## Inside this issue:



*Brownell wins two track state titles*

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Wednesday, June 12, 2024

# Staples World

Staples, Minnesota $1.25

**Happy face on Omaha Beach** The D-Day military invasion 80 years ago put a different face on the Normandy coastline we now call Omaha Beach. This photo, taken last year, shows that the horrific cost to American soldiers now allows children, and the whole world, to smile in thanks. See story below, and editorial, page 4a. (Photo by Mark Anderson)

# D-Day remembered in 1984 by Staples High School staff member

Editor's note: In 1984, for the 40th anniversary of D-Day, the Staples World ran a story about George Sycks, a teacher and guidance counselor at Staples High School, who landed on Omaha Beach that day.

By Tom Crawford
Staples World, 1984

One thought went through George Sycks' mind that morning 40 years ago. It was pure folly to attempt a landing at a place as treacherous as the beaches of Normandy.

"I was very angry at the wheels. Really, I was mad."

"As we went in on D-Day at 7 o'clock, you wondered, What on earth are we doing here?" the former commander of a landing craft said at his home in Staples.

"I felt like cursing the president, Winston Churchill, the generals," he said. "There were hundreds, and I do mean hundreds, of American boys just flattened out on the beach.

"They had been just nailed by the German batteries ashore. But, naturally, you know, that would have done no good to have cursed out the president or anybody else."

Instead, Sycks and the rest of his crew aboard his Navy LCT (Landing Craft Tank) simply continued doing what they had been training for for many months. They hauled their cargoes of men, tanks, guns and other equipment from the transport ships about two miles offshore across the choppy seas to the bloody beach that will go down in history as Omaha Beach. It was June 6, 1944, the day the Allies swarmed ashore on French soil.

The LCT's, flat-bottomed craft that could haul up to three tanks or over 100 fully equipped men, had a crew of two ensigns and 18 crew members. Sycks, a retired counselor at Staples High School, was one of the two officers in charge of his craft.

Sycks recounted the events that led up to his first landing on the beach.

"Very early in the morning of June 5, we sailed out of Portland-Weymouth harbor in the south of England. The seas had subsided, they were still choppy, but the high waves were not as bad as the night before."

(Originally set for June 5, the invasion had been aborted 24 hours earlier when the first vessels encountered 30-foot waves in the English Channel. Sycks' craft had been ordered back after making about ten miles in heavy seas.)

We zig-zagged all day. I'd say it's safe to say there were 5,000 naval craft and ships wending our way across the channel. The Germans thought we were going to invade at Calais, which was only 22 miles across the channel from England. Normandy was roughly 100 miles.

"So we got over there early, very early in the morning hours of June 6. At 6:30, the big ships, the battlewagons and the cruisers started shelling the shore. The Germans were up on the cliffs of Omaha Beach and there were some tremendously high cliffs on that beach.

"We just couldn't figure out why that place was chosen. Utah Beach was not anything as rugged as Omaha. Utah was a very smooth landing, hardly anyone was injured on that beach.

"At roughly 0700, we hit the beach with our load of infantry. We had brought them all the way from England. All the LCT's from Portland-Weymouth harbor had loaded up before even leaving the harbor. We had at least 100 battle-equipped men on our LCT. We hit the beach with that outfit and, oh, God, you never seen men so tickled to death to get off that ship. They were scared to death of water, really, so many of them were. They were just thankful to get off of that ship.

"Me, you couldn't have pried me off that craft," Sycks said.

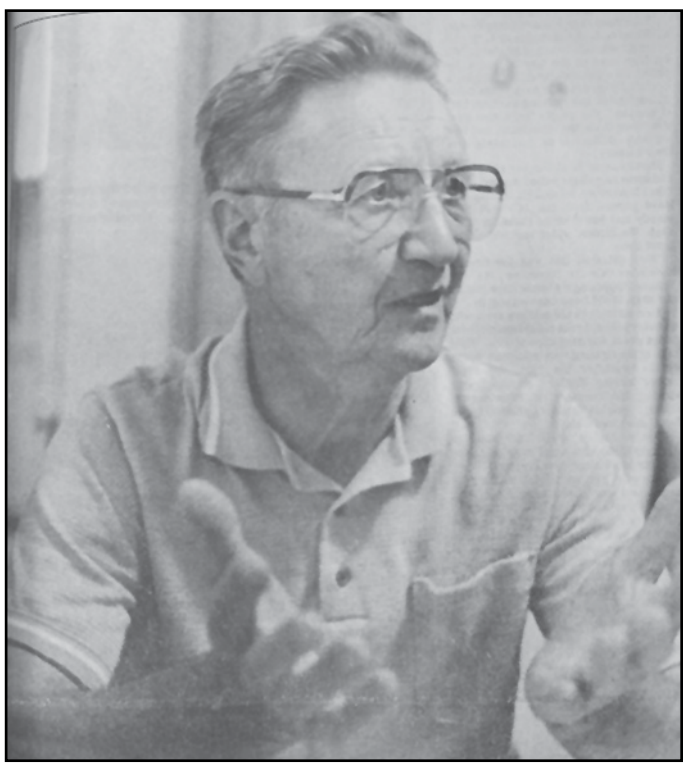
"Of course, they took a tremendous shelling from the Germans. The Germans had their big bunkers up on the hills. There were many, many, many casualties."

Although there were also casualties on landing craft as crewmen were hit by German fire, Sycks' craft was lucky and suffered no losses.

That luck, however, couldn't last forever.

Sycks explained that an LCT was equipped with an

See **D-DAY** on page 12a



**Remembering D-Day**

George Sycks in 1984. (Staples World file photo)

## Weather

2024
This Week's Forecast

| | High | Low | Cond. |
|---|---|---|---|
| June 12 | 84 | 60 | M. Sunny |
| June 13 | 82 | 55 | M. Cloudy |
| June 14 | 78 | 58 | Sunny |
| June 15 | 73 | 62 | Showers |
| June 16 | 81 | 61 | Showers |
| June 17 | 79 | 59 | Cloudy |
| June 18 | 75 | 59 | Cloudy |

Last Year, 2023

| | High | Low | Cond. |
|---|---|---|---|
| June 12 | 77° | 60 | Sunny |
| June 13 | 82 | 56 | M. Sunny |
| June 14 | 81 | 58 | Cloudy |
| June 15 | 72 | 55 | M. Sunny |
| June 16 | 76 | 56 | M. Sunny |
| June 17 | 72 | 60 | M. Cloudy |
| June 18 | 81 | 60 | Sunny |

**Average Temps:**
**H = 76° Low = 56°**

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

## Public Notices

*City of Staples* **9A**

*ISD #2170* **9A**

## Obituaries

*Dale DiGiovanni*

*Jaqueline Harkcom*

*John Nelson*

*Pacer Taylor*



## Excited to welcome guests to The Barn Inn

Lee and Laurie Paskewitz of Browerville, pictured with their dog, Koda Bear, will be holding an open house at their newly renovated barn…now The Barn Inn at Solid Rock…Friday, June 14, from 4:30 - 7 p.m. The charming Airbnb/Vrbo, which can sleep 13 guests, is located at 30063 County 26 in Browerville. See story, page 2a. (Staples World photo by Dawn Timbs)

# The Barn Inn at Solid Rock now open

## *Open house Friday, June 14*






## From dairy barn to Airbnb/Vrbo

The barn at Solid Rock Dairy Farm, formerly home to 250 dairy cows, has been recently renovated and renamed The Barn Inn at Solid Rock. Owned by Lee and Laurie Paskewitz, the Airbnb/Vrbo is located at their home place off County 26 in rural Browerville. (Staples World photos by Dawn Timbs)

By Dawn Timbs
Staples World reporter

If you're looking for a peaceful getaway in a picturesque rural setting, check out The Barn Inn at Solid Rock in Browerville.

Located at 30063 County 26, the spacious Airbnb/Vrbo is owned by Lee and Laurie Paskewitz, who renovated the barn at Solid Rock, formerly home to 250 dairy cows.

An open house will be held Friday, June 14, from 4:30 - 7 p.m. All are welcome to tour The Barn Inn, which features five bedrooms, nine beds, three bathrooms, a full kitchen, great room, a deck and patio. With space for 13 guests, The Barn Inn is a perfect space for family vacations and reunions, or other group gatherings.

Outdoor enthusiasts will enjoy the pickleball court and access to nearby snowmobile trails. The swing has already been a big hit with younger guests, and the Paskewitzes are in the process of putting in a horseshoe pit. The inn is also located just five miles from the Lincoln Lakes area, and seven miles from the Pine Ridge Golf Course.

### History of the barn

The barn was built in 1957, and used as a hog barn by the Macho family. Interestingly, it was Lee's grandfather, Engwald Hanson, who provided the lumber for the barn from his sawmill.

Lee and Laurie purchased the farm, which they named Solid Rock, in 1991. Lee, a 1980 graduate of Staples High School, had grown up on a farm just down the road from Solid Rock. Laurie, a White Bear Lake native, soon grew to love the rural setting and farm life as much as her husband. Solid Rock is where they raised their three children, Lindsey, Alek and Colton.

The Paskewitzes recalled that when they moved to the farm, the barn was five feet deep with manure. Lee worked hard to convert the space into a dry barn for dairy cows.

Although they loved farming, in 2017, Lee and Laurie made the decision to get out of the dairy business. Shortly after, they held an auction, selling all of their cows and equipment. "It was time," Laurie said, going on to recall that milk prices had gone down significantly. Laurie continued teaching at the Staples-Motley School District, and Lee proceeded to be hired full-time with Taco Bell as a handyman/contractor. "We haven't had any regrets," Lee said.

### Renovating the barn

The idea to convert the barn into an Airbnb (Air Bed and Breakfast) and Vrbo (Vacation Rentals by Owner) came about in September of 2021, when Lee and Laurie were taking a walk on their property. They both loved the barn, and wondered how it could be used to bring in revenue, other than dairy farming. What about a vacation rental?

Not long after, they started working on remodeling the barn. Lee did most of the construction himself, with the help of family and friends. Just as the barn itself has been re-purposed, so have many of the materials used during the remodeling process. Laurie shared that the wood in the entry way came from a sheep shed at their sister-in-law Bev Paskewitz's farm in Truman. Much of the other wood throughout the space came from Lee's brother Alan Paskewitz's saw mill in Browerville.

Other meaningful artifacts gracing the grounds at The Barn Inn at Solid Rock include an old plow, and a 1930s F12 Farmall tractor that came from Lee's maternal relatives, the Kastonek family. The 1910 antique lights at the entrance of the inn came from the City of Staples.

The inside of The Barn Inn is tastefully decorated, keeping with the farm theme. "Laurie was in charge of that," Lee said.

## Spacious great room and kitchen area

The upstairs area at The Barn Inn at Solid Rock (formerly a hayloft) features a spacious great room and kitchen area. Measuring 26' x 50' and boasting of a 16 ft. ceiling, the room is a perfect place for gatherings of family and friends during their get-away to the country. An outside deck is located just off the great room, with tables and chairs for guests, along with views of the peaceful countryside.



## Farm animal themed rooms

Each of the five bedrooms at The Barn Inn is named after a farm animal and decorated according to its theme. Pictured above is the 'pig bedroom.'

Guests will love that each of the five bedrooms is named after a farm animal, and decorated accordingly. And, there's a bit of interesting family history gracing the walls, with pictures of relatives at various farms over the years. There's even a few reminders of The Barn Inn's earlier days, when it was home to many black and white milk cows.



## Before renovation

Above, Lee and Laurie Paskewitzes' grandson, Wesley, "helps out" his other grandpa, Randy Edin, who was at work helping renovate the barn's hay loft. (Submitted photo)

At the time of this article, two different families had stayed at The Barn Inn, with positive reviews shared from both parties. Lee mentioned that the first person to book a weekend at the Airbnb/Vrbo, was a 1969 graduate of Motley High School. "She had my dad (Bob Paskewitz) as a teacher," he said, adding that that was special. The second family was in town for a funeral, and expressed their appreciation for the inn, which was not only beautiful, but was spacious enough for them to all stay at the same place during their time in the area.

They're not sure that they want to get into the event business, but the Paskewitzes are open to exploring that in the future. "We've already had one wedding here," Lee said, adding that he is an ordained minister.

For now, Lee and Laurie are excited to be able to host the upcoming open house, and hope many people will come to rural Browerville for a tour. For more information about The Barn Inn at Solid Rock, including bookings and prices, visit them at Airbnb and Vrbo websites.





