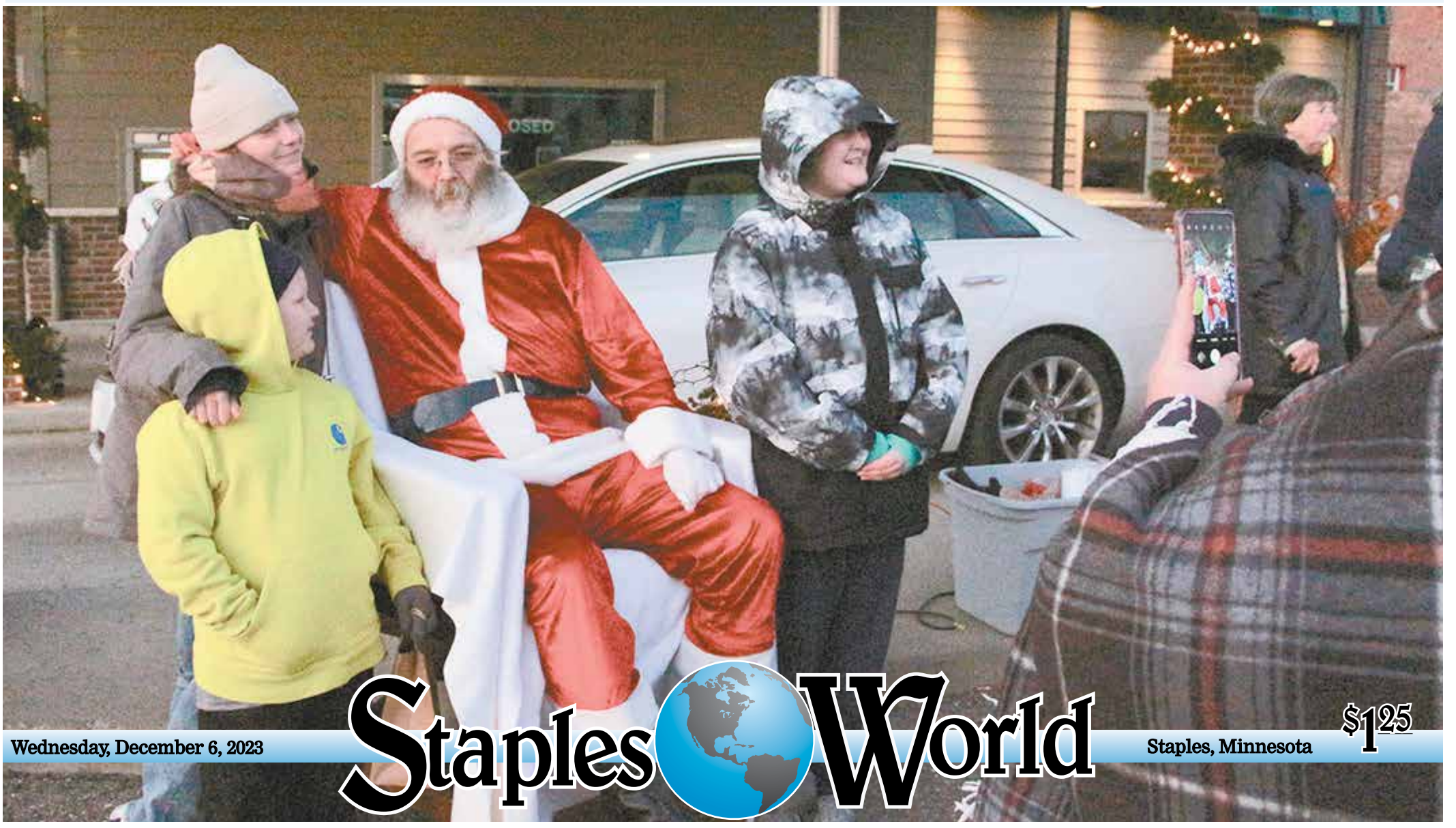
## Inside this issue:

*MN Opera connections*
*Shop locally for holidays*
*Piecemakers project*
*Wins for wrestling, basketball teams*
*Sourcewell Student Leadership Conference*

8 10499 02493 3



Wednesday, December 6, 2023 Staples World Staples, Minnesota $1.25

## Santa arrives in Staples

Above, Santa greets families at the Light Up Staples event on Dec. 2. Below, observers watch the Staples Depot tree get lit up. Below, piling into the sleigh to see the lights of Staples. (Photos by Mark Anderson)





# Trains, Christmas combine at Staples' Polar Xpress

Model trains, Christmas trees and unique history will be on display at Central Lakes College in Staples at the Polar Xpress Holiday Festival, a family event to be held Saturday and Sunday, Dec. 9-10, from noon to 4 p.m. each day. This year, a Festival of Trees and more historical items will be a part of the celebration.

The Polar Xpress is a combination of trains, history and Christmas. The event will again showcase model trains and train history artifacts. Children will be able to participate in cookie and ornament decorating and visit Santa Claus.

For the Festival of Trees, the Staples Motley Women of Today have asked individuals, businesses and organizations to bring in a Christmas tree and decorate it to add to the holiday atmosphere.

### Unique train history

There will be two new historical items to go along with event organizer John Wolak's collection of train

See **XPRESS** on page 12a




## Weather

**This Week's Forecast**

| | High | Low | Cond. |
|---|---|---|---|
| Dec. 6 | 46 | 28 | |
| Dec. 7 | 46 | 33 | P. Cloudy |
| Dec. 8 | 40 | 25 | Cloudy |
| Dec. 9 | 38 | 20 | P. Cloudy |
| Dec. 10 | 32 | 19 | M. Sunny |
| Dec. 11 | 35 | 21 | M. Cloudy |
| Dec. 12 | 31 | 15 | M. Sunny |

**Last Year, 2022**

| | High | Low | Cond. |
|---|---|---|---|
| Dec. 6 | 22° | 10 | Cloudy |
| Dec. 7 | 9 | 3 | Sunny |
| Dec. 8 | 26 | 4 | M. Sunny |
| Dec. 9 | 25 | 22 | Cloudy |
| Dec. 10 | 33 | 15 | M. Cloudy |
| Dec. 11 | 30 | 17 | Cloudy |
| Dec. 12 | 31 | 25 | Cloudy |

**Average Temps:**
**H = 27° Low = 14°**
**Another great week!**

***Compiled by Dale Hausmann, WCCO's Staples area Weatherwatcher***

## Public Notices

*City of Staples* **9A**
*Villard* **9A**

## Obituaries

*Lorraine Hamberg*
*Kraig Kruse*
*Thomas O'Neill*
*Gary Schwanke*
*Carol Weber*

# Staples city budget increase shrinks

By Mark Anderson
Managing Editor

The Staples City Council had passed a 4.3 percent budget increase as a preliminary budget, but after union contract negotiations and budget adjustments, the budget now shows a 3.8 percent increase. One council member asked if the budget could get cut even further. The council will hold their Truth in Taxation hearing at their Tuesday, Dec. 12 meeting at 7 p.m.

At the Nov. 28 City Council meeting, the latest budget was reviewed by City Administrator Jerel Nelsen.

Council member Doug Case questioned a couple of items on the budget.

Earlier in the meeting, the Staples Police Department gave a presentation on obtaining less lethal launchers, similar to beanbag rounds but safer and with a greater range. Officer Ryan Walwick said state statutes have changed on the use of weapons considered less than deadly force, encouraging less than lethal force and de-escalation.

"We value every single human life," said Walwick. "The further we are from a situation, the less harshly we might have to react. Time and distance gives us time to de-escalate the situation."

The council approved the purchase of the launchers, which will cost around $4,000, including training and equipment.

Case questioned the need for the equipment. As a former police officer, Case said "a lot of gadgets ended up in the trash" in the past.

Case also questioned the street department's $10,000 budget for putting salt and

See **BUDGET** on page 3a

# Recommend removing tree grates

By Mark Anderson
Managing Editor

The Staples City Council had questions about recommendations for removing downtown tree grates and planters.

At the Nov. 28 council meeting, Parks and Recreation Director Lacey Aguirre gave a report on the latest Parks and Recreation Board meeting.

After looking into why several trees have died in multiple downtown tree grates, City Administrator Jerel Nelsen said they have not come to a conclusive answer. The board recommended that the empty tree grates be removed and paved over with concrete.

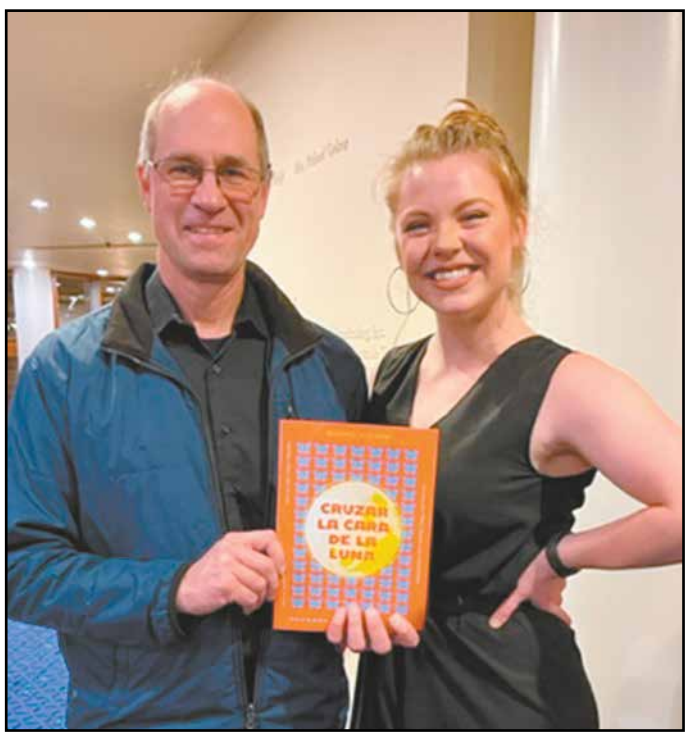
Agguire also suggested removing some of the planters, but the board did not give a consensus on that.

The Staples Downtown Revitalization group propsed to purchase flower pots to place in the planters, with the city taking care of purchasing flowers and watering them. The downtown group said they would weed the planters and ask local businesses to help with the project. The Parks and Recreation Board approved moving forward with that concept.

See **PARKS** on page 12a




# Local connections at the MN Opera




Friends from the Staples-Motley area recently attended the newly orchestrated "Cruzar la Cara de la Luna" at the MN Opera in Minneapolis, which featured performances by two individuals with ties to Staples-Motley High School.

In lower photo, from left, are John Koopmann, Motley, former orchestra teacher at SMHS, who serves as Principal Trumpet for the MN Opera; and Jenessa Iverson, a 2016 SMHS graduate, who went on to study at the University of Minnesota Duluth where she earned a Bachelor of Fine Arts degree in Musical Theatre and a Bachelor of Arts degree in Hispanic Studies, both of which enabled her to land the job with the opera. She currently lives in Minneapolis. This was Jenessa's first performance with the MN Opera, which she shared, "tells a beautiful story about a Mexican family and their generational struggle to discover a sense of home."

Top photo, from left, are Michelle Jeziorski, Cushing; Sarah (Koopmann) Adair, Robinsdale; Anna Koopmann, Shakopee; Cindy and John Koopmann, Motley; Jenessa Iverson; Kathy and Jeff Iverson (Jenessa's parents), Motley. (Submitted photos)




# Ornaments for Ashley

Alina Robinson of Staples had 'Ornaments for Ashley' for sale at the recent craft show in Staples. Ashley Robben, a 2023 graduate of Staples-Motley High School, was diagnosed with leukemia shortly after beginning her freshman year at Minnesota State University Moorhead this fall. She is the daughter of John and Kathy (Heldman) Robben of Staples. Pictured, from left, are Trina Korfe (Kathy's cousin), Brooke Heldman (Ashley's cousin), Robinson, Jenny Heldman (Ashley's aunt), Taylor Heldman (Ashley's cousin), all of Staples. All proceeds from the ornaments will go to the Robben family and expenses related to Ashley's medical situation. (Staples World photo by Dawn Timbs)



# Finding purpose

Elaine Martin of Staples had festive handmade kitchen towels for sale at the recent Craft Show in Staples. Martin shared that she'd had a very difficult year, after losing both her husband, Calvin, and their six-month-old grandson, Weston. She shared that having a craft to work on has given her a purpose in the midst of sadness. She's also grateful to have found a sense of community after moving from Pillager to her new home at the Staples Hi-Rise. (Staples World photo by Dawn Timbs)

# One-vehicle rollover in Scandia Valley Twp

The Morrison County Sheriff's Office reports that on Nov. 29, at approximately 10:57 a.m., they received a report of a one-vehicle rollover on Dove Rd. north of 340th St., about six miles southeast of Motley in Scandia Valley Township.

According to the sheriff's office, 56-year-old Stephan Umbarger of St. Cloud was traveling north on Dove Rd., going around a curve, when his vehicle lost control on the icy road surface, went into the ditch and rolled.

Umbarger was treated at the scene for minor injuries and released.

The Morrison County Sheriff's Office was assisted at the scene by the MN State Patrol, Scandia Valley Fire and Rescue, and Mayo Clinic Ambulance.

# Motley area police report

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

**Nov. 22 - 28**

Nov. 22 - Motley Police issued a citation to Jesuselvis Lopez, 21, for no MN driver's license, and for speeding.

Nov. 22 - The MPD received a report of theft at the 300 block of Cedar St. E., Motley.

Nov. 22 - The MPD received a report of theft at the 200 block of 3rd Ave. S., Motley.

Nov. 22 - The MPD received a report from the Holiday Station in Motley, regarding a vehicle that had been parked at the gas pumps for over two hours. Law enforcement responded and found a person sleeping in the vehicle.

Nov. 27 - A Morrison County deputy issued a citation to Wayne Kludt, 52, for driving after revocation.

