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CLC student voter efforts
Cardinal Showcase - The Nest
Mayer, Porter & Nelson close accounting firm
Girls basketball team wins season opener



Wednesday, November 27, 2024

Staples, Minnesota

\$1.25

Touchdown in state final Ben Tyrrell runs untouched through a giant hole created by blockers, from left, Turner Beachy, Drake Dukowitz, Steven Petrich, Jacob Becker, Dustin Converse and Riley Reese. The Staples-Motley football team score four touchdowns but lost 42-26 in the state championship. See story, Page 10-11a. (Photo by Mark Anderson)

Help ‘Light Up Staples!’
Parade of Lights will be Nov. 30

Businesses in Staples are encouraged to show their holiday spirit and bring joy to our community by decorating their storefronts by Saturday, Nov. 30. “Join the celebration and help transform Staples into a holiday wonderland,” said event organizers, adding, “It’s a great way to engage with residents and visitors during this festive season.” A festive Holiday Parade of Lights event is planned for Saturday, Nov. 30, beginning at 5:30 p.m. with a tree lighting ceremony to follow.



Staples-Motley schools excel in science, lag in reading and math

By Mark Anderson
Managing Editor

Staples-Motley schools are at the state average in science scores, but are a little behind in reading and math. Jenny Pantzke, District Teaching and Learning Coordinator, gave some of the recent testing results to the Staples-Motley School Board at their Nov. 18 meeting. Pantzke said the school uses state testing, district testing and classroom data to measure the progress of their students. State testing is measured through MCA math, reading and science tests. Pantzke said all state scores declined after COVID, but are starting to rebound. Staples-Motley science scores are at the state average and are among the highest in the region, compared to area schools. Math scores have not rebounded as fast as the state average, with the gap increasing this year. Reading scores are more steady, still behind the state average but the gap did not increase. Those state scores are just a snapshot of certain grades with different students each year. The district’s Fastbridge program tracks the progress of individual students from year to year, with Pantzke showing that scores are going up across the board for almost all the students. Another area that Staples-Motley schools excel

is attendance and graduation. The school has been working on attendance incentives. The graduation rate had a slight decrease the last year but is still among the highest in the region. Pantzke said around 50 percent of Staples-Motley students attend college, which is slightly below the regional average. **Communications plan** The Staples-Motley School District communications plan is meeting goals and is poised to expand to let the public know about what is going on in the district. Staci Headley and Trisha Larson gave an update on the communications plan at the Nov. 18 Staples-Motley School Board meeting. Headly said they have

met or exceeded several of the goals in the plan. She said their social media clicks are increasing, especially for people age 25 to 54. “That’s our target audience,” said Headley. She said they are providing stories to the Staples World on a monthly basis. Larson said the school’s new web site has had 22,000 visitors. Currently, students, family and staff can communicate through the web site and the public. A new feature, the Cardinal Link app, is just starting up but will be available to anyone in the community who wants to see what is going on in the school. Larson said soon, parents will be able to log in and use See **SCHOOL** on page 12a

Nanik leaves legacy at Sourcewell

When Sue Nanik began her career at Sourcewell – then known as North Central Service Cooperative – she was one of only 12 employees. Now, 28 years later, she has retired as the leader of a dedicated human resources (HR) team, overseeing the acquisition, development, and well-being of nearly 400 employees across the nation. Over her tenure, Nanik took on various roles, from working with the health insurance pool and student programs to building the HR team and serving as interim executive director. She also contributed to major organizational milestones, such as the expansion of Sourcewell’s cooperative purchasing program and the construction of its headquarters. “Sue’s steady leadership has not only supported the growth of the organization but also fostered a culture where people feel valued and empowered,” said Chad Coauette, Sourcewell CEO. “Her contributions have had a lasting impact on our culture and will continue to shape Sourcewell’s success for years to come.” **From humble beginnings to lasting impact** Nanik joined Sourcewell in 1996, a time when the organization was just starting to explore its potential. “It’s been exciting but also challenging to manage and deliver on that kind of growth each year,” she



Sue Nanik with former Sourcewell Board Chair Mike Wilson. (Submitted photo)

shared, reflecting on the expansion of Sourcewell’s services and the transformation of its workforce. She witnessed the growth of Sourcewell’s cooperative purchasing, which took off during the 2008 economic downturn. “Cities and counties were looking for more cost-effective ways to purchase, and we were able to meet that need at the right time,” she said, adding that cooperative purchasing not only supported public agencies, but also enabled the organization to reinvest in the region. In 2011, she was a key leader in the construction and expansion of Sourcewell’s headquarters, resulting in a modern facility that now serves as a welcoming space for meetings, trainings, and community. **Shaping a culture of support and inclusion** While Nanik wore many hats during her time at Sourcewell, perhaps her most impactful contribution was building the HR team from the ground up. “I was HR. It was just me to begin with,” she recalled. Under her leadership, the team established systems for talent acquisition, onboarding, and all-staff training programs centered around leadership, communication and culture. “Sourcewell continues that work to this day through initiatives like situational leadership training,” she explained. “Being able to expand that team and

put people in place to carry on that work is one of my greatest achievements.” Her work also earned her the Outstanding Service Award from the Minnesota Service Cooperatives in 2021, a recognition that still holds special meaning to her. “When you love the work that you do, you’re not thinking about the recognition,” Nanik said. “But receiving that award was a real honor, especially because it reflected the relationships I’ve built both inside and outside of Sourcewell.” **Excited for the future** Though stepping away from day-to-day leadership, Nanik remains optimistic for Sourcewell’s future, particularly for initiatives like Community Bridgmakers and AscendRural. “As new people and new ideas come in, Sourcewell should be in a good place to bring some of those new ideas to life,” she said. “Something we haven’t thought of today could be something that we’re putting our efforts behind five years from now.” Personally, Nanik is excited to step off the “bullet-fast train” of leadership and embrace a slower pace of life. “I’m looking forward to spending time with family and friends, volunteering, traveling, and exploring new hobbies,” she said. “And, frankly, enjoying the freedom to do whatever feels right on any given day.”

Weather
2024
This Week’s Forecast
High Low Cond.
Nov. 27 25 15 Cloudy
Nov. 28 19 4 Cloudy
Nov. 29 11 1 P. Cloudy
Nov. 30 13 1 P. Cloudy
Dec. 1 10 3 Sunny
Dec. 2 16 9 P. Sunny
Dec. 3 20 16 P. Cloudy

Last Year, 2023
High Low Cond.
Nov. 27 14° 7 Cloudy
Nov. 28 36 8 Sunny
Nov. 29 44 23 Sunny
Nov. 30 35 20 M. Sunny
Dec. 1 35 14 M. Sunny
Dec. 2 37 22 P. Sunny
Dec. 3 34 27 Cloudy

Average Temps:
H = 30° Low = 16°

Compiled by
Dale Hausmann,
WCCO’s Staples area
Weatherwatcher

Public Notices
ISD #2170 9A

Obituaries
Merle Clewett
Linda Johnson
Richard Melborn
Keith Salthe



3M donates to Staples Food Shelf

The first Staples 3M Club Charity Golf Tournament was held Sept. 28, at The Vintage Golf Course in Staples, with all proceeds, after expenses, going to the food shelves in Staples and Motley. A total of \$4,000 was raised (split between the two food shelves), which included matching funds from the plant.

Pictured above, from left, are Jeff Booth, 3M Plant Manager; Reggy Thompson, plant supervisor; Bob Stracek; Frank Leidenfrost, Staples Food Shelf Director; Darrell Hoemberg, Chris Erickson, Scott Lenk, Mike Serich, 3M employees. (Staples World photo by Dawn Timbs)

Motley City Council canvasses election results

By Dawn Timbs
Staples World reporter

Except for Johnson, the others re-elected had come on board the council in the fall of 2023, filling empty seats vacated by resignations.

O'Regan, who'd previously been serving as a council member and Acting Mayor at that time, was appointed mayor in November of 2023, filling the vacancy left by Mike Schmidt who'd resigned in September of that year. That mayoral term went through 2024.

Also in November of 2023, Erickson and Skeesick-Larson were appointed to serve on the council through 2024. Erickson was appointed to fill the vacancy of Brenda Borash who'd resigned the previous September; and Skeesick-Larson was appointed to fill the council seat vacated with O'Regan's appointment to mayor.

The fifth member of the Motley City Council is Nikki Bjerga, who, at the start of 2025, will be serving the final two years of her four-year term.

At the start of 2025, no changes will be made to the Motley City Council's member roster, as determined by the city election Nov. 5, held during the general election.

The council canvassed the results of the city election at their regular meeting Nov. 13.

Per the results, Pat O'Regan will continue to serve as Motley's mayor, a two-year term. O'Regan, who ran unopposed, received 238 votes. There were 15 write-ins for mayor.

Returning for four-year terms on the council are Dennis Erickson and Steve Johnson, who received 168 and 188 votes respectively. There were 12 write-in votes for these open council seats as well.

April Skeesick-Larson received 237 votes in a special election to retain a seat on the council. She will be serving a two-year term. There were four write-ins for this seat.

Motley area law enforcement

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

Nov. 13 - 19

Nov. 19 - Motley Police issued a citation to Lanaiah Nicole Erbe, 27, for expired registration.

Nov. 18 - Motley Police received a call from Holiday Gas Station in Motley reporting a man who came into the store on Nov. 15 and took some items without paying for them. They have a video of the subject doing this.

Nov. 14 - Motley Police assisted state patrol with a report of a hitchhiker walking along Hwy 10 between Motley and Staples. The officer checked the area but was unable to locate.

Nov. 14 - Motley Police issued a citation to Jerrod James Fredrick for driving after revocation and failure to stop for a stop sign.

Nov. 18 - The MCSO received a report of a vehicle accident at Dove Rd. and 320th St., Cushing.



THANK YOU

for making a difference!

Congratulations to these 5-Star employees



Tammy Brandanger, Landscaper
Nominated Anonymously
"Many times, coming to and from work, I have seen Tammy working diligently on the landscaping for the Lakewood grounds. I recently took a walk around the LHS building and was mesmerized by the foliage in tip top shape, hardly a rock out of place and beautiful flowers placed in great locations. Her vision for the grounds gives her BIG innovative points. I can't be the only one that has noticed that LHS grounds have the best-looking landscaping compared to others. She does wonderful work with barely being noticed and I think that deserves to be recognized."



Sara Johnson, Nutrition Services Aide
Nominated by Rachel Bybee, Mikaela Martinson, OB RNs
"One evening while Sara was working in the galley on the hospital floor, we had two patients in labor and actively delivering their babies at the same time. It just so happened to be right around 6:30 p.m. which is when dietary would normally be done taking dinner orders for the day. Sara was compassionate and thoughtful enough to stop at the nurses' station to ask the staff of the new moms (and dads) wanted to order dinner before she was supposed to go home. It may seem like not a big deal to some, but to those moms, a hot meal after just having a baby and after not being able to eat much throughout the day meant so much to them."



Heather Marcyes, Home Health RN
Nominated by Jennifer Kane, BSW, Social Worker and Lindsay Kirk, LPC, LICSW, MSW, Psychiatric Services – Outreach Coordinator
"Heather has embodied the pillars of Lakewood values in her care for home care and hospice patients. In one particular case, Heather followed a patient with many physical, behavioral, and social challenges with compassion, integrity, accountability, high quality, and innovation. Heather responded to many calls for help and revisited challenges as many times as needed until resolution was achieved. She was loved by the patient and was able to be present with him from his time in home care through his time in hospice. You truly deserve this award, not only for your care for this particular patient but because this is how you approach all your patients."



