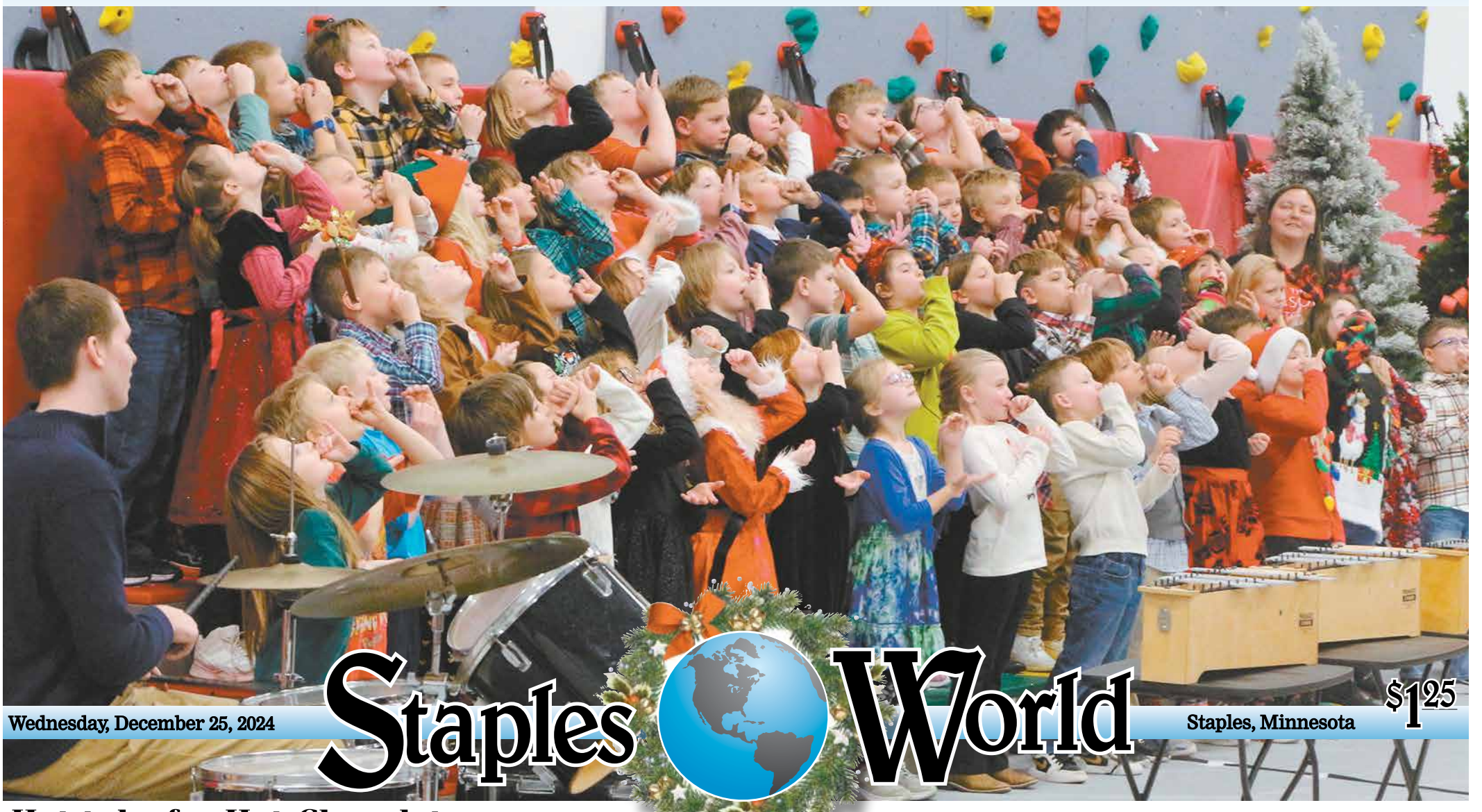
Inside this issue:

Holiday answers from third grade students
Sacred Heart Christmas program
Faith Lutheran Christmas
Hallmark Christmas movie quiz

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Wednesday, December 25, 2024 Staples World Staples, Minnesota $1.25

Hot take for Hot Chocolate

Staples-Motley elementary students pretend to sip from their Christmas mugs while singing a song called "Hot Chocolate" at their Christmas concert Dec. 19, with high school student Goeffrey DeCamp playing drums. (Photo by Mark Anderson)

School earns clean audit

By Mark Anderson
Managing Editor

The Staples-Motley School Board approved their annual audit at the Dec. 16 school board meeting. Olivia Martin of the Brady-Martz accounting firm told the board the results of the audit.

Martin said the school's finances have an unmodified (clean) opinion, as they are in compliance with generally accepted accounting principles.

Martin said the school has a healthy fund balance, despite a net loss of $49,000 last year, a spend-down that was planned. It was also much better than expected, with revenues $187,000

See **SCHOOL** on page 3a



Staples World
Christmas Edition

Turner has seen the flourishing of arts in Five Wings region

By Mark Anderson
Managing Editor

Mark Turner is retiring after 32 years as Executive Director of Five Wings Arts Council. Over that time, he has ushered through thousands of dollars of grants to artists and art installations every year.

Hee has seen the arts scene blossom in the five county area, including using art for community purposes and economic development.

At a retirement party on Nov. 20 at the Landmark Inn in Staples, Turner learned how much the arts community has appreciated Five Wings and his work there.

"I am blown away and humbled by the support, appreciation and kindness of everyone as I step away from the council," said Turner. "It's been a great run. I feel very fortunate to have had the opportunity to serve our region's artists, arts organizations and communities over the years."

Turner said he always wanted to be a "behind the scenes" operator and didn't seek the limelight, saving publicity for the artists involved.

"I always separated my personal life from my work," said Turner.

But he was taken aback by the appreciation shown at his retirement party, and he realized how involved it was in his life.

"It brought home that this was more than just a job, it was building relationships with individuals and communities. The appreciation was amazing," said Turner.

Looking back, "It's been very rewarding to work with the artists," said Turner.

Growing the arts community

Turner started at Five Wings in 1992. At that time it was a department of Region Five Development Commission and Turner's arts-related work was only a part time job. He was also only the second director there after Virginia McCarthur held the position since it was started in 1977. There has been one other director, Shelly Stevens was acting director when Turner took a break from the position.

In the early days, Turner said the grants would go to the "typical players" who would bring in artists from outside the area for a project or performance.

Everything changed when Minnesota passed the Legacy Amendment to fund the arts in 2001.

Turner said the funding

See **TURNER** on page 14a



Surrounded by arts supporters

Mark Turner, second from right, enjoys his retirement party while talking to supporters of the Five Wings Arts Council at the Landmark Inn in Staples on Nov. 20. (Staples World photo by Mark Anderson)



Gone too soon

A picture of Jill (Maine) Burnham, right, and her husband Sean is posted at a GoFundMe page that's been set up to help the Burnham family with expenses following a tragic accident that resulted in Jill's death.

Jill is the daughter of Bob and Jackie Maine of Staples. She grew up in Staples, was part of the faith community there, and formerly worked at both Giovanni's Restaurant and the Stomping Grounds coffee shop in Staples. Lindsey Williams, Stomping Grounds owner, said Jill was known for her contagious smile and the ability to make friends with everyone. "She was an amazing girl and will be greatly missed," Williams said.

Vehicle and pedestrian crash in East Gull Lake results in fatality

Victim identified as Jill (Maine) Burnham

A pedestrian who was struck by a vehicle in Cass County Dec. 14, and died as the result, has been identified as 34-year-old Jill (Maine) Burnham, a Staples native.

According to Cass County Sheriff Bryan Welk's report, on Saturday, Dec. 14, at 3:56 p.m., their office received 911 calls reporting a vehicle crash involving a pedestrian on the Gull Lake Dam Road, near the intersection with Poplar Drive in East Gull Lake, rural Brainerd.

Deputies and responders arrived on scene and learned that a 2023 Ford Bronco was westbound on the Gull Lake Dam Road when it slowed due to a pickup parked in the westbound lane. The driver of the pickup was talking to a pedestrian that was walking on the roadway. The driver of the Bronco lost control on the icy roadway when attempting to slow down and struck the pedestrian.

The victim, a female age 34, of Brainerd, was treated on scene before being transported to a Brainerd hospital and later transferred to a St. Cloud hospital. The victim died from injuries sustained from the crash on Dec. 15. An autopsy has been scheduled. A search warrant was executed and a blood sample was obtained from the driver of the Bronco, a male age 57 of Nisswa, on suspicion of driving under the influence of alcohol. Formal charges are pending blood sample results.

On Oct. 18, Sheriff Welk reported that the victim has been identified as Jill Burnham. The driver of the Ford Bronco has been identified as Michael Kruse, 57, of Nisswa; and the driver of the pickup that was parked in the roadway as Amy Viehauser, 52, of Brainerd.