Nov. 26 - The MCSO received a report of suspicious activity at Beaver Rd., Cushing.

Nov. 25 - A Morrison County deputy issued a citation to Hannah Hendrickson, 31, for driving after revocation and no insurance.



Snowmobile
**Safety**

Beware of power poles and the wires that hold them in place

**SHARE THIS IMPORTANT INFORMATION** with family, friends and anyone you know who rides a snowmobile.

**SNOWMOBILING** underneath power lines can be dangerous. Keep these tips in mind this winter.

- Watch out for power poles and electrical equipment that can be hidden in the snow.
- Slow down, know the area and stay on marked trails.
- Power poles are often anchored with wires extending out from the pole. Avoid snowmobiling directly next to or underneath power lines.
- If you see a downed power line, stay away from it and call 911 to report it. Always assume it is live and can carry currents strong enough to kill.

**Great River Energy—Powering what's possible**

Agralite Electric Cooperative • Arrowhead Cooperative, Inc. • BENCO Electric Cooperative • Brown County Rural Electrical Association • Cooperative Light & Power • Crow Wing Power • Dakota Electric Association • East Central Energy • Federated Rural Electric Association • Goodhue County Cooperative Electric Association • Itasca-Mantrap Cooperative Electrical Association • Kandiyohi Power Cooperative • Lake Country Power • Lake Region Electric Cooperative • McLeod Cooperative Power Association • Meeker Cooperative • Mille Lacs Energy Cooperative • Minnesota Valley Electric Cooperative • Nobles Cooperative Electric • North Itasca Electric Cooperative, Inc. • Redwood Electric Cooperative • Runestone Electric Association • South Central Electric Association • Stearns Electric Association • Steele-Waseca Cooperative Electric • Todd-Wadena Electric Cooperative • Wright-Hennepin Cooperative Electric Association

GREAT RIVER ENERGY™

**greatriverenergy.com**



# Warmer weather allowed for outdoor work

Temperatures in the 50s and 60s in recent weeks, allowed people to work on outdoor projects longer than usual. Above: Lori Johnson (right) was happy to have new grass seed put in at her home along 1st Ave SW in Staples Nov. 16, and noted that a new sidewalk would be put in as well. At left is Craig Noska, of Noska Plumbing & Heating, Browerville, whose company installed a new water and sewer service at Johnson's residence.

Below: Crew members from Terrene Development of Grand Rapids were at work on the concrete base of the new Essentia Health St. Joseph's Clinic and drive-thru pharmacy in Staples Nov. 16. One worker commented that the warmer temps during the past week enabled them to pour concrete at this late date, which they were grateful for. Located at 301 2nd Ave. NW, near the Airport Road overpass, the clinic (which will offer orthopedic care) is expected to open in early 2024. Hy-Tec Construction of Brainerd is the project's general contractor. (Staples World photos by Dawn Timbs)



Thank you for reading the **Staples World**

## Veterans Park Board seeks volunteer

The Staples All Veterans and Community Park Board is seeking a volunteer member. If interested in serving on the board, contact Huck Holst at 218-296-2469.

# Staples Police report

Recent reports from the Staples Police Dept. include the following:

Nov. 20, Police were notified that a student had been communicating with a subject online and that he said he was going to blow up a house and provided the address. The reporting party had already contacted the local jurisdiction in the state that it was reported that the threat was made, and provided law enforcement with all of the details. Police later spoke to an officer from the jurisdiction who said it appears to be a social media hoax, but they were watching the residence and were aware of the report.

Nov. 21, Staples Police assisted MN State Patrol and Staples Fire Dept. with a fire near the intersection of Hwy 10 and Cty Rd. 83. The fire originated from a pickup truck pulling a trailer full of hay bales.

Nov. 22, at 6:56 a.m., Staples Police assisted the Staples Fire Dept. with hay bales that flared back up from the night before.

Nov. 22, Staples Police received a report of two separate attempted to break ins at Lefty's.

Nov. 22, Staples Police took a report of theft of catalytic converters that have taken place of the last couple of weeks.

Nov. 22, Staples Police were informed approximately 30 cars were parked along Thunder Road to watch a moose. Police checked the area to see if it was a traffic hazard. Most of the cars had left prior to police arriving in the area.

Nov. 25, at 5:15 a.m., Staples Police responded to the train depot for a report of an unwanted subject on the Amtrak, who did not have a ticket. Police met with the subject and the conductor who had exited the train. Police arranged for the subject to get a ride out of the city.

Nov. 25, Staples Police Police responded to the 900 block of 8th St. NE for a report of an assault.

Nov. 25, Staples Police responded to Holiday Station for a report of a lost and possibly stolen wallet. Police had a good Samaritan who turned in the wallet but the money from the wallet was missing. Police verified that the complainant didn't travel the road where the wallet was found. Police began to review security footage and found that the wallet was set on the complainant's trunk and it fell off while pulling out of the parking lot. Police then saw a subject pull up to the wallet and pick it up. Police made contact with the suspects who admitted to taking the money out of the wallet and disposing of it where it was found. The subjects provided police with the money, which was returned to the owner. The owner declined prosecution. Police advised both subjects of possible ramifications of.

Nov. 25, at 7:18 p.m., Staples Police and the Todd County Sheriff's Dept. responded to a report of gun shots west of Staples. Officers checked the area but didn't locate anything suspicious.

# Court report Nov. 29

**Long Prairie Police Department**

Rachell Esmeralda Rosario, Long Prairie. Driving after revocation. Fine $200. Fee $85.

Chrystal Lee Rowland, Cushing. Driver fails to stop for stop sign. Fine $50. Fee $75.

Fernando Jose Santana Rosario, Long Prairie. Driving without a valid license for vehicle class or type. Fine $100. Fee $85.

**Minnesota Department of Natural Resources**

Michael Wally Anderson, Cushing. ER Big Game- fail to validate deer license/tag. Fine $25. Fee $85.

Mark Anthony Buhl, Eagle Bend. Fish and Game- possess rifle in shotgun zone or possess slugs in open zone. Fine $200. Fee $85.

Douglas Edward Kuenn, Hackensack. Fail to display ATV registration/decal as required. Fine $25. Fee $85.

Larry James Lenk, Browerville. Big Game- fail to register deer as required. Fine $100. Fee $85.

Lawerence Joseph Lenk, Hoyt Lakes. Deer Hunting- may not hunt with aid or use of bait. Fine $300. Fee $85.

Anthony John Payne, Browerville. Wildlife Management Area- abandon trash or property in WMA; property unattended overnight. Fine $50. Fee $85.

Ricardo Manuel Valencia, Big Lake. Fish and Game- untagged big game animal. Fine $100. Fee $85.

Richard Robert Welters, Long Prairie. Hunting-Transportation of Firearms- loaded firearm. Fine $100. Fee $85.

**Minnesota State Patrol**

Terri Lee Bendix, Bemidji. Duty to drive with due care. Dismissed.

Michael Ron Ploeger, Andover. Speed 75/65. Continued for dismissal. Unsupervised monitoring without conviction, six months.

Peter Leonard Anthony, Cold Spring. Speed 74/60. Fine $50. Fee $85.

Orlando Jose Arana Lagos, Sauk Centre. Speed 70/60. Fine $40. Fee $85.

Daniel Michael Boedigheimer, Litchfield. Speed 70/60. Fine $40. Fee $85.

Nuvia Esmeralda Botello, Melrose. Window tint less than 50 percent light transmittance. Fine $50. Fee $85.

Christopher Teo Del La Cruz Santos, Long Prairie. Speed 80/60. Fine $70. Fee $155. No Minnesota Driver's License. Fine $100. No proof of motor vehicle insurance. Fine $200.

Jonathan Thomas Gonzalez Ortiz, Long Prairie. Driving after revocation. Fine $200. Fee $85.

Fidel Isaa Gonzalez-Kjedergaard, Sauk Centre. Speed 73/60. Fine $50. Fee $85. Driving after suspension. Fine $200. No proof of motor vehicle insurance. Fine $200.

Fanchion Marie Guderian, Morris. Speed 74/60. Fine $50. Fee $85.

Chandler Brooks Hess Kor, Burtrum. Speed 70/60. Fine $40. Fee $85.

Carter David Holm, Alexandria. Speed 82/70. Fine $50. Fee $85.

Mariah Amelia Kettler, Maple Grove. Speed 80/70. Fine $40. Fee $85.

Leslie Marie Knoblauch, Eagle Bend. Speed 65/55. Fine $40. Fee $85.

Dru Allen Mossberger-Parker, Bay City, Mich. Speed 97/70. Fine $100. Fee $185.

Anthony Edward Pistachio, Brainerd. Speed 70/60. Fine $40. Fee $85.

Mayra Ramirez Martinez, Orange Cove, Calif. Speed 75/60. Fine $60. Fee $85.

Marlon Gerald Schneider, Randall. Expired registration. Fine $30. Fee $85.

Ian Patrick Stanton, Northfield. Speed 84/70. Fine $50. Fee $85.

**Todd County Sheriff's Office**

John Jonas Hershberger, Bertha. Failure to obtain a burning permit. Fine $50. Fee $85.

Chet Ryan Porter, Long Prairie. Driver must carry proof of insurance when operating vehicle. Fine $200. Fee $85.

Nehomar Alejandro Rodriguez Claudio, Browerville. Driving without a valid license for vehicle class or type. Fine $100. Fee $85.

**The following cases were heard before Judge Leonard A. Weiler in Seventh District Court in Todd County Nov. 20, 2023.**

Gary Allen Glockzin Jr., Grey Eagle. Third Degree DWI- refuse to submit to chemical test; breath or test refusal or failure. Dismissed. Fourth Degree DWI- operate motor vehicle under influence of alcohol. Sentenced. Fine $1,000. Fee totals $575. Local confinement 90 days. Stay 90 days for two years. Supervised probation, two years.

Felix Chritopher Lopez, Hewitt. Fourth Degree DWI- operate motor vehicle- alcohol concentration 0.08 within two hours. Sentenced. Local confinement 90 days. Stay 90 days for two years. Supervised probation, two years. Fine $1,000. Stay $600 for two years. Fee total $105. Third Degree DWI- commercial motor vehicle- alcohol concentration 0.04 within two hours. Dismissed.

**The following cases were heard before Judge Leonard A. Weiler in Seventh District Court in Todd County Nov. 21, 2023.**

Carlos Antonio Souffront, Long Prairie. Drive without a valid license for vehicle class/type. Sentenced. Fine $1,000. Stay $950 until Nov. 21, 2024. Fee totals $125. Local confinement 90 days. Stay 90 days for one year. Supervised probation, one year. Criminal damage to property in the fourth degree. Dismissed. Leave scene- private property damage accident. Dismissed. Reckless driving. Dismissed.

## Looking back

### 75 Years Ago - 1948

• Dec. 2, 1948 - James Randgaard, owner of the New Staples Theatre, has received advanced information that the newsreel shots of the Minnesota Lakers basketball team playing the New York Knickerbockers at Madison Square Garden will be shown in the Staples theatre on Friday and Saturday, Dec. 3 and 4.

• Dec. 2, 1948 - Mrs. Homer Green is wearing a bandage around her right hand the past week or so as the result

- o -
*Compiled by*
**Dawn Timbs**
- o -

of an accident she suffered Saturday evening, Nov. 27, while doing shopping about 8:30 o'clock in the evening.

The index finger of her right hand became caught in a door of one of the business places and was badly smashed with the result that the finger had to be amputated just below the first joint.

• Dec. 2, 1948 - Final rehearsals are being put on the annual junior class play of the Staples high school class this week, in preparation for the presentation of the three act comedy on Dec. 8.

"A Date With Judy' is the title of the play chosen by the class this year, and Miss Balmy Stapher is cast in the title role, and according to observees, is doing a mighty fine job in her part. Supporting Miss Stapher in this title role are Oogie Pringle, played by Gerald Sanger, and Mr. and Mrs. Melvin Foster, played by Ralph Kubitza and Leatrice Tyrrell, respectively.

• Dec. 2, 1948 - Rev. Raymond Ewing, for the past three years field superintendent of the Congregational Churches of Minnesota, who has had his residence in Staples, was unanimously elected, and issued a call to become pastor to the First Congregational church of Staples, starting Jan. 1, 1949.

Rev Ewing has a splendid background for the ministry, and has been working in this field for many years. Mr. and Mrs. Ewing have a son James, who is a student at Carleton college at Northfield, and a daughter, Mara Ada, who is teaching school with her husband in the Twin Cities.

• Dec. 2, 1948 - A mammoth egg was brought in to The World office Nov. 30, by Mr. and Mrs. Reinhold Krueger of Motley.

The egg was laid by an Austra White hen and weighs 5 ounces. It has an oblong circumference of 8 3/4 inches, and a regular circumference of 7 inches. This is one of the largest eggs that has been brought to The World office in some time.

### 50 Years Ago - 1973

• Dec. 6, 1973 - The members of the Monday night bridge club spent an enjoyable evening at the home of Mrs. Wayne Bramer Nov. 26. Prize winners for the evening were Mrs. Dorothy Anglin - high. Mrs. Audrey Finn - second high, Mrs. Marge Westin - low. Floating prizes were won by Mrs. Wanda Westin, Mrs. Gladys Roberts, Mrs. Joann Wilkowski and Mrs. Doreen Scott. Mrs. Bramer served a delicious lunch at the close of the evening.

Mrs. Russ Dahl entertained her bridge club Nov. 28th. Prize winners of the evening were Bonnie Grossman, Ann Sadusky, Nancy Hess and Virginia Mueller.

• Dec. 6, 1973 - Thirty-five years ago, the Staples Lions Club was organized and today, nine original charter members still maintain their membership in the organization. They include Lawrence J. Huff, Wendell E. Stone, Lloyd Sapp, K. R. Johnson, Helmer Thompson, L. W. Harter, Gordon Scharf, K. T. Barrett, and Carl LaBonte.