Raya Olson, Patient Access Rep.
Nominated by Heather Kleve, Clinic MA
"Recently Raya forwarded a patient concern on to me because she "had a bad feeling" about the patient. She had just spoken with the patient on the phone via patient access and offered an appointment, however the patient ultimately declined as he couldn't be seen by his Primary Care Provider. Due to what she was able to obtain during their conversation, she chose to contact the nursing team to share her concern. The patient was contacted and informed he needed to be seen urgently. Without Raya's communication across the patient's care team, the patient may not have been evaluated. This is a great example of a high-quality team member."



Dr. Kevin Wentworth
Nominated by Hanna Sievert, Clinic RN
"Dr. Wentworth always brings such a sense of enjoyment (and laughter) to our stressful workplace, and I have had such valuable education in watching his work ethic and compassion with patients and fellow staff, alike. Dr. Wentworth is a consummate professional, highly adept in his practice and an engaging and caring doctor. He takes the time with his patients to make them feel their health is held in the highest regard. He follows up with patients outside of same day hours and checks in with those that may need extra support or diligence to make it known that their plan of care is of great value. He is truly an example of how positive healthcare can be and he is a STAR at Lakewood Health System."



218-894-1515 lakewoodhealthsystem.com

Preschool students learn about 'Rutt the Moose'

Students from Magic Forest Preschool walked to the Staples World Oct. 11 to learn about the newspaper. They looked up birth announcements in the newspaper, cut out photos from the newspaper and listened to the newspaper story about "Rutt" the moose written and narrated by Staples World Man-

aging Editor, Mark Anderson.

Rutt the moose traveled through the Staples area during Thanksgiving weekend of 2023, causing quite the excitement amongst local followers tracking his journey north. Anderson's story about Rutt gained state and national attention, including a mention in the New York Times, as well as his being interviewed on the radio show, "Garage Logic." (Staples World photo by Janice Winter)

Wiegand's novel about resiliency while growing up

Elaine Wiegand has written an adult fiction book, "Living in a Nightmare." Wiegand has worked for Motley Tire, the Staples-Motley School District and Stern Rubber. Now retired and living in Pillager, this is her first novel.

A book review states:

"Living in a Nightmare by Elaine Wiegand tells the harrowing story of John, a young boy abandoned by his family at the age of two. Left to navigate the cold, impersonal world of foster care, John's childhood unfolds in a series of heartbreaking challenges that tested his spirit. Passed from one home to the next, he's forced to grow up in environments where love is scarce, and survival depends on his resilience.

"Elaine Wiegand crafts a deeply empathetic and eye-opening narrative that immerses readers in John's emotional landscape—from the loneliness of feeling unwanted to the terror of enduring abuse. Every placement seems to bring new challenges, each worse than the last. Yet, through it all, John fights to hold onto a glimmer of hope that one day, he will find a place to call home.

"With raw honesty and compassion, "Living in a Nightmare" sheds light on the resilience of children in the foster system, offering an unfiltered look at both the brokenness and the bravery within this world."



Sixth grade visits Staples World

A Staples-Motley sixth grade class visited the Staples World on Oct. 16, to learn more about the business because they are creating a sixth grade newspaper each month this year. The students learned about the First Amendment, looked at an old edition of the Presto Change, the first newspaper in this area, looked up birth announcements in the newspapers and practiced newspaper layout skills.

Above, pictured from left, Chuck Davis, Ryker Pesta, Wyatt Patterson, Charlie Maros, Evan Alexander, Andromeda Smith, Taija Stevens and Phaedra Arndt. (Staples World photo by Mark Anderson).

Looking back

75 YEARS AGO - 1949
• Dec. 1, 1949 - Showing at the New Staples Theatre Dec. 6 - 8, Alan Ladd and Betty Field in “The Great Gatsby” (In the days when America was on its biggest spending spree). Showtimes are at 7 p.m. and 9 p.m.
• Dec. 1, 1949 - Thirty-five members and guests were present Tuesday afternoon when the Staples Study Club observed guest day at their regular meeting in the Congregational Church.
Mrs. Chris Jensen, poet laureate of Minnesota, who

- O -
Compiled by
Dawn Timbs
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goes under the pen name of Margaret Ball Dickson, spoke on Minnesota literature.

Miss Leatrice Tyrrell, a high school senior, presented a flute solo, a medley of folk dances and Song of India. She was accompanied by Mrs. Sperley, who also accompanied the Lutheran Junior choir under the direction of Mrs. J.M. Amundson.

Mrs. H. E. Peirce poured at the tea, which followed the meeting.

The village of Motley in Morrison County is the first place to bring in an order for the printing of election ballots this fall.

Village elections are to be held Tuesday, Dec. 6.

At Motley, the following have filed for office: For Mayor - Leroy Greig; A Trustee for three years - John Coleman.

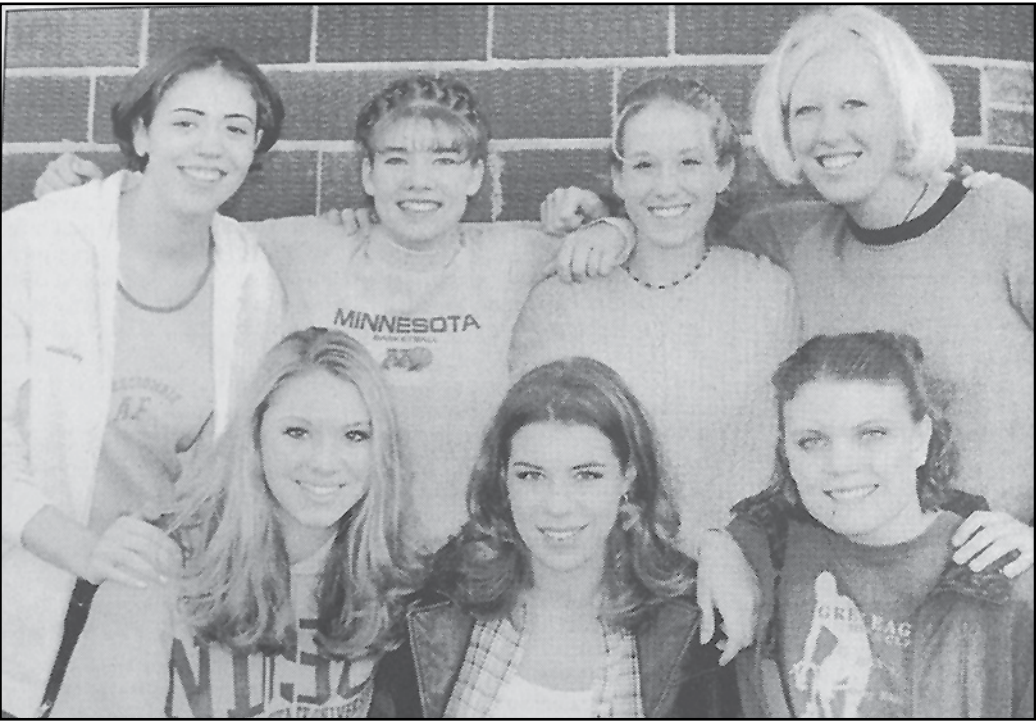
Other offices for which the election will be held include Justice of peace for two years, constable for two years, and constable for one year.

• Dec. 1, 1949 - Several cases of the poisoning of pets have been reported to the Staples city police department with the result that the department advises the public that the scattering of poison is against the public health department regulations.

So far three pet cats have died as a result of the poisoning, and several are sick at the present time. Reports say that so far no dogs have been affected by this poison.

People are admonished not to scatter poison about for any reason whatsoever, due to the fact that small children might also get hold of the deadly stuff.

50 YEARS AGO - 1974
• Nov. 28, 1974 - Aldrich Cheese Mart in Aldrich, Minn., offers a large assortment of fancy cheese gift boxes - most complete line of domestic and imported cheeses. Open daily from 9 a.m. to 8 p.m. Order early - Let us mail for you! Phone



Mystery photo

Hello readers. This week's archive photo is from 1999. Do you know who these people are and perhaps the context of the photo? Do you have a memory to share? Email your answers and where

445-5503.

• Nov. 28, 1974 - Mike Hajek, a graduate of Staples High School, was among the three Brainerd Community College football players receiving honorable mention in the Minnesota Junior College Athletic Association northern division team.

Hajek played defensive end for Brainerd Community College.

• Nov. 28, 1974 - Grace LeVasseur, the new Welcome Wagon hostess made several calls to new Staples residents recently. They included:

Mr. and Mrs. Charles Arndt, who moved here from New Jersey. Mr. Arndt is employed with H.W. Carter & Sons. The Arndts have two children ages 10 and 13. Their address is 510 SE 6th St.

Mr. and Mrs. Don Shippee moved to Staples from Connecticut and are residents on Oak Ave. SE. Mr. Shippee is a truck driver.

Moving here from Little Falls are Mr. and Mrs. Larry Novakowski who now reside at 314 N. 7th St. Mr. Novakowski is employed as a controller at the United District Hospital. The couple has two children ages 1 and 4.

• Nov. 28, 1974 - The grand opening of Children's World, owned and operated by Diane Japke and Marilyn Holst will be held this weekend. The new store is located in the lower level of the Miller-Holst Store on North Fourth Street, and features clothing and toys for tots through teens. An ad in this week's issue of The World sets forth further details of the event.

• Nov. 28, 1974 - Mayor 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.

Ernest E. Weber cut the ribbon officially dedicating the Staples Community Center at ceremonies Nov. 19.

“This center should be dedicated to the people of the community who made it possible. It is my belief that we are dedicating this building to a community with a great future and one I'm proud to call my home town,” the mayor stated in his dedication address.

25 YEARS AGO - 1999

• Dec. 2, 1999 - A devastating fire two days before Thanksgiving destroyed the Four Roses Floral, Nursery and Gift Shop in Motley Nov. 23. The livelihood of a well liked local family who established a new and much needed business in Motley had gone up in flames and smoke in a matter of a few hours.

The business is owned by Gordon (Gordy) Rosenthal and his wife, Julie. The couple also runs the Staples Theatre.

• Dec. 2, 1999 - Congratulations to Tom Good, 25th Anniversary as a State Farm Agent. His office is located at 812 4th St. NE in Staples.

• Dec. 2, 1999 - A Holiday Open House will be held at the Kevin P. Roline Agency, Inc., located at 138 4th St. NE in Staples. Dec. 9 and 10, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

• Dec. 2, 1999 - Several veterans, including three seniors and a junior who started for the Cardinals a year ago, return to anchor a promising Staples Motley girls basketball season.

Coach Joe Joerger is excited about the upcoming season, after working with

the girls in their off season strength training and playing abilities.

The Cardinals, who finished 14-8 last season, will be trying for their strongest finish in the past five years.

Coach Joerger's returning players, including past starters, include Jill Mertens, Amanda Hoffert, Alisha Miller, Shannon Hoffmann, Andrea Winter, Rachel Landecker, Tina Blake, Heather Dumpprope, Sarah Miller.

