

Inside this issue:

Wadena County Commissioners sworn in
High scoring basketball win
Big things in Staples
Fickle winter winners and losers



Wednesday, January 15, 2025 Staples, Minnesota \$1.25

Youth boys basketball tournament Staples-Motley basketball youth grades 3-6 held their home tournament January 11, 2025 at the Nest for the first time. Above: Staples-Motley fourth graders -vs- Perham in the south half of the Nest. The new facility hosted many events this week, see page 2a. (Photo by Janice Winter)

Freeman elected school board chair

The Staples-Motley School Board elected Mary Freeman as board chair at their organizational meeting on Jan. 6. Freeman was newly elected this year but had been on the board for many years previously. Other positions nominated and approved include Chandler Trout as vice chair, Jeremy Reeck as treasurer and Sherry Miller Frisk as clerk. Also at the meeting, the board appointed the following committee members:

- Finance Committee - Ryan Wright and Jeremy Reeck
- Policy Committee - Chandler Trout and Kyle Reese
- District Technology Committee - Ryan Wright
- Meet and Confer Committee - Mary Freeman and Sherry Miller Frisk
- Facility Committee - Kyle Reese and Jeremy Reeck
- Superintendent Evaluation Committee - Jeremy Reeck and Mary Freeman
- Freshwater Ed District - Ryan Wright
- Sourcewell Delegate -

Chandler Trout

- QComp - Chandler Trout
- MSBA Legislative Liaison - Kyle Reese and Shane Tappe
- Community Ed Advisory Council - Jeremy Reeck
- Economic Development Authority - Shane Tappe

The board approved the following contract negotiations teams:

- Instructional Group - Mary Freeman and Sherry Miller Frisk
- Support Staff and Professional Group - Chandler Trout and Sherry Miller Frisk
- Principals and Transportation - Ryan Wright & Jeremy Reeck
- Superintendent - Kyle Reese and Chandler Trout

Also at the meeting, the board approved the following designations:

- Official school attorneys - Pemberton Law Office, Knutson, Flynn & Deans, and Kennedy & Graven.
- Official depositories: First International Bank and Trust, Unity Bank, Mid-Central Federal Savings Bank, Mid-Minnesota

See **SCHOOL** on page 10a



School board members take oath of office

Staples-Motley School Board member Ryan Wright, far left, swears in the school board members who were elected in the November election, from left, Jeremy Reeck, Mary Freeman and Shari Miller Frisk. Board members Kyle Reese and Chandler Trout remain seated

because their seats were not up for election this year. Wright was the acting chair to start the meeting because former chair Bryan Winkels stepped down and is now a Wadena County Commissioner. (Submitted photo)

Locals remember former U.S. President Jimmy Carter

By Dawn Timbs, Staples World reporter

Former president Jimmy Carter was laid to rest Jan. 9, 2025, at his home in Plains, Ga., alongside his wife of 77 years, Rosalynn. Carter passed away Dec. 29, 2024 at the age of 100. According to Wikipedia, he was the longest-lived president in U.S. history and the first to reach 100 years of age.

The 39th president and member of the Democratic party, Carter served in office from 1977 - 1981. As with any U.S. president, Carter was most likely the topic of conversation at local gathering spots, his supporters praising his expansion of the national park system, and appointing record numbers of women and people of color to government jobs; and his critics noting the crises that took place during his tenure, which included the 1979 oil crisis and the Iran hostage crisis, from 1979 - 1981.

Since his passing, most stories shared of the beloved Southern statesman focus on his humanitarian accomplishments that took place after he left the White House, including his work with Habitat for Humanity, and establishing the Carter Center in Atlanta, Ga., devoted to

issues relating to democracy and human rights. He was also known for his teaching of Sunday School classes. At his state funeral service held at the Washington National Cathedral Jan. 9, Carter's grandson, Josh Carter, shared of his grandfather's commitment to Maranatha Baptist Church in Plains, noting that he taught Sunday School there "from World War II to Covid."

Phyllis Paskewitz

When she heard the news of Jimmy Carter's passing, Phyllis Paskewitz of Staples immediately thought of the time she and her husband, Bob, had the opportunity to attend one of the former president's famed Sunday School classes at his hometown church.

It was about 20 years ago, Phyllis said of the once-in-a-lifetime incident in Plains. She and Bob had been planning a road trip to Florida, and in talking with her sister, Elaine, learned that Pres. Carter taught Sunday School classes every other week. "So we changed our route a bit," Phyllis said, going on to describe their detour through southwestern Georgia and the Carters' hometown.

They arrived in Plains Saturday afternoon and decided to get their bearings. See **CARTER** on page 10a



Precious memory

Phyllis Paskewitz, Staples, holds a photo of her and her husband, Bob, along with former President Jimmy Carter and his wife, Rosalynn, following a Sunday School class at the Carter's church in Plains, Ga., taught by Pres. Carter. The photo, taken about 20 years ago, means a lot to Paskewitz and brings back wonderful memories of this once-in-a-lifetime experience she shared with her late husband. (Staples World photo by Dawn Timbs)

Weather

2025

This Week's Forecast

	High	Low	Cond.
Jan. 15	30	28	P. Cloudy
Jan. 16	33	27	M. Sunny
Jan. 17	32	2	Cloudy
Jan. 18	7	-13	Cloudy
Jan. 19	-5	-19	P. Sunny
Jan. 20	-8	-18	M. Sunny
Jan. 21	5	-8	M. Sunny

Last Year, 2024

	High	Low	Cond.
Jan. 15	-7°	-13	Sunny
Jan. 16	6	-5	M. Sunny
Jan. 17	5	-3	M. Sunny
Jan. 18	14	-6	M. Sunny
Jan. 19	1	-4	Sunny
Jan. 20	3	-13	Sunny
Jan. 21	21	5	M. Sunny

Average Temps:
H = 21° Low = 3°

Compiled by
Dale Hausmann,
WCCO's Staples area
Weatherwatcher

Public Notices

Moran 8A

Villard 8A

Todd Commissioners: 8A

Obituary

Arthur Halverson



The Nest becomes tournament central

Staples-Motley School District has been hosting several sports tournaments this winter, since the new gym opened at The Nest on Dec. 2. The expanded court space allows for an audience to be seated on movable bleachers when both sides of the court are in use. Below,

tournament participants can see the inspirational messages on the walking track above and Cardinal posters on the walls. Bottom photo, Staples-Motley hosted the Ninth Grade Wrestling League regional team tournament on Jan. 13. (Staples World photos by Mark Anderson)



Motley area law enforcement

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

Jan. 1 - 7
Jan. 4 - Motley Police received a call from Dollar

General in Motley, reporting that a female customer in the store tried to pay for items with a fake \$100 bill.
Jan. 5 - Morrison County deputies issued speeding citations to Andrew James Caron, 19; and Sherry Lynn Callahan, 70.

MFU announces legislative priorities

By Minnesota Farmers Union

The 2025 Minnesota legislative session convenes this week, and Minnesota Farmers Union (MFU) is preparing to advocate for a strong agriculture budget, affordable healthcare, support for beginning farmers and other priorities defined by our members.

“As a grassroots organization, we’ll be focused on priorities established by members at our state convention in November,” said MFU President Gary Werfisch. “At a basic level, lawmakers are going to have to come together to pass a new two-year budget for our state. And we want to help make sure that it works well for farm families and others in rural Minnesota—continuing strong investments in agriculture programs, ensuring farm families have access to care and helping young people build lives in agriculture.”

Building on the Special Orders of Business that delegates to MFU’s 83rd Annual State Convention approved in November, top legislative priorities for the 2025 session include:

- Stable funding for agriculture programs, including full, dedicated funding for Minnesota’s Agricultural Growth, Research and Innovation program; expanding Minnesota Grown, farm to school and other opportunities to build new markets, and investing in programs that help farmers become more resilient to the effects of climate change. Despite driving nearly a fifth of the state’s economy, the agriculture department budget is less than .5 percent of the state’s budget.
- Ensuring affordable and accessible care in rural

Minnesota, including child-care, healthcare, elder care and emergency services. This calls on lawmakers to expand healthcare programs, support independent pharmacies, invest in Emergency Medical Services (EMS), address child-care shortages and prevent nursing home closures.

- Promoting land ownership and access by increasing funding for the Beginning Farmer Tax Credit, ensuring the Ag Homestead Tax Credit serves all farmers, promoting land ownership programs and defending Minnesota’s longstanding ban on corporate ownership of farmland.

- Supporting cooperatives, investing in cooperative development and leveraging the 2025 International Year of Cooperatives to educate Minnesotans on the current and future value of co-ops.

- Ensuring fair markets by ensuring funding for antitrust enforcement, modernizing antitrust laws and passing Right to Repair for farm equipment.

For more of MFU’s legislative priorities, visit mfu.org/legislation/.

“We’re also looking forward to getting to know new legislators and building on existing relationships,” said MFU Vice President Anne Schwagerl. “One of the most important things we do as an organization is highlight the voices of our members through their interaction with lawmakers and participation in committee hearings.”

MFU will hold its annual Lobby Day for members on Feb. 4 to continue building those relationships and sharing stories of how what happens in St. Paul matters to family farmers and rural communities.



DEADLINES
Newspaper deadline for copy and advertising: 12 noon Fridays



LAKWOOD WELCOMES

Frany Dadhania, DO

RHEUMATOLOGIST

Lakewood is pleased to welcome the newest member of its rheumatology team, Doctor of Osteopathic Medicine, Frany Dadhania. As a rheumatologist, Dr. Dadhania specializes in the diagnosis and treatment of systemic autoimmune and rheumatic conditions. Her expertise includes managing complex diseases such as rheumatoid and psoriatic arthritis, systemic lupus, scleroderma, and other related disorders. Dr. Dadhania will be seeing patients at the Staples Clinic.

TO SCHEDULE AN
APPOINTMENT, CALL
218-894-8259



LAKWOODHEALTHSYSTEM.COM

Public Notices

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 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 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

Looking back



Mystery photo

Hello readers. This week's archive photo is from 1987. 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.

75 Years Ago - 1950

• Jan. 19, 1950 - Ralph Marshall, age about 83 years, was found at his little home about 12 miles south of Staples by Rudy Sklenicka, in a serious condition from the cold weather.

Mr. Sklenicka had been at the home of Mr. Marshall Monday, had built a fire for him, and had left kindling in the home for his use.

Tuesday morning, Mr.

- O -
Compiled by
Dawn Timbs
- O -

Sklenicka returned to Mr. Marshall's home, and found him in bed, with both of his feet frozen and his legs frozen up past both his ankles.

He was brought to the Staples Municipal hospital by Mr. Sklenicka and is in a very serious condition.

The attending physician stated that amputation of both legs might have to be performed in order to save his life.