• Dec. 6, 1973 - Tuesday, Dec. 11, the qualified voters of the Motley School District No. 483 will be going to the polls to cast their ballot of whether or not a new high school should be built in that district.

• Dec. 6, 1973 - An announcement was made this week to the effect that the Hoemberg building, located on the corner of Fourth Street North and Highway No. 10, was sold.

Purchasing the building was Mrs. Don Stern from the owners, Mrs. Norman Wilhelmson, Mrs. Larry Dyer, Miss Betty Hoemberg, Mrs. George Suddendorf and Mrs. Jerome Gibney.

In recent years, the building was occupied by the C. R. Anthony company until they closed their business in this city about a year ago.

Mrs. Stern told The World that she will be opening a ladies' ready-to-wear and sportswear business in that building, which will also include a department for junior Miss.

### 25 Years Ago - 1998

• Dec. 3, 1998 - Letter to the Editor: I am writing as a member of the trio "Company B" who performed "A Salute to Veterans" on Nov. 14, in your Centennial Auditorium.

For such a small town community to have an auditorium of that quality is truly a feat. The people involved and all the special touches, from helping us haul equipment, to well-trained students running spot lights (thanks Naomi and John), to having food and beverages waiting in our dressing room, were examples of big-city sophistication and professionalism wrapped up in small-town warmth. What a class act.

Stan Carlson and Margo Hoemberg are gems. Your town is very lucky to have them and the rest of your volunteers who so obviously have put enormous time and love into this effort.

God Bless America, and with a special hug for Staples.

Suzanne Dustrude Starr, "Company B", Hibbing, Minn.

• Dec. 3, 1998 - Cara Newberry, age seven, a first grader at Staples Elementary this year, is a semi-finalist in the Children's Creative Writing Campaign (CCWC) for 1997-98. CCWC is an in-school literacy incentive program focusing on story telling.

Newberry wrote her story, "The Cat Ghost" when she was in Ms. Hoggan's Kindergarten class last school year.

"I thought about my dog and my toy cat," said Newberry on how she came up with her story idea.

"I didn't think Cat-Dog Ghost sounded very good. Dog Ghost didn't fit. Cat Ghost sounded better," she said.

• Dec. 3, 1998 - Staples Motley's Sarah Bach and Jill Mertens were named to the All Sub Section 24 volleyball team.

• Dec. 3, 1998 - Leader native Kelly J. Boldan has been named editor of The Bemidji Pioneer, the newspaper's publisher, Omar Forberg, announced Nov. 15. Boldan attended school in Leader country school and graduated in 1975 from Motley High School. He received his associate degree in 1977 from the University of Minnesota Crookston, majoring in rural communications. He went on to earn his bachelor's degre from the University of Wisconsin-River Falls, and a master's degree from the University of St. Thomas in St. Paul.

### 10 Years Ago - 2013

• Dec. 5, 2013 - The Staples Area Men's Chorus (SAMC), working in collaboration with seven other area music groups, will perform Antonio Vivaldi's 'Gloria!' at four locations Dec. 14 and 15.

A combined orchestral and choral group will feature approximately 200 singers and 50 orchestra members.



## Mystery photo

Hello readers. This week's archive photo is from 1998. 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.



## Mystery solved

Last week's mystery photo published in the May 9, 1991 edition of the Staples World featured members of the 'Exploring Culture' class displaying their stained glass mobile they constructed under the guidance of Mary Schultz. Included in the group are Tricia Schornack, Jamie Dolezal, Aaron Fuller, Megan Beaman, Jeff Brotherton and Amos Self.

**BUDGET** continued from page 1a

## *Residential property taxes go up*

sand on city streets. Nelsen and Public Works Director Scott Grabe said they are expecting to reduce that cost to around $3,000 with a new system to treat the salt and make it last longer.

Case said he has heard several people complain about their property taxes going up and asked if there was anything else the city could do to reduce their budget. He didn't give any suggestions on where to cut.

Nelsen said part of the increase in property taxes is because the housing market went up but the commercial property rate stayed flat. That puts more of the tax burden onto residential properties.

"If the city doesn't increase the levy, the residential portion will still be more," he said.



Steve's Auto Salvage & G&L Service
•Tires (New & Used)
•Tubes •Belts
•AG Tires •Bulbs •Oil •Antifreeze
•Used Auto Parts
218-445-6885 • Located in Verndale at Steve's Auto





# Make an impact, shop locally for the holidays

By Luis Franco
Center For Rural Affairs

The holiday season is upon us and it comes with great news.

According to a Gallup survey, 74 percent of holiday shoppers said they expect to pay about the same amount or more on holiday gifts this year compared to last. Moreover, 23 percent of shoppers said they choose one retailer over another because they want to support small and local businesses in their community.

Small businesses are essential to rural America. When buying from local small businesses, you're supporting your community in more ways than one. The money you spend stays in the community, which supports other businesses, helps create jobs, drives economic growth and contributes to the area's overall well-being.

Consider the environmental impact of avoiding long-distance trips to purchase gifts, not to mention the opportunity to build meaningful relationships with local entrepreneurs.

Local businesses often prioritize providing a positive customer experience, as they rely on word-of-mouth referrals and repeat business to stay afloat. With greater attention to detail, a willingness to go above and beyond and a focus on creating a welcoming and friendly environment, small businesses can make holiday shopping a breeze.

As you plan your gift-giving this holiday season, think about your community. Get out and explore the local shops, look for pop-up events such as craft shows and holiday markets and read your local newspaper and scroll through social media as many entrepreneurs take to the platforms to advertise their goods.

The gifts you purchase this holiday season will not only make your friends and family feel loved, they will empower your community. Where you spend your money today could determine what your community looks like a year or even five years from now.

Small entrepreneurs and business owners have been working hard to prepare for the holiday season. Now, it's time to do your part.

Quote of the week

"How did it get so late so soon? It's night before it's afternoon. December is here before it's June. My goodness how the time has flewn. How did it get so late so soon?"
— Dr. Seuss

# Letter from Rep. Stauber to U.S. postmaster

Dear Postmaster General DeJoy:

I write to you with grave concern and urgency regarding the United States Postal Service's operations within the Minnesota-North Dakota Region. The information I have received from rural carriers and elected officials in northern Minnesota is distressing and demands immediate attention.

The welfare of our constituents and the integrity of postal service operations are of utmost importance. Reports of alleged prioritization of certain third-party packages over essential mail, such as medications, bills, and paychecks, are of serious concern. Moreover, the reports of employees working without adequate benefits and fair compensation are deeply troubling.1 Our dedicated postal workers deserve better treatment and fair employment conditions as they tirelessly serve our communities.

Furthermore, recent legislation, notably the Inflation Reduction Act of 2022, earmarks a significant allocation of nearly 3 billion dollars for the procurement of the next generation of USPS vehicles. The contract with Oshkosh Defense stipulates the acquisition of 60,000 vehicles, with 45,000 designated as electric vehicles (EVs).2 I wonder whether the acquisition of electric vehicles, which are unreliable in cold weather climates like Minnesota, is the most judicious use of resources at this juncture given the financial challenges plaguing the USPS.

To address these pressing concerns and ensure transparency and fairness within USPS operations, I kindly request comprehensive information and answers on the following:

1. Clarification regarding the alleged prioritization of third-party packages over essential items like bills and medications within the Minnesota-North Dakota region.

2. Details regarding sick leave policies for USPS workers, including any reported instances of employees being compelled to work without proper sick leave.

3. Information about the wage structure and working hours of USPS employees in the Minnesota-North Dakota region, specifically addressing any concerns of full-time work on part-time pay.

4. Outline the specific strategies and initiatives employed by USPS to attract and retain personnel during peak season.

5. What staffing benchmarks are necessary to effectively manage the heightened demands of the peak season in the Minnesota-North Dakota region, and what are the current staffing levels?

6. What measures are being implemented to rectify reported issues surrounding working conditions within USPS facilities?

7. Would redirection of the Inflation Reduction Act funds for electric vehicle acquisition toward bolstering staffing levels and enhancing employee benefits align more effectively with the immediate needs of the USPS workforce and the communities they serve?

The gravity of these allegations necessitates immediate action and transparency. Constituents rely on the USPS for vital services, and their trust must not be compromised.

I respectfully request answers to these concerns by December 4, 2023, and the residents of the Minnesota 8th District and I eagerly await swift action to address these troubling matters.

Thank you for your attention to this critical issue. Sincerely,

Pete Stauber
Member of Congress
Minnesota's Eighth
Congressional District

# What's too cold for outdoor animals?

Submitted by the Animal Humane Society

When Animal Humane Society (AHS) agents get calls from the public about animal cruelty, you may be surprised why most people call them. No, it's not a broken leg or signs of physical abuse, it's cold weather. Every year our agents are flooded with calls about dogs and cats outdoors during the cold, wintry months.

When it comes to cold weather animal reports, it's important to gather specific information about the animal to help our humane agents conduct the most thorough investigation.

Here's what you should consider:

What breed is the animal and how old is it? Elderly and thin-coated animals are more susceptible to cold weather.

What does the animal look like? Are the hips and rib bones very prominent or visible? Does it have any sores or missing fur? Are its ears, tail tips, or paw pads frostbitten?

How is the animal acting? Are they active, or are they shivering or lethargic? Shivering and lethargy could be indications of hypothermia.

Is the animal being fed and watered appropriately and consistently? Is the water clean and unfrozen?

**Shelter**

Outside animals that are subject to cold weather conditions that affect their health or welfare must have access to appropriate shelter. Shelters don't have to be heated, but they must:

• Be moisture proof and windproof. The shelter must be durable with no holes in the roof or sides. A tarp is not sufficient.

• Be of suitable size to accommodate the animal. It must allow for retention of body heat. For example, an unheated garage may not be adequate shelter as it may be too big to allow the animal to retain their body heat. The exception is that outdoor farm dogs may be provided access to a barn, if there is sufficient loose hay or bedding for protection.

• Have a windbreak between Nov. 1 and March 31, and the animal must be provided with enough bedding, such as hay, straw, cedar shavings, blankets, etc., to provide insulation and retain body heat.

Minnesota does not have tethering laws so an animal may be tied out. However, animals that are tied out must be free from entanglement or injury from the collar or tie out cord/chain.

Lastly, animals should never be left in unoccupied vehicles when adverse weather conditions could affect their health or welfare. For example, a dog cannot be left unattended in a vehicle where there is danger of hypothermia or freezing.

If you find an animal in conditions that appear questionable, please contact your animal control division or AHS humane agents for assistance.

# We can fix our broken politics

By Lee H. Hamilton

Americans are fed up with politics. That's the obvious conclusion of a recent survey by the Pew Research Center, which found many of us have "unrelentingly negative" views of politics and elected officials.

It's understandable that people are discouraged. There are plenty of reasons to feel that way. I'm not especially alarmed at the findings of the survey, however. The key thing is that we maintain an interest in improving our broken politics. That's critically important.

If the American people were to get so turned off by politics that they refuse to participate, that would be a real problem for our democracy. Fortunately, there's evidence that we haven't reached that point.

Americans have long had a healthy skepticism about political power and those who wield it, but the Pew survey suggests distrust has reached new heights. Some 65% of those questioned said thinking about politics left them exhausted. More than half said it made them angry. Only a few said it made them hopeful or excited.

Asked to describe U.S. politics in one word, many came up with "divisive," "corrupt" or "chaotic." Asked to identify the strong points of our politics, more than half couldn't come up with anything.

It's obvious that our politics are going through a difficult time. Congress seems dysfunctional, struggling to pass spending bills to keep the government operating. A single senator has blocked promotions for hundreds of military officers. Election campaigns are filled with personal attacks. Divisions threaten our support for allies, including Ukraine, a rejection of the adage that politics stops at the water's edge.

Partisanship has reached new heights, with Democrats and Republicans seeming to inhabit separate worlds. The one thing both sides agree on is that our politics aren't working.

Dissatisfaction with politics crosses political, social and demographic lines, according to the Pew survey. It is shared by White, Black, Asian and Hispanic adults. It affects old people as well as young people.

Nearly nine out of 10 Americans say politicians are more focused on fighting each other than on solving problems. Some 28 percent distrust both major parties, the highest figure in nearly 30 years. It's common to hear people say that neither party cares about ordinary people. Americans distrust the executive and legislative branches of government, and a majority have a dim view of the Supreme Court.

Americans are rightly suspicious of the growing role that money plays in politics. About 85 percent said that the cost of election campaigns keeps good candidates from running and that special interests have too much influence on politicians. Only about a quarter of the people rate the quality of political candidates as very or somewhat good, down 20 percentage points in the past five years.

You might expect this distrust and discouragement would cause Americans to disengage from politics. Fortunately, that doesn't seem to be happening.

The elections of 2018, 2020 and 2022 featured some of the highest voter turnout rates in decades. About two-thirds of eligible adults voted in 2020, the highest rate for a national election since 1900. Those are very encouraging signs.

And the public has ideas for improving our politics. In the Pew survey, majorities favored limits on campaign contributions and spending. The survey found broad support for term limits on members of Congress and for age limits on elected and appointed officials, including Supreme Court justices. Elections this month in Kentucky, Ohio and Virginia drew strong interest and participation. In another hopeful sign, more young people have been running for office – and often winning.

We Americans have always been an optimistic and forward-looking people, confident in our ability to solve problems and make progress. We're right to be unhappy with the condition of our politics, but we have the power and the ability to make our politics better.

From the Hamilton Lugar School of Global & International Studies at Indiana University

# There is help for winter seasonal depression

Seasonal affective disorder (SAD) is a type of depression that's related to changes in seasons — SAD begins and ends at about the same times every year. If you're like most people with SAD, your symptoms start in the fall and continue into the winter months, sapping your energy and making you feel moody. These symptoms often resolve during the spring and summer months.