A GoFundMe page has been set up to help the Burnham family with medical and memorial expenses. Information at the page states that, "Our wonderful Jill went to her heavenly home on Dec. 15, 2024, due to a tragic accident. We would love to honor her legacy by carrying her dear and wonderful, loving husband, Sean, through this unimaginable time." The GoFundMe can be found at tinyurl.com/mr2vkbe4

Assisting at the scene and with the investigation is the Minnesota State Patrol, Minnesota Department of Natural Resources, Nisswa Police Department, Lakes Area Rescue, and North Memorial Ambulance.

Weather

2024
This Week's Forecast

	High	Low	Cond.
Dec. 25	34	20	Cloudy
Dec. 26	37	30	Cloudy
Dec. 27	37	29	Cloudy
Dec. 28	37	20	Showers
Dec. 29	33	26	Cloudy
Dec. 30	30	21	M. Cloudy
Dec. 31	27	18	Cloudy

Last Year, 2023

	High	Low	Cond.
Dec. 25	37°	30	Rain
Dec. 26	42	39	Rain
Dec. 27	32	30	Cloudy
Dec. 28	33	29	Cloudy
Dec. 29	41	21	Sunny
Dec. 30	25	19	Cloudy
Dec. 31	22	29	Cloudy

Average Temps:
H = 21° Low = 5°
Merry Christmas!

Compiled by Dale Hausmann, WCCO's Staples area Weatherwatcher

Public Notices

Fawn Lake Township **9A**
Motley Townsip **9A**
Todd Cty Official Printing **9A**

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!



Predatory Offender Registration verifications for Morrison County completed

Morrison County Sheriff Shawn Larsen announced that his office, in cooperation with all local police departments in the county, have recently completed the annual Predatory Offender Registration (POR) verifications for Morrison County.

Each year the sheriff's office organizes a verification check for all predatory offenders who are on the registry and residing within the county. Only those offenders who have been sentenced to prison and who were released after Jan. 1, 1997 have been assigned a risk level. Juvenile offenders and offenders sentenced to probation are not assigned a risk level. Level 1 offenders are those deemed by Department of Corrections officials as those least likely to re-offend while Level 3 offenders are considered most likely to re-offend.

During the most recent round of checks, multiple predatory offenders were checked in Morrison County. Sixty-eight predatory offenders were checked by the Morrison County Sheriff's Office; and the Pierz, Motley and Royalton Police Departments. Of that number, 20 were Level 1 offenders, eight were Level 2, one was Level 3 and 39 offenders were not assigned a risk level. Forty-one predatory offenders were checked by the Little Falls Police Department, which are not part of the breakdown.

All but one individual was found to be compliant with conditions imposed upon them. Gerald Dean Bollig, 38, has pending charges for failing to register his current address, which is a felony. Sheriff Larsen stated that law enforcement worked diligently to verify the information of all registered predatory offenders within Morrison County. The process is essential for community safety as it is important to keep tabs on the predatory offender registry. "I feel it is extremely important that these people remain aware that we know who they are and our office will continue to hold them accountable," Sheriff Larsen said.



Nativity display featured

A lighted nativity display is featured at a home off Dakota Ave. in Staples. Below: Across the street a home features lights in every tree. (Staples World photos by Janice Winter)



Motley area law enforcement

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

Dec. 11 - 17

Dec. 11 - Motley Police responded to a report of assault at the 900 block of Eastwood Ln., Motley.

Dec. 11 - Motley Police assisted Morrison County deputies on a fire call at 2486 Pine View Blvd., Motley. Upon arrival, the officers learned the owner had the fire extinguished already.

Dec. 16 - A Morrison County deputy assisted the MN State Patrol with transporting two individuals that had been arrested to the Morrison County Jail without incident.

Dec. 13 - A Morrison County deputy responded to a report of burglary at the 4900 block of Azalea Rd., Motley.

Dec. 13 - A Morrison County deputy arrested Cody Joe Risser, 36, on a warrant.

Dec. 12 - The MCSO received a report from the Morrison County Health and Human Services of a juvenile case at the 25000 block of 60th Ave., Cushing.

Dec. 11 - Law enforcement responded to a report of a fire at 2486 Pine View Blvd., Motley. It was found that a plate was left on top of a gas furnace and had melted. There was no actual fire.





A beatifully decorated porch and nativity scene greet passers-by on the well traveled street leading to the Staples overpass (Staples World photos by Janice Winter)

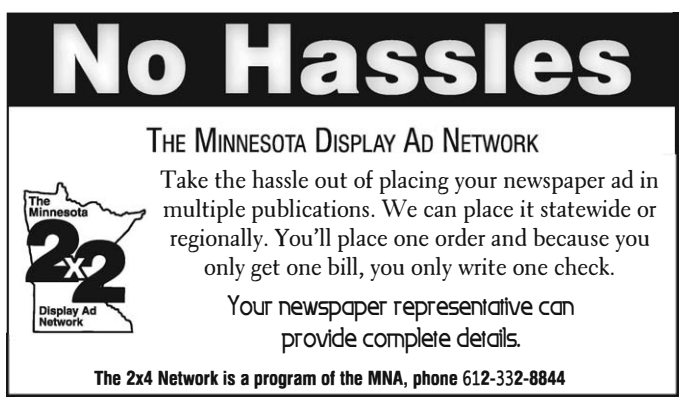


Kindergarten Christmas

Above, Staples-Motley Elementary kindergarten students enjoy wishing the audience a merry Christmas at their program Dec. 20. Right, the students perform a Christmas line dance. (Staples World photos by Mark Anderson)









Singing Christmas wishes

Sacred Heart Area School kindergarten and first grade students wish a merry Christmas to the audience at their Christmas progam on Dec. 18. (Staples World photo by Mark Anderson)

Managing stress during the holiday season

From Todd County Health and Human Services

For many of us, the holiday season can bring an increased sense of family responsibility and, along with it, additional feelings of stress. Here are a few ways to help manage that stress:

Strengthen social connections – We know that strong, supportive relationships help us manage all kinds of challenges. We can view the holidays as a time to reconnect with the positive people in our lives. Accepting help and support from those who care about us can help alleviate stress.

Set expectations – It is helpful to set realistic expectations for gifts and holiday activities. Depending on a child's age, we can use this opportunity to teach kids about the value of money and responsible spending. We need to remember our own expectations, too. Instead of trying to take on everything, we need to identify the most important holiday tasks and take small concrete steps to accomplish them.

Keep things in perspective – On the whole, the holiday season is short. It helps to maintain a broader context and a longer-term perspective. There will be time after the holiday season to follow up or do more of things we've overlooked or did not have the time to do during the holidays.

Take care of yourself – It is important that we pay attention to our own needs and feelings during the holiday season. We can find fun, enjoyable and relaxing activities for ourselves and our families. By keeping our minds and bodies healthy, we are better able to deal with stressful situations when they arise.

Source: American Psychological Association

SCHOOL continued from page 1a

Enrollment numbers rising

higher than expected. The school had planned $390,000 in losses, but the final came in at $230,000.

The accounting firm did a separate audit on the federal ESSER grant related to school construction. They did have one finding, that there wasn't a review of payrolls to make sure they were in line with federal requirements.

Superintendent Shane Tappe said the school will work with ICS, the company in charge of the project, to review all payrolls associated and make sure they were following the correct rates.

Enrollment up

Business Manager Ellie Hill said the school's enrollment is up slightly after the first numbers came in. Hill said the school has lost around 125 students over the past five years, 50 in the last two years. They were planning another loss for this year, but they are now trending above last year's numbers, with 911 to 916 students, after averaging 912 last year.

The numbers do not include a new early childhood class that was implemented just this year.

Hill said the school is gaining at the elementary level, but are losing 11th and 12th grade students who are taking PSEO (college) classes and also students who move to the Freshwater Alternative Learning Center.

Hill said they will still be doing the long term financial projections with the Ehlers company that will develop enrollment predictions into the future.

With the school budget in good shape, Tappe said they don't anticipate any large reductions in programs and staff for next year. The board approved the yearly resolution directing administration to make recommendations of programs and staff that could be cut if it were needed.

World's Best Workforce

Staples-Motley Teaching/Learning Coordinator Jenny Pantzke told the board about the World's Best Workforce program, which sets educational goals for the district. She said the program is now called Comprehensive Achievement and Civic Readiness.

Elementary Principal Ryan Koenigs told the board that their goal was to have incoming kindergarten students to know at least 10 letters of the alphabet by the time they enter kindergarten. He said they are on track to meet that goal.

Another goal is to close the achievement gap between students eligible for free and reduced meals and students who are not eligible. The gap is being reduced, but partially due to declining scores in the higher group, not the way they want it to happen, said Koenigs.

High School Principal Deb Ferdon said their goal was to have 90 percent of seniors develop a personal learning plan that will take them through school and post-secondary programs. They are on track to meet that goal.

A second goal is to have 95 percent graduation rate, which the school is also doing. Ferdon said they are finding ways to help students recover credits, find other classes where they can excel, and giving them summer school opportunities if needed. She said some students take another year or two to graduate, but the 95 percent graduation rate is being met.

Pantzke said future goals are for students and staff to identify Cardinal Priorities on the school's continuous improvement plan.