• Jan. 19, 1950 - A slight decrease in the number of marriage licenses issued in Todd County was reported by Harry King, county clerk of court, last week.

In 1948 there were 197 applications for marriage licenses while the last year the number was slightly off, with 193 applications.

June continued to be the most popular month for marriages, although last year it barely nosed out April for that honor, which in turn was closely followed by August. Based on last year's record, January, February and December are the least popular months for marriages.

A study of Mr. King's records show that 26 divorces were granted in the county last year, about the average number.

• Jan. 19, 1950 - At the annual meeting and election of the Staples Volunteer Fire department held at the City Hall Jan. 12, Howard Pattison was reelected as chief of the department for the second year.

• Jan. 19, 1950 - With two wins out of three, the Motley American Legion basketball team will be seeking its third win tonight against the Hewitt community team on the local floor.

Two of last year's high school stars, Douglas Frisk at guard and Alvin Riggs at center are on the squad.



Mystery solved

Last week's mystery photo published in the Jan. 9, 1975 edition of the Staples World featured boys and girls from Staples who qualified for the upcoming Elks "Hoop Shoot" at Brainerd. The qualifiers, front row from

left: Bev Kirk, Diana Palmer, Mary Riewer, Taeya Bates, Laurie Anglin. Back row: Troy Bates, Kevin Roline, John Riewer, Craig Wolhowe. Missing from photo was Tom Easthouse.



DEADLINES
Newspaper deadline
for copy and
advertising:
12 noon Fridays



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People keep doing big things in the city of Staples

By Ron Murray
Staples Mayor

Wow! Every time I sit down to write this letter, I am amazed by something very big and positive that is or has occurred in Staples since I last sat down. That is a great sign, in my mind, of our community's current state and future. We welcome a new business on main street, Mandi's Accounting Services. I met with her and welcomed her to the community. It was a nice visit.

I attended the historical society's October meeting and learned the hard work being put forth to preserve that historical place in our community. With the help of volunteers, the group is trying to secure money to improve and renovate the upstairs and to add an elevator to access the second floor to allow more development. It is very exciting. The amount of use of that space by travelers is amazing, ranging from college students, Amish community and other locals.

The Staples Motley Athletic Hall of Fame committee held its annual event in October with a production of an anniversary issue featuring past people recognized since its inception. Mike Hajek presented at Rotary and spoke of the uniqueness of this in a small community. The sign and updates that was erected on Highway 10 shows team champions (31) and individual champions (71) with the number changing almost every sports season. Speaking of sports, our communities of Staples and Motley came behind and created a huge amount of positivity for all of us with the success of the football team reaching the state championship. Individual sports produced state champions too in cross country and state participants in Tennis. All of this added to our positivity and good will throughout our community. Thanks to all, especially to Lakeland Public TV for coming over from Brainerd and down from Bemidji to report on the team's success.

Our local Batcher Block Opera House had an event of huge proportions with the story in the world famous Cabana magazine. This brought media and visitors from all over the world to Staples. This historic building and establishment is really taking shape. A unique opportunity in our city and area.

Thanks to all the people involved in our first annual Christmas parade and tree lighting. It was bitterly cold but was a great turn out for the parade. Thanks to area businesses and the city for participating in the parade. I am hoping for even a greater participation in parade next year. Our local Lions and a dedicated group of volunteers once again put up and ran the holiday light display at Pine Grove Park. It is such a cool way to enjoy the holidays. It is hard work

and much appreciated. I hope you got a chance to go through the drive, it gets better each year. The Lions and the group of volunteers is trying to work now on securing a more sustainable process to ensure this continues from year to year. It takes a great deal of volunteer hours and some leadership. Community leaders and LEAP along with Lions are working on this and please, if this is something you can contribute to with time or talent or treasure it would be greatly appreciated.

One thing I have come to realize in Staples is the large group of people who are service orientated and volunteer time, talent and treasure to different needs in the community. I really appreciate this as a mayor of Staples. I run into someone every day who is telling me about something or is in the middle of volunteering. They say it is good for the soul.

I was able to sit in on the trails committee which was established from the LEAP organization to work on enhancing and establishing more trails in the Staples city and surrounding area. Very exciting to think that we hope to have even more trails for use.

Along with all the great happenings of Staples the past month, I could not leave out the great grand opening of the Nest at Staples Motley High School. It is a grand facility addition and is quite impressive. Area organizations have stepped forward to make this happen.

One of our local services, Meals on Wheels is going strong and is hopeful to build back up its congregate meals at the senior center at the community center. The number has begun to grow again since COVID but could use more participation. It is a great way to get out and have some social time with others and get a great meal. I encourage you to check it out.

The Sparks program of mentorship is going strong in the Staples-Motley Elementary school and Sacred Heart Area School now in its third year. At SM Elementary there are 95 students being served by reading, math and mealtime buddy programs. At SHAS, there are seven mentors serving 23 students in reading and math. The total students served is 118 and 73 mentors. That is truly amazing.

I look forward to running into any of you out and about and hope to hear how things are going. Feel free to let me know the positives and the areas of improvement. I will direct you to the best source to help you if I can't. Email rmurray@ci.staples.mn.us. I offer to all of you to watch our Staples City Council meetings on YouTube Live the second and fourth Tuesdays of every month at 7 p.m.

I wish all of you a very happy new year.

Quote of the week

“The press was to serve the governed, not the governors.”
— Katharine Graham

Fickle winters make for winners and losers

Most would agree that the dive into negative temperatures during the first week of January was a reminder that it is winter, after all. But cold is not the only thing that a Minnesota winter is supposed to be. In the estimation of many, the present winter has no more than one foot in the door. Many of those folks are waiting for winter to make a real commitment.

The other wintry dimension—snow—arrived in time to give most of us a white Christmas. But the holiday was followed by a lengthy stretch of balmy temperatures, warm enough to melt the season's first snowmen, and temporarily put lake ice formation on pause over much of the state. Except for the far north, the ground is bare, or virtually so, according to the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources' statewide snow depth map, as of January 2nd. Most of the little snow that lingers is in sheltered, shaded areas, and places where our plows and snow blowers piled it in man-made drifts.

It remains to be seen whether we're in for a second consecutive winter with limited snowfall. Or instead, if a "good old-fashioned Minnesota winter"—like that of 2022-23—will eventually arrive. In any event, unpredictability is beginning to seem like the new normal.

How winter plays out has impacts on both humans and wild creatures. For wildlife these impacts can be matters of life or death. For us that is rare. Most often it is our convenience, or our pleasures and pastimes, which are affected by the vagaries of a Minnesota winter. In either case, weather can play a role in determining winners and losers.

Among the winners so far this winter are ice anglers. Their perfect scenario is steady sub-freezing temperatures with little or no snow in early winter. This enhances the formation of thick, safe ice, and eases on-ice travel, whether that be with a traditional road vehicle, snowmobile, or ATV. Two winters ago, when a great deal of snow fell while ice was just forming, the weight of deep snow forced water above the ice layer, leaving many lakes covered by a layer of slush that made travel difficult at best, hazardous at worst. Many with heavier, pull-behind, wheel-house type angling shelters were not able to use them for much of that winter. Many lakes this winter are still as snow-free as a skating rink, with positive ice thicknesses, and easy travel.



Mike Rahn

Others are not so fortunate. Those for whom winter means riding a snowmobile, or gliding along picturesque trails on cross country skis, these folks have in much of the state been shut out. Unlike downhill ski destinations with snow-making equipment, cross-country skiers depend almost entirely on natural snow. There are very few exceptions—cross-country trails with man-made snow—among them several parks in the Twin Cities area, and a limited portion of the cross-country ski trail mileage at the Spirit Mountain ski area, near Duluth. Most other skiers are on-hold. Not to mention the close to 4,000 Minnesota youth who participate on high school cross-country ski teams, the majority of which do not have access to trails with artificially-made snow on which to train.

Minnesota's grant-in-aid snowmobile trails also depend on natural snow, typically groomed by local snowmobile clubs. As this is written, only in some more northerly parts of Minnesota are snowmobile trails groomed and in good condition. Snowmobilers and cross-country skiers are among the most avid winter enthusiasts, but—so far—most have had little to be enthusiastic about.

If any segment of the recreational community has benefited from snowfall shortages, it has been all-terrain vehicle (ATV) users and that industry. Also known as four-wheelers—and in their larger utility configurations, as UTVs, or side-by-sides—these vehicles are used on many miles of Minnesota trails where they are permitted. Unlike snowmobiles, they can be used year-round, except in very deep snow, and—given this advantage—they are competing with a struggling snowmobile industry.

Wildlife are similar to us in the varying benefits and detriments of winter weather conditions. None of these is more familiar than weather's effects on the survival of whitetail deer. Deep snow coupled with extended sub-zero temperatures is bad news for deer. Deep snow can restrict their movement to feeding areas, which—if it lasts long enough—can result in weakened condition, or even starvation. Deep snow also can also give the advantage to predators, such as the eastern gray wolf, formerly

known as the timber wolf. Cold temperatures challenge a deer's metabolism. The colder it is, the more food is needed to maintain body temperature. Our DNR and similar agencies use what is known as the winter severity index, or WSI, that counts the number of days with more than 15 inches of snow, and adds this to the number of days with ambient air temperature of zero or below. If this total reaches 120 or higher it is considered a severe winter for deer. Anything up to a WSI of 50 is considered a mild winter. Given the few days so far with sub-zero temperatures, and the limited amount of snow, the odds this year—like last—are for a winter that registers well below severe.

Ring-necked pheasants, too, benefit from winters with limited snow. The worst winters for pheasants are those with deep snow that fills up the cattail sloughs that are favored sheltering areas in winter. When this happens the birds are exposed to the effects of wind and driven snow, and deep snows can make foraging difficult. Wild turkeys, too, survive winter best when snow depth is limited, and the forest and cropland forage on which they depend remain most available.

The Minnesota upland game bird that actually benefits from deep snow is the ruffed grouse. Minnesota is arguably the top state in the nation for productive grouse habitat and consistently robust grouse populations. The bird benefits from the insulating properties of deep snow, where the temperature can be much warmer than the air temperature above. Such authorities as biologists for the national Ruffed Grouse Society claim that a grouse roosting in snow uses roughly 30% less energy than if exposed to cold air temperatures. This reduces the need for food to maintain the grouse's metabolism, meaning less time out and about and exposed to predators, like owls, fishers, and goshawks.

Lacking sufficient soft snow—seven to 10 inches or so are needed—a grouse must shelter in conifer stands, lowland grasses, brush piles, or blown-down trees, none of which provide the thermal and predator protection of a snow roost. If a grouse could wish, it—like the skiers and snowmobilers—would be wishing for more.