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**Kali Pachan, LSW, Social Services**
***Nominated by Ashley Ayers, CMA, Clinic***
"There is not enough kudos in the entire world to give Kali. She brings so much light to stressful situations that it's undeniable. Specifically, I walked into her office with a complex situation and concern of mine for a patient that presented the same day. She realized my concern level as soon as I walked in and allowed me to dump every thought I had onto her. Her wheels immediately started turning on how we could possibly help this patient and family. I'm sure when I walked in, she already had the world on her shoulders, but regardless of this, she accepted my entry into her office and graciously assisted me at the drop of a hat, as she always does. Lakewood is so lucky to have her on board, as she changes the world daily."



**Taylor Pogreba, RN, OB/Hospital**
***Nominated by Jessie MacPherson, RN, Clinic Case Manager***
"Taylor was my labor and delivery (L&D) nurse for the birth of my husband's and my first child this past October. I was an anxious first-time mom in labor and felt like I didn't know what I was doing while I labored throughout the night. When Taylor came onto the morning shift my entire labor experience changed; I felt a sense of peace as she guided me throughout every step of the way. She had the perfect balance of leaving my husband and I to bask in the newborn snuggles, all while still being informative to ensure we were never left guessing on what was going to happen next. Lakewood L&D patients are beyond blessed to have her on staff."





**Desiree Fuecker, RN, Clinical Information**
**Karla Leslie, Business Intelligence Developer**
**Chandler Trout, Stategic Business Analyst**
***Nominated by Surgical Services Leadership***
Desiree, Karla and Chandler were recognized for their hard work and efforts in supporting surgical services during a Process Improvement Project. "The surgery team has been working on an important project that has had many requests for assistance with data extraction, OCHIN EPIC work flows and report building from this team. They have done an amazing job and have provided high quality work. The last few months, these individuals have been imperative to assist in the understanding of surgical data and EPIC work flows. Their attention to detail, collaboration and ability to automate reports is pivotal to the transparency of data metrics for surgical services."

w25c

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## Astera groundbreaking

Speakers and audience at the groundbreaking ceremony for a new cancer center at Astera Health in Wadena. (Submitted photo)

# Astera building cancer center in Wadena

A groundbreaking ceremony took place on May 7, 2024, at the Astera Health Campus in Wadena for a new cancer center. The ceremony was originally planned to be outdoors but was moved inside due to inclement weather. During the presentation speakers from Astera Health, CentraCare and the community shared their thoughts on the new facility.

The cancer center is a partnership between Astera Health and CentraCare. It will be a state-of-the-art facility offering a wide range of services not easily accessible in rural Minnesota, including radiation, PET scanning and expanded infusion therapy. With the expertise of the CentraCare oncology team and Astera Health, this program will bring full-service care with better outcomes for patients.

The goal of both organizations is to improve access to cancer care in Central Minnesota. This partnership was spurred by increased cancer rates in Minnesota and patients struggling to receive care. Many people must travel long distances while suffering from cancer symptoms and the effects associated with such intense treatment.

Ken Holmen, CEO of CentraCare took to the podium to share his thoughts on the importance of cancer care in Central Minnesota. "We build on yesterday," said Holmen who mentioned the immense work completed throughout the history of Astera Health laying the groundwork for the success of tomorrow.

"There is nothing funny about cancer," remarked Stephen Davis, MD, who serves as a family medicine physician at Astera Health. For several months, Dr. Davis has been battling a form of bone cancer and shared some emotional patient stories impacted by cancer.

Joel Beiswenger, President and CEO of Astera Health concluded the ceremony with heartfelt words about the journey to the construction of the cancer center. "In the end, this will transform the care we deliver, the experience our patients have, who of course, are going through the toughest times in their lives," said Beiswenger.

Construction began May 8 and will be open to patients in July of 2025.

For more information about the new cancer center, visit asterahealth.org.

# Lake Education Day

By Todd County Soil and Water Conservation District

Approximately 55 shoreland owners from Big Birch and Little Birch lakes in both Todd and Stearns counties sat down to a short morning of educational presentations led by Adam Ossefoort, Todd County Planning and Zoning and Deja Anton, Todd Soil and Water Conservation District. Minnesota Natives kicked off the day with a presentation on the types of native plants and flowers landowners can plant to "dress up" the natural landscapes along shoreland properties.

Ossefoort gave an interactive presentation on Shoreland Ordinance 101, in which the audience role played the job of the Board of Adjustment with actual examples of variance requests put in front of the Todd County Board of Adjustments in 2023-24. (Names, location and all other identifiers were redacted.) Using handheld voting devices, the audience voted in favor or against three variance requests. Votes were based on applicant evidence of practical difficulty and the seven criteria items that must be considered before a variance request can be honored. Ossefoort explained each criteria and either agreed or disagreed with the audience votes based on legal review.

Anton stepped up to the plate to find solutions for landowners needing to make improvements on their properties for variance requests and/or for retention of aesthetic and conservation land values, in her presentation entitled Healthy Shores, Year 2. Anton challenged individuals to define their paradigm of beauty when it comes to shoreland property showing examples of lakes from around the country and state at various stages of development. Her presentation was also interactive posing and answering many thought provoking questions.

Did you know that phosphorus is found naturally in Todd County soils? Did you know that you are made up of a certain percentage of phosphorus, as is every living thing? Did you know… when plants, animals and natural debris decay, that phosphorus is returned to the environment? Did you know that your shoreland property (based on studies conducted on an average landscaped shoreland property with 100 feet of lake frontage) adds .2 pounds of phosphorus to the lake per summer? How many lake lots are around your lake? When you add 100 lake lots, the phosphorus contribution to the lake averages 20 pounds per summer. Did you know that 20 pounds of phosphorus equates to 10,000 pounds of algae per year?

Anton went on to highlight the "before and after" of several corrective lakeshore projects installed voluntarily by Todd County shoreland owners in 2023. Cost-share opportunities were outlined and methods for the audience to assess their own lakeshore property for health and aesthetic value were discussed.

This is the second year Todd SWCD has collaborated in this event. Audience surveys immediately following the presentations gave the meeting length, information and style a "thumbs up" with attendees saying they would recommend this event to a friend.

Is your lake association or LID interested in such a presentation? Todd County will customize information to your lake. Reach out to Todd SWCD at 320-732-2644 to request a date.

## Looking back

### 75 Years Ago - 1949

• June 16, 1949 - The first appearance of the Staples Municipal band for their summer concert season was Thursday evening, June 9, when the regular weekly concert was given at the Northern Pacific band shell on First Avenue.

Many people attended the concert and the applause which greeted the band in its first 1949 concert was pleasing to the members as well as the director, Erling I. Lian.

• June 16, 1949 - Leader's baseball team continued on with its winning streak last Sunday to walk off with scoring honors from Aldrich by a score of 7 to 5.

It was a case of a pitcher's battle again. Cameron

- o -

*Compiled by*
**Dawn Timbs**

- o -

for the Aldrich team, struck out 10 men from Leader, while the combined efforts of Shequin and Schlenicka made it possible to strike out 14 Aldrich batters as they faced the mound.

• June 16, 1949 - C. Walter of Forest Lake arrived in Motley Saturday and is busy trying to get the machinery in the creamery in full working order so as to reopen the Motley creamery within a few days. There is still much work to be done.

Mr. Walther was in the creamery business in Deer Park, Wisc., for 15 years and for the past four years was manager of the Russell Dairy at Forest Lake.

• June 16, 1949 - Two sisters married two brothers in a pretty summer wedding solemnized Saturday in the Swan Valley Lutheran Church at Leader. The brides, daughters of Mr. and Mrs. Orel O. Granby of Poplar chose the double ring ceremony for their weddings to Howard and Glenn Goble, sons of Mrs. Leta Goble of Brainerd.

First to enter the church was the eldest bride, Ardyce, who was given in marriage by her father. She was preceded by her maid of honor, Miss Verlys Johnson, a former classmate. After the groom, Howard Goble, and his best man, Leonard Jotham, had taken their places with them at the right hand side of the altar, the other bride, Verdelle, who was given in marriage by her grandfather, Carl Granby, entered the church. She was preceded by her maid of honor, Dorraine Croonquist, a former classmate. They were met at the altar by the groom, Glenn Goble, and his best man, Albert Engholm. The brides wore identical gowns of imported organdy which had been made by Verdelle.

### 50 Years Ago - 1974

• June 13, 1974 - Mrs. Diane Danculovich, the Welcome Wagon Hostess in this area has made calls on the following newcomers: Mr. and Mrs. James Ferguson, Mr. and Mrs. Richard Bolduc and girls, Mr. and Mrs. Richard Nelson and baby. She also called on Mr. and Mrs. Mike Dolzal and Mr. and Mrs. Ronald Kimball to congratulate them on their new baby boys.

• June 13, 1974 - Sterns Fair Lady, one of Staples newest businesses, will hold a grand opening Friday and Saturday, June 14 and 15. Mrs. Bernie Stern, owner of the store, invites the public to the event, along with her employees Maryann Riewer, Dixie Stern, Bev Mennis and Pat Huss.

Mrs. Stern said that during the two-day grand opening, fresh carnations will be given to the first 100 ladies in the store each day, coffee and cookies will be served and there will be registration for 30 door prizes to be given away.

• June 13, 1974 - Jeff Marden, the senior trackster of Coach Ron Beachy, captured the state championship of Class A in the pole vault last Friday evening at St. Cloud Apollo high school.

Marden became the first trackman from Staples High school to capture a state title in the sport.

In accomplishing his feat, Marden, the son of Mr. and Mrs. Robert Marden, vaulted 13'3" for the championship of the vent.

In recognition of his honor, Staples fans welcomed home Marden, Coach Beachy and his assistants and the other two state participants, Bill Backberg and Joe Lauer, with a pep fest in the high school cafeteria. Signs decorated some of the store windows in Staples and the band was on hand for the welcome home occasion.

• June 13, 1974 - Patricia Ryle, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. G. M. Ryle of Brainerd, has recently joined the pharmacy staff at the Longbella Drug in Staples as a pharmacy intern.

### 25 Years Ago - 1999

• June 17, 1999 - Ryan Thiel, the son of Robert and Donna Thiel of rural Bertha, was a contestant on the quiz show, "Jeopardy" for four days beginning June 9. He won nearly $35,000 and qualified for a tournament of champions. Ryan is a 1980 graduate of Bertha-Hewitt High School, and currently works in the Twin Cities as a freelance sign language interpreter. The Staples World featured a picture of Ryan, along with the quiz show host Alex Trebek, in this edition.

• June 17, 1999 - The Staples area Sprinkle and Sprout Garden Club is re-establishing their Yard of the Month distinction. This month's winners are Tom and Linda Tappe of 208 6th Street, Staples. Tom said that his wife completed most of the decorating work including the rock garden, various perennials around the porch and a bench in the front yard.

• June 17, 1999 - Motley's El-Ray Cafe hosted Minnesota's First Family briefly Monday morning, but the Jesse Ventura family was not looking for any publicity. Spotted outside the restaurant were Governor Jesse Ventura, First Lady Terry Ventura, as well as a young lady believed to be their daughter. The entourage traveled from Motley to Staples Monday morning, and proceeded on west. The security people traveling with them said the Venturas were on personal business.

• June 17, 1999 - For a man who has only been interested in carving fishing decoys for just over six years, Stan Kaste must be fairly good.

About six weeks ago, at a Minnesota Carvers and Collectors banquet in Pine River, Kaste, a lifelong Staples resident, was surprised to receive the 1999 Decoy Carver of the Year award from the carvers' group.

### 10 Years Ago - 2014

• June 12, 2014 - Tuesday, June 3 was a beautiful day to hold the first ever "Man-Day." Steve Hoemberg had invited some of his older high school students to his house in rural Staples for interactive lessons on how to do traditional "Manly" jobs. The students all had at least one thing in common: they don't have a dad around in their everyday life to teach them "manly stuff", such as how to change the tire on a car.

• June 12, 2014 - After teaching math for 24 years at Staples Motley High School, Jerry Reck is retiring.

Reck started his career in Little Falls in 1978. He has taught in Motley, Long Prairie, Staples, and now Staples Motley. He ended up in Staples because his wife Jane worked for the Staples school district. "We decided it was better to both be at one district," he said.

• June 12, 2014 - Zachary Carlson, son of Jace and Holly Carlson of Motley, was inducted into the elite group of Eagle Scouts May 31, at the Motley free Methodist Church after completing all the Eagle Scout requirements.



## Mystery photo

Hello readers. This week's archive photo is from 1987. Do you know who these people are and perhaps the context of the photo? Do you have a memory to share? Email your answers and where you're from to dtimbs@staplesworld.com by Friday, or call 218-894-1112. The answers will be published in next week's paper, as well as a new mystery photo.



