delivery program is also available by calling Lu-Ann at 218-894-2556. Meals are offered at a nominal fee weekdays through LSS Meals.

To volunteer as a Meals on Wheels driver, call Lu-Ann.



Great Storybook Escape Room

Can you escape our "Great Storybook Escape Room" at the Staples Library? There are 30 minutes on the clock to solve the clues and find the gold key. The group completing the challenge in the shortest amount of time will win a $25 pizza party provided by the Friends of the Library. The challenge runs Jan. through Feb. during select library hours. Call the library to register for a time slot. For adults or teens accompanied by an adult; limit four per group. Sponsored by the Staples Friends of Library. Above: The O's: Aaron, Ben, Peter, Corey and Laura Oeltjenbruns…didn't escape. (Submitted photo)

Free tax help offered

AARP Tax-aide will be offering free tax help to low to moderate income taxpayers at the Staples City Hall on Wednesdays, from 1 - 4 p.m. and Thursdays from 10 a.m. - 4 p.m. Feb. 5 - April 10, 2025.

Appointments are necessary and can be made by calling 218-296-6616.

Bring last year's income tax return, photo ID, social security cards for all family members, social security statements, railroad retirement, W-2, 1099-R, 1099 Interest, 1099-DIV, property tax statements, rent form and donations to charity.

If interested in being a tax aide volunteer for this program, call 218-296-6616.



Enjoying food and fellowship

A number of people stopped by the Church of Christ in Staples Jan. 28, to enjoy a tasty meal of scalloped potatoes and ham, along with veggies, salad, bread and dessert. The free meals, sponsored by CARE Ministry, are held on a monthly basis to promote fellowship, connection and nourishment. The meals are prepared and served by volunteers from the participating churches. *The next CARE Community Meal will be held Tuesday, Feb. 25, from 4:30 - 6 p.m. at Assembly of God Church in Staples. All are welcome.* (Staples World photos by Dawn Timbs)



Cardinal Calendar

SM school events

February

Home Speech Meet Saturday, Feb. 8, at the MS/HS. The event begins at 9 a.m., open to the public.

SnoDaze Week Feb. 10 - 14, with special events and dress up themes planned for each day.

SnoDaze Royalty Coronation Wednesday, Feb. 12, at 9 a.m.

March

Our Voice, Our Song Concert Saturday, March 1, 7 - 8:30 p.m., at the MS/HS Legacy Gym. Hosted by Staples Area Women's Chorus.

Veterans town hall meeting Feb. 11

A veterans town hall meeting is scheduled on Feb. 11, at 2 p.m., at the St. Cloud VA Medical Center, located at 4801 Veterans Drive, in St. Cloud.

The meeting is open to all veterans served by the St. Cloud VA, and will be held in Building 4, Room 180.

The meeting provides veterans the opportunity to hear from and have concerns addressed by St. Cloud VA officials.

Veterans can attend in-person, or virtually by joining the meeting on a computer or mobile device at https://tinyurl.com/yc3e5tj3. Veterans may also call in (audio only) to listen to the meeting at 1-872-701-0185 and using Phone conference ID: 948 690 515#.

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Hello World

Online births removed at the request of Lakewood Health System.

Student Achievements

Hunter Klimek, Motley, graduated from North Dakota State University in the Fall of 2024 with a Bachelor of University Studies degree.

Ryan Larson, Staples, graduated from North Dakota State University in the Fall of 2024 with a Bachelor of Science degree in Business Administration.

Carissa Peterson, Pillager, was named to the 2024 Fall President's List at LeTourneau University in Longview, Texas. The President's List recognizes students who have achieved a 4.0 grade point average for the semester.

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 .....8:30 a.m.
Sunday School and Coffee Fellowship.....10:05 a.m.

Sacred Heart Catholic Church
310 4th St. NE, Staples
Church.....218-894-2296
info@marysacc.org
Fr. Aaron Kuhn and Fr. Rick Aubol
MASS:
Sunday.....8:30 a.m.

Seventh Day Adventist
421 Dakota Ave. SE, Staples
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
Pastor Chris Mathiason
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
Community Life Pastor: Jim Brown
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
1st St. and Birch, Motley.....218-894-2296
info@marysacc.org
Fr. Aaron Kuhn Fr. Gabriel Walz
MASS:
Saturday .....4:00 p.m.

St. Michael
280 1st Ave S, Motley.....218-894-2296
Fr. Aaron Kuhn and Fr. Rick Aubol
MASS:
Sunday.....10:30 a.m. (May - Nov.)
Saturday .....4:00 p.m. (Dec - April)

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

Oylen

Oylen Alliance
Cty. Rds, 7 and 9, Oylen
218-472-3440 or 218-472-3316
Pastor Neal Malcore
Sunday 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 Classses .....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
Vermda;e.....218-894-2296
info@marysacc.org
Fr. Aaron Kuhn and Fr. Rick Aubol
MASS:
Saturday .....6:00 p.m

St. Hubert Catholic Church
Bluegrass.....218-894-2296
info@marysacc.org
Fr. Aaron Kuhn and Fr. Rick Aubol
MASS:
Sunday Service..... 10:00 a.m. (Dec. - April)
Saturday .....4:00 p.m. (May - Nov.)

Leaf River Township

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

Wadena

St. Helen's Episcopal Church
22 Dayton Ave. SW, Wadena, MN
218-631-3928
Sunday Worship.....10:00 a.m.

"Meaningful Prayer Converstaion With God"

Pastor Barry Klein, Staples Church of Christ

I wonder if we all at some time or another wonder about prayer and even are disappointed in our attempts at prayer. Let's start with what prayer is.

Prayer is a two-way visit with God. As with all good communication, it involves good listening skills. God listens to us perfectly. We struggle with listening well to God. That likely will not surprise us when we are open to being honest. After all, we (or at least I do) struggle with being a good listener without being distracted. Ask my beloved wife. If we struggle with human listening, it then will not surprise us when we struggle to listen to God.

