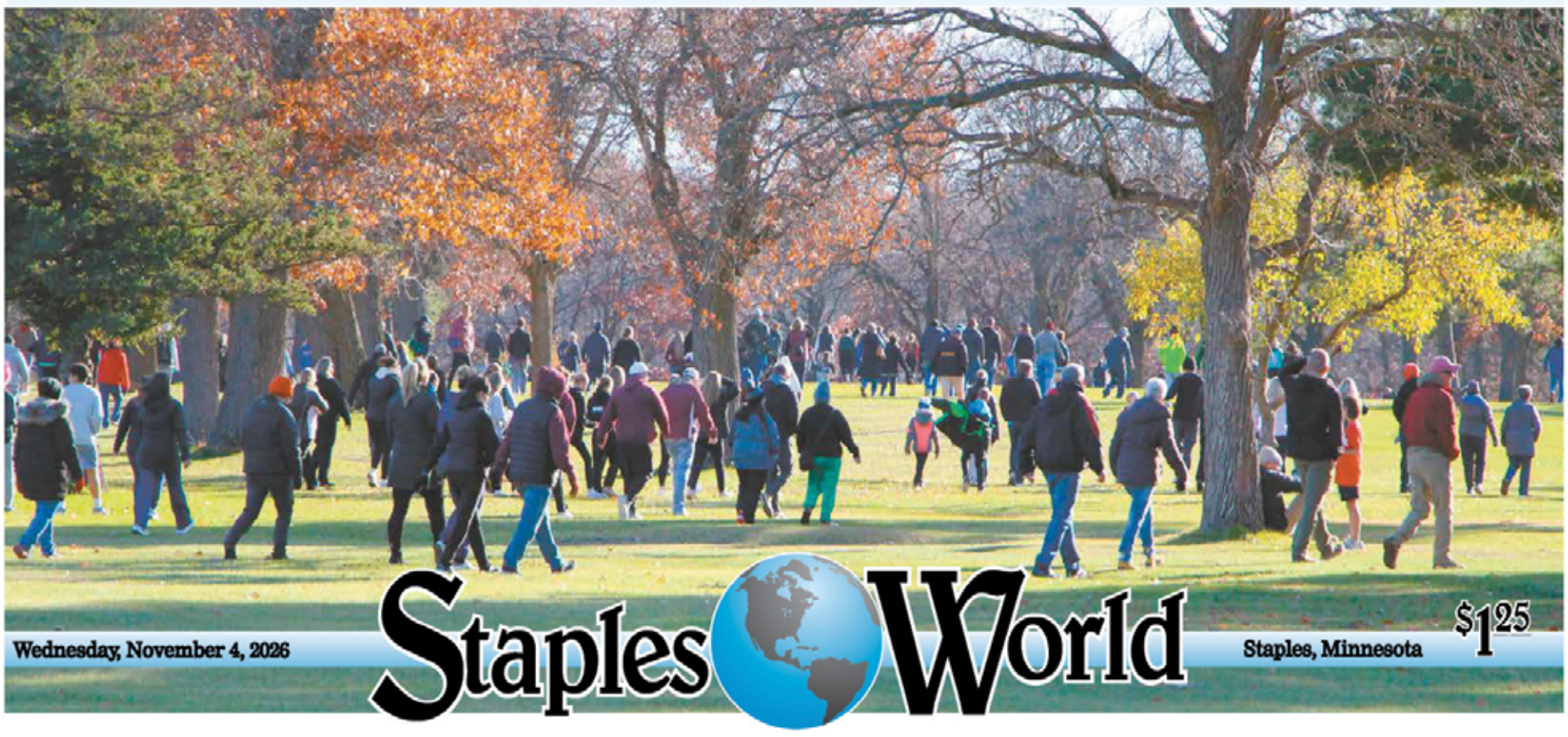
Inside this issue:

What do rural communities need to thrive?
Tenor-bass concert photos
State tennis, section fb, vb, cc
State measles outbreak based in Todd County

8 10499 02493 3



Wednesday, November 4, 2026

Staples World

Staples, Minnesota $1.25

If you run it, they will come A huge crowd filters across The Vintage golf course in Staples, making their way from the starting line of the Section 6A cross country race to catch up to the runners before they come through again. Perfect weather the past week brought a lot of people outdoors. (Photo by Mark Anderson)



Halloween orange

Orange and yellow leaves covered sidewalks and lawns along 5th Street NE in Staples Oct. 31, the perfect backdrop for an orange dinosaur and other costumed 'trick or treaters' on Halloween. (Staples World photo by Dawn Timbs)

Veterans Day programs in Staples

School programs

Staples-Motley School District will host two Veterans Day programs on Wednesday, Nov. 11, with both held at The Nest in Staples:

- 9 a.m., will feature a program by the SM Elementary students
- 10:30 a.m., will feature a program led by SM Middle/High School students

The Motley American Legion will provide the color guard at both programs, with music and readings offered by students.



Free lunch for veterans

From 11:30 a.m. - 1:30 p.m., veterans are invited to a free lunch at Sacred Heart Church in Staples, served by members of the Holy Family House of Faith.

Care center program

At 1 p.m., the Motley American Legion will conduct a short program at Lakewood Health System's Care Center in Staples to honor all veterans there.

School district using Sourcewell contract for construction

Mark Anderson
Publisher

The Staples-Motley School Board learned how their upcoming building project will be accomplished with the Sourcewell bidding process replacing the traditional construction bidding process.

At the Oct. 19 school board meeting, Kyle Walter of ICS, the building management company that helped prepare the $42 million building referendum that passed in April, talked to the board about how they are moving forward.

Working with local teachers and staff, Walter said the elementary school portion is getting into the fine design details. That project is building new classrooms for fifth grade at the elementary school. Walter said the staff have been very open-minded about planning the new classrooms.

"They're not asking for a lot, they are excited about the increased space and are always focused on the students," said Walter.

Right now the plan is to build the classrooms

See **SCHOOL** on page 3a



Weather

2026
This Week's Forecast

	High	Low	Cond.
Nov. 4	49	40	Rain
Nov. 5	44	32	Cloudy
Nov. 6	47	31	P. Cloudy
Nov. 7	48	33	M. Sunny
Nov. 8	46	32	P. Cloudy
Nov. 9	51	35	P. Cloudy
Nov. 10	49	33	M. Cloudy

Last Year, 2025

	High	Low	Cond.
Nov. 4	59°	38	Sunny
Nov. 5	48	31	M. Sunny
Nov. 6	50	36	M. Sunny
Nov. 7	36	33	Cloudy
Nov. 8	32	22	Cloudy
Nov. 9	24	16	Cloudy
Nov. 10	31	23	Cloudy

Average Temps:
H = 43° Low = 30°

Compiled by Dale Hausmann, WCCO's Staples area Weatherwatcher

Public Notices

City of Motley **9A**
ISD #2170 **9A**
Todd BOA **9A**
Todd Homestead notice **9A**
Todd Commissioners **9A-10A**

Obituaries

Gregory McGillivray
Gerald Henrickson
Michael Sauer

Loren Morey: A life of service, sea and steady work

By Lee Jenkins and Frank Odell

Some lives are measured in headlines. Others are measured in quiet dedication - years of service, steady work and a willingness to answer the call when duty knocks. Loren Morey's life belongs to the second category. And if history were fair, that category would get the louder applause.

Loren was born on March 5, 1940, in the small Minnesota town of Motley to Ed and Mary Morey. Aside from a brief detour for college and a little matter involving the United States Navy, Loren has remained rooted in the Motley area his entire life. In an age when people often travel the world searching for meaning, Loren somehow managed to travel the world and still find his meaning right back where he started.

In 1963, Loren married Kathy, beginning a partnership that would produce two children, Mark and Sherry, and undoubtedly enough family stories to fill a small library. Like many marriages forged in the 1960s, theirs was built on faith, hard work, and the occasional reminder that the husband is not always the commanding officer at home.

But Loren's journey toward service began even earlier.

While a junior at Motley High School, Loren developed a fascination with the weather. That should have been the first clue that this young man had a different kind of compass.

So Loren enlisted in a U.S. Navy reserve program while still in high school. He attended meetings and completed boot camp training in Minneapolis while finishing his studies. After graduation, he enrolled at Hamline College, but by 1961 it was time to fulfill his two-year Navy obligation.

His goal was clear: he wanted to become an aerographer - a specialist in meteorology for naval aviation. But as every veteran knows, the military has a unique sense of humor. You make plans...and then the Navy makes different plans.

Loren attended aerographer training school in Lakehurst, N.J., where he prepared for one of the Navy's most specialized roles. Soon afterward he was assigned to the USS Providence (CLG-6), a guided missile cruiser operating across the globe.

As an Aerographer's Mate (AG), Loren served as the ship's weather expert.

See **MOREY** on page 12a



Young sailor

U.S. Navy veteran Loren Morey of Motley felt the call to military service early, enlisting in a U.S. Navy reserve program while still a student at Motley High School. He eventually became an Aerographer's Mate, assigned to the USS Providence (CLG-6), a guided missile cruiser operating across the globe. Morey served during the early 1960s. (Submitted photo)

Motley area law enforcement

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

Oct. 27 - Motley Police issued a citation to Egiwaateshkaang Grey Fox Aubid, 21, for indecent exposure. The incident took place at BRICKS Travel Center, Motley.