• Dec. 2, 1999 - The favorite tree as voted by those visiting the Festival of Trees at the First Integrity Bank Annex was the tree sponsored by Faith Lutheran Church. Pastor Steve Sveom, Penny Nelsen, tree decorator, and Pastor Brad Skogen represented the congregation by having their picture taken by the tree.

10 YEARS AGO - 2014

• Nov. 27, 2014 - This year, artists have been gathering in Staples to learn how to get better at the business side of art. Five Wings Arts Council, located in Staples, is hosting a series of workshops to provide artists with the skills to be successful artist entrepreneurs.

“We've had a great response from artists,” said FWAC Executive Director Mark Turner.

“I have been impressed with the energy level and the willingness of the people to participate,” said Vicki Chepulis, Five Wings Grants Coordinator.

Becker keeps one vote win

After a recount, Barb Becker maintained a one vote lead in the Todd County Commissioner District 1 race.

After recounting 2,819 ballots, the original total did not change, with Becker

receiving 1,201 votes and Sharon Thiel 1,200.

Becker will remain as the County Commissioner for District 1, which includes Staples and surrounding townships.

Opioid settlement request for proposals

By Todd County Health and Human Services

Minnesotans have suffered tremendously from the opioid epidemic. Opioid overdose deaths have increased dramatically during the COVID-19 pandemic. Data from the Minnesota Department of Health shows that from 2020 to 2021, opioid-involved overdose deaths increased by 44%, to an all-time high of 978 deaths in 2021. Fentanyl, a highly potent synthetic opioid, was involved in the majority of the deaths.

Todd County is seeking applications for its Opioid Settlement Community Request for Proposals (RFP). Applications will be accepted from public and private organizations serving Todd County residents. Applicants must

respond to the opioid crisis through opioid epidemic response strategies, including prevention, treatment, recovery, and harm reduction. The goal of this RFP is to fund projects in Todd County that will have a high impact, particularly for Todd County communities most disproportionately impacted by the opioid crisis.

Applications will be accepted October 8, 2024 through the end of the day on December 20, 2024. For more information and to apply visit: <https://www.co.todd.mn.us/todd-county-opioid-settlement-community-request-for-proposals/>

For questions regarding this RFP, please email Katherine Mackedanz at Katherine.mackedanz@co.todd.mn.us or call 320-732-4452.

Staples Police report

Recent reports taken by the Staples Police Dept.

Nov. 11, Staples Police received a report of a lost wallet. Police found that an unknown person unsuccessfully attempted to use a debit card which had been inside of the wallet.

Nov. 12, Staples Police responded to the high school for an out of control student. The juvenile had broken a window, smashed and threw items and threatened a teacher. The juvenile was taken by ambulance for a mental health evaluation. Police were assisted by Long Prairie Police and Todd County Sheriff's Dept.

Nov. 15, Staples Police were dispatched for a possible domestic assault with weapons at 214 Wisconsin Ave SE. Female party stated that she had been struck in the head by a male party.

Male party admitted to striking the female. Brett Nelson, 28, was arrested for domestic assault.

Nov. 17, Staples Police assisted Todd County Sheriff's Dept. with a DUI traffic complaint. Driver almost hit another vehicle head on while driving on the wrong side of a county road. Driver drove to the residence on the 1000 block of Pleasant Ave. NE Staples. Todd County Deputy had the driver perform SFST test. Zachariah Johnson, 21, was placed under arrest by Todd Count Sheriff's Dept.

Nov. 17, Staples Police were dispatched to the intersection of Hwy 10 and 5th St. NE for a one vehicle accident. Police found a driver under the influence of alcohol and arrested Desiree Boie, 54, for driving under the influence of alcohol.



Mystery solved

Last week's mystery photo published in the Nov. 2, 1978 edition of the Staples World featured The Motley Girl Scouts and Brownies presenting Dr. Don Eddy with a plaque for his contributions to their local units. Pictured, from left, are Cathy Cantleberry. Dawn Anderson,

Cindy Schull, Lisa Weber, Shari Morey, Lisa Simon, Lana Weber, Susie Bolduc and Amy Hansen. Eddy, in the background, aligns the new plaque to be displayed in the Motley Office of the Staples State Bank.





DEADLINES
Newspaper deadline for copy
and advertising: 12 noon Fridays



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Letters to the Editor

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Let’s Give Tribute to Veterans

This month of Thanksgiving and Veteran’s Day is the perfect time for all of us to remind veterans of how thankful we are for their selfless service to our country. I am, therefore, in total disagreement with the President Elect who said that our disabled and fallen veterans are “suckers” and losers.”

In his first term in office he wanted to have a mil-

itary parade (like China, Russia and North Korea have), but he didn’t want to include any disabled vets because, he said, “it would make me look bad.”

Veterans, you are not, I repeat, not “suckers” and losers.” You never make us “look bad.” You make your country proud. We stand with you and we proudly stand by the graves of our fallen veterans. You are our heroes. Thank you for your service.

Cheryl Koll
Motley, Minn.

Political signs divide us

The election is over. Would it be too much to ask people to take down their political signs? Your political signs divide us. We are all Americans. Let’s focus on what unites us.

It’s Thanksgiving. Give thanks to God for all we have. Decorate for Christmas or Hanukkah.

Let’s bow down and worship God, not Trump. (Voting for him is one thing. Worship is another.)

Norma Elvine
Staples, Minn.

Wonderful season

Congratulations to the Staples-Motley football team, coaches, cheerleaders. We are so proud of your hard work and accomplishments. What a great season. What a wonderful show of support from the fans and community.

Good luck, Cardinals, in the seasons and years to come.

Tom and Gail Honek
Staples, Minn.

Editor’s note: Tom Honek was the Head Coach for the 1988 Staples Motley team who also placed second in the state championship.

Quote of the week

“The difference between a vision and a hallucination is that other people can see the vision.”

— Al Neuharth



Conference flags

Banners for the new Heart Of Lakes Conference are hanging in the refurbished gym. Teams are Staples-Motley, Barnesville, Breckenridge, Dilworth-Glyndon-Felton, Frazee, Hawley, Park Rapids, Pelican Rapids and Perham.



New floor, bleachers at The Nest

The Staples-Motley School Board toured The Nest after their meeting on Nov. 18. Pictured, Lisa Anderson, Trisha Larson and Ryan Wright stand in front of the new bleachers. (Staples World photos by Mark Anderson)

Cardinal Showcase

The Nest will be a place for the whole community, opening Dec. 2

By Shane Tappe
Superintendent, Staples-Motley Schools

With the highly anticipated Grand Opening of “The Nest” facility on December 2, quickly approaching, excitement is mounting among staff, students, stakeholders and community members. This newly renovated facility signifies a substantial investment in our community, providing health and wellness resources for our students, staff, families and community members. The meticulous planning and effort leading up to this event ensures that every aspect has been carefully considered, from the layout of the space to the branding on the walls.

The construction of this facility is a result of the collaboration and generous \$6 million donation from Lakewood Health System. This substantial contribution has been instrumental in bringing this project to fruition and ensuring that it upholds high standards of quality and excellence. We are deeply appreciative of the generosity of Lakewood Health System and their dedication to enhancing health and well-being in our schools and community.

The generous donations from our community partners have significantly improved the progress and impact of this project. The TCO (Twin Cities Orthopedics) training room will provide a dedicated space for our student-athletes to receive treatment throughout the week. Additionally, the state-of-the-art scoreboard, made possible by a generous donation from First International Bank and Trust, will not only highlight our student-athletes during games and activities but also enhance the overall experience for other special



The community room for The Nest had new flooring when the school board toured on Nov. 18.

events.

The introduction of a walking track and fitness space within our community will undoubtedly have a positive impact on the health and well-being of community members. By providing a designated area for physical activity, we are encouraging individuals to partake in regular exercise, which in turn can lead to improved health, reduced stress levels and enhanced overall fitness. Creating a safe and accessible environment for individuals to walk, run or engage in group fitness activities will not only promote physical well-being but also foster a sense of camaraderie and social connection within the Staples-Motley School District and community. This investment showcases our dedication to promoting healthy lifestyles and active living within our community, ultimately contributing

to improved quality of life for all members of our communities.

The newly renovated space boasts several impressive features, including brand-new bleachers, a new gym floor, weight room, wrestling area, elevated walking track, training room, restrooms and offices for community education and activities. These upgrades are specifically designed to enhance athletic performance and improve the overall user experience for everyone. The new bleachers offer ample seating for spectators, ensuring they can support their teams in comfort. The gym floor turned out amazing and gives our programs a safe and optimal space to perform. The weight room features some new upgraded equipment geared towards strength training and conditioning, allowing athletes to reach their peak

physical potential. Additionally, the wrestling space is outfitted with new mats (thanks to a donation from the wrestling booster club) that provides both safety and durability. Overall, these new additions demonstrate a commitment to excellence in sports facility design and functionality.

We are pleased to invite you to join us at the ribbon-cutting and grand opening event on December 2, at 8:30 a.m. This event marks a significant milestone for the Staples-Motley School District, and we would be honored by your presence as we officially unveil “The NEST”. This event will provide us with the opportunity to showcase our Cardinal commitments to climate, culture and operations. We look forward to welcoming you on this memorable day as we embark on this exciting chapter in the Staples-Motley School District.

StaplesWorld

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and area townships.

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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There is a \$5 charge for address change from local to out-of-state.

Member: Minnesota Newspaper Association, MCAN Advertising

School Board members gather under the new large scoreboard at The Nest.



End of an era

Accounting firm Mayer, Porter & Nelson, a fixture in Staples for decades, closed its doors for good Oct. 31. Pictured in front, from left, are the three partners Chuck Mayer, Julie Nelson and Keith Porter, all of whom will now be working for Clasen & Schiessl Lakes Area CPAs, Ltd., whose main office is in Pequot Lakes. Clasen & Schiessl also has offices in Aitkin and Baxter. Back row, from left, are employees Mary Schmitz, Tam-

my Harvey, Bev Dolezal, Christopher Bramer, Mikayla Hinzmann. Porter was part of the Staples firm since 1985; Mayer since 1989; and Nelson since 1999. Mary (Stracek) Schmitz began working there right out of high school in 1986, when Randy Beinhorn owned it. The accounting firm will be missed by many in the area who used their much-needed services. (Submitted photo)

CLC recognized as Most Engaged Campus for student voting

Central Lakes College has been recognized by the ALL IN Campus Democracy Challenge (ALL IN) as a 2024 ALL IN Most Engaged Campus for College Student Voting. The ALL IN Most Engaged Campuses for College Student Voting recognizes colleges and universities for outstanding efforts to increase nonpartisan student voter participation. CLC, with campuses in Brainerd and Staples, joins a group of 471 colleges and universities recognized by ALL IN for completing four core actions:

- Participating in the ALL IN Campus Democracy Challenge
 - Sharing 2022 NSLVE Reports with campus voting data with ALL IN
 - Developing and submitting a 2024 democratic engagement action plan with ALL IN
 - Having a current signatory to ALL IN's Higher Education Presidents' Commitment to Full Student Voter Participation.
- "At Central Lakes College, we believe every voice has the power to shape the future. Guided by our mission to "build futures," we foster opportunities for cultural enrichment, civic responsibility, and meaningful community engagement," said Dr. Hara Charlier, President of CLC. "We take pride in our students, who not only embrace their right to vote but also inspire and empower others to make their voices heard."

