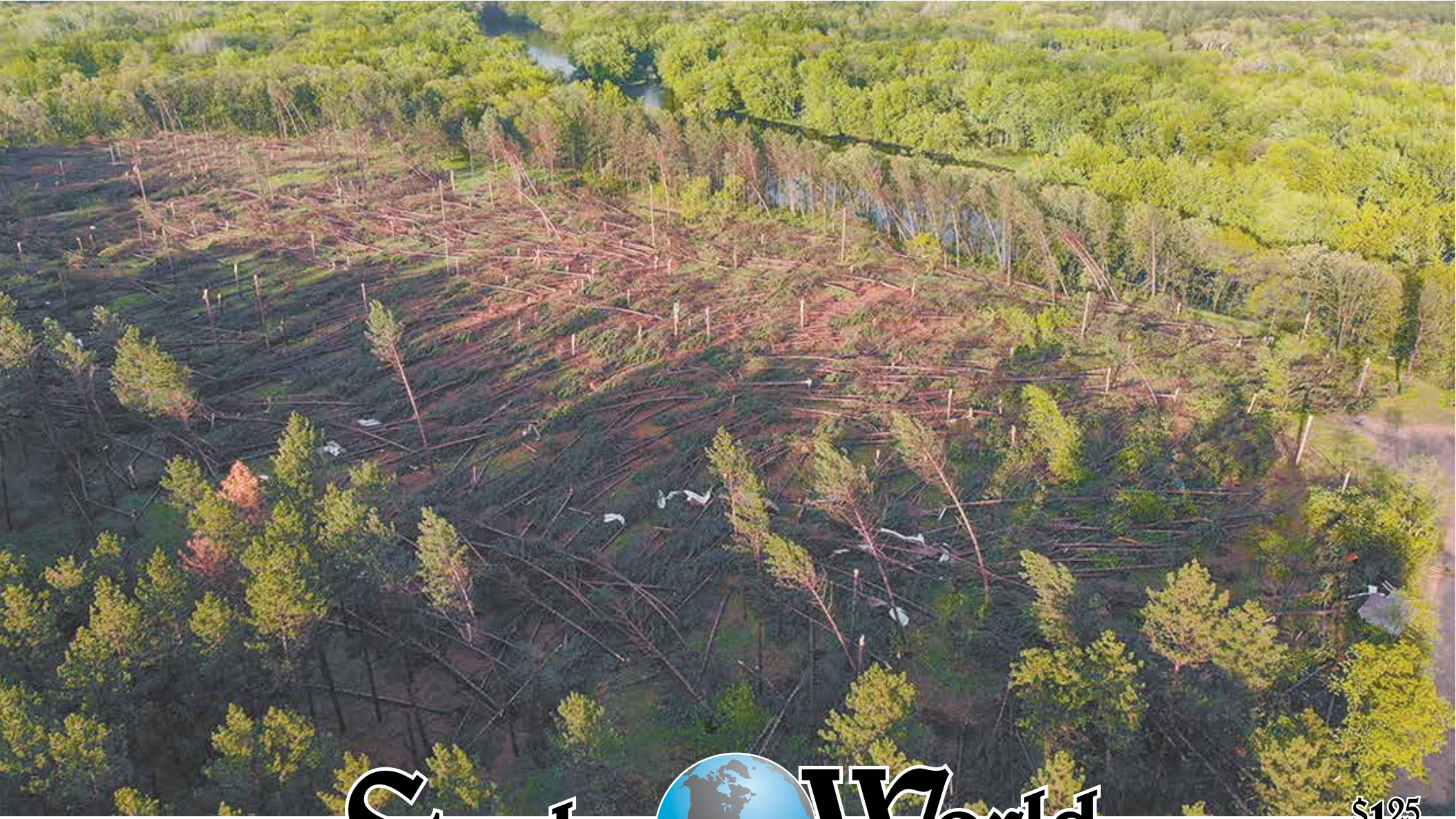




Wednesday, June 8, 2022

Staples World

Staples, Minnesota

\$125

Weather

This Week's Forecast			
	High	Low	Cond.
June 8	72	50	M. Sunny
June 9	74	54	P. Cloudy
June 10	74	52	Sunny
June 11	75	57	M. Cloudy
June 12	82	62	Cloudy
June 13	80	61	Rain
June 14	80	58	P. Cloudy

Last Year, 2021			
	High	Low	Cond.
June 8	68°	54	P. Sunny
June 9	72	56	M. Cloudy
June 10	92	75	M. Sunny
June 11	78	66	Rain
June 12	84	55	Sunny
June 13	88	60	Sunny
June 14	82	56	Sunny

Average Temps:
H = 76° Low = 54°

Compiled by
Dale Hausmann,
WCCO's Staples area
Weatherwatcher

Public Notices

Moran: 9A

Obituaries

Carroll Miller
Geraldine Nelson
Melanie O'Keefe
Beverly Zabroski



Thank you for subscribing!

Old Wadena Park devastated by tornado

By Mark Anderson
Managing Editor

A Memorial Day tornado decimated Old Wadena County Park, north of Staples. The grove of oak trees that provided shade for the Old Wadena Rendezvous was destroyed, the new pavillion was flattened and hundreds of pine trees were knocked over by a tornado with winds estimated at 130 miles per hour. According to the National Weather Service, the twister's path length was 9.4 miles, lasting between 5:21 and 5:30 p.m.

"No one was there at the time and that is the most important thing," said Deana Malone, Wadena County Parks Administrator. "Someone just had a graduation open house there on Saturday, but luckily they were all out by the time the storm came."

As of June 3, Malone said she was unable to estimate the damage to the park. In her initial tour of the damage, she said her group was unable to get to Little Tree Hill, the historic battle landmark, because of all



Tornado damage

Buildings and equipment around Old Wadena were also damaged in the storm, including this irrigation system tipped over from the wind. (Staples World photos by Mark Anderson)

the downed trees. "Everything is criss-crossed," she said. Malone also was unable to estimate the time it will take to clean up the damage. "The park is closed and will be closed probably for the rest of this year," said Malone. The Old Wadena Rendezvous committee is looking for another site to hold their

See **TORNADO** on page 12a

Forest flattened A drone photo from the Wadena County Sheriff's Department shows damage in the forest from the Memorial Day tornado.



Park shelter is rubble

The Old Wadena pavillion collapsed onto the picnic tables below, with pieces of the roof blowing out into the forest beyond.

'And heeere's... Sivert and Lorna!'

Motley's best kept secret is secret no more

By Dawn Timbs
Staples World reporter

Little did Lorna Klefsaas know that a social media challenge she offered her son, Sivert, six years ago would one day inspire people around the world and even land them on an Emmy-winning talk show.

That's right. Their story, originating from Motley, Minnesota, population 672, has been featured in countless newspapers and magazines, including the Washington Post, New York Post, Newsweek, People, and even a British children's newspaper. The vivacious mother/son duo have also been interviewed on television and radio programs across the United States (World News Now, Good Morning America, CNN, for starters), as well as a few foreign countries, including New Zealand and South Africa. Their story's been translated into a number of languages, including Vietnamese, German and Spanish.

They're not really sure how their '18 for 18' challenge went viral, but clearly, it's a story that resonated with people across the globe. "It was a kitchen conversation," Lorna laughed, recounting the deal she proposed to Sivert in 2004,



A brush with fame

Motley residents Lorna Klefsaas and her son, Sivert Klefsaas, chatted with acclaimed talk-show host Ellen DeGeneres at her studio in Hollywood this past March. After learning about Sivert's story of abstaining from social media until he turned 18, DeGeneres pushed to have when he was 12 years old. If he would abstain from using social media until he was 18, she would pay him \$1,800.

Sivert (pronounced See-ver) was game. At 12, he'd never heard of so much

money, later sharing in interviews that he'd had visions of buying a house and/or car after cashing in all that dough, perhaps not even having to work for a year or two. Nope, he wasn't going to

let social media get between him and the possibility of a nice, hefty check. So, as his friends and classmates went on to join social media platforms like Instagram, Twitter and Snapchat, Sivert abstained, holding out for that \$1,800 prize. Fast forward to February 19, 2022, Sivert's 18th birthday. Since he'd kept his end of the bargain, it was time

See **KLEFSAAS** on page 12a

Lakewood to offer dementia caregiver support group

Lakewood Health System of Staples, in partnership with the Alzheimer’s Association, is offering a support group for caregivers of those with loved ones diagnosed with dementia or Alzheimer’s disease. The group meets the first Wednesday of every month from 11 a.m. to 12 p.m. in the Burlington room, located through Door C at Lakewood’s Senior Campus (401 Prairie Ave. NE) in Staples. The next meeting will take place on July 6.