Oct. 26 - Motley Police received a report of harassment at the 300 block of Beaulieu St W, Motley.

Oct. 21 - Motley Police and Morrison County deputies responded to a report of a missing client from a group home in Motley. The call was subsequently cancelled as the subject returned to the group home.

Oct. 23 - The MCSO received a report of suspicious activity at Ash St E, Motley.

Oct. 22 - The MCSO received a call from Cass County reporting a two vehicle accident with unknown injuries at Hwy 210 W and 61st Ave SW, Motley, in Cass County. Motley Rescue was paged.



Collecting candy

The Hirschey siblings of Staples had fun collecting candy at 'Trunk or Treat' at Motley United Methodist Church on Halloween. From left, Archer, Irelyn, Lilly Hirschey. (Staples World photo by Dawn Timbs)



Having a great time

Children of all ages, dressed in a variety of costumes, had fun collecting candy and playing games at the 'Trunk or Treat' event hosted by Staples Alliance Church. From left, Ira Snyder, Owen Snyder, Henry Redner (front), Oaklyn Rislund, Noah Snyder, (Staples World photo by Dawn Timbs)



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Minnesota Attorney

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Staples World
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thanks you for your continued support



Motley Lions donate to food shelf

The Motley Lions recently donated $10,000 to the Motley Area Food Shelf. Pictured, from left, Pat O'Regan, Sherry Frisk, Motley Lions; Jodi Reeck, MAFS Director; Florence Berndt, Fran Kokett, Diana Miller, MAFS volunteers.



Clowning around at 'Trunk or Treat' at Staples Alliance

Over 300 people attended the 'Trunk or Treat' event Oct. 31, at Staples Alliance Church. The event included a variety of games, prizes and goodies, including s'mores. (Staples World photo by Dawn Timbs)





Fun costumes

A variety of fun costumes were on display during "Treats in the Streets" in Staples Oct. 30. Above, from left, are Brusewitz siblings Quinn, Maverick, Will, of Staples. At left, Kiley (left) and Cruz Peterson, also of Staples, wave to other 'trick-or-treaters' collecting candy at downtown businesses. The event was sponsored by the Staples Area Chamber of Commerce and was held after school that day from 3:30 - 5:30 p.m. (Staples World photos by Dawn Timbs)



Heading home with their goodies

Sporting colorful costumes, a group heads back to Staples after stopping by 'Trunk or Treat' at Motley United Methodist Church Oct. 31. From left, Maria Ross, Joseph Sharen, Dianna Powell, Lexi Pearson, Serenity Sharen, Mariana Mendoza. (Staples World photo by Dawn Timbs)



‘Stop the presses!’ it’s Halloween

Staples World owner/publisher Mark Anderson, right, handed out candy, pencils and newspaper photos to the many costumed children who stopped by the paper during Treats in the Streets in Staples Oct. 30. (Staples World photos by Dawn Timbs)



SCHOOL continued from page 1a

Sourcewell contract allows building experts to help plan school construction

surrounding the new gym space. Walter said they have a plan for blocking classroom hallways off from the gym traffic so that events can be held on weekends at the school.

The process is also being assisted by the contractor the school plans to use. School administration interviewed several companies that had been approved through the Sourcewell bidding process for school construction. Sourcewell uses a competitive bidding process and makes sure companies are able to live up to the quality of construction promised at the bid price.

The school chose Nor-Son for general construction. Superintendent Shane Tappe said Nor-Son has done many other building projects in the area and they are committed to using local sub-contractors whenever possible.

Tappe said the new bidding system has several other advantages for the school.

If it was a traditional public bidding process, the contractors would have maybe a two week window to try and determine what to bid on the large project.

“Now we’re getting months of those people on site. There should be fewer issues with change orders and materials,” said Tappe. “Everything is already publicly bid, we know exactly what it will cost for each item.”

ICS will still monitor the project and provide quality oversight.

“Sourcewell has been much faster,” said Tappe. “Other districts around us have used this and it has worked well.”

While the elementary school project is fairly straightforward with mostly new construction, the high school portion of the project is refurbishing spaces, building new shop space and updating outdoor athletic facilities. That project will be a combination of using Sourcewell contracts and the traditional public bidding process.

The high school building process is still in the earlier stages of design, with teachers and staff giving input on the plans.

In other news, the board

- Approved hire of Kathryn Cleveland, food service; Cade Bestland, HS musical assistant, Olivia Neal, paraprofessional, Ashton Bellefeuille, weight room supervisor, and Emily Vieths, Honor Society advisor.
- Approved resignation of Nicole Taylor, paraprofessional.
- Heard from Business Manager Ellie Hill that an audit found that they were keeping too much cash at their local bank. They worked with First International Bank and Trust to come up with a solution for when the cash reserve reaches over $250,000.
- Learned from Hill that school enrollment is slightly down, with 924 students this year, compared to 935 at the end of last year. The number of compensatory students is down by 27, meaning less aid for lower income families.

Looking back

75 Years Ago - 1951

- Nov. 1, 1951 - The first real heavy fall of snow fell in this area on Oct. 30, when a reported six to seven inches came down early in the morning and practically most of the day. Other localities throughout the state report up to as much as nine inches during the same period.

At times a wind accompanied the snow, bringing back to the minds of people the terrible Armistice Day storm of 1940, which will long live in the minds of the people of this entire area.

- Nov. 1, 1951 - A pile-up of freight cars Sunday, Oct. 28, about 12:30 o’clock in the afternoon, a half mile east of Wadena almost caused the wreck of Northern

- o -

Compiled by
Dawn Timbs

- o -

Pacific’s North Coast limited passenger train. Twenty-nine cars of an eastbound freight train piled up on the Northern Pacific main line.

Harry Hammond, engineer of the North Coast limited, applied the brakes in time to prevent the speeding streamliner from crashing into the freight wreckage. Mr. Hammond stated that he saw the red block light signaling him to stop just in time.

Orin Peterson, acting station agent on duty at Wadena stated that he saw a hotbox on the freight train and signaled to Conductor Kermit Strain. Mr. Strain signaled Engineer George Hankey, of Staples.

Hankey said he tried to apply the brakes, “but they set on me.” The 29 cars piled up about 33 car lengths behind the engine.

Ronald Bastain, 11, of Wadena, stated that he saw the wreck as it happened and stated that six hoboes were riding the train at the time of the pileup. The boy stated that he saw all of them jump off and disappear. No one was injured in the wreck.

Crews from Staples were called into action to clear away the wreckage. A wrecker from East Grand Forks was also called, but the machine proved to be too small, so another wrecker from Dilworth was brought into action.

- Nov. 1, 1951 - Burle Force, coach of the Motley high school, is very much pleased with his football team for they received the Crow Wing Valley championship and came through the season with six wins and no losses to remain undefeated. “But the most important thing,” says Mr. Force, “is that the boys came through the season without being seriously hurt.” The final game showed Motley 45 and Pillager 12.

50 Years Ago - 1976

- Oct. 21, 1976 - Three Staples Area Vocational-Technical Institute students took part in the Bicentennial year’s bicycle tour across the United States. They were Jim Imgrund, Staples; Art Koepke, Eveleth, and Brad Bergerson, Backus. Their Bikecentennial journey took them 4,300 miles from Oregon to Virginia.



Mystery photo

Hello readers. This week’s archive photo is from 1977. 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.

- Oct. 21, 1976 - First, second and third place winners in the Fire Prevention Poster contest at the Sacred Heart school were 4th grade: Joel Rengel, Steven Stracek, Karen Scott; 5th grade: Mark Lauer, Michelle DeMars, Ellen Weyer; 6th grade: Kim Peterson, Richard Nelson, Leslie Peterson.

Lloyd Nelson of the Staples Fire Department said that each first place winner in each grade received $5; second place winners, $3; and $1 for third.

- Oct. 21, 1976 - The various grade winners (listed first place - third place) of the Staples Elementary school for the Fire Prevention Poster contest were 4th grade: Andrea Schimpp, Barb Lee, DeAnne Blanchard; 5th grade: Greg Beener, Debbi Heeney, Anne Sinotte. 6th grade: Kristi Trana, Jenny Jensen, Carrie Chapman.

- Oct. 21, 1976 - Winners in the Fire Prevention Poster contest at the Lincoln Model Nongraded school were 4th grade: Brenda Selchert, Susie Lucas, Lisa Edwards. 5th grade: Eric Anderson, Theresa Giese, Katie Johnson. 6th grade: Linda Olson, Gary Trana, Brett Lindgren.

- Oct. 21, 1976 - The Motley Seniors have chosen for the fall production a just-published comedy entitled “The No Purpose Room.”

This play provides some very timely humorous situations based on the school situation and particularly on conflicts over the use of the gymnasium.

