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Quilt group
Staples Sportmen's Club
Town planning updating



March Storytime at Staples Library St. Patrick's Day was celebrated at the Staples Library by the Preschool Storytime attendees. The program is provided by the Staples Friends of the Library. Above: Lucas Imrick, Martin Krier, Elias Krier, Ariella Doss, Faith Frisk, Alana Reigstad, Samuel Reigstad, Woodrow Krier, Archie Hanson, Alida Hanson, Ray Biggar, Adaniya Doss, Sawyer Krier. (Submitted photo)

Motley City Council considers second squad car

By Dawn Timbs
Staples World reporter

Does the Motley Police Department need a second squad car? If so, should they purchase a used or new vehicle?

This was one of the main topics of discussion at the Motley City Council's regular meeting March 13, with neither option decided upon at that time.

Police Chief Jason Borash had brought the issue to the council, requesting that a new vehicle be purchased, along with moving forward on pursuing a grant from Sourcwell to cover a portion of the cost.

A 2024 Chevy Tahoe, estimated to cost \$86,327.68, would be the best option, Chief Borash said, noting that Fords would be more expensive. He informed the council that they currently have \$74,000 in the squad car budget and will have about \$83,000 as of Jan. 1, 2024. Borash said the difference could be covered by a grant from Sourcwell, should they be approved for it. The possible grant would be \$20,000 - \$50,000 and he is requesting \$50,000.

The police department currently has one vehicle, a 2020 Chevy Tahoe that they purchased in August of 2019, for \$57,346.49.

Mayor Mike Schmidt asked the chief if the department has had two vehicles in the past. Borash

said they used to have a Crown Victoria as a second vehicle, but it got too old and was sold. Since then, they've operated with one vehicle only.

Chief Borash went on to describe a few scenarios which could cause a dilemma for the MPD, including if their squad is damaged and in the shop for repairs. This past November, they were forced to do a PIT maneuver during a pursuit, which resulted in damage to the squad. They couldn't get parts until February, Chief Borash said. So, if the squad was in a major accident, it could take months for it to be repaired.

The mayor asked if there was another city willing to lease or loan one of their squad vehicles to Motley, if a scenario like that were to take place. Chief Borash said that Morrison County Sheriff's Office has been able to loan them a vehicle in the past, but they currently don't have any spare vehicles. So, if the MPD got into trouble tomorrow, what would they do, Mayor Schmidt asked. "We'd be begging," the chief said.

Council member Steve Johnson said that Motley is a small town and didn't need two cars for something that *might* happen. If they did purchase a second vehicle, he felt they should look into getting a used one. "This is a lot of money," he noted of the estimated cost of the Chevy Tahoe, adding that he didn't feel Motley could afford it. Johnson went on to note the Crown Victoria that the city had in the past. In his opinion, it was a good back-up in an emergency, Johnson said. Perhaps the League of Minnesota would be able to guide them on this decision, Johnson said.

Council member Brenda Borash (the chief's wife) said she'd argue with Johnson about purchasing a used vehicle ahead of new. She went on to note that the MPD has money for a vehicle in the budget and with the possible grant, felt they could afford a new squad.

When asked what the price for used squad vehicles are going for, Chief Borash said he's seen a 2019 Ford Explorer on Minn-Bid going for \$10,500. He's seen others on up to \$11,500. However, those vehicles are not outfitted with the necessary equipment, he said.

See **MOTLEY** on page 10a

Smoke shop license denied, council takes steps to prevent future sales near school

By Mark Anderson
Managing Editor

The Staples City Council denied a tobacco license, denied an alcohol license, and took steps towards restricting the selling of tobacco and marijuana products in the city. The action was a result of several different agenda items that came to the council at their March 14 meeting.

The council first took action on denying a liquor license for new restaurant owners in Staples. The council had an application from the Monte Azul Mexican Bar and Grill, which is the name of a proposed restaurant in the building that was Los Corrales.

Staples Police Chief Melissa Birkholtz said she conducted a background check on owners Ricardo Lopez-Davalos and Sandra Marquez, and recommended they deny the license due to inconsistencies in the application. Birk-

holtz said the application included different spellings of names and different dates of birth, among other inconsistencies.

While trying to straighten out the inconsistencies, Birkholtz said "I found other things that I believe would not be in the best interest of public safety to approve," said Birkholtz.

The council unanimously voted to deny the liquor license.

Birkholtz said there were similar inconsistencies in the tobacco license application for a proposed smoke shop on 2nd Ave. NE and 3rd Street NE. The application was made by Othman Doudin, also spelled Dodin. Birkholtz said she found information that she is not allowed to share with the council, but said "this would not be an eligible person to own the business."

The council packet also included a letter from the the Staples-Motley School District asking them not

to approve the smoke shop (See page 4a).

The council denied the tobacco license and had a discussion about amending the city ordinance to prevent tobacco sales near schools.

The discussion took place when the council looked at a proposed ordinance for the sale of tetrahydrocannabinol (THC) products, certain marijuana oil products which are now legal in Minnesota.

Council member Roy Miles asked if it was possible to ban THC sales in the city. City Administrator Jerel Nelsen said since it is legal in the state, they could not ban it, but some cities put restrictions on selling products within a specified distance from schools or parks, for example.

Nelsen said if they put a distance of 1,000 feet from public facilities, that would effectively ban it in the city, because there wouldn't be many locations available.

Weather

This Week's Forecast

	High	Low	Cond.
Mar. 22	35	17	Cloudy
Mar. 23	33	11	P. Cloudy
Mar. 24	36	22	P. Sunny
Mar. 25	41	24	M. Cloudy
Mar. 26	36	17	Cloudy
Mar. 27	36	19	M. Cloudy
Mar. 28	37	23	M. Cloudy

Last Year, 2022

	High	Low	Cond.
Mar. 22	36°	34	Cloudy
Mar. 23	35	31	Cloudy
Mar. 24	45	32	M. Sunny
Mar. 25	36	33	Cloudy
Mar. 26	25	14	M. Sunny
Mar. 27	26	8	Sunny
Mar. 28	36	17	M. Cloudy

Average Temps:
H = 42° Low = 25°

Compiled by
Dale Hausmann,
WCCO's Staples area
Weatherwatcher



Snow going

The Staples-Motley track and field team got an outdoor run in on plowed streets behind the school during the first

week of practice. See page 7a for spring sports practices. (Staples World photo by Mark Anderson)

Public Notices

Becker 9a
May 9a
Todd Planning: 9a

Obituary

Mark Jennissen



Staples Host Lions donate

The Staples Host Lions recently donated \$500 to the Central Lakes College (CLC) Foundation; and a \$750 donation to Minnesota Special Olympics. Pictured above, from left, are Kate Adornetto, CLC Foundation director; and Lion President Steve Sing. Below, from left, are Ken Christensen, accepting the donation on behalf of MN Special Olympics from Lion President Sing. (Submitted photos)

Motley area law enforcement report

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

- March 8 - 14**
March 14 - The MPD arrested Kevin Paul Busko, 48, for cancelled IPS (Inimical to Public Safety).
- March 9 - 13 - The MPD issued speeding citations to Michael Fortner, 52; Scott Kjellberg, 60; Caden Mrazek, 18.
- March 10 - The MPD issued citations for hands free violation to Chad Johnson, 35; Jessie Waldock, 38; and a juvenile.

- March 10 - The MPD issued a citation to Samone Good Track, 20, for driving after revocation.
- March 14 - The MCSO arrested Kimberley Cardwell on an outstanding warrant. She’d been located walking near the 100 block of Cedar St. E., Motley.
- March 12 - The MCSO responded to a report of a possible burglary at the 33000 block of Elm Ln., Motley.
- March 11 - The MCSO assisted a subject who had run out of gas at Hwy 10 and 260th St., transporting him to a gas station with a gas can, and transporting him back to his vehicle.

Quilt group ties astronaut to Zambia children

By Dee Goerge

Two quilts will be traveling between Catholic churches in the Wadena area over the next couple of months, including Sacred Heart Church in Staples on March 24 (fish fry) and March 26. With special fabric based on photos of earth taken from space, the quilts won’t travel as far as the photographer did. But members of Mary’s ACC Quilters hope that astronaut Karen Nyberg’s fabric line will help their quilt raffle (in partnership with Wadena Knights of Columbus 2107) raise money for children on the other side of the earth in Zambia.