Minnesotans have many sayings about our weather. One of these is that nothing is more predictable than its unpredictability. Only time will tell what the character of this winter will ultimately be.

Support Minnesota forests by collecting pine cones

From Minnesota DNR

The Minnesota Department of Natural Resources State Forest Nursery is seeking individuals to collect black spruce and jack pine cones this winter. These seeds are vital for reforesting thousands of acres each year, but the number of collectors has declined in recent seasons—creating a need for new participants.

In addition to helping sustain Minnesota's forests, cone collectors will receive payment for high-quality cones. Currently, a bushel (about nine gallons) of healthy, viable black spruce cones fetches \$100 and jack pine cones are worth \$30 per bushel.

“With growing interest in reforestation, this is an exciting time to get involved and help strengthen Minnesota's woodlands,” said Nicole Schafer, DNR's seed and cone consultant. “Each cone collected directly supports the future of our forests.”

Black spruce typically grows in northern lowland bogs and wetlands, while jack pine is found in sandy, well-drained soils in northern and central parts of the state. Seed collectors should make sure they identify the right species before collecting.

Drop-off stations accepting jack pine and black spruce cones include Baudette, Bemidji, Cloquet, Deer River, Hibbing, Littlefork, Orr, Tower, Two Harbors, Warroad, and the State Forest Nursery near Akeley.

Before collecting, visit the DNR's nursery collection webpage for DNR Forestry area office contacts and give them a call to see if that area is still collecting cones. The area office can also provide instructions on proper collection and labeling.

Cones must be ripe, closed, and free of stems and debris. The DNR collects seeds and cones from more than 20 native tree species throughout the year, with each ripening at different times. Be sure to check the website or call the local forestry office to confirm collection details. Currently, the collection window for black spruce and jack pine seeds is from now through the end of February.

Visit the DNR's seed and cone collection webpage.

Following reduced logging and a reduction in timber revenue.”

Although the Senate authorized the bill in November, the House failed to find a compromise to keep the bill funded, and it died without a vote. “Democrat Ron Wyden, who co-authored the original bill in 2000 said the failure to approve the money will create needless pain for rural communities,” Baumhardt writes. “Idaho Sen. Mike Crapo, a Republican who worked with Wyden to get the bill passed in the Senate, said he shared Wyden's frustration.”

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Letters: Readers are encouraged to express their views by writing letters to the editor. Letters are verified for authenticity, so please include a name, address and phone number. Only the author's name and city will be published. Letters may be edited for spelling and grammar errors, libel, length and other factors. Private thanks, solicitations and libelous letters will not be published. Letters are printed on a space available basis. The editor reserves the right to reject letters.
The deadline is 12 noon, Friday. Opinions expressed on this page do not necessarily represent the views of this newspaper.

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Funding for rural schools fails in U.S. House

By Heather Close
The Rural Blog

A lack of support in the U.S. House to fund a 20-year-old program will leave rural schools in 41 states without vital money. Western states will likely feel the pinch first. “For years, the Secure Rural Schools and Community Self-Determination Act has sent hundreds of millions of dollars to counties with federal land within their borders,” reports Alex Baumhardt of The Daily Montanan. “In the West, the money has largely helped keep county and school budgets whole



New Wadena County Commissioner

Bryan Winkels, right, of Staples was duly sworn in as a Wadena County Commissioner (Dist. 2) by Judge Douglas Clark at ceremonies held January 7, 2025 at the Wadena County Courthouse. (Submitted photo)

Levis Apana is newest behavioral health provider at Lakewood Health System

Lakewood Health System, Staples, welcomes Levis Apana, psychiatric mental health nurse practitioner (PMHNP), as the newest provider to the behavioral health team. Originally from St. Paul, Apana completed his graduate degree at Purdue University. He is a member of the Minnesota Nurses Association, American Nurses Association of Nurse Practitioners, and American Psychiatric Nurses Association.



Levis Apana, PMHNP

As a board-certified psychiatric mental health nurse practitioner, Apana will see patients who are 18 years or older who are needing support with managing a variety of mental health concerns, including anxiety, depression, bipolar disorder, OCD, PTSD and schizophrenia. His approach to psychiatric medication management is collaborative and he believes the best outcomes occur when patients are actively involved in their care and have adequate access to edu-

cation about their diagnosis and medication. "I chose to provide care at Lakewood because of its commitment to compassionate, patient-centered care, and its collaborative team environment. I'm looking forward to building meaningful connections with patients and colleagues." In his free time, Apana loves spending time with his family and doing anything outdoors. He also enjoys playing soccer and basketball.



Wadena County Commissioners

The Wadena County Commissioners are, front, left to right, Murlyn Kreklau and Ron Noon; back, Bill Stearns, Jon Kangas, Bryan Winkels. (Submitted photo)

Thank You...

...for your votes and support in the recent school board election. I will do my best to represent our community on the **ISD #2170 School Board.**

Mary Freeman

Paid for by Mary Freeman.

Thank you for reading the Staples World

Mark Your Calendar

January 15

WOMEN'S AA MTG Wednesdays, from 6 - 7 p.m., at Staples Church of Christ, on Hwy 210, south of Staples.

January 16

'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>

January 17

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.

January 19

CELEBRATE RECOVERY GROUP MEETINGS are held every Sunday at 6 p.m., at Motley Free Methodist Church, 33 Wellwood St. E., Motley.

January 20

AA GROUP MTGS IN MOTLEY are held at the United Methodist Church, 847 3rd Ave. S., on Mondays at 8 p.m.

January 21

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.

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or by Appointment

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Monday, February 3, 2025
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Dinner served by Clarissa Ballroom: 6:00 p.m.
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Guest Speakers
Students and Mentors of SM Elementary School share their experience. Principal Ryan Koenigs talks about the impact of mentoring at the school
Music by Boy's Choir and High School Musicians

Call 218-270-0291 for reservations or to sponsor a table before Jan. 24.

MSBA conference Jan. 16-17

Members of the Staples-Motley School Board will be attending and meeting at the Minnesota School Board Association (MSBA) Leadership Conference, being held at the Minneapolis Convention Center in Minneapolis January 16 - 17, 2025.

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Minnesota Attorney

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Student Achievements

SPENCER PORTER, Pillager, was recently named to the Fall 2024 Dean's List at the University of Wisconsin-Madison. To qualify, students must complete a minimum of 12 graded degree credits in that semester and meet grade point average requirements.

DEANNE WHIDDON, Pillager, was recently named to the Fall 2024 Dean's List at the University of Minnesota-Crookston. To qualify, students must complete 12 or more letter-graded credits while maintaining a 3.66 grade point average.

ISAAC BAKER, Verndale, has been named to the 2024 Fall Semester Dean's List at Dickinson State University in Dickinson, N.D. To qualify, students must be enrolled full-time and earn a grade point average of 3.5 or higher.

Hello World

ONLINE BIRTHS REMOVED
AT THE REQUEST OF LAKEWOOD
HEALTH SYSTEM.

Obituary

Arthur Halverson

Arthur Halverson, 80, passed peacefully at his home in rural Staples on January 6, 2025.

A memorial service celebrating his life was held January 11, at Faith Lutheran Church in Staples.

Burial will be later in Balsamlund Lutheran Cemetery.

Arthur "Art" Clarence Halverson was born to Vernon and Evelyn (Attleson) Halverson on March 13, 1944, in Bertha. He attended country school through the eighth grade and graduated from Staples High School in 1962.

Art worked a couple of different jobs in Staples and quickly realized he would need to make the move to the Twin Cities for more employment opportunities. On April 24, 1965, Art married the love of his life Judy Herman at Olive Branch Lutheran Church in Coon Rapids. They purchased their first home in Blaine, where they raised their three children. Most of Art's career he worked as a heavy equipment operator with Local Union 49. After retirement Art and Judy built their dream home on the Halverson family property near Staples which is where he truly felt at home.

Art loved being outdoors whether he was taking his dog Sadie for their evening ride in his side-by-side or hunting with family and friends.

Art, as he was known by many, was an inspiration in the lives of all who had the privilege of knowing him. He was an amazing husband, brother and father and was an extremely proud grandpa. His passing has left a void in the hearts of his family, friends and many more whose lives were touched by him.

Art is survived by his loving wife of nearly 60 years, Judy; one son, Troy Halverson (Nancy); two daughters, Tina Klein and Tanya (Dean) Goodroad; six grandchildren and 18 great-grandchildren; one sister, Sandy Becker; one brother-in-law, Ron Woods; along with many nieces, nephews and friends.

Preceding Art in death were his parents; one sister, Carol (Halverson) Woods and one brother-in-law, Robert Becker.

Arrangements were with the Schuller Family Funeral Homes & Cremation Services, Bertha (www.SchullerFamilyFH.com).

Staples

Staples Alliance
1512 8th St. NE, Staples 218-894-2891
Jonny Olson, Associate Pastor
Sunday Worship..... 9:30 a.m.
Sunday School 11:00 a.m.
WEDNESDAY
AWANA 6:00 p.m.

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

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

Faith Lutheran
430 12th Street. NE., Staples 218-894-1546
Pastor Carl Larson
Sunday Worship Service 9:00 a.m.
Sunday School and
Coffee Fellowship..... 10:05 a.m.

Sacred Heart Catholic Church
310 4th St. NE, Staples
Church 218-894-2296
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 a.m.
Sabbath School 10:45 a.m.

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

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

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

Aldrich

Balsamlund Lutheran
19550 490th Street, Aldrich
Janet Eckman SMA 218-837-5831
jre227@yahoo.com
Sunday Worship..... 8:30 a.m.

Cushing
Bethany Lutheran
25430 Bison Rd. Cushing, MN
320-749-2140
Pastor Carl Larson
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 320-749-2583
Pastor Dan Holmes
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
City Rds. 7 and 9, Oylen
218-472-3440 or 218-472-3316
Pastor Neal Malcore
Sunday School 10:00 a.m.
Sunday Worship 11:00 a.m.

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

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

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

Verndale

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

Family Life Church
402 NE Clark Drive, Verndale 218-445-5568
VerndaleFLC@gmail.com
Pastor Amos Self 218-371-7189
Tahna Rurup, Connections & Media Pastor
Tillman Phagan, Kid's & Food Shelf Pastor
Ryan Wolfenden, Youth Pastor
SUNDAY
Youth Prayer 9:20 a.m.
Worship Service 10:00 a.m.
Prayer Meeting 5 p.m.
WEDNESDAY
Life Groups 6:30 p.m.

Hope Chapel Alliance
18126 County Road 7, Verndale
218-445-5643 or 218-472-3316
Pastor Neal Malcore
Sunday Worship 9:00 a.m.
Sunday School 10:30 a.m.
WEDNESDAY
Family Night 5:30 p.m.