- Oct. 21, 1976 - News of the Rondorf Home: Pastor Ed Stevens held protestant services on Tuesday afternoon. Later we had coffee and donuts in OT.

Wednesday we saw pictures of children on the opaque projector. Everyone enjoys this program and the popcorn and coffee too.

Thursday the Lionelles “took us to Japan.” We were entertained by Naoko Yanagihara who did four lovely expressive dances from her home land. Birthday cake, ice cream and coffee were served by Marion Stone, Lou Wilson, Kris Wilson and Mary Scharf.

Friday was Sing Along.



Mystery solved

Last week’s mystery photo published in the April 9, 1992 edition of the Staples World featured Nicole Godejohn, a Staples Area High School student, who met with Senator Paul Wellstone during her trip to Washington, D.C., in the Presidential Classroom’s 1992 senior high school program.

Judy Wolak of Staples correctly identified Nicole Godejohn, noting she was a junior at Staples-Motley High School that year. Thanks for participating in our mystery photo.

We always enjoy having Mike Blessing come to “stir us up” with music.

Sunday coffee and cookies were served by the ladies of the Christian Missionary Alliance Church.

- Oct. 21, 1976 - Donovans, Staples newest business, is now complete and the entire operation is now in full swing. The dining room officially opened last Thursday evening at five o’clock to the public.

The building, located on Hwy 10, comprises an eight-lane bowling alley and lounge and dining room.

25 Years Ago - 2001

- Nov. 1, 2001 - The Cardinal football season ended on a sad note Tuesday, Oct. 23, when Staples Motley, with a 12-7 lead, could not stop the Paynesville Bulldogs from moving the ball.

Paynesville went on to lose 54-6 to Albany on Saturday night.

- Nov. 1, 2001 - The Cardinal girls’ cross country team is making the first trip to the state meet in many years. The Staples Motley girls will run in the Class A state meet at the St. Olaf College course in Northfield this Saturday.

Last Thursday afternoon, running in near gale force winds, the girls won the Section 6A meet, hosted at Staples at the Pine Grove Park course with a team score of 35. Three of the girls qualified individually for the state meet as well, since the top seven runners qualify. They are Hannah Landecker, Brittany Brenny and Liza Milless.

- Nov. 1, 2001 - The Staples Motley boys cross country team will be making a return trip to the State Class A Boys Cross Country Meet, after winning the Section 6A meet last Thursday. They will compete at St. Olaf in Northfield this Saturday.

- Nov. 1, 2001 - SMHS fall play, “Evil Doings at Queen Toot’s Tomb” runs Nov. 8 - 10 at Centennial Auditorium in Staples.

- Nov. 1, 2001 - ‘Three vie for three spots on Staples Motley school board.’ Roy DiGiovanni and Mike Hajek have filed to retain their seats on the board. They are joined in the race by Mark Haglin going for his first four-year term.

10 Years Ago - 2016

- Oct. 27, 2016 - Staples-Motley tennis player Izabella Edin enters the state tournament as the number two seed in Class A singles.

“I would love to win it, but I just want to play my best tennis,” said Edin. “I want to finish with a positive mindset for my senior year.”

Todd County court report

OCT. 28, 2026

Todd County Sheriff

Raul Ysabel Alvarez Martes, Long Prairie. Speed 65/55. Fine $40. Fee $85.

David Allen Berrios, Long Prairie. Speed 70/60. Fine $40. Fee $85.

David Jacobus Petrus Boshoff, Long Prairie. Speed 69/55. Fine $50. Fee $85.

Alce Eliphete, Long Prairie. Driving without a valid license for vehicle. Fine $100. Fee $85.

Reyna Lucero Hernadez Chavez, Long Prairie . Driving After Revocation. Fine $200. Fee $85.

Timothy John Lykins, Blackduck. Speed 70/55. Fine $60. Fee $85.

Abdullahi Mohanud Maalin, Willmar. Duty to Drive with Due Care - Speed Greater than Reasonable. Continued. Unsupervised probation, 1 Yr. Fine $125. Fee $125.

Koryn Michelle Senn, Long Prairie. Driving After Revocation. Fine $200. Fee $85.

Staples Police

Alexander James Miller, Staples. Driving After Revocation. Fine $200. Fee $85.

Osakis Police

Freddy Mejia, Long Prairie. Uninsured Vehicle. Fine $200. Fee $85. Speed 111/60. Fine $150.

MN Department of Natural Resources

Lorrie Ann Bates, Long Prairie. Fishing Quality Sunfish reduced daily limit (5). Continued for dismissal. Unsupervised probation, 6 Mo.

Tad Allen Granby, Spring Lake Park. Failure to complete bear bait registration info, register bear bait station. Fine $50. Fee $85.

David Edward Hohman, Grey Eagle. Fishing Quality Sunfish reduced daily limit (5). Continued for dismissal. Unlawful Deposit of Garbage, Litter or Like. Continued for dismissal. Unsupervised probation, 6 Mo.

MN State Patrol

Kevin Aaron O’Keefe, Staples. Speed 69/60. Fine $40. Fee $85.

Nathan David Bloomer, Alexandria. Hands-Free Law. Fine $50. Feee $85.

Jacob Raymond Frame, Saint Joesph. Speed 79/70. Fine $40. Fee $115.

Zachary Joesph Lafreniere, Osakis. Speed 60/55. Fine $40. Fee $85.

Che Kin Lau, Stouffville, ON. Speed 84/70. Fine $50. Fee $85.

Alex Michael Line, Clarissa. Windshield Tinted or Glazed. Fine $50. Fee $85.

Osiel Najera Ponce, Long Prairie. No Minnesota Driver License. Fine $100. Fee $85.

Carsen Blake Olsen, Milnor, SD. Speed 86/70. Fine $60. Feee $85.

Lori Lynn Peffer, New Brighton. Speed 84/70. Fine $50. Fee $125.

Jacob Vernon Pulak, Pierz. Speed 65/60. Fine $40. Fee $85.

Leslie Luke Ritter, Long Prairie. Speed 65/55. Fine $40. Fee $85.

Jose Victoriano Neri, Osakis. No Minnesota Driver’s License. Fine $100. Fee $85.

Lucia Lizzeth Villalobos, Minneapolis. No Minnesota Driver’s License. Fine $100. Fee $85.

Summer Ruth Williams, Minneapolis. Speed 89/70. Fine $60. Fee $85.

Omar Zamora Ortiz, Long Prairie. Windshield Tinted or Glazed. Fine $50. Fee $85.

Matthew Neil Zeier, Lakeville. Speed 80/70. Fine $40. Fee $85.

The following cases were heard before Heidi L. Hovis, Seventh District Court in Todd County October 15, 2026.

Melissa Mary Monson, Swanville. 5th Degree - Possess Schedule 1,2,3,4 or paraphernalia resid. Dismissed. Driving After Revocation. Dismissed. Cannabis open package - Possess in motor vehicle; Not compliant packaging or container. Dismissed. DWI - Operate Motor Vehicle Under Influence of Controlled Substance. Sentenced. Local Confinement 364 Days, Stay 334 Days For 2 Yr Credit for time served: 6 Days. Supervised probation, 2 Yr. Fine $100. Fee $205.

The following cases were heard before Heidi L. Hovis, Seventh District Court in Todd County October 16, 2026.

Timothy Mark Jr. Dally, Long Prairie. Second Degree DWI. Dismissed. DWI - Operate Motor Vehicle - Alcohol Concentration. Sentenced. 364 Days, Stay 0 Yr 0 Mo 332 Days For 4 Yr Credit for time served: 2 Days. Supervised probation, 4 Yr. Fine $400. Fee $500.

The following cases were heard before Heidi L. Hovis, Seventh District Court in Todd County October 19, 2026.

Brian Guy Lancaster, Clarissa. Driving after Cancellation-Inimical to Public Safety. Sentenced. Local Confinement 364 Days, Stay 0 Yr 0 Mo 360 Days For 2 Yr Credit for time served: 4 Days. Unsupervised probation, 2 Yr. Fine $50. Fee $125 Cannabis open package. Dismissed.

The following cases were heard before Heidi L. Hovis, Seventh District Court in Todd County October 20, 2026.