The quilters
Most of Mary’s ACC Quilters belong to eight

churches that are part of Mary Mother of the Church Area Catholic Community (Bertha, Bluegrass, Bluffton, Menahga, Motley, Staples, Verndale and Wadena). They first met in October 2021 to plan quilt-tying gatherings at St. Ann’s Parish Hall in Wadena. Between 20-30 ladies (including relatives and friends not in the ACC) meet to tie quilt tops that members sew at home with their own fabric and donated fabric. A generous gift from the Lamson Trust Fund with the Wadena United Church of Christ covers batting and other expenses.

Many quilts go to Action For Children – Zambia (AFCZ). Flannel sheet batting makes them suited for Africa’s climate. Members of St. Joseph Catholic

Church in Bertha have made quilts for them for many years because a family in the parish had close ties to Carol McBrady, a Minnesota social worker who founded AFCZ in 2003. Besides making quilts for her to give children, Mary’s ACC Quilters made two quilts to raffle to raise money to celebrate AFCZ’s 20 years.

The cause
McBrady initially traveled to Africa on a mission trip with hopes to comfort AIDS babies. While there she discovered she had skills — and a calling — to help older street kids in Lusaka, Zambia.

“The children were dying and nobody was doing a thing,” she said. So, she got involved, providing basic medical care, taking kids to

the hospital and arranging for a lot of funerals, with a grant from the Sisters of St. Joseph in St. Paul. For a couple of years, while working at a Minnesota juvenile detention school, she spent summers in Zambia.

A couple of boys changed that in 2005. One Monday she noticed a tiny boy in fancy clothes. He told her that he got them from ladies who picked him up for the weekend; she was horrified when he told her what they did with him. A few days later, kids ran to get her when a boy fell off the train. She wasn’t prepared for the blood and the scattered pieces of leg — he’d been run over by the train. She ran to a police station, only to learn they wouldn’t do anything until the boy died. After wrapping leg parts in cloth and bribing a taxi driver, she took the boy to the hospital herself. Whenever she left his side, he cried out something. The doctor said he was saying “Mama.”

“I went out to the parking lot and said, ‘OK God, whatever you set before me, I will take care of it,’ ” she recalled.

She quit her job, rented an apartment and started taking in street kids. Soon kids were spreading the word about Mama Carol. She rented a bigger place, Salvation Home, to take in more children, yet provide a family atmosphere with community connections. In 2009, a village donated 50 acres of land, where some of the older children worked with hand tools to create a garden. By 2012 the first building was ready for children to live in family units. Now Kulunga Bana Farm has four buildings, enough space for 36 children, plus house parents and AFCZ alumni who manage the farm’s garden and livestock. There’s also a church on the farm.

“Redemption house was built (in 2017) to house children who qualified for grade 8 while at the farm. They continue their secondary education there and then go on to trade school and college after completing grade 12,” McBrady said. “It’s designed to provide education and family and life skills that helps them grow into adulthood.”

Mama Carol’s reputation and the programs she developed caught the attention of the Zambian government, which recently initiated a program to build centers for children and families in crisis. McBrady consults with them and closed Salvation Home. Now the focus is to add more Redemption House housing. Funds are needed for cement and steel to build them.

“We have modeled (what works). The kids are growing up to be amazing young men and women,” she said. “We want them to all grow into Zambia adults who can take care of themselves and become part of their country’s development.”

The astronaut
Mary’s ACC Quilters’ raffle to raise money for AFCZ has quilts made with fabric that has a local tie —



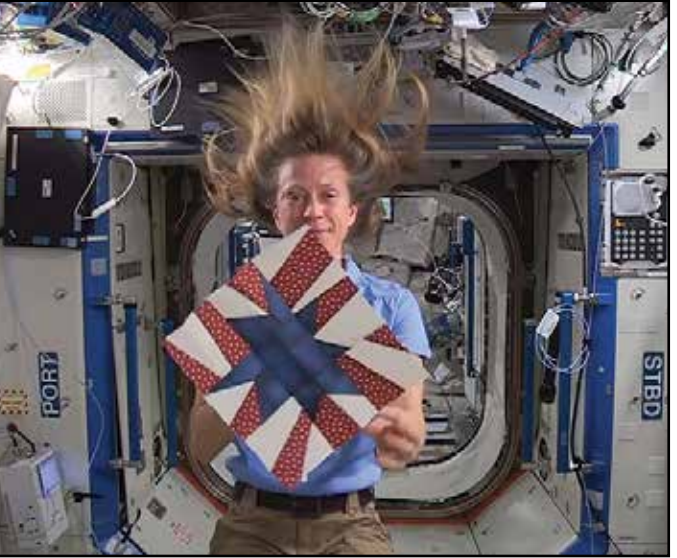
Quilting team

Mary’s ACC Quilters meet at St. Ann Catholic Church in Wadena to tie quilts.



Zambia mission

Carol McBrady is “Mama Carol” to her boys in Zambia.



Quilts in space

NASA Astronaut Karen Nyberg completed a hand-sewn quilt block while in space.

astronaut Karen Nyberg, of Vining, Minn. On her 166-day, 2013 flight at the International Space Station, she spent time in the cupola with a camera.

“When you’re looking down on earth it’s so beautiful and you want to capture it,” she said.

Though she was a quilter and hand-sewed a quilt block during her mission, the idea of turning photos into fabric came after she retired in 2020. Through a partnership with Robert Kaufman Fabrics, her photos inspired 30 Earth Views fabrics.

They are made with organic cotton, which fits in Nyberg’s focus on environmental partnerships with businesses and organizations. Between advising boards of directors, speaking engagements and other enterprises, she

enjoys sewing, creating patterns and textile artwork. She credits her parents for inspiring her. Her mom taught her to sew and her father, Ken Nyberg, is well known for his metal sculptures.

“One of the reasons I wanted to create Earth Views was to bring attention to how beautiful this world is. We need to go past our little worlds and look at earth as a whole in decisions we make and empathy for people on the other side of the world. The earth is interconnected,” she said.

With the quilt raffle, Mary’s ACC Quilters hopes to make that connection between America and Zambia.

Dee Goerge is a member of Mary’s ACC Quilters



Be Safe

Stay clear of downed power lines

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

POWERFUL STORMS can damage power lines. If you see a downed power line:

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Looking back

75 YEARS Ago - 1948

• March 18, 1948 - “It is extremely important,” said the Rev. K. K. Holt, pastor of the First Congregational church of Staples, “that every member who wishes to vote upon the proposed merger with the Evangelical and Reformed church turn in his ballot on or before Sunday.

- O -
Compiled by
Dawn Timbs
- O -

This is necessary because the total number of members voting throughout the nation is as important as the votes of the churches themselves, asserts Rev. Holt.

• March 18, 1948 - See “Doctor Jim” starring Stuart Erwin, Barbara Wooddell, William Wright, Hobart Cavanaugh, at the Staples Theatre March 24. Free to all farmers and their families, sponsored by Overby Implement Co. of Staples.

• March 18, 1948 - Help Wanted: Country girl 16 to 18 years of age for general house work in all modern home. Close to city. Must be protestant. Must be suitable company for two young boys and one girl for evening entertainment. Good wages. Mrs. Fred Thiesse, Rt. 1, Brainerd.

• March 18, 1948 - Wanted - Lady to stay in modern home to look after convalescent lady. No work. Pleasant home. Private room. 504 - 6th St. SE. Write Mrs. James Pedner at 106 7th St. N.

• March 18, 1948 - For sale at Batcher’s Federated Store in Staples: Women’s spike heel sling pump, made in two new colors for spring - tan and grey, \$5.98; Women’s wedge heel sandal, red with tan trim, \$3.98; Men’s felt hats, \$2.98 - \$6.49; Men’s top coats, all-wool gabardine, natural color, \$35.

• March 18, 1948 - Easter Candy at DesMarais Confectionery - Miss Morris chocolate eggs, 10 cents; Gobelins Easter Baskets, \$2; Box of Pecan Patootes, \$1.35.



Mystery photo

Hello readers. This week’s archive photo is from our Feb. 7, 1980 edition. Do you know who these people are and perhaps the context of the photo? Do you have a memory to share? Email your an-

swers 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.