Immanuel Lutheran Church of Bartlett Township (LCMS)
17097 460th St., PO Box 37, Verndale
Pastor Robin Fish
Sunday Worship 9:00 a.m.
WEDNESDAY
Bible Study 6:30 p.m.

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

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

St. Frederick Catholic Church

20 Mason Avenue NW
Vermdale 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.

Central Lakes College announces Fall Honors List

Central Lakes College, Brainerd and Staples, has announced its 2024 Fall Semester Honors List. The President's List includes students who earned a grade point average of 3.75 or higher while enrolled in at least 12 credits. The Dean's List includes students who earned a grade point average of 3.25 - 3.74 while enrolled in at least 12 credits.

The released honors list does not include students who have requested no release of information. Local students named includes:

Motley President's List: Michael Becker, Nathan Lindell, Zachary Veen; **Dean's List:** Bailey Frisk, Amanda Rossetti.

Pillager President's List: Brandon Burgau, Nathan Hughes, Reagan Kilibarda, Autumn Peterson, Steven VonDali, London Zapzalka; **Dean's List:** Lainey Bailif, Nathan Braaten, Robert Robinson, Molly Smith.

Staples President's List: Derek Dewolfe, Israel Ervasti, Brooke Hansen, Anna Janssen, Landon Mertens, Connor Olson, Wyatt Schwichtenberg; **Dean's List:** Miranda Anderson, Michael Brown, Kenzie Erickson, Kieran Groetsch, Keegan Harvey, Madyson Hull, Alex Nystrom, Samantha Ratajczak, Dalas Rogers, Kyra Stangle, Stefany Sullivan .

"A Vital Optimism"

Father Rick Aubol, Sacred Heart Catholic Church, Staples

I recently read a sentence describing a vital shift. There seems to be a renewed lightness to things in general, an optimism. I concur, and happily, but yet with careful caution.

There is indeed a lighter mood in the world, a kind of breathing easier felt by many, even though so many things remain the same and there is still much to grieve in the news. This change in mood despite the negativity could be for many reasons, but I think they amount to one in general, a confidence that the coming months and year can be better than those we have come through recently, which felt to many oppressive and discouraging in various ways. Neither does this confidence does not seem to have such an edge of spite; the energies of people seem to be increasingly bent toward good work to be done rather than either gloating in dominance or subverting from below. This is a very welcome change, especially as we are making New Year's resolutions, a shift toward the

direction we should be moving.

We should, all of us, be on the same side: seeking to know as best we can what is real, true and good, and live accordingly. Rather than look at those with different positions as opponents, we should see their different starting points as opportunities to illumine our blindspots; help each other see the whole picture while recognizing that it's so big and rich, we need to help ourselves see more of it. The name for what it is we're looking for and how we get there isn't optimism, but heaven.

Here is not heaven and we can't make it heaven. Rather, we hope, we set our sights on it as the true goal of life and so, cooperating with God's grace, live life here in a heavenly way. That's how the improvement we long for happens; not automatically, not just because it's time, not even because we make it, but because we allow God's grace to flow in and change us for the better.

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Wrestlers prevail against top state teams

Staples-Motley won the Rick Lee Duals in Bemidji Jan. 10-11, winning all five matches they wrestled. The most notable win was a 31-27 victory over Holdingford, who they will see again at the section tournament at the end of the year for a chance to go to state. The Cardinals are currently ranked second in the state and Holdingford is third. The top ranked team is defending champion Chatfield.

Against Holdingford, the Cardinals started out with pins from their first three wrestlers for an 18-0 lead before getting into the hornets nest of the Holdingford lineup. Garrett Bjerga, Caden Kramer and Gage Bjerga are all ranked near the top of their weight class and Holdingford didn't have anyone to counter that.

The Cardinals then lost two close decisions, making every following match even more important. Turner Beachy came up with a big pin and Colbe Tappe had a convincing win, although he wasn't able to get bonus points. Holdingford moved a couple of their top wrestlers up a weight, giving Luke Bjerga a chance to win with a major decision at 189 pounds, a huge extra point for the team. It made the team score 31-19, which ensured a team victory unless the final two wrestlers gave up pins. Adrian Gomez did well in his match,

getting the first takedown before losing a decision, but finalizing the team win.

Staples-Motley did not give up a pin against Holdingford and scored four pins of their own. For the entire tournament, they only gave up two pins, an amazing feat considering the high quality of opponents they were facing.

The other big team win in the tournament was 39-17 against Simley, the defending state team champion in Class AA, although they graduated a lot of seniors and are ranked second this year. Garrett Bjerga and Kramer started the Simley match off with close decisions over ranked wrestlers. Dustin Converse, Adrian Gomez and Steven Petrich finished the victory with big wins against quality opponents.

A third tough match was against Bemidji, a ranked team from Class AAA. The Cardinals limited them to 14 points on four wins.

Another notable win in the tournament was Luke Bjerga beating a ranked wrestler in the match against Brainerd. To win, he slipped throw attempts twice and came out on top for takedowns. He then countered a shot attempt and came around for another takedown.

Team results
Rick Lee Duals
Staples-Motley 52, Brainerd 9

Greenwaldt, Tureson place in tournament

The Staples-Motley girls wrestling team had two placers at the Rick Lee Girls Individual Invite at Bemidji on Jan. 11, with Leah Greenwaldt placing fifth in her bracket and Anika Tureson placing second.

As a team, the Cardinals finished 17th out of 32 teams competing.

Tureson had two pins on her way to the title match, where she lost by fall in the second period.

Greenwaldt had wins

107 Garrett Bjerga W 7-0, 114 Caden Kramer W 14-1, 121 Gage Bjerga W fall, 127 Cayden Neisen W fall, 133 Eli Greenwaldt W 19-5, 139 Turner Beachy W 21-5, 145 Beau Carlson W 13-3, 152 Colbe Tappe W fall, 160 Riley Reese W 16-1, 172 Dustin Converse L fall, 189 Luke Bjerga W 11-4, 215 Adrian Gomez L 14-10, 285 Steven Petrich W fall

Staples-Motley 39, Simley 17

107 Gt. Bjerga W 4-0, 114 Kramer W 6-5, 121 Gg. Bjerga W fall, 127 Neisen W 19-3, 133 Greenwaldt W 15-0, 139 Beachy L fall, 145 Carlson L 11-3, 152 Tappe W fall, 160 Reese L 9-1, 172 Converse W 4-1, 189 L. Bjerga L 7-0, 215 Gomez W 15-5 285 Petrich W 9-0

Staples-Motley 46, Bemidji 14

107 Gt. Bjerga W fall, 114 Cramer W fall, 121 Gg. Bjerga W fall, 127 Neisen L 10-3, 133 Greenwaldt W 8-6, 139 Cooper Tappe L 17-1, 145 Beachy W 11-7, 152 Cb. Tappe W fall, 160 Reese L 4-2, 172 Zachary Tabatt W fall, 189 L. Bjerga W 13-5, 215 Gomez W fall, 285 Petrich L 4-2

Staples-Motley 31, Holdingford 27

107 Gt. Bjerga W fall, 114 Kramer W fall, 121 Gg. Bjerga W fall, 127 Neisen L 7-3, 133 Greenwaldt L 6-4, 139 Beachy W fall, 145 Carlson L 19-3, 152 Tappe W 6-2, 160 Reese L 4-0, 172 Converse L 20-3, 189 L. Bjerga W 10-2, 215 Gomez L 10-3, 285 Petrich L 17-0

Staples-Motley 68, Moorhead 6

107 Gt. Bjerga W ff, 114 Kramer W fall, 121 Gg. Bjerga W fall, 127 Neisen W 21-5, 133 Greenwaldt W 18-0, 139 Beachy W 18-1, 145 ff, 152 Tappe W fall, 160 Reese W fall, 172 Converse W 19-3, 189 Reece Headley W fall, 215 Gomez W fall, 285 Petrich W fall

with one pin and two decisions before she won her fifth place match with a 22-6 technical fall.

Isabelle Dobson won three matches but fell short of the placing round.



Fast break basket

Conner Kuhns goes up for a fast break layup against Barnesville. (Photos by Staples-Motley School District)

Rutten nets 28 in high scoring basketball win

Eli Rutten had 28 points for the Staples-Motley boys basketball team in a 90-82 win over Breckenridge on Jan. 10. The Cardinals lost another conference game on Jan. 7, 70-61 against Barnesville.

Against Breckenridge, the Cardinals scored 39 points in the first half

but still found themselves

down by two. Rutten led a second half surge scoring from the outside, inside and from the free throw line. He made seven of eight free throws in the second half, after making eight from the line in the first half. Noah Larson also picked up the pace in the second half with

12 points.

The Cardinals are now 5-4 overall and 3-3 in the Heart O Lakes Conference.

Team results
Staples-Motley 90, Breckenridge 82

Scoring: Eli Rutten 28, Noah Larson 18, Conner Kuhns 10, Alex Schultz 10, Ryan Neelan 8, Josiah Burton 6, Peyton Jares 5, Avandre Brandt 5

CWD in SE Minnesota

From Minnesota DNR

The Minnesota Department of Natural Resources will discontinue targeted culling in deer permit areas 646, 647 and 648, in the southeast corner of the state, where chronic wasting disease has reached endemic stage, or a point in which some of the current methods of management are no longer effective.

The management strategy will shift emphasis toward other CWD management tools within the endemic zone while work-

ing to prevent the spread of the disease beyond these areas. "While it is disappointing that CWD prevalence has been increasing in these areas, it still remains relatively low compared to neighboring states, and we have not given up efforts to minimize its impact," said Wildlife Health Program Supervisor Michelle Carstensen.

Even though DNR is not pursuing targeted culling as a management tool in these three endemic DPAs, local landowners and hunters can still help manage CWD

in these areas by actively participating in opportunities to increase antlerless deer harvest.

Outside of the DPAs where CWD is now endemic, the DNR will continue to focus on early detection of new CWD cases through sampling efforts and employing aggressive actions to contain the spread, including culling where targeted operations are needed and effective.

More information about CWD and the DNR's CWD response plan is available online.

Road loss for girls basketball

The Staples-Motley girls basketball team lost their tenth game in a row with a 70-27 loss at Breckenridge on Jan. 10.

The Cardinals will have three games this week, all of them at home.



Alex Schultz

Public invited to comment on DNR deer hunting management plan

From Minnesota DNR

Minnesota's management of white-tailed deer populations shows numerous accomplishments, and work that remains before some goals and metrics are met, according to a Minnesota Department of Natural Resources midpoint review of the statewide deer plan.