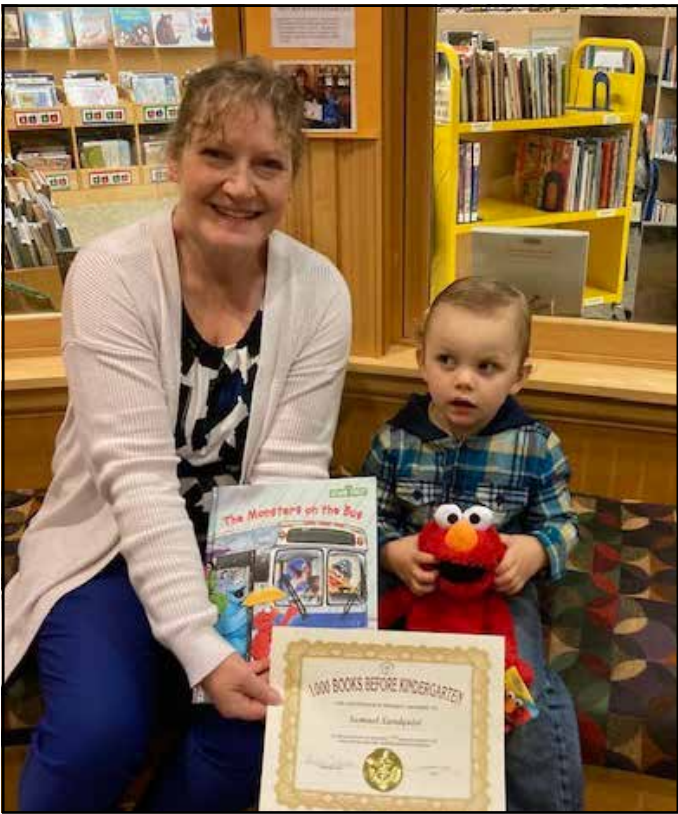
Jennifer Domagal-Goldman, Executive Director of the ALL IN Campus Democracy Challenge, added, "The research is clear: colleges and universities that make intentional efforts to increase nonpartisan democratic engagement have higher campus voter registration and voter turnout rates. This year we saw more colleges than ever before step up their efforts to ensure that their students were registered and ready to make their voices heard at the ballot box. These Most Engaged Campuses are setting the standard for nonpartisan civic engagement work for colleges and universities across the country."

Beginning in the spring of 2024, a CLC coalition of college students and employees wrote their action plan for the academic year, and this document guided the college's efforts toward asking every student to be

an active participant in democracy. Through numerous events and initiatives, campuses were thoroughly and completely canvassed with non-partisan voter engagement efforts, above and beyond previous efforts. Through these efforts, CLC students were prepared, informed, and enabled to vote in this year's election.

"Central Lakes College is proud of its student leaders for establishing our college as a leader in the student vote movement at both the state and national level," said Erich Heppner, CLC Director of Student Life. "Our students coordinated and led numerous voter registration drives and celebrated civic holidays such as National Voter Registration Day, Voter Education Week, Vote Early Day, and Election Hero Day."

The ALL IN Campus Democracy Challenge empowers colleges and universities to achieve excellence in nonpartisan student democratic engagement. Campuses that join the ALL IN Campus Democracy Challenge complete a set of action items, with the support of ALL IN staff, to institutionalize nonpartisan civic learning and voter participation on their campus. The ALL IN Campus Democracy Challenge currently engages 10.8 million students from more than 1,075 institutions in all 50 states and the District of Columbia. Campuses can join the ALL IN Challenge here.



1,000 books

Samuel Sundquist, above, with Library Assistant Angie Johnson, recently completed the 1,000 Books Before Kindergarten program at the Staples Public Library. Stop by the library to register your child for the program, which includes a free backpack, easy APP and is fun as children learn to read. For information call the library, 218-894-1404. (Submitted photo)

Cardinal Calendar

SM school events

December

• **MS CHRISTMAS CONCERT**
Tuesday, Dec. 10, 6-8 p.m.,
Centennial Auditorium,
Staples.

• **HS CHRISTMAS CONCERT**
Thursday, Dec. 12, 7-9 p.m.,
Centennial Auditorium,
Staples. Band, Orchestra,
Choir.

A sincere
"Thank You"
to each and
every one of
you for your
vote!
**I appreciate
you!!**

Motley Council
Member,
~April Skeesick-
Larson~

CTC CONCERT SERIES

A John Denver Christmas
by Layne Yost

An Elvis Christmas with
Anthony Shore

Sunday, December 1st, 2:00 PM
Ticket Price: \$30.00

Saturday, December 14th, 4:00 PM
Ticket Price: \$25.00

HOLIDAY SEASON EVENTS!!
Purchase tickets @ctccenter.org

RAPID RIVER
PILLAGER SCHOOL

Mark Your Calendar

November 27

WOMEN'S AA MTG Wednesdays, from 6 - 7 p.m., at Staples Church of Christ, on Hwy 210, south of Staples.

November 28

'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>

November 29

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.

November 30

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

December 1

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

December 2

AA GROUP MTGS IN MOTLEY are held at the United Methodist Church, 847 3rd Ave.

S., on Mondays at 8 p.m.

ISD #2170 TRUTH IN TAXATION/WORK SESSION, Monday, Dec. 2, 6 p.m. at the Staples-Motley School District Office, 905 4th St NE, Staples, MN 56479

December 3

OLD TIME DANCE is held the first Tuesday of every month at the Wadena VFW. For information, call 218-639-0132.

RUBY'S PANTRY will be held Tuesday, Dec. 3, from 4:30 - 6 p.m. at the parking lot of Central Lakes College in Staples.

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.

'GRIEF SHARE' GRIEF SUPPORT GROUP is held on Tuesdays from 6 - 8 p.m., at Motley Free Methodist Church basement, through Dec. 17. For more information, call 218-352-6888.

December 7

COMMUNITY CHRISTMAS CONCERT presented by the Staples Area Men's and Women's Choruses will be held Saturday, Dec. 7, at 7 p.m., at Sacred Heart Catholic Church in Staples. Tickets available at Nelson Insurance in Staples, Markus Hair Design in Motley, from any chorus member, or online.

Lunch with Santa

11 a.m.-1 p.m.
Saturday, Dec. 7
St. John's Lutheran Church, Motley
497 3rd Ave. S

Get Your Picture taken with Santa!

MERRY CHRISTMAS

Lunch with Santa December 7th

Don't miss Lunch with Santa! This event will be held at St John's Lutheran Church from 11 am to 1 pm. Pictures can be taken with Santa.

Hosted by Motley Lions Club

2024 is the 9th Annual

Live Drive-thru Nativity

Tuesday and Wednesday, December 10-11
(notice new days!) 6:00-8:30 p.m.

**** Cass County Fairgrounds in Pillager**

Complete Christmas story portrayed in **live drama**.

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

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★★★ **YOU!** ★★★
to all my supporters for Commissioner, Dist. 1.

Commissioner Barb Becker

"GO, CARDS!"
Paid for by Barbara Becker.

∞

Obituaries

○

Linda Johnson

Linda (Schroeder) Johnson, age 77, formerly of Litchfield, passed away November 13, 2024, at the Trails of Orono in Wayzata. A memorial service was held November 23 at the Litchfield Christian Church in Litchfield. Arrangements are with Sturm Funeral Home. Online condolences may be left for the family at www.sturmfh.com.



Linda Irene Schroeder, the daughter of Charles “Bud” and Lois Schroeder, was born June 11, 1947, in Staples. She grew up in a loving family, which included her charismatic and often rambunctious younger brother, Charlie. She and her family were very active in the Church of Christ in Staples, where her mother played the piano (into her 70’s) and her father was a jack-of-all trades handyman. She was near the top of her class academically (just being beaten out in ranking by her cousin, Keith) and also participated in the choir and band programs (playing the trombone) and graduated from Staples High School in 1965. Linda continued her interest in music education attending Minnesota Bible College in Minneapolis, where she met her future husband. On August 1, 1970, Linda married Lyle “Rick” Johnson in Bloomington and “inherited” the large family she had always hoped for. They lived briefly in Ames, IA while Rick finished his Master’s degree in Ag Science at Iowa State, and after he got a job with

Land-O-Lakes, together they moved to their long-time home in Litchfield. She and Rick raised their three children in Litchfield. She enjoyed being a part of a small-town community and was especially proud to be a member of the Litchfield Christian Church. Linda played the organ during church services for more than 40 years, sang in the choir and was active with her Bible Study group which created lifelong friendships. After her children got older, Linda started teaching piano lessons, which she did for 25 years. Many of her students learned that if they started talking about sports or last Sunday’s Vikings game, their 30-minute lesson could quickly dwindle down to only a few minutes of actual playing time. Linda was a passionate Litchfield Dragons fan, faithfully attending all of her kids’ sporting events and school activities. She never missed a band concert or a parade and traveled many miles watching her children perform in the

Marching Band. Despite her husband’s Iowa upbringing, she converted him over to ‘Maroon and Gold’ and they remained long-time season ticket holders and supporters of U of M Gopher Athletics. One of her favorite things was to go out for a strong cup of coffee with her many friends. She also enjoyed listening to and playing music, concerts, cooking, shopping, scrapbooking and traveling which she did extensively (visiting all 50 states and taking numerous cruises and trips abroad). Linda was a terrific friend, an incredibly caring and supportive Mom and the most loving Grandma that any grandkid could ask for...she will be missed dearly. She is survived by one brother, Charles (Patty) Schroeder of Little Falls; two sons, Ben (Nancy) Johnson of Orono and Josh (Dayna) Johnson of Minnetrista; one daughter, Laura (John) Sullivan of Eden Prairie; 11 grandchildren, Charles Johnson, William Johnson, Rachel Johnson, Morgan Johnson, Gavin Johnson, Faith Doege, Caleb Doege, Madison Doege, Aubree Doege, Aidan Sullivan and Owen Sullivan. She was preceded in death by her parents and her one-of-a-kind husband, Rick Johnson. In lieu of flowers, memorials to Alzheimer’s Association Minnesota are preferred by family.



Keith Salthe

Keith Orval Salthe, 75, of Staples, passed away November 16, 2024 at Sanford Medical Center. Memorial services were held November 22, at Taylor Funeral Home, Staples. Burial was at Evergreen Hill Cemetery in Staples. Keith was born July 31, 1949 to Orval and Olive Salthe. He married Gladys Gordon on April 11, 1969. Keith enjoyed roller skating in his youth, fishing, watching sports and The Young and the Restless and enjoyed spending time with his family. He owned his own lawn care and snow removal business. Keith is survived by his wife of 56 years, Gladys; two sons, Scott (Darcy) and Bernie; one daughter Sarah (James) Stultz; four grandchildren, Zoey, Trey, Jamie and Jeremy; one great-grandson, Silas; one sister, Olga Mavis; one sister-in law, Joy Salthe and nieces and nephews. He is preceded in death by his parents; two brothers, one sister and twin sons. Always in our hearts and never forgotten. Arrangements were by Taylor Funeral Home, Staples.