• March 18, 1948 - Staples Men’s Civic Chorus, under the direction of Erling Lian, will present a concert at the Fair Grounds Pavilion in Motley April 11, for the benefit of the Methodist church of Motley.

A year or more ago the Methodist congregation of Motley lost their church by fire and since that time they have been raising money to rebuild their church. The Women’s Society of Christian Service of that village, which is sponsoring the concert, will charge for the program, with all proceeds going toward the building fund of the church.

50 YEARS Ago - 1973

• March 22, 1973 - Lambert Klose of Staples and Mrs. Ken (Lorraine) Lind of Bertha were re-elected to another two-year term as chairman and chairwoman, respectively, of the Todd County Republican Party at the annual county convention held Saturday night at the Staples high school.

Also elected to the committee from the Staples area are Bruce Nelsen, Staples Township, county vice-chairman; Mrs. C. Richard Longbella, Staples city, and Mrs. Kenneth LeVasseur, Staples township, county vice-chairwoman.

• March 22, 1973 - A strong second half by the Melrose Dutchmen cancelled any hopes of Staples sending their Cardinal and White clad basketball team into the 1973 State High school tournament this week at Williams Arena, Minneapolis.

The Dutchmen, the champions of District 22, out-fought the Cardinals of SHS in the Region Six Tournament finals to chalk up a 73 to 47 victory and to earn their fourth straight trip to the State classic.

• March 22, 1973 - Twenty-eight students qualified to enter the District 24 Speech Festival as a result of their ratings from the judges in the Staples Speech Festival, which was held March 17, at the high school.

• March 22, 1973 - Chief of Police William Card issued a reminder today to all residents of the city to the effect that all dogs must be tied the year around in Staples.

• March 22, 1973 - Joe Neznik, the captain and the outstanding player for Coach Tom Wolhowe’s Cardinals was named to the WCCO Radio All-State Basketball Team of the Week March 15.

25 YEARS Ago - 1998

• March 19, 1998 - Sandy Porter, Central Lakes College instructor, has been named ‘Teacher of the Year’ at the Staples Campus of CLC.

Porter has been instructor at CLC for six years, four of which were in the school’s Academic Center for Enrichment. She currently teaches general math, geometry, trigonometry, advanced trigonometry and technical math to students in Machine Trades, Diesel Mechanics, Heavy Equipment and Robotics programs.

• March 19, 1998 - Roger and Margie Pedley, owners of Pine Ridge Golf Course south of Motley will open their doors (and course) April 24 with bigger and better offerings.

The Pedleys are adding a 44’ x 44’ addition onto the clubhouse. Considering the main floor was already a 40’ x 80’, it’s quite an addition.

The new dance floor and stage area for private parties will hold around 150 - 175 people. With the dining room, that adds up to 250 seats.

• March 19, 1998 - When the world-famous Saint Paul Chamber Orchestra (SPCO) comes to Centennial Auditorium In Staples April 17, the concert will be filled with music by composers like Mozart, Haydn and Copland, that the SPCO has thrilled audiences with for years.

This time, however, there will also be a new twist.

Under the direction of Andre Smith, when the orchestra comes to Staples it will bring with it two of the most popular folk musicians in the country, Peter Ostroushko and Dean McGraw.

• March 19, 1998 - Showing at the Staples Cinema March 20 - 24, “Good Will Hunting.”

10 YEARS Ago - 2013

• March 21, 2013 - Railroad historian John Luecke spoke to nearly 50 people who came to see his talk at the Staples Depot on March 17. Luecke spoke about the history of the Northern Pacific railroad and specifically its relationship with Staples. He said NP chose Staples because it was a new town and had room for the facilities. He said Staples got a boost in 1889 when passenger trains were rerouted away from Brainerd and went straight from Staples to Little Falls. “Staples was put on the map basically at Brainerd’s expense,” said Luecke.

• March 21, 2013 - The Lakewood Health System Foundation will hold its 20th Annual Foundation Dinner Auction Friday, April 19, at the LHS main campus east of Staples. The theme of this year’s auction will be “Choose Health.”

• March 21, 2013 - Showing at the Staples Cinema Fri., Sat., Sun. and Weds., at 7:30 p.m., “The Croods.”

Staples Police report

Recent reports taken by the Staples Police included;

March 6, Staples Police were dispatched to the 1100 block of 2nd Ave. NE of a report of suicide threats. The subject was transferred to Lakewood Health System (LHS) emergency room for a mental health hold due to statements made to officers.

March 7, Staples Police assisted Cass County Sheriff’s Dept. with a vehicle crashing into a tree on the Warner Rd at Cty Rd 32.

March 8, Staples Police assisted the MN State Patrol and Wadena County Sheriff’s Dept, with a one vehicle roll-over crash on Hwy 10, west of Staples, near the Cty Rd 26 intersection. The driver, Kayla Clark, 23, of Staples, had been traveling westbound on Hwy 10, when she lost control and rolled the vehicle she was driving, which came to a stop in the median. Clark was transported to the hospital by Staples Ambulance with minor injuries. Also responding to the scene was the Staples Fire Dept. It’s believed that the snow covered roads contributed to the crash.

March 8, Staples Police met with a party who had stolen a vehicle in Becker County. Police assisted in coordinating the return of the vehicle to its owner and the suspect was transported to LHS for a mental health evaluation.

March 8, Staples Police pulled a vehicle over for having a broken headlight. Justin Lind, 41, of St. Cloud, was arrested for Driving After Cancellation Inimical To Public Safety.

March 9, Staples Police were called to a residence on 7th St. SE, with a resident reporting that a neighbor is driving across her yard to park in his yard, tearing up her yard. Officers made contact with the offender and advised that

further infractions may result in citations.

March 10, Staples Police received a report of a package that was missing from a residence in the 400 block of 6th St. SE.

March 11, Staples Police were dispatched to the LHS emergency room for a report of a female who was beaten by her boyfriend. Officers arrived on scene and spoke with the victim. Officers went to the 200 block of Wisconsin Ave. SE to locate the suspect. Once located, officers attempted to obtain a statement from the suspect. The suspect, Devin Fletcher, 27, of Park Rapids, was placed under arrest and booked into the Todd County Jail on charges of domestic assault.

March 11, Staples Police were called to the 1400 block of 3rd St. NE for a subject having mental health issues. Police transported the subject to LHS for a mental health evaluation.

March 12, Staples Police assisted a two individuals with providing them with a sober ride home due to the weather conditions and their intoxication level.

March 12, Staples Police responded to the 100 block of 5th St. NE for a report of two children fighting at that location. Police spoke with parties involved. The parent was referred to contact Todd County to possibly get assistance with their children.

March 12, Staples Police were dispatched to the 600 block of Wisconsin Ave. SE for a report of a subject making suicidal threats and had taken an unknown amount of pills. Officers spoke to the parties involved and the subject agreed to go to the emergency room for an evaluation. Police transported the individual to LHS emergency room.

Larson earns LSS Spirit Award

Duane Larson of Motley, quality specialist for Lutheran Social Service of Minnesota, was one of 98 people recognized with the 2022 Spirit Award at a special online celebration.

The award honors employees who demonstrate outstanding commitment and dedication to the vision and mission of the statewide organization. Honorees are nominated by their supervisors.

“The Cabinet and I look forward to Spirit Awards all year,” said Patrick Thueson, president of Lutheran Social Service of Minnesota. “Our 2022 Spirit Award recipients are 98 individuals who bring energy, passion and commitment to their work. It’s a great opportunity for us to celebrate the spirit of joy and excellence that our recipients bring to all they do.”



Mystery solved

Last week’s mystery photo published in the March 15, 1973 edition of the Staples World featured Champions of the State Area Basketball League for the 1972-73 season, the Staples Faculty, who finished with a record of 26 wins and one loss. Members of the squad are, front row from left, Tom Honek, Joe Joerg, Mark Vibeto, Jerry Riewer. back row, Reed Hanns of Bertha, Don Hesse, Tom Wolhowe, Hans Borstad, Jack Nelson. Absent were Russ Craigmile, Dan Swenson, Larry Werder and Gene Kaphan.

Janice Johnson of Staples correctly identified Tom Honek, Jack Nelson, Jerry Riewer and Tom Wolhowe.

Judy Wolak of Staples correctly

identified Tom Honek, Joe Joerg, Jerry Riewer, Tom Wolhowe and Jack Nelson. She thought she also recognized Rollie Penfield and Phil Lindaman.

