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CLC graduation
Bob Blessing military farewell



Wednesday, May 15, 2024

Staples World

Staples, Minnesota

\$1.25

Northern lights Minnesota residents were treated to an aurora borealis light show on May 9. Above, a photo taken by Bobbe Anderson north of Staples. Below, a photo taken by William Vukelich at the Staples railroad yard.



Wakefield starts as Staples EDA Director

By Mark Anderson
Managing Editor

Lucas Wakefield came to Staples to work on economic development and find community. Wakefield recently started as the new Staples Economic Development Director after Melissa Wyman became the head of the Todd County Economic Development Corporation. Wakefield comes into his new position with a variety of experience and the idea that economic development is more than just business projects, it incorporates the whole community. Originally from Devils Lake, N.D., Wakefield attended college at Georgetown University in Washington, D.C., majoring in health care management and policy. He stayed in D.C. to work for North Dakota Senator Heidi Heitcamp as a legislative correspondent, mainly working on health care issues. While there, he started feeling unattached from the local community and said he felt he wasn't making a difference. So he moved back to Devils Lake and

started a real estate development venture with a friend, then was recruited to become a financial advisor for Edward Jones. During that time he was elected as a county commissioner in Ramsey County, N.D. He also worked for Green Valley Foods, specifically in Grubbersputz's snacks. Wakefield and his wife Anna decided to put down roots in another community, away from Devils Lake. Anna got a job as a nurse manager at Sanford Health in Bemidji and Lucas started working for Headwaters Regional Development Commission and also become the economic developer for Woods County and Mahnomen County. While it was going well in Bemidji, Anna had to undergo a major surgery so he stepped down from his position to help her recover after the surgery. She is now healthy again so Lucas started looking for another job in the economic development field and found the Staples EDA job was posted. He said he liked the idea

See **WAKEFIELD** on page 10a

Staples Cleanup Day is Friday, May 31

The City of Staples will be hosting the annual Staples Area Cleanup Day on Friday, May 31 from 3-7 p.m. at the City Street Shop/Wastewater Plant (Michigan Ave/12th St. NE). All township residents surrounding Staples are welcome to utilize this service. The Staples Area Cleanup Day is designed to allow City and area residents to easily and affordably dispose of unwanted items such as, building materials, old appliances, garbage, electronics and other "collectibles" here in Staples. Crews from Long Prairie Sanitation, SW Recycling along with the City of Staples will be on hand to assist with unloading vehicles and

trailers. Again this year, the city will be accepting household hazardous waste (paints, thinners, old bleach, chemicals, etc.) and will transport these items to the Todd County Transfer Station. Containers must be sealed. If you have questions, if a particular item is able to be disposed of, call Jerel Nelsen at City Hall 218-894-2550 to check into this for you ahead of time. The city is asking that vehicles form the line on 12th St., not Michigan Ave. The gate will open at 3 p.m. "We encourage everyone to take advantage of this opportunity and thank you for your efforts to help clean up our community," said City Administrator Jerel Nelsen.



SEDA Director

Lucas Wakefield in Staples City Hall. He started as the new Staples Economic Development Director in May. (Staples World photo by Mark Anderson)

Weather

2024
This Week's Forecast

	High	Low	Cond.
May 8	67	44	M. Cloudy
May 9	65	43	P. Cloudy
May 10	64	45	Showers
May 11	67	48	P. Cloudy
May 12	70	47	M. Sunny
May 13	70	49	M. Sunny
May 14	72	50	M. Sunny

Last Year, 2023

	High	Low	Cond.
May 8	63°	48	P. Sunny
May 9	72	47	M. Sunny
May 10	73	56	M. Sunny
May 11	77	55	Sunny
May 12	73	62	M. Cloudy
May 13	62	56	Showers
May 14	70	54	M. Sunny

Average Temps:
H = 65° Low = 43°

Compiled by
Dale Hausmann,
WCCO's Staples area
Weatherwatcher

Obituaries

Robert Blessing
Elizabeth Warn

SBDC Satellite Center open in Wadena County

The North Central Small Business Development Center at Central Lakes College has launched a Satellite Center in Wadena County, in partnership with the Economic Alliance. The North Central SBDC provides no-cost, one-on-one business consulting and low-cost trainings to help entrepreneurs and small business owners start, grow and succeed. Hope Williams, the Executive Director of the Economic Alliance, will serve as the local business consultant.

“We’re incredibly excited about this partnership with the Economic Alliance,” said Katie Heppner, Regional Director of the North Central SBDC. “They have a strong history of supporting the local economy and entrepreneurs in Wadena County. This partnership will allow them to strengthen the services they provide and will allow us to be more present and attentive to the needs of our rural communities.”

Through the Satellite Center, Hope Williams will provide high-quality, professional business consulting in a number of areas, including start-up assistance and business planning. Because they’re a part of the North Central SBDC network, Wadena County clients will also be able to access other consultants, including specialists in marketing, legacy planning, QuickBooks and more.

The first step in working with Williams, or any of the other North Central SBDC consultants, is to register

on their website using this link: <https://mnsbdc.ecenterdirect.com/signup?centerid=8>. Once you register, you will be matched with a consultant who will work with you one-on-one at no cost.

The North Central SBDC was able to open the Satellite Center in part through the Minnesota Department of Employment and Economic Development’s Small Business Assistance Partnership grant. “When we applied for the grant, we specifically requested funds to allow us to better serve our densely rural communities, including Wadena County. We strongly believe in the dignity and value of rural entrepreneurs. They’re some of the most innovative folks in our region because they know how to fully leverage every resource at their disposal.”

The North Central SBDC is hosted by Central Lakes College and works throughout an 11 county and two sovereign nation region. The geographic region served by the North Central SBDC includes: Aitkin, Cass, Chisago, Crow Wing, Isanti, Kanabec, Mille Lacs, Morrison, Pine, Todd and Wadena counties and the sovereign nations of the Leech Lake and Mille Lacs Bands of Ojibwe. To learn more about the North Central SBDC and to register for services visit www.clcmn.edu/small-business-development-center or contact Katie Heppner, Regional Director, at katharine.heppner@clcmn.edu.



Making plans for the Motley Fair

Members of the Morrison County Agricultural Association held their regular meeting May 7, during which they heard committee updates regarding the upcoming Motley Fair, which will be held June 14 - 16. Pictured seated, from left, are members of the executive board: Shawn Trantina, treasurer; Shawn Jordahl, president;

Barb Trantina, vice president; Jessica Paklonsky, secretary. Standing, from left: Gretta Trantina, Gerry Koval, Paul Rasmussen, Cheyanne Koval, Ryan Kuklok, Dana Fischer, Keri Kuklok, Stephanie Jordahl, Kristin Bjerga, Jim Trantina, Denise Brown, Cheryl Paklonsky. (Staples World photo by Dawn Timbs)



Motley Food Shelf garden plots available

The Motley Food Shelf garden has gotten a make over this year. A layer of black dirt has been added to the garden lots (there are eight 10 x 12 plots), and six raised garden beds were recently built. If interested in having a raised bed or a garden lot, call 218-352-6137 and leave a message. (Staples World photo by Dawn Timbs)

Motley area law enforcement

Recent reports from the Morrison County Sheriff’s Office (MCSO) included the following:

May 1 - 7

May 6 - Motley Police received a call from a Motley resident reporting a possible scam. The subject stated he’d been notified by the IRS that someone already filed his taxes. He said he had not filed his taxes and believes someone might have used his information to file taxes on his behalf. Motley Police suggested he do some research, as the letter he received

may be a scam.

May 7 - The MCSO received a report of a motorcycle accident caused by a deer at the 1300 block of Azalea Rd., Cushing. The driver was transported to a hospital by the driver’s significant other.

May 6 - The MCSO received a report of a domestic assault at the 7000 block of Cottonwood Rd., Cushing.

May 5 - The MCSO received a report of a suicidal subject at a residence in Motley.



New tree planted in Wilson Park

The City of Staples recently held an Arbor Day ceremony at Wilson Park in Staples. Following the planting of a Matador Maple tree, Mayor Ron Murray read the official Arbor Day Proclamation. Pictured above, from left, are City Clerk Tara Greer; Payton Nelson; Parks and Recreation Director Lacey Aguirre; Beth Gedde and Lisa Toeper,

Parks and Recreation board members; Mayor Ron Murray; council member John Jewison; Landon Moench. Below, Moench holds the newly planted tree as council member Jewison helps shovel dirt into the hole. (Staples World photos by Dawn Timbs)



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EXTRA EXTRA

Staples World

DEADLINES

Newspaper deadline for copy and advertising: 12 noon Fridays

Looking back

75 YEARS Ago - 1949

• May 19, 1949 - Miss Lilian Kral, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Vandeline Kral of Leader, has been named valedictorian of the Motley high school this year. Alvin Riggs, son of Mr. and Mrs. R. Riggs, is the salutatorian of the 1949 graduating class.

• May 19, 1949 - Miss Carrie Mayer, librarian of the Staples Public Library, stated that a list of 20 new books had been added to the library in recent weeks. Some of the books are: The Greatest Story Ever Told, by Oursler; Family Circle, by Skinner; Cheaper by the Dozen, by Gilberth & Carey; Point of No Return, by Marquand; The God-Seeker, by Lewis; No Place to Hide, by

Bradley; The Big Fisherman, by Douglas; Making a Go of Life, by Smith; and Be Glad You're Neurotic, by Bisch.

• May 19, 1949 - Robert Sansburn, 13-yr-old son of Mrs. Fay Sansburn of Staples, holds the honors of landing the largest Walleye pike of the season near the west end of Lake Shamin-eau. The fish weighed 6 1/2 pounds.