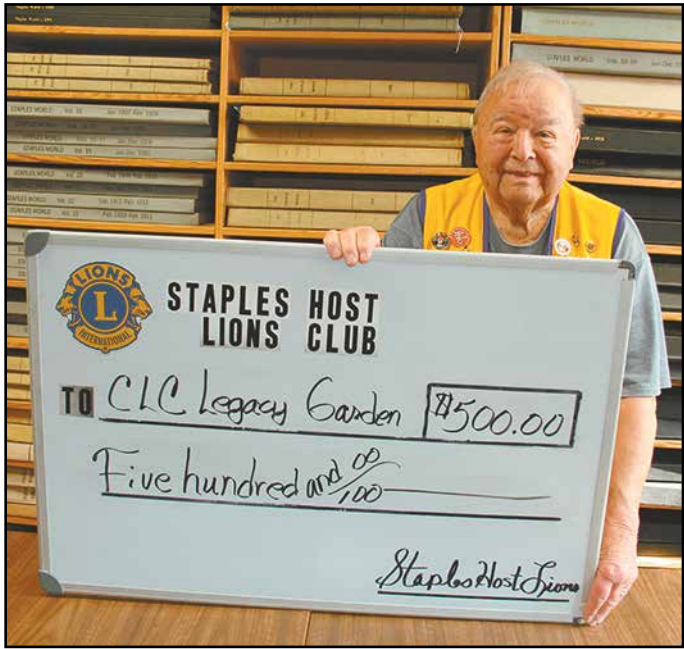
The group is designed to provide emotional, education and social support for those who care for a

loved one with dementia or Alzheimer’s. Participants will develop coping methods, and encouragement to help maintain their person, and their physical and emotional health, as well as optimally care for the person with dementia or Alzheimer’s.

Masks are required to be worn during the meeting to align with Lakewood’s current masking policy.

Contact Lonna Dille at 218-894-8851 or Amanda Mithun at 218-894-8067 with questions or for more information.

Staples Host Lions Club makes donations



Living Legacy Gardens

Living Legacy Gardens at Central Lakes College in Staples recently received a \$500 donation from the Staples Host Lions. Pictured with the check is Staples Host Lion Frank Leidenfrost. (Staples World photo by Dawn Timbs)



Donation to Speech Team

The Staples Host Lions Club recently donated \$975 to the Staples-Motley High School Speech Team. Pictured above, from left, are speech team members Cy Johnson, Grace Allen and Caden Mrazek; SMHS Speech Coach Brian Sams; and Staples Host Lion Frank Leidenfrost. (Staples World photo by Dawn Timbs)



Donation to Parks and Rec

The Staples Host Lions Club recently donated \$500 to the Staples Parks and Rec Department. Pictured above, from left are John Jewison, James Lenk and Lacey Aguirre, with the Staples Parks and Rec; and Staples Host Lion Frank Leidenfrost. (Staples World photo by Dawn Timbs)

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Thanks for reading the Staples World!



‘Walk with a Doc’ program launched at Lakewood

A few people joined Dr. Adrienne Moen and Dr. Julie Benson along the walking path at Lakewood Health System in Staples May 26, for the first ‘Walk with a Doc’ event hosted at LHS. The free health program, which brings doctors and patients together for a walk and conversation, takes place every Thursday at 5:15 p.m. For more information visit <https://walkwithadoc.org/join-a-walk/>

locations/staples-minnesota.

Pictured above, from left, are Dr. Moen, Dr. Benson, Jonathan Rogers of Staples, pushing five-year-old C.J.; Bella Ding of China (a Macalaster College student who was shadowing Dr. Benson that week); and Dalas Rogers of Staples holding baby Zakhary. (Staples World photo by Dawn Timbs)



Excited for the walk to begin

Dr. Adrienne Moen (at left) takes a ‘selfie’ photo in front of the sign announcing the ‘Walk with a Doc’ program she helped launch at Lakewood Health System in Staples. Dr. Moen said that after learning about the national program which promotes health by offering patients the opportunity to walk with doctors once a week, she said, “Let’s do it.” Her goal is to do this program year ‘round, Dr. Moen said. During the walk, doctors often have a topic for discussion, or patients can ask health-related questions.

Everyone is welcome to join in on the weekly walks, which take place on Thursdays at 5:15 p.m. The program coincides with the Staples Farmers Market, which is also held at Lakewood’s main campus on Thursdays.

Pictured in lower photo at the start of the first walk May 26, are, from left, Bella Ding, China; Dr. Adrienne Moen, Dr. Julie Benson; Dalas and Jonathan Rogers of Staples, along with their children C.J. and baby Zakhary. (Staples World photos by Dawn Timbs)



Todd County Commissioners approve second emergency declaration, two in same month

By Karin L. Nauber
Todd County correspondent

The Todd County Board of Commissioners held an emergency meeting on May 31, 2022 to declare a state of emergency related to the tornado which blew through Eagle Bend on May 30.

This is the second state of emergency that the county has declared during the month of May the first being when an EF1 tornado hit the city of Clarissa and

surrounding areas on May 12.

After discussion, the board approved a resolution declaring a state of emergency resulting from the May 30 tornado event in Eagle Bend and elsewhere.

The resolution stated that the “severe weather has impacted the population of Todd County and its cities; and (this event) has caused a significant amount of public property damage.”

Emergency Manage-

ment Director Michael Wisniewski said that the city of Clarissa was helped by the city of Eagle Bend when Clarissa needed it after their tornado and now Clarissa Public Works was helping Eagle Bend clean up.

He also acknowledged that public works and the county dispatch center as well as the sheriff’s department had been very helpful.

“Minnesota Power was out working and by 10 p.m. the roads were cleared

(of downed lines) and able to be traveled,” noted Wisniewski.

Commissioner David Kircher said that he thought they should allow County Coordinator Chris Pelzer to give permission to staff to help in any way they were able to.

Wisniewski said that Douglas County had been hit harder than Todd County.

Looking back

75 YEARS Ago - 1947

• June 5, 1947 - Miss Betty Daschler and Clarence Fogelstrom, seniors at Staples high school, were the winners of the American Legion Citizenship awards at the annual commencement exercises June 5.

• June 5, 1947 - At the last meeting of the Legion Auxiliary in Staples, Mrs. Armand Anderson was elected president of the organization, and will take office in the fall. Mrs. Anderson was elected to succeed Mrs. Roy Jensen, who has served during the past year. Other Auxiliary officers elected were Mrs.

• O •
Compiled by
Dawn Timbs
• O •

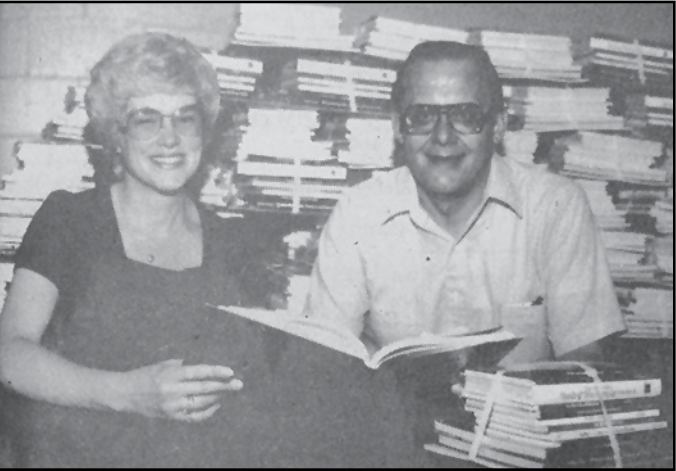
George Knosalla, first vice president; Mrs. Edward McGivern, second vice president; Mrs. Larry Westin, secretary-treasurer; Mrs. Lloyd Sapp, Chaplain; Mrs. Darrel DeMars, Sergeant-at-arms.

• June 5, 1947 - Red Owl in Staples advertises Ground Beef, 35 cents/lb; Summer Sausage, 39 cents/lb; Ocean Perch, 25 cents/lb. A four-roll pkg. of Charmin toilet tissue (soft & safe), on sale for 25 cents.

• June 5, 1947 - Showing at the New Staples Theatre: June 6 - 7, "Sun Valley Serenade, with Sonja Henie and John Payne; June 8 - 9, "Pursued" with Teresa Wright and Robert Mitchum; June 10, "Beast with Five Fingers," Starring Robert Alda, Andrea King and Peter Lorre. Coming soon: "The Jolson Story."