Kevin Roline of Nevis, a 1980 graduate of Staples High School, said he was about 12 years old when this picture was taken and he recognized most of the men in it. “I could go on and on about each and every one of them as they all played a very important role throughout my life,” Roline shared. “After spending 50 years of my life as part of the Staples community I am honored to have known them.”

Thanks for participating in our mystery photo.



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Research shows harm of tobacco retail near schools

Letter from the Staples-Motley School District submitted to the Staples City Council

It has come to our attention that the vacant building on 2nd Ave. NE (previously Orton’s) has been purchased with the intent to open up a smoke shop. At less than 500 feet from our Middle/High School building, we are tremendously concerned about the increased availability of tobacco and hemp products to our students, putting their health at risk and providing another barrier to their academic success.

There is no shortage of research demonstrating the harms of tobacco retail proximity to schools, and it is alarming that our community would even consider the smoke shop’s proposal. Schleicher, Johnson, Fortmann and Henriksen demonstrate in their research that youth who live or attend school in neighborhoods with the highest density of tobacco outlets or retail tobacco advertising have higher smoking rates compared to youth who live or attend school in neighborhoods with fewer or no tobacco outlets (2016). Specifically, for every additional retailer marketing e-cigarettes within a half mile radius, the probability of a student being a past month user increased by 4%. For every additional advertisement, the probability of past month e-cigarette use increased by one additional percent (Giovenco et al., 2016).

In addition to tobacco/nicotine products, with the recent legalization of certain THC and hemp products, this smoke shop

could put hallucinogens in the hands of our students mere feet away from their classrooms where clarity of mind is critical. A newly legalized and largely unregulated product, edibles and other THC and hemp containing products create high risk for poisoning. This past November, Chris Tholkes, director of medical cannabis at the Minnesota Department of Health stated that “it’s really not known what is in these products and whether or not they are safe,” including that there is “no licensing and high public risk due to lack of compliance and enforcement capacity.”

Our district is an anchor institution in the City of Staples, preparing its young residents to grow and rise to new challenges through a culture of pride in academics, arts, athletics and community. We have been grateful for the ongoing partnership with the City of Staples as we have worked to provide a student-centered experience. Summer baseball, Railroad Days, the Homecoming Block Party and many more events are successful because we work together for the best of students and families. The move to approve a smoke shop mere feet from our classrooms would directly undermine our vision to educate, equip and empower all students to achieve their full potential - a step back in our partnership.

There is precedent to require distance between businesses who sell services or goods that endanger or are otherwise wildly inappropriate for children and schools. Staples currently has ordinance 16-24 preventing sexually illicit

businesses from opening within 500 feet of schools. Additionally, neighboring cities like Wadena have enacted ordinances specific to hemp-products to protect their children from underage use (Wadena Ord. #238).

We strongly urge the Staples City Council to consider an ordinance prohibiting new establishments to sell tobacco and hemp products within reach of our students. Our children deserve the best opportunity to succeed and live full lives, free from addiction and the adverse health effects of these products. By ignoring the research and issuing a license for this new establishment you are promoting convenience and access of illicit products to underage consumers.

Shane Tappe, Superintendent
Debbie Ferdon, M/HS Principal
Allen Berg, ES Principal
Josh Lee, Activities Director
Jamie Pearson, Dean of Students

References
Schleicher, N. C., Johnson, T. O., Fortmann, S. P., & Henriksen, L. (2016, October). Tobacco outlet density near home and school: Associations with smoking and norms among US teens. Preventive Medicine, 91, 287-293. doi:10.1016/j.ypmed.2016.08.027
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Quote of the week

“The first day of spring is one thing, and the first spring day is another. The difference between them is sometimes as great as a month.”

— Henry Van Dyke

Town planning needs constant updating

Staples avoided a sticky situation where a smoke shop was proposed for a building near the high school. The proposal was denied because of inconsistencies in the tobacco license application, and the city is now taking steps to prevent smoke shops from going up near schools.

The built environment plays a large role in how the community behaves and how we perceive the world. Every community sets up different rules, which makes for different types of communities in different locations.

Staples is an interesting town in that the town planners have not always been on the same page through-

out the decades. We have long blocks, short blocks, sidewalks that end in the middle of blocks and streets that need sidewalks but don’t have them. The old highway is built up as a spread out downtown and the new highway is growing with more businesses.

I get the impression that much of the town planning has been driven by stand-alone ideas that don’t always fit together. But that is changing. Over the past decade or more, the city has been developing an overall plan that is helping to fit together the patchwork approach of the past.

Even with better planning, it is hard to prepare for everything, which is why the smoke shop proposal caught them by surprise. The answer to overcoming this type of surprise is to get more people involved more often, so that ideas are generated, a vision is developed and the outside proposals that come to town will be more likely to fit with the vision. The Staples Planning and Zoning Commission



By Mark Anderson
Editor

Quote of the week

“Develop success from failures. Discouragement and failure are two of the surest stepping stones to success.”

— Dale Carnegie

Minnesota surplus should go back to taxpayers

By Mike Wiener
State Representative

We received an updated budget outlook from state economists that showed Minnesota’s budget surplus remains unchanged at \$17.5 billion.

The bottom-line number remains the same from the December budget forecast with one key difference: This one was adjusted to factor for inflation for the first time in decades. This means that the surplus is likely closer to \$20 billion if you were to remove inflation from the calculation.

A surplus this size continues to prove that you, your family, and every person in Minnesota is being

severely overtaxed. That’s why we need to return this surplus back to you. More money in your family budgets will help deal with the impacts of inflation.

I recently recorded a video where I discussed my plan that would return the state’s budget surplus back to Minnesotans through one-time direct payments. Click here to watch the video: <https://bit.ly/3Jmt2GW>

The large budget surplus is also why I was a firm “NO” vote on this week’s bonding bills. It makes no sense to borrow money and sign Minnesotans up for hundreds of millions of dollars in interest payments for a public infrastructure bill when we have the cash to

pay for it straight away.

Tax relief
My bill is aligned with a broader plan introduced by House Republicans to provide tax relief for Minnesotans. Our “Give It Back” tax plan, provides billions in immediate and long-term tax relief.
The package includes:
• Lowering first and second tier rates
• Full elimination of Social Security tax
• \$1,800 tax credit per child
• Property tax relief
• \$5 billion in rebates
• With a \$17.5 billion surplus, it’s way past time to provide the tax relief you all deserve. That’s why I support this proposal.

U.S. has chosen representative democracy

By Lee H. Hamilton

We Americans live in a representative democracy. That’s a fundamental feature of public life in the United States, a part of who we are as a people. We elect leaders to make decisions on our behalf.

It’s not a pure democracy, in which the people vote on every important issue and the majority gets its way. Sometimes we do vote on questions of public interest: amendments to the national and state constitutions, for example, and referendums on whether to raise taxes or adopt new laws.

But, for the most part, we govern by representative democracy. We entrust elected representatives, from the president down to township officials and the local school board, to look out for our interests and carry out our

wishes. Our elected officials debate the issues and vote.

This was the approach that our nation’s founders established over 200 years ago, and it’s one that we have chosen to embrace and renew, generation after generation. There’s nothing inevitable or pre-ordained about this. Other nations have adopted different systems, and we could, too. Some have moved far to the right, instituting fascist rule. Some of moved to the left, adopting socialism. We’ve also seen authoritarian regimes that combine features of the right and left.

But in the United States, representative democracy has served us well, and it has expanded over the years. At America’s founding, only white men who owned property were routinely permitted to vote. Black Americans were given the right after the Civil War; in practice, many were kept from voting for 100 years by poll taxes, literacy tests and intimidation. The 19th Amendment, ensuring suffrage for women, wasn’t ratified until 1920.

As the franchise expanded, government grew more representative of America. Today, women hold a record 153 of the 540 voting and nonvoting seats in the House of Representatives and the Senate. Some 133 senators and representatives identify as Black, Hispanic, Asian American, American Indian or Alaska Native, according to an analysis by the Pew Research Center.

This is important, but it’s not enough. If our representatives are going to represent our interests, they must cultivate political skills: the ability to communicate, speak persuasively and listen with discernment, to focus on real problems and bring people together to solve them. These skills are often underappreciated, but they

are essential for translating the will of the people to effective government. Our representatives need to be willing to compromise, and it’s troubling that our politics have grown so polarized that compromise can seem like a dirty word.