The plan is in effect from 2018-2028. The midpoint review assesses progress toward goals, objectives and strategies put forth in the 10-year plan, and includes 15 performance metrics and associated targets. The midpoint review is available for the public to review, and the DNR scheduled a webinar on Tuesday, Jan. 28, 6-8 p.m. for people to hear more and comment about the midpoint review and the deer plan. The documents and a link to the webinar are available on Minnesota DNR website.

"This is a good opportunity to assess our progress toward the eight goals in the deer plan, identify what is going well and where more work is needed," said Barb Keller, big game program leader. "This midpoint is also a great time to decide what work we should focus on over the next phase of the plan implementation."

Among the achievements identified in the review, the Minnesota DNR revised deer population goals in all deer permit areas through a four-year process, expanded the youth

deer season statewide, established a public deer advisory committee, sampled more than 70,000 deer for chronic wasting disease, acquired 28,000 acres of public land dedicated to hunting and managed a total of nearly 370,000 acres of public land to benefit deer habitat.

Metrics not yet met include having deer populations in 75% of deer permit areas within deer population goal range, achieving an annual target of 200,000 deer harvested each season, communicating about the deer hunting regulations significantly earlier in the year, and eliminating core areas of disease in the wild deer population.

The midpoint assessment document also includes a list of emerging considerations since the plan was adopted in 2018. Among them are public concerns about wolf and deer numbers, the growth of the footprint of CWD in the state, technological advances in hunting equipment, plans for a new electronic licensing system, increased hunter selectivity in what deer they harvest and the long-term decline in deer hunter participation.

"As we consider what's accomplished so far, we are hoping people will review our recommendations for the next phase of the plan and share their thoughts on how they think the midpoint assessment has characterized deer management since 2018," Keller said. "Importantly, the plan also contains a look at what's changed

in deer management since the plan was adopted, and we will need public awareness and participation on those issues as well."

Public comments may be submitted online, emailed to Big.Game.Program.DNR@state.mn.us opens in a new browser tab or sent by mail to Minnesota DNR/Barb Keller, 500 Lafayette Road, St. Paul, MN, 55155.

About the deer management plan

The statewide deer plan released in 2018 set goals and priorities, increased formal opportunities for citizens to influence deer decisions, and aims for a deer population without core areas of disease. The plan's eight broad goals cover topics ranging from research, to keeping Minnesota's deer populations healthy to how the DNR and the public work together on deer management.

The plan reflected a two-year planning effort that involved statewide meetings and hundreds of in-depth conversations with citizens and stakeholders. It included input from a 19-member citizen advisory committee, dozens of public input meetings and open houses, more than 1,100 submitted comments and letters from tribal governments, hunting organizations and others.

The deer plan and the midpoint assessment of the plan are available on the Minnesota DNR website.



Eli Rutten

Public Notices

MORAN TOWNSHIP BOARD OF AUDIT

The Moran Township Board will hold the annual Board of Audit meeting following the Tuesday, February 4, 2025 meeting.

Diane Mack, Clerk
Moran Township

4pnc

VILLARD TOWNSHIP REORGANIZATIONAL BOARD MEETING

The The Villard Town Board will hold its annual Reorganizational Board Meeting on Thursday, January 16, 2025 at 7 p.m. at the Eastwood Inn, Motley, MN.

Mary Trantina Koenig, Clerk
Villard Township

4pnc

MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL BOARD MEETING OF THE TODD COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
HELD ON NOVEMBER 19, 2024

Call to Order

The Todd County Board of Commissioners met in the Commissioner's Board Room in the City of Long Prairie, MN on the 19th day of November, 2024 at 9:00 a.m. The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Becker. The meeting was opened with the Pledge of Allegiance. All Commissioners were present.

Approval of Agenda

On motion by Noska and second by Denny, the following motion was introduced and adopted by unanimous vote: To adopt the agenda as presented with the removal of item 12.2 University of MN Extension Contract Discussion.

Consent Agenda

On motion by Noska and second by Byers, the following motions and resolutions were introduced and adopted by unanimous vote:

To approve the Todd County Board of Commissioner's Meeting Minutes for October 15 and 22, 2024 as presented.

GAMBLING PERMIT – SAUK CENTRE FAIRY LAKE ASSOCIATION

WHEREAS, the Todd County Board of Commissioners are establishing their approval for a Gambling Permit for the Sauk Centre Lions Fairy Lake Association through this resolution;

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Todd County Board of Commissioners approve a Gambling Permit for the Sauk Centre Lions Fairy Lake Association to hold a raffle event at the Lions Fairy Lake Association in Kandota Township at the address 10500 County 95, Sauk Centre, MN on May 28th, 2025.

GAMBLING PERMIT – SAUK VALLEY GOBBLEERS

WHEREAS, the Todd County Board of Commissioners are establishing their approval for a Gambling Permit for the Sauk Valley Gobbler through this resolution;

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Todd County Board of Commissioners approve a Gambling Permit for the Sauk Valley Gobbler to hold a raffle event at Diamond Point in Birchdale Township at the address 12867 Bayview Dr, Sauk Centre, MN on March 8th, 2025.

GAMBLING PERMIT - SAUK VALLEY GOBBLEERS

WHEREAS, the Todd County Board of Commissioners are establishing their approval for a Gambling Permit for the Sauk Valley Gobbler through this resolution;

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Todd County Board of Commissioners approve a Gambling Permit for the Sauk Valley Gobbler to hold a raffle event at Diamond Point in Birchdale Township at the address 12867 Bayview Dr, Sauk Centre, MN on April 12th, 2025.

GAMBLING PERMIT – STAPLES SPORTSMENS CLUB

WHEREAS, the Todd County Board of Commissioners are establishing their approval for a Gambling Permit for the Staples Sportsmens Club through this resolution;

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Todd County Board of Commissioners approve a Gambling Permit for the Staples Sportsmens Club to hold a raffle event at the Clarissa Ballroom in Eagle Valley Township at the address 19281 Kotter Road, Clarissa, MN on March 8, 2025.

To hire Christine Jaeger to fill the open Social Worker position. Grade 10, Step 1 at \$28.06/hr. Start date: TBD

To hire Kelsey Benson to fill the open Social Worker position. Grade 10, Step 3 at \$29.77/hr. Start date: TBD

Auditor-Treasurer

On motion by Neumann and second by Denny, the following motion was introduced and adopted by unanimous rollcall vote: To approve the Commissioner Warrants number (ACH) 403523 through 403561 in the amount of \$81,331.64 and (Regular) 58472 through 58514 in the amount of \$62,131.56 for a total of \$143,463.20.

On motion by Denny and second by Noska, the following motion was introduced and adopted by unanimous rollcall vote: To approve the Health & Human Services Commissioner Warrants number (ACH) 805918 through 805960 and (Regular) 712525 through 712552 for a total of \$49,047.36.

On motion by Noska and second by Neumann, the following motion was introduced and adopted by unanimous rollcall vote: To approve the Health & Human Services SSIS Warrants number (ACH) 601471 through 601489 and (Regular) 518140 through 518168 for a total

amount of \$101,999.16.

Todd Wadena Community Corrections

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

RESOLUTION APPOINTING NEW MEMBERS TO THE TODD-WADENA COMMUNITY CORRECTIONS ADVISORY BOARD 2024

This is a resolution appointing three new members to the Todd-Wadena Community Corrections Advisory Board.

WHEREAS, On January 2, 2024, the Todd County Board of Commissioners appointed membership to the Advisory Board, and

WHEREAS, The positions of Public Health, Victims Services, and Public Defender, all in Wadena County are currently open, and

WHEREAS, Sarah Ness, Wadena County Public Health Director; Johanna Bolter, Director of Advocacy for Someplace Safe; and Jessen Alexander, Public Defender have agreed to fill the vacant positions, and

WHEREAS, On August 12, 2024, The Advisory Board approved the following individuals for membership to the Advisory Board:

- Sarah Ness, Wadena County Public Health Director
- Johanna Bolter, Director of Advocacy, Someplace Safe
- Jessen Alexander, Public Defender

THEREFORE, IT IS RESOLVED that the three individuals listed above be appointed to the Todd-Wadena Community Corrections Advisory Board in their respective positions.

County Ditch/Ag Inspector

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

HOLD HARMLESS AGREEMENT FOR DITCH MAINTENANCE – COUNTY DITCH 29

WHEREAS, Paul Raber is requesting to maintain approximately ½ mile of County Ditch 29, on his own property, located in Eagle Valley Township, section 25. A Hold Harmless Agreement has been signed and submitted to the Ditch Authority, an onsite inspection has been done, and;

WHEREAS, applicant is allowed to maintain the drainage ditch to the original width, depth and grade. An improvement by lowering or widening the ditch bottom is not allowed. Sediment and vegetation can only be removed to the extent of the original ditch bottom elevation. Spoil may be side cast and leveled, staying within 16 ½ feet of the ditch, or moved to an approved upland site.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, the Todd County Ditch Authority gives permission to Paul Raber to maintain approximately ½ mile of CD29, located on parcels 07-0029100 & 07-0029200, Eagle Valley Township, section 25. This maintenance will be done on his own property and at his own expense.

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

HOLD HARMLESS AGREEMENT FOR DITCH MAINTENANCE – COUNTY DITCH 31

WHEREAS, Aaron Wendel is requesting to maintain approximately 2,390 feet of Lateral 1 & of Branch 1 of Lateral 1, County Ditch 31, on his own property, located in Eagle Valley Township, section 5. A Hold Harmless Agreement has been signed and submitted to the Ditch Authority, an onsite inspection has been done, and;

WHEREAS, applicant is allowed to maintain the drainage ditch to the original width, depth and grade. An improvement by lowering or widening the ditch bottom is not allowed. Sediment and vegetation can only be removed to the extent of the original ditch bottom elevation. Spoil may be side cast and leveled, staying within 16 ½ feet of the ditch, or moved to an approved upland site.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, the Todd County Ditch Authority gives permission to Aaron Wendel to maintain approximately 2,390 feet of CD31, located on parcel 07-0004100, Eagle Valley Township, section 5. This maintenance will be done on his own property and at his own expense.

Public Works

On motion by Noska and second by Byers, the following motion was introduced and adopted by unanimous vote: Promote Adam Olson to fill the Maintenance Foreperson position at a Grade 11, Step 6 (\$34.48/hour) with a start date of 11/20/2024. On motion by Neumann and second by Denny, the following resolution was introduced and adopted by unanimous vote:

2029 AREA TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT PLAN NOMINATION – CSAH 51 PROJECT

WHEREAS, the Central Minnesota Area Transportation Partnership (ATP) annually solicits projects for State Transportation Improvement Program (STIP) funding which provides for improvements to the transportation systems, with money requests being project specific, and; WHEREAS, project nominations must meet eligibility guidelines and qualifying criteria as established by the Central Area Transportation Partnership, and;

WHEREAS, the Todd County Public Works Department recommends that the following project be submitted and nominated for inclusion in the 2029 Area Transportation Improvement Plan, which is a prioritized list of transportation projects that the Central Minnesota Partnership recommends for inclusion in the State Transportation Improvement Plan (STIP),

County State Aid Highway 51 – from the Douglas County Line to Stearns County Line

SP 077-651-0XX: Bituminous Reclamation, Bituminous Surfacing, Aggregate Shouldering, Centerline Pipe Maintenance, and Pavement Stripping Project, and;

WHEREAS, this project is listed on the Todd County Public Works Department Proposed Five Year Construction Plan.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RE-

SOLVED, that the Todd County Board of Commissioners does hereby support the recommendation of the Public Works Department for submittal and nomination of the above noted project and requests said project be included in the State Fiscal Year 2029 Area Transportation Improvement Plan.