Signs and symptoms of SAD may include:

• Feeling listless, sad or down most of the day, nearly every day

• Losing interest in activities you once enjoyed

• Having low energy and feeling sluggish

• Having problems with sleeping too much

• Experiencing carbohydrate cravings, overeating and weight gain

• Having difficulty concentrating

**What can help?**

• Make your environment sunnier and brighter.

• Getting outside and exercising regularly.

• Normalize sleep patterns.

**Where to find help:**

• 988 National Suicide & Crisis line: Call or text 988

• Central MN Crisis Line & Referral Service: 218-828-HELP (4357) or 800-462-5525

• Crisis Text Line: is available for free, 24/7 by texting MN to 741741

Source: Mayo Clinic, https://www.mayoclinic.org/diseases-conditions/seasonal-affective-disorder/symptoms-causes/syc-20364651

Submitted by Todd County Health and Human Services

Staples World

Established in 1890. USPS 518-760
©2023 RMM Publications
Published Wednesdays by RMM Publications
Office located at 224 4th Street NE
Periodicals postage paid at Staples, Minnesota 56479.

**Mailing Address: P.O. Box 100**
**Telephone: 218-894-1112 - Fax: 218-894-3570**
**Toll Free: 1-888-894-1112**
**www.staplesworld.com - E Mail: editor@staplesworld.com**
**Deadline: 12 noon, Friday**

Official Newspaper for:
City of Staples,Todd County,
Staples-Motley School District, Freshwater Ed. District
and area townships.

Publisher .....RMM Publications LLC
Owners Rick Gail, Mike Kremer, Mark Anderson
Managing Editor.....Mark Anderson editor@staplesworld.com
Advertising Rep..... editor@staplesworld.com
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

**Subscription Rates:**
*Local:* (Todd, Wadena, Morrison, Cass Counties) $53 per year
*Website:* $50 per year
*Minnesota:* $58 per year - *Out of State:* $63 per year
*Foreign:* on-line only - *Student Rate:* (Sept. through Apr./in-state) $43
**There is a $5 charge for address change from local to out-of-state.**

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

**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

"The only way for a newspaperman to look at a politician is down."
— Mark Twain

# November Storytime at the Staples Public Library

Storytime fun at the Staples Public Library included making turkey pictures as the Thanksgiving craft. Sign up for next month's Storytime events Dec. 9 and Dec. 20 by calling the library at 218-894-1401.

Pictured at right: Samuel and Alana Reigstad, Alida Hanson, Faith Frisk, Archie Hanson, AJ Biggar, Ella, Niya and Malakhi Doss, Ray Biggar. (Submitted photo)



# Mark Your Calendar

## December 7

**'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

## December 8

**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.

## December 11

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

## December 12

**Experience Strength And Hope AA group Mtgs In Staples** are held at the Staples Congregational Church, 204 5th St. NE, Tuesdays at 7 p.m. For info., call Dan at 218-640-7228.

**'GriefShare' Grief Support Group** is held on Tuesdays from 6 - 8 p.m., at Motley Free Methodist Church, through Dec. 12. For more information, call 218-352-6888.

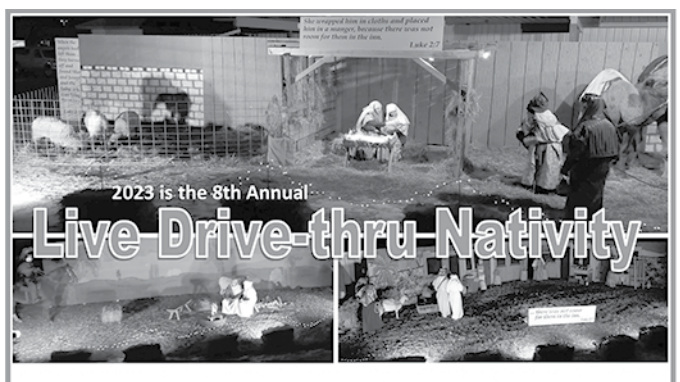
# Cardinal Calendar

*Staples-Motley School events*

## December

- **Middle School Music Concert** Dec. 14, 6 p.m.
- **High School Music Concert** Dec. 19, 7 p.m.
- **Winter Break - No School** Dec. 25 - Jan. 1

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


Friday and Saturday, December 8-9
*(notice new days!)* 6:00-8:30 p.m.

** Cass County Fairgrounds in Pillager

Complete Christmas story portrayed in live drama.
- Come anytime between 6:00-8:30. The time it takes to drive through the Nativity depends on the traffic, approximately 10-15 minutes.

You NEVER leave the car ... bring the whole family.
- *Watch for traffic signs.*

FREE admission (A donation bucket will be available at the end.)

Featuring live animals
- including camels, horses, sheep, and donkeys.

Sponsored by Casino Assembly of God of Pillager
Involvement from over 15 area churches.

Call Sue Van Hal for more information or if you wish to participate (218) 821-2276
Financial donations and sponsorship accepted.





# LUNCH with Santa

**Saturday, Dec. 9**

**11 a.m.-1 p.m.**

**Motley City Hall**

316 Highway 10 S, Motley

*Sponsored by the Motley Lions.*

w49-50c






Staples World

**DEADLINES**

**Newspaper deadline for copy and advertising: 12 noon Fridays**


# 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:
Teen Youth/Adults Bible Study .....7-8 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 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.

**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**
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.

### 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 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 Classses .....11-11:45 a.m.

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

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

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

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

**Central 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.

### Leaf River Township

**The Old Country Church**
Leaf River Twp., Wadena County Rd. 6
Info. 218-837-5690 Call first.
Sunday Service ..... 10 a.m.

w50c

# Grace and Mercy

*Pastor Chris Mathiason, Faith Lutheran Church, Staples*

Do you like to wait? I think the most common answer is "No, of course not, I don't like to wait!" We live in a time when we can get what we want and get it quickly. Overnight shipping from FedEx or UPS. Movies on demand from the cable company. Prime shipping from Amazon. We like to get our stuff and get it now.

On Sunday December 3, many Christian churches start the season of Advent. It is a time of waiting. A season where we wait to celebrate Jesus' birth, but also a time where we wait and prepare for Jesus' return in power and might.

Because the world doesn't like to wait. The world tells us to celebrate Christmas right now. This year the Black Friday sales didn't wait, instead the sales started before Thanksgiving. Christmas decorations were on the shelves right after Halloween.

What is the point of waiting? Well, waiting gives us time to get ready. Waiting makes us slow down and not rush. And sometimes waiting is just what we need to do.

This year as we prepare to celebrate the birth of Jesus, I hope you can join us for worship at Faith, as we join together to give thanks for our King. We also look with hope for Jesus' return when all things will be made new. As we wait, we who believe are called to be part of God's redeeming work in the world. As last week's reading reminded us, we are called to feed the hungry, clothe the naked and give shelter to those with our homes. Those are things we can work on to do anytime of year.

***I wish you a Blessed Advent and Merry Christmas.***


**The Staples area Church Directory is sponsored by these area businesses:**

**Longbella Drug Store**
*"The Prescription Store"*
2nd Ave., Staples • 218-894-2242
Motley and Pillager

**Ernie's Food Market**
*Groceries - Gas - Convenience - more*
Staples, MN 218-894-1072

**Staples Veterinary Clinic**
*"Complete Animal Care"*
Staples, MN 218-894-1775

**Staples True Value**
***"Just Ask Rental"***
Open 7 days a week.
Staples, MN 218-894-3263

**Central Building Supply**
Hwy. 10 West, Staples, MN
218-894-3794

**Staples World**
*Your community newspaper since 1890*
224 4th St. NE, Staples, MN
218-894-1112

**Tower Pizza**
*Pizza, Pasta, Salads, Sandwiches*
Staples, MN 218-894-3299


*The Church Directory is supported by the advertisers listed above and the Ministerial Association.*

***To update your church information or to advertise on the Church Directory, email: jwinter@staplesworld.com. or call 218-894-1112. As always, continue to email your Ministerial pastoral message or advertisement to: jwinter@staplesworld.com**

# Obituaries

## Thomas O'Neill



Thomas James O'Neill, 68, Beltrami, passed away peacefully, November 12, 2023, surrounded by his family.

Graveside services are pending at the time.

Born in Wadena, Tom grew up and attended parochial schools in Staples. Following his high school graduation, Tom enlisted in the United States Navy and at times, would share stories of his service aboard the USS Forrestal. Upon his honorable discharge from the navy, Tom attended and graduated from the University of Minnesota, Crookston, with degrees in Business and Hotel/Restaurant Management.

In 1976, he met Chrys who was teaching in Staples at the time. They were married the day after Christmas in 1977.

After receiving his degrees, Tom joined North Central Food Systems and within a few years, became a regional director for the company. Tom and his family lived in Jamestown, ND, Crookston, Glendive, MT, Grand Forks, ND and New London and in 2013, retired to Beltrami.

Family meant everything to Tom and his most cherished moments were those spent with them. When Tom was no longer able to work, he exercised his proficient artistic skills, painting commissioned works in the mediums of watercolors, oils, pastels and chalk. His family is blessed to have many of his works.

Tom is survived by his wife of 46 years, Chrys; one son, Jared; daughter-in-law, Jeanna and the apple of his eye, granddaughter, Elaina.

He and his son, Jordan, were great friends and Jordan became his nighttime caregiver. Tom and his furry friend, Henry the dachshund, were friends and foes all at the same time.

Tom is survived by one sister, Karen Johnson, and her family, Stephanie, (Brandon), Darrin and Natalie; god-daughter, Jennifer (Matt) Marley and Faye and Nicholas (Kendra) Reagan, Adalynn and Camden.

Tom had a close relationship with his brother-in-law, Bruce (Bev) Stromstad and his nephew, Kyle Stromstad and his children, Kylee and Dillion. Survivors include one godson, Austin Haugen, (Erin) Charlie, Teddy, and Alice; one brother-in-law, Dan (Karen) Haugen and sister-in-law, Becky Scott.

He is preceded in death by his grandfather, Thomas Conlin; his beloved' grandmother, Louise Thorn; parents, John and Doreen Scott; one brother, Steve Scott; one aunt, Pam Sather; in-laws, Walter and Charlene Stromstad; sister-in-law, Cathy Haugen and his nephew, Kory Stromstad.

Blessed be the memory of "Tommy Two-Shoes," his pet name.

View our guestbook and share condolences online at www.eriksonvikfh.com.

Arrangements with Erikson-Vik-Ganje Funeral Home Fertile.

w50c A00006B2023DC06

## Gary Schwanke



Gary R. Schwanke, 72, of Staples, passed away November 22, 2023, at the Lakewood Health System Hospital, Staples.

Graveside services were held November 27 at the Minnesota State Veterans Cemetery, Little Falls. Memorial services were held Nov. 28 at Faith Lutheran Church in Staples

Gary was born May 7, 1951 to Raymond and Jeanette (Copley) Schwanke in Minneapolis. He grew up on the family farm west of Randall. While growing up Gary enjoyed helping on the family farm. He enlisted in the U.S. Navy and served overseas for four years until he was honorably discharged. Gary was an avid outdoorsman who enjoyed hunting and fishing. He was also an animal lover who enjoyed the company of his pets. Gary was a faithful member of Faith Lutheran Church in Staples.

He is survived by two sons, Jacob Schwanke and Jeremiah Schwanke; two daughters, Collette Eastman and Claudette Schwanke; one sister, Cindy Lange; on brother, Terry Schwanke and several grandchildren.

Gary was preceded in death by his parents.

Arrangements were by the Shelley Funeral Chapel in Little Falls.

w50c A00006B2023DC06

## Kraig Kruse



Kraig Lewis Kruse, 56, passed away November 30, 2023, at Lakewood Health Care Center in Staples.

A private ceremony will be held at a later date.

He was born July 23, 1967 at St. John's Hospital in Browerville. After graduating high school, he went on to own and operate Kruse Dairy Farm until 2020. Kraig was an active member in several agricultural associations serving as president of the Nelson Creamery Board of Directors, as well as the President of Todd County's Chapter of the American Dairy Association.

In his free time, Kraig enjoyed playing volleyball, shopping on QVC and HSN or watching the game show network. If you knew Kraig, he'd make sure to give you a nickname and tell you all about his enjoyment of New Holland tractors. He was a kind and generous person who wouldn't hesitate to give you the shirt off his back.

Kraig is survived by his life partner, Teresa "Cheeks" Christensen; three sons, Willie (Sam) Kruse, Lewie (Ashley) Kruse and Ray Kruse; Teresa's son, Josiah (Olivia) Cole; three grandchildren, Elliot (Tuffy), Ava (Half-Pint) and Addie (Spirit); mother, Donna Kruse; seven siblings and many nieces and nephews.

Arrangements are by Brenny Family Funeral Chapel, Staples.

w50c A00006B2023DC06

## Carol Weber



**December 3, 1946 - November 27, 2023**

Carol Ann (Jaremba) Weber was born in Milwaukee, Wisconsin on December 3, 1946, the fourth of five children of Frank Jaremba and Sally (Szymczak) Jaremba.

After a few college dates with Rick, Carol put a note on his '63 Chevy convertible.

*"To love another in the highest sense of the word is to wish that person the eternal possession of God and lead them to it."*

With that wish they wed on April 6, 1968.

Carol graduated from Marquette University with a BS in Nursing. Later she added a Master's Degree in Pastoral Ministry from St. Mary's University.

Carol and Rick celebrated 55 years of life and marriage together. For more than 40 years they made their home on the Crow Wing River north of Staples, where they raised four children. They enjoyed wonderful friendships, family camping, travel and small town hospitality.

Carol embraced a lifelong passion for the spiritual - and practical - which she shared through leading maternity and birthing classes, Public Health nursing, individual spiritual direction, leading and serving group contemplative retreats and being a reliable friend.