One theologian said, "intent precedes content." We need to sincerely want to listen to God before we have anything worthy to share back with Him. After all, God knows everything. In comparison, we know very little. So, we would all do well to "tune in" to what God thinks about anything and everything. Proverbs 28:9 is very frank when we jump first to our requests (demands?) before we praise Him, come humbly before Him in our struggles and sin and then thank Him for His extreme generosity.

I wonder if we're aware of just how much God wants us to be in conversation with Him? In Revelation 5:8 we hear, "And when He had taken (the scroll), the four living creatures and the 24 elders fell down before the Lamb. Each one had a harp and they were holding golden bowls full of incense, which are the prayers of God's people." Please pause to reflect on that last phrase. Do we realize that every conversation of people who personally know God are collected, whether we're aware of it or not?!! That's because even when we're not thinking God is listening to us, He is.

No wonder the longest book in the Bible, the Psalms, is full of prayers. And there are many other prayers recorded throughout the Bible. God savors our communication with Him.

Because prayer conversation with God is relational, it can never be reduced to a formula. We know that the Pharisees were rebuked by Jesus for their canned, unintentional prayers (See Matthew 5:6). So, prayer is freeing when we can just come honestly before Him in His Presence that embraces us.

So, when we read verses like I Thessalonians 5:17 "pray continually," let's hear that as God's invitation to listen to Him first. Then, we can be propelled to express our lives to Him in His awaiting and attentive Presence where He already knows what we will say. But, like a loving parent, He wants to hear it all from us. He is our loving Heavenly Father. After listening to Him, talk freely to Him. He IS waiting for you.

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218-894-1112

w7c

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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*

Obituaries

John Gorton



John M. Gorton, DDS, 83, a beloved husband, father, grandfather and respected member of the Staples community, passed away peacefully January 26, 2025.

A funeral Mass will be held at Sacred Heart Church in Staples on February 10 at 11:00 a.m. with visitation one hour prior at the church.

The son of Horace Gorton and Catherine Lieb, John grew up in St. Paul and attended St. Mark's Elementary and St. Thomas Academy. The family later moved to Kansas City, Missouri, where John graduated from Rockhurst High School and Rockhurst College. Always dedicated to learning, John earned his doctorate at the University of Missouri Dental School and then fulfilled his military obligation as a captain in the U.S. Public Health Service.

In 1968, John and wife Sara (Sally) settled in Staples. He built a thriving dental practice that extended over 42 years. His warm smile, gentle demeanor and meticulous approach to dentistry earned him the trust of countless patients, many of whom considered him not only their dentist but also their friend.

John and Sally were married in June of 1963 and together, they created a strong, loving family. John took great delight in their children John, Greg, Peter, Mary and Paul and was equally proud of his 13 grandchildren. His love and devotion to his family were unwavering because family was at the center of everything he did.

John took great pride in being a part of the Staples community, giving his time and energy to improving life for everyone. He served in leadership of the Staples Jaycees in the 70's to help advance Jaycee projects for community improvement. He volunteered as well on the boards of the Staples Public Library, Staples Parks and Recreation and other community organizations. John was also active in the Catholic church volunteering as a lector, communion distributor, singing in the church choir and teaching religion classes. He also served as the Grand Knight for the Knights of Columbus.

John and Sally enjoyed traveling across the United States and Europe. He was an accomplished photographer with an eye for the beauty of places they visited. An avid golfer, John was a regular in the Staples Men's League. He also enjoyed singing in the Staples Area Men's Chorus which took him to events around the world. In his spare time, he enjoyed fishing, hunting and spending time with friends at Ten Mile Lake.

John is survived by his wife, Sally; four sons, John (Annette), Greg, Peter (Kelly) and Paul (Anna); one daughter, Mary (Peter) Altobelli; 13 grandchildren Matthew, Michael, Mitchell, Kit, Isabelle, Emily, Frances, Sam, Joe and Johnny Gorton and Sofia, Giana and Vinnie Altobelli; and countless friends and colleagues.

John's life was one marked by dedication, compassion and a deep commitment to service - both as a healthcare professional and a member of his community. His character and values were shaped by his deep faith and the friendships he formed.

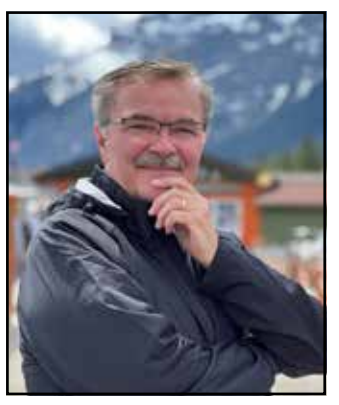
In lieu of flowers, the family requests donations be made to Staples Area Food Shelf, Lakes Area Pregnancy Support Center in Staples, or the Centennial Auditorium completion fund. All of these are honoring John's legacy of service and compassion.

The Gorton family extends their heartfelt thanks to the caregivers and medical staff who supported John during his final days, especially the remarkable support of the Hospice Program at the Lakewood Care Center. Staples. John made friends wherever he went because of his humor, generosity and easy-going nature. His memory will live on in the hearts of all who knew him.

Arrangements are by the Brenny Family Funeral Chapel, Staples.

w7c A00006B2025FB05

Rev. Philip Larsen



Rev. Philip (Phil) Martin Larsen passed away peacefully, surrounded by family on January 24, 2025, two years after being diagnosed with glioblastoma, a rare form of brain cancer. He lived each day with an overwhelming sense of gratitude and love.

A Celebration of Life Service was held February 1, 2025 at Concordia Lutheran Church, Fertile.

Phil served parishes in Hoople and Grafton, ND, Kindred and Davenport, ND, Walker and Brandon, SD, before finishing his ministry in Fertile with the United in Christ Lutheran Parish.