50 YEARS Ago - 1972

• June 8, 1972 - The members of the Staples Fire



Mystery solved

Last week's mystery photo published in the June 15, 1984 edition of the Staples World featured Judy Bjerga, representing Cass County 4-H Clubs, receiving photographic books from Staples Technical Institute Director, Dr. Stan Edin. The photographic books, donated by Phototronic Technology, were subsequently distributed to all 4-H Clubs in Cass, Wadena and Todd counties.

Tim Finn and Rosemary Petrich, both of Staples, correctly identified Stan Edin. Judy Wolak of Staples correctly identified both, adding that Bjerga was a retired educator at Staples-Motley Schools, and Edin was a past president of what eventually became Central Lakes College in Staples. Mike Koppes of Staples thought the photo was of Stan Edin and his wife, Rose Edin. Judy Bjerga of Staples correctly identified herself and Edin, but couldn't remember the context at first. When given a hint, she did recall serving as president of the 4-H Federation in that area. She has wonderful memories both of 4-H, and of her 26 years teaching at Staples Elementary. Thanks for participating in our Mystery Photo.

Soil erosion can be prevented

Soil erosion is the displacement and relocation of soils due to water or wind events. Many of these events can be prevented or minimized by utilizing good soil health practices. The recent storm events with heavy rains at this critical time of year when soils have been exposed and new seedlings aren't growing yet has shown us how important these principals are. Basic soil health principles include: 1) Keep soils covered. This includes residue management and cover crops. 2) Min-

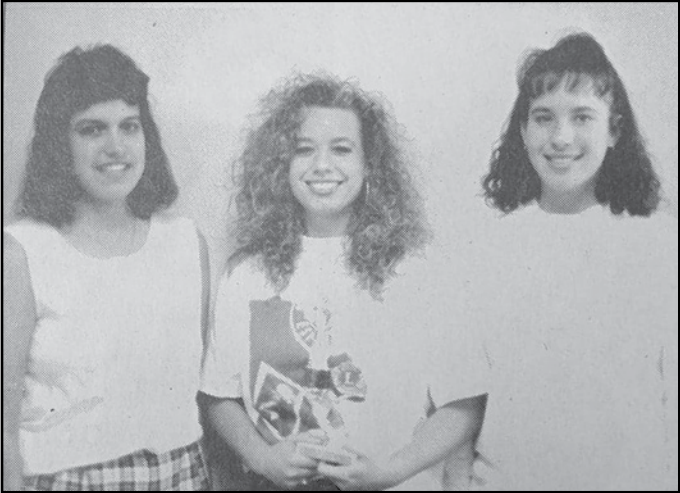
imizing soil disturbance, 3) Diversified crop rotations with warm and cool season grasses and broadleaf plants, including cover crops, and 4) Keep living plants throughout the year, practices may include cover crop or incorporating perennial crops into your rotation.

Healthy soils are less likely to erode, have improved organic matter, are more resistant to pest problems and improved plant health.

If you have questions or need assis-

tance with incorporating these principals into your current operation contact your local NRCS office. NRCS also offers assistance with grass waterways and water and sediment control or other structures to help repair and prevent soil erosion.

Contact the Todd County NRCS at office at 607 9th St. NE, Long Prairie, or call 320-732-6618 ext. 3 for more information.



Mystery photo

Hello readers. This week's archive photo is from our June 4, 1992 edition. 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 are 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.

Norway pine are being distributed statewide this year.

The trees are planted by fourth graders throughout Minnesota. The conifer seedlings are six to 10 inches tall. The trees were distributed to the students by F.F.A. members, and the pupils will take the seedlings home for planting and care in their own yards. Mrs. Peterson and Mrs. Kopveiler are the Motley fourth grade teachers, and Mr. Funk is the F.F.A. advisor.

25 YEARS Ago - 1997

• June 5, 1997 - Pilot Gene Mattern of Wadena walked away from the mangled remains of his plane Tuesday after a 3 p.m. mishap at the Staples airport. He was attempting to take off when his plane apparently stalled out on takeoff, and crash landed in a corn field. Mattern, who was seen at the emergency room suffered cuts on his hand and chest and lot of bumps and bruises. "I took the time to put my crash helmet on before I took off," he said. He was also harnessed up before taking off, he added. Mattern was a former Wadena County highway engineer.

• June 5, 1997 - A short police chase and accident followed an armed robbery of a Wadena convenience store Sunday night.

A 20-year-old man, formerly of Staples, was arrested a short time after he allegedly held up the Orton's East Side Amoco convenience store.

The suspect was identified as Trinity Witthun, 20, formerly of Staples and currently with a Bertha address.

• June 5, 1997 - The Staples Campus of Central Lakes College awarded 197 degrees to the 1997 graduating class in commencement ceremonies May 29.

Rich Coppersmith, human resources manager of Remmele Engineering, was the speaker. He took the theme of "Wind Beneath Your Wings" and told the graduates that their attitude will determine their altitude.

Student Senate President Dwight Gordor shared what he felt was especially valuable in his education : diversity of ages in the stu-

dent body and how people bring different lessons and skills, the opportunities for hands-on training in industry, and the real work experience of working with other programs in the school to accomplish final projects.

Gorder, the son of David and Karin Gordor of Staples, is a 1984 graduate of Staples High School. He spent nine years in the Navy in communications. He graduated with honors with an Associate in Applied Science degree in robotics. He is moving with his wife Kimberly and children to Naperville, Ill., where he will be working for Ellison Machine Tools and robotics.

• June 5, 1997 - Headlines in the Sports section included, "Girls finish second in state golf"; "Cardinal track team qualifies 3 for state meet (Matt Heier, Derek Mattila and Erik Kelly); and "Cardinal tennis players settle for second, third place in section."

10 YEARS Ago - 2012

• June 7, 2012 - Six Motley School staff members are retiring. They include Dave Barnett, sixth grade teacher at Motley Staples Middle School (MSMS); Kevin Olsen, science teacher at MSMS; Janet Flickinger, a para with the special ed. department; Bruce Onischuk, phy. ed. teacher at the middle school; Toni Sveom, Title 1 teacher at Motley Elementary; and Darlene Rollins, a paraprofessional with the Staples Motley School District.

• June 7, 2012 - (Kristi) Iverson learns about China on musical tour, was a front-page headline that week. A student at Concordia College in Moorhead, Iverson was part of a two-week trip to China with the Concordia Band, during which time she was excited to learn about a different culture. Iverson is a 2009 graduate of Staples Motley High School, the daughter of Jeff and Kathy Iverson of Staples. She plays French horn in the college band.

• June 7, 2012 - Pastor Kathy Horn will be retiring from her ministry at Staples United Methodist Church. Her last Sunday will be June 10, with a farewell potluck dinner following the service.



Glad to be back

Darci Odden is the new Clerk/Treasurer at the City of Motley. She was previously employed as the city's Administrative/Accounting Assistant, but left in 2019 to work for the City of Staples. She's excited to be back in Motley and ready to take on this new role. (Staples World photo by Dawn Timbs)

Darci Odden excited to be on board in Motley

By Dawn Timbs
Staples World reporter

Motley's new City Clerk/Treasurer is a familiar face to most people who stop by city hall.

Darci Odden came on board May 2, taking the place of Curt Bryniarski who resigned this past April to take a job with Morrison County. Prior to being hired at Motley, Odden was employed as the Utility Billing Clerk for the City of Staples.

She's no stranger to Motley, however. Odden previously worked for the city from 2016 - 2019 in the role of Administrative/Accounting Assistant. She worked alongside then-city clerk/treasurer Lacey Smieja, even filling in for her when she was on maternity leave.

A 2009 graduate of Staples-Motley High School, Odden went on to study accounting at Central Lakes College in Brainerd. She loves this sort of work and was excited to learn of the job opening in Motley.

Motley area police reports

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

May 26 - June 1

May 30 - The MCSO responded to a report of an intoxicated male stumbling down Hwy 10 in Motley. The subject had been causing problems at the Ten-Hi, and staff reported that they did not know who he was. They said he headed south after leaving the bar. The responding deputy was not able to locate anyone walking in that area.

May 29 - The MCSO received a report of an eight-month old submerged in a bathtub for an unknown amount of time and not breathing. The incident took place at the 400 block of Pine Ave. S., Motley. Upon his arrival, the deputy said the child appeared to be alright and first responders were checking him out.

May 26 - The MPD arrested Timothy Prakash Lehmeyer, 36, for a DANCO violation in the city of Motley.

May 31 - The MCSO responded to a report of debris (leaves and lawn clippings) that had been

dumped at a residence at the 33000 block of E. Shamneau Dr., Motley.