Maya Angelo said, "Your legacy is every life that touched yours." Thus you are Carol's legacy. May you carry it on by being a friend and spiritual seeker. Thomas Keating said "Silence is God's first language." Carol took silence seriously.

Carol is survived by her husband, Rick; son, Erik Weber and his wife, Kristina, of Jamestown, North Dakota; daughter, Marlo Turcotte and her husband, William, of Excelsior; son, Luke Weber of New Brighton and daughter, Monica Weber and her husband, Jesse Wondra, of South St. Paul. Her beloved grandchildren are: Henrik, Oscar, Nathan, Jack, Mark, Axl and Delilah. Her sister, Christine Centner, lives in Manitowac, WI.

In lieu of flowers please give a gift to OUR LADY OF PEACE HOSPICE in St. Paul, MINNESOTA CONTEMPLATIVE OUTREACH, or the charity of your choice.

The link for the memorial service on December 18 at 10 a.m. will be published in the online version of this obituary

--Paid Advertisement-- w50p A00006B2023DC06

## Lorraine Hamberg



A life well lived, Lorraine Winnifred Hamberg went to her heavenly home on November 28, 2023, at the age of 96 to be with the love of her life, Roy.

Funeral services will be held on Saturday, December 16, 2023, at 2:00 p.m. at Faith Lutheran Church in Staples. Visitation will be held Friday, Dec. 15, from 5:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. at the Brenny Family Funeral Chapel in Staples and one hour prior to the service at the church on Saturday. Lunch will be served following the service.

Interment will be at Evergreen Hill Cemetery, Staples.

Lorraine was born September 17, 1927, to Olga and Edward Johnson in Thief River Falls. Lorraine was the second child of four. She met and fell in love with Roy at a young age as they grew up on adjacent farms and their families were close friends. They were married on September 24 , 1945 at the Halma Church Parsonage.

Lorraine and Roy had five children together, Linda, LeRoy, Mark, John and Janet. They moved several times before making their forever home in Staples in 1964. Lorraine was one of the hardest workers you will have ever met, whether it was helping in the Radiator Shop, planting or picking pickles, raising vegetables to sell or growing flowers for Hamberg's Greenhouse. Lorraine's green thumb will be remembered, she would grow the best geraniums in the state.

She was a strong and devout Christian who wouldn't miss church on Sunday and would read the Bible every day. She never had a mean word to say about anyone, she always sees best, even when you didn't deserve it. She was a go getter, not letting anything stop her. She was determined, independent and selfless. She would go without to make sure someone else had, always thinking of others.

Lorraine was an amazing cook, earning her the title of "Grandma Cook" from her great-grandchildren. Her recipes have become a coveted secret between her grandchildren and were even recorded in her handwriting for future generations to make and remember her famous potato salad, scalloped potatoes, escalloped corn and apple crisp.

She had a great love of gospel music which she would play daily as she got older. She also loved listening to the Minnesota Twins games on radio or TV.

Her love of her family was evident in her sewing and crafting. She enjoyed sewing. She sewed clothes for her family, even making special occasion dresses and a wedding dress at one time. When she was blessed with grandchildren, she would use her skills to make Barbie clothing out of whatever she had on hand.

Later in life she found joy in making quilts, embroidery pieces she would sew together and lovingly tie, gifting them to her children, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren. She wanted to make sure that everyone she loved was blessed with their own quilt.

She a skilled seamstress and crafter and found the enjoyment of hand-looming rugs. This was something she and Roy started many years ago. She continued this hobby after his passing and would travel around to shows and fairs to sell her rugs. When asked what quality her rugs were, she would reply "they wear like iron" and they did. Doing this kept her mind busy and her body active.

She is survived by four children, Leroy (Kathy) Hamberg, Mark (Anne) Hamberg, Jon (Darlys) Hamberg, Betty (Dave) Erbe; 13 grandchildren, 34 great-grandchildren and six great-great-grandchildren.

She is preceded in death by her husband Roy; two daughters, Linda (Bob) Hamilton, Janet (Jigs) Mertens and one granddaughter, Michelle Tipton.

Her final words were blessings onto everyone and hopes they find a relationship with our Heavenly Father. She truly was a selfless individual who cared more about others than herself. A true gem and there will never be another quite like Lorraine Winnifred Hamberg.

Arrangements are by Brenny Family Funeral Chapel, Staples.

w50c A00006B2023DC06

# Hello World

**Online births removed at the request of Lakewood Health System.**






## Familiar face on the sideline

Kelsie Tyrrel, left, watches her team move the ball, as Isabelle Olander looks to pass the ball inside. (Staples World photos by Mark Anderson)



## New coach for boys basketball

Coach Zack Qual speaks to the Staples-Motley boys basketball team after their win against Wadena-Deer Creek. (Staples World photos by Mark Anderson)

# New Staples-Motley basketball coaches start off with wins

Two new basketball coaches started off on the right foot, guiding the Staples-Motley girls and boys basketball teams to wins in their season openers.

### Girls basketball

Kelsie Tyrrell is the new girls head coach, after working as an assistant the past few years. She started her head coaching career with a 58-48 win at Browervlle on Nov. 28.

The Cardinals lost their second game of the season against a hot shooting Wadena-Deer Creek team, 64-30 on Nov. 30. Staples-Motley struggled to score in the first half, only getting 11 points. In the second half, five diffeent players scored but it wasn't enough to keep up.

Liv Lorber made two three point shots in the game

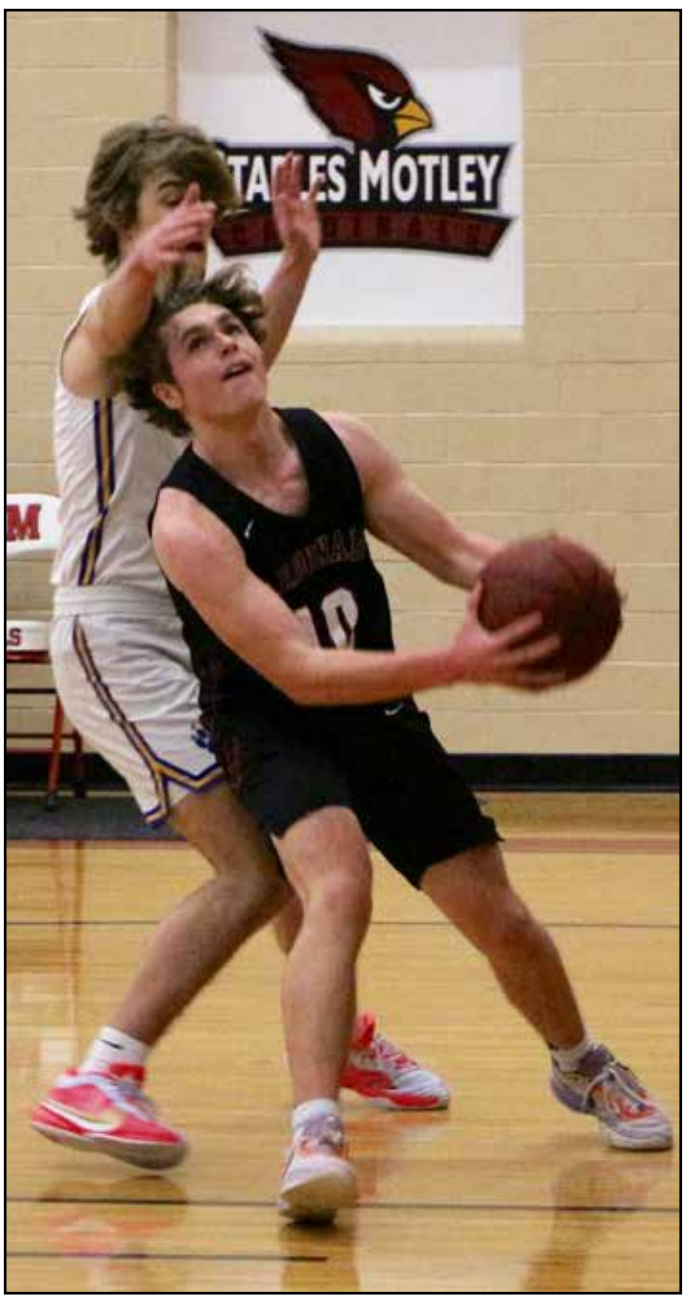
### Boys basketball

Zack Qual is in his first year at Staples-Motley. The team's first game was at home against Wadena Deer Creek. The Cardinals battled to a 33-33 tie score at halftime and went on to win 73-61.

In the first half, the Cardinals used balanced scoring to hold the lead most of the half. But turnovers and missed shots allowed WDC to tie the game by halftime.

In the second half, Staples-Motley fell behind but Eli Rutten took over on offense, hitting a three point shot and driving to the basket three times for scores, including a three point play. Rutten hit another three pointer late in the game to give the Cardinals a lead they never gave up.

This was the team's first official game with a shot clock, which came into play a few times. On defense, the Cardinals forced a shot clock violation on one occasion. As they were holding the lead in the second half, they ran up to the last few seconds several times, but twice Alex Schultz calmly drained mid-range jump shots as if the clock wasn't an issue. Schultz also hit four three pointers in the game.




Conner Kuhns looks to get to the basket.




Cami Anderson hustles for a loose ball.




Alex Schultz drives into the lane.




Eli Rutten fires a three point shot.




Pam Lawrence lines up a shot.



Grant Bestland gets a tough two in the paint.

# Services & Employment

## 205 Help Wanted

**TODD COUNTY HHS EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES:** Todd County HHS is looking for reliable, service-oriented individuals to serve the citizens of Todd County in the following positions: ****Social Worker - Child Services (full-time). **Accounting Specialist (full-time). **Paraprofessional Case Aide (full-time). **Support Enforcement Aide (full-time).** To learn more about this opening and how to apply, visit the official Todd County website at https://www.co.todd.mn.us/. Questions can be directed to Todd County Administration 320-732-6155. EOE 50c

**BJERGA FEEDS, MOTLEY.** Now hiring CDL driver. Stop in for application. 50tfc

## 208 Storage

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

## 209 Business Services

Your major appliance parts source. Parts for all major brands. One day service, **Staples True Value**, Staples. 218-894-3263. 26tfc

# For Sale

## 301 Good Things To Eat

**BURGER FOR CHRISTMAS GIFTS?** Locally grown, grass fed. 25 lbs. for $100 **--OR--** corn finished, 22 lbs. for $100. NO HORMONES or meds. Roger or Bonnie, 218-894-3275. 50-52p

# Real Estate

## 602 Apartments for Rent

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

**FRONTIER TOWNHOMES**
FOR RENTAL INFO CALL
218-296-5031
*Under new ownership*
We are accepting applications for 2 and 3 bedroom townhomes in Staples, a community you can get attached to. Rent based on income. Now professionally managed by
BRUTGER EQUITIES, INC.
*Income guidelines apply.*

**EASTWOOD APARTMENTS**
*in Motley MN.*
**is now accepting applications for FUTURE 2-3 bedroom apartments**
Laundry facilities available on site. garage included with apartment. All utilities paid. Applications are available at:
***956 Hwy 10 S., Motley***
**For information and qualifications contact Nicole at 218-751-6881**
An Equal Housing Opportunity

## 611 Wanted to Buy

**40+ ACRES** between Wadena/Pillager, with or without house, 218-831-3521. 48-50p




# Garage Sales

## 701

**MARLENE FINCK'S ANNUAL FALL, CHRISTMAS & CLEARNCE SALE!!! Weds., Dec. 6, 11 a.m.-6 p.m., Thurs., Dec. 7, CLOSED!! Fri., Dec. 8, 9 a.m.-6 p.m., Sat., Dec. 9, 9 a.m.-4 p.m.** Christmas, fall, winter, "year round" décor! Holiday/winter arrangements, floral/wreaths. Great ideas for gift giving or decorating (few small accent tables). Home of Marlene Finck (her "mini" store), 1120 6th St NE, Unit 901, Staples (Pullman Townhomes). Junction of Hwys. 10/210 stoplights, 11 blks N on 6th St. NE, east side of street, look for the WELCOME signs. 49-50p

SUBSCRIBE
Staples World
Staples World newspaper subscription rates, one year:
**Local: $53** (Todd, Wadena, Morrison, Cass counties)
**Minnesota: $58.**
**Out-of-State: $63.**
**Foreign: on-line only**
**Student Rate: $43** per school year, in-state (Sept.-April)
**On-Line: $50**
**Print with on-line: $76**
P.O. Box 100
224 4th St. NE
Staples, MN 56479
218-894-1112
www.staplesworld.com

MCAN
Minnesota Classified Advertising Network
mcan STATEWIDE CLASSIFIEDS

**ENTERTAINMENT**
**SEE MLB GAMES**
at Fenway Park, Yankee Stadium, etc. Quality game tickets, hotels, and motorcoach. Call/text for free brochure: 507/217-1326

**WANTED TO BUY**
**WANTED: ALL 1970S MOTORCYCLES**
Running or not. Titled or not. Will pick up. Cash in exchange. Sell now before prices fall. Call Dan at 612/720-2142

**PETS**
**ADD TONEKOTE**
to dog & cat rations to treat dry, scaly skin, doggy odor & insure winter coat. At Tractor Supply® www.happyjackinc.com

**ONLY $279** to reach a statewide audience of 1.3 million readers!!! **1-800-279-2979**

**MISCELLANEOUS**
**FREE HIGH-SPEED INTERNET**
for those that qualify. Government program for recipients of select programs include Medicaid, SNAP, Housing Assistance, WIC, Veterans Pension, Survivor Benefits, Lifeline, Tribal. 15 GB internet service. Bonus offer: Android tablet FREE with one-time $20 copay. Free shipping & handling. Call Maxsip Telecom today! 866/433-5324