The kindness and faith that Phil showed lives on in his wife, Darcey; three sons Matthew, Andrew (Heidi) and John; his five siblings, Grace (John) Bent, Gloria (Albert) Imamura, Debra (Leland) Bottjen, Tim (Cristy) Larsen and Mary Beth (David) Sutherland; in-laws, Sonja Nefstead, Scott and Kari Christiansen, Eric Nefstead and David Priest; nieces and nephews, Sarah, Abby, Annika, Erika, Joshua, Jacob and Kjersten and fellow pastor and trusted friend, Dan Morton.

A full obituary can be found at https://www.eriksonvikfh.com. View our guestbook and share condolences online at www.eriksonvikfh.com

Arrangements were with Erikson-Vik-Ganje Funeral Home Fertile.

w7c A00006B2025FB05

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for all classified ads and copy is 12 noon Friday
For the Staples World



Staples-Motley girls wrestling

A team photo taken this season of the Staples-Motley girls wrestling team, in their second year of girls wrestling at the school. Front row from left, Anika Tureson, Addyson Holst, Millinda Dewald, Kana Reese, Mikaela Pesta, Ali Reese and Isabelle Dobson; back row, Suhaila Mikhaeil, Kyleena Rudlang, Madelyn Kist, Brooke Bendson, Jadin Linehan, Leah Greenwaldt and Taylin Lind; not pictured, Isabel Cole and Hailee Suhl. (Submitted photo)



Livi Lorber leads a fast break.

Girls wrestlers ready to take on super-section

Staples-Motley has seven girls competing in the Section 7 and Section 8 combined tournament Feb. 7-8, with the top two individuals in each bracket advancing to the state wrestling meet.

Competition starts at 5 p.m. on Friday, Feb. 7 at Brainerd High School. Day two starts at 9:30 a.m.

Coach Holton Truax said the girls have upped their goals for the section tournament in just the second year of the program.

"Last year was definitely a first year for us and we really didn't have expectations on how they should approach the section," said Truax. "This year all of our girls have really committed themselves and are striving to get to the state tournament."

Kana Reese at 100 pounds, Leah Greenwaldt at 106 and Anika Tureson at 170 are three freshman wrestlers.

"They have been going up against older competitors all year, which is not an easy task but they never stray away from a hard match," said Truax. "They have been very dominant in the second half of the season."

Sophomores Madelyn Kist at 118 and Brook Bendson at 124 will be wrestling at the section tournament for the first time.

"These two came into the season brand new and have figured out how to be aggressive and approach the match head-on without ever giving up," said Truax.

Two juniors, Isabelle Dobson at 112 and Isabel Cole at 136 are peaking late in the season.

"They are great leaders in the room with how they control themselves and represent our school," said Truax.

The section tournament is a combined Section 7 and Section 8, with all northern Minnesota schools involved. Girls wrestling has only one class in Minnesota, so the Cardinals will be competing against many big schools, including Brainerd, Bemidji and Alexandria, plus Twin Cities schools such as Monticello, Forest Lake and Coon Rapids.

"We have a very tough section, probably one of the toughest in the state," said Truax. "But the determination of all these ladies is super exciting. I'm very proud of how far they have come and excited to see where we can go."

"They are pushing themselves and focusing on the little details in practice and are ready to get after it next weekend," said Truax.

Reese has a 14-6 varsity record so far this year, Greenwaldt is 13-10, Dobson 11-11, Kist 7-5, Bendson 2-3, Cole 7-8 and Tureson 10-7.



Swarming defense

The Staples-Motley girls basketball team did a good job of shutting down the inside game of Frazee. (Staples World photos by Mark Anderson)

Cardinal girls first at 9th grade state wrestling

Staples-Motley had four girls place at the Ninth Grade Wrestling League State Tournament on Feb. 1. Their combined scores placed them first among all the teams at the meet. The league is for wrestlers grade 7-9.

The Cardinals had two champions in their weight bracket, Kana Reese at 88 pounds and Anika Tureson at 170.

Reese won with a second period pin to win her title and Tureson scored a fall in just 24 seconds in her championship match.

Leah Greenwaldt was third at 106 pounds, scoring an 11-1 win in the third place match.

Mikaela Pesta was fifth at 94 pounds, winning her medal with a first period fall in the fifth place match.

Team results

Ninth Grade Wrestling League team scores

Staples-Motley 72, Two Rivers 61, Wabasso 53, Eden Prairie 45, Eagan 43, Hastings 43, St. James 42, Annandale-Maple Lake 35, Maple Grove 32, Roseau 32, Marshall 31, Princeton 30, Zumbrota-Mazeppa 27, hisago Lakes 26, Prior Lake 26, Waconia 25, Stillwater 25, Little Falls 24, Morris (Mahaca) 24, Albert Lea 23, Royalton-Upsala 23, Farmington 22, Northfield 21 ... 23 more teams

Good shooting downs Cards

The Staples-Motley girls basketball team lost three games, 73-40 at Osakis on Jan. 27, and two home games, 75-38 against Frazee on Jan. 28 and 57-25 against Pelican Rapids on Jan. 30.

Against Frazee, the Cardinals did not allow many baskets in the lane, but Frazee kept hitting mid range and long range jump shots to build their lead.

Agasint Pelican Rapids, it was a slow-down game, with both teams taking time to work through their offense.

Team results

Staples-Motley 38, Frazee 75

Scoring: Livi Lorber 12, Hannah Cole 8, Clara Maros 8, Ellen Lange 4, Sophia Luna 4, Miranda Schotzko 2

Wrestlers win tournament as season winds down

The Staples-Motley boys wrestling team had eight weight bracket champions and finished first at the Tyler Moening Invitational at Walker-Hackensack-Akely on Jan. 31.

The Cardinals did not have their full team at the tournament, with several wrestlers not in the lineup and three weights unfilled. It was not a high-powered tournament like some of the recent meets this season, but there were some good wrestlers in most brackets.

One notable bracket was a 152 pounds, where Riley Reese continues to be a wrecking ball, winning his third straight individual tournament since dropping down to that weight.