In other news, the board

• Approved resignations of Stacy Beto, food service; Renee Kroll, assistant speech coach; and Douglas Roberts, transportation.

• Accepted retirements for Peter Kautto (34 years at the district), Robin Kautto (33 years) and Phyl Runzel (11 years).

• Approved list of speech coaches: Kip Hines, head coach; assistants: Jonah Johnson, Heather Sams, Selket Jewett, Brian Sams, Keegan Harvey, Caden Mrazek and Cade Bestland.

• Approved junior high boys basketball coaches: 7th grade, Drew Potter, TJ Rutten, Nick Doll; 8th grade, Jace Thompson and Jeff Halverson.

• Approved contracts for Francesca Hanson, school readiness paraprofessional; Shelby Brusewitz, school readiness; and part time assistants for The Nest: Keller Anderson, Grace Jennissen, Angie Jares and Christine Qual.

• Heard from Koenigs that staff member Emma Gerard did a lot of extra work to get the new preschool classroom ready. He said all 10 preschool spots filled quickly and there is one person on the waiting list.

• Heard from Ferdon that the Staples-Motley Student Council is doing a lot of culture building activities, including holiday events.

• Heard from Tappe that ICS counted up to 1,100 people at The Nest grand opening on Dec. 2. He said one of their staff said it is the largest community opening they had seen.

• Recognized board members Bryan Winkels and Lisa Anderson, who are stepping down from their positions. Winkels said "It's been a fantastic 12 years, we've had four different superintendents." Winkels will now join the Wadena County Board. He said "I will continue to be a champion for the school, there are great things to come for the district."

Looking back

75 Years Ago - 1949

∘ Dec. 29, 1949 - Dec. 28 was a red letter day for the Motley Boy Scouts as on that day they were at a winter recreation area near Walker with the other scouts of the Itasca district.

Scouts enjoying the outing were Duane Starke, Wayne Neuberger, Eldon Morey, Jerry Barnes, Ronnie Montgomery, Bud Welle, Albert Allee, Gary Olson, Manley Nichols, Donald Topp, Andy Hanson, Merlyn Graton, Walter Hanson, Allen Nelson, John

- o -

Compiled by
Dawn Timbs

- o -

Eisenlohr and Gordon Opheim.

Also in attendance were Scoutmaster, Richard Becker, asst. scoutmaster, Robert Spencer, and committeemen, Roy Monty and Ed Morey.

∘ Dec. 29, 1949 - No Christmas babies were born at the Staples Municipal this year, but one came nearly being a Christmas baby but Old Man Stork would not wait for the 25th to roll around.

A son, Jackie Ray, weight 7 pounds and 5 ounces was born to Mr. and Mrs. Roger Shinabarger at 3:53 a.m. on Dec. 24.

The next baby born was to Mrs. Lionel Stelck of Motley on Dec. 27. The baby was a girl and weighed 6 pounds and 6 1/2 ounces, and has been named Linda Lou.

∘ Dec. 29, 1949 - A business deal was completed early this week whereby Stan Eddy, owner of the Eddy Motor company, sold his business to Ed Kadlec of Sioux City, Iowa, and the new deal is to become effective on Jan. 1, 1950.

The sale included the business only, as Mr. Eddy is retaining possession of the building, but has leased the place to Mr. Kadlec on a five year lease, with the option to renew the lease at the end of that time.

Mr. Eddy has been in business in Staples for the past 23 1/2 years. He first handled Dodge and Buick cars, and it was in 1929 that he took over the sales of Ford cars, tractors, trucks and parts.

∘ Dec. 29, 1949 - The largest income and outgo of mail since the Staples post office was established was recorded at the local place, according to Postmaster Evelyn McGivern, for the 1949 Christmas mailing season.

Mrs. McGivern stated that more than 90,000 two cent stamps were used for Christmas cards this season. Then there were almost as many three cent stamps used, making a total of approximately 180,000 stamps which were used during the season.

50 Years Ago - 1974

∘ Dec. 26, 1974 - The Welcome Wagon Hostess visited a number of homes in Staples recently.

Former teachers from Iowa now farming south of Staples are Mr. and Mrs. Harley Daum. They have two children, David 2 and Deanna 3.

Mr. and Mrs. James Hoemberg moved here from Minneapolis in August and now live on the Dower Lake Road. They have two boys, Todd 6 and Jason 1 1/2. Mr. Hoemberg is employed at the 3M Company.

Mr. and Mrs. Tom Good reside at the Townsquare Apartments on north 4th street. Tom is the State Farm Insurance Agent for this area. His wife, Annette, also works in the insurance office. They moved here from Marshall.

Mr. and Mrs. Royall Sams moved from Monticello to the Oak Ridge trailer court in November. Royall is employed at 3M Company and in his leisure time, plays the baritone. Mrs. Sams (Sharon) likes to crotchet and is the pianist at the Assembly of God church. The couple has two children, ages 4 and 5.

Dr. and Mrs. Michael Lucas are new residents on East Hwy 10. Dr. Lucas is the new owner of the Staples Veterinary clinic. Mrs. Lucas (Wanda) has many hobbies and one of her favorites is china painting. The Lucas' have four children, ages 8, 9, 11 and 12. They are former residents of Kansas.

∘ Dec. 26, 1974 - The Staples Arts Council held their election of officers for 1975 at a recent meeting.

Richard Donat was chosen as chairman of the group, succeeding Mrs. C. Richard Longbella. Other officers include Michael Blessing and Mrs. V. James Thompson, board members; Mrs. Rick Weber, treasurer; Stanley Carlson, secretary; and Mrs. John Gorton, vice-chairman. It was reported that Mrs. W. E. Stone and Mark Evans are hold-over members on the Board of Directors.

25 Years Ago - 1999

∘ Dec. 30, 1999 - The second Harmony House in Motley is currently under construction. Contractor Steve Lorber, Lorber Construction of Motley, noted that plunging temperatures and sick workers slowed production just before Christmas. Plans are to have the home open in March.

∘ Dec. 30, 1999 - Contractor Shawn Jordahl, Jordahl Enterprises, is completing work on a new building just north of Mr. Ed's Restaurant in Motley along Hwy 10. The building will house laundromat space for Lee Jenkins and a chiropractic office for Dr. Robert Schmitt.

∘ Dec. 30, 1999 - Shannon Hoffman from Staples Motley High School has signed a letter of intent to continue her tennis career at Southwest State University in Marshall. Southwest State head coach George Seldat made the announcement this week.

Hoffman, a native of Staples, has been an All-Conference performer for four seasons playing both singles and doubles.

∘ Dec. 30, 1999 - The Staples Motley Cardinal wrestling team, one of the winningest teams in the past 40 years of wrestling in Minnesota, lost a very close dual to Bemidji 31-23 on Dec. 21 in the last local wrestling match of the 20th Century.

10 Years Ago - 2014

∘ Dec. 25, 2014 - Over 2,200 visitors attended the first 'Live Drive-Thru Nativity' in Pillager Dec. 16 and 17, sponsored by the Pillager faith community.

Approximately 120 people were involved with the event, which featured a live drama of the Christmas story, complete with live animals (camels, sheep and donkeys) and actors.

∘ Dec. 25, 2014 - Geneva (Olmschenk) Mollenhauer and Alice (Clausen) Carpenter 87 and 92, respectively, have rekindled a friendship that started in Staples when they were young children. The main topic of the many letters and personal conversations they have had shared is the one thing they have in common, what Staples was like when they were young.

" We were so happy to find one another at our ages," said Mollenhauer in a letter she wrote about the encounters. " Being 87 allows the wonderful opportunity to reflect on my life. It has given me a huge lift to be able to share these memories with someone who remembers like I do, giving my memories more credibility. Now they are not 'stuck' in my history, but are revived again. It feels so good."



Mystery photo

Hello readers. This week's archive photo is from 1974. Do you know who these people are and perhaps the context of the photo? Do you have a memory to share? Email your answers and where you're from to dtimbs@staplesworld.com by Friday, or call 218-894-1112. The answers will be published in next week's paper, as well as a new mystery photo.



Mystery solved

Last week's mystery photo published in the Dec. 27, 1973 edition of the Staples World featured sisters Tonja Lester (left), three, and Lisa Lester, six, visiting with Santa Claus at Coast to Coast in Staples. They are the daughters of Mr. and Mrs. Dave Lester, owners of Coast to Coast.

Kathy Odden and Judy Jenkins, both of Staples, correctly identified the girls. Thanks for participating in our mystery photo.



Christmas rhythm

Music General dancers grades 3-6 perform at the girls basketball game.

Three titles in each box are real Hallmark Channel Christmas movies, one is fake

Guess the fake ones

By Mark Anderson
Managing Editor

So it turns out that Hallmark Christmas movies have become a big thing. This year the company even held weekend holiday extravaganzas at their studios in Kansas City, where fans were able to see some of the stars of the movies and participate in Christmas activities. A big Hallmark fan invited my wife to go to the first weekend and they loved it.

Although it wasn't associated with the Hallmark brand, the Polar Xpress in Staples was a Hallmark event, creating an old-fashioned family Christmas festival. It was enjoyed by children of all ages, from little babies to teenagers, with college students helping run events. Parents and grandparents were feeling the wonder of Christmas through the eyes of their children.