May 31 - The MCSO issued a speeding citation to Brian Guggenberger, 40.

May 30 - The MCSO responded to a report of a domestic assault at the 100 block of Mill Pond St., Motley. Subsequently, deputies arrested Joel William Bell, 61.

May 30 - The MCSO was dispatched to a dog bite complaint. The incident, took place at Fir Ln., Motley. The mother of the victim said her child was playing with the dog owner's children and the dog was with them. The dog bit her child in the wrist area and the bite punctured the skin. The owner said the dog is not aggressive and is around other children on a daily basis. Both parties think the dog may have been playing and got too rough. The owner said the dog is up do date on all vaccines.

May 27 - The MCSO responded to a report of a kayaker that fell out at the 31000 block of Cove Rd., Cushing and needed help. Upon the deputy's arrival, the subject was already out of the water and declined any further help.



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Three SM Speech Team members to experience national tournament in Kentucky June 12-17

By Samantha Mrazek
Staples-Motley Speech
Captain, Class of 2020

Three members of the Staples-Motley Speech Team qualified to compete at the prestigious National Speech and Debate Association (NSDA) Tournament that will be held in Louisville, Ky. June 12 -17, 2022.

Caden Mrazek and Luke Bates, juniors, qualified for nationals in the Duo Interpretation category with their piece from “Little Shop of Horrors,” and Connor Judd, senior, qualified with a selection titled, “Gums,” in the category of Humorous Interpretation.

These talented students all had quite successful seasons in 2022. Judd earned a spot at the state competition with his Humorous Interpretation about a heroic but clueless lifeguard who attempts to save tourists from being ‘gummed’ by a rogue salmon.

Minnesota State High School League (MSHSL) rules state, “Humorous Interpretation uses any published selection, either prose, poetry, or dramatic literature, with literary merit and appropriate to the reader. The cutting should amuse, give enjoyment, or create laughter.” Judd competed at the Minn. State Speech tournament, giving plenty of amusement, and just missed out on breaking into the final round of state competition.

The Bates/Mrazek pair fought hard to bring home their first State Championship in Duo Interpretation. The MSHSL rules state, “Duo interpretation features two students interpreting together one or more selections from a single published source or a single anthology of prose, poetry, and/or dramatic literature, serious and/or humorous, with literary merit and appropriate to the readers.” The rules also state that duo partners may not touch or look at one another during their performance.

The two state champions in duo will now level up and compete in the NSDA tournament with their cutting from the “Little Shop of Horrors” musical, which centers around a carnivorous alien plant promising fame and fortune to a skid row florist.

Bates and Mrazek have been in speech for many years and were very successful individually, but teamed up as a duo for the first time this season.

Bates is clear about the fact that speech has changed him over the years. “I started out as a shy boy in elementary school who only wanted to be a tree in the summer Prairie Fire Theater productions. Having a speaking role was way too scary. Each year I gained more confidence on stage and was able to take on bigger roles. I am grateful for the opportunity to start acting young with Prairie Fire Theater and for those who brought that to our community. Those childhood experiences helped me gain confidence to grow into the performer and speaker that I am today. Being a part of the speech team has helped me develop and fine-tune these skills and helped me to achieve things I never thought possible. I never dreamed I would be able to compete at the national level in speech or win at the state competition.”

Mrazek has been in speech since 7th grade and can’t imagine high school without it. He says, “I have been so lucky to be able to compete in speech over the years. I owe so much to my older sister Samantha, who forced me to watch all of her speeches and in-turn taught me everything she could (along with my parents). Speech has helped me make friends from all over Minnesota and has been a great way to meet new people. I see those same friends from speech in FFA or even at Knowledge Bowl. It’s really cool to continue to build those relationships outside of speech. Speech has shown me so much about leadership, compassion, and how to work well with a team as well as individually.”

Both Mrazek and Bates expressed appreciation for all of their coaches over the years: Brian and Heather Sams, Frank Odell, Travis Chaput, Coleman Klimek, Andrew Bates, Tammy and Jonah Johnson and Emily (Olson) Creelman.

The boys would also like to encourage any student who is interested to join the team. “Just give it a chance,” they said, adding that this is a skill you will use your entire life and career. It changed their lives, they said, and feel it is one of the most fun things they have ever done.

I have had the pleasure of watching these speech students grow up and become the wonderful speakers and performers they are today. I was involved in speech for all six years of high school (with my senior season being cut short by COVID when the competitions and state tournament were canceled). For me, having the opportunity to express myself, to show my passion for my topic, was my favorite part of my speech experience (along with the friendships I made). Because of the pandemic, I did not have an opportunity to qualify for the national tournament. I am so grateful that students are now able to again have this once-in-a-lifetime experience.

These boys have the most passion I have ever seen and I am incredibly proud to see the Staples-Motley Speech team legacy continue.

The NSDA participants would gratefully welcome support from friends, family, community to enable



Qualified for National Speech Tournament

Pictured, from left, are Staples-Motley Speech Team members Luke Bates, Caden Mrzaek and Connor Judd. They qualified to compete at the National

Speech and Debate Association Tournament in Louisville, Ky., June 12 - 17. (Submitted photo)

to: @Lori-Bates-63 or send cash/check donations to: Lori Bates, 205 Ravilla Ave, Staples, MN 56479.

Samantha Mrazek at-

tends Augustana University in Sioux Falls, S.D. She will graduate next year with a Bachelor’s degree in American Sign Language Interpreting.

Prepare to be bugged

If you haven’t been already, you soon will be; bugged, that is. This is the time of year when those myriad tiny creatures that make so much of life possible—and at times impossible—are becoming more abundant with each passing day. Minnesota is home to more than 1,000 different species of insects. Not all are popular, and some are a serious nuisance. But all have a role to play, as was so well put in the Disney movie *The Lion King*, and its

“circle of life.” The spring, summer and fall proliferation of insects feeds young game birds, like ruffed grouse and pheasants, songbirds of every kind and description, waterfowl, and even fish. Insects are, indeed, an engine of life.

If there is one insect that is more awaited as a marker of spring than any other, it’s the one we sometimes jokingly refer to as the “Minnesota state bird.” It’s not the loon; it’s the mosquito. A couple of close friends make spring pilgrimages to the Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness. They do

this in early May, risking precipitation in the form of snow, and lakes that have barely lost their covering of winter ice. They do so then to avoid the hordes of mosquitoes and black flies that—by June or July—can visit pure misery on campers. This year the timing backfired for one of them, as the lake he had planned for his embarkation was still frozen. He had to choose an alternate route, but on the plus side, the mosquitoes were still very “chill.”

Closer to home, they are just beginning to be regular visitors to a person who is outdoors getting his yard in shape, or relaxing on the deck with a favorite beverage after the hard work is done. If the question has been asked once, it’s been asked a million times: “What purpose do they serve?” Mosquitoes cause discomfort to humans, to our canine companions, to wild birds and mammals. They can also transmit diseases. West Nile virus is one of them, and our state’s favorite game bird—the ruffed grouse—can be one of the victims.

But mosquitoes provide much needed nutrition to many creatures. Adults are eaten by swallows and martins, many migratory songbirds, and also bats. Mosquito larvae are eaten by fish—young bass and bluegills among them—as well as turtles, and such aquatic or marsh birds as terns and ducks. Not to mention the

boon that mosquitoes are to chemical companies that produce insect repellents.

The first of the year’s mayfly species has appeared near the lake on whose shore the family cab-tan stands. There are more than 600 mayfly species in North America, and roughly 100 in Minnesota. Like mosquitoes, they spend most of their life before adulthood under water.

As immature “nymphs,” with outsized legs and exaggerated jaws, they are anything but attractive, except perhaps to another mayfly. Decades ago, when low budget horror films used camera trickery to turn small insects or reptiles into giant creatures that threatened the human race, one of the mayfly nymphs would have been a good choice.

But as adults, slender of body, with long and delicate hair-like tails, and gauzy transparent wings that fold atop their back like a sailboat’s sail, they are among the most handsome of insects. When ready to transform from underwater creatures hiding under rocks, or burrowed in mud, to adults destined to live but a few more days, they swim to the surface. There, their nymphal skin splits down the back, and the handsome sailboat-like adult pulls itself out. It floats on the surface to dry its wings, before taking flight. Within one to several days it will molt again, mate—the females will drop to the water to deposit their fertilized eggs—and life will come to an end.

But over the course of their lives, mayflies will provide a rich source of protein to both forage fish and game fish. Fish feed on them mostly unseen while the mayflies are living underwater as nymphs. But when they rise to the surface to transform into adults, you may see the tell-tale surface rings made by bass or panfish as they take them off the surface, or intercept them just under the surface film. In addition to feeding fish during all stages of their life cycle, mayflies can send birds into an aerial feeding frenzy as they rise off the surface, and when they return and form mating swarms above the water.