**GIVE A GREAT GIFT THIS SEASON**
Send 100% guaranteed, delivered-to-the-door Omaha Steaks! This package comes with 8 FREE PureGround Filet Mignon Burgers! Order The Butcher's Deluxe Package! ONLY $99.99. Call 844/513-2857 and mention code 74222DRG or visit www.omahasteaks.com/Deluxe8464

**MISCELLANEOUS**
**SAFE STEP**
North America's #1 Walk-In Tub. Comprehensive lifetime warranty. Top-of-the-line installation and service. Now featuring our FREE shower package and $1600 Off for a limited time! Call today! Financing available. Call Safe Step 833/966-3882

**GET YOUR DEDUCTION**
ahead of the year-end! Donate your car, truck, or SUV to assist the blind and visually impaired. Arrange a swift, no-cost vehicle pickup and secure a generous year-end tax credit. Call Heritage for the Blind Today at 844/220-9501

**SWITCH TO DISH**
and get up to a $300 gift card! Plus get the Multisport pack included for a limited time! Hurry, call for details: 855/562-4309

Place your Classified Ad
for only $9.85/wk.
Your ad will appear Wednesday in the
Staples World
and online at www.staplesworld.com
Mailing address for checks:
Staples World
P.O. Box 100
Staples, MN 56479
Payment must accompany the order.
Use form below or click on www.staplesworld.com
**Deadline: Friday at Noon**

*SERVICE DIRECTORY*SERVICE DIRECTORY*SERVICE DIRECTORY*SERVICE DIRECTORY*SERVICE DIRECTORY*SERVICE DIRECTORY*SERVICE DIRECTORY*SERVICE DIRECTORY

SERVICE DIRECTORY

**ALBIE ELECTRIC LLC**
CELL 218-838-0581
RESIDENTIAL AND LIGHT COMMERCIAL ELECTRICAL INSTALLATIONS

**LPS Inc.**
Long Prairie Sanitation
Long Prairie, MN
218-631-3101 888-878-5578

**Mixed Firewood**
By the bundle or by the truckload.
8 foot lengths or processed
**Enberg Logging**
218-352-6175

**H&R Electric of Staples**
Electrical Services for
•Residential
•Commercial
•Industrial
218-296-2461
Zach Hanson 218-296-1285 • Mike Rollins 218-296-2461
hrelectricofstaples@yahoo.com
Licensed, Bonded & Insured • Over 30 years experience

**SERVICING ALL BRANDS**
Sharpen Mower Blades
Sharpen Saw Chains,
Small Engine Repair + more
SERVICE HOURS Mon - Fri, 8am to 4pm
Staples True Value
205 Warner Rd • 218.894.3263

**GIZA**
EST 1934
PLUMBING & HEATING
• PLUMBING
• HEATING
• AIR CONDITIONING
• GEOTHERMAL
• NEW CONSTRUCTION
• REMODEL
• SERVICE
MN LIC. #PC644417
218-894-2284
WWW.CALLGIZA.COM

SINCE 1978
**PAUL DRAKE TREE SERVICE**
•General •Lot Clearing
•Storm Damage Clean Up
•Stump Grinding •Brushing
•55 ft. Bucket Truck
218-894-2871

**Altrichter Excavation & Septic Service**
218-575-2222
•Septic System Installation
•Camera Inspection, Tank Pumping and Cleaning
MN State Certified
6685 330th St., Cushing, MN. 56443

*SERVICE DIRECTORY*SERVICE DIRECTORY*SERVICE DIRECTORY*SERVICE DIRECTORY*SERVICE DIRECTORY *SERVICE DIRECTORY*SERVICE

PROFESSIONAL

**Sellnow Law Office, P.A.**
*Thomas H. Sellnow**
sellnowt@sellnowlaw.com
*Jason R. Sellnow*
sellnowj@sellnowlaw.com
218-894-4618 • 133 4th St. NE, Staples
229 Central Ave., Long Prairie
320-732-1919 • Toll free: 877-297-1125
*Thomas Sellnow is a Real Property Law Specialist certified by Real Property Section of Minnesota State Bar Association.
• Probate and Trusts
• Estate Planning • Family Law
• Real Estate • Business Law
• Title Insurance • Elder Law
• Personal Injury • Auto Accidents
www.sellnowlaw.com

*SERVICE DIRECTORY*SERVICE DIRECTORY*SERVICE DIRECTORY*SERVICE DIRECTORY*SERVICE DIRECTORY*SERVICE DIRECTORY*SERVICE

CONSTRUCTION

**Statema Backhoe Service, LLC**
MPCA CERTIFIED SEPTIC SYSTEMS
•FREE ESTIMATE FROM DESIGN TO INSTALLATION
•COMPLIANCE INSPECTIONS
Site Prep • Basements • Waterlines • Driveways • Landscaping • Black Dirt • Gravel • Construction & Abandonment of Manure Pits • Fill Dirt
Clearing & Grading • Ditch Cleaning • Snow Plowing: Commercial & Residential
Andy Statema •320-594-2912 • 320-594-6347
LICENSED BONDED INSURED

**IDEAL CONSTRUCTION LLC**
PAVING THE WAY FOR YOU!
Staples, MN 56479
218-894-3105
SINCE 1958
Asphalt Paving • Seal Coating • Excavating • Driveways
Roads • Parking Lots • Site Prep • Gravel • Rock • Black Dirt
Fill • Peat • Ponds • Demolition • Hauling • Landscaping
Recycled Concrete and Asphalt

**PHB Excavating Inc.**
QUALITY WORK & PROMPT SERVICE
Phil Bjerga
218-639-5007
*Licensed / Bonded / Insured*
Septics • Waterlines • Trenching • Basements • Retaining Walls
Landscaping & Site Preparation • Backhoe & Skid Loader Work
Sewer Pipe Cleaning and Steaming • Custom Pressure Washing
Equipment, Buildings, Driveways, etc. • Snow Plowing & Removal

*SERVICE DIRECTORY*SERVICE DIRECTORY*SERVICE DIRECTORY*SERVICE DIRECTORY*SERVICE DIRECTORY*SERVICE DIRECTORY*SERVICE DIRECTORY*SERVICE DIRECTORY

SW 2023 changed wk #31

**NOTICE VILLARD TOWNSHIP MEETING**

The Villard Township meeting scheduled for Tuesday, December 12 has been rescheduled to Wednesday, December 13, 2023, at 7 p.m. The meeting will be held at the Eastwood Inn, Motley, MN.

Mary Trantina-Koenig,
Clerk
Villard Township.
49-50pnc

**CITY OF STAPLES NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING**

Notice is hereby given that the City Council of the City of Staples will conduct a Public Hearing at 7:00 p.m. on Tuesday, December 12, 2023 at the Staples Government Center located at 122 6th St NE, Staples to receive public input regarding the 2024 Final Budget and Property Tax Levy.

All interested persons are invited to attend the hearing and be heard on this matter or submit written comments to the City Clerk prior to the hearing. For a copy of the proposed 2024 Final Budget and Property Tax Levy, contact City Hall at 218-894-2550.

Dated: December 5, 2023

Tara Greer, City Clerk
50pnc

**STATE OF MINNESOTA COUNTY OF TODD DISTRICT COURT SEVENTH JUDICIAL DISTRICT Court File Number: 77-PR-23-920**

**In re the ESTATE of**
PATRICK ERIN SHANAHAN,
Deceased

**Notice of Informal Appointment of Personal Representative and Notice to Creditors (Without a Will)**

**TO ALL INTERESTED PERSONS AND CREDITORS:**

Notice is hereby given that an application for informal appointment of personal representative has been filed with the Probate Registrar. No will has been presented for probate. The application has been granted.

Notice is also given that the Probate Registrar has informally appointed the following:

**Name**
Patrick Joseph Shanahan
**Address**
31 County RD 92 N
Maple Plain, MN 55359

as Personal Representative of the Estate of the Decedent. Any heir, devisee or other interested person may be entitled to appointment as Personal Representative, or may object to the appointment of the Personal Representative. Unless objections are filed pursuant to Minn. Stat.§ 524.3-607, and the court otherwise orders, the Personal Representative has full power to administer the Estate, including, after 30 days from the date of issuance of letters, the power to sell, encumber, lease or distribute real estate.

Notice is also given that subject to Minn. Stat.§ 524.3-801, all creditors having claims against the Estate are required to present the claims to the Personal Representative or to the Court Administrator within four (4) months after the date of this Notice, or the claims will be barred.

Dated: November 17, 2023

Heidi Rasmusson,
Probate Registrar

Telephone: 320-412-7010
50-51pnp

# Student leadership conference hosted by Sourcewell at CLC



As a self-described introvert, Staples-Motley High School student Annie Schlosser didn't consider herself a leader.

However, her mindset was changed after she participated in an all-day Student Leadership Conference held October 23, 2023, hosted by Sourcewell at Central Lakes College - Staples Campus.

"I didn't really think I was much of a leader, and then I saw you can be a leader without being loud and extroverted," Schlosser said. "Leaders can come in many different shapes and forms."

More than 100 high school students representing Central Minnesota school districts participated, according to event organizer and Sourcewell Student Academics Coordinator Phillip Olsen.

The day and presentations were based on the concept of GiANT Worldwide, an international program designed to help individuals understand their leadership voices and tools. Through a self-assessment, students were able to uncover their leadership voice, what their voice order means and what makes them great leaders. Presentations were designed to help students explore who they are as leaders and how to bring new leadership skills back to their school, Olsen said.

"Each participating district hand-selected the students invited to the conference," Olsen said. "The students were identified as young leaders who have the potential to positively impact their teams,clubs, as well as their school and community as a whole."

This was the first year the conference was held. Olsen said it stemmed from conversations with local school districts that emphasized the need for leadership training for their students.

"Knowing there was a need and a desire from our districts, we went to the drawing board and created a conference focused on helping these young leaders learn and grow," Olsen said.

Presenters included certified GiANT leadership guide and coach Jeff Meacham; and Sourcewell education consultants Jordan Herman, Rachel Logan, Kevin Votaw and Lisa Worden.

Brainerd High School student and athlete Odin Shoberg was also among those selected to participate in the conference. While skeptical of what he'd take away from the day, he said it was truly an eye-opening experience that he can apply to athletics and school life.

"I kind of expected to go into it and come out a bit of a better leader, wanting to speak up more," Shoberg said. "But I get that being a leader isn't always about being loud and that there's many types of it."

Shoberg said there were many positive takeaways from the conference, but his biggest was not only taking his own leadership voice into account, but also the voices of others he may be leading.

"Not only do I know what kind of a leader I am and how I can apply it, but also what type of leader other people are and how I can help them see that or how I can be there for them."

To learn more about this and other events for local students, visit sourcewell.co/studentprograms.







Staples-Motley students and staff at the Sourcewell Student Leadership Conference. (Submitted photos)

## Public Notices

**NOTICE OF MORTGAGE FORCLOSURE SALE**

THE RIGHT TO VERIFICATION OF THE DEBT AND IDENTITY OF THE ORIGINAL CREDITOR WITHIN THE TIME PROVIDED BY LAW IS NOT AFFECTED BY THIS ACTION.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN That default has occurred in conditions of the following described mortgage.

DATE OF MORTGAGE: June 12, 2015

ORIGINAL PRINCIPAL AMOUNT OF MORTGAGE: $91,121.00

MORTGAGOR(S): Jose G. Garcia Montanez, a single man

MORTGAGEE: Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc., as nominee for Central Minnesota Credit Union

DATE AND PLACE OF FILING: Recorded on June 12, 2015 as Document Number 494587; as modified of record by document recorded on December 29, 2021 as Document Number A529700 in the Office of the County Recorder of Todd County, Minnesota.

ASSIGNMENTS OF MORTGAGE: Assigned to: Lakeview Loan Servicing, LLC by assignment recorded on June 21, 2023 as Document Number A536833 in the Office of the County Recorder of Todd County, Minnesota.

LEGAL DESCRIPTION OF PROPERTY: Lots 5 and 6, except West 100 feet thereof, Block 3, Locke`s Addition to the Village of Long Prairie, Todd County, Minnesota.

STREET ADDRESS OF PROPERTY: 620 4TH AVE SE, LONG PRAIRIE, MN 56347

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

THE AMOUNT CLAIMED TO BE DUE ON THE MORTGAGE ON THE DATE OF THE NOTICE: $92,202.03

TRANSACTION AGENT: Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc.

NAME OF MORTGAGE ORIGINATOR: Central Minnesota Credit Union

RESIDENTIAL SERVICER: LoanCare, LLC

TAX PARCEL IDENTIFICATION NUMBER: 36-0085000

TRANSACTION AGENT'S MORTGAGE IDENTIFICATION NUMBER: 1011283-0001100379-2

THAT no action or proceeding has been instituted at law to recover the debt then remaining secured by such mortgage, or any part thereof, or, if the action or proceeding has been instituted, that the same has been discontinued, or that an execution upon the judgment rendered therein has been returned unsatisfied, in whole or in part.

PURSUANT, to the power of sale contained in said mortgage, the above described property will be sold by the Sheriff of said county as follows:

DATE AND TIME OF SALE: January 04, 2024 at 10:00 a.m.

PLACE OF SALE: Todd County Sheriff's Office, County Detention Center, 115 Third Street South, Long Prairie, MN 56347.

to pay the debt then secured by said mortgage and taxes, if any actually paid by the mortgagee, on the premises and the costs and disbursements allowed by law. The time allowed by law for redemption by said mortgagor(s), their personal representatives or assigns is six (6) months from the date of sale.

TIME AND DATE TO VACATE PROPERTY: Unless said mortgage is reinstated or the property redeemed, or unless the time for redemption is reduced by judicial order, you must vacate the premises by 11:59 p.m. on July 5, 2024.