Planning & Zoning

On motion by Neumann and second by Noska, the following motion was introduced and adopted by unanimous vote: Remand the Hinrichs Acres Preliminary Plat proposal back to the Planning Commission with a 60 day extension to the decision period to research regarding regulations clarification due to the adjacent wildlife management area with US Fish & Wildlife.

On motion by Denny and second by Noska, the following motion was introduced and adopted by unanimous vote: Adopt the findings of the Planning Commission and grant the rezoning of the SE 1/4 of the NE 1/4 of Section 20, Fawn Lake Township with no conditions.

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

RESOLUTION TO SUPPORT ADOPTION OF THE CROW WING RIVER COMPREHENSIVE WATERSHED MANAGEMENT PLAN

WHEREAS the Crow Wing River Comprehensive Watershed Management Plan (CWMP) includes a boundary map and

WHEREAS the Crow Wing River CWMP identifies the areas within the County where surface water, ground-water, natural resources, and other related water quality issues and concerns and

WHEREAS the Crow Wing River CWMP identifies high-priority erosion, sedimentation, water quality issues, priority areas and implementation actions in accordance with Board of Water and Soil Resources (BWSR) policy and

WHEREAS the Crow Wing River CWMP replaces the Todd County Comprehensive Local Water Management Plan for Todd County purposes for the area of the county identified within the Plan and

WHEREAS the Todd County Board of Commissioners supports sending the Crow Wing River CWMP final draft plan to the BWSR for review and

WHEREAS BWSR will review and approve the Crow Wing River CWMP according to Minnesota Statutes §103B.101, Subdivision 14.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that Todd County adopts the Crow Wing River CWMP as its Comprehensive Local Water Management Plan within the Crow Wing River Watershed from 2025 to 2035 upon approval from the BWSR.

Solid Waste

On motion by Byers and second by Denny, the following motion was introduced and adopted by unanimous vote: Authorize staff to sign permit reissuance application forms for submittal to the MPCA.

Health & Human Services

On motion by Denny and second by Neumann, the following motion was introduced and adopted by unanimous vote: To approve the revised Environmental Health Ordinance.

On motion by Neumann and second by Noska, the following motion was introduced and adopted by unanimous vote: To approve the revised Public Health Nurse job description.

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

A Resolution Establishing Support for Clay County to Develop a Psychiatric Residential Treatment Facility and Replace Current Non-secure Unit

WHEREAS, there is inadequate capacity across Minnesota's continuum of care to support children with high-acuity, complex, and/or co-occurring conditions, including violent or sexually inappropriate behavior and significant physical health challenges; and

WHEREAS, Psychiatric Residential Treatment Facilities (PRTF) play a critical role in serving children and youth under the age of 21 with severe mental health needs and aggression, as part of this continuum; and

WHEREAS, currently only four PRTF facilities are operational in Minnesota, offering a total of 166 beds, which is insufficient to meet the growing needs of children with serious and complex mental health conditions; and

WHEREAS, the demand for additional PRTF beds across Minnesota is urgent to ensure children receive timely and appropriate care; and

WHEREAS, equitable distribution of PRTF beds throughout the state is essential to provide children with proximity to their home communities, families, and local service providers; and

WHEREAS, Clay County seeks bond proceeds funds from the commissioner of human services for a grant to Clay County to predesign, design, and remodel of the West Central Regional Juvenile Center non-secure unit into an 18-bed psychiatric residential treatment facility and address the predesign, design, construct, furnish, and equip of a non-secure unit within Clay County to replace the existing facility that will become a psychiatric residential treatment facility.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Todd County Board of Commissioners via this Resolution, supports Clay County to request Minnesota state funds for infrastructure development for a Psychiatric Residential Treatment Facility in Clay County, ensuring access to specialized care for children with complex mental health needs across the region.

On motion by Noska and second by Byers, the following motion was introduced and adopted by unan-

imous vote: To approve the Todd County Mental Health Advisory Council Bylaws.

On motion by Noska and second by Byers, the following motion was introduced and adopted by unanimous vote: To approve the renewal contract (1/1/2025 to 12/31/2025) for Rural MN CEP to provide MFIP & DWEP Employment Services.

Chair Becker tabled the STEP Purchase of Service and Host County contract renewal item to the December 3, 2024 meeting to allow for clarification of language within the contract to be drafted for review.

Chair Becker tabled the Northern Pines Purchase of Service Agreements renewal item to the December 3, 2024 meeting to allow for clarification of language within the contract to be drafted for review.

Administration

On motion by Noska and second by Neumann, the following motion was introduced and adopted by unanimous vote: Do not approve to extend the 30 day unpaid leave of absence for employee #0486.

Closed Session

On motion by Byers and second by Neumann, the following motion was introduced and adopted by unanimous vote: To enter into a closed session pursuant to MN Statute 13D.05 Subd 3(a) at 10:00 a.m.

On motion by Noska and second by Denny, the following motion was introduced and adopted by unanimous vote: To reopen the session at 10:30 a.m.

Chair Becker stated that a positive review for the County Coordinator's performance evaluation was given. County Auditor-Treasurer's Report

The County Auditor-Treasurer reported statistics from the November 5th, 2024 State General Election. A recount of the Office of Todd County Commissioner District 1 has been scheduled for November 21st, 2024.

County Coordinator's Report

The County Coordinator attended the emergency disaster planning event and administrative meetings. County Commissioner's Report

The Commissioners reported on meetings and events attended.

Commissioner Denny attended regular meetings, CD41, election canvassing, and solid waste meetings.

Commissioner Becker attended policy, dept head, personnel, rainbow rider, CD41, broadband, and housing funding discussion and also questions regarding location of recent SWCD meetings.

Commissioner Neumann attended the CMCOA, dept head, personnel, CD41, solid waste, rainbow rider, and questions regarding location of recent SWCD meetings.

Commissioner Noska attended the Ag Society annual meeting and election canvassing meetings. Commissioner Byers attended the CD41, Housing funding discussion, and TDCD meetings.

Adjourn

On motion by Neumann and second by Denny, the meeting was adjourned for the month of November 2024.

COMMISSIONER WARRANTS	
VENDOR NAME	\$ AMOUNT
CAVI SYSTEMS.....	5,500.00
BRAATEN AGGREGATE INC.....	8,645.23
CARGILL SALT DIVISION.....	21,491.97
M-R SIGN COMPANY INC.....	5,093.20
METAL CULVERTS INC.....	35,964.20
MIDSTATES EQUIPMENT & SUPPLY INC.....	8,695.00
MINNESOTA POLLUTION CONTROL AGENCY.....	25,942.25
WHITE CAP LP.....	2,174.60
74 PAYMENTS LESS	
THAN \$2,000.....	29,956.75
Total:.....	\$143,463.20

HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES WARRANTS	
VENDOR NAME	\$ AMOUNT
RURAL MN CEP INC.....	15,552.27
61 PAYMENTS LESS	
THAN \$2,000.....	29,619.29
9 PAYMENTS LESS	
THAN \$2,000.....	3,875.80
Total:.....	\$49,047.36

VENDOR NAME	\$ AMOUNT
#16704.....	7,636.73
#17598.....	4,189.03
#16192.....	2,665.38
GREATER MN FAMILY SRVS INC.....	2,500.00
HEARTLAND GIRLS RANCH.....	20,918.80
HOLISTIC FAMILY EDUCATION SRVS.....	7,394.80
J & L FARMS LLC.....	2,400.00
#17670.....	2,423.88
#17597.....	4,021.01
PRAIRIE LAKES YOUTH PROGRAMS.....	11,191.00
VILLAGE RANCH INC.....	8,752.66
37 PAYMENTS LESS	
THAN \$2,000.....	27,905.87
Total:.....	\$101,999.16

On a motion by Denny and second by Noska, the preceding minutes of the County Board meeting held November 19, 2024 were duly approved by unanimous vote at the Todd County Board of Commissioners at the Regular Board Meeting held on December 17, 2024.

Witness my hand and seal:

/s/ on file

Barbara Becker, County Board Chairperson

/s/ on file

Denise Gaida, Todd County Auditor-Treasurer

4pnc

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE TODD COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
HELD DECEMBER 3, 2024

Public Comment

Sharon Kutter addressed the County Board regarding concerns due to recent legal actions that occurred and the need for policies and procedures to avoid deemed unnecessary legal action.

Call to Order

The Todd County Board of Commissioners met in the Commissioner's Board Room in the City of Long Prairie, MN on the 3rd day of December, 2024 at 9:00 a.m. The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Becker. The meeting was opened with the Pledge of Allegiance. All

Commissioners were present.

Approval of Agenda

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

Consent Agenda

On motion by Denny and second by Byers, the following motions and resolutions were introduced and adopted by unanimous vote:

To approve the Todd County Board of Commissioner's Meeting Minutes for October 25 and November 4, 2024 as presented.

GAMBLING PERMIT – NWTFS TRUTTIN BLACKBEARDS

WHEREAS, the Todd County Board of Commissioners are establishing their approval for a Gambling Permit for the NWTFS Truttin Blackbeards through this resolution;

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Todd County Board of Commissioners approve a Gambling Permit for the NWTFS Truttin Blackbeards to hold a raffle event at the Clarissa Ballroom in Eagle Valley Township at the address 19281 Kotter Road, Clarissa, MN on February 1, 2025.

Accept the resignation of Angela Chamberlin Admin. Assistant effective 12/2/2024

Accept the resignation of Eric Dahl Seasonal Rec. Assistant effective 10/10/2024

Accept the resignation of Nathan Benning Seasonal Rec. Assistant effective 8/11/2024

Accept the resignation of Parker Duncan Seasonal Rec. Assistant effective 8/11/2024

To approve the transfer of Katie Leslie to fill the Accounting Specialist position, Grade 6, Step 8 at \$27.34/hour. Start date: December 23, 2024

Approve the resignation of Social Worker Theresa James, effective December 12, 2024.

Approve the resignation of Social Worker Intern Cassandra Ortiz, effective November 22, 2024.