Polar Xpress creator John Wolak said he would like for Staples to be a Christmas magnet and become known around the state as a Christmas town. With the lights parade and the Polar Xpress, the community has a good start with opportunities to expand on it next year.

In the spirit of the Polar Xpress and the Hallmark Christmas movies, I created the trivia contest below to see how big of Hallmark fans we have in this area. I noticed the movies seem to repeat certain themes, such as romance, marriage, small towns, Christmas locations and royalty. So I grouped them together to make it tougher to spot the fake. The answers are at the bottom of the page.

Thanks for playing along, and have a merry Christmas.

A. The Christmas Secret B. Kiss Me, It's Christmas C. The Sons of Mistletoe D. The Mistletoe Secret	A. Boyfriends of Christmas Past B. A Gingerbread Romance C. Mingle All the Way D. A Christmas Date	A. A Bride for Christmas B. A Merry Christmas Match C. Deck the Wedding Halls D. Hitched for the Holidays
A. Grace Christmas Shop B. A Cookie Cutter Christmas C. Angels and Ornaments D. Christmas Under Wraps	A. The Mistletoe Inn B. A Bramble House Christmas C. The Christmas Cottage D. Gingerbread and Breakfast	A. Romance at Reindeer Lodge B. Check Inn to Christmas C. Jingle Bell Lodge D. Christmas at Pemberley Manor
A. Make Merry Minnesota B. Christmas in Montana C. Miracle in Bethlehem, PA D. A Nashville Christmas Carol	A. A Very Vermont Christmas B. A New York Uptown Christmas C. Nantucket Noel D. Last Vermont Christmas	A. Of Mice and Mistletoe B. Sense, Sensibility & Snowmen C. Pride, Prejudice, and Mistletoe D. A Dickens of a Holiday
A. The Santa Summit B. Mrs. Miracle C. Mystic Christmas D. Magic Mrs. Claus	A. A Lovely London Christmas B. Christmas in Rome C. A Merry Scottish Christmas D. Christmas in Vienna	A. Racing for Christmas B. Finding John Christmas C. Hanukkah on Rye D. A World Record Christmas
A. An Ice Palace Romance B. Inventing the Christmas Prince C. O Royal Tannenbaum D. Christmas at the Palace	A. Christmas at Castle Hart B. A Royal Christmas C. Operation Nutcracker D. A Princess for Christmas	A. Jingle Bell Bride B. Single Santa Seeks Mrs. Claus C. The Christmas Proposal D. Engaging Father Christmas
A. A Veterinarian Christmas B. A Dog Named Christmas C. The Nine Kittens of Christmas D. The Christmas Train	A. A Carol Christmas B. Holly Hot Chocolate C. It's Christmas, Carol! D. Haul Out the Holly	A. Where Are You, Christmas? B. Christmas Island C. Frosty Forest Christmas D. A Magical Christmas Village
A. Ghosts of Christmas Always B. Blue Mountain Christmas C. The Night Before the Night Before Christmas D. Three Wise Men and a Baby	A. Christmas at Dollywood B. Good Tidings From Nashville C. Christmas at Graceland D. My Southern Family Christmas	A. Our Tinsel Town B. A Town Without Christmas C. Small Town Christmas D. Ms. Christmas Comes to Town
A. Snow Bride B. Merry Matrimony C. We Wish You a Married Christmas D. Santa Brings a Bride		

Quote of the week

"Blessed is the season which engages the whole world in a conspiracy of love."
— Hamilton Wright Mabie

Quote of the week

"I'm not just a whimsical figure who wears a charming suit and affects a jolly demeanor. I'm a symbol. I'm a symbol of the human ability to suppress the selfish and hateful tendencies that rule the major part of our lives."
— Edmund Gwenn as Kris Kringle, "Miracle on 34th Street" (1947)

Quote of the week

"Christmas waves a magic wand over this world, and behold, everything is softer and more beautiful."
— Norman Vincent Peale

Answers to Hallmark Christmas movie title game, the fake titles are:

B, D, C,
A, D, C,
A, B, A,
D, A, A,
C, D, C,
A, B, C,
B, B, A,
D

Bonus questions: of the fake movie titles, which one would you want to see be made into a real movie?

Of the real movie titles, which ones fill you with the Christmas spirit?

Letters to the Editor

Small fines don't stop law breakers

I hope I'm not the only one who is getting disgusted with so many people out there who just continually disobey our laws. You can hardly ever go for a drive and not see some go thru a stop sign.

And reading the court results each week is quite an adventure.

No pheasant stamp - $450 fine.

Speed 98/70 $100 fine.

Something is very wrong here.

People driving 100 mph should go directly to jail and the fine should be huge. Obviously these gentle wrist slaps aren't working.

Rick Anderson
Staples, Minn.

Government for the rich

In 1863, at the dedication of the Soldiers National Cemetery at Gettysburg, Penn., Abraham Lincoln said "Government of the people, by the people and for the people, shall not perish from the earth."

It appears that soon we are going to have a government of the rich, by the rich and for the rich. From this type of oligarchy, where the government is a tool for the rich, it is a very small step to a dictatorship.

This Christmas we are blessed with freedom in our democracy. Let's work to keep it.

Cheryl Koll
Motley, Minn.

Technology can benefit rural Minnesota

From University of Minnesota Extension

Information technology is a rapidly changing field that impacts every industry in Minnesota. Colin Miller, faculty director for information technology infrastructure programs in the College of Continuing and Professional Studies, answers questions about the changes and trends Minnesotans can expect to see in the tech industry.

Q: What is the state of the tech industry in Minnesota?

Miller: The IT field in Minnesota is thriving, with strong demand across various sectors, including healthcare, finance, manufacturing and retail. Home to at least 16 Fortune 500 companies, Minnesota offers numerous opportunities for IT professionals across a range of roles, from software development to cybersecurity and data science. The competitive pay scale and opportunities for specialization make it an attractive field. Additionally, the rise of remote work has broadened access to tech jobs statewide. However, there is a need for greater diversity within the industry to foster innovation and address complex tech challenges with a wider range of perspectives.

Q: What tech skills are the most valuable today?

Miller: As technology evolves rapidly, there's a growing demand for expertise in cloud computing, data analytics, cybersecurity and AI. Additionally, professionals need to understand how to manage and integrate these technologies into existing systems. Beyond technical skills, there is a need for knowledge in areas like data privacy, ethical AI and digital transformation strategies. In addition, soft skills have become indispensable in IT— the era of working in isolation and simply handing off code is long gone. Skills like communication, teamwork, problem-solving and adaptability are now critical to success. Addressing these gaps requires a commitment to lifelong learning, interdisciplinary knowledge and adaptability to keep pace with the constantly shifting technological landscape.

Q: How can rural communities remain competitive in the tech industry?

Miller: Investing in robust digital infrastructure, such as high-speed internet, is critical for rural communities — from supporting remote work and digital education to telehealth services. For example, initiatives like Minnesota's Border-to-Border Broadband Development Grant Program are actively working to close the digital divide by expanding internet access in underserved rural areas. Additionally, rural communities can foster local talent by partnering with educational institutions and tech companies to provide training in emerging technologies like AI, cybersecurity and cloud computing. Encouraging a culture of innovation and entrepreneurship can attract tech firms and remote workers, enhancing the community's economic resilience and global competitiveness.

Q: What safety measures can I take to keep up with the changing tech industry?

Miller: We can all adopt new safety practices to stay secure in today's rapidly evolving tech landscape. With the rise of AI-generated content and sophisticated scams, individuals need to develop digital literacy skills to identify phishing attempts, deep fakes and other deceptive tactics. Best practices in cybersecurity, such as using strong, unique passwords, enabling multi-factor authentication, and staying vigilant about suspicious links, are essential. Additionally, understanding privacy settings on apps and social media platforms helps prevent unauthorized data collection. As technology continues to integrate into daily life, consistent learning and adopting proactive measures will be key to maintaining personal security.

Staples World

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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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Quote of the week

"Christmas is a bridge. We need bridges as the river of time flows past. Today's Christmas should mean creating happy hours for tomorrow and reliving those of yesterday."
— Gladys Taber

Mark Your Calendar

December 25

Women's AA Mtg Wednesdays, from 6 - 7 p.m., at Staples Church of Christ, on Hwy 210, south of Staples.

December 26

'Walk With A Doc' Thursdays at 5:15 p.m., at Lakewood Health System's main campus in Staples. Meet at the main entrance. For more information about this free program, visit https://walkwithadoc.org/join-a-walk/locations/staples-minnesota

December 27

Women's OPEN AA Recovery Meeting Every Friday in person, 10:30 a.m., Motley Free Methodist Church (lower level), 33 Wellwood St. E. Motley. All women welcome.

December 28

Free Community Breakfast Saturday, Dec. 28, 9 - 10:30 a.m., at Motley United Methodist Church, 847 3rd Ave. S., Motley.