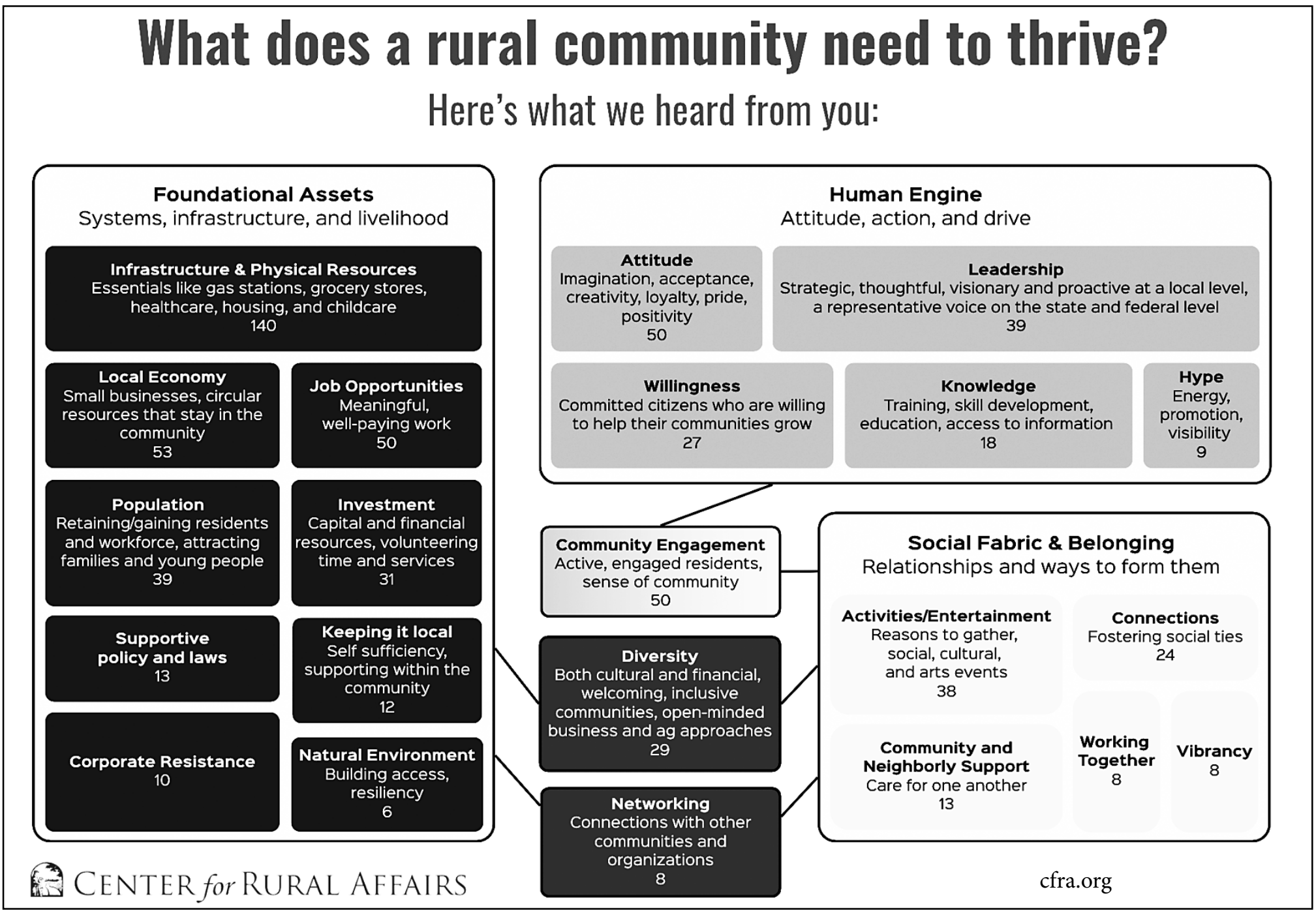
Cody James Becker, Grey Eagle. Disorderly Conduct. Sentenced. Local Confinement 90 Days, Stay 0 Yr 0 Mo 88 Days For 1 Yr Credit for time served: 2 Days. Unsupervised probation, 1 Yr. Fee $325

Dalton Alan Schultz, Fairbault. Giving Peace Officer False Name of Another Person. Dismissed. 4th Degree DWI. Dismissed. DWI - Operate Motor Vehicle - Any Amount Schedule I/II Drugs/metabolite; Not cannabis/hemp. Sentenced. Local Confinement 90 Days, Stay 0 Yr 0 Mo 0 Days Credit for time served: 66 Days. Fee $110.

–Court reports received from the Long Prairie Leader.

Staples World
Across from the old Staples Theatre marquee
moved to 207 4th St. NE
207 4th St. NE, is
open every weekday at 8 a.m.
The office closes at noon on Friday
Regular advertising and copy deadline is Friday, noon.





CFRA survey says start with building blocks

A Center For Rural Affairs (CFRA) poll compiled responses from 331 people (from 36 states) about what rural communities need to thrive and created the above poster. One of the big takeaways from the survey is that many people described the building blocks that a community needs to survive before it can consider thriving. Quotes from the responses included:

"A sense of 'we are all in this together' and everyone is welcome and has a valued place in building this community." -Tess Bailey from Grand Portage, MN

"Engaged community members; access to capital; critical mass of community assets and infrastructure." -Trenton Buhr-Roschewski from Hebron, NE

"Systems (food, education, health, social plus) that support the health and well-being of all." -Ardyth Gillepsie from Atlantic, IA

"More, decent housing to attract residents. Bring back the Block Party!" -Dena Beck from Minden, NE

"Having a sense of abundance versus scarcity. This allows neighbors to share their abundance, and subsequently, time, which builds & strengthens long term relationships." -Joseph Swizdor from Lansing, IA

Letters to the Editor

A volunteer is still a neighbor

In small communities, there are people everybody counts on. They arrive early to set up chairs, bring the extra casserole, stay late to clean, and quietly fill the gaps when someone else cannot make it.

We rightly appreciate their generosity. But it is possible to praise dependable people so often that we forget they get tired.

Someone who has spent years serving at church, school or a local event may eventually need a season of rest. Their absence is not a failure of character. They may be caring for family, facing an illness or simply worn down by responsibilities that have grown too heavy.

My Christian faith reminds me of Jesus inviting his disciples to step away and rest after their work. That is a remarkably humane invitation. Even people doing good need permission to be human.

Perhaps we can thank volunteers by making their work more sustainable. Ask who can share the load. Learn the tasks that usually fall on one person. Keep including someone who needs to say no for a while.

A community should not love its helpers only for what they provide. The person who has carried everyone else's burden still deserves friendship when they need someone to carry a little of theirs.

Douglas B. Vandergraph
Fort Collins, Colo.

Time to modernize the QRF formula for high school sports section seeding

By Mark Anderson
Publisher

For more than a decade, postseason seeding for high school sports in Minnesota has been mainly determined by a mathematical formula that needs to be improved to foster fairer playoffs.

The Minnesota State High School League (MSHSL) has adopted the QRF (quality results formula) score from the web site Minnesota-scores.net as their official section seeding metric for football, volleyball, basketball, baseball and softball, plus a few more sports we don't play here.

The web site's secret formula rates teams on the number of wins they get, the number of wins their opponents get, and the size classification of the opponents. But that is as far as it goes. It is a purely mathematical formula, there is no algorithm running through the data to determine how strong a team's wins are and it doesn't calculate close losses against good teams.

The result is that the secret to scheduling now is to play bigger schools that have a weak schedule, and your QRF number will climb. I doubt anybody does that earnestly, because teams change every year, but it does come into play every season.

The system works fine in that the best teams generally climb to the top. Higher rated teams overwhelmingly win against lower rated teams, so it seems to make sense. But there are frequent upsets in sports, and this current system can't tell between an upset and a team with a false ranking. No rating system is perfect, but some of the current imperfections could be smoothed out. I would suggest adding an emphasis on strength of schedule and less emphasis on class size.

Since adopting the QRF as the playoff seeding system, there have been a lot of complaints from teams who felt they should be rated higher because they beat a team who beat another team, or permutations of that theme. The complaints resulted in adjustments to the formula and one really dumb change in the tiebreaker system. If two teams are close and haven't played head-to-head, they go to a second tiebreaker, number of wins. Like I said, the number of wins is already enmeshed into the QRF, so they are doubling down on what they already have in their formula. That strange rule negates the minimal strength of schedule metric built into it. Just change the formula if that is what you want to prioritize.

The worst situation I have seen was when I was in southern Minnesota, back when there were still football conferences. One team in Class AA played an all nine-man schedule and went undefeated, while another team played against all bigger schools and went 0-8, with several close games. Because the QRF rewards wins more than size of school played, the team that played close games against good teams was not allowed in the playoffs, but they surely could have beaten the team who played the nine-man schedule.

That is an extreme example, but there are still issues with strength of schedule, even with the new automatic scheduling for football. With only eight games before playoffs in football, every imperfection is amplified, which is why they need to improve the system.

The MSHSL doesn't want to include point spreads in their formula, because they don't want teams running up the score for sportsmanship reasons. I agree with that, but a solution would be to give extra QRF points to the losing team in a one-score game. That would hardly change the way any game is played and could potentially improve sportsmanship by keeping teams playing through to the end.

Volleyball would be harder to score on point spread. Maybe give a team more points if they take a match to a fifth set, a metric that would have helped Staples-Motley this season. Baseball and softball could come up with their own metric.

The whole argument would be moot if they used a better way to fairly calculate strength of schedule without assuming class size has everything to do with it. There are plenty of computer programs that can do that right now, I think Minnesota-scores.net or the MSHSL should try one out. It might not change much in the standings, but it would go a long way in tempering complaints that teams still have.