Section preview

Staples-Motley has one more regular season match scheduled, Feb. 6 at Bemidji.

The Cardinals will be the number one seed for the Section 7A team tournament and will host their opening round match on Tuesday, Feb. 11. A preliminary round between the eight and nine seeds will be at 5 p.m., with the Cardinals taking on the winner immediately after.

The semifinals and section final will be Friday, Feb. 14, at Holdingford. The first matches start at 5 p.m.

Staples-Motley and Holdingford have been ranked second and third in the state this entire year and neither team has faltered in the rankings. The teams met head to head on Jan. 11, the Cardinals emerging with a close 31-27 win, showing how close these two teams are.

The Section 7A individual tournament will be the following week at Cass Lake-Bena, starting Friday, Feb. 21 and concluding Saturday, Feb. 22.

Team results

Tyler Moening Invitational

Staples-Motley 223, Thief River Falls 190, Fosston-Bagley 134, Rock Ridge 92, Walker-Hackensack-Akely/Nevis 82, Blackduck-Cass Lake-Bena 69, Hibbing 69, Deer River 48, Crookston 29, Crosby-Ironton 20, Nashwauk-Keewatin-Greenway 14, Northest Range/Ely 3

107 Garrett Bjerga 2-0, 1st place

107 Justin Olson 1-2, 4th place

114 Caden Kramer 3-0, 1st place

121 Gage Bjerga 3-0, 1st place

127 Cayden Neisen 3-0, 1st place

145 Jackson Schouviller 1-2, 5th place

152 Riley Reese 4-0, 1st place

160 Colbe Tappe 2-0, 1st place

172 Dustin Converse 2-1, 2nd place

172 Seth Cossentine 3-1, 3rd place

189 Luke Bjerga 2-0, 1st place

189 Reece Headley 2-0, 2nd place

215 Adrian Gomez 2-0, 1st place

Cardinals offense hindered in two losses

After winning 74-62 at Upsala, the Staples-Motley boys basketball team lost two straight games at home, 49-76 against Pequot Lakes and 45-59 against Pelican Rapids. In the two losses, the team struggled offensively.

Against Pequot Lakes, the Cardinals stayed close at the beginning, but PL wen ton a 9-2 run and a 10-0 run in the first half and kept a double digit lead the rest of the game.

One thing that kept them in the game was their best free throw shooting night of the year, hitting 16 of 19 shots. Against Pelican Rapids, the Cardinals only made 7 of 14 free throws.

Team results

Staples-Motley 74, Upsala 62

Scoring: Noah Larson 23, Avandre Brandt 17, Eli Rutten 17, Alex Schultz 9, Conner Kuhns 4, Peyton Jares 4

Staples-Motley 49, Pequot Lakes 76

Scoring: Jares 10, Schultz 10, Rutten 10, Kuhns 6, Brandt 5, Larson 4, Josiah Burton 4

Staples-Motley 45, Pelican Rapids 59

Scoring: Brandt 11, Rutten 10, Larson 7, Burton 6, Kuhns 5, Ryan Neelan 3, Schultz 2, Jares 1



Reverse layup

Eli Rutten sneaks around the defense for a reverse layup. (Staples World photo by Mark Anderson)

Public Notices

NOTICE EVERGREEN HILL CEMETERY MEETING

Evergreen Hill Cemetery will hold its annual meeting on Tuesday, February 11, 2025 at 6 p.m. at the Staples Community Center.

Bob Reeck, Evergreen Hill Cemetery, Sec./Treas.

7pnc

NOTICE FAWN LAKE TOWNSHIP BOARD OF AUDIT

Fawn Lake Township will hold their annual Board of Audit meeting on Monday, February 10, 2025.

The Board of Audit will immediately follow the regular monthly meeting to be held at 7:00 p.m. at the town hall.

The public is invited to attend.

Kelly Miller, Clerk
Fawn Lake Township

7pnc

LEADER COMMUNITY HALL BOARD

The Leader Community Hall Board will meet on Thursday, February 13, 2025 at 7:00 p.m. at the Hall.

Mark Strom,
Secretary

6-7pnc

NOTICE VILLARD TOWNSHIP BOARD OF AUDIT

Villard Township will hold its Board of Audit meeting on Tuesday, February 11, 2025 at 6:30 p.m., before the regular monthly meeting.

This meeting will be held at the Eastwood Inn, Motley.

Mary Trantina Koenig,
Clerk
Villard Township

7pnc

NOTICE (ABBREVIATED ADVERTISEMENT) TODD COUNTY 2025 BITUMINOUS PROJECTS

Closing date: February 25, 2025

Sealed bids will be accepted until 10:00 a.m., February 25, 2025 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:

SAP 077-603-010
SAP 077-622-014
CP 25:73
CP 25:78
CP 77-25-01

This is an abbreviated advertisement. A full advertisement can be viewed by going to the Public Works website at https://egram.co.todd.mn.us/oneoffice/bidding.

Loren Fellbaum
Todd County Public Works
Director/Engineer

6-8pnc

NOTICE REQUEST FOR QUALIFICATIONS FOR ENGINEERING AND ARCHITECTURAL SERVICE FOR THE STAPLES MUNICIPAL AIRPORT (SAZ) STAPLES, MN

The City of Staples, MN is requesting Statements of Qualification from interested and qualified consultants for professional engineering and architectural services for the Staples Municipal Airport. Professional, technical, and advisory services are needed for projects identified in the Airport's Capital Improvement Plan ("CIP"). A five (5) year selection will be awarded to the successful bidder.

Submissions are due on February 21, 2025 by 4:30 p.m. CST.

Email Jerel Nelsen, City Administrator (jnelsen@ci.staples.mn.us) for full RFQ language.

Tara Greer, City Clerk
Staples, MN

7pnc

NOTICE OF MORTGAGE FORCLOSURE 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: January 6, 2006

ORIGINAL PRINCIPAL AMOUNT OF MORTGAGE: $195,000.00

MORTGAGOR(S): Kevin J. Bednar, and Penny K. Bednar, husband and wife as joint tenants

MORTGAGEE: Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc., as nominee for MILA, Inc.