Bob and his friend, Eddie Kowalski, had camped out at Lake Shamin-eau on Friday night, to be ready for the opening of fishing season on Saturday. They fished in the early morning hours, but did not have a great deal of success. As they were about to pack up and go home, Bob decided he would try his luck off the dock at the Tesch resort, and in a few moments had landed the beauty, which was, and still is the envy of many of the old time and seasoned fishermen.

• May 19, 1949 - Claude Maze of Morrisonville, Ill., is the new highway traffic cop stationed in Staples, and has been doing a fine job with the traffic conditions along the route of Highway No. 10, which runs along Second Ave. through the city of Staples.

Since the highway paving was completed last fall, there has apparently been a "speeding up" of general traffic through the city, thus creating a danger to pedestrians, and with the result of more accidents occurring in Staples than were recorded in the past.



Mystery photo

Hello readers. This week's archive photo is from 1999. 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.

Mr. Maze is a traffic cop of experience having served with the Illinois department for many years. He will have no favorites, and will police the highway on a temporary basis, according to Mayor Stan Eddy.

50 YEARS Ago - 1974

• May 16, 1974 - Mark Matanich, a sophomore member of Coach Rollie Penfield's Cardinal golf team, accomplished a feat that is an envy of all golfers. Matanich scored a hole-in-one.

Matanich played in a golf meet of the Cardinals Wednesday afternoon and upon completion of the meet, he, along with David Blanchard, Craig Wilson and Tom Girtz, went to the Terrace Golf Course for a practice round.

Using a seven-iron, Matanich scored the hole-in-one on number 5. Coach Penfield reported that Matanich is a 43 average golfer for the Cardinals. Mark is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Michael J. Matanich.

• May 16, 1974 - Wednesday, May 15, Lila's Style Shop in Staples changed hands and the business is now under the name of Nancy's Boutique.

Mrs. Peter (Lila) Card Jr. has operated the business for the past eight years and has sold the business to Mrs. John (Nancy) Sadusky.

In assuming the business, Mrs. Sadusky said that she will carry the same line of women and girls wearing

apparel as in the past and no changes in the business is expected at this time.

• May 16, 1974 - Sheila Flansburg and Douglas Gold were named this week as the top honor students of the Class of 1974 at Motley High School.

Miss Flansburg, the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Robert Flansburg, will be the class valedictorian; and Douglas Gold, the son of Mr. and Mrs. Elmer Gold, will graduate as the class salutatorian.

• May 16, 1974 - The grand opening of the Staples Saddle Shop located on Highway No. 10 in Staples will be held May 16 - 18. Colleen Koehnen and Horal Dircks are owners of the business in this city.

Free coffee and doughnuts will be served and the public is invited to attend the event.

25 YEARS Ago - 1999

• May 20, 1999 - Two sisters, Trisha and Mary DiGiovanni, daughters of Roy and Patty DiGiovanni of rural Motley, were named Cass County Dairy Princess and Junior Princess respectively at the Cass County dairy meeting Aril 23, at the Red Pine Lodge in Pine River. They will represent the county in area events and Trisha will compete in the Regional contest to be held at Thief River Falls in June.

• May 29, 1999 - High expectations and support from family a well as setting

goals early were the keys to their success, said both the valedictorians and salutatorian of the class of 1999 graduating from Staples Motley High School.

Lara Neidhardt, daughter of Tony and Viretta Neidhardt of Staples, is the valedictorian with a grade point average of 4.1.

Valerie Mudek, daughter of Robert and Karen Mudek of Staples, is the salutatorian with a grade point average of 4.062.

• May 20, 1999 - Thaw Davis will be honored at a Boy Scout Eagle Court of Honor on May 21, at Faith Lutheran Church in Staples. Davis' Eagle Award is the result of many years of scouting activity.

10 YEARS Ago - 2014

• May 15, 2014 - Staples Motley High School announced the valedictorian d salutatorian for the Class of 2014. Paige Melse with a grade point average of 4.131 was named valedictorian and Seth Auger with a grade point average of 4.122 was named salutatorian.

• May 15, 2014 - Thousands of paintings, photos and sculptures have been shown at the Rotary Art Show in Staples since it first began in April, 1964.

Now in its 50th year, the annual event continues to be a favorite pastime for the community, as well as a respected outlet for amateur and professional artists.

"It's hard to believe we're celebrating our 50th anniversary," said Dick Donat, a longtime member of the Staples Rotary Club and the first chair of the art show. "I was chair for the first 10 years, and then Jim Hofer took over."

The show many never have come to be if it hadn't been for Dr. Duane Lund, longtime Rotarian and former superintendent for the Staples School District. Donat noted that Dr. Lund, an art enthusiast, was instrumental in forming an evening art class in Staples years ago, which resulted in the Staples Rotary Club hosting its first art show in 1964.

• May 15, 2014 - Scandia Valley Vineyards in rural Cushing will hold its Grand Opening Celebration this coming Memorial Day Weekend.

Eight varieties of wines will be available at the Lincoln Lakes area establishment, owned by enologist Jon McClain.

• May 15, 2014 - Forty-five train cars carrying coal derailed west of Pillager in Sylvan Township close to midnight on May 11. There were no injuries. Crews have been working around the clock to clean debris and make repairs to the track.

Court report May 4

Long Prairie Police Department

Jose Reyes Escobar, Motley. Speed 75/60. Fine \$60. Fee \$85.

Ayla Jane Gross, Roseau. Speed 46/30. Fine \$60. Fee \$85.

Alfredo Jiminez Munoz, Montevideo. Driving without a valid license for vehicle class or type. Fine \$100. Fee \$85.

Karina Cruz Lopez, Long Prairie. Driving without a valid license for vehicle class or type. Fine \$100. Fee \$85.

Operate vehicle with expired registration. Fine \$30.

Marissa Marie Montanez Holen, Long Prairie. Driver fails to stop for stop sign. Fine \$50. Fee \$85.

Xavier Perez Torres, Long Prairie. Stopping, standing, parking where signs prohibit stopping. Fine \$25. Fee \$22.

Minnesota Department of Natural Resources

David Dennis Miller, St. Cloud. Unlawful deposit of garbage, litter or like. Fine \$100. Fee \$85.

Fish house on ice after legal deadline. Fine \$50.

Robert David Veldkamp Jr., Burt-rum. ATV-prohibitions on youthful operators/passengers- under 18 helmet required. Fine \$50. Fee \$85.

Minnesota State Patrol

Melina Jean Aitkin, Maple Grove. Speed 79/65. Fine \$50. Fee \$85.

Grant Shawn Duevel, Melrose. Window tint less than 50 percent light transmittance. Fine \$50. Fee \$85.

Amahz' Jane Nariah Jones-Thomas, Frazee. Speed 74/65. Fine \$40. Fee \$85.

Logan Daniel Keranen, Menahga. Expired registration. Fine \$30. Fee \$85.

Jacob Yishak Abraham, Brandon, Manitoba. Speed 89/70. Fine \$60. Fee \$85.

Juan Florencio Ambriz Vazquez, Long Prairie. Instruction permit violation. Fine \$50. Fee \$85.

Jordan Robert Bast, Lakeville. Speed 89/70. Fine \$60. Fee \$85.

Jonathan Michael Bennett, Little Falls. Speed 70/60. Fine \$40. Fee \$85.

Stuart Phillip Buckland, Apple Valley. Speed 80/70. Fine \$40. Fee \$85.

Angela Duarte Martinez, Long Prairie. Window tinted or glazed. Fine \$50. Fee \$85.

Amal Mohamed Farah, Woodbury. Speed 99/65. Fine \$150. Fee \$225.

Konnor Wade Hemmingson, Long Prairie. Speed 70/60. Fine \$40. Fee \$85.

Jesse James Johnson, Carlos. Fail to yield upon entering roadway. Fine \$50. Fee \$85.

Travis James Kirwin, Alexandria. Driving after suspension. Fine \$200. Fee \$85.

Caden James Line-Voge, Clarissa. Speed 60/55. Fine \$50. Fee \$85.

Suhaylah Noah Marty, Fridley. Speed 89/70. Fine \$60. Fee \$85.

Keagan James Mikel, Long Prairie. Window tint less than 50 percent light transmittance. Fine \$50. Fee \$85.

Jessica Orozco Godinez, Long Prairie. Window tint less than 50 percent light transmittance. Fine \$50. Fee \$85.

Eric Roger Orozco Juarez, Long Prairie. Window tint less than 50 percent light transmittance. Fine \$50. Fee \$85.

Windshield tinted or glazed. Fine \$50.

James Wesley Randolph, Plymouth, Mass. Speed 85/70. Fine \$60. Fee \$85.

Driving after revocation. Fine \$200.

Jesse Gene Schauer, Eagle Bend. Speed 60/50. Fine \$40. Fee \$85.

Adam Daniel Schnaare, Stratford, Wis. Speed 80/70. Fine \$40. Fee \$85.

Katherine Amy Stevens, Long Prairie. Hands-Free Law- hold wireless communications device with one or both hands. Fine \$50. Fee \$85.

John Frederick Tesch, Long Prairie. Display expired registration. Fine \$30. Fee \$85.

Gavin Keith Vanderwerf, Comfrey. Window tint less than 50 percent light transmittance. Fine \$50. Fee \$85.

Yoximar Linares Vargas, Long Prairie. Driving after revocation. Fine \$200. Fee \$85.

Hands-Free Law-initiate, compose, send, retrieve, read electronic message. Dismissed.

Todd County Sheriff's Office

Tacassia Rose Jerrett, Staples. Operate vehicle with expired registration. Fine \$30. Fee \$85.

Tanner Joseph Rosenow, Long Prairie. Duty to drive with due care-speed greater than reasonable. Dismissed.

Oscar Sanchez Garcia, Fergus Falls. Driving after revocation. Fine \$200. Fee \$85.