The authors of the Declaration of Independence wrote that we rely on government to secure our rights to “life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness.” As Americans, we particularly value liberty: our freedom to live as we please. But we also must recognize that our freedom shouldn’t curtail the rights of others. Government should look out for everyone, not just the powerful or politically connected.

Finally, living in a representative democracy puts a premium on elections and voting. We need to have confidence that our elections are free and fair. Former President Donald Trump’s false claim that the 2020 election was stolen did serious damage, leading to the Jan. 6, 2021, attack on the Capitol and to divisions and distrust that persist today.

We also need to encourage voting and make it easier. It’s common for politicians to impose restrictions on registration and voting in the name of election security. This may help them win elections in the short run; but, in the long run, it undermines our system of government.

The ballot is the foundation of our democracy and the best way to gauge the public’s will. Fair elections that engage the voters are essential to making our representative government truly representative.

Lee Hamilton is a Senior Advisor for the Indiana University Center on Representative Government. He was a member of the U.S. House of Representatives for 34 years.

StaplesWorld

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

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Photo Tech/production.....Janice Winter jwinter@staplesworld.com
Bookkeeping/Circulation/.....Kathy Odden kodden@staplesworld.com
Reporter.....Dawn Timbs dtimbs@staplesworld.com
Front Office.....office@staplesworld.com

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Fairness: The Staples World tries conscientiously to report fairly and accurately. If you feel we fall short of this objective at any time, please direct your complaint to the manager whose name appears on this page.
Note to Advertisers: Advertisers should check their ad following first publication. This newspaper shall not be liable for failure to publish an ad or for the typographic error or errors in publication except to the extent of the cost of the ad for the first day’s insertion. Adjustment for errors is limited to the cost of that portion of the ad wherein the error occurred. The publisher reserves the right to cancel any advertisement at any time.

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'93 Lions Easter Eggstravaganza April 1

The Staples '93 Lions will host their Easter Eggstravaganza on Saturday, April 1, from 9:30 to 11 a.m. at the Staples Community Center.

This event is for children ages 10

and under to come a play games, do crafts and win prizes. There will also be an Easter Bunny for children to visit. (Submitted photos from previous Easter Eggstravaganza events)



Mark Your Calendar

March 22, 23

FREE TAX-AIDE Wednesdays, 1-4 p.m. and Thursdays, 10 a.m.- 4 p.m., through April 13, Staples City Hall. Must call for an appointment at 218-296-6616. For low to moderate income taxpayers.

March 23

'WALK WITH A Doc' Thursdays at 5:15 p.m., at Lakewood Health System's main campus in Staples. Meet at the main entrance. For more information about this free program, visit <https://walkwithadoc.org/join-a-walk/locations/staples-minnesota>

WADENA WHIRLAWAYS SQUARE DANCE GROUP DANCING Thursday, March 23, 7:30 - 10 p.m., at St. Michael's Church, 280 1st Ave. S., Motley. Myron Hollatz, caller. For info., 218-296-1642.

March 24

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.

March 25

FREE COMMUNITY BREAKFAST Saturday, March 25, 9 - 10:30 a.m., at Motley United Methodist Church, 847 3rd Ave. S., Motley.

March 27

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

March 28

WADENA COUNTY REPUBLICANS MTGS are held on the 4th Tuesday of the month at Larry's Pizza in Wadena. Dinner and visiting at 5:30 p.m. with speakers and a business meeting at 6:30 p.m. Call 218-894-1899 for more information.

'GRIEF SHARE' GRIEF SUPPORT GROUP is held on Tuesdays from 6 - 8 p.m., at Motley Free Methodist Church,

through May 30. For more information, call 218-352-6888.

EXPERIENCE STRENGTH AND HOPE AA GROUP MTGS IN STAPLES are held at the Staples Congregational Church, 204 5th St. NE, Tuesdays at 6:30 p.m.

LAKEWOOD GRIEF SUPPORT GROUP is held on Tuesdays from 3 - 4:30 p.m., at Sourcewell in Staples (202 12th St. NE), through April 25. For info., call 218-894-8093 or email pauljohnson@lakewoodhealthsystem.com.

April 16

OLD WADENA HISTORIC SOCIETY'S ANNUAL MEETING will be held Sunday, April 26, at the Staples Historic Depot starting at noon, with doors opening at 11:30 a.m. We will go over last year's events and upcoming events. Speaker is Deana Malone. For more info., call Darlys Hamberg, Chair, at 218-894-2608.

Cardinal Calendar

SM school events

March

- **POLAR PLUNGE FOR SPECIAL OLYMPICS** March 22, time TBA
- **HS "HOME TOUR" CONCERT** March 23, 7 p.m.
- **VOCAL LARGE GROUP CONTEST AT PILLAGER** March 29

April

- **INSTRUMENTAL SOLO/ENSEMBLE CONTEST AT SEBEKA** April 5
- **VOCAL SOLO/ENSEMBLE CONTEST AT PEQUOT** April 12
- **MUSIC ENSEMBLE SHOWCASE - CAFETERIA** April 14, 4 p.m.

May

- **DOLLARS FOR SCHOLARS AWARDS NIGHT** May 3, 7 p.m.
 - **PROM** May 6
- All Staples-Motley Upcoming Events are subject to change. Go to www.isd2170.k12.mn.us for up to the minute information.*

Storytime at Staples Library

The next Storytime at the Staples Library is Weds., April 12 at 10:30 a.m. Call the library at 218-894-1401 to sign up. Join the fun and learning in the Reading Roundhouse for singing, reading, playing, age appropriate activities and crafts.

"We engage their curiosity, while developing important literacy skills and fostering a life-long love of reading and learning," said Cathy Perish, Library Services Coordinator.

The program is sponsored by the Staples Friends of the Library.

DEADLINE
for all classified
ads and copy is
12 noon Friday

For the
Staples World

Staples Sportsmen's Club Field Day Apr. 29

Firearm Safety Classes Apr. 17 - 27

The Staples Sportsmen's Club Field Day and On-line All Day Field Day will be held Saturday, April 29, from 8 a.m. - 4 p.m. The preceding traditional classroom Firearm Safety Classes (FSC) will be held on six days, beginning Monday, April 17.

Students must be 12 years old by the start of this year's deer hunting season. Students from the local area will be accepted, with priority give to students from the Staples/Motley area.

All FAS classes will be held at the Staples Sports-

men's Club. *Note: There will be NO classes in Motley this spring.*

Classes will be held at the following days/times:

- April 17, 6:45 - 9 p.m.
- April 18, 7 - 9 p.m.
- April 20, 7 - 9 p.m.
- April 24, 7 - 9 p.m.
- April 25, 7 - 9 p.m.
- April 27, 7 - 9 p.m.

To register for classes, or for questions, call Darlys or Jon Hamberg (Staples) at 218-894-2255 (8 - 4 Mon. - Fri.) or 218-894-2608 (after 6 p.m.); or Bob Koenig (Motley) at 218-352-6390.

Minnesota Firearm Safety Class

Traditional Classroom FAS classes will be held:

April 17, 6:45 p.m. - 9 p.m.,
at Staples Sportsmans Club

Classes also run: **April 18, 20, 24, 25, 27**

With Field Day and On-Line All-Day Field Day:
April 29, 8 a.m. - 4 p.m. (approx. time)

Students must be 12-years-old by this year's deer hunting start. Accepting students from the local area with Staples/Motley area students receiving priority. Space limited/classes fill fast.

To register for classes (Traditional/On-line) or for questions call:

- Darlys, Jon Hamberg, Staples, 218-894-2255, 8 a.m.-4 p.m. Mon.-Fri. or 218-894-2608 after 6 p.m.
- Bob Koenig, Motley, 218-352-6390 (NO classes in Motley)

I am Kristine Spadgenske

"As we navigate the fast changing world of electricity, I am committed to continuing my work on the Todd-Wadena Electric Board, while protecting our member's best interest and investment."

I would appreciate your support in the upcoming TWEC election.