DATE AND PLACE OF FILING: Recorded on August 9, 2006 as Document Number 443619 in the Office of the County Recorder of Todd County, Minnesota.

ASSIGNMENTS OF MORTGAGE: Assigned to: U.S. Bank National Association, as Trustee for the Specialty Underwriting and Residential Finance Trust Mortgage Loan Asset-Backed Certificates Series 2006-BC2 by assignment recorded on January 6, 2010 as Document Number 466298 in the Office of the County Recorder of Todd County, Minnesota; thereafter assigned to Bank of America, N.A. by assignment recorded on September 5, 2023 as Document Number A537950 in the Office of the County Recorder of Todd County, Minnesota; thereafter assigned to Nationstar Mortgage, LLC by assignment recorded on November 12, 2013 as Document Number 487120 in the Office of the County Recorder of Todd County, Minnesota; thereafter assigned to U.S. Bank, National Association, as Trustee for the Holders of the Specialty Underwriting and Residential Finance Trust, Mortgage Loan Asset-Backed Certificates, Series 2006-BC2 by assignment recorded on October 29, 2014 as Document Number A491803 in the Office of the County Recorder of Todd County, Minnesota.

LEGAL DESCRIPTION OF PROPERTY: The North 436.14 Feet to the South 1183.43 Feet of the West 547 Feet thereof of the Southwest Quarter of the Southwest Quarter of Section 17, Township 133, Range 33 West of the Fifth Principal Meridian, Todd County, Minnesota.

STREET ADDRESS OF PROPERTY: 48218 COUNTY 9, STAPLES, MN 56479

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

THE AMOUNT CLAIMED TO BE DUE ON THE MORTGAGE ON THE DATE OF THE NOTICE: $267,245.95

TRANSACTION AGENT: Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc.

NAME OF MORTGAGE ORIGINATOR: MILA, Inc.

RESIDENTIAL SERVICER: Nationstar Mortgage LLC

TAX PARCEL IDENTIFICATION NUMBER: 22-0017500

TRANSACTION AGENT'S MORTGAGE IDENTIFICATION NUMBER: 1001752-0000289060-9

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: March 13, 2025 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 six (6) months from the date of sale.

TIME AND DATE TO VACATE PROPERTY: Unless said mortgage is reinstated

See **FORECLOSURE** on page9a

Staples-Motley School Board Minutes

ISD #2170 SCHOOL BOARD MEETING #9 Dec. 16, 2024, 6 p.m. District Office

MINUTES

Call to Order

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

Roll Call was taken, Members Wright, Trout, Reese, Winkels and Reeck were present, comprising a quorum. Member Anderson was absent. Also present were Superintendent Tappe, Business Manager Hill,

Principal Koenigs, Principal Ferdon, AD Lee, Recording Clerk Larson, SMEA representatives, Staples World Managing Editor Anderson, ICS representative Williams, Staff members, students and community members.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Motion by Reeck, second by Trout to adopt the agenda. **MC**

Chair Winkels welcomed and recognized the public in attendance.

School/Community Forum

None

Audit Report

2023-2024 Audit presentation via Zoom by Brady Martz.

Motion by Wright, second by Reeck, to accept the 2023-2024 Audit as presented by Brady Martz. **MC**

Consent Agenda

Approve the Minutes from the November 18, 2024 regular meeting

Approve the Minutes from the December 2, 2024 Truth in Taxation Meeting

Approve the fundraiser requests from Student Council

Approve the leave request from Bobbyjo Johnson, Special Ed Teacher

Approve the resignations of

a. Stacy Beto, Food Service, effective Dec. 20, 2024

b. Renee Kroll, Assistant Speech Coach, effective immediately

c. Douglas Roberts, transportation effective Dec. 13, 2024

Approve the 2024-2025 Certified Staff Seniority List

Approve the list of 2024-2025 Speech coaches

Approve the list of 2024-2025 Jr. High Boys Basketball Coaches

Approve the 2024-2025 renewal of Erin Judd, Special Olympics Coach

Approve the hire of:

a. Francesca Hanson, School Readiness Paraprofessional

b. Shelby Brusewitz, School Readiness Teacher

c. Keller Anderson, Part time "Nest" Assistant

d. Grace Jennissen, Part time "Nest" Assistant

e. Angie Jares, Part time "Nest" Assistant

f. Christine Qual, Part time "Nest" Assistant

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

Donations and In-Kind Contributions

Motion by Winkels, second by Wright, to approve Grants and Donations in the amount of $14,294 and In-kind donations in the amount of $500. **MC**

Finance Items

Finance Report presented by Business Manager Hill

Motion by Trout, second by Winkels, to approve the November Disbursements. **MC**

General Fund: $1,064,569.09

Food Service: $62,145.13

Community Service: $37,417.23

Construction Fund: $435,636.38

Debt Service: $0

Fund 21 Student Activities: $5,833.54

Fund 45: $0

Motion by Reeck, second by Wright, to approve the November receipts. **MC**

General Fund: $650,962.81

Food Service: $99,672.01

Community Service Fund: $37,543.40

Construction Fund: $182,927.69

Debt Service Fund: $563,119.40

Fund 21 Student Activities: $14,033.06

Fund 45: $4,271.71

Motion by Wright, second by Winkels, to approve the Resolution Directing Administration to Make Recommendations for Reductions in Programs and Positions. **MC**

This is the annual resolution required to allow any future budget reductions to occur.

(Roll Call Vote) Winkels, Wright, Trout, Reese and Reeck voted in favor. Anderson Absent.

Facilities

Update Presented by Williams of ICS

Personnel

Motion by Reeck, second by Trout, to accept the Retirement of Phyl Runzel, effective January 17, 2025. **MC**.

Thank you Phyl for over 11 years of service to the Staples-Motley School District.