Jennifer Marie Stately, Red Lake. Assault- Third Degree- victim under four. Dismissed. Child torture- torture of a child. Dismissed. Malicious punishment of a child. Dismissed. Neglect of a child- results substantial harm physical/emotional health. Dismissed.

Dyllon David Thieschafer, Mil-tona. Speed 39/30. Fine \$40. Fee \$85.

Keri Lynn Toon, Hewitt. Operate vehicle with expired registration. Fine \$30. Fee \$85.

The following cases were heard before Judge Daniel A. Benson in Seventh District Court in Todd County April 29, 2024.

Pennie Kay Dubbin, Long Prairie. Driving after cancellation- inimical to public safety. Continued for dismissal. Fees waived. Unsupervised monitoring without conviction, indeterminate.

The following cases were heard before Judge Daniel A. Benson in Seventh District Court in Todd County April 30, 2024.

Jason Michael Larson, Faribault. Domestic abuse- violate order for protection. Continued for dismissal. Fees waived. Unsupervised monitoring without conviction, six months.

The following cases were heard before Judge Jade Rosenfeldt in Seventh District Court in Todd County April 30, 2024.

Alan Nicholas Roering, Grey Eagle. DWI- operate motor vehicle under influence. Fine \$400. Fee \$105. Local confinement 364 days. Stay 364 days for two years. Supervised probation, two years. Criminal vehicular operation- bodily harm-under influence alcohol. Dismissed.



Mystery solved

Last week's mystery photos published in the May 9, 1974 edition of the Staples World featured fifth graders at North Elementary School in Staples who had participated at the Elementary Track and Field days.

Pictured above, Don Heldman, the winner of the boys 440 yard run, crosses the finish line. Craig Gode was second, followed by Kevin Haglin, Eric Teigen and Ron Peterson.



In right photo, Pam Otteson (left) lets loose in the softball throw for a first place finish among the fifth graders. Pam's throw was 127.8 feet. Placing second was Linda McGillivray (right).

Barb Hasselberg of Staples recognized both Pam Otteson and Linda McGillivray. Thanks for participating in our Mystery Photo.

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*Gift cards available.

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Quote of the week

“Life does not come with a manual. It comes with a Mother.”
— Unknown (Happy Mothers Day)

Legislation exempts religion from discrimination claims

Submitted by the office of Rep. Mike Wiener

State Rep. Mike Wiener, Long Prairie, said Republicans have taken a major step toward restoring religious freedom which Minnesota Democrats stripped from faith-based organizations last year.

The House on Tuesday approved legislation pertaining to the Minnesota Human Rights Act (MHRA) to re-establish protections for religious entities against discrimination claims. The bill unanimously passed the Senate earlier in the day

and, with the House also providing overwhelming approval, it is now on Gov. Tim Walz’s desk for enactment.

“Tuesday’s vote was a victory for religious freedom here in Minnesota,” said Wiener. “Despite this good news, it is still concerning to see how legislative Democrats showed a complete disregard for religious liberty when they made this change in law last year. Nevertheless, I am glad to see that we have addressed this injustice and restored these important religious protections for all Minnesotans.” Wiener said this move

was necessary due to MHRA legislation that Democrats enacted in 2023, that stripped religious protections that had been in place since 1993. Before last year, when gender identity was included (or subsumed) within the MHRA definition of sexual orientation, the still-existing religious exemption for sexual orientation covered gender identity claims as well. When a new, separate definition of gender identity was created last year, there was no corresponding religious exemption added.

Mental Health Awareness Month 2024

By Todd County Health and Human Services

May is Mental Health Awareness Month. Since its inception in 1949, Mental Health Awareness Month has been a cornerstone of addressing the challenges faced by millions of Americans living with mental health conditions. The Department of Human Services offers a “Mental health awareness month toolkit”, as stated on their website; “This year’s toolkit includes ideas and resources on what you can do throughout the month to raise awareness around mental health and suicide prevention. This can be found here; <https://www.health.state.mn.us/communities/suicide/documents/mhawarenessmonth.pdf>

Our Local Mental Health Advisory Council will be holding a Mental Health Awareness event, May 17, from 10 a.m.-noon, regarding “The Link between Physical & Mental Health”. The event will be held at Sourcewell, 202 12th St NE, Staples. Admission is free, Dr. Sara J. Martin MD and Amanda Mithun LMFT will be speaking on this topic and Pizza will be provided for lunch.

Additional Mental Health Resources include:
• **The Region V+ Mental Health Initiative:** region5mentalhealth.com, is available to help navigate mental health resources, local events and trainings.
• **Wellness in the Woods:** Peer to Peer Telephone Support line at 1-844-739-6369. They offer a safe and supportive place for people to call, speak with peers who are there to support and listen to adults experiencing emotional distress.
• **988 Suicide and Crisis Lifeline** Call or text 988 if you’re experiencing a crisis
• Online chat at 988life-line.org
• Text at: 741741

Quote of the week

“Until you dig a hole, you plant a tree, you water it and make it survive, you haven’t done a thing. You are just talking.”
— Wangari Maathai

Whatever happened to the optimism of youth?

By Lee H. Hamilton
Hamilton Lugar School of Global & International Studies

One of the things I enjoyed most, throughout my political career, was the opportunity to meet with young people. Almost without exception, they were curious, thoughtful and eager to face the world’s problems. I especially liked their optimism, their hope for the future.

Unfortunately, that quality seems to have faded. When I talk to young people today, they seem less positive about the country, especially about our political leadership. If you ask them to name a political leader whom they admire, they can’t come up with anyone.

Strikingly, they often don’t expect to be as successful as their parents. They think it will be harder to achieve the American Dream. They don’t think the economy is likely to get better; they fear it will soon get worse. They lack the optimism that I’ve long associated with youth. This may seem like a subtle shift, but it comes across in conversations, and it’s borne out by research.

It’s true that young people have reasons to feel pessimistic. The news seems relentlessly bad: wars in Europe and the Middle East, famine in Gaza and Sudan, etc. And today’s young people are the first generation to get their news largely from social media, which amplifies the worst.

Members of so-called Generation Z, born since the mid-1990s, have lived their entire lives under the cloud of climate change, yet their elders seem unable or unwilling to do anything about it. They have never known a time when mass shootings were not a regular feature of American life, an era that began 25 years ago with the Columbine High School shooting. Theirs is the generation of active shooter drills, locked classrooms and metal detectors at the schoolhouse door.

When it comes to politics, they are turned off by election campaigns that resemble mud wrestling contests. Congress’s big recent achievement was to pass a ban on Tik-

Tok, a platform that two-thirds of teenagers use regularly. One presidential candidate will be 81 this November, and the other will be 78. Young people don’t see themselves or their concerns reflected in politics.

The economy should be a bright spot: unemployment is low and wages are rising. But young people know that inflation eats away at their entry-level wages and that gains have gone disproportionately to those at the top. High housing costs and interest rates make it hard to envision buying a home. Instead of having careers with reliable pay and benefits, many struggle in the gig economy of temporary work.

This generational pessimism isn’t just an American phenomenon. News accounts describe a similar trend in Canada, Europe, Japan and China. A recent UNICEF survey found that, across high-income countries, six in 10 young people think they will be worse off than their parents.

Finally, it’s impossible to overstate the impact the COVID-19 pandemic had on young people. Many lost older relatives to the virus. They watched as government struggled to respond. Their education was disrupted by school closings and shifts to online learning. Friendships and peer networks were severed. The pandemic led to what the U.S. surgeon general called a mental health crisis, an epidemic of sadness and hopelessness.

It’s tempting to point out that previous generations also had their struggles. Young men were drafted to fight in the two world wars, Korea and Vietnam. The Great Depression made today’s financial hardship look like child’s play. We’ve made great advances in education, health care, technology and civil rights.

But it’s upsetting to see young people feeling discouraged. Youth should be a time of optimism. Faith in progress, the idea that future generations will enjoy a life that we can only imagine, is the American creed. We depend on young people to embody that faith and carry it forward.

By Marnie Werner, VP Research, Center for Rural Policy & Development, and Tracie Rutherford Self, Ph.D., Minnesota State University Mankato

Since about 2000, deaths by suicide have been rising at a steady and alarming rate. Something that was once a tragic rarity, suicide has become an almost daily occurrence that is frightening families, shaking communities, and challenging leaders on what to do and how to do it fast enough.

Suicide can be prevented and people contemplating suicide can get better, but both require intervention, information, and cooperation.

Suicide rates also tend to be higher in rural areas, including in Minnesota. Suicide rates from 2018 to 2021 were highest in northeast and northwest Minnesota and lowest in the seven-county Twin Cities area. If we look at suicide rates by population density, the trendlines show that suicide rates in our most rural counties are spiking higher and trending up faster than the more densely populated county groups.

Why do rural areas have higher than average suicide rates?

Unfortunately, a number of barriers keep people in rural areas from getting the care they need:

- Lack of access to mental healthcare. A shortage of mental health professionals equals a shortage of mental health services. Rural areas typically have fewer mental health professionals per capita compared to urban areas, resulting in longer wait times for appointments and limited availability of services. In a 2023 report from the Center for Rural Policy & Development (CRPD), we looked at how licensed mental health professionals are distributed around the state and found that 82 percent prac-

ticed in metropolitan regions. The data also showed that while the most densely populated counties of the state averaged 1 licensed professional for every 197 residents, the least populated counties averaged 1 licensed professional for every 741 residents, a striking difference.

This shortage of services has increased the distance people need to travel to reach a clinic or any other kind of mental health service and has resulted in weeks- or months-long waiting lists to see someone. People who are experiencing worsening mental health symptoms and can’t access services often end up in an emergency department, or worse, in the local jail.