THE TIME ALLOWED BY LAW FOR REDEMPTION BY THE MORTGAGOR, THE MORTGAGOR'S PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVES OR ASSIGNS, MAY BE REDUCED TO FIVE WEEKS IF A JUDICIAL ORDER IS ENTERED UNDER MINNESOTA STATUTES, SECTION 582.032, DETERMINING, AMONG OTHER THINGS, THAT THE MORTGAGED PREMISES ARE IMPROVED WITH A RESIDENTIAL DWELLING OF LESS THAN FIVE UNITS, ARE NOT PROPERTY USED IN AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTION, AND ARE ABANDONED.

MORTGAGOR(S) RELEASED FROM FINANCIAL OBLIGATION ON MORTGAGE: None

Dated: November 08, 2023

LAKEVIEW LOAN SERVICING, LLC
Mortgagee

TROTT LAW, P.C.
N. Kibongni Fondungallah, Esq.
Samuel R. Coleman, Esq.
***Sung Woo Hong, Esq.***
Attorneys for Mortgagee
25 Dale Street North
St. Paul, MN 55102
(651) 209-9760
(23-1148-FC01)

**THIS IS A COMMUNICATION FROM A DEBT COLLECTOR.**
47-52pnc

# CLC magazine wins national award

Central Lakes College's Bent Pine Journal has won the second place National Award for Best Magazine, hosted by Community College Humanities Association.

The Bent Pine is a full color, hard copy journal that seeks to illuminate the creative talents of students, staff and faculty across CLC.

It was first published in the 1960s at Brainerd Junior College and was brought back to life in recent years by dedicated faculty and students.

The Bent Pine Journal also received regional awards prior to this national recognition: seconnd (2020), first (2021), and third (2022) for the 11-state central division of CCHA.




Clayton eye care
Breena Dell Clayton, OD
Independent Optometrist at Costco, Baxter, MN
218-855-5756
•Comprehensive Eye Exam...$80
•Contact Lens Exams starting at...$115
Membership not required for eye exams, but is needed to purchase glasses or contact lenses.
Call or visit us at www.claytoneyecaremn.com

Needing/Wanting a Granite Memorial FOR YOUR FAMILY?
I can help!
Diane M. Hahn
29 years serving our area!
Rep. for Fergus Falls Monument Co.
Call 218-445-5685 or 218-640-2341

LakelandDental
NO INSURANCE, NO PROBLEM! Call to hear about our Lakeland Dental Savings Plan
www.lakelanddental.com
Email: info@lakelanddental.com
Staples Office:(218) 894-2201
Clarissa Office:(218) 756-2234
Long Prairie Office:(320) 732-6141
HEALTHY MOUTHS.... One smile at a time

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

Public notices are a community's window into the government. You look for those notices in your newspaper. From zoning regulations to local budgets, governments have used local newspapers to inform citizens of its actions as an essential part of your right to know.
*Keep public notices in newspapers!*

# SPARKS Meals for Mentors competition a success

Submitted by Rynell Schock

After two weeks of delicious meals at area restaurants in a friendly competition for the SPARKS Mentoring Best Meal Award, the "eaters" have voted. SPARKS Mentoring of Staples-Motley is proud to announce the 2023 Meals for Mentors Award Winner as 2 Tall Tavern of Lincoln.

John Brichacek and his staff served a deliciously flavorful, Italian Meatball Sub Sandwich that was pleasing to the palet and to the eye. John's enthusiasm for SPARKS Mentoring created a supportive atmosphere at 2 Tall Tavern as he encouraged his patrons to "Do this for the Kids." People commented, "This is what we need in our communities." "We have to support the kids in our schools."

This climate and culture for the kids in our community was seen in all of the participating restaurants: 2nd place winner, Tower Pizza; 3rd place winner, Becks Burger Co; Most Tickets sold, BRICKS Travel Center; Most Charitable Giving, Spot Cafe; and other participants Monte Azul, Anchor North, and CLC Diner. Consistent with the resounding program support were the delicious menu choices that were offered to the patrons by all restaurants. Yet, the eaters voted for their choice and the highest vote always wins.

This is the second year that Meals for Mentors has been held in our communities as a fundraiser to support SPARKS Mentoring of Staples-Motley. The restaurants have commented that they want to participate in the Third Annual Meals for Mentors Fundraiser next fall, 2024. According to SPARKS Board Chair, Rynell Schock, coming alongside these businesses supports SPARKS Mentoring values to: respectfully care about the members of our community, and acknowledge that we are partners in the work to support the youth in our communities. Together our community will raise healthy, confident children."

All of the funds from Meals for Mentors are used to develop and provide mentoring programs for children in our Staples-Motley Schools. Last year, Reading Buddies was launched at Staples-Motley Elementary and Sacred Heart Area School to provide mentors that read with children supporting their reading abilities and self awareness building communication in healthy relationships. This fall, the second SPARKS Mentoring program, Lunchtime Buddies, was added to the mentoring options for children. Volunteer mentors are trained by Program Coordinator, Julie Mertens, in a research-designed curriculum that is fully supported and easy to share with children while fitting into the mentors' schedules.

School staff and students comment on the childrens' delight to have mentors who care for them unconditionally and continue to spend time with them. Mentors repeatedly share how the program is a valued highlight in their week.

SPARKS Mentoring recently gained the status as a 501 (c)(3) which will allow SPARKS to continue to build on the strategic plan to grow other programs in our schools, all based on the essential influence of mentors in the lives of children. If you are interested in learning more about how you can support SPARKS and become a mentor, contact Julie Mertens at 218-296-2625 or Rynell Schock at 218-270-0291.




## Winning restaurant

2 Tall Tavern owner John Brichacek (left) and Asst. Manager, Briana Fischer accepted the 'Best Meal for Mentors' award at the Lincoln establishment. During the recent contest, Brichacek encouraged patrons to 'Do it for the kids.' (Submitted photo)



## Piecemakers make chemo bags

Members of the Piecemakers Quilt Club recently sewed 19 quilted bags for the Lakewood Infusion Center. The bags will be used for patients who are receiving chemotherapy. The fabric was donated by Linda Bates and quilted by Cindy Zetah. Pictured from left: Mary Noska, Annette Good, Jackie Holper, Linette Berry, Lisa Kajer, Becky Lindgren, Mardi Faiella, Cindy Zetah, Kathy Crews. (Submitted photo)

# Sellnow given Distinguished Service Award for Real Property

Tom Sellnow was presented with the Distinguished Service Award by the Real Property Section at the St. Paul RiverCenter on Nov. 2.

The Distinguished Service Award was established by the Real Property Section of the Minnesota State Bar Association (MSBA) in 1991. The award acknowledges recipients who have practiced throughout the state in firms of all sizes and various government entities. Recipients have a wide range of experience and interest, but share a common dedication to service, by serving their clients, the MSBA, the public and the practice of Real Estate Law.

Sellnow was unable to be present to accept the award in person as he was traveling in Australia, but was given the award recently.

Sellnow is a 1978 graduate of the University of Minnesota, Morris and a 1980 graduate of Hamline Law School. He has been practicing in Long Prairie since June of 1981 to the present. He is the only Real Property Law Specialist certified by the Real Property Section of the MSBA in Todd County. There are approximately 30,000 licensed lawyers in the State of Minnesota. The MSBA Real Property Law Section has 1,106 members, with 249 MSBA Real Property Law Certified Specials in Minnesota.

Sellnow is past Co-chair of the Real Estate Institute, an annual Continuing Legal Education Seminar which typically hosts 1,000 plus attorneys. He is past chair of the Real Property Council and past chair of the Seventh District Bar Association. He serves as the Examiner of Titles for Todd and Wadena Counties. He is a frequent presenter at Minnesota Continuing Legal Education seminars.

His local activities include membership on the local Hospital Board /Operating Committee where he has served for approximately 25 years with about half of that as chair. He was chair of the fundraising committee which raised money for the new hospital in Long Prairie. He is a past member of the St. Mary Mount Carmel School Board, again serving as chair. He and his wife served as head chaperones for the Minnesota Marching M'bassadors through three different band directors. He is currently a trustee for St. Mary Mount Carmel Church.

He continues to practice as the Founder of Sellnow Law Office P.A. in Long Prairie. The business is now in the hands of his son Jason Sellnow. The firm welcomed attorney Maria Caridad Eldidy in March of 2023. They have four legal assistants: Tammy Byland, Cheryl Perish, Kayla Andersen, and Harsh Pandey.



## Property law award

David Meyers of Rinke Noon Law Firm presents Tom Sellnow with the Distinguished Service Award for Real Property from the Minnesota State Bar Association.




## Three dignitaries visit Staples Rotary

The Staples Rotary Club was honored to welcome not only the current Governor of District 5580 but also a past governor and a future governor to the Nov. 1 meeting. District Governor Dave Long was joined by Bob McLean, past governor in 2020-21, and Peter Nelson, who currently serves as an Assistant District Governor and who will become District Governor in 2026-27. Long shared his enthusiasm for Rotary, for the local and worldwide humanitarian services it provides as well as the friendships and relationships it builds. "Create Hope in the World," the theme of Rotary International's president, shines in all that Rotary does, in the impact on people in the world, one project at a time. He also offered practical suggestions on the challenges facing many service organizations and encouraged the club to make sure fun was part of the benefits of friendships and service. Pictured from left are Nelson, Staples Rotary President Kurt Wilson, Long and McLean. (Submitted photo)

# Heisserer is CLC Outstanding Educator

Instructor Dr. Nick Heisserer has been named the 2023-24 Central Lakes College Board of Trustees Outstanding Educator. Heisserer teaches Business Managment at the college. This honor includes nominations by students and peers, as well as a recommendation from a committee of CLC employees.

"Nick's dedication to students and outstanding instruction is truly inspiring," said Dr. Hara Charlier. "He wholeheartedly embraces the College's culture of caring and is a role model for colleagues and students alike."

Heisserer said he was honored to be recognized.

"I work with outstanding faculty and staff that truly care about students and educational excellence," he said. "It is an honor to receive this award among so many deserving individuals at CLC."

Heisserer will represent CLC at the BOT Award ceremony later this spring and will be under consideration for selection as one of several Minnesota State BOT Educators of the Year. Previous CLC educators to receive this high honor include Darci Goeden, Betsy Picciano, Adam Marcotte, Kari Frisch and Tanya Hoting-Mrazek.



Nick Heisserer




## Funding for field trip

The Staples Host Lions recently donated $500 to Sacred Heart Area School (SHAS). The funds will go toward a fifth grade field trip to Osprey Wilds in Sandstone. Pictured, from left, are SHAS fifth grade teacher Kristi Odden and Lion Rick Adamietz. (Staples World photo by Dawn Timbs)



## Middle school band performs

Members of the Staples-Motley Middle School band (grades 7/8), under the direction of Kristina Haataja, performed "Jalapeno Percussion" at the Cardinal Music Department's Fall Concert Oct. 30, at Centennial Auditorium in Staples. The program also included performances by the 7/8 grade choir, directed by Cade Bestland; and the 7/8 grade orchestra, directed by Haataja. (Staples World photo by Dawn Timbs)

# Wrestlers win two duals, W-DC tournament

The Staples-Motley wrestling team got off to a winning start to the season. They won two dual matches, St. Cloud Tech 40-18 and Milaca 62-4 in a home meet Dec. 1, then won an eight team invitational at Wadena-Deer Creek on Dec. 2.

In the tournament, the Cardinals had five champions and four second places out of the 13 weight classes. Champions were Gage Bjerga, Caden Kramer, Eli Greenwaldt, Turner Beachy and Colbe Tappe. Second place finishers were Garrett Bjerga, Riley Reese, Luke Bjerga and Steven Petrich.

### Dual meets

The Staples-Motley lower weights were superb as the team got off to leads of 40-4 and 56-0 in their home triangular.

Against St. Cloud Tech, Eli Greenwaldt and Jack Carlson handled quality opponents while two Cardinals turned close matches into big wins. At 145 pounds, Riley Reese scored a takedown with one minute left and rode out the win. At 160, Blake Neelan scored a takedown in overtime to give the team their 40-4 lead.

Against Milaca, everything worked for the Cardinals. They got quick pins from Caden Kramer, Eli Greenwaldt and Colbe Tappe. At 172 pounds, Zachary Tabatt turned a 2-2 tie into a pin with a powerful move in the second period. The team gained bonus points from Turner Beachy and Reese, who made third period runs to win by eight, giving the team four points for major decisions instead of settling for three points.

Luke Bjerga and Steven Petrich had wild competitive matches, each Cardinal emerging on top by the end. Bjerga had a pin late in his match but the referee ruled it off the mat at the final moment. He held on for a 6-1 win. Petrich had an early takedown and a 6-4 lead, but ended up winning on penalty points when his opponent was docked for two illegal moves and two hand clasps while they were still on the mat.