Staples World

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Bookkeeping/Circulation.....Kathy Odden kodden@staplesworld.com

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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.
Printed at Quinco Press, Lowry, MN

Fairness: The Staples World tries conscientiously to report fairly and accurately. If you feel we fall short of this objective at any time, please direct your complaint to the manager whose name appears on this page.
Note to Advertisers: Advertisers should check their ad following first publication. This newspaper shall not be liable for failure to publish an ad or for the typographic error or errors in publication except to the extent of the cost of the ad for the first day's insertion. Adjustment for errors is limited to the cost of that portion of the ad wherein the error occurred. The publisher reserves the right to cancel any advertisement at any time.

Member: Minnesota Newspaper Association, MCAN Advertising

Quote of the week

"If freedom of speech is taken away, then dumb and silent we may be led, like sheep to the slaughter."
— George Washington



"Pirate Song" entertains the crowd

The Staples Area Men's Chorus (SAMC), directed by Paul Papenfuss and accompanied by Sandy Paskewitz, performed the crowd pleaser, "Pirate Song" at the Tenor-Bass Festival Oct. 24. The all-day event for male vocalists of all ages was sponsored by the SAMC and featured special workshops and performances. (Staples World photo by Dawn Timbs)



Tenor-Bass Mass Chorus

The Mass Chorus, under the direction of Dr. Michael Johnson, performed four numbers at the Tenor & Bass Choral Festival in Staples Oct. 24, including "Power, Courage, Resolve," composed by Dr. Johnson. Johnson is Director of Choral Activities and Vocal Music Education at Minnesota State Moorhead. (Staples World photo by Dawn Timbs)



'Kitty' reunion on Halloween

Rory and Evie Schultz, dressed as cats, were greeted by a cat named Nala (held by Brooke Bendson) while trick-or-treating along 6th St. NE in Staples Oct. 31. Also pictured is Kelly Bendson, Brooke's mom. (Staples World photo by Dawn Timbs)

Cardinal Calendar
SM school events

November

° Veterans Day Program Wednesday, Nov. 11, 8:45 a.m., at The Nest in Staples.

° Hometown Careers Collective Wednesday, Nov. 18, Legacy Gym, Staples.

° Shrek, The Musical Thursday, Nov. 19, 7 p.m.; Friday, Nov. 20, 7 p.m.; Saturday, Nov. 21, 2 p.m.; Sunday, Nov. 22, 5:30 p.m., Centennial Auditorium, Staples.

° Thanksgiving Break - No School Thursday, Nov. 26 and Friday, Nov. 27.

° Honor Society Induction Monday, Nov. 30, 6:30 p.m., Centennial Auditorium, Staples.

December

° Girls Basketball (H) - Staples-Motley Vs. Frazee At The Nest, Staples. Tuesday, Dec. 1. C squad/junior varsity, 6 p.m.; varsity, 7:30 p.m.

° Alumni & Friends Christmas Concert Saturday, Dec. 5, 7 p.m., Legacy Gym, Staples.

° Boys Basketball (H) - Staples-Motley Vs. Crosby-Ironton At The Nest, Staples. Tuesday, Dec. 8, 7:30 p.m., varsity.

° Girls Basketball (H) - Staples-Motley Vs. Wadena-Deer Creek At The Nest, Staples. Tuesday, Dec. 15, 4:30 p.m., junior high.

° Staples-Motley Middle School Christmas Concert (Band, Choir, Orchestra) Thursday, Dec. 17, 6 p.m., Centennial Auditorium, Staples.

° Staples-Motley High School Christmas Concert (Band, Choir, Orchestra) Monday, Dec. 21, 7 p.m., Centennial Auditorium, Staples.

° Staples-Motley Elementary School Winter Concert Tuesday, Dec. 22, 1 p.m., SM Elementary School gym.

° Girls Basketball (H) - Staples-Motley Vs. Walker/Hackensack/Akeley Tuesday, Dec. 22, 4:30 p.m., junior varsity; 5:45 p.m., varsity, high school gym.

° Boys Basketball (H) - Staples-Motley Vs. Osakis At The Nest, Staples. Tuesday, Dec. 22, 7:30 p.m., varsity.

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

Special Treats and Gifts for the holidays...
Motley UMC
Annual Bazaar & Bake SALE
Sat., Nov. 7
9 a.m. to 3 p.m.
Motley United Methodist Church
847 3rd Ave. S, Motley
Lunch Served
SHOP HOMEMADE:
*Pies *Cookies *Bars
*Muffins *Breads
*Candy *Jam *Jelly
Local Crafters
New vendors this year!
SPECIAL HANDMADE ITEMS
*White Elephant Treasures
Motley United Methodist Church, sponsor.
ssw46c


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

Mark Your Calendar

November 5

'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

November 6

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

November 8

Celebrate Recovery Group Meetings Sundays, 6 p.m., at Motley Free Methodist Church, 33 Wellwood St. E., Motley.

November 10

GriefShare - Weekly Seminar And Support Group Tuesdays, 6 - 8 p.m., at Motley Free Methodist Church, 33 Wellwood Street E., Motley. Through Dec. 15. For info., call 218-352-6888, or visit www.griefshare.org.

Experience Strength And Hope AA Group Mtgs In Staples Tuesdays, 7 - 8 p.m., at Church of Christ, 27343 490th St., Staples. For info., call Dan at 218-640-7228.


Thank you...
for your support and votes in the recent election.
--Tom Bisek
Prepared and paid for by Tom Bisek.
w44-45p

Staples World
Your Community Newspaper Since 1890



• The local newspaper is the best way to identify as a local business, and nothing else comes close.

• The Staples World is one of the best-read newspapers in the state.

• Advertising in the newspaper is a low-cost way of integrating your business into the local ecosystem.

Advertising opportunities:
• Weekly or monthly ads
• Sports pages
• Business and Professional Directory
• Church page
• Shop Local page

Special offers or events:
• Sports contratulations signature pages (For state tournament teams, athletes)
• Community pride signature pages (Memorial Day, Fourth of July, Railroad Days, CLC Field Day, Veterans Day)
• Christmas special section
• Graduation special section
• Chamber of Commerce Hometown Highlights

Advertising in the newspaper identifies you as a local business

The local newspaper is the best way to declare that you're a local business and are integrated into the fabric of the community. People who see your business advertised next to the content they read every week will naturally seek you out when they need your services. They will associate you with meeting their needs and wants.

Becoming a local business takes more than your physical address. People will recognize if you participate in the community and associate yourself with that everyday life. The local newspaper is the best way to do that and nothing else comes close.

The newspaper covers the hopes and dreams of the community, the traditions, the daily and yearly happenings, the successes, failures and changes. It artfully weaves all the features into a professional weekly journal.

The Staples World is one of the best read newspapers in the state, as revealed during school district surveys. The newspaper moves the needle for many projects, events and issues. Advertising works because people want to connect with the businesses they perceive as local.

Advertising in the local newspaper is an investment in the local community, with a return on that investment that you can't get anywhere else.

Any of these advertising opportunities will connect your business to local audiences who will think of you first when they need your services.

RMM Publications, LLC • 207 4th St. NE • P.O. Box 100 • Staples, MN 56479
218-894-1112 • editor@staplesworld.com

Donations now accepted for Staples Public Library book sale

Donations of gently used books and DVDs are now being accepted for the Friends of Staples Public Library book sale which is scheduled for Friday, Nov. 20, from 1-5 p.m. and Saturday, Nov. 21, from 9 a.m.-noon. Monetary donations for bags of books will be accepted during library hours Nov. 23-28.

Donations are accepted only during regular library hours and cannot be left in the atrium. Library hours are Monday and Wednesday from 10 a.m.-6 p.m., Tuesday and Thursday from 1-8 p.m., Friday from 1-5 p.m. and Saturday from 9 a.m.-noon

Donated hard cover and paperback books cannot have torn covers or pages, water damage, yellowed or musty pages. In addition the library cannot accept dictionaries, encyclopedias, church religion books, school text books, Readers Digest condensed books or VHS or cassette tapes. The library staff has the right to refuse any unacceptable items.

The Staples Public Library is located just north of the stoplight on Hwy. 10 in the City Hall building at 122 6th St. NE, Staples. For information call 218-894-1401 or visit griver.org/locations/staples.

Proceeds of the sale support library programming.

CELEBRATE
Mary Horsager's
90th birthday!
SATURDAY,
Nov. 21
2 - 5 p.m.
(brief program at 3)

Please join husband, Clarence and children for a birthday
~Open House~
at the Connection Centre, 23 Dayton Ave. SE, Wadena (former Methodist Church).
No gifts, please.
v46p1

Michael Sauer

Michael James Sauer, 74, of Duluth MN died October 16, 2026, as the result of a traffic accident.

A memorial service will be held Saturday, Nov. 21, at noon, at the Morgan Park Community Center, 1242 88th Ave. W, Duluth. Lunch will be provided after the service.

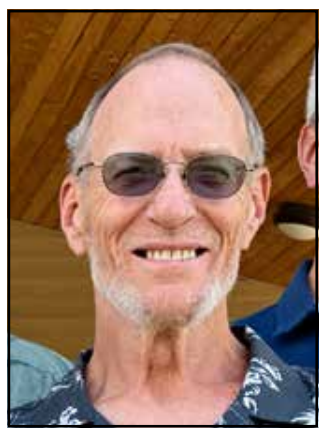
Michael was born January 17, 1952 to Lawrence and Inez (DesMarais) Sauer, the sixth of 12 children, in St. Cloud.