## Mystery solved

Last week's mystery photo published in the June 6, 1974 edition of the Staples World featured members of the Staples Jaycees at an installation of officers ceremony held at the River Inn in Aldrich. Pictured above, LeRoy "Bud Squires, President of the Minnesota Jaycees (and the installing officer) reads the oath of office to the following: Front row from left, Mel Wiens, secretary; James Hofer, vice-president; Frank Williams, president; Stan Gertner, director; and Lynn Thornton, retiring president. Back row, Don Flaten, director; Larry Werder, treasurer; Bill Knapp, state director; Ray Gildow, director; and Tom Danculovich, vice-president.

*Mike Koppes of Staples correctly identified Tom Danculovich, Don Flaten, Jim Hofer and Frank Williams. He thought the man on the far right was Don Peterson. Thanks for participating in our Mystery Photo.*

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# D-Day still remembered today

By Mark Anderson
Managing Editor

A handful of events have completely changed the entire course of world history. D-Day is a recent event in that category, starting a whole new world on June 6, 1944. Eighty years later, that event is still remembered in France and around the world.

I was lucky to witness how D-Day is still revered in France. A year ago, my wife Nicky and I took a tour of the Normandy beaches. The residents, monuments, churches and Americano cafes along the coastline still honor the soldiers who sacrificed to liberate France from the German occupation In World War II.

Without the largest invasion in world history, all of Europe and possibly the United States would be speaking German and flying swastika flags today.

We were lucky to be on a tour with a very knowledgeable guide. We saw Utah Beach, a resort area where General Theodore Roosevelt, Jr., the son of Teddy Roosevelt, recognized that his ship had blown several miles off course because he recognized one of the resort lodges. He also didn't let it affect the invasion, famously stating "We'll start the war from right here!"

At Utah Beach, everything worked well. The bomber airplanes greatly damaged the German defenses, which included thousands of tons of concrete poured to create bunkers. Out of 23,000 troops hitting Utah beach, only 197 men were killed or wounded.

On Omaha Beach, everything went wrong. This is the beach depicted in movies. The airplanes dropped their bombs far inland, because clouds prevented them from seeing the coast and they didn't want to hit the Allied boats. The German guns had better angles to fire at the soldiers and equipment as they unloaded. The waves of deployment were spread apart too far, so the Germans had time to prepare between waves.

But despite everything going wrong, they still took it, through sheer will, bravery, cunning and making the best of a bad situation. Through heavy fire, they made their way up the huge hills and eventually secured the coastline. As our tour guide pointed out, when faced with that kind of danger with a high likelihood of being killed, most people would freeze and be unable to move. But we had very few soldiers freeze, they just kept going until the job was done.

Our guide told us a few of the amazing stories that emerged from D-Day. In addition to the ocean invasion, we learned about how thousands of paratroopers dropped into France and every single one of them had to figure out what to do with their extraordinary circumstances. We saw the town of Sainte Mere Eglise, where a replica of U.S. paratrooper John Steele hangs from the church steeple. A lot of tourists were in the courtyard there, taking photos of the church.

In contrast to that famous place, the tiny town of Angoville-au-Plain had no visitors other than our tour bus, but it has another church that should go down in history as an example of American fortitude.

In that town, medics Robert Wright and Kenneth Moore set up an emergency hospital in the town's small church. They started treating the Allied wounded, but were also brought a few German soldiers to treat as the battle raged on outside.

At one point, the Germans were about to take over the town and some retreating American soldiers told them to get out. But they couldn't leave their patients and stayed. A German officer burst into the church with his soldiers and the medics told him no guns were allowed in the church. The officer was extremely angry until he saw that German soldiers were also being treated there. He ordered his men out and allowed the hospital to remain untouched. The town changed hands several times, but the medics had created an oasis that the soldiers on both sides would not touch. The blood stains are still on the pew benches in the church, and the scar from an unexploded mortar that came through the roof can still be seen.

Our final stop was the American Cemetery, a solemn place with thousands of grave markers, showing their name and the state that the soldier was from. A lot of Minnesota names were in view from the walking paths, every one of them evoking a vision of someone whose relatives might live here now.

Having seen Omaha Beach, while I read the first hand account of George Sycks on this week's front page, I was breathless by the time I finished it.

The beaches of Normandy are still very American-friendly, a contrast to the rude reception we sometimes get in Paris. Not only did the Americans save the world from Germany, they preserved the way of life for the people of Europe. Just on our one day tour, we saw trotting horses training on Utah Beach, kids swimming at Omaha Beach, quaint farms and villages scattered throughout Normandy, living their preferred European lifestyle.

The nature of the world and the nature of war has changed greatly since that day. Biases and business allegiances now pervade every political decision. It is nearly impossible for a modern soldier to be as altruistic as they were during World War II. But just like they did on June 6, 1944, our soldiers make the best they can out of the situation they are in. It wasn't just Europe or world history that was changed that day, it was our concept of who we are as Americans and who we are as humans.

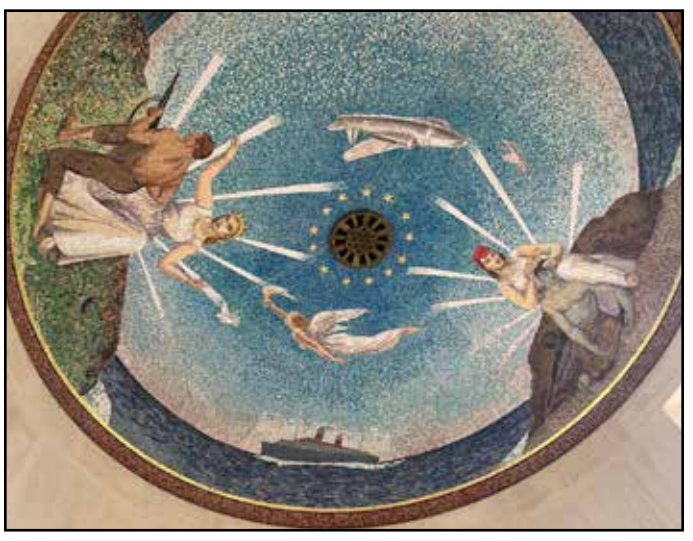
Quote of the week

"Soldiers, sailors, and airmen of the Allied Expeditionary Force. You are about to embark upon the great crusade, toward which we have striven these many months. The eyes of the world are upon you."
—Dwight D. Eisenhower, June 6, 1944



**Depicting real bravery**

A statue depicting two Allied soldiers running up the Normandy beaches, adorned with fresh flowers.



**Angels and war ships**

A ceiling mural at the American Cemetery, showing angels guiding American soldiers, planes and ships.




**State hero**

A Minnesota soldier at the American Cemetery.



**American mettle**

Pont du Hoc, where American Rangers scaled 90 foot cliffs to overtake German defenses.





**Etched in memories**

Stained Glass Windows in Angoville-au-Plain left, and Sainte Mere Eglise, above, commemorating American paratroopers and medics

Quote of the week

"I walked for miles along the water's edge. Sometimes I sat down and looked out at the sea, at the ships and the men unloading. And I realized how lucky I was to be there, to see it and to write about it, even though there was too much to see and too much to write about."
—Ernie Pyle, June 1944

Staples World

Established in 1890. USPS 518-760
©2024 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.

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## 1,000 Books Before Kindergarten

Two more readers recently completed the 1,000 Books Before Kindergarten program at the Staples Public Library. The purpose of the program is to increase awareness of the importance of early literacy as well as encouraging parents to embrace their role as their child's first teacher. The goal is to help children enter school ready to learn as reading is one of the most important things a parent can do to ensure their child's success when they begin school. Stop by the library to sign your child up and receive a free book bag. The program is sponsored by the Staples Friends of the Library.



Above: The Doss family, Matthew, Adaniya, Judy Wolak (Library Aide), Ariella receiving her book and stuffed animal, Kaitlyn and Malakhi.

Left: Ruby Maroney and Angie Johnson, Library Assistant. (Submitted photos)

## Mark Your Calendar

### June 13

**'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

### June 14

**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.

### June 16

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

### June 17

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

### June 18

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

### June 19

**Staples All Veterans And Community Park Association** will hold its June board meeting Wednesday, June 19, at 5:30 p.m., in Witches Brew, formerly known as Timbers Restaurant and Event Center, on the north end of the building. The public is welcome. To attend via Zoom, call Bob Hamann at 218-894-3139.

Vacation Bible School
Camp Firelight
Mon., June 24 - Fri., June 28
6 - 8 p.m.
Ages 5 - 12 years
Staples Seventh-Day Adventist Church
421 Dakota Ave. SE, Staples
Info: 218-296-1741
w25c

Open House
FRIDAY, June 14, 2024
4:30 - 7:00 p.m.
Everyone Welcome!
The Barn Inn
at Solid Rock, Airbnb/Vrbo
Lee and Laurie Paskewitz Home
30063 County 26, Browerville, MN 56438
Contact info.: 218-296-1205
w25p

Motley Free Methodist Church
Vacation Bible School
STUCK
diving into friendship with God
June 17-21, 2024 4:30-7:30 p.m.
Ages: 3 years through just finishing 6th grade
For questions or to register contact: Jess at 218-296-2441
www.motleyfreemethodistchurch.com/vgs.html

## Flag Day program in Wadena June 14

A Flag Day Program will be held Friday, June 14 at 6:00 p.m. at the Wadena Veterans Park located at Harry and Rich Drive, just off Highway 10 East, Wadena.

A presentaion will be held by the Wadena VFW and Auxiliary, Wadena Elks Lodge #2386 and The Veterans Park Committee.

The program includes:

•Learning about the history of our American Flag.

•Flag folding demonstration with the Scouts and explanation of the 13 folds.

•Information about proper retirement of unserviceable flags and updated information on the Veterans Park and Museum.

All are welcome. Bring your own chairs. Refreshments will be served and free stick flags will be available.

The Museum will be open every Saturday and Sunday from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. through Labor Day and on the 4th of July.



## New planters in town

A total of 24 planters now grace the sidewalks of downtown Staples, filled with flowers and prairie grasses. The self-watering planters, purchased this past February, were made possible thanks to a downtown revitalization grant. Blake and Lynnette Gerard, owners of Williams Floral & Nursery in Staples, did all of the planting and have been caring for them since early March, maintaining them in their greenhouse until they could be placed outside after Memorial Day.

The Gerards explained that the self-watering planters consist of a wicking system that keeps the roots/soil moist when needed. The reservoir holds up to 40 gallons of water, which means in normal conditions these planters only need to be watered every three to four weeks. They went on to say that, "Citizens may notice they (the plants) don't look like the picture, this is due to a combination of being transported from the nursery to their final destination, as well as the recent weather…the wind and rain did a number to these planters. Thankfully, when things seem to return to normal, these resilient plants will retake their shape and beauty." (Submitted photo)

## Lakewood and Twin Cities Orthopedics to offer free sports physicals

Lakewood Health System, Staples, and Twin Cities Orthopedics are once again partnering to offer free sports physicals to students on Tuesday, June 25. Appointments are available from 5 to 8 p.m. and will take approximately 15 minutes each. Appointments will take place at the new TCO Staples – Therapy, located at The Plaza (1210 US Hwy 10 E – Staples), where students will get a first-hand, behind-the-scenes look at the new space.

Any student needing a provider-signed Minnesota State High School League form in order to participate in school sports is welcome to schedule an appointment. Slots are limited. To register, visit www.lakewoodhealthsystem.com and click the sports physicals banner, or visit https://lakewoodhealthsystem.wufoo.com/forms/lakewoodtco-sports-physicals-2024/

SMACK DAY CAMPS FREE! K-6
STAPLES ALLIANCE CHURCH
TUES JUNE 25TH
SAT JULY 27TH
Staples Motley Area Camp for Kids
Art, Sports & Drama
Session 1: Tues. June 25, 9am - 5pm Free breakfast 7:30am - 9am
Theme: Nature *Cook out after camp for families of attendees
Session 2: Saturday, July 27, 9 am - 5 pm
Theme: Western *Cook out after camp for families of attendees
For More Information contact: Staples Alliance Church info@staplesalliance.org
218-894-2891
1512 8th St. NE Staples, MN 56479
75 kids per class *Registration closes 10 days before each session

## SOUTHSIDE WATER MAIN CLEANING PROJECT

Beginning **Tuesday, June 11, 2024**, a contractor working on behalf of the City of Staples will be cleaning the water mains on the south side of the city, between Long Prairie Rd and 3rd St SW, as well as on Wisconsin and Dakota Avenues. Throughout the project area water may be shut off during the hours of **8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.**, so please plan accordingly. When water service is restored, you may notice that it is discolored. If this occurs, run a faucet until the water becomes clear.