Mayflies neither bite like mosquitoes nor sting like bees, but some find them a nuisance when the larger species hatch in great profusion. At such times they may blanket boat docks and lifts, the walls of cabins, and carpet lawns with their fragile bodies that crunch

underfoot. Inevitably some find their way inside, or land on us when we’re outdoors. Those who have an insect aversion will likely be “creeped out,” until—within several days—they complete their mating mission and disappear, save for a remnant trapped in spiders’ webs, or briefly afloat in the shallows.

Mosquitoes may be a temporarily painful annoyance for most, and mayflies could be a brief annoyance at worst. But one of the insects we deal with every year is actually a threat. That is the deer tick, the noticeably smaller relative of the common dog tick, which we commonly call wood tick. Deer ticks can be more than a nuisance because many carry and can infect us with Lyme’s disease. If undetected and untreated, it can cause serious damage to joints, the nervous system, and even the heart. The first symptoms are a circular red rash surrounding the site of a bite that some describe as a “bullseye.” Other symptoms can include fever, chills, body aches, neck stiffness, and headache.

I spend a considerable amount of time from April through September, in or near, trout streams. In most places where I fish, these water wind through woodlands or fields, which are prime places to encounter both wood ticks and deer ticks. Though I wear rubber wading boots that encase my body up to the waist, or even higher, it’s not a rarity to find one of the tiny ticks on my clothing or some part of my anatomy. It’s happened already this season. And always after finding one, your senses are so aroused that you imagine there are more, whether true or not!

The deer tick—also called black-egged tick—is about half the size of a common wood tick, has black legs, and a dark spot behind the head. There are repellents that are effective against ticks, notably permethrin that is used on clothing—not on the skin—and traditional repellents that contain DEET. But use of repellents is no excuse for failing to conduct a thorough inspection after you’ve been anywhere ticks might be found.

Insects are a boon to the life around us, and sometimes a bane as well. But the joys of the spring to fall time are one more example of life’s mixed blessings, and the truth in the saying that “there is no free lunch.”

Quote of the week

A common mistake with goals is committing to the result. For example “I’m committed to being Olympic champion.” But to succeed you must commit to the work and sacrifice required to achieve the goal.

— Michael Johnson, Olympic gold medalist

Inside the Outdoors



Mike Rahn

StaplesWorld

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

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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
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Fairness: The Staples World tries conscientiously to report fairly and accurately. If you feel we fall short of this objective at any time, please direct your complaint to the manager whose name appears on this page.

Note to Advertisers: Advertisers should check their ad following first publication. This newspaper shall not be liable for failure to publish an ad or for the typographic error or errors in publication except to the extent of the cost of the ad for the first day’s insertion. Adjustment for errors is limited to the cost of that portion of the ad wherein the error occurred. The publisher reserves the right to cancel any advertisement at any time.



Motley June Fest is June 18

The City of Motley's annual June Fest will be held Saturday, June 18, from dawn 'til dusk.

Music, food, entertainment, competitions, and a parade are just a few of the items on this year's agenda, which includes something for all ages. Events take place downtown, on the west side of Hwy 10; and at the Motley Fairgrounds.

June Fest kicks off at 8 a.m. with registration (at Converse Park) for those wanting to participate in the running events. The four-mile run begins at 8:30 a.m. and the one-mile at 9:15 a.m.

The parade, which begins at the Motley Water Tower at 11 a.m., will take place along 3rd Ave. South. Registration begins at 10 a.m., at Motley United Methodist Church.

The all-day festival will conclude with fireworks

at dusk. Below is a list of activities, times and locations.

Food

- Food/Beer Gardens will be available at the fairgrounds beginning at noon.
- Root beer floats will be available at Converse Park beginning at noon.
- Rib Fest/Wing Fest will be held at the fairgrounds, beginning at 4 p.m. Open to the public.

Kids events

- A bounce house will be available to children from 8 a.m. - 2 p.m. at Converse Park.
- Laser tag begins at noon at Converse Park (register at 10:30 a.m.)
- Pedal pull begins at 12:30 p.m. at Converse Park (register at noon)
- Mister Fun Activities (crazy hair/tattoos/face painting, balloons) from 10 a.m. - 2 p.m. at Converse

Park.

Fun and games

- Bean bag tournament will take place at the Ten Hi beginning at 1 p.m.
- Average Joe Car Show will be held at Converse Park from 12:30 - 2:30 p.m.
- Raffle winners will be announced at 6 p.m., at the Ten Hi. Sales stop at 5 p.m.
- Fireworks will take place at dusk.

Fairgrounds events

- Bird house building, from 8 - 10 a.m.
- Mud Volleyball begins at noon
- DJ starts at 1 p.m.
- Magic Show, 2 p.m.
- Community Foundation Winner will be announced at 5:45 p.m.
- Demo derby, 7 p.m.
- Music at the fairgrounds, after the derby.

Motley Free Methodist Church's VBS June 20 - 24

Vacation Bible School will be held at Motley Free Methodist Church Monday, June 20 - Friday, June 24, 4:30 - 7:30 p.m. each day.

The theme for this summer's VBS is "Jerusalem Marketplace." Attendees

will have the opportunity to explore what it was like to walk with Jesus during his last week on earth.

For more information or to pre-register, call Jess at 218-296-2441.

Mark Your Calendar

June 9

STAPLES SERENITY AA GROUP MTGS are held at the Staples Assembly of God Church on Tuesday and Thursday evenings beginning at 7 p.m. Masks required. For more info., 320-874-0979.

TODD COUNTY REPUBLICANS MTG Thursday, June 9, 7 p.m., at Thunder Lodge, 22056 US 71, Long Prairie. For info.: Facebook at Todd County Minnesota Republicans; 401-632-7849.

'WALK WITH A DOC' Thursdays at 5:15 p.m., at Lake-wood 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 10

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 13

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

June 15

STAPLES ALL VETERANS AND COMMUNITY PARK ASSOCIATION'S MONTHLY BOARD MTG Wednesday, June 15, 5:30 p.m., at Timbers Restaurant and Event Center, Staples. Zoom attendance will be available upon request by contacting Bob Hamann at 218-894-3139. Public invited.



Lions Club donations

CARE Ministries and the Staples-Motley Diamond Club both recently received a donation from the Staples Host Lions Club. Pictured above, from left, with a \$1,000 donation to go toward the 'Back to School' event, are Tyler Grunewald and Amanda Mithun, CARE Ministries members; and Staples Host Lions President Ken Christensen. Pictured below with a \$500 check are, from left, Brian Smith and Ross Rychner, Diamond Club members; and Lion President Christensen. (Staples World photos by Dawn Timbs)



S-M Academic letter winners



Seniors

Staples-Motley High School recently awarded academic letters for the 2020 - 21 school year to students earning a grade point average of 3.665 - 4.0 for the school year. Letters (from the previous school year) are typically awarded in the fall, but due to Covid-19, the ceremony was postponed until this spring. Pictured above are seniors, members of the SMHS Class of 2022. Front row, from left: Elizabeth Dukowitz, Madysen Hull, Colton Converse, Drew Berg, Bo Erholtz, Evelyn Gonzales. Back row: Sivert Klefsaas. Not pictured: Adrianna Dickey, Addison Lorber, Cassidy Radueg, Jadyn Vogel, Abby Dukowitz. (Submitted photo)



Juniors

Staples-Motley High School recently awarded academic letters for the 2020 - 21 school year to students earning a grade point average of 3.665 - 4.0 for the school year. Letters (from the previous school year) are typically awarded in the fall, but due to Covid-19, the ceremony was postponed until this spring. Pictured above are juniors, members of the SMHS Class of 2023. Front row, from left: Luke Bates, Topanga Braith, Emilya Case, Wil Dolezal, Caitlin Jasmer, Georgia Kruchten, Allison Olander. Back row: Caden Mrazek, Lucas Brownell, Isaiah Schultz, Trinity Seamann, Ashley Robben, Landon Mertens. Not pictured: Amanda Carter, Nicole Carter, Riley Dabbs, Camryn Ferris, Jayce Koblika, Hailey Larson, Aften Robinson. (Submitted photo)



Sophomores

Staples-Motley High School recently awarded academic letters for the 2020 - 21 school year to students earning a grade point average of 3.665 - 4.0 for the school year. Letters (from the previous school year) are typically awarded in the fall, but due to Covid-19, the ceremony was postponed until this spring. Pictured above are sophomores, members of the SMHS Class of 2024. Front row, from left: Camden Anderson, Destiny Dukowitz, Isabel Birkholtz, Genevieve Groetsch, Olivia Vogt, Sabina Moe, Ashlyn Vogel. Back row: Addisyn Cichos, Emali Jimenez-Kloeckl, Gabe Koval, Zachary McIlravy, Bailey Weiland, Adam Nienow. Not pictured: Keller Anderson, Alex Black, Emery Lorber, Lauren Rutten, Andrew Salcido, Brayden Salcido, Eli Smith. (Submitted photo)

Join us at Jerusalem Marketplace VBS, where we'll explore what it was like to walk with Jesus during his last week on earth!