Mike and his family moved to Staples in 1966. He graduated from Staples High School in 1970, where he participated in football, basketball, baseball and choir. As a choir member he played "Nicely Nicely Johnson" in the school's production of "Guys and Dolls."

In 1974 he married his high school sweetheart, Diane LeVasseur. Later that year they purchased wooded property near Lake George and with the help of friends, started building a home.

He worked for Burlington Northern Railroad (later BNSF) Maintenance of Way for 40 years as a track inspector and machine operator.

Survivors include his wife, Diane; one son, Carl (Chelsea Rabey) Sauer; one daughter, Emily (Nathaniel Shotley) Sauer; two grandchildren, Ari and Isla Sauer; eight siblings, Tom (Yvonne) Sauer, Lawrence Jr. (Julie) Sauer, Charlene Sauer, Cheryl Sauer, James (Peggy) Sauer, Annette Sauer, John (Kris) Sauer and Mary Kay (Ron) Hirsch.



He was preceded in death by his parents; one sister, Kathleen Sauer; two brothers, Daniel and Francis Sauer and his in-laws, Grace and Ken LeVasseur.

In lieu of flowers consider donations to 1 Roof Community Housing of Duluth MN, 1roofhousing.org.

A00006B2026NV04p

Obituaries

Gerald Henrickson



Gerald Henrickson of Staples, went home to be with his Savior on October 23, 2026.

Funeral services will be held Friday, November 6 at 11:00 a.m. at the Verndale Alliance Church with Pastor Tony Stanley officiating. Visitation will be held Thurs., Nov. 5 from 5 to 7 p.m. at the Brenny Funeral Chapel in Staples and one hour prior to the service on Friday at the church in Verndale.

Gerald Wayne Henrickson was born July 24, 1950 to Wilmar and Margaret (Peterson) Henrickson in Minneapolis He grew up in Richfield graduating from Richfield High School, class of 1968. He attended Macalester College graduating with a degree in biology in 1972. That year, he married his kindergarten classmate and high school sweetheart, Debbie and began his medical training at the University of Minnesota Medical School. In 1977 he began his residency at Methodist Hospital. Upon finishing residency in 1980, he began practicing medicine in Staples. His career spanned 40 years with the Lakewood Health System, retiring in 2020.

Known as Dr. Henrickson, he loved his patients and enjoyed spending time getting to know each of them. He served generations of families in the Staples area, often having delivered both the parent and child in the maternity wing. He missed his patients after he retired, and was happy when he would see them out in the community. In his time at Lakewood, he also served as the president of his Physicians' Association, serving his colleagues. He valued each of them and their contributions to the health of their patients and the community. He also enjoyed seeing the growth of the provider group over his 40 years of practice, starting as only the fifth doctor and helping build the institution into the large employer and care system that so many depend upon today.

Jerry loved his family and enjoyed family activities like camping, canoeing, hiking and biking. He was an avid hunter, especially out West for elk, antelope and deer with friends and his son, Nathan. Fishing with friends and family was another favorite pastime. Most of all he loved His Lord and serving Him by caring for his beloved patients.

He is survived by Debbie, his wife of 54 years; one daughter, Cory (Peter) Van Tassel, Oakland, CA; one son, Nathan, Staples; two grandchildren, Xola and Qemina; one sister, Denise (Glenn) Gono, Mililani, Hawaii; one brother, Gregg (Margaret) Henrickson, Chaska; one brother-in-law, Wesley Budke, Terrell, TX and many nieces and nephews.

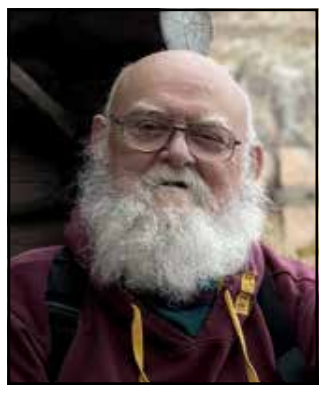
He was preceded in death by his parents; one sister, Diane and one nephew, Marc.

In lieu of flowers, donations in Jerry's memory are preferred to Samaritan's Purse and LAPS.

Arrangements are by the Brenny Family Funeral Chapel, Staples.

A00006B2026NV04c

Gregory McGillivray



Gregory Allen McGillivray, 72, of Staples, passed away October 31, 2026, in Minneapolis surrounded by his loving family.

A Mass of Christian Burial will be held Friday, November 6, 2026, at 11:00 a.m. at Sacred Heart Catholic Church in Staples. Visitation will be held one hour prior to the service at the church. Military honors will be presented following Mass, with a luncheon to follow.

Greg was born January 8, 1954, to Frank and Olga (Peterson) McGillivray in Morris.

Greg was a man who found happiness in life's simple pleasures. He enjoyed spending time outdoors, whether he was mowing the lawn, casting a fishing line, or working on a woodworking project. He had a knack for keeping busy and also enjoyed slowing down to work on puzzles. An avid John Wayne fan, Greg appreciated a good Western and could often be found cheering on his favorite teams, the Minnesota Twins and Minnesota Vikings, or watching college football.

Above all, Greg treasured the time he spent with his family, especially his grandchildren. Whether sharing stories, enjoying time together, or simply being in their company, those moments held a special place in his heart. His love for his family and the memories they created together will forever be cherished by those who knew and loved him.

Greg is survived by his loving wife, Debby; three children, Chris McGillivray, Darci (David) Odden and Travis (Ashley) McGillivray; four cherished grandchildren, Bennett, Braxton, Madelyn and Levi; one brother, Dave and his beloved companion, Sadie.

He was preceded in death by one daughter, Lacey Jo; parents and six siblings, Marlys, Marilyn, Frank Jr., Sonny, Judy and Larry.

Greg will be deeply missed by his family, friends and all who had the pleasure of knowing him. His memory will live on through the love he shared, the laughter he brought and the many special moments spent together.

Arrangements are by the Brenny Family Funeral Chapel, Staples.

A00006B2026NV04c

Staples Area Church Directory

Staples

Staples Alliance
1512 8th St. NE, Staples 218-894-2891
Pastor John Pavlica, Lead Pastor
Sunday Worship.....9:30 a.m.
Sunday School .....11:00 a.m.
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.
Sunday Worship Service.....10:30 a.m.
Children's Church (Kids start in main worship service).....11:00 a.m.
Prayer Meeting.....5:00 p.m.
WEDNESDAY
Sonlight (Kids ages 4 yrs - 6th grade .....After school to 4:30 p.m. 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 Robert Drake
Sunday Worship Service.....8:30 a.m.
Sunday School and Coffee Fellowship.....9:30 a.m.

Sacred Heart Catholic Church
310 4th St. NE, Staples
Church.....218-894-2296
parishsecretary@marysacc.org
Rev. JC Duncan, 218-632-7314
Rev. Greg Sauer, 218-632-7319
SUNDAY
Mass.....8:30 a.m.

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

Thomastown Covenant
15940 251st Ave., Staples.....218-894-3923

SUNDAY
Sunday School .....9:15 a.m.
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
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
Sunday Worship.....8:30 a.m.

Cushing

Bethany Lutheran
25430 Bison Rd., Cushing, MN
320-749-2140
www.bethanylutherancushing.com.
Pastor Robert Drake
SUNDAY
Sunday Worship.....10:00 a.m

Lincoln Evangelical Free
1354 320th St., Cushing MN 56443
218-575-2449
www.lincolnefree.org
Facebook Lincoln E Free
Senior Pastor: Don Reigstad
Office Hours: Tues.-Thurs. 9 a.m.-noon
SUNDAY
Church Worship Gathering.....10:00 a.m.
YouTube channel .....10:00 a.m.

Cushing Baptist
26298 Bear Rd., Cushing
www.cushingbaptistchurch.org
Pastor Dan Holmes
320-749-2583
SUNDAY
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, Syndically Authorized Minister of Word and Sacrament
SUNDAY
January - July..... 9 a.m.
August - December .....11:00 a.m.

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

Motley

Motley Free Methodist
33 Wellwood St. NE, Motley 56466
218-352-6141
Jim Johnson, Senior Pastor
Casey Reynolds, Assistant Pastor
SUNDAY
Sunday Worship..... 9:00 and 10:30 a.m.
facebook live.....9:00 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
Sunday School and Bible Class .....8:30 a.m.
Sunday Worship.....9:30 a.m.

St. Michael Catholic Church
280 1st Ave S, Motley
218-631-1593
Rev, JC Duncan, 218-632-7314
Rev. Greg Sauer, 218-632-7319
SUNDAY
Mass.....10:30 a.m.

United Methodist
847 3rd Ave. S. Lane, Motley
218-352-6466
Pastor Jonathan Holland
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, 218-472-3316
Pastor Neal Malcore
SUNDAY
Sunday School .....10:00 a.m.
Sunday Worship.....11:00 a.m.