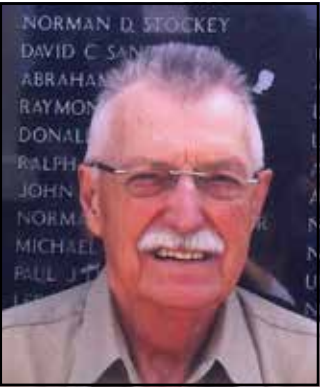
Merle Clewett

Merle Eugene Clewett, 88, of Aurora, IL, passed away peacefully on November 18, 2024. Visitation will be held at 3:00 p.m., Tuesday, November 26, followed by a funeral service at 4:30 p.m., at Friedrich-Jones Funeral Home, 44 S. Mill St., Naperville, IL, 60540. Private interment in Minnesota to follow. Merle was born November 21, 1935 to Levi “Len” and Florence Clewett in Staples. A proud graduate of the University of Minnesota, he received his B.S. in Mechanical Engineering and met his future wife, Janet, while attending university. After they married, Merle worked as an engineer, and then executive, retiring from his position as Group President of Ingersoll International in Rockford, IL, in 2000. Throughout his career, he traveled the world, often with his family in tow. Moving from Minnesota to Michigan, England, Connecticut and Maryland, and finally settling in their current home in Aurora, to be close to their family. Outside of work, Merle had a passion for fishing, taking his children and eventually his grandchildren to Minnesota for annual fishing excursions. He was a loving father, grandfather, uncle and great-uncle, generous with his time and advice, and an avid NYT crossword puzzle solver. Merle is survived by his wife of 63 years, Janet (nee Shaw), two children Ann Clewett McCarthy (Sean) and Thomas Clewett (Dawn) both of Naperville; four grandchildren, Conor McCarthy, Katherine McCarthy, Sarah Clewett and Rebecca Clewett. He was preceded in death by his parents and one brother, Stanley Clewett. In lieu of flowers, memorials sent to the Grace Church Foundation in memory of Merle Clewett would be most appreciated by his family.



Richard Melhorn

Richard (Dick) Edgar Melhorn, 91, of Cushing passed away November 17, 2024, with his wife, Josie by his side. Mass of Christian Burial will be held November 26, 2024, at 11 a.m. at St. Michael’s Catholic Church in Motley. Visitation will be held one hour prior to Mass at the church. Burial will be at the Minnesota State Veteran’s Cemetery, near Little Falls. Richard (Dick) Edgar Melhorn was born September 11, 1933 to Henry and Altha Melhorn. He grew up on a farm just outside Bemidji. He was educated in Bemidji and following his formal education, worked odd jobs, driving a soda truck out of Duluth, before enlisting in the Army in 1954. Dick was stationed in Munich during the end of the Korean War. There, he met the love of his life, Josefa (Josie) Fickler. They were married in July, 1956 and returned to the U.S. the same year making their home in the Minneapolis area. Dick attended Dunwoody Institute to become a Tool & Die Maker. It was his dream to someday own his own business, which he worked hard to accomplish while he and Josie raised a family of six children: Rick, Mark, Caroline, Chris, Tom and Marty. Dick’s dream was realized when he became the owner of RKO. In 1997, Dick and Josie retired to Fishtrap Lake near Cushing. Dick was an active member of St. Michael’s Catholic Church serving on the Parish Council Finance Committee for the church building expansion, in the roles of Usher and Eucharistic Minister and assisting with CCD classes. Dick was an avid gardener, having many flowerbeds at his home. He and Josie provided flowers for the church for many years. In addition to gardening, Dick loved to read, hunt, fish and work in his woodshop. Dick is survived by his wife of 68 years, Josefa Melhorn of Minnetonka; six children, Richard (Sharon Marlette) Melhorn of Pine River, Mark (Karen) Melhorn of Crystal, Caroline (Scott) Spillers of Watertown, Christopher (Dawn) Melhorn of Forest Lake, Thomas Melhorn of White Bear Lake, Martin (Lesa) Melhorn of Grosse Isle, MI; 13 grandchildren; 26 great-grandchildren and one sister, Elsie Mae Stauty of Duluth. Dick was preceded in death by his parents; one sister, Darlene Cardwell and one brother, Robert Melhorn. In lieu of flowers, memorials are preferred to the Scandia Valley Rescue.



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For the Staples World

Life Currents Policy

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Obituaries received from private parties, funeral homes, will be edited to our format and paid for prior to running at our obituary rate (\$10.25 pcd) plus \$5 per photo. Minimum is \$60. Deadline for copy is noon on Friday, however, every effort is made to include those with timely services. Death notices are available and are free if followed in the next publication by the entire obituary. Obituaries printed in the Staples World will be posted on our website.

All obituaries are paid advertisements. Obituaries requested to be printed word for word will be charged regular advertising rates and marked as a -Paid Advertisement- with a box around it.

Please be sure to include the name of the deceased, date of birth, age, city of residence, when and where he or she died and the name and city of the funeral home handling the arrangements.



Girls win opener

The Staples-Motley girls basketball team won their season opener 72-35 against Browerville on Nov. 21. The Cardinals led the entire way, with help from an influx of talented ninth graders and other young players to supplement a trio of strong seniors.

Seniors Liv Lorber and Miranda Schotzko scored the first 10 points of the game, with Lorber hitting jump shots and Schotzko scoring on post moves. But the 10-4 lead was also due to the defense and ballhandling of ninth grader Chloe Larson, plus hustle plays by Jocelyn Lenk. Senior Ellen Lange and eighth grader Sophia Luna Santiago came in off the bench and kept up the defensive pressure, getting several steals and running the other way for fast break points.



Sophia Luna Santiago scores over taller players.



Bagged a big one

LeRoy Dahlvang of Verndale was all smiles as he posed with the 10-point buck he harvested Nov. 12. (Submitted photo)



Clara Maros



Miranda Schotzko



Jocelyn Lenk



Liv Lorber



Chloe Larson



2024 SMHS volleyball awards presented

The Staples-Motley volleyball held their awards banquet Nov. 18.

Varsity awards included, front, left to right: Annie Schlosser: Letter, Captain's Pin, All-Conference Honorable Mention, Most Set Assists; Katelyn Schotzko: Letter; Chloe Trantina: Letter; Lilly Tyrrell: Letter, Captain's Pin, FIGHT Award; Jade Storry: Letter, Captain's Pin, All-Conference Honorable Mention, Most Digs, Highest Serve Receive Ratio; Ellie Lange: Letter, Captain's Pin.

Back: Hannah Cole: Letter, Highest Kill Percentage; Pam Lawrence: Letter, Coaches Award; Izzy Becker:

Letter, Most Improved; Emersen Bettis: Letter; Leighton Bettis: Letter; Josie Jennissen: Letter; Abby Brichacek: Letter; Miranda Schotzko: Letter, Captain's Pin; Livi Lorber, Letter, Captain's Pin, MVP, All Conference, All Section Team, Most Kills, Highest Serving Percentage, Most Aces. Not pictured, Addie Potter, Letter.

All five seniors received the All State Academic Award with a GPA of 3.8 or higher (Ellie, Jade, Lilly, Livi, Miranda). The team received the Gold Academic Award with a cumulative GPA of 3.95. (Submitted photo)

Conservation funding is one vote Minnesotans agreed on

Anyone who pays even the slightest attention to politics and elections knows that we are living in extremely polarized times. The days when respect for contrary opinions, and working toward mutually beneficial outcomes through compromise—times when a major legislation routinely had cosponsors from both political parties—seem a distant memory. Political rhetoric and its manifestations in election season advertising routinely paint opponents in the blackest tones, and as “the enemy.”

For that reason it was refreshing to see Minnesota voters overwhelmingly cast their ballots in favor of renewing a constitutional amendment to dedicate state lottery funds to conservation purposes. Just over 77 percent voted “yes” on November 5th to continue sending a fixed portion of Minnesota State Lottery proceeds to the Environmental and Natural Resources Trust Fund.



Mike Rahn

This is the third time that Minnesotans have voted to dedicate state lottery profits to conservation and environmental purposes. The amendment was first passed by voters in 1988, again in 1998—for 25 years, instead of just 10—and now in 2024 it is extended to 2050.

Under this amendment, 40 percent of state lottery profits are dedicated to the Environmental and Natural Resources Trust Fund. From 1988 to the present, 5.5 percent of the trust fund has been made available annually for projects consistent with the constitutional amendment's avowed conservation purposes. A committee made up of lawmakers and private citizens—the Legislative-Citizen Commission on Minnesota Resources—reviews spending proposals, and in concert with the State Legislature and Governor approves projects deemed worthy of receiving these financial resources.

Over the life of the constitutional amendment these have included such things as wildlife habitat restoration, critical land purchases, environmental education, public use trails, and projects to improve water quality. More than \$76 million was approved this last legislative session for 101 projects. It is estimated that more than \$1

billion has been dedicated by this process since the amendment was first passed in 1988.

A new wrinkle in this year's amendment is an increase of 1.5 percent in the amount to be withdrawn from the Trust Fund and spent annually, raising the total from 5.5 percent to 7 percent. The additional amount is to be allocated by an appointed advisory group and the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (DNR) for projects specifically targeted to community grants for “under-served organizations and communities,” while still consistent with the amendment's conservation-focused purposes.

Some questioned the announced process by which these additional funds will be allocated, a process some fear may be less rigorous and accountable than that by which the main 5.5 percent annual funding is determined. At least one voter with whom I discussed the amendment planned to vote “no” for this reason. This seemed akin to “throwing the baby out with the bath water,” as the expression goes. This conservation funding program has worked extremely well for 36 years, and it would seem sensible to give the benefit of the doubt to the drafters of the change.

Another modification to the 1988 and 1998 amendments that have funded this program was a stipulation that these lottery funds may not be used for such basic community infrastructure needs as wastewater treatment plants. That use has been proposed by state lawmakers in the past, something the amendment was never intended to fund, and had to be beaten back by lawmakers and conservation groups opposed to such political sleight-of-hand.

There are those who oppose the idea of dedicated funding altogether, preferring to leave in the hands of Minnesota legislators all decisions on spending—including spending for conservation and environmental purposes. Perhaps the best counter-argument is that preserving natural resources and their benefits cannot be done on an on-again, off-again basis. It takes consistent public policy—and funding—to maintain the benefits of clean water, healthy environments where wildlife can thrive, and to preserve and enhance the recreational opportunities Minnesotans value so highly.

Apparently the majority of voting Minnesotans think so, too.

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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
Sunlight (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 and Fr. Rick Aubol
MASS:
Sunday..... 8:30 a.m.

Seventh Day Adventist
421 Dakota Ave. SE, Staples
218-894-0033
Saturday Worship..... 9:30 a.m.
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 Vicar 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
SUNDAY
Church Worship Gathering..... 10:00 a.m.
YouTube Channel..... 10:00 a.m.

Cushing Baptist
26298 Bear Rd., Cushing
Pastor Dan Holmes..... 320-749-2583
Sunday School..... 9:30 a.m.
Worship..... 10:30 a.m.
WEDNESDAY
Bible study..... 7:30 p.m.

Leader

Swan Valley Lutheran
Leader..... 218-397-2470
Sandy Knight, Synodically Authorized Minister of Word and Sacrament
Sunday Worship
January - July..... 9 a.m.
July - January..... 11 a.m.

Maple Hill Lutheran
Sandy Knight, Synodically Authorized Minister of Word and Sacrament
Leader..... 218-397-2470 (Rural Pine River)
Worship and Sunday School..... 9:00 a.m.