~Vacation Bible School~
June 20 - 24, 4:30-7:30 p.m.
Motley Free Methodist Church
 Located at the junctions of HWY 10 and 210 Motley. For info: 218-296-2441 (Jess)

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Open House

Celebrating the retirement of
 Doyle and Deb Yoder
 &
 Joan Doll

June 15, 9-10:30 a.m.
Staples Dairy Queen
 1100 2nd Ave NE, Staples

PARENTS NIGHT OUT

Saturday, June 18, 6-9 p.m.
Staples Church Of Christ

- Free babysitting by responsible adults
- Infant to fifth grade welcome •Games •Snacks

RSVP: Call or text Chad, 218-852-5052

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Taking the team to the state meet

Ashley Robben crosses the finish line in first place, then gets mobbed by her teammates Aften Robinson, Kyanna Burton and Audrey Brownell for carrying them



to the state meet. (Staples World photos by Mark Anderson)

Hahne, Robinson, Burton, 4x800 relay on to state

The Staples-Motley girls will send a relay team and three individuals to the state meet.

The girls state-bound athletes are Nathalie Hahne in the 100, Aften Robinson in the 400, Kyanna Burton in the 3,200 and the 4x800 relay team of Robinson, Burton, Audrey Brownell and Ashley Robben.

The girls placed third as a team at the Section 6A meet, held June 2 at Pelican Rapids.

The biggest upset of the meet may be Hahne coming through in the 100 final. She was the sixth seed after the preliminary rounds, but the top eight were all within three tenths of a second, so it was extremely close. In the final, Hahne was even with several runners halfway through and only

emerged ahead of them in the last two steps, to place second by three hundredths of a second.

Robinson had placed third in the last two section meets to barely miss a trip to state, but was not threatened in this race as she placed second easily, just behind the winner.

Burton set the pace for the 3,200 and led the entire race until the final lap.

In the 4x800 relay, Robinson put the Cardinals into first place on the first leg and they were never challenged the rest of the way.

The team had several other great performances. In the 800, Robben was in position to take over second place with half a lap to go, but wasn't able to close the gap. In the 1,600, Brownell ran with some of the fast-

est girls in the state before falling back on the last lap. Jayce Kobliska had her best 300 hurdle race to place seventh, just behind Hahne in fifth.

Team results

100 prelims - 6. Nathalie Hahne 13.54
100 finals - 2. Hahne 13.60
400 - 2. Aften Robinson 1:02
800 - 3. Ashley Robben 2:29
1,600 - 5. Audrey Brownell 5:33, 13. Sophie Schlosser 6:08
3,200 - 2. Kyanna Burton 11:52, 5. Bella Hines 12:31, 8. Naila Mikhaeil 13:00
300 hurdles - 5. Hahne 51.71, 7. Jayce Kobliska 51.80
4x400 relay - 8. (Robben, Avery Japke, Schlosser, Hahne) 4:37
4x800 relay - 1. (Robinson, Brownell, Burton, Robben) 9:57
Long jump - 11. Hahne 14'8"
Discus - 13. Madysen Hull 91'6"



Photo finish

Nathalie Hahne leans at the line to finish second in the 100 meter dash and earn a trip to state.



Power throw

Madysen Hull flings the discus



Leading the packs

Kyanna Burton sets the pace in the 3,200 meter run, while Bella Hines (#6) leads the chase pack



Baseball playoffs

The Staples-Motley baseball team lost their first section playoff game 15-0 at Annandale on May 31 to end their season. Pictured, Joe Tyrrell gets a hit in a game earlier this season. (Staples World photo by Mark Anderson)



Sailing over the bar

Hunter Miller clears six feet, one inch, to qualify for state.

Converse, Miller qualify for state track

Remington Converse won the 100 and 200 meter dashes, while Hunter Miller placed first in the high jump at the Section 6A track and field meet June 2 at Pelican Rapids. The Staples-Motley boys finished fourth as a team.

Converse was the top seed for both the 100 and 200 and came through with his fastest performances of the year to win each event convincingly. Corey Hansen also scored team points in each event, placing seventh and sixth.

In the high jump, Miller tied with four other athletes to clear 6'1", but earned first place with fewer misses throughout the competition.

Sivert Klefsaas powered through a windy 400 meter race, finishing in fifth but was less than a second from qualifying for state.

Issiah Tabatt twice made a bid to get to state. In the



Fast start

Sivert Klefsaas powers out of the blocks in the 400 meter dash.

1,600, he passed the chase pack on the final lap, only to get out-sprinted to the line. In the 3,200, he took over the race and led for several laps before two runners pulled ahead and he finished third.

Logan Robben was close behind in the 3,200.

The 4x800 relay placed sixth, but was less than a second from fourth place in a close finish.

Team results

100 prelims - 1. Remington Converse 11.36, 7. Corey Hansen 11.98
100 finals - 1. Converse 11.21, 5. Hansen 11.85
200 - 1. Converse 23.02, 6. Hansen 24.09
400 - 5. Sivert Klefsaas 53.94, 16. Grant Johnson 57.21
1,600 - 4. Issiah Tabatt 4:45, 11. Luke Brownell 5:02
3,200 - 3. Tabatt 10:30, 5. Logan Robben 10:46, 15. Dillan Robben 12:03
110 hurdles - 10. Noah Larson 19.52
300 hurdles - 14. Larson 50.35
4x800 relay - 6. (Johnson, Brownell, Odin Trif, L. Robben) 9:08
High jump - 1. Hunter Miller 6'1", 15. Avandre Brandt 5'5", 16. Connor Kuhns 5'5"
Triple jump - 15. Sawyer Ferdon 36'2"



Sprinters rounding the corner

Corey Hansen, left, and Remington Converse, right, run the turn in the 200 meter dash. Between them is Bryce

Hutchison of Pillager, who finished in second place to qualify for state. (Staples World photos by Mark Anderson)



Sang the National Anthem

Deb Otteson sang the National Anthem at the Memorial Day program in Staples May 30. Also pictured, from left, are Huck Holst and Ken Klose. (Staples World photo by Dawn Timbs)



A bell for his brothers

Patrick Doyle of Motley rang the bell when the names of his brothers, Frank (Rocky) and Michael Doyle were read during the Memorial Day program in Staples. Both of his brothers passed away during the past year. (Staples World photo by Dawn Timbs)



Remembering

Carmen Schimpp of Staples points to a paver that's been inscribed with the name of her late husband, Navy veteran Gary Schimpp. Also pictured is Gary's sister, Barb (Schimpp) Rach of Verndale. Gary's name was among the several read during the part of the program where local veterans who passed during the previous year were remembered. (Staples World photo by Dawn Timbs)



Patriotic pooch

Char Daniels of Staples and her dog, Buddy, enjoyed taking in the recent Memorial Day festivities at the All Veterans and Community Park in Staples. (Staples World photo by Dawn Timbs)



Forest flattened by tornado at Old Wadena

A view of the tornado damage at Old Wadena County Park north of Staples. Trees were sheared off by the winds as a large swath of the forest was flattened. (Staples World photo by Mark Anderson)



Some salvation in the tornado rubble

Despite 130 mile per hour winds, some areas of Old Wadena Park appear to have survived the tornado and avoided falling trees, including the old picnic shelter, above. The shelter housing the replica ox cart had minimal damage, below, as did the park diaorama, bottom. (Staples World photos by Mark Anderson)





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Classifications

NOTICES

- 100 Events/Announcements
- 101 Card of Thanks
- 102 In Memory
- 103 Lost & Found
- 104 Give Away
- 106 Personals
- 107 Notices

SERVICES & EMPLOYMENT

- 201 Business Opportunities
- 202 Childcare Providers
- 203 Childcare Wanted
- 205 Help Wanted
- 206 Positions Wanted
- 207 Equipment for Rent
- 208 Storage
- 209 Business Services
- 210 Animal Care/Supplies
- 211 Work Wanted