Pillager

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

Casino Assembly of God
N. of Motley, Hwy. 64, E on Cty 34 to Cty. 104
218-746-3839
Pastor Dan Johnson
SUNDAY
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 S, Pillager
218-746-3768
Pastor Jake Anderson
curious@fbcpillager.com
SUNDAY
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 56453
218-924-2028
Jim and Linda McGaffey, Pastors
SUNDAY
Sunday School .....9:30 a.m
Sunday Worship.....10:45 a.m.
WEDNESDAY PRAYER .....7:00 p.m.

Trinity Lutheran Church (LCMS)
524 Front St, PO Box 116, Hewitt, MN 56453
Pastor Robin Fish
SUNDAY
Sunday Worship.....10:30 a.m.

Hewitt Community Church
Hwy. 210, Hewitt, MN 56453
Pastor Kenneth Uhren
SUNDAY
Sunday Worship.....10:30 a.m.

Verndale

Verndale Alliance
109 Brown Street NW, Verndale 56481
218-445-5619
Senior Pastor, Tony Stanley
Youth Pastor, Joe Ward
SUNDAY
Sunday Worship.....9:30 a.m.
Sunday Bible Fellowship Class .....11:00-11:45 a.m.

Hope Chapel Alliance
18126 County Road 7, Verndale 56481
218-445-5643 or 218-472-3316
Pastor Neal Malcore
SUNDAY
Sunday Worship.....9:00 a.m.
Sunday School .....10:30 a.m
WEDNESDAY.
Weds. Family Night .....5:30 p.m.

Family Life Church
402 NE Clark Drive, Verndale 56481
Pastor Amos Self 218-371-7189
Churcht.....218-445-5568
Tahna Rurup, Connections & Media Pastor
Tilman 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.....5:00 p.m.
WEDNESDAY
Life Groups.....6:30 p.m.

Hope Chapel Alliance
18126 County Road 7, Verndale 56481
218-445-5643 or 218-471-3316
Pastor Neal Malcor
SUNDAY
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 56481
Pastor Robin Fish
SUNDAY
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
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
Sunday Service .....9:30 a.m.
Bible Study .....8:00 a.m.
WEDNESDAY
Seeds of Hope.....6:00 p.m.

St. Hubert Catholic Church
Bluegrass.....218-631-1593
Rev. JC Duncan, 218-632-7314
Father Greg Sauer, 218-632-7319
parishsecretary@marysacc.org
SATURDAY
Mass.....5:00 p.m.

Wadena

St. Helen's Episcopal Church
22 Dayton Ave. SW, Wadena, MN 56482
218-631-3928
SUNDAY
Sunday Worship.....10:00 a.m.

St. Ann's Catholic Church
514 1st Street SE, Wadena, MN 56482
218-631-1593
Rev. JC Duncan, 218-632-7314
Father Greg Sauer, 218-632-7319
parish secretary@marysacc.org
SUNDAY
Mass (livestream) .....10:00 a.m.

"There is a Way That Seems Right to a Person, But..."

Pastor Barry Klein, Staples Church of Christ

We are treasured by God. We carry God's very image in us. We are deeply loved by God. Yet, in the midst of all of that, we struggle. We struggles in both our sin and imperfections. If you want to read a humbling synopsis of ourselves, read John 2:24-25.

Folks, we need to come to grips with Proverbs 14:12 (NIV) which says, "There is a way that appears to be right, but in the end it leads to death." The Message version in Proverbs 14:12-13 says, "There's a way of life that looks harmless enough; look again - it leads straight to hell. Sure, those people appear to be having a good time, but all that laughter will end in heartbreak."

There are likely hundreds of examples of this truth in life, but let's look at just nine (two are combined) illustrations of the daily reality of Proverbs 14:12. As we go through these, please know that I don't go through them without my own issues,, some even in these examples.

It "seems right" to gossip about others, but God says in Proverbs 16:28 (NIV) "A perverse man stirs up dissension, and a gossip separates close friends." Also, we hear Jesus say in Matthew 15:18 (NIV) "But the things that come out of person's mouth, come from the hearts, and these defile them."

It "seems right" to drink alcohol too much and to be a glutton (excessive eating), but God says in Proverbs 23:20-21 (NIV) "Do not join those who drink too much wine or gorge themselves with meat, for drunkards and gluttons become poor, and drowsiness clothes them in rags."

It "seems right" to lust (illicit sexual desires), but God says in Matthew 5:27-28, "You have heard that it was said, 'You shall not commit adultery.' But I tell you that anyone who looks lustfully at a woman has already committed adultery with her in his heart."

It "seems right" to enter lesbianism and homosexuality, but God says in Romans 1:25-27 (NIV) "Because of this, God gave them over to shameful lusts. Even their women exchanged natural sexual relations for unnatural ones. In the same way the men also abandoned natural relations with women and were inflamed with lust for one another. Men committed shameful acts with other men, and received in themselves the due penalty for their error."

It "seems right" to fornicate/live together outside of marriage (premarital sexual relations), but God says in I Corinthians 6:18-20 (NIV) "Flee from sexual immorality. All other sins a person commits are outside the body, but whoever sins sexually, sins against their own body. Do you not know that your bodies are the temple of the Holy Spirit, who is in you, whom you have received from God? You are not your own; you were bought at a price. Therefore, honor God with your bodies."

It "seems right" to enter adultery (sexual relations outside of the marriage bond) with another person. But God says in Exodus 20:14 (NIV) "You shall not commit adultery." (The illustration of adultery was one of God's most often used illustrations to describe the unfaithfulness of His people as they replaced Him with false gods.)

It "seems right" to bypass our regular times with God in Scripture, meditation and prayer. But God uses King David to call us back to Him when we hear in Psalm 42:1-2 (NIV) "As the deer pants for streams of water, so my soul pants for you, my God. My soul thirsts for God, for the living God. When can I go and meet with God?"

Finally, it "seems right" to think that I do not need to receive Jesus as my personal Savior and Changer of my life. But God says in Act 4:12 (NIV) "Salvation is found in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given to mankind by which we must be saved." Let's all surrender our "seems right" in order to follow God's "true right!"

wk46

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Cardinals compete at state tennis tournament


Ronnie Noska

The Staples-Motley tennis team played nine matches at the state individual tournament. Ronnie Noska lost two singles matches, Sarah Kroll and Natalie Hanson got one win in doubles while Madison and Kaylee Perius advanced to the doubles consolation finals. Staples-Motley had more players than any other team at the state individual tournament.

In her first match, Noska played Reese Foley of Visitation. She started out well, hitting two aces on her first two serves and winning that first game quickly. But in the next game, Noska pulled up with an injury and was limping the rest of the match. She continued to play but lacked mobility and consistency.

To her credit, Noska continued attacking the ball, even attacking her opponent's hard serves. She often had Foley on the run, but was unable to finish on many of the opportunities she created. Foley ended up placing 4th in the tournament.

In her second match, Noska had better accuracy with her ground strokes, but still lacked mobility and ended up losing 6-3, 6-4 to Lorilei Hartman of Red Wing, who went on to win the consolation bracket. Noska faced two medal winners at state and was more aggressive than either of them but was unable to pull out a win.

Madison and Kaylee Perius did not show any jitters in their first state match. They started rolling early, jumping out to a 5-2 lead in the first set against Alaina Miller and Lydia Anderson of Foley. With their opponents' top server trying to make it 5-4, they fell behind 0-30 but Kaylee hit a stinger down the alley for one point and then Madison hit a hard shot to the deep corner for another. They kept playing well, jumping up to stop lob shots before they came down. Eventually they won the game and their first set. In the second set, they started losing exchanges at the net where they were winning earlier and ended up down 6-2. That continued in the third set and they lost to drop to the consolation bracket.

In the first consolation match, their teamwork reemerged and they won 7-6 (7-2), 6-2 against Elise Carlson and Brynn Nagel of Litchfield. They were even better in the consolation semifinals against Ava Miller and Hannah Rugger of Waseca, winning 6-1, 6-2.

The consolation final turned into a very close match, with little to separate the two teams. The Perius sisters came close but ended up falling 6-4, 7-6 (7-4) against Jaida Fleck and Abby Kampa of Foley. Perius and Perius ended their state run with two wins and two losses.

Natalie Hanson and Sarah Kroll had a very tough matchup in the first round, against Therese Bauer and Rylee Thieren of Lake City, who went on to place second in the tournament. The Cardinals played well against this top team and won two games in the first set, one while Kroll was serving and the other when Hanson was serving. They continued slugging it out with this top team but lost the second set 6-0.

That high level experience might have helped them in the second round, where they faced Tara Beyer and Emily McGinty of Benson. They scraped out a 6-4 lead to win the first set, then went down 6-2 in the second. In a consolation game, they play a tiebreaker for the third set and the Cardinals won 11-9 to pick up a state tournament win.

Their tournament run came to an end in the consolation semifinals, where they lost 6-4, 6-1 to Jaida Fleck and Abby Kampa of Foley.


Madison and Kaylee Perius celebrate a big point.


Kaylee Perius


Madison Perius


Sarah Kroll


Sarah Kroll and Natalie Hanson enjoy playing at state tennis.