Motion by Wright, second by Winkels, to accept the Retirement of Peter Kautto, effective May 30, 2025. **MC**

Thank you, Peter, for over 34 years of service to the Staples-Motley School District.

Motion by Wright, second by Trout, to accept the Retirement of Robin Kautto, effective May 30, 2025. **MC**

Thank you, Robin, for over 33 years of service to the Staples-Motley School District.

Policy

(Policy Committee Minutes 12-10-2024)

Motion by Reeck, second by Reese, to approve the review of the following MSBA policies with changes. **MC**

417 - Chemical Use and Abuse

512 - School Sponsored Student Publications

522 - Sex Nondiscrimination Policy

522F - Student Sex Nondiscrimination Policy

Motion by Reese, second by Winkels, to approve the review of the following MSBA policies with minimum or no changes. **MC**

201 - Legal Status of the School Board

202 - School Board Officers

203 - Operation of School Board Governing Rules

203.5 - School Board Meeting Agenda

208 - Development, Adoption and Implementation of Policies

420 - Students and amp; Employees with Sexually Transmitted Infections

519 - Interviews of Students

520 - Student Surveys

528 - Marital Nondiscrimination

529 - Staff Notification of Violent Behavior of Students

Other

1. **Motion** by Winkels, second by Wright, to approve the sealed bids for miscellaneous items. **MC**

World's Best Work Force (WBWF) report presented by Principal's Ferdon and Koenigs and Teaching and Learning Coordinator Pantzke.

Motion by Reeck, second by Wright, to approve the 2023-2024 Combined WBWF summary. **MC**

Reports:

School Board

a. FED

b. Sourcewell - October 2024 Minutes

SMEA - Report from Representative Evans

Principals

a.Elementary - Report from Principal Koenigs

Middle/High - Report from Principal Ferdon

AD/Community Ed - November 2024 Minutes and Report from AD/CE Lee

Superintendent report from Superintendent Tappe

Other

Motion by Winkels, second by Reeck, to adjourn the meeting at 7:05 p.m. **MC**

Trisha Larson, Clerk
ISD #2170

7pnc

ISD #2170 SCHOOL BOARD ORGANIZATIONAL MEETING #10

Jan. 6, 2025, 6:00 p.m. District Office

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

Newly elected Board Members Jeremy Reeck, Mary Freeman and Sherry Miller Frisk took the Oath of Office.

Roll Call

Members Reeck, Reese, Freeman, Trout, Frisk and Wright were present comprising a quorum.

Also present were Superintendent Tappe, Principal Ferdon, Recording Clerk Larson, staff and students.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Motion by Freeman, second by Reeck, to adopt the agenda. **MC**

Vice Chair Wright welcomed and recognized the public.

Reorganizational Items:

Vice Chair Wright called for nominations for **Board Chair**. Reeck nominated Freeman. Vice Chair Wright called for additional nominations two more times with no further nominations. **Freeman was declared the Board Chair.**

Chair Freeman called for nominations for **Vice Chair**. Wright nominated Trout. Freeman called for additional nominations two more times with no further nominations. **Trout was declared the Vice Chair.**

Chair Freeman called for nominations for **Clerk.** Freeman nominated Frisk. Freeman called for additional nominations two more times. **Frisk was declared the Clerk.**

Chair Freeman called for nominations for **Treasurer**. Trout nominated Reeck. Freeman called for additional nominations two more times with no further nominations. **Reeck was declared the Treasurer.**

Motion by Reeck, second by Reese, to appoint Trisha Larson as Assistant to the Clerk and Ellie Hill as Assistant to the Treasurer. **MC**

Annual Organizational Items

Motion by Wright, second by Trout, to designate 2025 School Attorneys, Official Depositories, Investment of Funds, Electronic Transfers, Signature Approvals. **MC**

Official School Attorneys - To name Pemberton Law Office of Fergus Falls; Kennedy & Graven; and Knutson, Flynn & Deans to serve as the official school district attorneys for 2025 and that the selection be determined by the administration. Authority also was granted to the administration to employ any other attorney/law firm as deemed necessary.

Official Depositories - To name the following as official depositories for 2025: First International Bank and Trust, Unity Bank Central, Mid-Central Federal Savings Bank, Mid-Minnesota Federal Credit Union, MN School District Liquid Assets Fund Plus, MN Trust and other financial institutions which are in compliance with MN Statutes governing school district depositories. Signers at these Official Depositories shall include the Board Chair; Board Treasurer; Superintendent and Business Manager.

Official Newspaper - To designate The Staples World as the legal and official newspaper for the Staples-Motley School District for 2025.

Official(s) to Invest Funds -To authorize school officials to invest funds on behalf of the school district: Business Manager and Superintendent.

Agent(s) to Make Electronic Transfers - To authorize school officials to electronically transfer funds to be invested for the district: Business Manager and Payroll Clerk.

Signature Approvals - Authorize Superintendent Shane Tappe, and Business Manager Ellie Hill, to execute agreements and/or financial documents as necessary on behalf of the Staples-Motley School District.

Appoint Board Members to Serve on Educational Committees

Members voiced their intent to serve on the following committees:

Finance Committee - Wright and Reeck

Policy Committee - Trout and Reese

District Technology Committee - Wright

Meet and Confer Committee - Freeman and Frisk

Facility Committee - Reese and Reeck

Superintendent Evaluation Committee - Reeck and Freeman

Freshwater Ed District - Wright (Alternate Frisk)

Sourcewell Delegate - Trout

MSHSL - Reeck

QComp - Trout

MSBA Legislative Liaison - Reese and Tappe

Community Ed Advisory Council - Reeck

Economic Development Authority - Tappe

Contract Negotiations Teams

Instructional Group - Freeman and Frisk

Support Staff and Professional Group - Trout and Frisk

Principals and Transportation - Wright and Reeck

Superintendent - Reese and Trout

Motion by Frisk, second by Reese, to set the 2025 meeting schedule as presented. **MC**

Regular meetings will be held the second to last Monday of each month at 6:00 p.m. (January and February will be the fourth Monday, April will be the second Monday); Work sessions will be the first Monday of the month (no work session in April, July or September). All Work Sessions MAY be followed by a regular Board Meeting as needed. Other meetings may be called as needed. All meetings will be held in the building of the District Office. School/public forum will be first on the agenda if someone would like to address the board on any topic, subject to the limitations of policy #206 .