- Financial barriers. Limited financial resources and lower average incomes among rural residents may prevent people from affording mental health services, especially if they are not covered by insurance or if they have plans with high out-of-pocket costs. Rural areas also have more small businesses, which are more likely to not provide health insurance to their employees, making it necessary for a person to pay for mental health services out of pocket.

- Medicare and Medicaid can be inconsistent in what they cover. Not every mental health service is covered by Medicare and Medicaid, and mental health service providers tend to be reimbursed at a lower amount than services for physical healthcare. Also, health insurance companies tend to use Medicare and Medicaid as a guide for setting their reimbursement rates.

- More jobs/industries in rural areas involve physical/manual labor, which leads to more injury and chronic pain. Add to this less access to effective health care like physical therapy and we find more people turning to potentially addicting painkillers or suicide when the pain becomes intolerable.

- Insufficient outreach and education. Lack of awareness and education about mental health issues and available services in rural communities may keep people from recognizing that they need help or knowing where to go for it.

- Stigma and privacy concerns. Stigma surrounding mental illness in rural com-

munities can deter people from seeking help. Local attitudes may view mental health issues as taboo or a sign of weakness, contributing to the reluctance to seek care. People living in small, close-knit communities may be concerned about confidentiality and privacy, leading them to avoid seeking care out of a fear of stigma or gossip.

- More access to firearms. Gun ownership is higher in rural areas, making it easier for a person to access a firearm when they are most vulnerable to harming themselves.

Farmers

Before 2020, the suicide rate among farmers had become the focus of news stories and discussions among policymakers on what to do. The attention disappeared at the start of the pandemic, but the problem did not. Farmers, who make up only 1.9 percent of Minnesota’s population, continue to struggle with some unique issues:

- The burden of losing the farm, not carrying on the legacy, or both.
- Volatility of the markets and as such, their income.
- Older farmers: losing a spouse. Younger farmers: relationship problems and divorce.
- In cases of divorce, the family business (the farm) could be at stake.
- Chronic physical pain from a lifetime of hard work.
- Watching the farming community dwindle as people continue to leave.

988 Suicide and Crisis Lifeline

An important tool for suicide prevention for years has been the Suicide and Crisis Lifeline, which connects people in crisis or their loved ones via call, text, or chat with trained counselors who live in the state. In 2022, the original ten-digit number was changed to 988; the state of Minnesota began a soft rollout promoting the new 988 number due to capacity concerns over getting the regional centers up and running, said Emily Lindeman, suicide prevention coordinator with the Minnesota Department of Health. As the centers become fully operational, though, the plan is to roll out more targeted regional advertising around the state in 2024.

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.

Publisher

Owners Rick Gail, Mike Kremer, Mark Anderson

Managing Editor

editor@staplesworld.com

Advertising Rep.....

editor@staplesworld.com

Photo Tech/production.....

jwinter@staplesworld.com

Bookkeeping/Circulation/.....

kodden@staplesworld.com

Reporter

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.

Member: Minnesota Newspaper Association, MCAN Advertising

Quote of the week

“Even when the dark comes crashing through/
When you need a friend to carry you/
And when you’re broken on the ground/
You will be found.”
— Benj Pasek/Justin Paul,
“You Will Be Found,”
“Dear Evan Hansen”



Sourcewell celebrates student art

A total of 127 exhibits were on display at the Regional Art Show May 9, at Sourcewell in Staples. The event showcased the work of students in grades 4 - 12, featuring a variety of categories including painting, drawing, crafts, mixed media, digital art, photography, print making, sculpture and pottery/ceramics. Participating schools included Brainerd, Browerville, Menahga, Pequot Lakes, Pillager and Sebeka.

Pictured above at the 'Wall of Champions' are entries that received blue ribbons. They will all be entered at the Minnesota State Fair in August. Below, Heather Kelm of Brainerd enjoys looking at the displays. Kelm said her sister, Ashley Storck, is an art teacher at Browerville Schools and that several of her students had entries at the Regional Art Show. (Staples World photos by Dawn Timbs)



Staples Police report

Recent reports from the Staples Police Dept. include:

May 1, 1:20 a.m., Staples Police were dispatched to B & B's bar, as a patron reported they had been locked inside after the bar closed. Police requested dispatch make contact with a keyholder. Police learned that the subject had been in the bathroom when the bar closed. A keyholder responded, the subject was released.

May 1, Staples Police received a report of a possible restraining order violation. Police are investigating possible charges.

May 1, Staples Police received a report of harassment involving three juveniles in a vehicle yelling profanities out the window at another juvenile on the 200 block of 6th St. NE. Police located the juveniles, warned and advised them on the incident.

May 2, Staples Police assisted Wadena County Sheriff's Dept. with a break-in at The Vintage Golf Course. WCSO is investigating.

May 2, Staples Police re-

sponded to a two vehicle accident at the intersection of Hwy 10 and 12th St. NE. A vehicle was southbound on 12th St., crossing Hwy 10 when it struck a vehicle eastbound on Hwy. 10. Minor injuries were reported to drivers/passengers. The vehicles received moderate damage. Staples Fire Dept. and LHS ambulance assisted at the scene.

May 4, Staples Police arrested Christina Pederson, 47, on an outstanding warrant. She was transported to Todd County Jail.

May 5, Staples Police received a report of a confused female calling 911. Police were able to locate the female in the 1100 block of 6th St. NE. After a long discussion, she agreed to get a ride back to Akeley from Wadena County Sheriff's Dept.

May 5, Staples Police received a report of a female under the influence, with her pants down. She was seen messing around a garbage can. Police arrived in the 200 block of 2nd Ave NE, located the female and ad-

vised of the complaint. She was not a danger to herself or others. Nothing further.

May 5, Staples Police received a report of a bag of meth found lying on the floor inside a business in the 1100 block of Hwy 10 E.

May 5, Staples Police received a driving complaint on 8th St. NE between Warner Rd and Prairie Ave. The complaint was a dirt bike with loud exhaust doing wheelies. Police checked the area but were unable to locate the dirt bike.



Are you looking for child care?



Parent Aware offers free tools and resources to help families find the quality child care programs their children need to succeed in school and life.

ParentAware.org | 888.291.9811

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Mark Your Calendar

May 15

STAPLES ALL VETERANS AND COMMUNITY PARK ASSOCIATION will hold its monthly board meeting Wednesday, May 15, 5:30 p.m., at Timbers Restaurant and Event Center in Staples. The public is invited to attend. For Zoom information, call Bob Hermann at 218-894-3139.

May 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

May 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.

May 19

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

May 20

AA GROUP MTGS IN MOTLEY

are held at the United Methodist Church, 847 3rd Ave. S., on Mondays at 8 p.m.

May 21

CARE MINISTRY FREE MEAL Tuesday, May 21, 4:30 - 6 p.m., at St. Michael's Church, 280 1st Ave. S., Motley. The free meals are held on a monthly basis to promote fellowship, connection and nourishment.

EXPERIENCE STRENGTH AND HOPE AA GROUP MTGS IN STAPLES are held at the Church of Christ, 27343 490th St., Tuesdays at 7 p.m. For info., call Dan at 218-640-7228.

Staples-Motley School Board regular meeting May 20

The Staples-Motley School Board will hold their regular meeting Monday, May 20, 2024, at 6:00 p.m. at the District Office, 905 4th St. NE, Staples.

Groups or individuals wishing to be included on the school/community forum portion of the meeting must contact the board chair or superintendent by noon the Friday prior to the board meeting.

The agenda includes but is not limited to:

- Approve the hire of: Emily Benson, Elementary Academic/Behavioral Strategist 2024/2025 school year; Tammi Walz, Assistant Gardener.

- Approve the leave request from Kassie Marthaler, School Readiness/ECFE Teacher

- Approve the resignation of Catherine Cyr, MS/HS Special Ed Teacher effective July 1, 2024

- Approve the Employment Agreements for: Julie Polak, HR/Payroll Clerk; LeRoy Peterson, Director Buildings and Grounds; Wade Vangness, Food Service Director; Cynthia Denning, School Nurse; Norbert Klimek, Transportation Director; Joe Brandt, Technology Director; Ellen Hill, Business Manager; Joshua Lee, Activities Director/Community Education Director; Kari Sarych, Dean of Students

- Approve the 2024-2025 contract with Northern Pines Mental Health Center
- Approve the 2024-2025 contract with Interquest Detection Canines

- Approve the leave of absence request from Kandi Bartylla

- Approve the assignment of Kim Prestridge as Elementary Level 3 EBD Teacher

- Approve the non-renewal of Christine Mayer, Ele-

mentary paraprofessional effective May 24, 2024.

- Approve the 2024-2025 School Nutrition Program Joint Agreement with Central Lakes Adventure School.

- Approve the 2024-2025 MSHSL Resolution for Membership.

- Approve the 2025 Resolution of Sponsorship for the Todd County Community Concern for Youth Program. \$5,421.

- Approve the 2024-2025 contract for Jeff Sterriker; Middle/High School CTE teacher BA. (Jeff holds a Tier 1 license, so re-posting is required)

- Approve the 2024-2025 contract for Jocelyn Anderson; Middle/High School ABS teacher BA. (Jocelyn holds a Tier 1 license, so re-posting is required)

- Approve the 2024-2025 contract for Tina Mitts;

FACS/Child Development teacher BA (Tina holds a Tier 2 license, so re-posting is required)

- Cabinet Member Presentation: AD/Community Ed - Josh Lee

- Facilities Update - ICS
- Approve the retirement of Jim Jackson, MS/HS Teacher, effective at the end of the 2023/2024 school year.

Upcoming schedule:

Fri., May 24: Last day of school and graduation

Mon., May 27: Memorial Day

Mon., June 3: Board Work Session, 6 p.m. District Office

FRIDAYS, June 7 - August 9: All school offices closed on Fridays

Mon., June 24: Board meeting, 6 p.m. District Office

Mon., July 1 - Fri., July 5: All school offices CLOSED.