### Team results

**Staples-Motley 40, St. Cloud Tech 18**

107 Gage Bjerga W fall; 114 Caden Kramer W fall; 121 - Eli Greenwaldt W 10-2; 127. Cooper Tappe L 9-1, 133 Jack Carlson W fall; 139 Turner Beachy W fall; 145 Riley Reese W 6-4; 152 Colbe Tappe W fall; 160 Blake Neelan W 6-4 (OT); 172 Owen Winter L 11-1; 189 Luke Bjerga L 8-3, 215 Jacob Becker L 6-3; 285 Steven Petrich L 12-0

**Staples-Motley 62, Milaca 4**

107 Bjerga W ff; 114 Kramer W fall; 121 Greenwaldt W fall; 127. Cp. Tappe W ff; 133 Carlson W 9-2, 139 Beachy W 9-1, 145 Reese W 11-3, 152 Cb. Tappe W fall; 160 Neelan W ff; 172 Zachary Tabatt W fall; 189 Luke Bjerga W 6-1, 215 Dustin Converse L15-3; 215 Steven Petrich W (penalty points)

**Dennis Kaatz Memorial Wrestling Invite, at Wadena-Deer Creek**

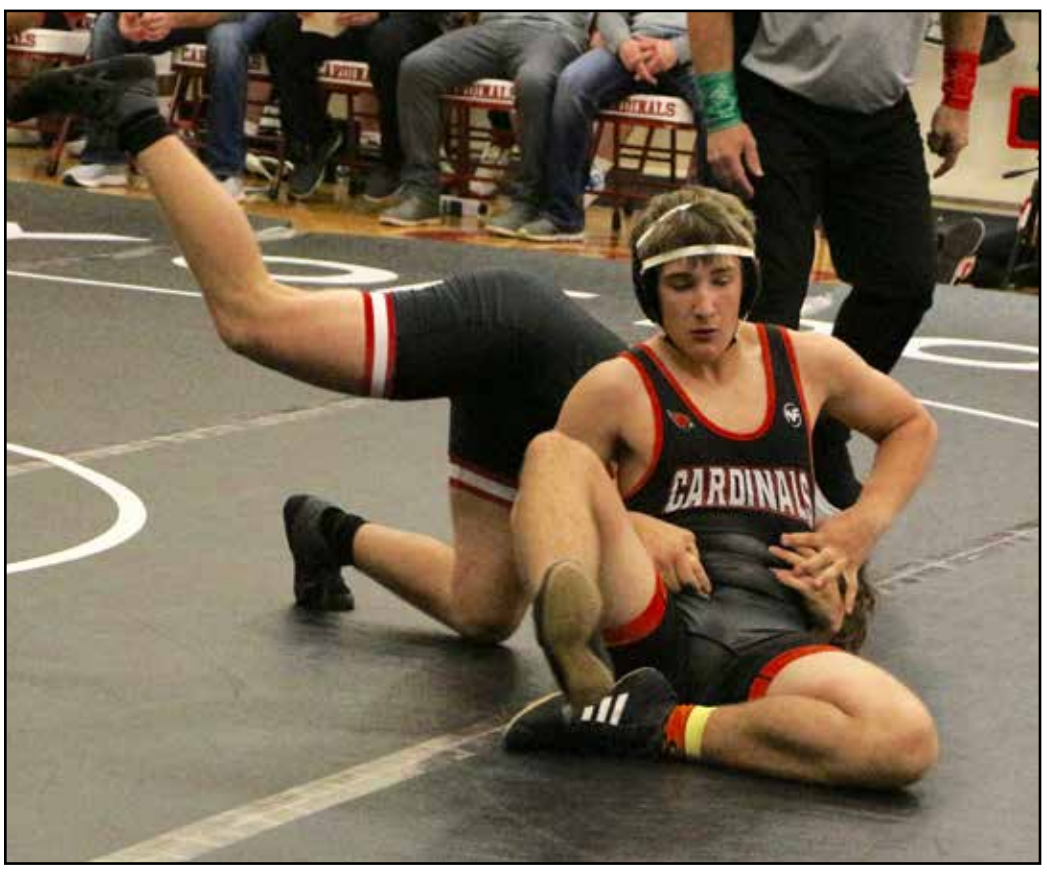
Staples-Motley 226, Brainerd 168, Pequot Lakes-Pine River-Backus 153, Thief River Falls 140, Bertha-Hewitt/Verndale/Parkers Prairie 133, United North Central 102, Wadena-Deer Creek 38, Badger-Greenbush-Middle River 23

107 Gage Bjerga 1st, Garrett Bjerga 2nd
114 Caden Kramer 1st
121 Eli Greenwaldt 1st
127 Cooper Tappe 5th
133 Jack Carlson 4th
139 Turner Beachy 1st
145 Riley Reese 2nd
152 Colbe Tappe 1st
160 Blake Neelan 4th
172 Zach Tabatt 3rd
189 Luke Bjerga 2nd
215 Jacob Becker 4th
285 Steven Petrich 2nd, Adrian Gomez 5th

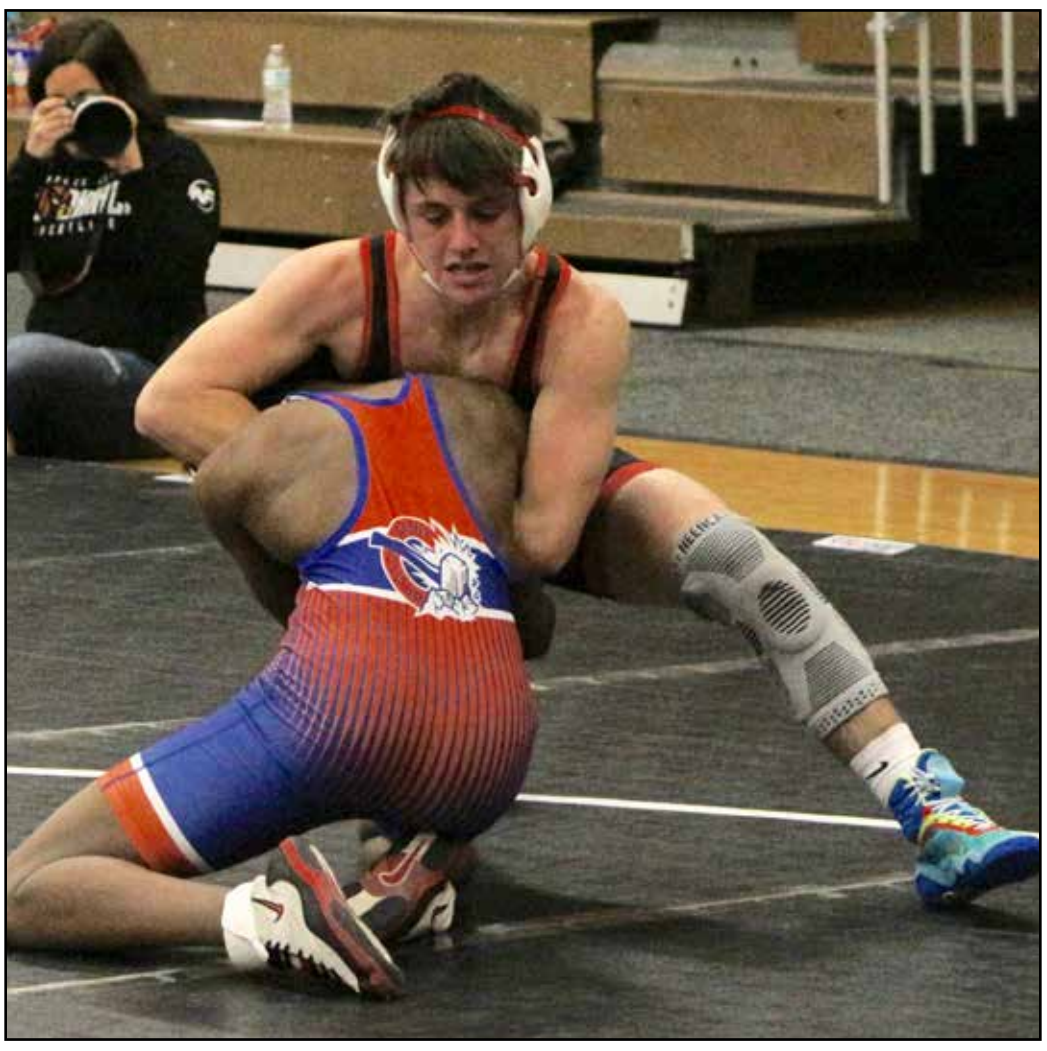


## Opening night wrestling action

Luke Bjerga applies a headlock, earning two points for a takedown and five for a near fall in the team's win over Milaca. (Staples World photos by Mark Anderson)



Zach Tabatt works on an escape.



Jack Carlson blocks a shot attempt.



Caden Kramer applies the cradle hold before tipping his opponent for a pin.



Gage Bjerga comes around the side for a takedown.

# Plans taking flight to rename some American birds

If you are a bird fancier—a birdwatcher, or a feeder of birds in winter—you may be aware of the latest bird buzz. Namely, it's the news that some bird species are going to be renamed. Why? The object of the planned renaming is to eliminate the use of human names in our avian world. American birds, anyway. Bird names like Barrow's goldeneye (a duck), Wilson's snipe (a shorebird), and Steller's eider (a sea duck).

The explanation from spokespersons for the American Ornithological Society—the U.S.'s highest bird authority—is that the birds in question deserve a name that is more descriptive of the bird itself, rather than paying homage to an explorer, or scientist, who may have "discovered" or first identified it.

Less is heard about what some may see as a secondary motive: political correctness. Though the plan to rename between 70 and 80 birds by 2025 is a recent development, bird renaming also has roots several years in the past.

In 2020, following the murder of George Floyd in Minneapolis, and the unrest that followed, the U.S. saw a movement to distance ourselves from the Confederacy, and the primary cause for which it fought: to preserve slavery. In an unexpected twist, a bird and its long dead namesake were caught up in the controversy.

There was a bird—McCown's longspur—that during the 19th century had been named for General John P. McCown. As a U.S. Army officer with a keen interest in birds, in 1851 he collected a specimen that was recognized at the time as new to science. The researcher to whom the officer sent the specimen acknowledged his contribution by attaching McCown's name to the bird.

Fast forward to 1861. McCown hailed from a region of Tennessee that was known for its anti-slavery sentiments, and McCown himself did not own slaves. But when the Civil War broke out, he joined his fellow Tennesseans and accepted a commission in the Confederate Army.

His decision reminded me of a long-ago TV interview with the late Shelby Foote, a Mississippian, who remains one of our most gifted chroniclers of the Civil War. When asked in a PBS interview which side he would have fought on if he had been alive on 1861, Foote—while acknowledging the great evil of slavery—responded that he would likely have fought with his fellow Mississippians. Why? "They're my people," Foote said.

Quite likely this was McCown's reasoning for enlisting in a Tennessee regiment of the Confederate army. In fact, McCown—at significant personal risk—publicly criticized the Confederate cause even during his period of service. After the war he became a teacher and farmer. Fast forward to 2020—long before the current news-making plan to rename our birds that have human-derived names—and McCown's longspur was renamed the "thick-billed longspur," due to his association with the Confederacy.

For what it's worth, John James Audubon—revered for his early ground-breaking studies and paintings of American birds, and other wildlife—owned slaves at some point in his life. It is now expected that several songbirds named after him will also be renamed. But the National Audubon Society, perhaps fearing the consequences of losing its valuable name recognition, has stated that it will retain its name.

As if we needed reminding, Mount Rushmore in South Dakota's Black Hills displays the likenesses of slave owners George Washington and Thomas Jefferson, next to the great emancipator, Abraham Lincoln. So far there has been no clamor to chisel or blast those founding fathers' visages from the granite face of Mount Rushmore.

So much for political correctness, and its entanglement in the bird name crusade.

Those who support the renaming of these birds certainly have their points, too. An explorer or scientist who first recorded or brought attention to a particular bird was certainly not the first to observe it. Surely native peoples knew, appreciated, and had names for them, even if they did not have a taxonomic understanding of bird families and genera, or their evolution.

Birdlife proliferated and prospered in the Americas long before any humans made their way to the Western Hemisphere by the Bering land bridge from Asia, or from Europe along the southern fringe of glacial ice during the last period of glaciation—or both. Viewed in that light, some find it pretentious or selfish to immortalize any human in the process of understanding and identifying a bird. Fair enough.

Renaming the target group of birds is expected to begin in 2024, and the American Ornithological Society has said that it intends to produce a list of new names—with input from the public—by sometime in 2025.

So far there appears to be no strong pushback from birders or scientists. However, an interesting point was made by a representative of the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources Nongame Wildlife Program, who has said she hopes the renaming effort does not come at the expense of other efforts to protect birds. She notes that in the last half-century, the total North American bird population has declined by about 30%, a loss of some 3 billion birds.

Sadly, whatever merits there may be in changing birds' names, doing so in and of itself is unlikely to reverse this deplorable trajectory.

**- o -**

*Inside the Outdoors*



**Mike Rahn**

**- o -**

# Staples is beginning to look a lot like Whoville




The Grinch Who Stole Christmas is starting to show up in Staples, along with his dog Max, above on a dowtown building, right, and below at the Light Up Staples event, where kids had a chance to pose with the famous character. Some of the kids were amused when The Grinch took some treats from the free gifts table.







**XPRESS** continued from page 1a

## *Model trains, work bench part of railroad history*

bells.

Large sized model train cars built by Joel Stoen of Staples created more than 100 years ago will be at the event. Stoen was a blacksmith and inventor in the Staples area. In 1908, he patented the Stoen Wheelwright Machines for repairing wagon wheels. He also built a model threshing machine and model tractor. Wolak said this could be the first time in more than 100 years that Stoen's train cars will be available for public viewing.

Another railroad history item is the 1880s era work bench from a railroad wood shop, obtained from a collection in Brainerd. The bench would have been used by railroad workers for woodworking projects.




This 1880s era railroad work bench will be at the Polar Xpress event.

**PARKS** continued from page 1a

## *Park equipment to be taken out*

At the City Council meeting, Mary Jo Goff, a council member who is on the Parks and Recreation Board, said she was against removing planters. "We want it to look decent, people like those planters," she said.

Nelsen said the city would have all the planters out in the summer, especially if they have to cover tree grates, but they may pick up unused planters in the winter. He said some groups have talked about putting winter decorations in them, but that has not happened yet.

### Park equipment

The Parks and Recreation Board also recommended to the council that they remove the concrete tunnel structures at the Lincoln Park playground, due to trash and other undesirable items found there. They said it could be replaced by the swingset that was taken out to put in the new play structure there.

Council member Doug Case objected to the plan, saying the structures were popular with children and he didn't see trash as a problem there.

Council member John Jewison said even though children love them, "some undesirable things have happened there. I would hate to wait until it is too late and someone gets hurt," he said.

The council approved taking the tunnels out, with Case opposed.