December 29

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

December 31

Women's AA Mtg Tuesdays, from 6 - 7 p.m., at Staples Church of Christ, on Hwy 210, south of Staples.

Experience Strength And Hope AA group Mtgs In Staples are held at the Church of Christ, 27343 490th St., Tuesdays, 7 - 8 p.m. For info

January 7

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, Jan. 7, from 4:30 - 6 p.m. at the parking lot of Central Lakes College in Staples.





Staples Nutrition Site Christmas gathering

The Staples Nutrition Site held their Christmas gathering Dec. 18 at the Staples Community Center Senior's Room. Above: Anne Ohmann, LuAnn Braford, Nutrition Site manager, Gloria Marden, Joyce Mohler, Amy Lindstrom, Jennifer Braun, Linda Christensen, Jeanie Huebner and Bobbie Braford, Nutrition Site volunteer. (Missing: Mary Wetzel).

Left: Luann Braford and Bobbie Braford gather around the Christmas tree before luncheon guests arrived. All the decorations were provided by LuAnn, who has many Christmas collections as well as spends about two weeks decorating her home. (Staples World photos by Janice Winter)



Donation to food shelf

The Staples Host Lions recently donated $250 to the Staples Area Food Shelf (SAFS) in recognition of Hunger Month declared in November. Pictured, from left, are Lion President Dan Shaw and Frank Leidenfrost, SAFS. (Staples World photo by Janice Winter)





December Storytime at the library

The Staples Public Library holds a monthly Storytime every second Saturday and third Wednesday at 10:30 a.m. Join us for fun stories, flannel board and craft activities. Children gain early literacy skills by listening to stories, singing songs and making crafts. Call the library at 218-894-1401 to sign up.

Pictured above: Killian Johnson, Niya Doss, Faith Frisk, Maddie Dalgano-Ward, Ella Doss and Malakhi Doss. (Submitted photo)



Pastor Carl Larson in the town of Bethlehem demonstrating print technique.

Faith Lutheran Church Youth Christmas Program held Dec. 16

Faith Lutheran Church Youth of Staples held their Christmas program Dec. 15 following the "Journey to Bethlehem" gathering.

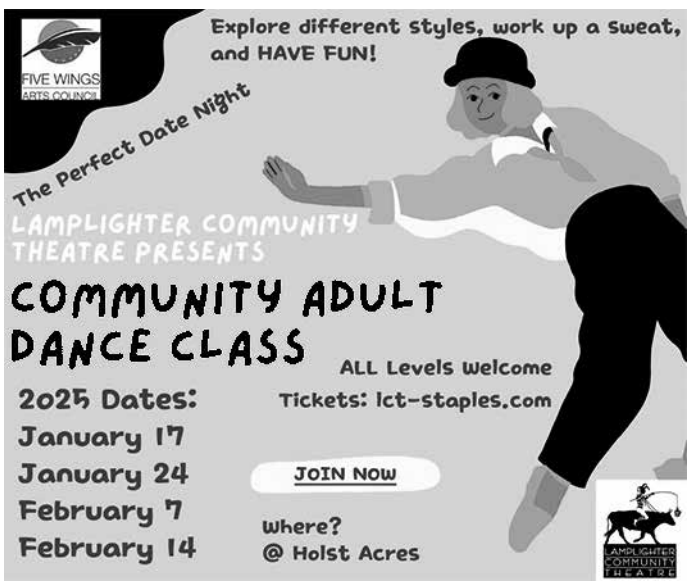
Above: The path to Bethlehem lead to the Savior's birth in the manger where all who gathered expressed their "J.O.Y." on Christmas. (Staples World photos by Janice Winter)



Baskets of tangerines, reminiscent of fruits offered in Bethlehem's past.



Baklava treats.





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Student Achievements

Kenneth Hegarty, Staples, recently graduated from Minnesota State University, Mankato, with a Bachelor of Business Administration (BBA) degree.



Pictures with Santa Claus

Deb Jordan of Staples sent a reminiscent photo of herself and her sister, Donna, with Santa Claus. The two had their photo taken at the store in 1970. Guy Doud played Santa Claus. (Submitted photo)

More Christmas decorations around Staples











Staples Area Church Directory

Staples

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

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

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

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

Sacred Heart Catholic Church
310 4th St. NE, Staples
Church.....218-894-2296
info@marysacc.org
Fr. Aaron Kuhn 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 am.
Sabbath School .....10:45 a.m.

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

Trinity Lutheran
1000 4th St., NE, Staples 218-894-2372
Pastor 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
Youth Pastor Joe Ward
Sunday Worship.....9:30 a.m.
Sunday Bible Fellowship Classses .....11-11:45 a.m.

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

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

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

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

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

St. Frederick Catholic Church
20 Mason Avenue NW
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.

"Merry Christmas"

Senior Pastor Don Reigstad, Lincoln Evangelical Free Church, Cushing

"Over the river and through the woods, to grandmother's house we go…" We all know the tune. Many of us recall doing just that at Christmas time. Some of you still do. Grandma had a way of making Christmas special.

Has it ever occurred to you that Jesus had grandmas? I expect that Mary and Joseph's mothers were still around. But there were even more great-grandmas and great-, great-grandmas too. In Matthew's genealogy of Christ, he lists four of Jesus'"grandmas." But when we search out who these grandmas were, we are left wondering, "Why include these four?" Tamar seemed jinxed as a bride and daughter-in-law of Judah, so she played the prostitute to catch Judah (Genesis 38). Rahab was a full-time prostitute. Ruth was a noble woman but she hailed from the tribe of Moab (a people so evil that Moabites were not allowed into the temple of God.) Imagine that. One of Jesus' grandmas who got stopped at the door of the church. The final 'grandma' was considered so disreputable that she is not even named. She is simply referred to as "the wife of Uriah." Yea, remember the soldier in David's army that was unfortunately married to a beautiful woman named Bathsheba? Right. King David had him killed to hide his lustful sin. She too is named in the genealogy of the most holy man who ever lived, Jesus.

Considering the fact that women were never named in genealogies, why are these four included? I ask of each of them, "What's a woman like you, doing in a place like this?" I believe there is only one reason Matthew included them: grace. They are each, in turn, examples of God's amazing grace. Come to think of it, that's the only reason I'm included in God's family. It's the only reason you are too.

God's grace.

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Cardinals lose despite early lead

The Staples-Motley girls basketball team lost 70-30 against Barnesville on Dec. 17. The Cardinals started the game well, with Oliviah Lorber hitting two shots, including a three pointer, for a 7-4 lead. But the team started suffering from turnovers and they quickly lost their lead.

Team results

Staples-Motley 30, Barnesville 70

Scoring: Olivia Lorber 12, Sophia Luna 6, Clara Maros 6, Miranda Schotzko 4, Jocelyn Lenk 2



Addison Potter passes in traffic.



Jasmyne Hove



Sophia Luna dribbles along the baseline.

Cardinals hang on for one point win

The Staples-Motley boys basketball team won on the road at Aitkin, 66-65 on Dec. 17. The Cardinals also played Perham on Dec. 20, after this newspaper went to press.

Against Aitkin, the Cardinals had a seven point lead at halftime, then held on to win the game by one. Conner Kuhns, Eli Rutten and Avandre Brandt all reached double figures in scoring in the first half, but nobody on the team stepped up to that level in the second half, allowing Aitkin to come back. On the other side, Aitkin stayed in the game in the first half by hitting six 3-pointers, but in the second half, they did most of their scoring inside the arc.

Team results

Staples-Motley 66, Aitkin 65

Scoring: Conner Kuhns 21, Eli Rutten 18, Avandre Brandt 15, Alex Schultz 6, Noah Larson 4, Ryan Neelan 2

Wrestling update

The Staples-Motley wrestling team competed in the Jackhammer tournament at Pequot Lakes on Dec. 20-21. This newspaper went to press on Dec. 20, before the competition started. Look for results in next week's newspaper.

Another match had been scheduled for Dec. 19, but was cancelled due to weather.

Looking forward, the Cardinals are scheduled to wrestle in The Clash tournament in Rochester Jan. 3-4. This is the largest duals tournament in the Midwest, with high level wrestling teams coming from all around the country.



Caden Kramer

Sacred Heart Area School Christmas program: "Three Wee Kings" performance



Sacred Heart Area School students ended their Christmas program with a manger scene, when all the animals and "Three Wee Kings" arrived in Bethleham. Below, angels and animals sing during the performance.



Shining stars are played by Ali Reese, Mavis Haehnel, Brynn Stevens, Rita Oelltenjenbruns and Aundrea Olander.



Three kings portrayed by James Uselman, Ali Reese and Emily Becker.







Camels and donkeys argue over who is the best beast of burden. Camels are portrayed by Porter Lehner, Simon Uselman and Riley Lothson. Donkeys are Bentley Pettit, Brynn Stevens, Kolton Reese and Alexis Olander. (Staples World photo by Mark Anderson)

CITY OF EAGLE BEND CITY ADMINISTRATOR/CLERK'S POSITION

We're Hiring!