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Birthday Open House
for
Betty Farber
Sat., April 1
5 to 8 p.m.
Holst Acres, Staples

ONLINE BIRTHS REMOVED AT THE
REQUEST OF LAKEWOOD HEALTH
SYSTEM

Hello World

Student Achievements

BEMIDJI STATE UNIVERSITY recently announced its 2022 Fall Semester Dean's List. To qualify, students must be enrolled for at least 12 credits and earn a grade point average of between 3.5 - 3.99 during the semester. Local students named include:

- Hailee Colgrove, Motley
- Jack Wenous, Motley
- Jordan Hines, Pillager
- Lane Jensen, Pillager
- Brendon Warren, Pillager
- Michelle Winter, Staples

Obituary

Mark Jennissen

Mark W. Jennissen, 63, of Miltna, died unexpectedly March 17, 2023. Mass of Christian Burial will be held at 11 a.m., Saturday, March 25, 2023, at Church of St. Mary in Alexandria with Fr. Matthew Kuhn officiating. Visitation will be held Fri., March 24 at 4 p.m. and conclude with a 7 p.m. prayer service and rosary at Lind Family Funeral Home in Alexandria. The visitation will continue Sat., March 25 one hour prior to the services at the church. Arrangements provided by Lind Family Funeral & Cremation services, lind-familyfh.com.

13pnc

Public Notices

TCC continued from page 8a

Denise Gaida,
Todd County Auditor-Treasurer

MINUTES OF THE JOINT MEETING OF THE TODD COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS AND TODD COUNTY SWCD SUPERVISORS FEB. 21, 2023

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 21st day of February, 2023 with all Board of Commissioner members present and SWCD Supervisors Buchholz, Katterhagen & Williamson present and SWCD Supervisors James & Wendel absent.

On motion by Erickson and seconded by Denny, the following motion was introduced and adopted by unanimous vote: To call the joint meeting to order.

On motion by Katterhagen and seconded by Buchholz, the following was introduced and adopted by unanimous vote: To call the joint meeting to order.

Approval of Agenda
On motion by Buchholz and seconded by Katterhagen, the following motion was introduced and adopted by unanimous vote: To approve the agenda as presented.

On motion by Becker and seconded by Noska, the following motion was introduced and adopted by unanimous vote: To approve the agenda as presented.

SWCD Presentation
Deja Anton, District Manager presented the following information for general knowledge and discussion between the board members:

- The role the SWCD plays in County responsibilities.
- Key Roles/Positions within the SWCD
- WCD Funding and County Reimbursement
- Future Foreseeables
- Highlights of the 2022 SWCD Annual Report

• Presentation of the SWCD 2023 Plan of Action
Todd County SWCD Annual Report 2022
On motion by Katterhagen and seconded by Buchholz, the following motion was introduced and adopted by unanimous vote: To adopt the final revision of the Todd County SWCD 2022 Annual Report as presented and posted on the County website.

Long Prairie River Watershed MOA
On motion by Katterhagen and seconded by Buchholz, the following motion was introduced and adopted by unanimous vote: To approve the signing of the Long Prairie River Watershed MOA which adds Ottertail County to the Collaboration.

General Discussion

The Todd County Annual Feedlot Meeting & Farmer Appreciation Dinner is scheduled for Wednesday, March 15, 2023 at Clarissa Ballroom, Clarissa from 10 a.m.-2 p.m. for those interested in attending.

Adjourn
On motion by Buchholz and seconded by Katterhagen, the SWCD Board adjourned the joint meeting by unanimous vote.

On motion by Erickson and seconded by Denny, the Todd County Board of Commissioners adjourned the joint meeting by unanimous vote.

On a motion by Noska and seconded by Becker, the preceding minutes of the Joint Meeting of the Todd County Board of Commissioners and Todd County SWCD Supervisors meeting held February 21, 2023 were duly approved by unanimous vote at the Todd County Board of Commissioners at the Regular Board Meeting held on March 7, 2023.

Witness my hand and seal:
Randy Neumann,
County Board Chairperson
Denise Gaida,
Todd County Auditor-Treasurer

MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL BOARD MEETING OF THE TODD COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS FEB. 24, 2023

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 24th day of February, 2023 at 9:00 a.m. The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Neumann. The meeting was opened with the Pledge of Allegiance. All Commissioners were present.

Approval of Agenda
On motion by Erickson and seconded by Noska, the following motion was introduced and adopted by unanimous vote: To approve the agenda as presented.

Commissioners
On motion by Becker and seconded by Denny, the following motion was introduced and adopted by unanimous vote: To proceed with MIS Director interview.

On motion by Erickson and seconded by Denny, the following motion was introduced and adopted by unanimous vote: To open the MIS Director Candidate Deliberation.

On motion by Noska and seconded by Becker, the following motion was introduced and adopted by unanimous vote: To hire Lisa Parteka as MIS Director with starting pay at Grade 15, Step 1.

Adjourn
On motion by Erickson and seconded by Denny, the Special Board Meeting was adjourned.

On a motion by Noska and seconded by Becker, the preceding minutes of the Special County Board meeting held February 24, 2023 were duly approved by unanimous vote at the Todd County Board of Commissioners at the Regular Board Meeting held on March 7, 2023.

Witness my hand and seal:
Randy Neumann,
County Board Chairperson
Denise Gaida,
Todd County Auditor-Treasurer

13pnc

Staples Area Church Directory

Staples
Staples Alliance
1512 8th St. NE, Staples218-894-2891
Pastor Zach Jones
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:
Teen Youth/Adults Bible Study.....7-8 p.m.
First Congregational Church, UCC
firstcongouccstaples@gmail.com
204 5th St. NE, Staples.....218-894-2571
Worship.....9:30 a.m.
Fellowship, refreshments following service
Faith Lutheran
430 12th Street. NE., Staples.....218-894-1546
Pastor Carl Larson
Pastor Chris Mathiason
Sunday Worship Service.....9:00 a.m.
Sunday School and Coffee Fellowship.....10:05 a.m.
Sacred Heart Church
310 4th St. NE, Staples
Church.....218-894-2296
Pastor Fr. Aaron Kuhn
Parochial Vicar, Fr. Gabriel Walz
MASS:
Thursday and Friday.....8:30 a.m..
Sunday.....8:30 a.m.
Seventh Day Adventist
421 Dakota Ave. SE, Staples
218-894-0033
Saturday Worship.....9:30 am.
Sabbath School.....10:45 a.m.
Thomastown Covenant
15940 251st Ave., Staples.....218-894-3923
Pastor Scott Jorgenson
Sunday Worship.....10:30 a.m.
WEDNESDAY NIGHT YOUTH.....6:30 p.m.

Trinity Lutheran
1000 4th St., NE, Staples.....218-894-2372
Rev. Robin Collins
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
Eric Clapp.....701-261-2394 (cell)
Sunday Worship.....8:15 a.m.
Sunday School.....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
Associate Pastor: Joe Reigstad
SUNDAY
Church Worship Gathering.....10:00 a.m.
YouTube Channel.....10:00 a.m.
WEDNESDAY
Community Meal.....5:30 p.m.
Family Night.....6:00 p.m.
Cushing Baptist
26298 Bear Rd., Cushing
Pastor Dan Holmes.....320-749-2583
Sunday School.....9:30 a.m.
Worship.....10:30 a.m.
WEDNESDAY
Bible study.....7:30 p.m.

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
1st St. and Birch, Motley.....218-894-2296
Pastor Fr. Aaron Kuhn
Parochial Vicar, Fr. Gabriel Walz
MASS:
Tuesday.....6:30 p.m.,
Saturday.....4:00 p.m.
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.

Trinity Lutheran Church (LCMS)
524 Front Street, PO Box 116, Hewitt, MN
Pastor Robin Fish
Sunday Worship.....10:30 a.m.
United Methodist Church
Hwy. 210, Hewitt, MN
Pastor Kenneth Uhren
Sunday Services.....10:30 a.m.
Sunday School.....9:30 a.m.
Verndale
Verndale Alliance
109 NW Brown Street, Verndale, MN 56481
218-445-5619
Senior Pastor Tony Stanley
Heath Belknap, Pastor of Student Ministries
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 United Methodist
5 miles N on Cty Rd 26 (Nimrod tar)
Pastor James Middendorf, 320-260-4950
Sunday Service.....9:00 a.m.
Bible Study.....10:30 a.m.
WEDNESDAY
Seeds of Hope.....7:00 p.m.