Motley

Motley Free Methodist
33 Wellwood St. E
Motley 56466..... 218-352-6888
Jim Johnson, Senior Pastor
Casey Reynolds, Assistant Pastor
Sunday Worship..... 9:00 and 10:30 a.m.
facebook live..... 9 a.m.
WEDNESDAY
AWANA..... 4:00-5:30 p.m.
Youth Group..... 6:00-8:00 p.m.

St. John's Lutheran
497 3rd Ave. S, Motley..... 218-352-6399
Pastor Vicar Paul Koehler
Sunday School and Bible Class..... 8:30 a.m.
Sunday Worship..... 9:30 a.m.
St. Michael Catholic Church
1st St. and Birch, Motley..... 218-894-2296
info@marysacc.org
Fr. Aaron Kuhn Fr. Gabriel Walz
MASS:
Saturday..... 4:00 p.m.

St. Michael
280 1st Ave S, Motley..... 218-894-2296
Fr. Aaron Kuhn and Fr. Rick Aubol
MASS:
Sunday..... 10:30 a.m. (May - Nov.)
Saturday..... 4:00 p.m. (Dec - April)

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

Oylen

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

Pillager

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

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

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

Hewitt

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

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

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

Verndale

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

Family Life Church
402 NE Clark Drive, Verndale 218-445-5568
VerndaleFLC@gmail.com
Pastor Amos Self..... 218-371-7189
Tahina 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
Vermda,e..... 218-894-2296
info@marysacc.org
Fr. Aaron Kuhn and Fr. Rick Aubol
MASS:
Saturday..... 6:00 p.m.

St. Hubert Catholic Church
Bluegrass..... 218-894-2296
info@marysacc.org
Fr. Aaron Kuhn and Fr. Rick Aubol
MASS:
Sunday Service..... 10:00 a.m. (Dec. - April)
Saturday..... 4:00 p.m. (May - Nov.)

Leaf River Township The Old Country Church
Leaf River Twp., Wadena County Rd. 6
Info: 218-837-5690 Call first.

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

Staples-Motley School Board

ISD #2170 SCHOOL BOARD MEETING #5
Mon., Oct. 21, 2024, 6 p.m. District Office

MINUTES

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by Chair Winkels at 6:00 p.m.
Roll Call, Determination of Quorum, and Pledge of Allegiance

Members Reeck, Winkels, Reese, Trout, Anderson and Wright were present, comprising a Quorum. Also present were Superintendent Tappe, Business Manager Hill, Principal Ferdon, Principal Koenigs, AD Lee, SMEA President Kneisl, Recording Clerk Larson, Staples World Managing Editor Anderson, Williams of ICS, staff members, students and community members. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Chair Winkels welcomed and recognized those in attendance

Motion by Anderson, seconded by Reese, to approve the addition of #11, #12 and #20. **MC**

Motion by Wright, seconded by Trout to adopt the agenda. **MC**

School/Community Forum

NONE

Consent Agenda

Approve the Minutes from the September 23 regular meeting

Approve the fundraiser requests from the Music Department

Approve the request for six consecutive PTO days from Val Turner

Approve the request for six consecutive PTO days from Staci Schultz

Approve the hire of:
a. Virginia Haman, Homebound Service Teacher; 5 hours per week
b. Bonnie Zimmerman, Title I Middle/High School/Sacred Heart Interventionist

c. Cadell Sullivan, Middle/High School Custodian

Approve the fundraiser request from ProStart - REMOVED FROM AGENDA, Needs additional info

Approve the resignation of Izzabelle Nesland, ECSE paraprofessional effective 10/22/24

Approve the fundraiser request from FFA

Approve the request for six consecutive PTO days from Michelle Karr

Approve the list of winter 24-25 coaches

Motion by Reeck, seconded by Anderson, to approve the consent agenda. **MC**

Donations and In-Kind Contributions

Motion by Trout, seconded by Winkels, to approve In-Kind Donations, Grants and Other Donations in the amount of \$11,526. **MC**

Finance Items

Financial Report presented by Business Manager Hill

Approve the September Disbursements

General Fund: \$748,385.15

Food Service: \$44,301.81

Community Service: \$21,458.60

Construction Fund: \$1,499,327.41

Debt Service: \$0.

Fund 21 Student Activities: \$3,242.49

Fund 45: \$500.

Motion by Reeck, seconded by Wright, to approve the September Disbursements. **MC**

Approve the September Receipts

General Fund: \$1,460,776.84

Food Service: \$8,027.25

Community Service Fund: \$60,539.93

Construction Fund: \$171,951.55

Debt Service Fund: \$103,845.96

Fund 21 Student Activities: \$3,660.32

Fund 45: \$5,169.25

Motion by Anderson, seconded by Winkels, to approve the September receipts. **MC**

Cabinet Presentation

District Nurse
Presentation by District Nurse Denning

Facilities

Presentation by ICS representative Williams

Curriculum / Policy

Motion by Anderson, seconded by Reeck, to approve the 2024-2025 District E-Learning Plan. **MC**

Motion by Trout, seconded by Winkels, to approve the 2024-2025 Emergency Closure Plan. **MC**

Motion by Reese, seconded by Wright, to approve Policy 524 - Internet, Technology and Cell Phone Acceptable Use & Safety. **MC** (First reading was Sept. 23)

Other

Motion by Anderson, seconded by Wright to approve the REACH overnight trip to Hackensack, MN in February 2025. **MC**

Motion by Reese, seconded by Trout, to approve the 2025-2028 Superintendent contract. **MC**

Motion by Reeck, seconded by Anderson, to set meeting to canvass results of School Board Election. **MC** (Recommended Nov, 13, 7:30 a.m.)

Reports

School Board

a. FED

b. Sourcewell - August and September, 2024 Minutes

SMEA - Report from SMEA President Kneisl

Principals

a. Elementary - Report from Principal Koenigs

b. Middle/High - Report from Principal Ferdon

AD/Community Ed - Report from AD/CE Director Lee

Superintendent - Report from Superintendent Tappe

Other

Motion by Reeck, seconded by Anderson, to adjourn the meeting at 6:47 p.m. **MC**

Trisha Larson, Clerk
ISD #2170

49pnc

ISD #2170 SPECIAL SCHOOL BOARD MEETING #6

CANVASSING ELECTION RETURNS
Weds., Nov. 13, 2024, 7:30 a.m. District Office

The meeting was called to order by Chair Winkels at 7:30 a.m.

Roll Call, Determination of Quorum, and Pledge of Allegiance

Members Anderson, Reeck, Winkels, Reese, Trout and Wright were present, comprising a Quorum.

Also present were Superintendent Tappe and Recording Clerk Larson.

Motion by Anderson, seconded by Reese, to adopt the agenda. **MC**

Canvass Returns for November 5, 2024

School Board Election

Present Abstract and Return of Votes Cast (Review of the Abstract)

Clerk's Certificate as to Abstract and Return of Votes Cast

A total of 11,975 votes were cast.

Jeremy Reeck: 2,638

Mary Freeman: 2,103

Sherry Miller Frisk: 1,965

Tonia Judd: 1,819

Justin Thorne: 1,612

Levi Anderson: 1,033

Kevin Treirweiler: 739

"Write-in": 66

Motion by Wright, seconded by Trout, to approve the Resolution Canvassing Returns of Votes. **MC**

Roll Call Vote: Reeck, Reese, Winkels, Anderson, Wright, Trout in favor. None Opposed.

Motion by Reeck, seconded by Reese, to approve the Resolution Authorizing Issuance of Certificates. **MC**

Roll Call Vote: Wright, Winkels, Reese Trout, Reeck and Anderson in favor. None Opposed.

Motion by Winkels, seconded by Anderson, to accept the Certificate of Election. **MC**

Motion by Anderson, seconded by Reeck, to adjourn the meeting at 7:33 a.m. **MC**

Trisha Larson, Clerk
ISD #2170

49pnc

"Have a Thanksgiving of Gratitude"

Submitted by Pastor Roy Miles, Staples Assembly of God

"Thanksgiving has two parts - gratitude and generosity. Gratitude for the blessings of God - generosity for others. That's the way it was on the first Thanksgiving Day. Despite incredible hardships the Pilgrims celebrated their first harvest in 1621, by setting aside a day for thanksgiving. They worshipped God in a service of gratitude...and they shared generously with the American Indians in joyful feasting. Provisions were meager...generosity was abundant. That's the genesis of our national holiday. It's a holy day as well when properly celebrated. Thanks...and giving. Thanks to God...giving to others."

--Richard Halverson

On a boy's tenth birthday, a thoughtful uncle visited him and gave him ten shiny silver dollars. The lad was very appreciative. He immediately sat on the floor and spread the dollars before him. Then he began to do some planning as to how

to use the money. He set aside the first dollars and said, "This one is for Jesus." He then went on to decide what to do with the second, third, etc. When he came to the last dollar he said, "This is for Jesus."

His mother said, "I thought you gave the first dollar to Jesus." The boy replied, "You see, the first one really belongs to Him, but this one I want Him to have for a gift from me."

May God teach us to be faithful, cheerful and liberal in our giving. Remember, giving is the fruit of love, not the product of the law. (author unknown)

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Big plays dominate state final

Bjerga scores on interception, run; Mithun, Tyrrell score TDs

By Mark Anderson
Managing Editor

The Staples-Motley football team took down two juggernauts on their way to the state championship, but fell short of dismantling a third, losing 26-42 against Jackson County Central on Nov. 22, at US Bank Stadium in Minneapolis.

The Cardinals made a big play to get an early lead, but a series of mistakes and injuries allowed JCC to take a big first half lead. The Cardinals worked hard to get back into the game, but found it tough going.

“We had no momentum,” said Staples-Motley player Turner Beachy. “We needed to start making plays but then it was a snowball effect for both defense and offense.”

Despite the loss, the team started realizing the amazing journey they had taken.

“To go from 0-9 two years ago to this, it was a really great experience,” said player Dustin Converse.

Player Gavin Chenoweth agreed, saying “We wouldn’t have believed it,” if they were told they would be in the state finals. “But we believed it more and more.”

State final

Luke Bjerga delivered the first blow of the state title game by intercepting a pass and taking it in for a touchdown on just the fifth play of the game.

The big play came after Jacob Becker and Drake Dukowitz stopped JCC on first down, then two penalties backed them up farther. JCC attempted a pass when Dustin Converse pressured the quarterback, giving Bjerga time to break towards the running back swinging out of the backfield. Bjerga cut in front of the throw, caught it in stride and ran past the quarterback into the end zone, sending Cardinal fans at US Bank Stadium into a frenzy.

Staples-Motley missed on a pass for the extra point, but they still had a quick 6-0 lead.

It didn’t last long, as JCC had a big play on their next drive. A receiver got behind the Staples-Motley defense and scored a long touchdown to make the score 6-6.

Tragedy struck again when Eli Rutten’s pass over the middle was broken up and a JCC defender caught

the deflection for an interception. They returned it to the 10 yard line and scored after three plays.

The next Cardinal drive was derailed by a holding call and they punted.

The defense forced a punt but the Cardinals fumbled the punt and JCC had another short drive for a touchdown, making the score 6-22.

The first quarter ended and Staples-Motley had only run six offensive plays.

The next offensive drive got derailed by a sack and Schultz boomed a 50 yard punt to gain field position.