Traffic flow and access to driveways will be maintained throughout the project.

**For questions, contact Scott Grabe at the city offices, 218-894-2550.**

cl24-25c




w25c

## Election Judges Needed

Empower your community and play a crucial role in shaping democracy by joining us as an Election Judge. As a paid official, you'll be at the heart of the democratic process, ensuring that every voter's rights are safeguarded on Election Day. Election Judges receive training and have a right to get time off work to serve, without a reduction in pay. Current pay for election judges is $15.00 per hour. You must be eligible to vote in the State of Minnesota and be able to read, write and speak English. The time commitment is 2 hours of training and an 8-hour shift for the State Primary (August 13) and General Election (November 5).

**To sign up, contact Tara Greer, City Clerk at 218-541-5004 or send an e-mail to tgreer@ci.staples.mn.us.**

w24-25c

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Staples World newspaper subscription rates, one year:

**Local: $53** (Todd, Wadena, Morrison, Cass counties)

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**Student Rate: $43** per school year, in-state (Sept.-April)

**On-Line: $50**

**Print with on-line: $76**

Staples World

P.O. Box 100
224 4th St. NE
Staples, MN 56479
218-894-1112
www.staplesworld.com

## Hello World

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

## Staples High School Class of '74 reunion

The Staples High School Class of 1974 will hold its 50th reunion Friday, Aug. 16, during Railroad Days, at Pine Grove Park in Staples. The event begins at 3 p.m. and the park closes at 9 p.m.

Bottled water and snacks will be provided; bring your own beverages. For more information, check the Facebook page: Staples Class of 1974 Reunion.

## Obituaries



### Dale DiGiovanni

Dale Victor DiGiovanni, 76, of Poplar Township, passed away June 3, 2024, at his home.

A Celebration of Life gathering will will be held June 22 at 2:00 p.m. at Dale's residence. To honor Dale's memory, the family asks that a potluck dish or dessert be brought. Pulled pork sandwiches will be served by the family.

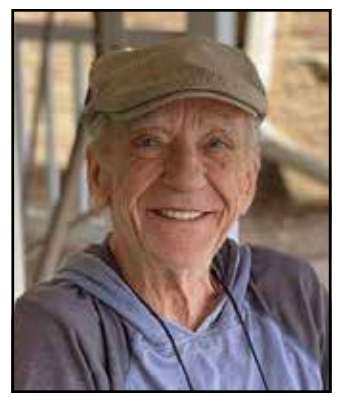
Dale's ashes will later be spread across the property.

Dale was born October 26 1947 to Celestine "Joe" and Alice DiGiovanni in Motley.

Dale is survived by four children, Chanse DiGiovanni, Tessa (DiGiovanni) Fritz, Kallie (DiGiovanni) Blair and Luke DiGiovanni; 13 grandchildren, grandchildren, Cody, Mariah, Elliott, Isabella Fritz, Elleanne Fritz, TerriAnn Ericksen, Keegan Blair, Davina Blair, Marinda, Kenzie Blair, Tayton, Nathan, Brayden; siblings, Caroline, Jerome, Bruce, Roy, Ned, Dean, Terry, Nina and Dewey.

Dale is preceded in death by his parents; wife, Yvonne; one son, Christopher; one granddaughter, Sharlene Yvonne; two sisters, Ruthie and Cathleen and one brother, Scott.

w25c A00006B2024JU12



### John Nelson

John Nelson, 81, passed away May 28, 2024, in Sauk Rapids.

A celebration of life will be held Tuesday, June 18 from 5 to 7 p.m. at the Brenny Funeral Home in Staples.

John was born May 8, 1943 to Ernest and Albena Nelson in Bertha. He spent most of his life in Staples. He graduated from Staples High School in 1961 and married Dodie Fread. Together they raised five children.

John worked as manager of Batcher's Department Store, a mail carrier and at the Staples Off Sale. As a young man he enjoyed golf, basketball, tennis and an annual fishing trip to Canada. He had a lifelong interest in restoring antique cars. He was a member of the Staples Fire Department for 25 years.

John's kids remember piling into the station wagon with dad to go to the little south side store to pick out their nightly junk food treat. Grandchildren have fond memories of eating bags of jelly beans on grandpa's lap and throwing candy from the rumble seat of his old car in the Staples parade.

John is survived by two daughters, Cathy (Mike) Bengtson and Jodie (Tom) Wendt; three sons, Rick (Boom) Nelson, Rob (Sue) Nelson and Mark (Katherine) Nelson; seven grandchildren, Sarah and Maria Bengtson, Sam and Ben Nelson, Jonah and Davis Wendt and Megan Nelson and one brother, Gary Nelson.

He is preceded in death by his parents; wife, Dodie; one infant child and one brother Lloyd.

In lieu of flowers, memorials may be sent to the Staples Fire Department.

w25c A00006B2024JU12



### Pacer Taylor

Pacer "Hepi" Eugene Taylor, 48, of Motley, formerly of Prairie Island, died June 2, 2024 at Essentia Health in Fargo.

Funeral services were held June 7 at the Prairie Island Community Center.

Pacer was born September 23, 1975, to Janet Taylor in Minneapolis. He grew up in Minneapolis and Prairie Island. For the past 10 years he has resided in Motley. He enjoyed the farm life raising many animals. He was married twice and later divorced.

Pacer is survived by nine children, Pacer Jr., Tristan, Shandon, Catera, Giovanni, Salvador, Chyanne, Dakota and Jaxon; two sisters, Shalane (Richard) Bush and Domita (Garry) DeWald, Sr.; girlfriend, Nikki Larson; step-father, Allen Larson and many nieces, nephews, cousins and other relatives and friends.

w25c A00006B2024JU12



### Jacqueline Harkcom

Jacqueline Harkcom, 82, of Staples, passed away June 3, 2024, at Lakewood Health System, Staples

A memorial service was held June 10 at Faith Lutheran Church, Staples.

Jackie was born February 7, 1942 to Alexander and Margaret (Caton) Larsen in Gilroy, California. She married Jack Harkcom on September 7, 1984.

Left to cherish her memory are four children, Alex (Sue) Griffith, Augie (Todd) Kresge, Allen Griffith and Donald Mudick, Jr; five grandchildren, Daphne (Josh) Christenson, Kelsey (Mark) Baker, Leighton Griffith, Travis (Felicia) Myerchin and Jeremy (Nicole) Myerchin; five great-grandchildren, Elijah, Isaiah, Elliana, Amaya, Nina and one on the way.

Jackie is preceded in death by her parents and husband, Jack.

Arrangements are by Taylor Funeral Home, Staples.

w25c A00006B2024JU12

## Staples Area Church Directory

### Staples

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

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

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

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

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

**Seventh Day Adventist**
421 Dakota Ave. SE, Staples
218-894-0033
Saturday Worship .....9:30 am.
Sabbath School.....10:45 a.m.

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

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

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

### Aldrich

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

### Cushing

**Bethany Lutheran**
25430 Bison Rd.Cushing, MN
320-749-2140
Pastor Carl Larson
Pastor Chris Mathiason
www.bethanylutherancushing.org
Sunday Worship.....9:00 a.m.
Communion .....1st and 2nd Sunday of each month

**Lincoln Evangelical Free**
1354 320th Street, Cushing, MN 56443
Phone: 218- 575-2449
www.lincolnefree.org
Facebook Lincoln E Free
Office Hours: Tues. - Thurs., 9 a.m. - 12 p.m.
Senior Pastor: Don Reigstad
Community Life Pastor: Jim Brown
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 Paul Koehler
Sunday School and Bible Class .....8:30 a.m.
Sunday Worship.....10:45 a.m.

**St. Michael Catholic Church**
1st St. and Birch, Motley .....218-894-2296
info@marysacc.org
Fr. Aaron Kuhn Fr. Gabriel Walz
MASS:
Saturday .....4:00 p.m.

**St. Michael**
280 1st Ave S, Motley.....218-894-2296
Pastor Fr. Joe Korf
MASS:
Saturday .....4:00 p.m.

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

### Oylen

**Oylen Alliance**
Cty. Rds, 7 and 9, Oylen
218-472-3440 or 218-472-3316
Pastor Neal Malcore
Sunday School .....10:00 a.m.
Sunday Worship.....11:00 a.m

### Pillager

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

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

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

### Hewitt

**Church of the Nazarene**
114 Front Street, P.O. Box 146 Hewitt, MN
218-924-2028
Jim and Linda McGaffey, Pastor
Sunday School .....9:30 a.m
Sunday Worship.....10:45 a.m.
WEDNESDAY PRAYER .....7:00 p.m.

**Trinity Lutheran Church (LCMS)**
524 Front Street, PO Box 116, Hewitt, MN
Pastor Robin Fish
Sunday Worship.....10:30 a.m.

**Hewitt Community Church**
Hwy. 210, Hewitt, MN
Pastor Kenneth Uhren
Sunday Worship.....10:30 a.m.

### Verndale

**Verndale Alliance**
109 NW Brown Street, Verndale, MN 56481
218-445-5619
Senior Pastor Tony Stanley
Heath Belknap, Pastor of Student Ministries
Sunday Worship.....9:30 a.m.
Sunday Bible Fellowship Classses .....11-11:45 a.m.

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

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

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

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

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

**St. Frederick Catholic Church**
20 Mason Avenue NW.....218-894-2296
info@marysacc.org
Fr. Aaron Kuhn
Fr. Gabriel Walz
MASS:
Saturday .....6:00 p.m

**St. Hubert Catholic Church**
Bluegrass.....218-894-2296
info@marysacc.org
Fr. Aaron Kuhn
Fr. Gabriel Walz
MASS:
Sunday.....10:30 a.m.

### Leaf River Township

**The Old Country Church**
Leaf River Twp., Wadena County Rd. 6
Info. 218-837-5690 Call first.
Sunday Service .....10:00 a.m.

### Wadena

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

## "Revisiting Our Life's Thank You Lists"

Pastor Barry Klein, Staples Church of Christ

It may have been mentioned in the past that one of my two personal homemade prayer guides is a thank you list, divided into 31 days. Over the years of adding to it, there are now about ten "life gifts" from God in each day. All you need to do is take a plain piece of paper, fold it in half so that you could place it in your Bible and space out 31 sections where you can start writing your thank you story on it.

Just start with day one and write one thing down. Skip down to day two and write one more thing down and so on until you have one thing for each of the 31 days. Then go back through and write a second gift from God until you get to day 31 and now have 62 gifts from God written down. Just keep adding as you think of new gifts from God that you weren't aware of before.

In my quiet time with God of Scripture reflection and prayer, I include the "thank you list" for that day of the month, offering it back up to God in gratitude. We become more and more conscious of how generous God really is to each one of us. Although we will obviously have some similar gifts from God, it truly will be your personal story that God is writing upon your life in all that He so generously gives us in the midst of every heart beat and breath.

This is a very practical (and needed) way for us to live out I Thessalonians 5:18 (NIV2011) which says, "Give thanks in all circumstances; for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus." Don't be surprised if you eventually run out of space in your 31 days and have to start adding in the margins some day.

My second prayer guide is similar in format except that I write down in the same way, one person at a time for each day. I do have an opening section before day one for people that I want to lift up to Jesus daily.

Although not limited to these two prayer guides, they do help me be about I Thessalonians 4:17 to "pray continually."

Think about your own prayer life as a way of life in communing with God. I would be interested in learning from your prayer life as I learn from two of my pastoral colleagues in our Thursday morning prayer times at Assembly of God.

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## At the top of the state

Audrey Brownell stands at the top of the podium following the 1,600 meter run. (Submitted photos)

# Brownell wins 800, 1,600; Burton and Beachy medal

By Mark Anderson
Managing Editor

Audrey Brownell is an individual state champion, winning the 800 meters and 1,600 meters, setting school records in both events at the Minnesota State Track and Field meet on June 6-7.

Kyanna Burton was fifth in the 3,200 meter run, her highest finish in that event.

Turner Beachy placed eighth in the pole vault, while the other three boys competed well but did not earn medals. Noah Larson was 18th in the 110 hurdles, Sawyer Ferdon was 12th in the triple jump, Avandre Brandt was 16th in the 200 meter dash, 17th in the high jump and 16th in the long jump.

### Double champion

Brownell came into the meet as one of the favorites in both of her events, but she said she wasn't feeling a lot of pressure.