Auditor-Treasurer

On motion by Neumann and second by Noska, the following motion was introduced and adopted by unanimous rollcall vote: To approve the November 2024 Auditor Warrants number (ACH) 904553 through 904650 in the amount of \$2,120,273.98 (Manual) 1015 through 1023 in the amount of \$122,358.13 and (Regular) 243497 through 243650 in the amount of \$2,835,840.57 for a total of \$5,078,472.68.

On motion by Denny and second by Noska, the following motion was introduced and adopted by unanimous rollcall vote: To approve the Commissioner Warrants number (ACH) 403562 through 403589 in the amount of \$31,480.34 and (Regular) 58515 through 58549 in the amount of \$86,525.16 for a total of \$118,005.50.

On motion by Neumann and second by Denny, the following motion was introduced and adopted by unanimous rollcall vote: To approve the Health & Human Services Commissioner Warrants number (ACH) 805961 through 806003 and (Regular) 712553 through 712596 for a total of \$108,235.55.

On motion by Noska and second by Denny, the following motion was introduced and adopted by unanimous rollcall vote: To approve the Health & Human Services SSIS Warrants number (ACH) 601490 through 601501 and (Regular) 518169 through 518189 for a total amount of \$70,985.64.

County Assessor

On motion by Denny and second by Noska, the following motion was introduced and adopted by unanimous vote: To approve an abatement for parcel 02-0010500 for the 2023 assessment, taxes due in 2024 due to a fire of a structure on 7/27/2023.

Emergency Management

On motion by Byers and second by Neumann, the following motion was introduced and adopted by unanimous vote: To approve the Board Chair to sign and Auditor/Treasurer to sign the ARMER grant contract agreement.

County Sheriff

On motion by Noska and second by Denny, the following motion was introduced and adopted by unanimous vote: Accept the DNR Snowmobile grant for the 2025 fiscal year not to exceed \$7,240.

Health & Human Services

On motion by Neumann and second by Denny, the following motion was introduced and adopted by unanimous vote: To authorize the hiring of one Public Health Nurse.

On motion by Byers and second by Noska, the following motion was introduced and adopted by unanimous vote: To approve the STEP Purchase of Service and Host County contract renewal.

On motion by Denny and second by Byers, the following motion was introduced and adopted by unanimous vote: To approve the Northern Pines Purchase of Service Agreements renewal.

Administration

On motion by Neumann and second by Noska, the following motion was introduced and adopted by unanimous vote: To accept the 2024 Safe & Secure Courthouse Grant Funds.

County Auditor-Treasurer's Report

The County Auditor-Treasurer reported the results of the Commissioner District 1 recount which showed no change in votes tabulated with incumbent candidate Becker the winner by 1 vote. Ag taxes were due on November 15, 2024. The AMC Conference is coming up to attend.

County Coordinator's Report

The County Coordinator attended the Arvig broadband presentation, better health collective, fall road, cannabis and TWCC meetings.

County Commissioner's Report

The Commissioners reported on meetings and events attended. Commissioner Denny attended the fall road, recount, and recount canvassing meetings.

Commissioner Becker attended MTWCHB, recount, personnel, TWCC, fall road, Friendly Rider, and fall potluck meetings.

Commissioner Neumann attended the SRWD, fall road, policy, CPT

and personnel meetings.

Commissioner Noska attended the HRA and TWCC meetings.

Commissioner Byers attended the fall potluck, fall road with discussion regarding tarring roads with seeking funding, and watershed policy meetings.

Recess

On motion by Byers and second by Noska, the meeting was recessed until December 17, 2024.

AUDITOR WARRANTS	
VENDOR NAME	\$ AMOUNT
DECISION POINTS AUTHORS	
LLC	6,000.00
DOHERTY STAFFING	
SOLUTIONS	2,799.36
G S EQUIPMENT INC	8,480.00
HY-TEC CONSTRUCTION	
	959,823.00
INNOVATIVE OFFICE	
SOLUTIONS, LLC	6,444.49
J5 RESCUE SUPPLY	
LLC	62,315.00
MINNESOTA UI	3,615.79
REDSTONE	
CONSTRUCTION	814,306.75
STANTEC CONSULTING	
SERVICES INC	12,822.31
VERIZON	6,229.02
WIDESTH SMITH	
NOLTING INC	17,787.45
WONDERLICH/SCOTT A	7,777.50
32 PAYMENTS LESS	
THAN \$2,000	18,705.80
ANOKA CO GOVERNMENT	
CENTER	8,375.00
BOULDER CREEK, INC	
	106,342.72
BRAATEN AGGREGATE	
INC	14,056.76
CARD SERVICES	
COBORNS	4,964.34
CENTRA CARE	12,109.12
CHARM-TEX	5,183.80
DEPUTY REGISTRAR	6,947.75
FLEET SERVICES/WEX	
BANK	8,880.05
HANSEN/TODD	11,250.00
LONG PRAIRIE SANITATION	
INC	4,863.62
MSWCD	3,150.00
MN DEPT OF FINANCE	6,181.00
MORRISON SWCD	3,772.57
NORTH COUNTRY CHEVROLET	
BUICK GMC	149,445.00
PETERS LAW OFFICE,	
PA	5,192.00
PRAIRIE LAKES MUNICIPAL	
SOLID WASTE AUTH	90,689.08
SHIRLEY'S GAS &	
GROCERIES INC	3,603.27
STEP	11,666.25
VOYANT COMMUNICATIONS,	
LLC	3,550.90
34 PAYMENTS LESS	
THAN 2000	18,916.58
ASFELD/JOSEPH	5,113.25
BERSCHEIT FARMS	
LLC	13,655.33
CEBULLA/PAUL	5,575.42
COUNTIES PROVIDING	
TECHNOLOGY	8,166.00
DOLEZAL/PATRICK and	
BEVERLY	2,348.03
GALLAGHER BENEFIT	
SERVICES INC	2,000.00
KRAUSE/JON	28,353.53
LONG PRAIRIE OIL	
COMPANY	2,413.99
MADDEN GALANTER	
HANSEN, LLP	4,481.15
MILLER/ABNER and	
CAROL	6,362.25
MINNESOTA POWER	19,061.62
MORRISON COUNTY	45,696.10
NORTHERN STAR	
COOP	3,013.62
STAPLES ADVANTAGE	3,541.56
STATEMA/ANDY	9,833.00
TODD CO AUD-TREAS	8,690.77
VEOLIA ENVIRONMENTAL	
SERVICES LLC	2,504.20
43 PAYMENTS LESS	
THAN \$2,000	16,785.33
CENTERPOINT	
ENERGY	2,170.39
JAMES/BARBARA	11,025.00
LONG PRAIRIE OIL	
COMPANY	5,081.94
OFFICE OF MNIT	
SERVICES	2,691.51
STOECKEL JAHNER	
INC	31,335.00
THE TRADESMEN	
CONSTRUCTION INC	136,078.19
TRIMIN SYSTEMS INC	20,953.00
WEST CENTRAL TECH	
SERVICE AREA	11,480.98
28 PAYMENTS LESS	
THAN \$2,000	14,242.25
CITY OF BERTHA	23,005.42
CITY OF	
BROWERVILLE	17,006.81
CITY OF BURTRUM	4,079.05
CITY OF CLARISSA	14,331.48
CITY OF EAGLE BEND	27,302.16
CITY OF GREY EAGLE	15,777.70
CITY OF HEWITT	6,153.94
CITY OF	
LONG PRAIRIE	96,721.37
CITY OF OSAKIS	22,406.29
CITY OF STAPLES	73,936.20
REGION V DEVELOPMT	
COMMISSION	4,067.55
SAINT PAUL PORT	
AUTHORITY	4,368.56
SAUK RIVER WATER	
SHED DISTRICT	16,577.48
SCHOOL DISTRICT	
213	113,629.70
SCHOOL DISTRICT	
2170	148,486.87
SCHOOL DISTRICT	
2753	285,471.80
SCHOOL DISTRICT	
486	69,613.85
SCHOOL DISTRICT	
740	20,774.17
SCHOOL DISTRICT	
743	222,266.70
SCHOOL DISTRICT	
786	102,993.49
SCHOOL DISTRICT	
787	174,776.10
SCHOOL DISTRICT	
818	10,687.68
TOWN OF BARTLETT	13,128.23
TOWN OF BERTHA	19,537.14
TOWN OF BIRCHDALE	55,877.05
TOWN OF BRUCE	27,769.67
TOWN OF BURLEENE	13,198.56
TOWN OF	
BURNHAMVILLE	20,925.54
TOWN OF	
EAGLE VALLEY	27,252.11
TOWN OF	
FAWN LAKE	17,203.31
TOWN OF	
GERMANIA	15,868.71
TOWN OF GORDON	29,017.43
TOWN OF	
GREY EAGLE	27,319.36
TOWN OF HARTFORD	37,687.40
TOWN OF IONA	21,215.94
TOWN OF KANDOTA	16,597.72
TOWN OF LESLIE	18,606.69
TOWN OF LITTLE ELK	7,636.72
TOWN OF	
LITTLE SAUK	24,510.08

Todd County Commissioners Minutes

TCC continued from page 8a

TOWN OF LONG PRAIRIE.....	31,961.32	Total:.....	118,005.50
TOWN OF MORAN.....	14,002.49		
TOWN OF REYNOLDS.....	23,403.72		
TOWN OF ROUND PRAIRIE.....	44,238.92		
TOWN OF STAPLES.....	15,254.92		
TOWN OF STOWE PRAIRIE.....	19,412.86		
TOWN OF TURTLE CREEK.....	8,745.12		
TOWN OF VILLARD.....	12,105.68		
TOWN OF WARD.....	32,182.66		
WEST UNION.....	23,291.08		
TOWN OF WYKEHAM.....	27,158.67		
9 PAYMENTS LESS THAN \$2,000.....	5,871.39		
US BANK - CC.....	6,009.27		
MN DEPT OF REVENUE.....	54,153.43		
MN DEPT OF REVENUE.....	3,039.00		
MN DEPT OF REVENUE.....	55,759.34		
5 PAYMENTS LESS THAN \$2,000.....	3,397.09		
TOTAL:.....	\$5,078,472.68		

COMMISSIONER WARRANTS

VENDOR NAME	\$ AMOUNT
ICARGILL SALT DIVISION.....	7,204.19
CHAMBERLAIN OIL COMPANY.....	2,739.34
D & D AUTO REPAIR.....	2,193.81
DS SOLUTIONS, INC.....	3,079.00
ELECTION SYSTEMS & SOFTWARE INC.....	8,326.50
FRIEDRICH'S TIRE & OIL CO INC.....	3,460.38
LITTLE FALLS MACHINE INC.....	2,547.84
M-R SIGN COMPANY INC.....	5,737.50
MCCC, MI33.....	2,250.40
MENCH/JAMES.....	5,665.00
RED CEDAR CONSULTING, LLC.....	3,946.02
STOECKER REPAIR.....	8,826.68
TRITECH SOFTWARE SYSTEMS.....	37,464.54
WADENA CO HIGHWAY DEPT.....	5,973.50
49 PAYMENTS LESS THAN \$2,000.....	18,590.80