Pancake Supper
England Prairie Pioneer Club 2024

Friday, May 17 4:30 - 7:30 p.m.

\$10 / plate under 12...\$5

Bake Sale
Held during Pancake Supper Fundraiser.

On England Prairie Grounds:
14229 County Road 1, Wadena, MN
www.english-prairie.org

MENU (sit down and take out available):
Phyllis' Famous Pancakes,
Sausage links, Eggs, Hash Browns,
Applesauce & Beverage.

ANNUAL SPRING FUNDRAISER

BRING YOUR FRIENDS & FAMILY TO TARGET FIELD THIS SEASON!

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twins.com/bogo

Cannot be combined with any other offer. Restrictions apply. Offer Expires July 19, 2024.

Cardinal Calendar

SM school events

May

- **HS COMMENCEMENT CONF** May 17, 7 p.m., Centennial Auditorium

- **BACCALAUREATE** May 19, 7 p.m., Thomastown Covenant Church, Staples

- **LAST DAY OF SCHOOL** May 24

- **CORDS AND AWARDS** May 24, 10 a.m., main gym

- **COMMENCEMENT CEREMONY** May 24, 7:30 p.m., main gym

- **MEMORIAL DAY** May 27, District Offices closed

All Staples-Motley Upcoming Events are subject to change. Go to www.isd2170.k12.mn.us for up to the minute information.

Thank you for reading the
Staples World

∞

Hello World

∞

ONLINE BIRTHS REMOVED
AT THE REQUEST OF LAKEWOOD
HEALTH SYSTEM.

Four CLC diesel students
awarded scholarships

Four Central Lakes College Diesel Technology students were awarded national scholarships from the Noregon Education Program. The scholarship recipients include: Erik Bettis (\$500), Hank Bemlott (\$1,000), Daniel Miller (\$500), and Caleb Neal (\$500). Twenty total students nationwide were selected for scholarships out of 279

applicants. These four CLC students were also the only recipients in Minnesota. Students had to thoroughly answer four essay questions about their diesel education, their experience in working with diesel trucks and equipment and explain what kind of positive change they believe they can bring to the industry.

∞

Obituaries

∞

Elizabeth Warn

Elizabeth ‘Betty’ Warn, 78, of Staples, passed away May 8, 2024, in Staples. Mass of Christian Burial will be held Thursday, May 16, at 11:00 a.m. at Sacred Heart Catholic Church in Staples. Visitation will be held one hour prior to services at the church. Lunch will be served at the church following the burial at Evergreen Hill Cemetery in Staples. Arrangements are by the Brenny Family Funeral Chapel, Staples.

w21x A00006B2024MY15

Robert Blessing

Robert (Bob) Paul Blessing, Marine Corps veteran and faithful husband, father, brother, grandfather and great-grandfather, passed away in the afternoon of May 3, 2024 surrounded by family and friends after a long and valiant battle with cancer.

Mass of Christian Burial was held May 10 at Sacred Heart Catholic Church in Staples with Father Lauren Germann officiating. Inturnment was at the Minnesota State Veterans Cemetery, Little Falls. Bob was born January 17, 1946, to Robert (“Pete”) and Beverly (Bergeson) Blessing in Staples. He was the oldest of six siblings, whom he loved dearly.

On June 15, 1964, he entered the United States Marine Corps. His career spanned 22 years. His decorations included: Navy/ Marine Corps Commendation Medal, Navy/Marine Corps Achievement Medal, Combat Action Ribbon, Presidential Unit Citation, Navy Unit Commendation, Good Conduct Medal 7 Awards, National Defense Service Medal, Vietnam Service Medal 4 Awards, Sea Service Deployment Ribbon 2 Awards, Marine Corps Recruiting Ribbon, Republic of Vietnam Civil Action Unit Citation 1st Class with Palm & Frame and the Republic of Vietnam Campaign Medal. He retired on June 28, 1986, at the rank of Master Sergeant.

On April 29, 1967, he married his childhood sweetheart, Kathryn Emma Marden. For 57 anniversaries they made sure to dance to their song, “Stranger on the Shore” by Acker Bilk. They had three children, Kelly, Bobby and Jeff. Even though they moved frequently due to Bob’s military career, they had a home wherever they went. Their house, wherever it was, was always open to friends and family. So many people were touched and inspired by their love, commitment and kindness not only to each other, but anyone they met.

In retirement, Bob and Kathy carried on their welcoming home in Staples. Most of their days were spent on the deck, in their garage, or at the kitchen table drinking a cup of coffee with a friend or family member. Their coffee pot was always brewing, and oldies were always



at hand for the listening ear. Bob loved to play his favorite tunes with those he loved. He instilled the love of music in his siblings, children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren through the voices of Paul Anka, Buddy Holly, Neil Sedaka, Elvis, the Everly Brothers, Frankie Valli and The Four Seasons and many more. Sometimes, he would drive around town with his favorite people, playing oldies and reminiscing on good memories.

Bob was loved fiercely by all who knew him. He will be missed beyond measure. He is survived by his wife; children, Kelly Blessing, Bobby Blessing (Kelly) and Jeff Blessing (Heidi); 11 grandchildren, Casey (Elizabeth) Smithley, Philip (Emily) Smithley, Shayne (Michael) Mast, Bailey (Dylan) McManigle, Landon Blessing, Riley Blessing, Ellie Shane, Lauren Shane, Addy (Cody) Hayes, Caleb Shane and Hudson Shane; his great-grandchildren, Sophia, Leo, Caroline and Catherine (Casey and Elizabeth), Lola and Oliver (Philip and Emily), Avah, Dawson and baby Mast (Shayne and Michael), Wren (Ellie Shane) and Walker and baby McManigle (Bailey and Dylan).

He is preceded in death by his parents; Jennifer Blessing; Jeanette and Sonny Kratz and nephew, Jason Blessing.

Memorials can be made to Richard M Schulze Family American Cancer Society Hope Lodge- Minneapolis, MN. website: <https://raiseyourway.donordrive.com>.

Arrangements were by Taylor Funeral Home of Staples.

w21c A00006B2024MY15

Staples Area Church Directory

Staples Staples Alliance 1512 8th St. NE, Staples.....218-894-2891 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: Adult Bible Study.....6:30 p.m. 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 Catholic Church 310 4th St. NE, Staples Church.....218-894-2296 info@marysacc.org Fr. Aaron Kuhn Fr. Gabriel Walz MASS: Sunday.....8:30 a.m. Seventh Day Adventist 421 Dakota Ave. SE, Staples 218-894-0033 Saturday Worship.....9:30 am. Sabbath School.....10:45 a.m. Thomastown Covenant 15940 251st Ave., Staples.....218-894-3923 Pastor Scott Jorgenson Sunday Worship.....10:30 a.m. WEDNESDAY NIGHT YOUTH.....6:30 p.m. Trinity Lutheran 1000 4th St., NE, Staples.....218-894-2372 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 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.lincolnfree.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. Cushing Baptist 26298 Bear Rd., Cushing Pastor Dan Holmes.....320-749-2583 Sunday School.....9:30 a.m. Worship.....10:30 a.m. WEDNESDAY Bible study.....7:30 p.m. Leader Swan Valley Lutheran Leader.....218-397-2470 Sandy Knight, Synodically Authorized Minister of Word and Sacrament Sunday Worship January - July.....9 a.m. July - January.....11 a.m. Maple Hill Lutheran Sandy Knight, Synodically Authorized Minister of Word and Sacrament Leader.....218-397-2470 (Rural Pine River) Worship and Sunday School.....9:00 a.m. Motley Motley Free Methodist 33 Wellwood St. E Motley 56466.....218-352-6888 Jim Johnson, Senior Pastor Casey Reynolds, Assistant Pastor Sunday Worship.....9:00 and 10:30 a.m. facebook live.....9 a.m. WEDNESDAY AWANA.....4:00-5:30 p.m. Youth Group.....6:00-8:00 p.m. St. John’s Lutheran 497 3rd Ave. S, Motley.....218-352-6399 Pastor Vicar Paul Koehler Sunday School and Bible Class.....8:30 a.m. Sunday Worship.....9:30 a.m. St. Michael Catholic Church 1st St. and Birch, Motley.....218-894-2296 info@marysacc.org Fr. Aaron Kuhn Fr. Gabriel Walz MASS: Saturday.....4:00 p.m.
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St. Michael 280 1st Ave S, Motley.....218-894-2296 Pastor Fr. Joe Korf MASS: 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. Oylen Oylen Alliance Cty. Rds, 7 and 9, Oylen 218-472-3440 or 218-472-3316 Pastor Neal Malcore Sunday School.....10:00 a.m. Sunday Worship.....11:00 a.m. Pillager First Lutheran Church Pastor Mathew Sundquist 717 River Street S, Pillager, MN 218-746-3775 Sunday Worship.....9:30 a.m. Sunday School, 2nd and 4th Sundays.....8:30 a.m. Casino Assembly of God Pastor Dan Johnson N. of Motley, Hwy. 64, E. on Cty 34 to Cty. 104. Phone.....218-746-3839 Sunday School.....9:30 a.m. Worship.....10:30 a.m. Sunday Worship.....7:00 p.m. WEDNESDAY.....7:00 p.m. First Baptist 903 River Street South, Pillager Pastor Jake Anderson 218-746-3768 curious@fbcpillager.com Worship Gathering.....10:00 a.m. Connection Point.....9:30 a.m. Hewitt Church of the Nazarene 114 Front Street, P.O. Box 146 Hewitt, MN 218-924-2028 Jim and Linda McGaffey, Pastor Sunday School.....9:30 a.m. Sunday Worship.....10:45 a.m. WEDNESDAY PRAYER.....7:00 p.m. Trinity Lutheran Church (LCMS) 524 Front Street, PO Box 116, Hewitt, MN Pastor Robin Fish Sunday Worship.....10:30 a.m. Hewitt Community Church Hwy. 210, Hewitt, MN Pastor Kenneth Uhren Sunday Worship.....10:30 a.m. Verndale Verndale Alliance 109 NW Brown Street, Verndale, MN 56481 218-445-5619 Senior Pastor Tony Stanley 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 Kurup, 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 20 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.....218-894-2296 info@marysacc.org Fr. Aaron Kuhn Fr. Gabriel Walz MASS: Saturday.....6:00 p.m. St. Hubert Catholic Church Bluegrass.....218-894-2296 info@marysacc.org Fr. Aaron Kuhn Fr. Gabriel Walz MASS: Sunday.....10:30 a.m. Leaf River Township The Old Country Church Leaf River Twp., Wadena County Rd. 6 Info. 218-837-5690 Call first. Sunday Service.....10:00 a.m. Wadena St. Helen’s Episcopal Church 22 Dayton Ave. SW, Wadena, MN 218-631-3928 Sunday Worship.....10:00 a.m.
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“Perspective”

Pastor Chris Mathiason, Faith Lutheran, Staples and Bethany Lutheran, Cushing

Perspective makes all the difference doesn’t it?