FOR SALE

- 300 Antiques/Collectibles
- 301 Good Things to Eat
- 302 Lawn/Garden
- 303 Hay/Straw/Feed/Seed
- 304 Livestock
- 305 Pets
- 306 Sporting Goods
- 307 Household Musical
- 308 Miscellaneous
- 309 Health/Beauty
- 310 Firewood
- 311 Christmas Trees
- 312 Computers/Office Equip.
- 313 Farm Services
- 314 Camper Trailer

VEHICLES

- 401 Automobiles
- 402 Trucks/Vans
- 403 Recreational
- 404 Farm Equipment
- 405 Heavy Equipment
- 406 Parts/Repair

WANTED TO BUY

- 501 Miscellaneous
- 502 Livestock

REAL ESTATE

- 601 Wanted to Rent
- 602 Apartments for Rent
- 603 Houses for Rent
- 604 Commercial for Rent
- 605 Mobile Homes for Rent
- 606 Land for Rent
- 607 Houses for Sale
- 608 Farms for Sale
- 609 Mobile Homes for Sale
- 610 Land for Sale
- 611 Business Property for Sale
- 612 Real Estate Wanted

GARAGE SALES

- 701 Garage Sales
- 702 Flea Market/Crafts

NOTICES

100 Events/Announcements

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June-September 2022
1/2 mi. E of Staples on Hwy. 10/210
Vendors/Sellers book your space
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O'Briens East-Side Mini Storage

101

Card of Thanks

The Leon Weishalla Family would like to thank our family and friends for being there for us. A special thank you to Rita Weishalla for all she did for us. Thank you Sacred Heart Ladies Circle, Williams Floral, Mike Blessing, Deacon Bob Shaffer, Knute Nelson Hospice, Bob Reeck and Brenny Funeral Chapel, all doing a lovely job of making our sad time a little easier. 24p

SERVICES & EMPLOYMENT

205

Help Wanted

Todd County Employment Opportunity



Todd County is looking for a reliable, service-oriented individual to serve the citizens of Todd County in the following position:

• Correctional Officer, Full-time •

To learn more about this opening and how to apply visit the official Todd County website at www.co.todd.mn.us or www.governmentjobs.com/careers/cotoddmn

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Staples World

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209

Business Services

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

211

Work Wanted

MOWING: Will mow 1/2 acre yard \$40. 218-296-3556. 22-24p

FOR SALE

301

Good Things To Eat

GROUND BEEF: Local-ly raised, 218-397-2504. 23-25p

FRESH HAMBURGER: Born, raised, processed locally, \$4.25. **ALSO:** will have 1/2 Angus beef last of June, \$2.75 lb. hanging wt. plus processing. 218-296-0530, 218-894-3275. 24-25p

305

Pets

FOR SALE: Purebred Black Labrador Retriever, 6 weeks old. AKC registered, excellent hunting pedigree. \$350. 218-296-1022. 24p

309

Miscellaneous

24X49 FT. STEEL FRAME TENT w/anchors, ratchet tie downs; few misc. tables; several saw horses w/2x4, 2x6, 2x10 boards with 4x8 sheets of Masonite/wood paneling for display tables. **SALE: Thurs, June 9, 8 a.m.-6 p.m., Fri., June 10, 8 a.m.-6 p.m., Sat., June 11, 9 a.m.-2 p.m.** 48080 281st Ave., Staples, 218-894-3135. 23-24p

LASERPLANE LEVELING SYSTEM/TRIPOD, Geotop transit/tripod and numbered measuring pole, Craftsman 10 inch radial arm saw on wooden bench, Miter saw, DeWalt metal chop saw/extra new blade, Lincoln AC/DC welder/helmet and chipping hammer, Craftsman 3/4 inch ratchet/complete set of sockets, Makita Sawzal, drill press, misc., drill bits, misc. sm. tools, sm. portable fish house/ice auger. **SALE: Thurs., June 9, 8 a.m.-6 p.m., Fri., June 10, 8 a.m.-6 p.m., Sat., June 11, 9 a.m.-2 p.m.** 48080 281st Ave., Staples, 218-894-3135. 23p

WANTED TO BUY

501

Miscellaneous JUNK CARS & TRUCKS.

218-639-5509. 23-24c

WANTED: GOLF CART. Not for golf; leg injury. Need this type of mobility. 218-894-1050. 24-25p

REAL ESTATE

602

Apartments for Rent

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

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GARAGE SALES

701

LARGE FAMILY GARAGE AND UNDER THE TENTS SALE: Thurs., June 9, 8 a.m.-6 p.m., Fri., June 10, 8 a.m.-6 p.m., Sat., June 11, 9 a.m.-2 p.m. 48080 281st Ave., 2 mi. south of Staples, Hwy. #210 to County Rd. 7, to 281st Ave., Howards. Follow signs (Rosenthal's Greenhouse Rd). Clothing: infant - adult; toys, crafts, much household, furniture items, knick knacks, misc., sm. tools, Bradley Electric smoker, much misc. No early sales. 23-24p

GARAGE SALE: 987 Pleasant Ave. NE, Staples. **Weds., June 8, Thurs., June 9, Fri., June 10, 8 a.m.-5 p.m.** 24p

GARAGE SALE - 2 PARTY VINTAGE VIL-LAS: Thurs., June 9, 8 a.m.-6 p.m. Household items, books, miscellaneous, collectible dishes, fishing/men's tools. 12730 and 12762 Vintage Circle, Staples. *Park near the inner circle. 24p

LARGE GARAGE SALE: Thurs., June 9 - Fri., June 10, 7:30 a.m.-5:30 p.m. both days. In the sheds, corner of 3rd St. and Garden Ave. NE, Staples. Household: table and chairs, dresser, computer desk, décor; clothing: girl's sz 5 and up, boy's sz 8 and up, women's, juniors; shoes, toys, books, much misc. Priced to sell. Jackie Stevens and friends. 24c



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Reciting the Pledge of Allegiance

Attendees at the Memorial Day Service at the All Veterans and Community Park in Staples recited the Pledge of Allegiance. (Staples World photos by Dawn Timbs)



American Legion Color Guard

The Motley American Legion Post #124 marches in to start the Memorial Day ceremony at the Motley Cemetery. (Staples World photos by Mark Anderson)



Giving the Memorial Day Address

Vietnam War Veteran Ken Klose gave the Memorial Day Address in Staples May 30. In background, from left, are Pastor Barry Klein, who offered prayers; and Motley American Legion member Huck Holst, who served as emcee at the event. During his speech, Klose brought awareness of the thousands of veterans suicides that take place every year, and that they surpass combat deaths. He offered information to veterans who may need mental health help.



Memorial Day speaker

Former Army paratrooper Jim Bentson, a teacher at Pillager High School, gave the Memorial Day address at the Motley Cemetery. Bentson talked about the role of education in teaching us about our freedom.



Finding their names

Pictured left, at Staples All Veterans and Community Park, from left, are Lainee Hove, Bennett Hove, Aubree Hove and Michelle Ziegler who found pavers with the names of their veteran relatives Richard Ziegler and Jeff Ziegler. In addition, the children (and adults) enjoyed eating Dilly Bars following the Memorial Day program, donated by Staples Dairy Queen. (Staples World photo by Dawn Timbs)



Sharing memories on Memorial Day

Families greeted each other as they arrived for the Memorial Day program in Motley.

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KLEFSAAS continued from page 1a

Story spreads around the world in ‘faith building journey’ for Klefsaas family

for Mom to pay up. “It’s some of the best money I’ve ever spent,” Lorna said.

The story took off after Lorna posted a blurb about it on Facebook. Her friend Gordon Severson, a reporter at KARE 11, thought it was a great story and was the first to interview them. Within a week, it had gone viral.

It’s ironic, Lorna laughs, that a story about staying off social media was first heard by way of social media.

When asked why she decided to propose a challenge like this to her son, Lorna said she’d seen the toll social media had taken on her daughters and wanted to see if there was a way to help Sivert avoid this.

She’d heard of a similar challenge from a mom who’d offered her daughter \$1,600 to stay off social media until her 16th birthday. Lorna thought she’d take it a step further...thus the ‘18 for 18’ challenge was born.