"I worked really hard in the offseason, my workouts and training were really good, so I was confident in what I could do," said Brownell. "I was just trying to stay calm and trust everything I have done for workouts."

She started with the preliminary heat of the 800 on June 6. Her strategy was to stay behind the lead pack and make a move on the second lap. That worked well and she was first in her heat.

"I just wanted to win it," she said. "It felt really good, I wanted to save as much as I could for the next day."

Starting with the 1,600 meter race, Brownell stayed with the pack for the first lap and a half, then mad a strong move to the lead.

"I caught the girl in first, made a move and kept pulling ahead," she said. That was exactly what she had been planning. "I knew there were some girls were going to go out hard. I was not worried about my times and splits, I just wanted to be smart with my decisions."

Brownell was pulling away by the end of the race.

"I was confident in my kick, I felt I could take it away if someone caught me," she said.

She finished with negative splits, every lap being faster than the previous lap. Her split times were 1:17, 1:16, 1:15 and 1:11 to set a new school record of 5:00.73.

She said it felt great to get the win, but immediately realized that she had another race coming up soon.

"In the back of my mind, I was still trying to conserve energy for the 800," said Brownell. "I did the same thing at sections and true team, so I knew how the gap felt," she said, "I was more worried about getting off my feet and recovering."

Her top rival in the 800 also had run the 1,600, so Brownell said she got her confidence back by the start of the race. "I was less stressed, the feeling from the mile was carrying into it. I wanted to race smart and have a good kick.

On the first lap of the two lap 800, Brownell was boxed in early but moved up into the second place after 300 meters. She stayed there until starting her kick with 200 meters left and raced to her second win in 2:16.16, another school record.

"I felt very accomplished, I had a couple of races this year that didn't go the way I wanted," said Brownell. "I was happy all the hard work paid off. I trained every single day this winter, all the miles I put in, that was worth it."

She also said she did more weight training this year. Another change this spring was doing more 200 and 300 repeats to get her leg speed up for the shorter races.

"The job isn't finished, I have a lot more years and a lot more goals," said Brownell. One of those goals is running at the Nike Track Nationals, which will be held June 12-15.

### State medals

Burton had finished 8th, 10th and 7th in her previous three state races in the 3,200. She came into this year's race running a little slower than her best times from last year and was the eleventh seed. She had finished fifth at state cross country in the fall but had a foot injury and was just getting back into shape during the track season.

Burton started out her state race in the middle of the pack, then moved up with the lead pack as the race started stringing out. After one mile of the two mile race, a group of three runners started pulling away and Burton stayed with the chase pack. With one lap left, a huge group of six runners were clustered together, fighting for fourth through ninth place. Burton had an incredible last lap with a 1:20 split, to keep ahead of all those runners except one. She crossed the line in fifth place in 11:27, her fastest time this year.

In the boys pole vault, Beachy cleared his first three heights quickly, but missed twice at 13 feet, 6 inches. He cleared that on his final attempt and then had three shots at 14 feet, which he had cleared once during the season. He missed those three attempts and tied with four other vaulters for fourth place, but dropped to eighth place because of his earlier misses. This was his first appearance at the state meet.

### State success

Larson ran a personal best of 16.28 in his heat of the 110 meter hurdles, but it wasn't enough to make the finals against the fastest in the state.

Ferdon improved his standing in his second state tournament in the triple jump. After a foul and a mediocre jump, he nailed his third jump, clearing 42'4.5", to reach 12th place, about six inches short of making the finals and earning a medal.

Brandt was a part of last year's school record setting 4x100 meter relay team that placed fifth at state, but this was his first appearance as an individual, qualifying in three events. He did not have his best day in any of the events, but gained valuable experience against the best in the state. His 200 time of 23.34 was close to his fastest, but his long jump of 19'11.25" and high jump of 5'10" were short of what he had done at the section meet.



## Taking the lead in the state title races

Above, Brownell makes her move to the lead of the 800 meter run. Right, she rounds the corner in the 1,600.



# Uselman leads golfers to top four team finish

Mallory Uselman is heading to state golf for the third year in a row, leading another amazing accomplishment, the Staples-Motley girls team making the cut to play on day two of the Section 6AA golf meet.

The girls team had a slow start to the season but had been gaining momentum in the past few weeks.

Uselman has been one of the top golfers in the area and proved again with a third place finish in the section tournament. She started the tournament in stunning fashion, shooting even par on her first nine holes. She birdied number two, a 317 yard par four, then only had one bogey on the ninth hole. With two more birdies on the back nine, both on par four holes, Uselman finished day one shooting 76 on the par 72 course, putting her in second place.

Katelyn Schotzko and Walker Johnson each shot 102 to sit at 23rd place on the first day. Schotzko had a birdie and four pars in her round. Molly Hoemberg came in at 117 for a team score of 397, putting them in fourth place by seven strokes and advancing the entire team to day two.

On the second day, Uselman started well again with six pars on the first nine holes. She ran into trouble with two triple bogeys on her second nine, slipping to third place. But with four more pars, she had a state berth locked up by the time she finished with a birdie on the final hole of the tournament.

Johnson had an amazing second day, moving from 23rd to 16th on the leaderboard. She shot five pars, including four straight, to score 92. Schotzko shot 101 to move up a spot into 22nd place. Sarah Kroll was the team's fourth scorer on day two with 132.

### Team results

**Section 6AA girls golf tournament**

**Blackberry Ridge, Sartell**

Team scores: Pequot Lakes 683, Albany 717, Pierz 770, Staples-Motley 804; not qualifying for day 2: Melrose 404, Milaca 407, St. Cloud Cathedral 410, Wadena-Deer Creek 411, Pillager 458, Osakis 466, Sauk Centre 478, Little Falls inc., Royalton inc.

3. Mallory Uselman 76-82 - 159, 16. Walker Johnson 102-92 - 194, 22. Katelyn Schotzko 102-101 - 203, 30. Molly Hoemberg 117-133 - 250, 31. Sarah Kroll 120-132 - 252

# White makes state, golf team falls short on day 1

The Staples-Motley boys golf team fell short of their goal of going to state, but defending individual champion Carter White played well enough on the second day to get back to defend his title.

On the first day of the Section 6AA golf tournament, for the first time all year there were no Staples-Motley golfers in the top ten. Grant Bestland and Jackson White were tied for 13th place with scores of 79. Carter White was right behind with 80, Keller Anderson shot 81 Peyton Mithun had 82 and Thomas Johnson 83.

Every team member shot a decent round, but it wasn't quite the high level the team had been showing all year. Because of that, they did not advance to day two as a team, missing the top four cut by four strokes.

The top three Cardinals advanced as individuals. Carter White had to birdie the final hole, a 402 yard par four, in order to make the cut and ensure he had a chance to defend his state title.

Like a true champion, White reversed his play on day two, shooting two under par for 18 holes with no bogeys anywhere on his scorecard. He birdied the 535 yard par five fifth hole and the 158 yard par three 16th hole, recording 16 pars for the rest of his round. That incredible stretch ran him from 20th place all the way up to third on the section leaderboard, forcing his way into the state tournament.

Meanwhile, Bestland fired 11 pars, but was hurt by three double bogeys and finished with 82 for his second round. He slipped to 18th place, six strokes away from qualifying for the state tournament.

Jackson White started slow on day two. Even though he parred five of his last eight holes, he finished with 89 and out of contention.

### Team results

**Section 6AA boys golf tournament**

**Blackberry Ridge, Sartell**

Team scores: St. Cloud Cathedral 618, Albany 622, Pequot Lakes 624, Foley 661; not advancing to day two: Staples-Motley 319, Little Falls 322, Osakis 338, Pillager 345, Melrose 350, Crosby-Ironton/Aitkin 352, Sauk Centre 352, Perz 356, Royalton 357, Milaca 360, Wadena-Deer Creek 395, Long Prairie-Grey Eagle/Browerville 402

3. Carter White 80-70 - 150, 18. Grant Bestland 79-82 - 161, 21. Jackson White 79-89 - 168, 24. Keller Anderson 81, 27. Peyton Mithun 82, 36. Thomas Johnson 83

# Notices

## 107 Notices

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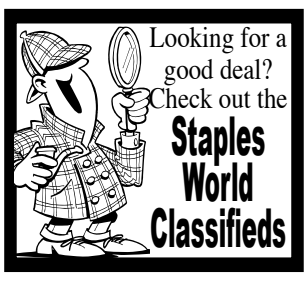
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**FIRST OF TWO HUGE GARAGE SALES THIS YEAR: Thurs., June 13, Fri., June 14, Sat., June 15, 8 a.m.-5 p.m.** One mi. south of Staples on Hwy. 210, left 3.7 mi. on Cty. 7. A lot of tools: power and air, Home interior, fishing, household, clothing, everything including the bathroom sink. 25p

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# Public Notices

### CITY OF STAPLES NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

Notice is hereby given that the City of Staples City Council will conduct a public hearing at 7:00 p.m. on Tuesday, June 25, 2024, at the Staples Government Center located at 122 6th St NE, Staples to receive public input regarding a proposed Ordinance 548 adopting a moratorium on cannabis businesses within the City of Staples.

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 ordinance, contact City Hall at 218-894-2550.

Dated: June 12, 2024

/s/ Tara Greer, City Clerk
25pnc

### NOTICE STAPLES–MOTLEY ISD #2170 STAPLES, MINNESOTA INVITATION FOR BIDS MILK AND RELATED DAIRY PRODUCTS

1. Notice is hereby given, that Staples-Motley Independent School District No. 2170, Staples, MN, will receive sealed bids for Milk and Related Dairy Products for the 2024-2025 school year according to the specification and conditions which may be obtained from the office of the Superintendent of Schools, Staples-Motley Schools, ISD No. 2170, 905 4th Street NE, Staples, Minnesota. Bids shall be submitted in the form and manner contained in the specifications and the conditions.

2. Sealed bids must be received in the office of the Superintendent no later than June 20, 2024 at 3:00 o'clock p.m. at which time the bids will be opened and tabulated.

3. On June 24, 2024 at 6:00 o'clock p.m., the school board will meet to evaluate all bids and act thereon. The school district reserves the right to accept, reject or negotiate any bid and to make an award which is deemed most favorable and advantageous to the school district. If further information is desired, interested persons should contact the district office, phone 218-894-5400.

Dated this
5th day of June, 2024.

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Lisa Anderson, Clerk
24-25pnc




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# Todd County Commissioners Minutes

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE TODD COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS HELD MAY 7, 2024**

**Call to Order**

Gary Warner provided information to the County Board regarding history of the County Ditch 42 system for study before making decisions on the proposed tiling project.

Call to Order

The Todd County Board of Commissioners met in the Commissioner's Board Room in the City of Long Prairie, MN on the 7th day of May, 2024 at 9 a.m. The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Becker. The meeting was opened with the Pledge of Allegiance. All Commissioners were present.

**Approval of Agenda**

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

**Consent Agenda**

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

To approve the Todd County Board of Commissioner's Meeting Minutes for April 16th, 2024.

Regular and Special Board Meetings as presented.

Approve hiring Brandon Cline to fill one of the vacant Public Works Summer Help positions.

Approve hiring Travis Moller to fill one of the vacant Public Works Summer Help positions.

Approve the resignation of Haili Foote, PT Correctional Officer effective 4/16/2024.

Approve the resignation of Lori Mielitz, PT Correctional Officer effective 4/2/2024.

Approve the resignation of Preston Kraker, FT Correctional Officer effective 4/21/2024.

Approve the resignation of Nathan Przybilla, PT Deputy effective 4/29/2024.

Hire Parker Duncan for the PT Seasonal Recreational Assistant at a wage of $20.57 per hour.Start date TBD.

Hire Eric Dahl for the PT Seasonal Recreational Assistant at a wage of $20.57 per hour. Startdate TBD.

Hire Nathan Benning for the PT Seasonal Recreational Assistant at a wage of $20.57 per hour. Start date TBD.

Hire Ross Bollin for the FT Correctional Officer at Grade 6 Step 1 $22.55 with a start date of 5/19/2024. Approve the resignation of Eligibility Worker Matthew Doubek, effective May 7 th , 2024.

Approve the resignation of Eligibility Worker Heather Ito, effective May 14 th , 2024.

Accept the resignation of Daniel York, Full-time Assistant Todd County Attorney effective 5/1/2024.