This Spring we have had several days with rain. Rain makes mud and mud gets tracked into our homes, then we have a mess. Some youth sporting events have been cancelled because of the weather. A rainy day can leave us feeling a little down.

On the other hand, the ground has been dry and the lakes are low. Rain now, can get water in the soil and start to refill the lakes. The grass is getting green and flowers have started to bloom. Sometimes when a sporting event is cancelled it gives us the chance to catch our breath before the next thing on our calendar.

Perspective. How we look at what is happening. How we frame events can make a huge

difference. Is everything and everyone against us? Does it feel like we never get a lucky break? Or do we see how things are working out for us? How others are wanting the best for us?

In the Gospel of John Chapter 16 verse 33. We hear Jesus say. “I have told you these things, so that in Me you may have peace. In this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world.”

Perspective helps us to endure the challenges we face in this world. We trust that in Jesus we need not worry at all. Instead we give Thanks to God for what we have and what we will receive.

Today I give thanks for gentle soaking rains. Yours in Christ.

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Cardinals cap busy baseball week with walk-off win

The Staples-Motley baseball team went 2-2 in four close games during the week of May 7-10. They lost 4-3 at Breckenridge on May 7 and won 6-5 at Long Prairie-Grey Eagle on May 9. They played two games at home on May 10, losing to Pelican Rapids 7-2 and beating Sauk Centre 3-2 on a walk-off double by Colbe Tappe.

At Breckenridge, Ben Tyrrell only gave up two hits through six innings. The Cardinals took a lead into the seventh inning, but couldn't hold it.

"Ben pitched an amazing game," said Coach Shane Tappe, "but we had a few critical errors and gave up some clutch hits to the Cowboys and they won in walk off fashion."

The Cardinal hitters were only able to put together 4 hits so it was a slow night at the plate.

At Long Prairie, Colbe Tappe started on the mound for the Cardinals. Also pitching was his brother Cooper Tappe in his varsity pitching debut. Griffin Bettis closed the door on the Thunder by pitching the 7th inning. The Cards came out with a 6-5 win against a very solid Long Prairie team.

"All three of our pitchers did a solid job and it was really nice to see the youngster (Cooper Tappe) come in and keep us in the game," said Coach Tappe. "Then to have one of our leaders come in the 7th inning and finish the game, that was an exclamation point."

The Cardinal bats were also hot that night with 12 hits as a team. Colbe Tappe

went 3-3 with a home run, double, and single, Alex Schultz had two hits, including a double, Bettis had two hits including a double as well as driving in two runs at a pivotal time in the game. Ben Tyrrell had two singles while Kris Taylor, Hayden Rutherford, and Jack Carlson added a hit each.

Against Pelican Rapids, the Cardinals had a few errors which gave a good Pelican Rapids team additional opportunities to keep innings alive and score runs in situations that could have been ended with minimal damage.

On a positive note the Cardinal bats were again strong, recording eight hits against very solid pitchers. Hits for the Cardinals came from Tyrrell, Jack Carlson, Colbe Tappe with two each and Taylor and Cooper Tappe each getting one hit.

Bettis pitched six strong innings and Elijah Kossan came in relief to finish the game. Despite the 7-2 loss, there were some bright spots in the game.

"The difference in the game was really the fielding and throwing errors. If we can clean those up, that is a really tight game," said Tappe.

Against Sauk Centre, the Cardinals had to scratch together some hits and manufacture runs to get the win. They had three hits coming off the bats of Colbe Tappe, Taylor, and Tyrrell.

"Pitching and defense kept us in this game and gave us a chance to win the game in the bottom of the 7th inning," said Tappe.



Colbe Tappe

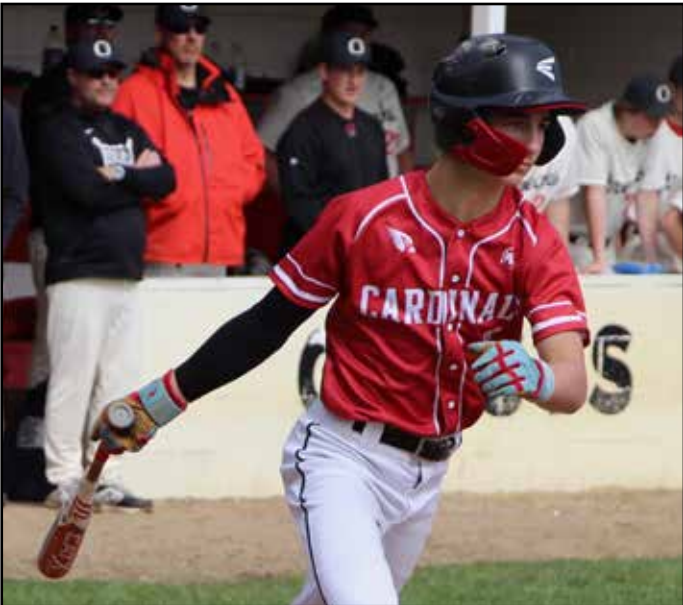
Jack Carlson started the game on the mound and pitched the first two innings.

"Jack just returned to the lineup after coming back from injury so we wanted to keep his pitch count down," said Tappe.

They turned to another young player, Elijah Kossan, who pitched four innings, recording six strikeouts and

only one walk. Tyrrell came in for the 7th inning and shut down the Mainstreeters, only facing 3 batters in the inning.

Tyrrell got on base with a walk then advanced with a wild pitch. Colbe Tappe drove a double to the left center gap over the head of the outfielders to drive in Tyrrell for the Cardinal win.



Cooper Tappe

Bestland comes through at Bemidji

Grant Bestland shot a three over par 75 to place fourth at the Bemidji Invite on May 6, leading the Staples-Motley golf team to a fifth place finish in a high level meet.

The Cardinals also played at Deacon's Lodge on May 7 and at the St. Cloud Country Club on May 9.

Starting on the ninth at Bemidji Town & Country Club, Bestland tore up the course with four birdies in his first eight holes. He was slightly cooler on his second nine, with one birdie, but finished with a par for a total of three over par 75.

Carter White played a steady round with one birdie. The rest of the Cardinals played well but got in trouble on a few holes with double bogeys.

White shot under par at the Arnold Palmer Invite at Deacon's Lodge. He was even on front nine and one under on back nine. Bestland came on strong with five pars and a birdie on his last nine holes. Keller Anderson and Jackson White were steady, mixing pars and birdies throughout their round.

With 20 high-level teams at the St. Cloud Invitational, every stroke was crucial to the team standings. Carter White started out on fire, shooting four under par in his first nine holes, including an eagle on the 529 yard, par five 9th hole. But he scored double bogeys on two holes after that and ended up three over par for 7th place. Thomas Johnson scored nine pars on 18 holes for a very consistent round to put him in the third spot on the team with an 84.

All three meets were against high level compe-

tition. The Cardinals have been in the same range as two of their Section 6AA rivals, Pequot Lakes and St. Cloud Cathedral, finishing in front of them in some meets and behind them in others. With another top team, Albany, in the same section, it will make for a very competitive meet with four top teams trying to get one spot at state. The section meet is June 3-4.

Team results

Bemidji Invite
Bemidji 306, East Grand Forks 315, Roseau 317, Pequot Lakes 319, Staples-Motley 322, Walker-Hackensack-Akely 326, Grand Rapids 326, Detroit Lakes 328, Thief River Falls 340, Crookston 367, Pine River-Backus 369, Park Rapids 385, Wadena-Deer Creek 410

4. Grand Bestland 75, 7. Carter White 77, 34. Jackson White 84, 41. Peyton Mithun 86, 45. Keller Anderson 87, 46. Thomas Johnson 88

Arnold Palmer Invitational at Deacon's Lodge

Walker-Hackensack-Akely 302, Eden Prairie 312, Staples-Motley 318, Robbinsdale Armstrong 320, Pequot Lakes 327, Little Falls 330, Pierz 337, Crosby-Irongton/Aitkin 348, Pine River-Backus 361, Wadena-Deer Creek 432

2. C. White 71, 13. Bestland 30, 18. J. White 83, 24. Anderson 84, 26. Mithun 85, 47. Johnson 97

St. Cloud Country Club Invitational

Benilde-St. Margaret's 306, Eagan 315, Marshall 317, St. Cloud Cathedral 318, Pequot Lakes 320, Sartel 321, Bemidji 323, New London-Spicer 323, Staples-Motley 324, Rogers 325, Buffalo 325, Monticello 328, Mounds View 330, Willmar 331, Brainerd 332, Heritage Christian 334, Wayzata 334, St. Michael-Albertville 341, Litchfield 348, Sauk Rapids-Rice 349, St. Cloud Crush 372

7. C. White 75, 30. Bestland 81, 60. Johnson 84, 60. J. White 84, 92. Anderson 88, 106. Mithun 92

Uselman continues to lead girls golfers

Mallory Uselman finished 4th out of 47 golfers at the Section 6AA Pre-section meet at Blackberry Ridge in Sartell on May 6. Uselman shot 85. Katelyn Schotzko was 17th place with 105 and Olivia Olsson was 46th with 144.