Oylen
Oylen Alliance
Cty. Rds, 7 and 9, Oylen
218-472-3440 or 218-472-3316
Pastor Neal Malcore
Sunday School.....10:00 a.m.
Sunday Worship.....11:00 a.m.
Pillager
First Lutheran Church
Pastor Mathew Sundquist
717 River Street S, Pillager, MN
218-746-3775
Sunday Worship.....9:30 a.m.
Sunday School.....8:30 a.m.
Casino Assembly of God
Pastor Dan Johnson
N. of Motley, Hwy. 64, E. on Cty 34 to Cty. 104.
Phone.....218-746-3839
Sunday School.....9:30 a.m.
Worship.....10:30 a.m.
Sunday Worship.....7:00 p.m.
WEDNESDAY.....7:00 p.m.
First Baptist
903 River Street South, Pillager
Pastor Jake Anderson
218-746-3768
curious@fbcpillager.com
Worship Gathering.....10:00 a.m.
Connection Point.....9:30 a.m.
Hewitt
Church of the Nazarene
114 Front Street, P.O. Box 146 Hewitt, MN
218-924-2028
Jim and Linda McCaffey, Pastor
Sunday School.....9:30 a.m.
Sunday Worship.....10:45 a.m.
WEDNESDAY PRAYER.....7:00 p.m.

Church Signs

"CH__CH... What's missing? U R"
"Whoever's praying for snow... please stop!"
"Have trouble sleeping? We have sermons; come hear one"
"Too cold to change sign! Message inside."
"Get behind me, Satin."
"Now is a good time to visit. Our pastor is on vacation."
"Church parking. Only violators will be baptized."
"Thou shall not park here. Clergy only."
"Be thankful you're still above ground."
"Tweet others as you would like to be tweeted."

"Sin burn is prevented by Son screen."
"Don't make me come down there."
-God
"Wanted: Singers. Inchoir within"
"Sunday being Easter, will Mrs. Thomas please come forward and lay an egg on the altar?"
"Don't hoard! Even Noah took only two of each."
"Trespassers will be baptized, frequent trespassers will be sent away on mission."
"Wash hands, do not touch face, Hy-genesis 24:7"
"Prophecy class cancelled due to unforeseen circumstances."
"Honk if you love Jesus, text while driving if you want to meet him."

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Spring sports start practice despite snow on fields

Staples-Motley softball and track and field teams had their first official practices on March 13, with much of the activity indoors or on plowed streets. The first official day for baseball and golf practices was March 20, but it will take a lot of melting to see the athletes on their fields this spring.



Crazy good catches

Despite practicing indoors, the Staples-Motley softball team was able to get some glove work practice with some acrobatic catches. (Staples World photos by Mark Anderson)



Track and field practice

Runners stretched their legs outdoors, while field events practiced indoors. (Staples World photos by Mark Anderson)



Minnesotans urged to renew environmental funding amendment

Over a lifetime of participating in our political process, there will probably be at least a few times when we have to “hold our nose and cast our ballot.” In other words, vote for a politician we may not be very excited about, but one who is—we hope—the lesser of the possible evils.

Among the very few things Minnesotans get to vote on other than politicians are “ballot initiatives.” Most common among these are constitutional amendments. These don’t come around every day, which is probably a good thing from the standpoint of keeping state government on a fairly steady course. Changing the rules too often is a prescription for confusion.

In order for everyday Minnesotans to have a voice in amending our state constitution, the Minnesota Legislature has to pass a bill to place an issue—typically in the form of a question—on the ballot in the

next general election. These amendments, even if they pass with a majority of citizen votes, may have an expiration date, after which they would have to be passed again to remain in force.

One of the state constitutional amendments that has been of special importance to sportsmen and women is a 1988 amendment that dedicates a portion of Minnesota State Lottery proceeds to a special fund “for the public purpose of protection, conservation, preservation, and enhancement of the state’s air, water, land, fish, wildlife, and other natural resources.” This fund is known as the Environment & Natural Resources Trust Fund, or ENRTF. Having previously been renewed since 1988, this amendment is again expiring, and if it does not appear on the 2024 general election ballot and receive voter approval, it will end.

Money from this fund has been used to acquire land for parks, for native prairie preservation and restoration, control of invasive carp, creation of handicap-accessible fishing piers and shore fishing areas, agricultural and urban runoff water quality improvement, wetland restoration, wild rice restoration, investigating causes of moose mortality, boat launch facilities, and other

conservation and outdoor recreation purposes. Since the program began, roughly \$900 million from state lottery proceeds has been used for some 1,700 projects.

Decisions on spending of assets in the Fund are made by the Legislative-Citizen Committee on Minnesota Resources (LCCMR). This is a 17-member committee made up of state legislators and credentialed private citizens—often affiliated with private conservation groups—who together review funding requests and weigh in on proposals for use of the funds.

State legislators—politicians—outnumber private citizens on this committee, so perhaps it’s no surprise that from time to time expenditures are recommended that “push the envelope,” so to speak. One memorable one was an effort by some legislators in 2020 to tap the Fund for \$1.5 million to upgrade local municipal wastewater treatment facilities. The constitutional amendment as approved by the state’s voters would allow very limited loans from the fund for this purpose, but not outright, no-strings-attached grants.

This was clearly a deviation from the Fund’s intended purpose. Municipal wastewater treatment is something that local

taxpayers or state bonding should be responsible for. Such hijack efforts have been vigorously opposed by state conservation groups, most often successfully. But it may not be the last time that a lawmaker eyes the LCCMR pot of money as a source to fund an unauthorized pet project. As with our liberties, the price of assuring this Fund’s proper use—conservation initiatives—is eternal vigilance.

Minnesota conservation groups have been asking their members, and the public at large, to contact their state senators and representatives and ask them to support the rededication of state lottery funds to the originally intended environmental and outdoor recreation purposes, by voting to place reauthorization of funding for the Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund on the 2024 election ballot.

It takes dollars, not just goodwill, to make natural resource protection and enhancement happen. Assuring a dependable source of funding for these initiatives is as vital as good intentions. The ENRTF has demonstrated its potential, and deserves a prominent place in Minnesota’s natural resource management future.



Mike Rahn

Inside the Outdoors



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for classified ads, display ads, garage sale ads, letters to the editor and news items for the **Staples World is Friday noon.**

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- OR
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STAPLES continued from page 1a

\$6 million construction projects coming up

rently licensed to sell the products would be grandfathered in and could continue to sell as long as they keep their license current.

Economic Development Director Melissa Wyman said she had a concern about the possibility of future gas stations being built in towns. She pointed out that home day cares can pop up anywhere in the city, and didn't want to limit the development of a gas station in Staples. She said both the north side and the south side of town may have a need for new gas stations in the future.

Infrastructure replacement

The council approved a plan for reconstruction of the sanitary sewer collection system on 2nd Street NE, Roosevelt Street SW, McKinley Street SW, 4th Street SW, 3rd Street SW and 2nd Street SW.

A representative from engineering firm Bolton and Menk told the council that the project will also replace lead pipes and they may be able to get funding for drinking water pipes to go along with the project. The project could also include a new sewer main under the Staples-Motley High School building. Construction is expected to coordinate with construc-

tion on the Staples-Motley High School building in 2024 and continue to 2025.

The total cost of the street and utility improvements is \$6.9 million, with much of it paid for by state funding, including the Clean Water Revolving Fund and Drinking Water Revolving Fund. The plan shows the City of Staples paying \$465,000 of the cost.

Included in the project is the reconstruction of 4th Street NE, scheduled for 2025. The cost for this portion is estimated to be \$6 million, with the City of Staples paying around \$527,800. Todd County will be a partner in this project and will utilize State Aid Funds.

In other news, the council approved an order to remove a hazardous building at 202 Wisconsin Ave. SE that gives property owners 45 days to do it, or city will remove it. Leila Cameron, one of five owners of the property, said four of the owners want to sell the property but the fifth does not. Nelsen said if all five can agree, they can sign it over to the city to tear down, otherwise it would follow the legal procedure with the cost to be assessed against all the property owners.



SM Speech Team competes at National Qualifiers

The Staples-Motley Cardinals Speech Team competed in Moorhead at the National Qualifiers held March 17-18.

Advancing to semi-finals after three competition rounds were: Cy Johnson; Dramatic Interpretation; AJ Nienow and Laken Hines; Humor; Olivia Opheim; Informative; and three of the Duo teams: Caden Mrazek and Luke Bates, Cy Johnson and Keegan Harvey, and AJ Nienow and Micah Larson.