Once again, JCC scored quickly when their receiver jumped over a Cardinal defender and raced into the end zone for their fourth touchdown, making it 6-28.

On their next drive, Staples-Motley was determined to score. Rutten scrambled away from pressure, weaved through some players and made a nice gain, but he also got injured on the tackle and had to leave the game. Schultz switched from receiver to quarterback and had a big play right away, on 4th and five at the JCC 42 yard line. He completed a pass to Colbe Tappe, sandwiched between three defenders, good for 13 yards and a first down.

After that, Bjerga rushed for nine yards, Schultz ran a quarterback draw for 13 yards and Ben Tyrrell ran it to the two yard line. Bjerga punched it in from there and Tappe ran in the extra point to make the score 14-28.

Rutten would not return to the game. He iced his lower leg and was walking with a slight limp along the sidelines, but Coach Drew Potter said it was his decision to keep Rutten out of the game.

“I feel bad for him, he put so much into the season,” said Potter. “For us it was ‘next man up,’ we have been doing it all year, we have so many good players.”

Schultz stayed in at quarterback the rest of the game, but as the team’s leading receiver, that left a hole at that position. Potter explained that every player on the team has had multiple plays at different positions for the last two years, so they were able to handle it without thinking too much.

Injury also became a factor on the next JCC drive. Inside lineman Drake Du-

kowitz had a lower leg injury and was getting taped up while JCC made a long run touchdown run up the middle and an extra point run, through the spot where Dukowitz usually fills. He came back to play the entire second half with the injury.

The Cardinals struck right back. Beachy caught a first down pass and Schultz rushed for a 25 yard gain. Wide receiver Peyton Mithun ran behind his defender and found himself uncovered. Schultz tossed a deep ball that Mithun hauled in at the 15 and ran into the end zone, making the score 20-36.

JCC reached mid-field and were looking to score before halftime, but Noah Larson met their running back at the line and ripped the ball away as they were going to the ground and the Cardinals ended up with it. At first the referees didn’t rule it as a fumble, but they sent it to the replay booth and they gave the ball to Staples-Motley.

After a first down by Tappe, the Cardinals did not get a shot at the end zone before the half ended.

Second half

The Cardinal offense had two good drives in the third quarter, but were stopped on downs, had an interception and punted.

The Cardinal defense solved the JCC attack in the second half. They stopped them on downs, forced a punt, then Bjerga recovered another fumble.

“We had the turnovers early, but then we started forcing turnovers,” said player Sawyer Ferdon.

After the fumble, the Cardinals drive moved into the fourth quarter but they had to punt again. JCC made their final score of the game on a run to make it 20-42.

Bjerga, Schultz and Tappe did a lot of the work to get the ball to the 15 yard line on an 11 play, 73 yard drive. Tyrrell ran it down to the three, then burst through a big hole to score a touchdown to close the gap to 26-42.

That would be the final score of the game. The Cardinal defense made another stop when Jacob Becker stopped them on third down and burst through for a six yard loss on fourth down.

Staples-Motley didn’t have time to make another

drive and the clock ran out.

The Cardinal defense had a good day on third and fourth downs, holding JCC to three out of seven on third down conversions and zero out of two fourth down attempts. It was big plays on the other downs that hurt them the most.

Although they got the opening score off a turnover, the Cardinals ended up losing that battle, with JCC scoring 16 points after turnovers.

Facing juggernauts

All three Staples-Motley opponents in the state football tournament are legendary teams who have a multitude of state football experience.

The Cardinals gave Barnesville and Chatfield their only losses of the year, then fell to 13-0 Jackson County Central to finish the season with a 12-1 record.

The three state opponents have combined to play in 41 state tournament games in the past ten years, while this was the first state trip in 20 years for Staples-Motley.

The three state opponents have also combined to play in 17 state championship games, while this was just the second for Staples-Motley, the first being in 1988.

All three opponents were expecting to win the state title this year, but somehow the Staples-Motley players had the confidence that they could play with them and the ability to beat them.

“We’ve been believing since middle school days,” said Converse.

The Cardinal cheering section also boosted the team this year.

“It was amazing, the community backing us the entire way,” said player Sawyer Ferdon. “It was insane how many people came to the games.”

When asked about the players on this year’s team, Coach Potter said “love ‘em, they are an amazing group of football players and they are even better people.”

Converse said it was a team effort getting to the state final.

“This group of guys, coming back and playing twice (at US Bank stadium, the Minnesota Vikings field). We put in the work, we got back here.”

Despite the heartbreaking loss, Beachy said the team was sticking together.

“We’ve come back from worse,” said Beachy.

Team results

Staples-Motley 26, Jackson County Central 42

Rushing: SM 158, JCC 176
Colbe Tappe 15-54, Alex Schultz 9-37, Luke Bjerga 6-37, 1 TD, Ben Tyrrell 7-33, 1 TD, Eli Rutten 2-(-3)

Passing: SM 93, JCC 212
Schultz 5-12, 85 yards, 1 TD, 1 int.; Rutten 3-6, 8 yards, 1 int.

Receiving: Tappe 3-17, Peyton Mithun 2-51, 1 TD, Conner Kuhns 1-12, Benet Robinson 1-8, Turner Beachy 1-5

Kickoff returns: Tyrrell 5-40, Tappe 2-73

Kickoffs: Schultz 5-162
Punting: Schultz 4-176

Tackles (solo-assists): Bjerga 4-3, Kuhns 2-2, Tappe 3-5, Steven Petrich 4-5, Noah Larson 1-1, Dustin Converse 2-2, Jacob Becker 6-2, Riley Reese 0-1, Sawyer Ferdon 1-2, Mithun 1-3, Robinson 0-1, Schultz -34, Beachy 2-0, Gavin Chenoweth 1-2, Jacob Hansen 0-1, Tyrrell 0-1, Adrian Gomez 3-4, Drake Dukowitz 3-3, Ryan Neelan 0-1, Josiah Crittten 0-1, Evan Schultz 1-0

Tackles for loss: Becker 2, Converse 1, Larson 1, Mithun 1, Gomez 1



Eli Rutten throws a short pass over the defense.

Staples-Motley building positive reputation at state level

By Mark Anderson
Managing Editor

and know they are going to show up and show out like that,” said Lee.

Instant classics

The Cardinal football team also gained fans for the way they played the game. During the double overtime quarterfinal game against Barnesville, played at St. Cloud Tech, one of the neutral sideline crew members said “This is the best high school game I’ve ever seen,” pointing to the crisp blocking, hard tackling and big plays made by both teams.

Commenters around the state were talking a lot about the Cardinal offensive weapons, such as Eli Rutten passing to Alex Schultz for big plays and clutch first downs.

Colbe Tappe was the leading rusher for Staples-Motley in each state game. He amazed statewide watchers with several signature runs showing skill, vision, power and speed. On one play, against Chatfield, he burst through a hole, skipped out of an ankle tackle, lowered his shoulder to knock down a defender, then cut back and outran the defense to the end zone. Just like the entire Barnesville game, that play was an instant classic

“Throughout the game, I had US Bank staff members stop me and comment how great, respectful and positive the encouragement from our student section was,” said Lee. “Our students responded the way we expect them to respond.”

He said one stadium official said “I wish all students were like yours.”

“It’s fun to be able to take our kids to different places



Colbe Tappe cuts back on a 50 yard kickoff return during the state championship game.



Bjerga shocks JCC with pick six

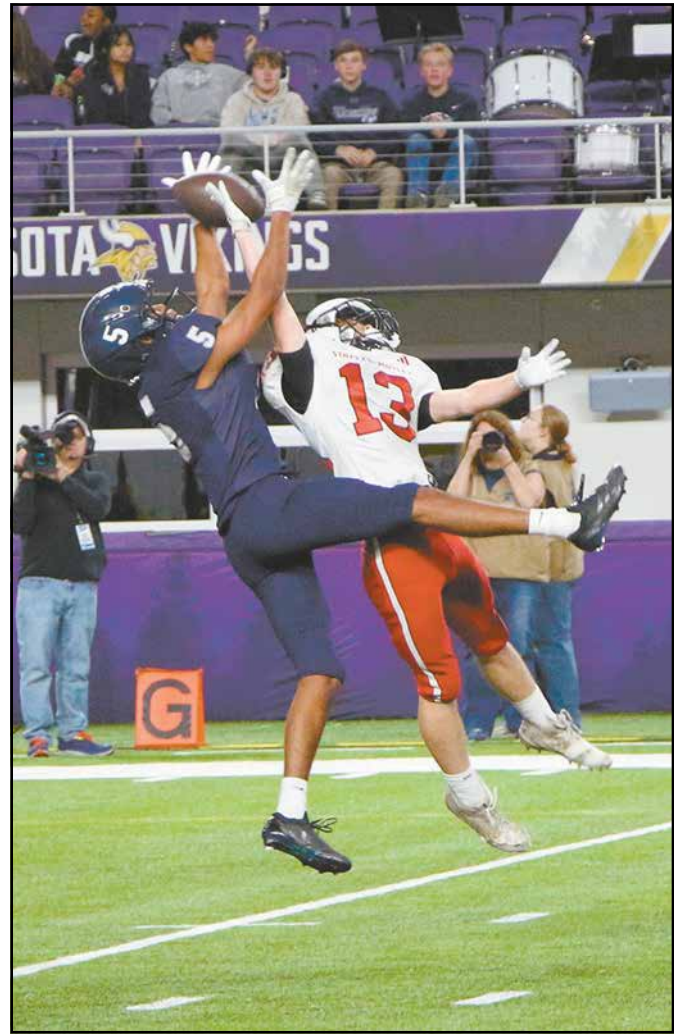
Above, Dustin Converse (68) applies pressure on the Jackson County Central quarterback, while Luke Bjerga (56) and Ben Tyrrell are out in coverage, anticipating a throw. Sure enough, Bjerga

picked off the pass and raced the quarterback to the end zone, below left. Below right, the team celebrates the pick six. (Staples World photos by Mark Anderson)

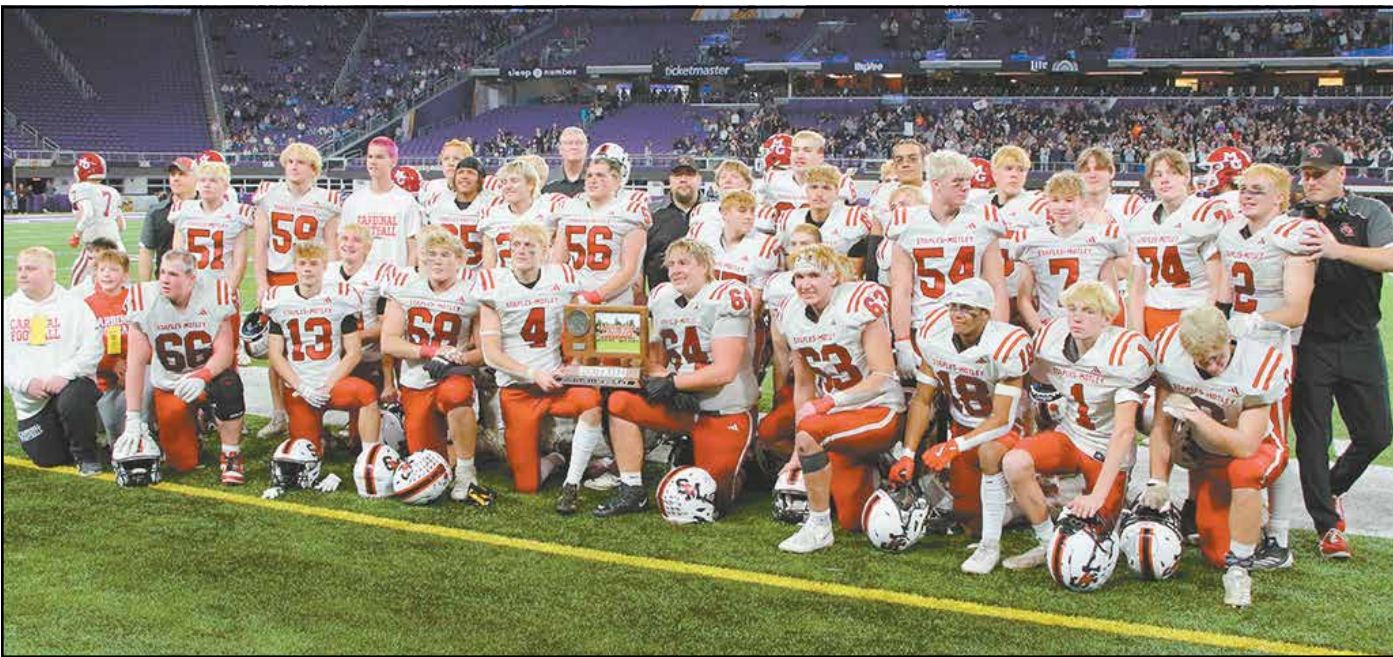




Staples-Motley fans packed their section of US Bank Stadium in Minneapolis for the state football final.