The City of Eagle Bend is seeking a candidate for the full-time position of City Administrator/Clerk and will require the person to have strong accounting skills. The duties of this position will include the recording of the handling of all city finances along with record keeping of all city policies, minutes, ordinances and resolutions. Direct the administration as provided by council action, state and federal statutes. Prepare reports and summaries of the city's finance's along with year-end financial statements, the city's annual budget, Payroll, and for all municipal projects and improvements. Submit all reports to the federal and state departments as required and keep up with all changes. Attend all council meetings, staff meetings and other meetings as directed by the City Council. Supervise the activities of all department heads and their staff. Consult and work with the City Attorney, City Auditor, City Engineer, appointed officials and other public or private agencies as required. Supervise all purchases and/or acquisitions made by all city personnel. Count Liquor Store tills each morning before business opens for accuracy along with the daily reports and physically take year end inventory. Coordinate with the City Council and department heads in writing grants for the city. All other duties required by the City Council.

Applications will be accepted until Friday, December 27, 2024 by 4 p.m.

Salary will be based on qualifications.

Applications are available at the Eagle Bend City Hall, 108 Main Street West, or you can call 218-738-5982 to have an application sent to you. Send completed applications and resumés by mail to: City of Eagle Bend, P.O. Box 215, Eagle Bend, MN 56446

cl51-1c

SERVICES & EMPLOYMENT

205 Help Wanted

Full-time Employment
Todd-Wadena Community Corrections

Are you passionate about helping people transform their lives while protecting public safety? If so, come join our dedicated team of corrections professionals! Todd-Wadena Community Corrections is seeking one **full-time Corrections Agent**. This position includes pretrial supervision of clients, assessments, investigative services and supervision of individuals referred through the Court and/or Criminal Justice System. Travel between counties and office locations is required as determined by agency needs.

Starting salary range is $52,776 - $98,208 annually with flexible scheduling allowed. Minimum qualifications include Bachelor's degree in criminal justice or related social science field; successful completion of an internship in corrections or commensurate paid/volunteer experience in related field; valid MN driver's license and auto insurance; and reliable transportation.

Excellent communication and organizational skills are essential, as well as the ability to establish and maintain working relationships with a variety of people. Must pass agency background check requirements and be able to meet physical requirements as specified in the job description. Convictions, continuances or stays for crimes other than minor traffic offenses may disqualify the applicant from being hired.

Contact Katherine Langer, Director, at 320-732-6165 or kathy.langer@co.todd.mn.us for an application packet. Submit cover letter, resumé and completed application to Katherine Langer, Director, Todd-Wadena Community Corrections, 221 First Avenue South, Suite 200, Long Prairie, MN 56347. Position will remain open until filled.

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51-1p



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Happy New Year!

Have your ads and copy into the office by noon on Tues., Dec. 24 for the Jan. 1, 2025 issue.

Staples World

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OFFICE OF THE MINNESOTA SECRETARY OF STATE
Certificate of Assumed Name
Minnesota Statutes, Chapter 333

The filing of an assumed name does not provide a user with exclusive rights to that name. The filing is required for consumer protection in order to enable consumers to be able to identify the true owner of a business.

ASSUMED NAME:
James Soule Auto Sales
PRINCIPAL PLACE OF BUSINESS:
623 2nd Ave. NW,
STAPLES, MN 56479
U.S.A.
APPLICANT:
John Soule
959 8th Street SE
STAPLES, MN 56479
U.S.A.

I, the undersigned, certify that I am signing this document as the person whose signature is required, or as agent of the person(s) whose signature would be required who has authorized me to sign this document on his/her behalf, or in both capacities. I further certify that I have completed all required fields, and that the information in this document is true and correct and in compliance with the applicable chapter of Minnesota Statutes. I understand that by signing this document I am subject to the penalties of perjury as set forth in Section 609.48 as if I had signed this document under oath.

NAME AND TITLE:
John Soule, owner

DATE:
November 25, 2024

EMAIL FOR OFFICIAL NOTICES: **soulejohn@yahoo.com**

Work Item/
Oringial File Number
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STATE OF MINNESOTA
OFFICE OF THE
SECRETARY OF STATE
FILED 12/09/24

1-2pnc

FAWN LAKE TOWNSHIP NOTICE OF FILING

Fawn Lake Township is accepting filings for:
One (1) Supervisor for a three (3) year term
One (1) Treasurer for a two (2) year term
Please call the clerk to file for either of these positions. The filing dates for these offices are open from January 2, 2025 through 5:00 p.m. on January 16, 2025.

Kelly Miller, Clerk
Fawn Lake Township

52-1pnc

MOTLEY TOWNSHIP NOTICE OF FILING

Motley Township will hold an election for one (1) Supervisor for a three (3) year term, one (1) Treasurer for a two (2) year term and one Clerk for a one (1) year term.

The filing period for these offices opens on December 30, 2024 and closes January 14, 2025 at 5:00 p.m. To file for one of these offices contact Ken Swecker at 218-330-7887.

Ken Swecker, Clerk
Motley Township

52-1pnc

NOTICE TRI-COUNTY STOCKYARDS PCA PERMIT

Notice is hereby given per Minnesota Statutes, Chapter 116, that Tri-County Stockyards, has made application to the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency or the county of Todd County for a permit to construct or expand a feedlot with a capacity of 500 animal units or more.

The existing facility was last permitted for a mix of Beef Slaughter animals and feeder cattle totaling 2,450 Animal Units. The animal units are housed in open lots and total confinement barns, manure contaminated run-off is stored in a Geosynthetic lined basin.

The proposed expansion consists of changing the animal type to feeder cattle, up to 3,500 head or 2,450 animal units, and installing run-off controls and constructing an earthen basin to collect run-off from the large open lots at the facility.

1pnc

COUNTY PRINTING TODD COUNTY, MINNESOTA

Designation of Extra Printing

Notice is hereby given that the Board of Commissioners of Todd County, Minnesota will receive sealed bids for the extra publication of the Financial Statement for the year 2024 as required by law until Noon, Friday, January 3, 2025. Bids will be opened at or near 9:05 a.m. on January 7, 2025 in the County Board Room.

This requires the extra publication for distribution of the Financial Statement to the remaining parts of the county not covered by the distribution of the official paper. The successful bidder will be required to furnish a performance bond in such an amount as may be determined by the County Board. The County Board reserves the right to reject any or all bids if in its judgment of the public interest so require pursuant to M.S 279.07, and it waives any informalities therein..

Denise Gaida
Todd County Auditor/
Treasurer

1-2pnc

COUNTY PRINTING TODD COUNTY, MINNESOTA

Notice is hereby given that the Board of County Commissioners of Todd County, will receive sealed bids until Noon, Friday, January 3, 2025 at the County Auditor-Treasurer's Office. Bids will be opened at the County Board meeting on Tuesday, January 7, 2025 at or near 9:05 a.m. in the County Board Room, for publication for the year 2025 as may be required by the County of Todd, a municipal corporation, as follows:

Designation of the Official Newspaper

This requires the publishing of official proceedings by the Todd County Board, and other legal and public notices required by all Todd County Departments, publication of the financial statement and publication of the list of lands in Todd County, delinquent in taxes for the year 2024, which have not been attached to prior judgment.

The successful bidder will be required to furnish a performance bond in such amount as may be determined by the County Board. The County Board reserves the right to reject any or all bids if in its judgment of the public interest so require pursuant to M.S. 279.07, and to waive any informalities therein..

Denise Gaida
Todd County Auditor/
Treasurer

1-2pnc

Public Notice
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First grade Christmas music

Above, first graders sing at the Staples-Motley Elementary concert Dec. 19. Right, Kinsleigh VanAlst-Carlson, Ava Lembeck and Alora Weber play along on metallophones for the song Hear the Bells (Kling Glockchen Kling). (Staples World phtos by Mark Anderson)





SMES second grade singers

Above and below, second grade students sing at the Staples-Motley Elementary School Winter Concert. (Staples World photos by Mark Anderson)





Fourth grade Winter Concert

Above and below, fourth grade students sing at the Staples-Motley Elementary School Winter Concert. (Staples World photos by Mark Anderson)



Happy New Year!
Have your ads and copy into the office by noon on Tues., Dec. 24 for the Jan. 1, 2025 issue.

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Pete Kautto's class, SMES



Carla Thomson

1. My favorite Christmas movie is Elf because I like elves. They are small, do tricks and make toys. The movie is funny to me because Buddy the elf does funny things and falls on another elf.



Alexander Tester

3. My family's Christmas tradition is we get together with family, open presents together, eat Burger King and play outside.



Alexis Bartel

1. My favorite Christmas movie is Frozen. I like it because it is pretty. I like the frozen snowflakes because I can catch them with my mouth. My family watches this movie every Christmas together.



Ethan Birkholtz

3. My family's Christmas tradition is me and my mom and sister, we make little pretzels with a candy in the middle. We make them at home around Christmas time. It makes me very happy.



Lane Zellgert

1. My favorite Christmas movie is Santa Clause 2. I like it because it is funny. I like when Comet eats too many treats and gets too fat to fly.