Finalists were Laken Hines; 6th in Humor, Caden

Mrazek and Luke Bates; 5th in Duo and Cy Johnson and Keegan Harvey; 6th in Duo.

Missing finals, but placing in the top 15 were; Cy Johnson; 10th in Dramatic Interpretation, AJ Nienow; 11th in Humor, Olivia Opheim 11th in Inform and AJ Nienow and Micah Larson 7th in Duo.

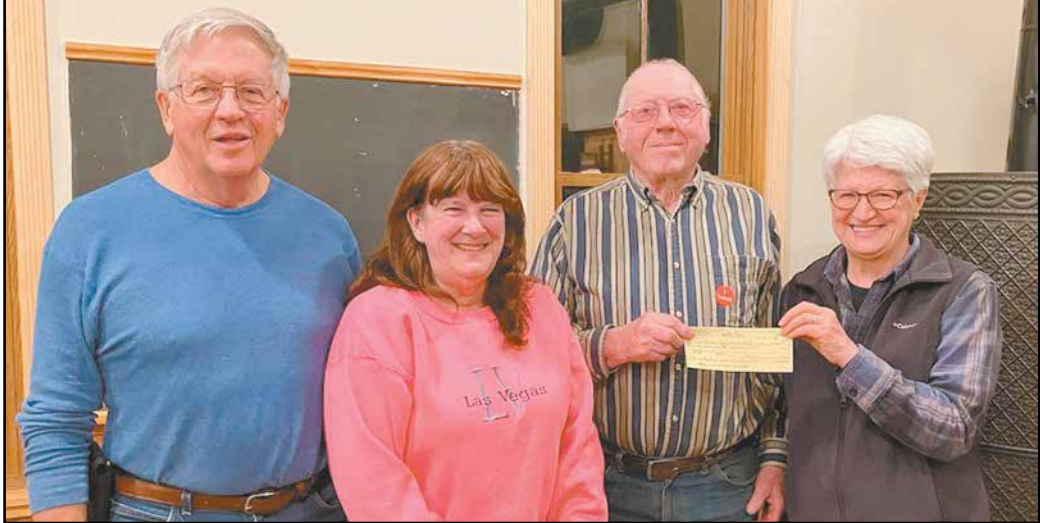
Pictured above, front from left; Luke Bates, Caden Mrazek, Grace Allen, Olivia Opheim, Cy Johnson and Keegan Harvey; back, Riley Dabbs, AJ Nienow, Micah Larson and Laken Hines. (Submitted photo)



Motley American Legion donates

The American Legion Tri-County Post 124 from Motley recently donated \$1,000 to the Motley Area Food Shelf (MAFS). Pictured, from left, are Pearl Dingman, food shelf volunteer; Commander Alan

Marshall, Post 124; Frank Vasecka, Post 124 member; Sherry Frisk, MAFS Director; and Fran Kokett, food shelf volunteer. (Submitted photo)



Donation to the Motley Food Shelf

The Motley Area Food Shelf recently received a \$400 donation from the Motley Township at their annual township meeting. Volunteers from the food shelf were at the meeting and accepted the donation. Pictured, from left, are Harvey Macheel,

township board member and food shelf volunteer; Robin Kramer, food shelf volunteer; Verde Pepin, township board member; and Fran Kokett, food shelf volunteer. (Submitted photo)

MOTLEY continued from page 1a

Motley council looks into grants, used vehicles for second police car

The real cost of a squad vehicle is the equipment, the chief said, which is about \$41,000. Regardless of whether the vehicle is new or used, that equipment must be put in.

During the discussion, Chief Borash noted that the average lifespan of a squad car is 120,000 miles. Most used pursuit-rated vehicles have at least 100,000 miles on them by the time they're put on the market. At that point, they're pretty worn out, he said.

There are two officers on board the MPD...Chief Borash and Officer Cody Holtz. On average, they each put about 10,000 miles a year on the squad car. With the average lifespan of

a squad car being 10 years, Chief Borash suggested they purchase a new one every five years. With each officer driving one vehicle, it would save on miles, plus they could save up for a new one during the rotation.

Johnson said he had no problem with the MPD getting a second vehicle, but he still felt that a used one would be sufficient.

Mayor Schmidt asked Johnson if he'd be willing to be on a committee to look for a used squad vehicle. Johnson said he would.

Schmidt said he appreciated Johnson's concerns, but also felt that times have changed and having police departments and fire departments prepared is so

important.

Borash noted that the deadline to apply for the Sourcewell grant is April 6, but he would need to know the specifics of what he is asking for prior to that. Mayor Schmidt stressed that for the sake of being transparent to taxpayers, if they needed to schedule an emergency meeting, they should do that.

In the end, the council (minus Nicky Bjerga who was absent) decided to look into used vehicle options before pursuing a new one. They noted that all of their questions must be answered before the resolution to apply for the Sourcewell grant is approved.

In a later conversation, Chief Borash noted that the closing date of the grant is

actually April 26, adding that "the resolution must be signed with the specific purchase prior to the grant submittal, and the purchase of a used vehicle through the auction site prior to the grant award would not be eligible for the grant (due to timing)."

Borash also noted that if they order a new vehicle this spring, it is estimated to be delivered in February or March of 2024.

In other matters the council:

- HEARD from Jeff Hardy of Cushing, who is interested in purchasing a 21-plus acre parcel of land in Motley to build a resort on. Hardy said the land, located just north of the city's maintenance shop, is owned by Hank Smith.

Before moving ahead with a purchase, Hardy wanted to see if it was something the city would be interested in.

He went on to share that he's been in the resort business for a number of years. He has an RV resort on Fish Trap Lake (previously a KOA Campground) and in recent years purchased 112 more acres near Lake Lena in Motley. In 2020, they added 80 campsites, Hardy said, as well as a bathhouse and pool, and a concrete block storm shelter. Last summer they put in a basketball court.

If he builds a campsite resort in Motley, he would like it geared to the 55-plus population. A lot of people in this age group go away for the winter and when they return to Minnesota, they have no where to live, Hardy said.

Would the city be interested in something like this? Hardy asked again.

Both Mayor Schmidt and council member Steve Johnson recommended that Hardy first go talk to the planning and zoning commission. They would be able to give him guidance regarding his plans. It would come back to the council after that.

- HEARD the monthly fire department report from Chief Brad Olson, which included a total of 14 calls in February. Accepted the resignations of firefighters Chuck Gerads, Cory Wilson and Jason Borash; and approved the MFD offering a position to a woman that had recently been interviewed by the hiring committee.

- HEARD the monthly police department report from Chief Jason Borash, which included a total of 64 calls in February.

- APPROVED a DUI Arrest Restitution in the

amount of \$2,692.87. Chief Borash said the subject had damaged the squad vehicle, kicking it after being arrested. When asked about the situation later, Chief Borash shared that the subject, Donald Garlock of Rochester, Minn., had been arrested for DUI on Oct. 5, 2022, in the parking lot of Dairy Queen in Motley, after he'd been called upon by an employee to do a welfare check on the subject. Garlock recently pled guilty to second degree DUI and was ordered to pay restitution for the squad door damage.

- LEARNED that June Fest will take place on Saturday, June 17. Per the request of the June Fest Committee, the council approved offering city employee assistance with the festival work, waiving of the \$25 special event fee, liquor license applications (for beer garden). The council also approved offering financial support for the festival in the amount of \$6,000.

- APPROVED replacing the city's water meters (a total of 270), estimated to cost \$86,773. Public Works Director Bruce Brotherton said the committee had recommended purchasing the bronze bodies instead of plastic ones. Brotherton also said that \$72,000 had previously been earmarked to pay for the meters, and that the rest will come from the water replacement fund.

- HEARD from Mayor Mike Schmidt during the council forum, expressing his thanks to Elaine Hanson for her work as the City of Motley's Clerk/Pro Tempore during Clerk/Treasurer Darci Odden's maternity leave.

- SET next council meeting for Monday, April 10, at 6:30 p.m.



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Correction, LHS physical therapist

Pictured above, Lakewood physical therapist Claire Grunewald helps a patient with rehabilitation. Last week's paper identified Grunewald as an employee of Twin City Orthopedics. (Submitted photo)