Motion by Wright, second by Reeck, to set the 2025 Annual School Board Salary at $3,550. **MC**

Motion by Trout, second by Frisk, to approve the resolution requiring the tally of write-in votes only if write-in votes are greater than a ballot candidate's total votes. Reeck, Reese, Freeman, Frisk, Wright and Trout all in favor. **MC**

Motion by Freeman, second by Frisk, to Approve the Resolution Allowing the School District to Purchase Supplies or Services from a School Board Member. Freeman, Wright, Trout, Frisk and Reese in favor. Reeck abstained. **MC**

Motion by Reeck, second by Wright, to adjourn the meeting at 6:29 p.m. **MC**

Trisha Larson, Clerk
ISD #2170

7pnc

Public Notices

FORECLOSURE continued from page 8a

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 September 15, 2025.

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: None

Dated: January 10, 2025

U.S. BANK, NATIONAL ASSOCIATION, AS TRUSTEE FOR THE HOLDERS OF THE SPECIALTY UNDERWRITING AND RESIDENTIAL FINANCE TRUST, MORTGAGE LOAN ASSET-BACKED CERTIFICATES, SERIES 2006-BC2
Mortgagee

TROTT LAW, P.C.

By:_____/s/_____
N. Kibongni Fondungallah, Esq.
Samuel R. Coleman, Esq.
Sung Woo Hong, Esq.
Alexa Marsh, Esq.
Attorneys for Mortgagee
25 Dale Street North
St. Paul, MN 55102
(651) 209-9760
(24-0766-FC02)

THIS IS A COMMUNICATION FROM A DEBT COLLECTOR.
4-9pnc

Services & Employment

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Magic Forest, 1411 8th St. NE, Staples MN 56479 or call: 218-895-5330 and ask for Stacy or Nicky; email resumé to narky8645@gmail.com
Accepting applications until February 11, 2025.
cl7c

CASS COUNTY
LAND DEPARTMENT
NOTICE OF ONLINE AUCTION FOR THE SALE OF TAX-FORFEITED PARCELS

Cass County is hosting an online public land sale auction that will begin **February 14 at 9 a.m.** and end **March 16 at 7 p.m.** Fifteen (15) parcels will be offered for sale by Public Surplus website. Properties are located throughout Cass County. Interested parties will need to create an account with Public Surplus by visiting **www.publicsurplus.com** and follow all requirements. All bids must be made using the Public Surplus website. Properties offered for sale can be viewed by visiting our Land Sale website at: **https://www.casscountymn.gov/1339/Land-Sales**. The Land Department website contains a list and other information about the parcels offered at auction. Interested buyers may also contact Land Department staff at 218-947-3338. Properties offered in prior years that remain unsold are available for direct purchases at any time over the counter. Information on how to purchase these properties is available by contacting the Land Department.
cl6-7c

208 Storage

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Wanted to Buy

501 Miscellaneous

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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
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611 Wanted to Buy

40+ ACRES between Wadena/Pillager, with or without house, 218-831-3521. 6-8p

Place your Classified Ad for only $9.85/wk.
Your ad will appear Wednesday in the Staples World and online at www.staplesworld.com

Mailing address for checks:
Staples World
P.O. Box 100
Staples, MN 56479

Payment must accompany the order.

Deadline: Friday at Noon

MINNESOTA NEWSPAPER ASSOCIATION

MCAN
Minnesota Classified Advertising Network

mcan STATEWIDE CLASSIFIEDS

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MDA HIRING FOREST PEST (SPONGY MOTH) SURVEYORS
The Minnesota Department of Agriculture is hiring temp. intermittent Surveyors (Ag Technicians) for the 2025 Spongy Moth Trapping Survey season. $20.21/hr.+ mileage reimbursement. View job post (Job I.D. 83443) & apply online through February 28th: https://mn.gov/mmb/careers. MDA is an equal opportunity employer & provider. Questions: 651/201-6692 or natasha.northrop@state.mn.us

EMPLOYMENT

ANNANDALE SCHOOLS
is seeking a K-5 Special Ed Paraprofessional, 6.5 hour days during school year, excellent pay and work environment. Visit www.isd876.org, Human resources page.

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Staples-Motley Speech team with the trophy at Pequot Lakes: front, Captains Olivia Opheim and Laken Hines; second row: Annabella Hurtig, Terri Rodriguez, Nadia Santos, Sadye Anderson, Walker Johnson, Lexi Ann, Addie Brenny, Maddock Harvey; third row: Jackson Bitzer, Landon Zeigler, Kai Bestland, Lydia Tkalcich, Atlas Mills, Hailey Richardt, Jackson Alexander; back row: Caleb Bestland, Alex Tkalcich, (name missing), Brynn Bestland, Raina Mikhaeil, Tristan Rendon, Molly Hoemberg, Meredith Hoemberg, Jessi Bursch. (Submitted photo)

Staples-Motley speech team first place team trophy at Pequot Lakes

The Staples-Motley Speech team traveled to Pequot Lakes January 25 for their "Not So" Early Bird Tournament. The team brought home the first place trophy and 21 medals.

Walker Johnson was first in two categories, Creative Expression and Extemporaneous Reading. In the category of Creative Expression, Maddock Harvey took sixth and Joshua Cushing, fourth. In Dramatic Interpretation, Brynn Bestland, first, Raina Mikhaeil, sixth and Jessi Bursch, third in the honor final (the next six competing after the top six).