Aurora Dillon

1. My favorite Christmas movie is That Santa. Because it is a good movie. I love it so much. It has good details in it.



Kate Vogel

1. My favorite Christmas movie is The Grinch because I watch it every December. When I watch the Grinch I have popcorn, snacks and water. My sister, mom and I like the movie a lot. We like it a lot because it is funny and cute. It is a very good movie to watch for a Christmas movie.



Charlotte Grunewald

3. My favorite family holiday tradition is Christmas. This is because we see our family. We play a dice game. If you win you get fun prizes.



Brodey Weite

2. If Santa replaced his sleigh and reindeer with drones, he wouldn't have to move but he would want to get cookies and milk. So then he would put a chair and a area for his presents. Then he would probably not like using only drones so he would use his sleigh and reindeer and he would take away the drones.



Keegan Bennett

3. My favorite tradition is when it is before Christmas Eve. We get the family together and watch movies until four o'clock. Then we would have a feast. We would have cupcakes and pizza and other stuff.



Kaelyn Nyberg

1. My favorite Christmas movie is: Santa Buddies. What do I like about it: it's a cute movie because it's a funny movie, and the puppies.



Autumn Dobson

1. My favorite Christmas movie is Elf. One thing I like when he puts syrup in his spaghetti.



Britta Kanten

3. My favorite family holiday tradition is when we exchange presents. We go to the farm. They have a certain list with your name on it.



Mallory Gustafson

3. My favorite tradition is going to my grandmas for Christmas Eve. Because most of my family comes every year. We always play a certain game.



Trygve Walz

1. My favorite Christmas movie is the Christmas Chronicles Two. The reason I like it is because they have to fight the elves. My favorite part is when the drone shoots fireballs.



Flynn Weber

1. My favorite Christmas movie is Red One. Because it has my favorite actor in it. It is a cool movie.



Monte Bramstedt

2. If Santa replaced his sleigh and reindeer with drones this is what would happen. He would not need to feed his reindeer. It would be a lot faster. If it was raining he could get inside his drone.



Mazie Seely

1. What is your favorite Christmas movie? I like The Grinch. I like green and red, and it is funny. I like CindyLou Who, she helps the Grinch. Max is very funny This is very funny, it looks like your boss.



Hazel Anderson

3. My favorite family holiday tradition is Christmas break. I like to hang out with my family. My family watches TV and then open stockings. It is so fun. I really like Christmas break.



Marianna Romanowski

1. My favorite Christmas movie is Elf because it is funny. Also it is a Christmas movie. My favorite part is when Buddy crawls into Santa's bag.



Kaylee Cline

3. My favorite winter tradition is we all get together. Then we all have a big feast. After that we go get ice cream at grandma's. Then we watch inside out.



Braxtin Overacker

3.My family's Christmas tradition is every year we play games, color together, eat chicken and bake cookies. My family also goes sledding and watch Harry Potter.

2024 Questions

The Staples World asked third-grade students to write a short response to one of the following questions. We thank the teachers for participating.

1. What is your favorite Christmas movie? Why do you like it?
2. What would happen if Santa replaced his sleigh and reindeer with drones?
3. Please describe your favorite family holiday tradition.

Faith. Joy. Peace



May this holy season bring happiness and contentment to your heart and soul.

Merry Christmas!

Dr. Seth Dokken
Dr. Jesse Fenstermacher
Staples Eye Clinic, Inc.
922 US Hwy. 10 E, Staples
218-894-1331



Glory to The Newborn King!

With resounding gratitude and best wishes to all at this glorious time of year.

Japke Decorating, Carpet and Gift

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Sending warm bear hugs, loving kisses and many wishes for the wonderful occasion of Christmas. May all have a splendid Christmas filled with lights, songs and cheer.

Magic Forest Childcare & Preschool
1411 8th St. NE,
Staples 56479

Sarah Larson's class, SMES



Elijah Stoks

3. My favorite Christmas tradition is eating dinner then opening presents.



Trinity Robinson

1. My favorite Christmas movie is Polar Express. It is my favorite movie because it makes people believe in Christmas spirit.



Troy Richards

2. If Santa replaced his reindeer with drones, it will be cool if Santa would have 10 drones. He would be able to deliver in 2 minutes, but Santa would go with to put them in houses.



Sage Beach

1. My favorite Christmas movie is Elf. It is funny and has fun dances, it cheers me up.



Brayden DiGiovanni

1. My favorite Christmas movie is Santa Paws because it is sad. Santa was lost in New York. Santa got a job and was in a house. Merry Christmas, ho ho ho ho.



Kennan Warner

1. My favorite Christmas movie is "A Miser Brothers Christmas" because it is funny. The wind guy learns his lesson and the miser brothers get along.



Addelene Trierweiller

2. What would happen if Santa replaced his sleigh and reindeer with drones? His sleigh would go faster, also it will be easy to fly.



Lainee Hove

1. My favorite Christmas movie is Home Alone. It is my favorite Christmas movie, I like it because the kid is talented.



Tristin Thorne

2. If Santa replaced his sleigh and reindeer with drones they would run out of battery. I know Santa thinks fast charges them there. Santa does not pack batteries. So the drones would run out of battery and then he would have to go back to the North Pole.



Elizabeth Rick

3. My favorite holiday tradition is spending time with my family. First I get presents. This Christmas I want a phone. We also watch my favorite movie, The Grinch. Last we go sledding.



Charlotte Wright

1. My favorite Christmas movie is The Star. It is funny and I also like that the animals talk. It has funny parts and sad parts it is scary sometimes. It helps me understand more about Christmas. It has a bad guy and shows the true meaning of Christmas. Merry Christmas!



Harley Ripley

1. My favorite Christmas movie is Krampus. It is a little funny and scary. Also he is a goblin. Last, he likes eating children.



Ragnar Walz

1. My favorite Christmas movie is Christmas Chronicles because it has action and the elves are little and cute. Merry Christmas!



Nova Lydeen

1. My favorite Christmas movie is the Elf because it is good and fun. Ho Ho Ho.

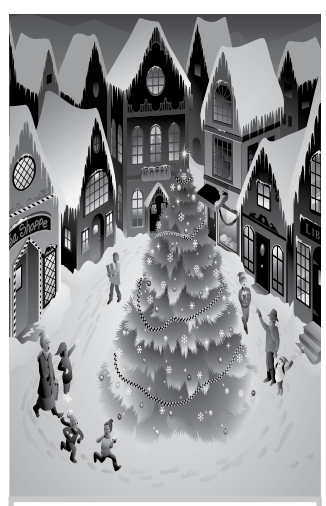
2024 Questions

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1. What is your favorite Christmas movie? Why do you like it?
2. What would happen if Santa replaced his sleigh and reindeer with drones?
3. Please describe your favorite family holiday tradition.



And suddenly there was the angel, a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying: "Glory to God in the highest."
Luke 2:13



Wishing You Stacks of Happiness



Here's hoping your Christmas is piled high with friendship, fun, laughter, love, joy and goodwill. May you get your fill of good times with enough cheer left over to last all year!

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HAPPY HOLIDAYS TO YOU & YOURS!

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May peace and happiness light your way this Christmas and always. Thanks for your business, and best wishes for a very merry holiday season.

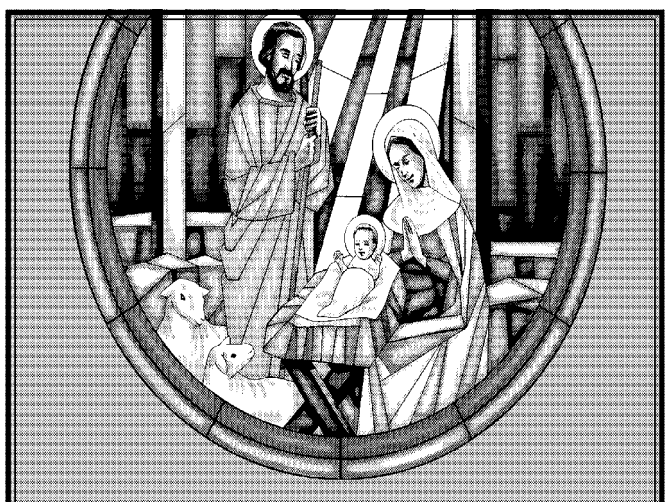
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Spread the Joy!

In the air and on the ground it feels like Christmas all around. People laugh and children play counting down to Christmas Day.
And as we deck the halls and tree we send a wish to all of thee who've helped to make our year so bright:
Merry Christmas to all, and to all a good night!

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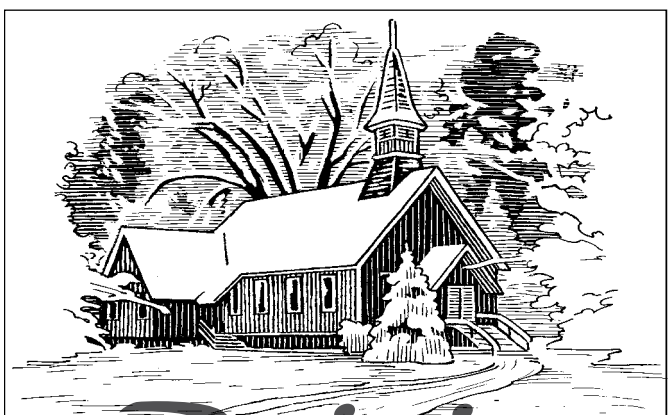
For to us a child is born, to us a son is given, and the government shall be upon his shoulder, and his name shall be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.
—Isaiah 9:6-7

May you find inspiration in the miracle of Christmas, and may peace and joy reside with you throughout this holy season and beyond.