Gavin Chenoweth knocks a pass away.



The team poses with the Class AA second place trophy.

State football
championship
game action



Sawyer Ferdon, Dustin Converse and Drake Dukowitz converge on a runner.



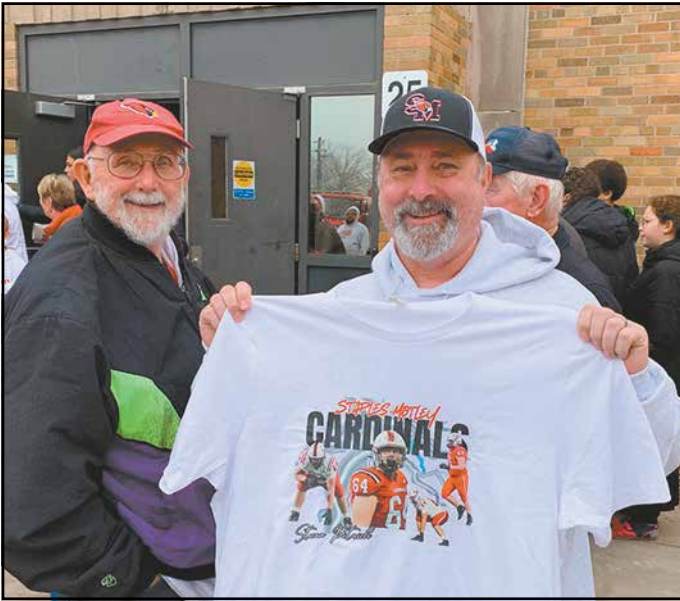
At the press conference after the game, Dustin Converse, Gavin Chenoweth, Sawyer Ferdon, Turner Beachy and Drew Potter talk to the media.



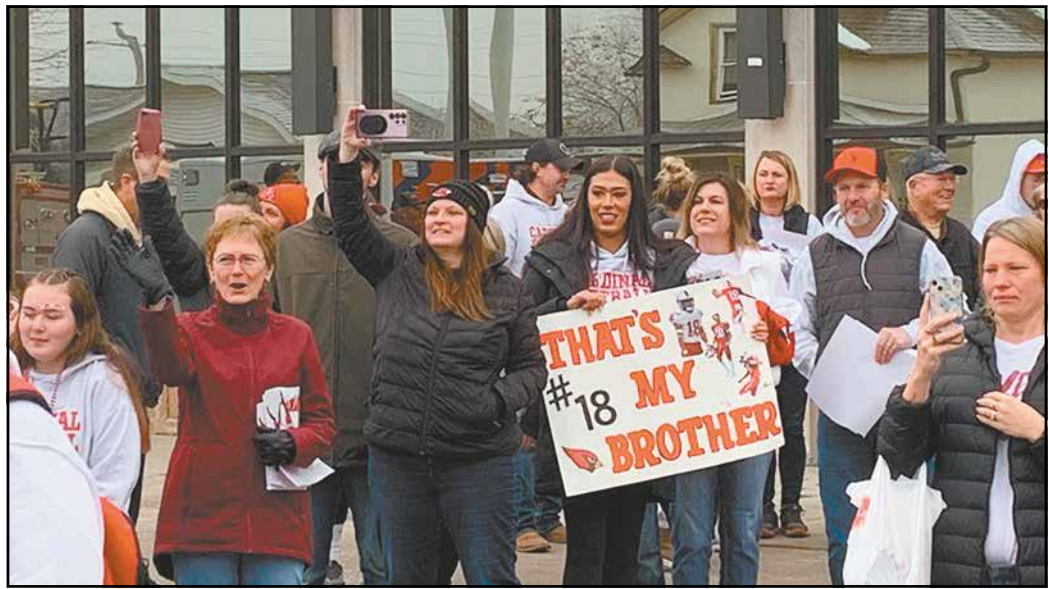
Peyton Mithun waits for the ball to come down for his touchdown catch.



Coaches Drew Potter, Karl Larson, Mark Carlson and Corey Lawrence discuss strategy at halftime. Other coaches are Paul Mithun and Dan Qual



Grandpa Reggie Petrich and dad, Paul Petrich getting ready to cheer the Cardinals on with a new T-shirt.



State football send off

A stream of Cardinal football players were cheered on as they entered the bus on the way to the US Bank Stadium. Fans lined the school's cafeteria doors and beyond with signs, clapping and cheers.



"Mrs." Coach (Erin Potter) gives a good luck hug to husband, "Mr." Coach, Drew Potter.

SCHOOL continued from page 1a

Enrollment numbers behind state average

the chat feature. It will also allow parents and teachers to communicate directly.

Headley said the school is working on partnerships with community entities, such as with Lakewood Health System for building and promoting The Nest, and with Sourcewell for videography.

Superintendent Shane Tappe said communication is something they heard from the public.

"They wanted to know what was going on inside our school and with our staff," said Tappe. "Many hours of work went into this, this is where creativity comes in," he said about Headley and Larson developing the plan.

"They have gone above and beyond what was anticipated," said Tappe.

Tappe said one discovery is that people engage with photos and videos more than they do with text.

American Indian Committee

Elementary Principal Ryan Koenigs reported on a meeting of the American Indian Parent Advisory

Committee. He said the committee had set goals for post-secondary preparation, academic achievement, intercultural awareness and self-image goals.

The committee found that progress had been made on some of the categories, but the goals had not been met.

The committee suggested adding more cultural activities, books and interventions to help meet their goals.

Koenigs said the school district averages two or three students per grade who have American Indian heritage.

Student numbers

Business Manager Ellen Hill updated the board with the number of students attending the district.

Hill said the school currently serves 912 students, which is about 61 percent of the students who live in the district, below the state average of 80 percent. She said 466 students open enroll to other districts, with some going to non-public or charter schools. The business office is going to

do more research to see what factors are involved in that, but Hill wondered how much of it was the geography of the district, where students in the district live closer to other schools.

In other news, the board

- Approved medical leave request from Jennifer Sapp.
- Approved Mike Roelofs as lead custodian at The Nest.

- Approved hiring Joshua Schimpp and Karlee Chenoweth as paraprofessionals.

- Approved advisors: Allison Vangness, for Knowledge Bowl, middle school yearbook, Student Council and prom; Jill Kneisl for high school yearbook.

- Approved fundraiser requests from Dollars for Scholars, Tennis Boosters, Softball Boosters and Wrestling Boosters.

- Approved adding a School Readiness instructor

- Approved early retirement incentive memorandum. Tappe said this is more of a way to appreciate longevity of teachers than a tool to reduce staff.

Sourcewell funds regional public safety projects

Local public safety entities have been awarded more than \$500,000 for collaborative projects through Sourcewell's new Public Safety Impact Funds program, which provides dedicated funding for law enforcement, fire departments, ambulance services and first-response teams in Cass, Crow Wing, Morrison, Todd, and Wadena counties.

"We are honored and excited to expand our impact funds to our public safety partners in the region. We see the difference these organizations and individuals make every day," said Paul Drange, chief regional solutions officer at Sourcewell. "We are confident these additional resources will help to make our region a safer and more secure place for families, residents and visitors. We deeply value the partnership and foresight that goes into making these enhancements possible."

Separate from Sourcewell's Community Impact Funding – which awarded nearly \$3 million to nonprofits and local governments in June – the Public Safety Impact Funds program was specifically designed to address the unique challenges faced by these essential services.

In the past, public safety entities had to compete for funding alongside other local government projects. With this new program, these entities could apply for up to \$250,000 in funding per fiscal year. To be eligible, the project must have involved at least one other entity – such as a neighboring public safety agency, local unit of government, Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe, or nonprofit – promoting a collaborative approach to



strengthening public safety within the region.

"This funding empowers our public safety entities with the essential resources and modern equipment they need to protect our communities," said Amy Piekarski, resource development administrator at Sourcewell. "Through these collaborative projects, entities in our five-county region can address specific needs that no one entity could tackle alone."

Requests for funding were reviewed by members of the Public Safety Advisory Council and were awarded through a lottery process. From lifesaving extrication tools to advanced cloud-based public safety platforms, these funds will equip law enforcement and first responders with the tools needed to better protect their communities.

Public Safety Impact Funds projects

- Remer Volunteer Fire Department and Remer Area Ambulance Service

- \$57,000 to purchase new electric extrication tools and lift bags. These tools are vital for responding to vehicle accidents, enabling first responders to efficiently rescue individuals in critical situations.

- Lakes Area SWAT Team - \$226,200 to the Wadena County Sheriff's Office, Wadena Police Department, Staples Police Department, and Hubbard County Sheriff's Office, to update safety equipment for the Lakes Area SWAT team. This funding will equip officers with protective gear and tools.

- Crow Wing County Law Enforcement Consortium - \$250,000 to the Crow Wing County Sheriff's Office and the police departments of Baxter, Brainerd, Breezy Point, Crosby, Crosslake, Cuyuna, Deerwood, Nisswa, and Pequot Lakes to implement the 365Labs Public Safety Platform. This cloud-based system will modernize regional public safety operations, enhancing communication and collaboration.

Staples Area Men's & Women's Chorus present:

A Community Christmas Celebration

December 7th, 2024 at 7 p.m.

Sacred Heart Catholic Church
310 4th Street NE - Staples

\$15 each or \$35 max per family

Tickets available at:

- Nelson Insurance Agency
- Markus Hair Design
- Any choir member
- staplesmen.org
- The door

Many thanks to the following businesses for their sponsorship of the 2024-25 SAMC season.

This activity made possible, in part, by the voters of Minnesota through a grant from the Five Wings Arts Council, thanks to a legislative appropriation from the Arts and Cultural Heritage Fund.

Happy Thanksgiving