The category of Duo, Brynn Bestland and Joshua Cushing were second, Addie Brenny and Olivia Opheim fourth and Alex Tkalcich and Caleb Bestland, second in the honor final. In Great Speeches, Raina Mikhaeil, third and Tristan Rendon, fourth; Humor, Laken Hines, first and Caleb Bestland, third in the honor final; Informative Speaking, Olivia Opheim, second and Terri Rodriguez, fifth in the honor final. In Poetry, Addie Brenny, sixth; Prose, Lexi Ann, third; Storytelling, Maddock Harvey, first and Laken Hines, second.



Medal winners

Front: Brynn Bestland, Walker Johnson, Olivia Opheim, Laken Hines, Maddock Harvey; middle: Joshua Cushing, Addie Brenny, Raina Mikhaeil, Lexi Ann, Tristan Rendo; back: Terri Rodrigues, Jessi Bursch, Caleb Bestland, Alex Tkalcich. (Submitted photo)

SBDC starts mentor mornings

The North Central Small Business Development Center (SBDC) at Central Lakes College, in partnership with SCORE, has announced Mentor Mornings, a new series designed to inspire, connect, and empower local entrepreneurs.

Each session offers attendees a chance to dive deep into a focused topic while building meaningful connections with like-minded business owners and leaders in the community.

The events will take place from 8:30 a.m. to 10:30 a.m. at the Fireside Lounge at Central Lakes College in Brainerd. Local coffee and treats will be provided.

Mentor Mornings Schedule and Topics:

• February 24: Growth Strategies (featuring Alison Medeck, BLAEDC)

• March 24: Content that Converts (featuring Jennifer Carnahan, Primrose Park)

• April 28: Leading Tiny Team (featuring Sandy Voigt, Women's Business Alliance)

"Mentor Mornings is designed to create a space where entrepreneurs of all levels can come together to share their goals and struggles," said Katie Heppner, Regional Director of the North Central SBDC. "Starting and owning a business can be an incredibly long and lonely journey, and by coming together with SCORE to provide these community-building events, we are hoping to offer a strong, supportive network to help small businesses in our region thrive."

Basics for flu season

From Todd County Health and Human Services

Flu can cause mild to severe illness, and at times can lead to death. Flu symptoms usually come on suddenly. People who have flu often feel some or all of these signs and symptoms:

• fever or feeling feverish/chills (not everyone with flu will have a fever.)
• cough
• sore throat
• runny or stuffy nose
• muscle or body aches
• headaches
• fatigue (tiredness)
• some people may have vomiting and diarrhea, though this is more common in children than adults.

Anyone can get sick with flu, even healthy people, and serious problems related to flu can happen to anyone at any age, but some people are at higher risk of developing serious flu-related complications if they get sick. This includes people 65 years and older, people of any age with certain chronic medical conditions (such as asthma, diabetes, or heart disease), pregnant women and children younger than 5 years, but especially those younger than 2 years old.

People experiencing these warning signs should get medical care right away. Please talk to your medical provider for any other symptom that is severe or concerning.

• Fast breathing or trouble breathing
• Chest pain
• Dehydration (no urine for 8 hours, dry mouth, no tears when crying)
• Not alert or interacting when awake
• Fever above 104 degrees Fahrenheit that is not controlled by fever-reducing medicine
• Worsening of chronic medical conditions

Source: https://www.cdc.gov/flu/index.html

SCHOOL continued from page 1a

Winter sports teams seeing growth

said Tappe.

He said a lot of cancellations are made too early, like a recent one where some districts called school off but then ended up with just two inches of snow.

Klimek said the bus garage complex may need some updates in the near future, such as the fuel island and an old building that is mostly used for storage. They also are looking at updating their bus routing software.

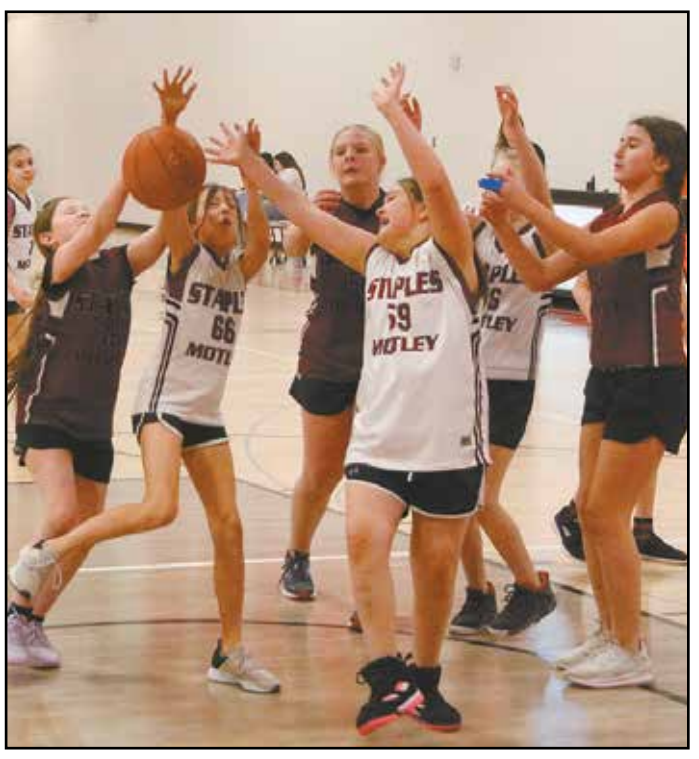
In other news, the board

• Approved resignations of Karlee Chenoweth, paraprofessional; Brian Smith, assistant baseball coach; Melissa Richards, Adventures; Angela Jares, paraprofessional; and Cadell Sullivan, custodian.

• Approved retirement of LaDeanna Simek, English teacher, after 33 years with the district.

• Heard from Activities Director Josh Lee, who said all the winter sports are growing. "We are still seeing a ton of growth through our programs across the board," said Lee.





Creating their own hype at the varsity game

Staples-Motley girls basketball players played during halftime of the girls varsity game on Jan. 28, above and right. The girls enjoyed cheering on their team, below. (Staples World photos by Mark Anderson)