To hire Theresa James to fill the open Social Worker position. Grade 10, Step 5 at $31.58/hr. Start date: TBD

**GAMBLING PERMIT – THE CHURCH OF ST. JOSEPH OF GREY EAGLE**

WHEREAS, the Todd County Board of Commissioners are establishing their approval for a Gambling Permit for The Church of St. Joseph of Grey Eagle through this resolution;

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Todd County Board of Commissioners approve a Gambling Permit for The Church of St. Joseph of Grey Eagle to hold a raffle event at the Shattuck's Hub Supper Club in Burnhamville Township at the address 30905 County 13, Burtrum, MN on June 21, 2024.

**Commissioners**

Commissioner Neumann excused himself from the meeting room prior to the Osakis LID discussion.

On motion by Noska and second by Denny, the following motion was introduced and failed by tie rollcall vote with Neumann abstaining: To approve the establishment of the Osakis Lake Improvement District.

Following the roll call vote, Commissioner Neumann rejoined the meeting.

**Auditor-Treasurer**

On motion by Neumann and second by Denny, the following motion was introduced and adopted by unanimous rollcall vote: To approve the April 2024 Auditor Warrants number (ACH) 904016 through 904080 in the amount of $1,051,282.85 (Manual) 947 through 960 in the amount of $60,409.02 and (Regular) 242456 through 242599 in the amount of $525,122.02 for a total of $1,636,813.89.

On motion by Denny and second by Noska, the following motion was introduced and adopted by unanimous rollcall vote: To approve the Commissioner Warrants number (ACH) 403181 through 403214 in the amount of $37,211.02 and (Regular) 57963 through 58013 in the amount of $49,909.28 for a total of $87,120.30.

On motion by Byers and second by Neumann, the following motion was introduced and adopted by unanimous rollcall vote: To approve the Health & Human Services Commissioner Warrants number (ACH) 805284 through 805344 and (Regular) 711867 through 711929 for a total of $70,094.69.

On motion by Byers and second by Noska, the following motion was introduced and adopted by unanimous rollcall vote: To approve the Health & Human Services SSIS Warrants number (ACH) 601266 through 601271 and (Regular) 517820 through 517843 for a total amount of $128,273.04.

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

**2024 MEMORIAL DAY APPROPRIATIONS**

WHEREAS, Todd County has budgeted in 2024 for an appropriation to support the expenses for conducting Memorial Day Services and aid in the observance of Memorial Day by organizations within Todd County defined by Minnesota Statutes 375.34 and 375.35;

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Todd County Board of Commissioners hereby approve the 2024 payment of $200 to the Evergreen Cemetery Association of Long Prairie for the care of County lots in said Evergreen Cemetery, and;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, to approve the payment of $50 to each regular organization of Veterans of Foreign Wars, American Legion Posts and Auxiliaries in Todd County to support the payment of expenses in connection with the proper observance of Memorial Day Services conducted within Todd County and the amount to be paid by warrant to each organization provided that in cases where any of the above mentioned do not have an organization, the amount will be paid to the organization conducting the Memorial Day Service per the attached list.

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

**2024 SENIOR CITIZEN CENTER APPROPRIATIONS**

WHEREAS, Todd County has budgeted for 2024 an appropriation of $200 per Senior Citizen Center in Todd County;

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Todd County Board of Commissioners hereby approve the 2024 payment of $200 for each Senior Citizen Center located in Todd County per the attached list.

On motion by Neumann and second by Denny, the following motion was introduced and adopted by unanimous vote: To reappoint Eugene Mensen to the Sauk River Watershed District Board of Managers for the 3-year term set to begin on July 1, 2024.

**Economic Development**

The County Board thanked Rick Utech for his years of service as the TCDC Executive Director and welcomed the new TCDC Executive Director Melissa Wyman.

**U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service**

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

**CERTIFICATION OF CONSERVATION EASEMENTS FOR LAND WITHIN TODD COUNTY BY THE UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF INTERIOR, FISH & WILDLIFE SERVICE**

WHEREAS, the United States Department of the Interior, Fish and Wildlife Service has secured conservation easements with landowners within Todd County, and;

WHEREAS, the Todd County Board of Commissioners must provide their certification of these lands prior to the acquisition of lands by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Todd County Board of Commissioners does hereby provide their certification for the acquisition of the following lands listed here and further depicted in the attached correspondence from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service:

1. The Osakis Country Club: Habitat Easement, Section 31 and 32 of Gordon Township, easement consisting of approximately 80 acres

2. Dennis & Beverly Paul: Habitat Easement, Section 31 of Gordon Township, easement consisting of approximately 5 acres.

**University of Minnesota Extension**

UMN Extension representatives provided an updated to the County Board of programs offered in the Todd County area for discussion.

**Public Works**

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

**AWARD OF CONSTRUCTION CONTRACT FOR 2024 BITUMINOUS HIGHWAY CONSTRUCTION**

WHEREAS, sealed bids were received on April 30 th , 2024 by the Todd County Public Works Director for SP 077-602-020, SAP 077-615-007, SAP 077-633-004, SAP 077-638-019, SAP 077-646-008, SAP 077-646-009 CP 24:86, CP 24:100, CP 24:103, CP 77-24-01 and CP 77-24-08, said projects for highway construction related work at various locations in Todd County, and;

WHEREAS, the following sealed bids were received:

Anderson Brothers Construction Brainerd, Minnesota $5,912,061.08

Duininck Construction Prinsburg, Minnesota $6,643,164.84

Knife River Corporation Sauk Rapids, Minnesota $6,695,870.93

Central Specialties, Inc. Alexandria, Minnesota $6,713,022.96

Mark Sand and Gravel Co. Fergus Falls, Minnesota $7,541,275.88

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Todd County Board of Commissioners does hereby accept and award the contract for the above said construction projects to Anderson Brothers Construction of Brainerd, Minnesota based on their low bid of $5,912,061.08, with said award being made contingent upon the contractor submitting the required EEO and DBE documents to MnDOT and subsequent approval of said documents.

**County Ditch/Ag Inspector**

Commissioner Byers excused himself from the meeting room prior to the CD40 discussion.

On motion by Noska and second by Denny, the following motion was introduced and adopted by unanimous vote with Byers abstaining: Acting as Ditch Authority, approves Corbin Excavating and estimates for Option 1 ($11,979.00) and Option 2 ($9,317.00) for the repair of Lateral 2 on County Ditch 40. After the tree and brush removal has been done, the depth of spoil and elevation level of the deep section of ditch will be evaluated and the decision will be made to excavate (Option 1), or not excavate (Option 2) the deep section of ditch. The contractor cannot start this project before August 1, 2024.

Following the vote, Commissioner Byers rejoined the meeting.

Discussion was held regarding the proposed County Ditch 42 Tile Repair project and final details being gathered to bring a recommendation for official action to the next board meeting.

**Facilities Department**

On motion by Byers and second by Denny, the following motion was introduced and adopted by unanimous vote: To approve the Sourcewell supplied price from Johnson Controls for the replacement of the Humidification system for a total cost of $25,089.

On motion by Denny and second by Neumann, the following motion was introduced and adopted by unanimous vote: To approve the Sourcewell supplied price from Johnson Controls of $16,482. For the upgrade of the controls system on Annex 1 rooftops.

On motion by Noska and second by Denny, the following motion was introduced and adopted by unanimous vote: To approve the bid of $6,640 by St Cloud Acoustics for redo of ceiling tiles in Annex 1.

**MIS and County Sheriff**

On motion by Byers and second by Noska, the following motion was introduced and adopted by unanimous vote: To approve the quote from Accurate Controls to update these pcs.

**County Sheriff**

On motion by Denny and second by Neumann, the following motion was introduced and adopted by unanimous vote: To approve the 2024 State Boat and Water Safety Grant in the amount of $3,500.

**Planning and Zoning**

On motion by Neumann and second by Noska, the following motion was introduced and adopted by unanimous vote: To adopt the findings of the Planning Commissioner and approve the preliminary plat for Sunset Point Preliminary Plat with the condition below:

1. Applicant must abide by all other applicable federal, state, and local standards.

On motion by Denny and second by Noska, the following motion was introduced and adopted by unanimous vote: Adopt the findings of the Planning Commission and grant the CUP to parcel 20-0017300 with the conditions listed below.

1. Outdoor storage of products shall be allowed, but shall be conducted in compliance with Section 9.01B of the Todd County Planning and Zoning Ordinance.

2. There shall be no loading or unloading of materials within the road right of way.

3. Applicant must abide by all applicable federal, state, and local standards.

On motion by Neumann and second by Byers, the following motion was introduced and adopted by unanimous vote: Accept the resignation of Arnie Boie and appoint Andy Watland to District 1 Planning Commission member.

**Health and Human Services**

On motion by Noska and second by Denny, the following motion was introduced and adopted by unanimous vote: To approve the Opioid Settlement funding request for administrative support.

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

A Resolution Establishing Support for Transitional Services Bonding Request by Clay County

WHEREAS the Clay County Board of Commissioners have been strong advocates in providing support for local programs and facilities to enhance the continuum of care for adolescents in Clay County and the Region; and

WHEREAS, the Clay County Board of Commissioners recognize that the goal of services is to maintain youth living in or return to their homes, while understanding that there are situations where providing an environment for youth to live away from family is needed or required; and

WHEREAS, on April 2, 2024, the Clay County Board of Commissioners unanimously approved designating existing space within the Family Service Center for a transitional program operated by the West Central Regional Juvenile Facility and allocating up to $200,000 for the remodeling of the space; and

WHEREAS, additional funds will be needed to ensure proper resources are available to renovate, furnish, and equip a youth transitional housing facility; and

WHEREAS, the Clay County Board of Commissioners is requesting $1,093,000 in appropriations from the bond proceeds fund to the commissioner of human services for a grant to Clay County to renovate, furnish, and equip a youth transitional housing facility in the city of Moorhead. This appropriation includes money for major projects to electrical, plumbing, and HVAC systems; energy efficiency improvements, including window replacement; Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) compliance improvements; repairs and improvements to interior walls and surfaces; and other site renovations to support operations and bring the facility into compliance with city and state building code and licensing requirements.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, the Todd County Board of Commissioners support the bonding request in the amount of $1,093,000 to renovate, furnish, and equip a youth transitional housing facility within the Family Service Center, Moorhead, MN.

**County Auditor-Treasurer's Report**

The County Auditor-Treasurer attended the state election conference, reported that candidate filing for county offices opens on May 21 st , noted that the tax collection season is busy and expressed thanks to all involved from Douglas and Todd County staff and boards in preparing documentation for the OLID petition processes.

**County Attorney's Report**

The County Attorney is focusing on moving forward with the office and remains positive.

**County Coordinator's Report**

The County Coordinator has been meeting with many to learn about Todd County and projects in progress including the groundbreaking for the solid waste facility and attending AMC conference opportunities.

**County Commissioner's Report**

The Commissioners reported on meetings and events attended.

Commissioner Denny attended regular meetings, groundbreaking at solid waste facility and informed about discussions regarding Bertha Hewitt schools proposed 4-day school week meetings.

Commissioner Becker attended the road meeting, West Central Reg. Juvenile, Circle R Ranch appeals hearing, Personnel, Region V, Facilities, groundbreaking at solid waste facility, Personnel, Policies and Weed meetings.

Commissioner Noska attended normal meetings and the Circle R Ranch appeals hearing.

Commissioner Neumann attended the road meeting, CPT, Personnel, SRWD, Personnel, Solid Waste, groundbreaking at solid waste facility, Airport, Policies meetings and installed docks at Battle Point Park.

Commissioner Byers attended the regular meetings including Wellness, Airport, Ditch andgroundbreaking at solid waste facility.

**Recess**

Chairperson Becker recessed the meeting until May 21, 2024.