Uselman was the only Staples-Motley varsity golfer at a meet at the St. Cloud Country Club on May 9, finishing in 5th place out of 86 golfers. She started out slow but then shot eight pars on her next nine holes to finish with an 82.

At the home invite, Uselman started out on fire with five straight pars followed

by two birdies on holes 6 and 7 at The Vintage in Staples. She was even par after nine holes, then had one more birdie on the back nine, shooting a 4 on the par 5 16th hole.

Team results

Cardinal Invite
Detroit Lakes 303, Fergus Falls 372, Moorhead 384, Hermantown 399, Pine River-Backus 412, Staples-Motley 428, Wadena-Deer Creek 433, Osakis 457, Crosby-Ironton/Aitkin 475

5. Mallory Uselman 81, 23. Katelyn Schotzko 101, 46. Molly Hoemberg 122, 49. Sarah Kroll 124, 51. Brooklyn Winter 136, 53. Maci Mithun 139

Softball splits with DL

The Staples-Motley softball team split a double-header with Detroit Lakes on May 9, losing a close one in the first game, 10-9, then coming back strong with a 15-4 win.

In the first game, Rachel Kossan hit a home run while

Lilly Tyrell and Lauren Ruten had two hits each.

In the second game, Kossan collected four hits in five at bats, while Ruten and Ellie Moulton each had two hits. The winning pitcher was Leighton Bettis.

Track and field teams competitive in True Team section

The Staples-Motley boys were fourth and the girls placed eighth in the Section 6A True Team Track and Field meet on May 7. Many of the athletes also competed at a meet in Melrose on May 9.

"In a meet where every position in an event matters for scoring, both our boys and girls teams battled near the top in our section," said Coach Bruce Fuhrman.

Boys meet

The Cardinals were expected to be a contender and were in the second position early in the meet.

Avandre Brandt found himself in a four-way tie in the high jump at 6'2", yet ended up being fourth after misses were factored in. "It was great to see his confidence grow," said Fuhrman. Brandt placed second in the open 200 meter with a new sophomore school record of 23.56. At the Melrose meet two days, he moved into the fifth spot on the school's top ten list in the long jump with a leap more than 21 feet.

Noah Larson finished second 110 hurdles, competing against some seasoned hurdlers. Noah was outstanding," said Fuhrman. "He has worked hard to improve his speed and form in this event. As a sophomore, he is no doubt one of the best in the section heading into the final weeks."

The pole vaulting duo of Conner Kuhns and Turner Beachy continued to stand out. Because of rain and wind, there were many delays in the pole vault, giving them a lot of down time. Beachy used his time to enter in the 300 hurdles, which he wasn't scheduled to run. He ran well and helped the team in the standings.

"Those were some needed points, he is an impressive team player," said Fuhrman.

When Beachy got the chance to vault in good weather at Melrose, he improved his personal best by clearing 14 feet.

The team placed well in every event and came close to the top team, but didn't quite have the firepower to

get to the state true team meet.

Girls meet

The Staples-Motley girls track and field team lacked depth coming into the season, but were reinforced by a number of foreign exchange students who have fill spots in the true team meet.

The Cardinals were led by double winner Audrey Brownell, who won the 800 and 1,600 meter runs.

"Audrey dominated in th 1,600, as expected," said Fuhrman. "She is a top 1,600 competitor in the state this season. Things were a bit tighter in the open 800 meter, when Audey was challenged the entire race by a Barnesville runner, who has been a top finisher the past three seasons in our section and state." Brownell held her off to the finish, to take top honors.

"Kyanna Burton also competed in the open 800, winning her heat to get us a pile of points in this event," said Fuhrman. Burton also competed to a second place finish in the 3,200 meter run, a tough double to run those two races close together.

Annie Schlosser continues to shine in the discus event. "It was a competitive field today, and Annie finished ninth," said Fuhrman. "Her hard work and determination could put her in a position to compete with the top athletes in our subsection."

Corinne Olson was third in the 100-meter dash.

"Corinne has become a top competitor in the 100 meter this season," said Fuhrman, "she has run this event since her junior high years and is now among the top in this event during her junior year. She has been patient and persistent."

Sophia Luna was 7th in the 100-meter dash as an 8th grader.

"They both ran very well in the open 400 meter also," said Fuhrman.

Girls results

Section 6A True Team meet

Barnesville 696, Pelican Rapids 644, United Clay-Becker 610, Osakis 603, Frazee 602, Ber-

tha-Hewitt/Verndale 591, Long Prairie-Grey Eagle 523, Staples-Motley 498, Wadena-Deer Creek 483, Ottertail Central 455, Ashby-Brandon-Evansville 441, United North Central 372, Breckenridge 326, Parkers Prairie 284, New York Mills 234

100 - 3. Corinne Olson 13.93, 7. Sophia Luna 14.18
200 - 22. Tamara Strelci 31.96, 25. Kana Reese 32.62
400 - 20. Olson 1:10, 21. Luna 1:10

800 - 1. Audrey Brownell 2:20, 7. Kyanna Burton 2:33

1,600 - 1. Brownell 5:10, 11. Aleea Holst 6:06

3,200 - 2. Burton 11:41, 12. Holst 13:41

100 hurdles - 20. Bailey Weiland 20.60, 22. Abby Brichacek 21.20

300 hurdles - 18. Brichacek 1:00, 23. Avery Japke 1:02

4x100 - 6. Ronnie Noska, Luna, Reese, Olson 56.12

4x200 - 11. Paula Rauwerda, Noska, Strelci, Reese 2:05

4x400 - 12. Naila Mikhaeil, Suhalia Mikhaeil, Brooke Bendson, Leah Greenwaldt 5:22

4x800 - 10. N. Mikhaeil, S. Mikhaeil, Bendson, Maddie Kist 12:13

Discus - 9. Annie Schlosser 82'4", 19. Weiland 69'10"

High jump - 19. Japke 4'6", 24. Dalma Kovacs 4'2"

Long jump - 22. Charlotte Wunderlich 13'3", 26. Ronnie Noska 12'9"

Shot put - 5. Camden Anderson 31'0", 11. Weiland 28'10"

Triple jump - 11. Brichacek 29'9", 21. Noska 27'7"

Melrose Dave Sieben Invitational

100 - 10. Olson 13.90, 24. Strelci 15.05, 32. Marissa Heifort 16.60

200 - 26. Martina Lopez Matarredon 32.66, 30. Kovacs 33.21, 31. Kylee Chenoweth 33.25

1,600 - 15. S. Mikhaeil 6:18, 27. Kist 7:14

100 hurdles - 14. Weiland 19.42, 17. Brichacek 20.76

4x100 - 6. SM 55.39

4x200 - 9. SM 2:03

High jump - 14. Kovacs 4'3"

Long jump - 22. Luna 12'4", 29. Heifort 10'1", 30. Francesca Malangone 9'9.5"

Triple jump - 9. Brichacek 29'11.5"

Pole vault - 7. Wunderlich 6'6", 16. Strelci 6'6"

Discus - 6. Schlosser 92'7", 14. Weiland 76'2", 21. Josie Jennissen 68'5"

Shot put - 2. Anderson 31'11.5", 9. Weiland 28'11", 22. Jennissen 24'4"

Boys results

Section 6A True Team meet

Osakis 806, Pelican Rapids 803, Bertha-Hewitt/Verndale 794, Staples-Motley 737, United

Clay-Becker 732, Ottertail Central 614, Breckenridge 509, Frazee 497, Wadena-Deer Creek 479, Long Prairie-Grey Eagle 406, Parkers Prairie 368, Ashby-Brandon-Evansville 317, Barnesville 281, United North Central 221, New York Mills 72

100 - 5. Avandre Brandt 12.03, 11. Massimo Pili 12.39

200 - 2. Brandt 23.56, 16. Pili 25.83

400 - 9. Blake Neelan 59.24, 11. Sawyer Ferdon 59.88

800 - 3. Logan Robben 2:08, 13. Odin Trif 2:21

1,600 - 7. L. Robben 4:53, 18. Ivan Lozano 5:42

3,200 - 8. Dillan Robben 11:50, 13. Blaine Plattner 12:21

110 hurdles - 2. Noah Larson 17.12, 11. Gavin Chenoweth 19.84

300 hurdles - 11. Turner Beachy 47.21, 22. Chenoweth 54.39

4x100 - 5. Benet Robinson, Chenoweth, Pili, Josiah Critten 46.90

4x200 - 3. Robinson, Neelan, Critten, Brandt 1:37

4x400 - 5. Robinson, Neelan, Sawyer Ferdon, L. Robben 3:51

4x800 - 5. Lozano, Plattner, D. Robbin, Trif 9:37

Discus - 9. Dustin Converse 97'2", 12. Drake Dukowitz 91'11"

High jump - 4. Brandt 6'2", 19. Larson 4'10"

Long jump - 8. Robinson 18'8", 9. Critten 18'2"

Pole vault - 2. Beachy 12'0", 7. Conner Kuhns 10'6"

Shot put - 3. Steven Petrich 41'3", 12. Dukowitz 36'3"

Triple jump - 7. Ferdon 38'0", 14. Alexander Helstrom 33'9"