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First International Bank and Trust wishes everyone a happy and wonderful holiday season!

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Rejoice in the Reason for the Season

On Christmas morn, we celebrate
our Savior born and his ever-present love for us.
May the pure joy of ths holy season bring contentment
to your heart, enlightenment
to your soul and strength to your faith.

Let peace be upon you this Christmas and always!

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Sarah Larson's class, SMES



Declan Sullivan

2. If Santa replaced his sleigh and reindeer with drones he would never leave the North Pole again. He also doesn't get hurt going down the chimney again. Santa would need to follow the drones to replace the batteries.



Josiah Ingersoll

1. My favorite Christmas movie is Rudolph the Red Nosed Reindeer because I like Rudolph and he has a red nose. Red is my favorite color. Rudolph is a reindeer.



Grant Nelson

1. My favorite Christmas movie is Home Alone because it is hilarious. There are lots of parts that make me laugh out loud.



Sydney Eckert

1. My favorite Christmas movie is Home Alone because Kevin Mickalister sets a trap. It is funny because the bad guy trips on legos. It is all so funny to that. Kevin throws bricks at them too.



Caden Pesola

1. My favorite Christmas movie is Christmas Santa Paws. I like it because it teaches good lessons like following the rules. Also part of it is scary. My favorite part is when the mean orphanage lady burns the girl's doll and I like the ending.



Mercyanna Romanowski

1. My favorite Christmas movie is Dear Santa because it's funny and has music in it.



Hailey Johnson

1. My favorite Christmas movie is Mistletoe Farm because they figure out the Christmas Farm and a guy is in the farm feeding the animals and the four kids come in and the guy screams. It's so funny because it spreads Christmas joy and Christmas laughter. It makes me laugh so hard when the goat is in the house. The dad cuts a tree down and then they figure out the tree is too big for the house. Merry Christmas!



Kinsley Mertens

1. My favorite Christmas movie is Elf. When he is testing the jack in the box he gets scared.



Braxton Close

3. My favorite family tradition is watching the Polar Express and eating popcorn.



2024 Questions

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3. Please describe your favorite family holiday tradition.



Third grade Christmas singers

Staples-Motley Third grade students perform at their Winter Concert, above. Below, Aurora Dillon, Addy Trierweiler, Elijah Stoks and Autumn Dobson play the finger cymbals for the song O Christmas Tree.



The Majesty of Christmas

Wishing you and your family much peace, harmony and joy, as together we celebrate the miracle of Christmas.

Merry Christmas

BRICKS TRAVEL CENTER MOTLEY MN

Motley

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

STEP

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Jolly Happy Christmas

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Thanking You Is at the Top of Our To-Do List

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EST. 2022 STAPLES, MN

Shela McIlravy's class, SHAS



Joe Lehner

1. Red One - because it's cool and there is a lot of action.



Rory Schultz

1. Home Alone - because it is super funny!



Bryce Peterson

1. The Santa Clause 2 because Jack Frost is in it.



Chloe Boyer

1. I like Rudolph the Red Nosed Reindeer because there is humor and I like the abominable Snowman.



Rylee Dolezal

1. My favorite movie is The Grinch because it is funny and cute at the end.



Jonah Becker

1. My favorite Christmas movie is Santa 4 because I like Jack Frost.



Noah DeWald

1. The Grinch - because he tries to ruin Christmas and he doesn't get to.



John Dempsey

3. Christmas we set up the Christmas tree and hang stockings and put presents under the tree.



Cooper Lothson

1. Home Alone because the boy figures out cool tricks to protect himself from the robbers.



Beckham Pearson

1. The Grinch - it makes my family have a great time - the grinch was not loved at the start but now he was loved at the end.



Kallyn Stevens

1. Rudolph the Red Nosed Reindeer because Rudolph is so cute and I love the animation.



Sarah Cole

1. Home Alone - it's really funny, also the second one is also funny.



Grayson Reese

3. Setting up the Christmas tree and decorating it with my whole family.



Noah Cole

3. We go to grandpa's house and have a feast, then we play trivia. At night we unwrap gifts.



Grace Fink

1. Home Alone because it is funny,



Aliza Alexander

1. Home Alone - I like it because it is funny. Home Alone is inspiring.



Ophelia Taylor

1. Home Alone - I love to watch the bad guys go through the traps.



Aiden Pearson

2. They would go slower because Santa eats all those cookies and he has lots of presents in his sleigh.



Jagger Jansson

1. My favorite movie is The Star. A young donkey escapes from the miller and finds a place to hide. There he finds Mary and Joseph and travels with them to Bethlehem. They are getting hunted so they have to protect Mary.

2024 Questions

The Staples World asked third-grade students to write a short response to one of the following questions. We thank the teachers for participating.

1. What is your favorite Christmas movie? Why do you like it?
2. What would happen if Santa replaced his sleigh and reindeer with drones?
3. Please describe your favorite family holiday tradition.

Hallelujah

Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you: He is Christ the Lord. ~ Luke 2:11

DQ

Motley and Staples

218-352-6152 218-894-1143

Novelty sale: Buy two boxes, get third for $2,22, Dec.-Jan.

Merry Christmas

Wishing you peace, joy and all the best this wonderful holiday has to offer. May this incredible time of giving and spending time with family bring you the joy that last throughout the year.

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Southside Suds

Many thanks to you, our neighbors and friends, for bringing us so much joy this past year!

May you enjoy all the best this special time of year has to offer!

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218-894-2525

May the spirit of the season fill your heart and soul with peace, joy and contentment!

Stern Rubber Company
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Happy Holidays from our family to yours

The Strength of Community UNITY BANK
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Delina White of iamanishinaabe.com gives credit to Mark Turner. "We are the product of his success," said White.



Paul Nye performs a song he wrote about retirement at Mark Turner's retirement party.

TURNER continued from page 1a

Arts continue to grow in the Five Wings region, organizations are finding new purporses fo the arts

for the arts became five times bigger than his previous budget. At that point, it made sense to break away from Region Five, in order to fill regional needs that the development commission could not.

"I was a one man show, we had to be nimble and flexible to work with more artists," said Turner. Eventually they brought on Vicki Chepulis as Grants and Program Coordinator.

The new grants go to a much wider variety of artists across many fields of art.

"Communities have seen the impacts of the arts. There is a buy-in that they want to have arts and cultural experiences in a deeper way," said Turner.

It is no longer the typical players like arts organizations and artists who are applying for the grants. Turner said it is cities, chambers of commerce and many other organizations who want to improve their community through the arts.

The flourishing of arts has shown the power of the arts to improve people's lives. Turner said now health care systems and social services are realizing how the arts can improve the mental health and physical state of their clients.

"They are starting to realize what arts and culture can do for their directive and are finding ways to integrate the arts into their practices," said Turner. "They are expanding the potential of what arts can do."

Along with all the new uses for arts and artists, Turner said there are more creative ideas of what qualifies as an art project.

"They are changing the definition of what art is," said Turner, "it is quite amazing how it can energize folks."

Staples roots

Five Wings Arts Council has always been headquartered in Staples. It started out with Region Five, then moved to the old hospital building, then to the Todd County building along with NJPA (now Sourcewell). Finally the office moved to their current downtown Staples location next to First International Bank.

Turner said Region Five has always been in Staples because it is central to the five counties served and has good rental rates.

With the Legacy Amendment, Minnesota became one of just a few states with dedicated funding for the arts. That has been a boon not just for artists, but for the community of Staples as the home of Five Wings, where arts grants have spurred millions of dollars of economic impact throughout the five county region.

Then and now

Turner started his job in the days before the internet, when grant applications were mimeographed, filled out with pencil and then traced over so it could be seen on the copies.

Now everything can be done online, allowing access to anyone in the region, not just those who are able to find an application.

"My approach to this work has been more of a shepherd and caretaker not only for Five Wings, but also for the fundings, arts organizations and communities we serve," said Turner.

Turner said he won't sit still during his retirement, he works on cars, on a storage unit business and used to moonlight at the Todd County Jail. He said they've already asked him to come back, but he has passed on that. He does have one long vacation planned, to Nashville for a few weeks.

In retirement, he will always feel the appreciation for local artists and organizations who cultivate the arts.

"The arts have a way of making us feel good, making us feel connected, making us feel alive and well. Arts and culture is the glue that binds our communities together," said Turner.



Board support

Five Wings Board member Steve Hoemberg talks about how the community is "impacted by the power, strength and vision of the arts council," under the leadership of Mark Turner



The Staples Area Men's Chorus performs at Mark Turner's retirement party at the Landmark Inn.