**AUDITOR WARRANTS**

| VENDOR NAME | $ AMOUNT |
|---|---|
| CLIFTON LARSONALLEN, LLP | $ 3,255.00 |
| EBSO INC | $294,886.49 |
| HEALTH PARTNERS DENTAL | $7,838.04 |
| LONG PRAIRIE SANITATION INC | $4,673.25 |
| PRAIRIE LAKES MUNICIPAL SOLID WASTE AUTH | $90,689.08 |
| REGENTS OF THE UNIV OF MN | $36,865.44 |
| SHATTUCK'S HUB SUPPER CLUB | $4,051.20 |
| TODD CO AUD-TREAS | $8,778.00 |
| WIDSETH SMITH NOLTING INC | $8,670.00 |
| 19 PAYMENTS LESS THAN $2,000 | $10,326.27 |
| CITY OF LONG PRAIRIE | $63,309.41 |
| SCHOOL DISTRICT 2753 | $ 19,038.77 |
| 1 PAYMENT LESS THAN $2,000 | $135.26 |
| ANOKA CO GOVERNMENT CENTER | $8,375.00 |
| BCI CONSTRUCTION INC | $28,360.16 |
| CENTRACARE HEALTH LONG PRAIRIE | $12,109.12 |
| DOUGLAS SWCD | $7,562.62 |
| GREAT RIVER REGIONAL LIBRARY | $87,441.00 |
| PETERS LAW OFFICE, P.A. | $7,744.00 |
| RAHN'S OIL & PROPANE | $21,966.54 |
| STEP | $10,214.45 |
| THE TRADESMEN CONSTRUCTION INC | $131,708.87 |
| TYLER TECHNOLOGIES, INC | $2,449.00 |
| VERIZON | $5,943.09 |
| VOYANT COMMUNICATIONS, LLC | $3,411.53 |
| WEST OTTER TAIL SOIL & WATER CONSERV | $3,257.96 |
| 27 PAYMENTS LESS THAN $2,000 | $14,722.26 |
| CARGILL SALT DIVISION | $10,901.91 |
| CLIFTON LARSONALLEN, LLP | $3,675.00 |
| COUNTIES PROVIDING TECHNOLOGY | $5,753.00 |
| ELECTION SYSTEMS & SOFTWARE INC | $5,220.00 |
| GALLAGHER BENEFIT SERVICES INC | $2,000.00 |
| JOSH'S AUTOBODY | $12,958.12 |
| LONG PRAIRIE LEADER | $2,403.00 |
| LONG PRAIRIE OIL COMPANY | $6,996.03 |
| MINNESOTA POWER | $17,856.49 |
| MN DEPT OF FINANCE | $5,155.00 |
| MORRISON COUNTY | $43,728.80 |
| NORTHERN STAR COOP | $5,428.56 |
| NORTHERN STAR COOP | $2,606.93 |
| STAPLES ADVANTAGE | $3,148.27 |
| THOMSON REUTERS - WEST | $13,172.41 |
| 60 PAYMENTS LESS THAN $2,000 | $27,926.51 |
| CARGILL SALT DIVISION | $13,089.18 |
| CENTERPOINT ENERGY | $3,355.39 |
| JOHN DEERE FINANCIAL | $2,906.82 |
| KENNEDY AND GRAVEN CHARTERED | $2,750.00 |
| LONG PRAIRIE OIL COMPANY | $22,119.10 |
| TODD TRAILS ASSOCIATION | $32,035.30 |
| TRITECH SOFTWARE SYSTEMS | $2,131.39 |
| 32 PAYMENTS LESS THAN $2,000 | $16,164.18 |
| CLIFTON LARSONALLEN, LLP | $60,637.50 |
| EBSO INC | $285,291.69 |
| HEALTH PARTNERS DENTAL | $8,026.16 |
| KARL CHEVROLET, INC. | $44,920.94 |
| TODD CO AUD-TREAS | $8,046.50 |
| 19 PAYMENTS LESS THAN $2,000 | $8,218.88 |
| MN DEPT OF REVENUE | $33,808.38 |
| US BANK - CC | $10,154.74 |
| WEX BANK - FLEET SERVICES | $7,004.46 |
| 12 PAYMENTS LESS THAN $2,000 | $9,441.44 |
| **TOTAL:** | **$1,636,813.89** |

**COMMISSIONER WARRANTS**

| VENDOR NAME | $ AMOUNT |
|---|---|
| AMAZON CAPITAL SERVICES | $2,376.45 |
| AMERICAN SOLUTIONS FOR BUSINESS | $5,271.30 |
| CARGILL SALT DIVISION | $4,348.26 |
| CARR'S TREE SERVICE, INC. | $2,875.00 |
| CARRY/TODD | $2,095.00 |
| ESRI | $12,841.00 |
| LIVEWIRE MECHANICAL AND PORTABLE WELDING | $2,615.80 |
| LONG PRAIRIE LEADER | $6,931.00 |
| MORRISON CO DEPT OF PUB WORKS | $12,682.14 |
| NUSS TRUCK & EQUIPMENT | $6,401.35 |
| ZIEGLER INC | $4,309.78 |
| 74 PAYMENTS LESS THAN $2,000 | $24,373.22 |
| **Total:** | **$87,120.30** |

**HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES WARRANTS**

| VENDOR NAME | AMOUNT |
|---|---|
| DHS - SWIFT | $5,103.87 |
| ITEN FUNERAL HOME - BROWERVILLE | $3,180.00 |
| MCCC,MI33 | $6,398.05 |
| WILLIAM DINGMANN FAMILY FUNERAL HOME - LONG PRAIRIE | $3,000.00 |
| 120 PAYMENTS LESS THAN $2,000 | $52,412.77 |
| **Total:** | **$70,094.69** |

| VENDOR NAME | $ AMOUNT |
|---|---|
| DHS - ANOKA METRO RTC - 412 | $65,286.00 |
| DHS - MOOSE LAKE RTC - 462 | $2,117.79 |
| DHS - MSOP - MN SEX OFFENDER PROG - 462 | $5,939.60 |
| DHS - ST PETER RTC - 472 $ | 11,578.50 |
| NORTH HOMES CHILDREN & FAMILY SRVS | $11,009.65 |
| NORTHERN PINES MENTAL HLTH CTR INC | $13,735.59 |
| VOLUNTEERS OF AMERICA | $11,091.36 |
| 23 PAYMENTS LESS THAN $2,000 | $7,514.55 |
| **Total:** | **$128,273.04** |

On a motion by Denny and second by Noska, the preceding minutes of the County Board meeting heldv-May 7, 2024 were duly approved by unanimous vote at the Todd County Board of Commissioners at thevRegular Board Meeting held on May 21, 2024.

Witness my hand and seal:
/s/ on file
Barbara Becker, County Board Chairperson
/s/ on file
Denise Gaida, Todd County Auditor-Treasurer
25pnc

# Highway 10 intersections close to critical rate, but not over

By Mark Anderson
Managing Editor

Multiple accidents have occurred with vehicles crossing Hwy 10 in Staples, but Minnesota Departmnet of Transportation (MnDOT) classiffies them as less than the critical rate for state highways. MnDOT is not planning any changes to the intersections because they are not in the critical category. The rates are determined using five year history of reported accidents at each corner.

The intersection at 14th St. NE and Hwy 10, the crossing going to Ernies Food Market and the Staples Veterinary Clinic, has the highest crash rate of any of the intersections in Staples and is close to MnDOT's critical rate.

MnDOT considers the intersection of 12th St. NE and Hwy 10 to be in the critical range. That's the intersection with Dollar General, Liquor Depot and DQ at the corners. Although the crash rate is lower, there was a fatal accident at that intersection in the past five years, pushing it above the normal rate as a sustained severe crash location. These statistics were sent to the Staples World in 2023, before the new Longbella Drug and Twin Cities Orthopedics opened at that intersection.

The intersection of Hwy 10 and 4th St. NE had relatively few crashes and MnDOT does not consider it to be a critical corner. In 2010, when the highway was opened, Staples Police Chief Kyle Huber predicted that the limited visibility at that corner could lead to bad accidents. But multiple people in Staples have reported that they avoid that corner whenever possible, due to the perceived danger of turning onto the highway from that street.




## Accident on Highway 10

On May 23, two vehicles collided on Hwy 10 and 14th St. NE in Staples. According to Staples Police, Sara Grove, 81, of Staples, collided with Alexia Magnan, 27, of Brainerd. Both drivers were transported to Lakewood Health System with minor injuries.

As emergency crews blocked the intersection, traffic on Hwy 10 was backed up for several blocks. (Staples World photos by Mark Anderson)



# Kayla Luhrs is newest Emergency Medicine Provider at Lakewood

Lakewood Health System, Staples, welcomes Dr. Kayla Luhrs to its team of emergency medicine providers.

Originally from Ketchikan, Alaska, Dr. Luhrs received her medical degree from the University of Washington School of Medicine and completed her residency at Tacoma General Hospital. She is a member of the American Academy of Family Physicians.

Dr. Luhrs provides emergency care to patients in Lakewood's emergency department. She has a special interest in rural medicine and working alongside primary care providers. "I'm excited to join a fantastic team of clinicians at an independent community hospital, dedicated to primary care."



Dr. Kayla Luhrs

Dr. Luhrs comes from an extended family of farmers and ranchers, but both her parents were teachers and moved to Alaska when she was one, where she was raised with her two sisters. Her favorite activity is dance, in any form. She also enjoys singing and playing music. Some of Dr. Luhrs' other interests include hiking, biking, camping, yoga and walking her dogs.

# Travis Johnson is newest podiatrist at Lakewood

Lakewood Health System, Staples, welcomes Travis Johnson, Doctor of Podiatric Medicine (DPM) to its team of podiatry providers.

Originally from Lake Mary, Fla., Dr. Johnson received his undergraduate degree from the University of Central Florida. He obtained his Doctorate of Podiatric Medicine at Des Moines University College of Podiatric Medicine and Surgery. Dr. Johnson completed his residency at West Penn Hospital – Allegheny Health Network and furthered his surgical training with the Foot and Ankle Deformity Correction Fellowship at Paley Orthopedic & Spine Institute. He is a member of the American Podiatric Medical Association and the American College of Foot and Ankle Surgeons, and is board certified by the American Board of Foot and Ankle Surgery.

As a podiatrist, Dr. Johnson provides comprehensive foot and ankle care for patients of all ages. He has a special interest in minimally invasive podiatric surgery, as well as the management of lower extremity diabetic complications. "I am excited to provide patient-centered foot and ankle care at Lakewood and I'm looking forward to getting to know patients on a personal level. Building relationships with my patients enables me to help them understand plans for both resolution of their complaint, as well as future prevention in order to experience their best lower extremity health moving forward."



Dr. Travis Johnson

Dr. Johnson and his wife, Taylor, have two children, and a dog named Nora. In his spare time, Dr. Johnson enjoys spending time in his home workshop, spending time with family, being outdoors and gardening.

Dr. Johnson will be seeing patients in the Staples clinic. To schedule an appointment with him, call 218-894-8259.






## Sold out show at Batcher Block Opera House

The River Rats Rock Band performed to a full house June 6, at the Batcher Block Opera House in Staples. The area band, featuring talented vocalists and instrumentalists, entertained the crowd with music from the 1970s. At right, Warren and Julie Mertens of Motley dance to "Rockin' Robin.' (Staples World photos by Dawn Timbs)

# Adjusting property lines in Todd County

Todd County Planning and Zoning

The process for adjusting property lines and/or splitting land in Todd County is often misunderstood. What can be done legally, and the process to follow, depends on the zoning district where the land is located. Todd County Planning and Zoning is here to assist. You can also do some quick research by reviewing our guidelines for property sizes. Stop in our office to get a handy chart or go to the Planning and Zoning webpage https://www.co.todd.mn.us/divisions/soil-water-conservation-and-development/planning-zoning/ Under "Zoning District Information" click Shoreland District Zoning or Rural District Zoning links to view the PDF.

Check with Planning and Zoning and make sure your split is possible. There are numerous standards that have to be reviewed and checked to ensure the split can be done. A few details that should be noted: taxes must be paid in full for the entire year on all parcels involved, a survey or scaled drawing done by a licensed land surveyor is required and legal descriptions for all properties are required.

Shoreland and Residential districts can be divided through an administrative split on a parcel that is 40 acres or greater. With parcels less than 40 acres a subdivision application would be required. In districts AF-1 and AF-2, special attention should be paid to the number of dwellings currently in the original government 40 if your goal is to add a dwelling.