Melrose Dave Sieben Invitational

100 - 10. Pili 11.95, 14. Robinson 12.05, 25. Bjerga 13.00

200 - 2. Brandt 23.38, 20. Helstrom 26.86

400 - 5. D. Robben 54.45, 24. Carter Kist 1:20

800 - 5. Trif 2:17, 23. Andrew Dobson 2:39

1,600 - 14. Plattner 5:18

3,200 - 15. Lozano 12:04

110 hurdles - 6. Chenoweth 19.40

4x100 - 5. SM 48.16

4x200 - 3. SM 1:35

4x400 - 7. SM 3:53

4x800 - 7. SM 9:23

High jump - 8. Critten 5'5", 15. Beachy 5'1"

Long jump - 1. Brandt 21'4.5", 17. Bjerga 16'3", 29. Carson Dewald 14'7.5"

Triple jump - 5. Ferdon 38'10", 14. Kuhns 35'9.5", 21. Justin Olson 32'10.5"

Pole vault - 1. Beachy 14'0", 2. Kuhns 12'0"

Discus - 5. Dukowitz 11'4", 8. Converse 105'5", 20. Petrich 89'10"

Shot put - 3. Petrich 41'6", 12. Dukowitz 37'10", 14. Converse 37'0"

SERVICES & EMPLOYMENT

205

Help Wanted

HELP WANTED

Seasonal Public Works - Parks employees

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Apply at the City of Staples City Hall, 122 6th St NE, Staples, MN 56479.

You may also find an application on our website at **www.staplesgovoffice.com.**

For questions, call Public Works Director, Scott Grabe, 218-894-2550, Ext 6.

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Beautiful ceremony

Paul Drange, Sourcewell Chief Regional Solutions Officer, and Kassidy Rice, Sourcewell Senior Director of Education Solutions, speak to the Educators of Excellence, held at the Northern Pacific Center in Brainerd. (Submitted photo)

Sourcewell honors Educators of Excellence

More than 90 local teachers and staff from schools in Cass, Crow Wing, Morrison, Todd, and Wadena counties were selected by school administration for outstanding dedication, leadership and innovation. For their achievements, they were celebrated as Educators of Excellence at two special events held, April 24, and May 1, in Blacksmith Main at The Northern Pacific Center in Brainerd.

These events recognized and awarded local educators who positively impact students and colleagues. This year, in addition to 50 Teachers of Excellence, 46 non-teaching staff were also named and recognized with a new award category called Pillars of Excellence. Since this additional award category, the event was split into two nights:

An additional award called Innovator of the Year, given by the Innovative Schools Project (ISP), was presented to Jon Koenig and Dr. Lake Mathison, both from Royalton School District.

Crosby-Ironton school counselor Trevor Rohloff was among those honored at the event.

“In this job, in this role... you don’t always get to see the impact you have,” Rohloff says. “A lot of times you’re working with some pretty tough situations, and it might be years before you see or even hear that you had an effect on some kids. To see that, to hear that from those kids and some of the people that I work with here, that’s incredible.”

In addition to Crosby-Ironton, educators from the following districts were honored: Bertha-Hewitt, Brainerd, Cass Lake-Bena, Freshwater, Little Falls, Menahga, Northland Community, Pequot Lakes, Pierz, Pillager, Pine River-Backus, Royalton, Sebeka, Staples-Motley, Swanville, Upsala, Verndale, Wadena-Deer Creek and Walker-Hackensack-Akeley.

Teachers of Excellence

Jill Kneisl Staples-Motley Middle/High School

As a visual arts teacher, Jill excels at helping students build on their own strengths and interests. Her approach to all aspects of art allows students to flex their creativity and try something unique. Jill’s calming rapport and creative approach make her classroom a school favorite: Many students ask to spend free time there whenever possible.

Dawn Weite Staples-Motley Elementary School

Dawn is a driving force at her school for effective

Educator awards

Below, the Staples-Motley Educators of Excellence receive their awards from Paul Drange of Sourcewell. (Submitted photos)



Angela Jares



Yolanda Koppes



Dawn Weite



Jill Kneisl

learning. She frequently shares new education strategies from a wide range of sources, from podcasts to graduate courses. Dawn has been adaptable in the face of significant changes, challenges, and her great attitude and rapport with students are a testament to the consideration she puts into every choice she makes.

Pillars of Excellence
Angela Jares Staples-Motley Middle/High School

Angie tackles hard work with some of the district’s most challenging student situations. Her consistency and strategic sense of calm have a big impact on student growth and success, and she steps in wherever necessary with an eagerness to grow and improve her work. Angie works closely with the special education teacher to build positive relationships and maintain high-quality education.

Yolanda Koppes, Staples-Motley Elementary School

Yolanda’s kindness and effectiveness as a paraprofessional are legendary. All students look forward to interacting with her. Her positivity throughout every task in a typical day sets a solid foundation for learning throughout the building. Yolanda is always two steps ahead, ready to step up or

anticipate a colleague’s needs before they say anything.

Dollars for Scholars

Staples and Motley Dollars for Scholars gave away \$118,172 in scholarships to local seniors and one non-traditional student, at their awards night on May 1. Below are the largest scholarships given away, the Harold Griffiths Scholarships. (Submitted photos)



Addisyn Cichos, \$12,000 four year health occupations Harold Griffiths Scholarship, with Dollars For Scholars Board member Lisa Giza.



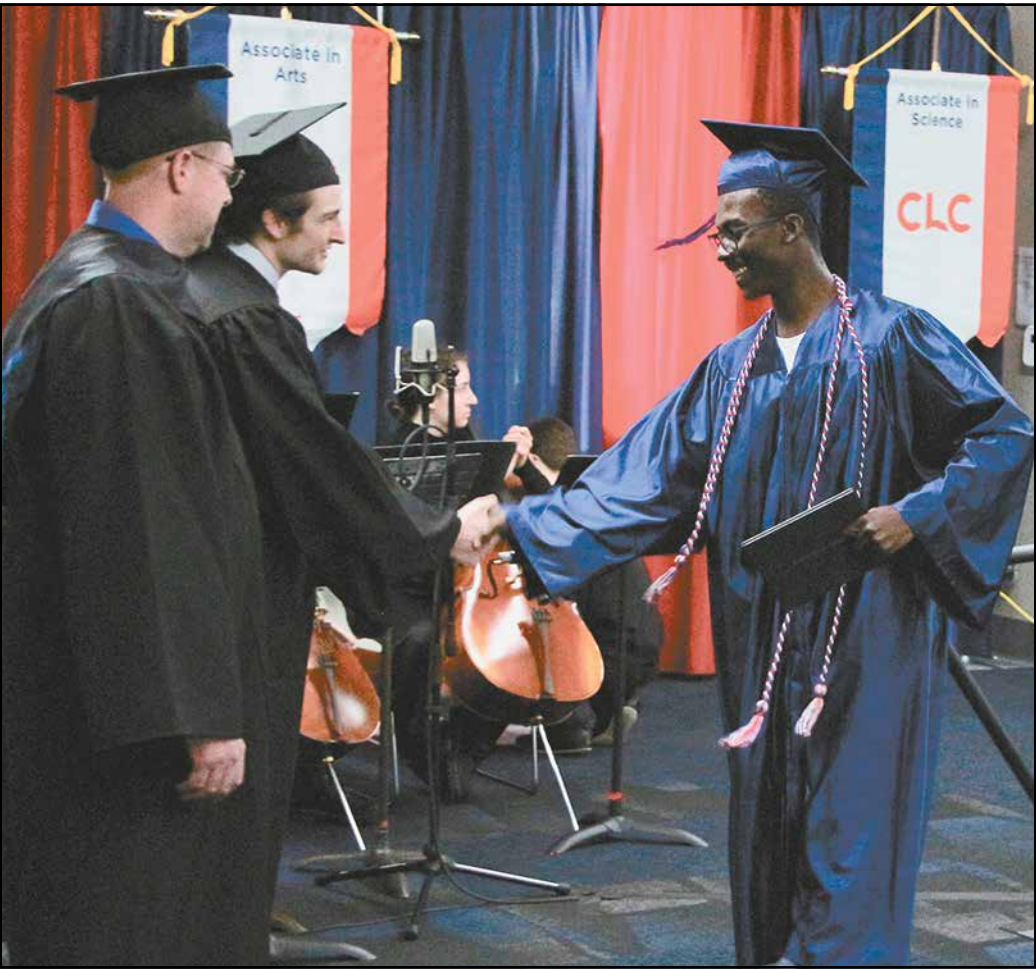
Isabel Birkholtz, \$3,000 health occupations Harold Griffiths Scholarship, with Dollars For Scholars Board member Jill Albie.



Sabina Moe, \$20,000 four year Harold Griffiths Scholarship with Dollars For Scholars Board member Julie Benson



Gabe Koval, \$4,000 two year Harold Griffiths Scholarship, with Dollars For Scholars Board member Mary Kobliska.



Educator awards

Above, a Central Lakes College robotics student gets congratulations from his college teachers. Below, the production crew at the CLC graduation on May 8 had high tech equipment that live streamed the event so it can be watched online. (Staples World photos by Mark Anderson)





Detachment) out of Brainerd, included a flag presentation, 21-gun salute, and the playing of Taps. Blessing was later buried at Camp Riley in Little Falls. (Staples World photos by Dawn Timbs)

Central Lakes College had 109 graduates at the Staples Campus this year, most of whom attended the ceremony on May 8. Above, Student Senate President Bri Adams speaks. Below, students get congratulations from administration, faculty and staff. (Staples World photos by Mark Anderson)



Robert (Bob) Blessing, May 10, at Sacred Heart Church in Staples. (Staples world photo by Dawn Timbs)

"This is much bigger than me, I am just the interloper," he said.