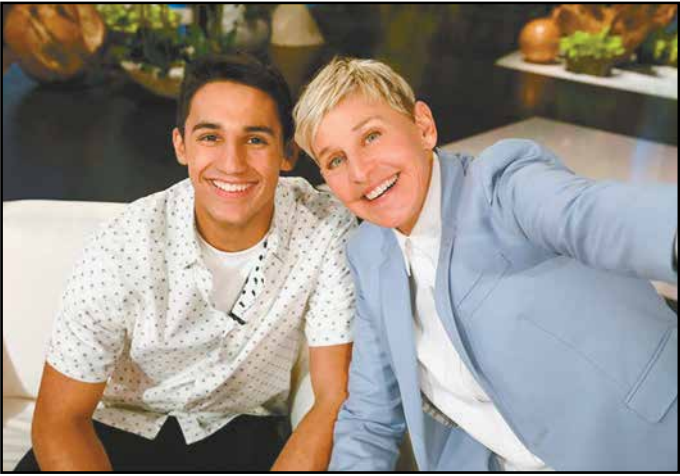
She’s not surprised Sivert was able to keep his end of the bargain, Lorna said, knowing how competitive he is. Looking back on those six years, Lorna can

see how staying off social media helped Sivert focus on academics and sports, both of which he excelled at. This past year, as a senior at Staples-Motley High School, Sivert was captain of both the football and basketball teams. He also recently graduated at the top of his class with a 3.987 grade point average, sharing the number one spot with classmate Bo Erholtz.

For the most part, not being on social media was just fine for Sivert. There were times he felt a little out of the loop, but usually managed to make it into a joke if someone asked him what his Snapchat handle was. His friends would joke back, Sivert said, adding, “I never got any flack from them.”

It wasn’t a big deal, Bo Erholtz says of her classmate not using social media during their high school years. “Sivert’s a popular guy,” she said, going on to note that he didn’t have to rely on social media in order to have friendships.

Of course, one of the first things Sivert did upon turning 18 was to open Instagram and Snapchat accounts. He’s been a little



A ‘selfie’ with Ellen

Upon learning Sivert Klefsaas of Motley only had one photo on his recently opened Instagram account, Ellen DeGeneres took a photo of the two of them on her show, which would become Klefsaas’s second Instagram photo. DeGeneres also told Klefsaas she would follow him on Instagram. (Submitted)

lost navigating this new world, describing himself as a “senior citizen” to one television reporter.

Probably more mind-boggling than coming up with a Snapchat handle, however, has been the universal outpouring of support for their story.

It’s been a “faith building journey,” Lorna says of all that’s transpired since that birthday post this past February.

ruary.

Not only have they met some amazing people along the way and had the opportunity to engage in positive conversations about pros and cons of social media, but Lorna says she’s also seen how some prayers were answered.

Lorna went on to recount a football injury the fall of Sivert’s senior year that left him on crutches. “It was a



Proud of their co-worker

Employees at the Dairy Queen in Motley cheered as they watched “The Ellen DeGeneres” show this past April 28, which featured an interview with their co-worker Sivert Klefsaas and his mom, Lorna Klefsaas. Pictured from left are Lisa Mielke, Aaron Krienke, Anita Sutton, Staci Oldenburg. (Submitted)

heartbreaking season,” she said. “It was super challenging...Sivert was as down as I’d ever seen him.”

In addition, Sivert had been accepted to the University of Northwestern in St. Paul, which he was excited about, but because it’s a Division III school, there would be no monetary offer for him to play football. They made it a matter of prayer as to whether Sivert should go to this private Christian college.

Who would have guessed that an answer to prayer may have come by way of “The Ellen DeGeneres Show” which Lorna and Sivert were guests on this past April. As the Klefsaas’s story went viral, it caught the attention of producers in Hollywood, and ultimately of DeGeneres, who wanted to interview the Minnesota duo during her show’s ‘Farewell Tour’ (the last episode was May 26).

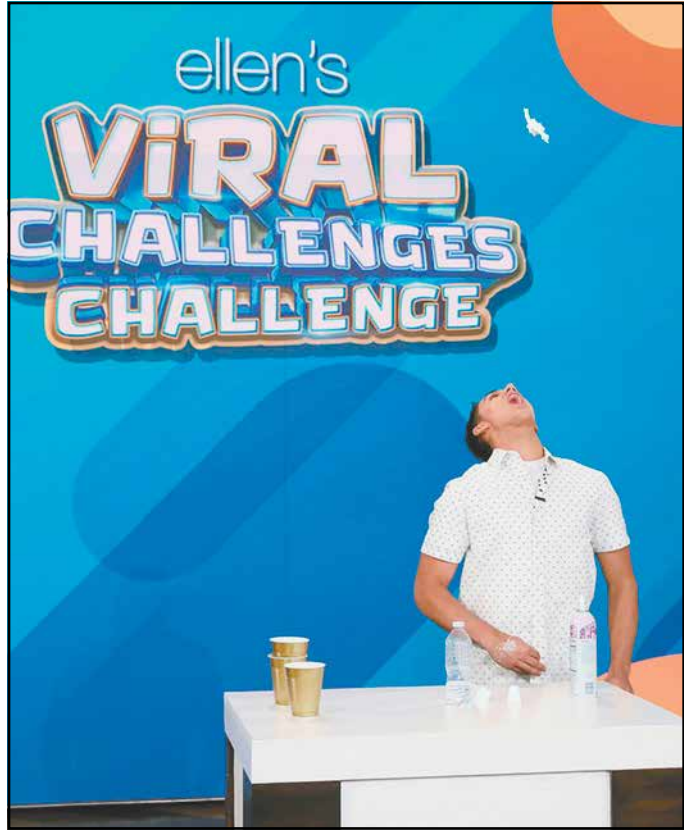
Not only were Lorna and Sivert treated like royalty during their time in Hollywood, but Sivert also participated in ‘Ellen’s Viral Challenges Challenge,’ ultimately receiving a check

for \$10,000 to go toward his college education. He also received \$5,000 to donate to his favorite charity...Special Olympics.

She believes her prayers were answered that day Lorna said, of seeing that unexpected check for \$10,000. It was an affirmation that Sivert was on the right path to college. It was also a reminder to her that God really does care about each of us.

It was amazing, Sivert said of their numerous interviews along the way with the highlight of being on the Ellen show, which came with a number of on-the-house extras, such as a chauffeur, first-class hotel fine dining, wardrobe, etc.

He was blown away by the generous check from Ellen toward his college tuition. Not too shabby, either is the \$1,800 from his mom. Upon learning it will only pay for a portion of a house Sivert’s decided to invest this chunk of change elsewhere. Perhaps he’ll buy a new television for his dorm room. That should help keep him off social media.



Can he do it?

While on “The Ellen DeGeneres Show” this past April, Sivert Klefsaas of Motley was given the opportunity to win cash prizes by participating in some viral challenges that he missed out on when he wasn’t on social media. Klefsaas successfully completed two of the three challenges (each worth \$1,800). He completed two successfully, but DeGeneres said they rounded it up to \$10,000, presenting him with a check to go toward his college education. He was also given a \$5,000 check to go toward his favorite charity. (Submitted)



An unexpected gift

While appearing as a guest on the major network talk show “Ellen”, 18-year-old Sivert Klefsaas received a check for \$10,000 to go toward his college education. Also pictured are Sivert’s mom, Lorna Klefsaas (center) and Ellen DeGeneres, host of “The Ellen DeGeneres Show” which recently ended after a 19-year run. (Submitted)



Old Wadena storm path started at river

The new pavillion at Old Wadena Park is flat on the ground in this drone photo from the Wadena County Sheriff’s Department. The oak grove at the park was also

toppled and many trees along the foot paths were also damaged. The tornado came out of the Crow Wing River and traveled through the park.

TORNADO continued from page 1a

Wadena County forming plans to restore Old Wadena Park

annual event in August. “This park was becoming more and more popular for a wedding venue and family reunions,” said Malone. She noted that although the roof and supporting beams of the pavillion were flattened, the foundation still appears to be solid.

“We do have plans for getting a semblance of order,” said Malone. “We will replant trees and restore it as best we can to what it was.”

She said the Minnesota DNR forestry department reached out right away to help make a plan to salvage some of the trees that were knocked down and replant the forest. The DNR manages county forests and Malone said she appreciates the help.

“If we can put a timber sale together and get some of the bigger stuff cleared out, we can go from there,” she said.

Poplar tornado

Another tornado at about the same time toppled trees and damaged farm buildings in Poplar Township, north of Leader. That twister traveled a 4.3 mile path with winds up to 105 mph.

The most extensive damage occurred in Poplar and Bryon Townships. Several structures were affected, along with a grain silo and two center pivot irrigation systems.

Many homes lost power due to trees falling on electric lines and utility poles blowing down. Crow Wing Power still had 300 customers without power on June 1, two days after the storm, but reported most had been restored by June 3.

The Cass County Sheriff’s Department estimated damage to public infrastructure at approximately \$120,000, but that was an early figure that likely will increase.



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