There is an application fee for splits, adjustments and combining of parcels. Feel free to give us a call or stop in to talk to us about your project. Planning & Zoning office number: 320-732-4420

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





# Chasing summer recreation

The Staples-Motley Summer Recreation program started with T-Ball on June 5, with the area's smallest athletes learning to throw, hit and run, and making impressive plays while doing it. (Staples World photos by Mark Anderson)

























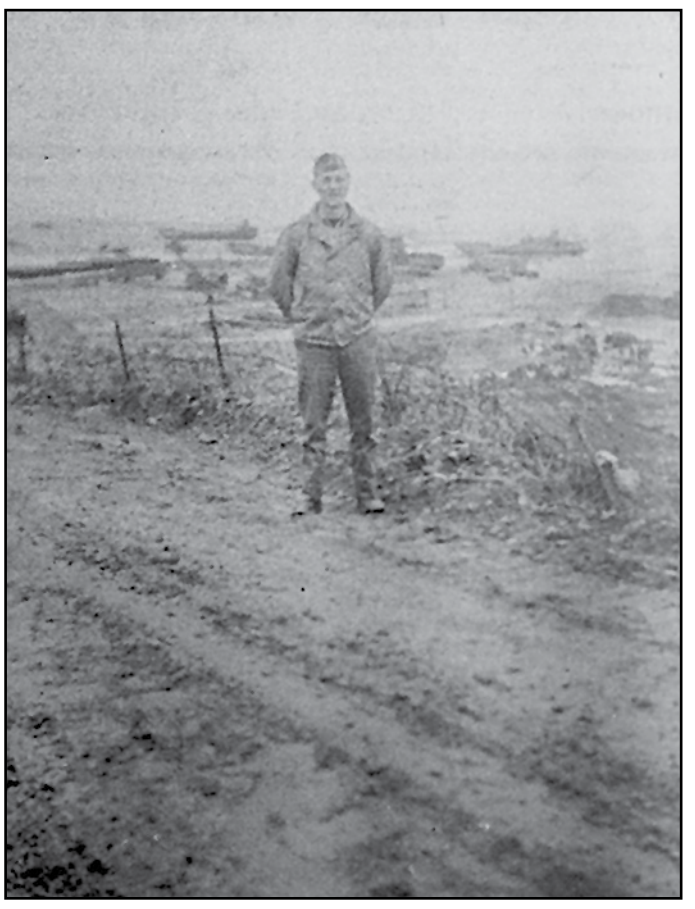



## Planting flowers at Veterans Park in Staples

Blake and Lynnette Gerard, owners of Williams Floral & Nursery in Staples, planted petunias at Veterans Park in Staples recently. They were supervised by their three-month-old daughter, Rita, who approved of the colorful flowers. The Gerards have been asked by the park board to take care of the planting each spring. They shared that this is something they've done for several years now and "Williams Floral & Nursery is happy to donate our plants and time to beautifying our Veterans Park." (Staples World photo by Dawn Timbs)

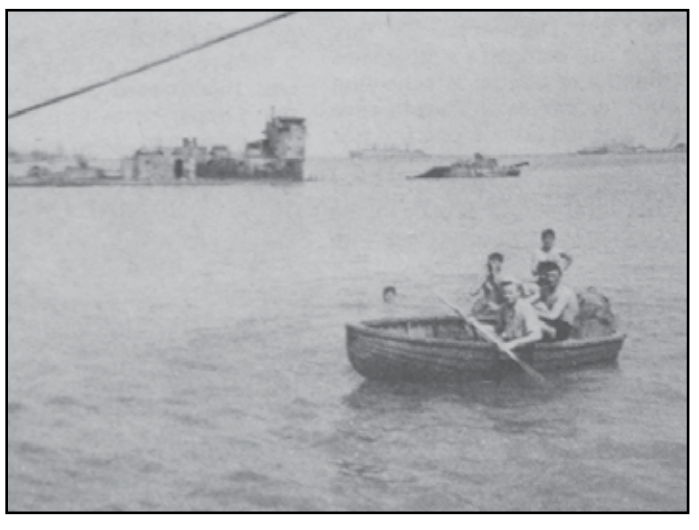
In lower photo (submitted), Rita takes a break from supervising the project, sitting on the memorial bench of her great-great-grandparents, the late James and Kathleen Williams, longtime residents of Staples and early owners of the family nursery. James was a U.S. Navy Veteran during WWII. He and Kathleen met while he was serving in Ireland.



## After the battle

George Sycks overlooking Omaha Beach. (Staples World file photo)



## Leisure at invasion site

George Sycks' crew swims at Omaha Beach with a sunken LCT in the background.. (Staples World file photo)

**D-DAY** continued from page 1a

## *Sycks worked three days straight without sleep during D-Day*

anchor that was dropped 100 to 150 yards off shore as the craft approached the beach. "Why?" Sycks asked. "So that the anchor winches would pull you off the beach. You would hit high and dry. The flat bottoms would slide right up on the beach. To get yourself off, you would use your anchor winches and scoot right back again and get another load from a troop ship, wherever you were ordered to on our radio."

Many of the landing craft went into the beaches too fast, and the tide was dropping so fast some of them couldn't get off. "They were really shelled," he said.

"On D-Day, we probably made four landings on Omaha, on Dog Green, that was our beach. That was a rough one. You might know, we would be ordered to that one. It was the same thing, over and over and over. We were sent out to a troop ship, then to a cargo ship."

That continued for three days, without letup. Sycks recalled later that he went those three days without sleep. Days and events just seemed to blend together.

"The third day, D plus two, we went in and we hit a mine. Our LCT was no longer available to anybody. We had injuries, but fortunately, we had just dropped off our load of Englishmen. We'd picked them off a ship and took them to shore. We'd got them off of there and in pulling off the beach, that's when we hit the mine, one of these German Hedgerows (underwater obstacles).

"The LCT was completely wrecked. The whole engine room was shot. The thing started sinking at the rear end, the stern end. So I got on a little lifeboat with two of the crew. We went out and we got a submarine chase, and the submarine chaser came right on in as close as he could to us. We never lost a man, of our entire crew. In small boats from the LCT the entire crew was put aboard the sub chaser. From there we went to an LST, a Landing Ship Tank. We made one landing with the LST with troops and tanks. We were then taken back to England, processed as survivors, and sent back with another LCT."

That all took about a week, which was Sycks' only break from duty off Omaha Beach between D-Day on June 6 until Nov. 11, when Omaha Beach was closed by the Allies in favor of natural harbors that had been captured and rebuilt at ports like Cherbourg and Le Havre.

Exhausted after three days without sleep, Sycks recalled that shortly after boarding the LST, he collapsed against a bulkhead and just slept, for how long he didn't remember.

To this day, Sycks sill marvels that the Americans were able to pull victory from the bloody sands of Omaha Beach. There were so many things that could have gone wrong, so many obstacles to overcome. In the days and months following D-Day, while German POW's unloaded his landing ship on the beaches, Sycks had ample time to walk the cliffs and view the inland areas where heavy fighting took place.

"The people who were taking Pointe du Hoc, the Rangers, many of those people were killed by our own fire, as well as from the Germans ...

"After we were up on the beach, a few days later, we saw where the paratroopers had been dropped in the darkness. Many trees had been cut off by the Germans and sharpened to a point, just like a pencil. Many Americans came down on those things. Many were hung up in trees and shot by the Germans. Others were hung up on church steeples, for example in Colville, and were slaughtered by the Germans

"There was much doubt that we'd ever take Omaha, during the early hours, the first three days in fact, it was a touch and go situation there," he said.

You hate to take any credit away from the infantry," the former Navy man said, as he described how the big battlewagons moved in after the initial landings and resumed their shelling of German targets. "That at least helped turn the tide."

Sycks returned to the thought that Omaha was a poor choice for an assault as he looked at a picture showing him standing on the heights above the beach. "That's why I said, how in the world did they select Omaha Beach? Well, it was strategically located, and the idea of it was surprise. The Germans still felt that we were coming, the main body of the invasion, was coming to Calais.

"But on that first day, as we headed in, what in the world, what idiot chose this place? We used a little stronger language back then, there were no women present ...

"This summer would be a tremendous time for me to go back to Omaha Beach, to go to Paris, as so many thousands are doing. But I would never want to go alone. I'd want to go with some of my crew, at least one or two of the guys, but I have no idea where any of them are now."

Although he could rattle off the names of his crewmen in his pictures with ease, he's lost touch with them over the past 40 years. One of them, his fellow ensign on his landing craft, was the best many when he married his sweetheart, LaVella, in Virginia in 1946, shortly before he was discharged.

Despite the war, he has many fond memories of experiences with his fellow servicemen, doing a few things he shouldn't have. He remembers the British and French as "tremendous people."

"We'd just take off. We went up to London, no leave or anything, we just took the train and left," he recalled of his pre-invasion days in England.

He laughed as he recalled being sent up to Glasgow, Scotland, to get an LCT, and bring it back to the south of England. "We hit high seas on the way back and we pulled into the little town of Carlyle, a beautifully quaint little town in the north of England or the extreme southern part of Scotland. The people there, how good they were to us, the Americans, and how we were, millions of us, just taking over their country.

Months later, in November of 1944, he and some shipmates pulled another trick. "On Nov. 1, we took off, without any leave papers, from our LCT's at Normandy and we just went to Paris for three days. We hitched rides and had just a great time.

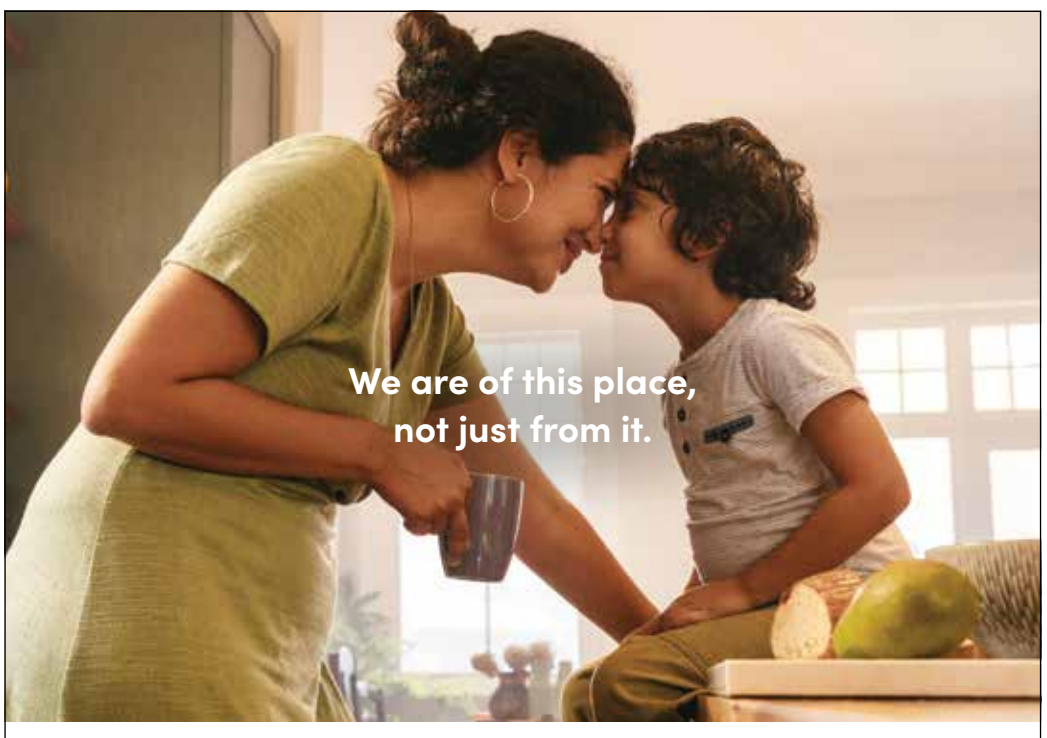
"Now get this, this was the first of November. On Nov. 11, we left France. Supposing we would have missed our ship. We'd have been strung up."

Once started, as old soldiers are apt to do everywhere, Sycks could reminisce for hours about wartime experiences. While talk of the fighting was minimal, Sycks could remember the night before leaving England on the D-Day landing, his friend Jerry Landsberger's desire to see his English girlfriend for at least one more time.

"Jerry had a girlfriend over in Plymouth. His idea was I'm going to see her one more time," he laughed.

"Anyway, he was caught on the way back, and our commander, the 19th Flotilla commander, oh boy, he sure ran old Jerry out. He said, if the Germans don't kill you, I'm going to see that you will be taken care of when you get back ...

"Well, of course, he lived through it and, of course, the commander had forgotten all about it by the time we got back."




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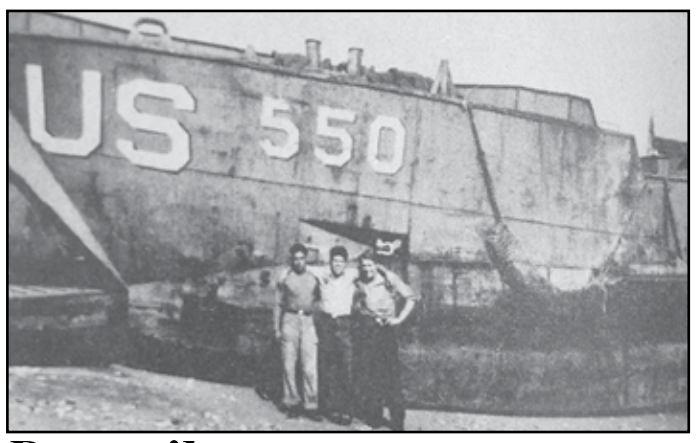
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## Dry sailors

Crew members pose in front of the LCT 550, "dried out" on Omaha Beach during low tide.. (Staples World file photo)