NOTICES

103

Lost/Found

RECENTLY FOUND: A children's battery powered ride vehicle hood. To claim, need to know the type of vehicle, color of hood and approximate date of loss. 651-231-3433. 4x

SERVICES & EMPLOYMENT

205

Help Wanted

LOOKING FOR an outgoing, hard working, dependable individual to work in the kitchen/ dining room at Tri-County Stockyards, Motley. This is a part-time position: Wednesdays, year round and every other Saturday, December-April. For more information call 218-352-6546. 3-5c



208

Storage

FOR RENT

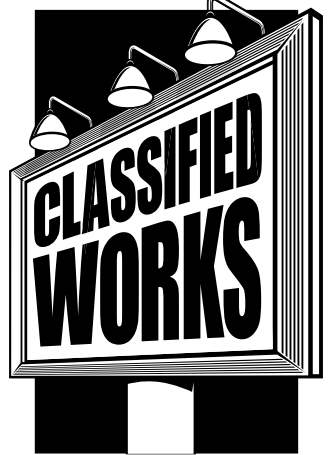
Japke's North 8th Street Mini Storage, 894-1551 6x20, 10x12, 10x20, 10x24

REAL ESTATE

602

Apartments for Rent

STAPLES: Downtown, 1 - 2 bdrm., recently remodeled, NO pets, non smoking, 218-894-3108. 6tfc



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611

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CARTER continued from page 1a

Local residents impacted by President Jimmy and First Lady Rosalynn Carter

ings before the Sunday service. They drove through town, which “didn’t take long,” Phyllis said, and located the little white Baptist church. Early the next morning, after spending the night in Americus, the Paskewitzes arrived at the church in hopes of securing a seat in Jimmy’s class. After standing in line for a while with about 30 others, a woman ushered them inside, and pointed to two seats in the front row.

When it was time for the Sunday School class to begin, President Carter came in last, along with his wife, Rosalynn. Phyllis recalled the secret service man who was seated next to a wall. Bob was only about an arm’s length from the president, she said.

It was more like a church service than a class, Phyllis said, going on to say it lasted about an hour. “It was such a nice service... he preached on Mary and Martha,” she shared. Phyllis couldn’t remember the particulars, but said that as he told the story, President Carter made the point that Mary and Martha had an important part in Jesus’ life. In recent years, Phyllis said, she learned about Carter’s efforts to ensure women

had more of a part in the world. It’s made her think back to his compelling talk in Plains.

When the Sunday School class concluded, people were given the opportunity to have their photo taken with Jimmy and Rosalynn. Some folks had to leave right away to get on a bus, but Phyllis and Bob were able to pose with the Carters outside the church. “How many people have the president put their arm around your waist!” Phyllis said with a smile. She cherishes the picture, which still adorns her home today.

Subsequently, the Paskewitzes would receive a Christmas card from the Carters each year. Phyllis also wrote President Carter following the death of her husband in 2014, after a short battle with brain cancer. Jimmy had survived a similar cancer and had written a letter in response to Phyllis, including the words, “Too bad about Bob.” That really touched her, Phyllis said.

She can’t recall whether or not she and Bob voted for Carter. They’d been Democrats for years, but “somewhere along the line we switched,” Phyllis said of their party support. The

Paskewitzes were long-time farmers in rural Browerville and it seemed most farmers voted Democrat back in the day. They appreciated that Carter was also a farmer, and he shared their Christian faith. “But the party’s changed a lot,” Phyllis said. Whether or not she voted for him, Phyllis said she has a high regard for the former president and hopes to be able to show “love and respect” as he did throughout his life.

Loren Morey

Loren Morey of Motley also had a story to share of attending one of President Carter’s Sunday School classes. He and his wife, Kathy, were in Hawaii for a Young Presidents Organization (YPO) trip at which President Carter was a speaker.

One day there was an announcement that the president would lead a “sunrise service at the beach” for any that would like to attend. “We got up early in the morning and went,” Loren said, adding that there were about 20 to 25 people there in total.

No, he didn’t vote for Carter (he’s a staunch Republican, Loren shared), but he and Kathy count that Jimmy-led service on the beach as a treasured memory.

Rick and Marsha Herder

Former Staples residents Rick and Marsha Herder, now of Flinstone, Ga., had the opportunity to pay their respects to former president Jimmy Carter at the Carter Center in Atlanta Jan. 7, where he was lying in repose prior to his state funeral.

“We only live a couple of hours north of Atlanta, so we jumped at the opportunity to attend the viewing at the Carter Center,” Rick shared. “We have always admired Jimmy Carter as a person of faith who stood by his values. At the time, his election seemed a welcome respite from the turbulent years of the Watergate scandal. And, of course, in his post-presidential years he worked tirelessly to address daunting issues like homelessness in the U.S. and the guinea worm scourge in Africa. We remain grateful for his extraordinary service to our nation and the world.”

The Herders lived in Staples from 1977 - 1987, during the time that Carter was in office. They were the first owners of Tower Pizza, and Rick also taught English and speech at Staples High School. Rick shared that he had voted for Carter, and Marsha had not, adding that, “That sort of split ticket voting seemed more common and less controversial back then.”

Like her husband, Marsha was honored to have traveled to Atlanta to view the late former president lying in state. She posted on Facebook that the experience was “somber and moving. What a beautiful and compassionate man he was. Rest on, Jimmy.”



Close encounter with the Carters

Bob and Phyllis Paskewitz, long-time Browerville residents, posed with former President Jimmy Carter and his wife, Rosalynn, outside the Maranatha Baptist Church in Plains, Ga., where President Carter taught Sunday School. Since

this photo was taken about 20 years ago, Phyllis is the lone survivor. Her husband passed away in 2014; the former First Lady Rosalynn in 2023; and the 39th President of the United States, Jimmy Carter, on Dec. 29, 2024.

Rick went on to add that “The Carter Center, like many presidential libraries, has an excellent museum. We visited there last year with our daughter Katie and her family, and we recommend it highly to any visitors from Minnesota.”

Andrea Carlson

With the news of Jimmy Carter’s passing, Staples native Andrea (Schimpp) Carlson, now of Decorah, Iowa, recalled how excited she was at the prospect of a girl her age living in the White House.

Jimmy and Rosalynn’s daughter, Amy, was nine years old, just like her! Andrea was in the fourth grade that year at North Elementary School in Staples, she shared, adding that Mr. Larson was her homeroom teacher.

When voting day arrived, Andrea pleaded with her parents, Gary and Carmen Schimpp, to please vote for Jimmy Carter...stressing how cool it would be to have a nine-year-old living in the White House.

Andrea waited by the window with anticipation as her folks left to cast their ballots at Bullard Township Town Hall. When she saw their car returning, she met them at the front door, hardly able to contain herself. “Who did you vote for?! Did you vote for Jimmy Carter?!” When neither of them answered her, Andrea knew they had voted for Gerald Ford. She recalled running downstairs to her bedroom in tears, in disbelief that her parents wouldn’t vote for Amy’s dad.

Andrea found some solace the next morning at the news that Carter had defeated Ford. But, she was still scowling a bit, knowing this outcome was no thanks to her parents.



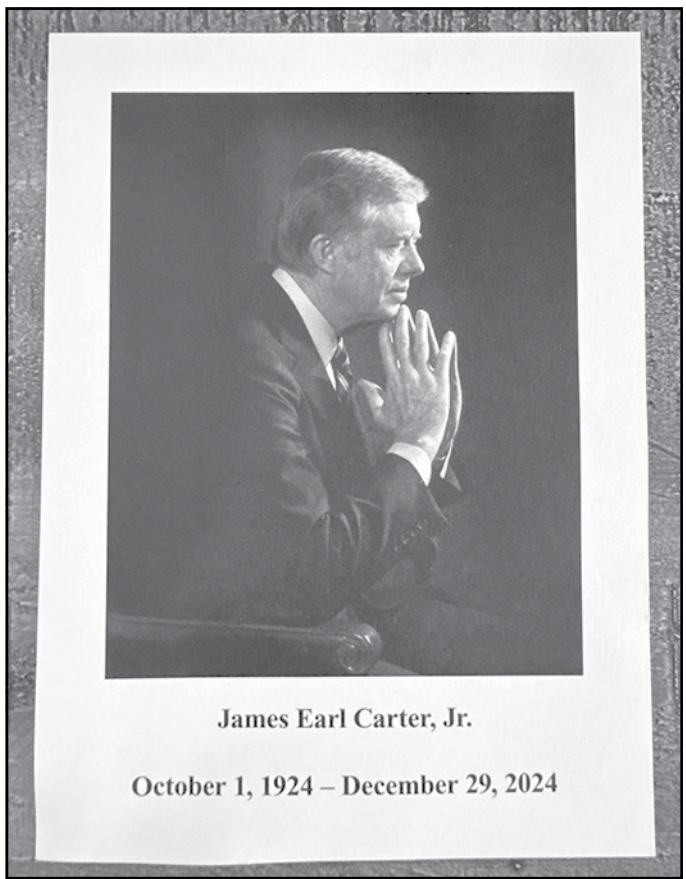
At the Carter Center

Rick and Marsha Herder, former Staples residents now of Georgia, recently attended the viewing of the late President Jimmy Carter at the Carter Center in Atlanta, Ga. The Herders, former owners of Tower Pizza, lived in Staples at the time of Carter’s presidency. Rick Herder also taught speech and English at Staples High School during the 1970s and ‘80s. (Submitted photo)



A youngster in the White House

The above photo from the Library of Congress was taken around 1977, as newly-elected President Jimmy Carter, First Lady Rosalynn, and their daughter, Amy, began their new life in Washington, D.C. It was the first time since John F. Kennedy had been president, that a child had lived at the White House. Amy was nine years old at the time, and children around the nation, including nine-year-old Andrea Schimpp from Staples, Minn., (lower photo) were excited at the possibility of having a fellow fourth grader living in the White House.



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SCHOOL continued from page 1a

School board authorizes positions in organizational meeting

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The school authorized the business manager and superintendent to invest funds and authorized the business manager and pay-

roll clerk to electronically transfer funds.

The board set their monthly metings for the second to last Monday of each month at the District Office, with work sessions scheduled for the first Monday of each month if needed.

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Nobel Peace Prize, 2002

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Portrait by Yousuf Karsh