Cardinals host fast cross country section


Andrew Dobson

The Staples-Motley cross country teams ran well individually at the Section 6A meet held at The Vintage golf Course in Staples on Oct. 29.

Both the boys and girls ran good times, many of them hitting their fastest time for this traditionally tough course, but the other teams in the race also stepped up in a very competitive section.

The girls team finished in sixth place, but were not far from second place. Their average team tiem of 21:41 was less than 30 seconds from the second place team's average time, with teams 2-6 extremely close.

Elise Trif ran another great race to pace Staples-Motley and finished with her fastest time of 20:31. Anna Warner also competed hard and ran a personal best. Suhaila Mikhaeil finished her cross country career with a great finish, followed by Elizabeth Kroll and Alexis Odden, who both set personal bests.

In the boys race, the top five or six teams separated themselves, but the next six were extremely close. Staples-Motley came out on the back end of that group, placing 11th out of 17 total teams.

Individually, Andrew Dobson competed well but ended up right behind a long string of runners. Reed Leach stepped up to run his fastest time of the year and finish 47th. The other section scorers were Spencer Olsen, Jackson Odden and Alex Leach.

Girls results

Section 6A cross country

New London-Spicer 50, Wadena-Deer Creek 130, Ottertail Central 143, Brandon-Evansville 148, Staples-Motley 154, Minnewaska 183, Parkers Prairie 207, West Central Area 230, Osakis 233, Benson 272, Bertha-Hewitt 304, Morris Area/Chokio-Alberta 324, Pillager 330, Long Prairie-Grey Eagle 388, Verndale 480

15. Elise Trif 20:31, 30. Anna Warner 21:29, 35. Suhaila Mikhaeil 21:44, 39. Elizabeth Kroll 21:59, 51. Alexis Odden 22:49, 116. Cydney McGree-Schmidtbauer 31:34

Boys results

Section 6A cross country

Sauk Centre 45, Wadena-Deer Creek 49, West Central Area 111, Minnewaska 114, Benson 148, Ortonville 155, New London-Spicer 206, Morris 218, Ottertail Central 265, Osakis 266, Staples-Motley 291, Ashby-Brandon-Evansville 305, Long Prairie-Grey Eagle 355, Alexandria Community Christian 355, Pillager 403, Border West 420, Verndale 490

31. Andrew Dobson 18:16, 47. Reed Leach 19:07, 64. Spencer Olsen 19:38, 70. Jackson Odden 19:49, 90. Alex Leach 20:58, 103. Brayden Moore 22:08, 112.



Services & Employment

205 Help Wanted

Todd-Wadena Community Corrections
FULL-TIME EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY
DIRECTOR

Monday - Friday, 8:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.
Annual Salary range: $130k - $140k

The purpose of this position is to provide overall administration of Todd-Wadena Community Corrections; to ensure policy and program implementation; to supervise all staff; and to promote the successful adjustment and integration of clients into the community.

Minimum Qualifications:
- Bachelor's degree in Criminal Justice, Psychology, Social work or related field
- Experience demonstrating successful performance in progressively responsible management assignments
- Valid MN driver's license and auto insurance; reliable transportation
- Excellent communication and organizational skills as well as the ability to establish and maintain working relationships with a variety of people.

Criminal background checks are required for this position to meet Agency policy regarding criminal history and offender association. Submit to criminal history checks per Agency policy. Convictions, continuances, stays of adjudication, or other dispositions for crimes other than minor traffic offenses may disqualify individuals from the position. Must immediately report any disqualifying changes to criminal history post-employment.

Benefits: Benefits-eligible positions include: paid time off for earned sick and vacation; paid holidays; excellent insurance plans (health, dental, vision, life, and short and long-term disability); pre-tax accounts for medical, dental, vision and daycare expenses; PERA pension plan; and 457(b) retirement options.

This position is Exempt under the Fair Labor Standards Act. Some non-traditional hours including some evening/weekend hours are required at times in order to meet the needs of the position.

How to Apply:
Contact Megan Kruse, Administrative Assistant, at megan.kruse@toddcountymn.gov or Tel: 320-732-6165, for an application packet. Submit cover letter, resumé, and completed application to Megan Kruse, Administrative Assistant, Todd-Wadena Community Corrections, 221 First Avenue South, Suite 200, Long Prairie, MN 56347.
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SW 2026 changed wk #35

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NOTICE OF MORTGAGE FORECLOSURE SALE

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

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

DATE OF MORTGAGE: May 8, 2020

ORIGINAL PRINCIPAL AMOUNT OF MORTGAGE: $263,532.00

MORTGAGOR(S): Jatty D. Zondo, married woman

MORTGAGEE: Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc., as nominee for Guardian Mortgage, a division of Sunflower Bank, N.A.

DATE AND PLACE OF FILING: Recorded on May 13, 2020 as Document Number 519346 in the Office of the County Recorder of Todd County, Minnesota.

ASSIGNMENTS OF MORTGAGE: Assigned to: Guardian Mortgage, a division of Sunflower Bank, N.A. by assignment recorded on October 6, 2023 as Document Number A538428 in the Office of the County Recorder of Todd County, Minnesota.

LEGAL DESCRIPTION OF PROPERTY: The Southwest Quarter of the Southeast Quarter, except the East 33 feet thereof, in Section 4, Township 132, Range 35, Todd County, Minnesota.

STREET ADDRESS OF PROPERTY: 13134 COUNTY 24, BERTHA, MN 56437

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

THE AMOUNT CLAIMED TO BE DUE ON THE MORTGAGE ON THE DATE OF THE NOTICE: $235,754.97

TRANSACTION AGENT: Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc.

NAME OF MORTGAGE ORIGINATOR: Guardian Mortgage, a division of Sunflower Bank, N.A.

RESIDENTIAL SERVICER: Sunflower Bank, N.A.

TAX PARCEL IDENTIFICATION NUMBER: 02-0003900

TRANSACTIONAGENT'S MORTGAGE IDENTIFICATION NUMBER: 1005554-1200011864-0

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

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

DATE AND TIME OF SALE: December 10, 2026 at 10:00 AM.

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

to pay the debt then secured by said mortgage and taxes, if any actually paid by the mortgagee, on the premises and the costs and disbursements allowed by law. The time allowed by law for redemption by said mortgagor(s), their personal representatives or assigns is twelve (12) months from the date of sale.

TIME AND DATE TO VACATE PROPERTY: Unless said mortgage is reinstated or the property redeemed, or unless the time for redemption is reduced by judicial order, you must vacate the premises by 11:59 p.m. on December 10, 2027.

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

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

Dated: October 07, 2026

GUARDIAN MORTGAGE,
A DIVISION OF
SUNFLOWER BANK,
N.A.
Mortgagee

TROTT LAW, P.C.

N. Kibongni
Fondungallah, Esq.
Samuel R. Coleman, Esq.
Alexa Marsh, Esq.
Attorneys for Mortgagee
25 Dale Street North
St. Paul, MN 55102
(651) 209-9760
(23-1001-FC05)

Federal law may require reporting to the Financial Crimes Enforcement Network for certain purchases of residential property by entities or trusts. A successful third party bidder may be required to provide ownership and identifying information as a condition to completing the transfer.

THIS IS A COMMUNICATION FROM A DEBT COLLECTOR.

43-48pnc

TODD COUNTY BOARD OF ADJUSTMENT

215 First Ave. South
Long Prairie,
Minnesota 56347
320-732-4420
toddplan.zone@co.todd.mn.us

PUBLIC NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that on **Thursday, November 19, 2026 at 6:00 p.m.** the Todd County Board of Adjustment will hold a public hearing in the Commissioner's board room, 215 1st Ave South, Suite 301, Long Prairie, MN

NOTE: This meeting is again being held in-person and the public is encouraged to attend. Those who do attend in person can find parking atop the hill on the west side of the Historic Courthouse and enter through the north doors, near the American Flag and monument.

Questions? Call or email 320-732-4420 or **toddplan.zone@co.todd.mn.us.**

Agenda

•Call to Order
•Pledge of Allegiance
•Introduction of Board of Adjustment Members and process review
•Approval of agenda
•Approval of October 22, 2026, Board of Adjustments meeting minutes
•The applicant is introduced
•Staff report
•Applicant confirms if staff report accurately represents the request
•Site Visit Review
•Public comment
•Board review with applicant, staff, and public

1. Dennis Waldvogel: Section 25, Birchdale Township, Big Birch Lake

Site Address: 10736 Angler Trail, Grey Eagle, MN 56336

PID: 03-0059200

1. Request to reduce the Road Right-of-Way setback from 20' to 10' for the replacement of the garage.

2. Request to increase the allowed height for a non-conforming accessory structure from 18' to 25' for the replacement of the garage.

2. Todd County Park and Trails, Battle Point Park: Section 05, Gordon Township, Lake Osakis

Site Address: 12902 Faraway Ln, Osakis, MN 56360

PID: 10-4002900

1. Request to increase the allowed 50' sand beach blanket to 200' sand beach blanket for water-oriented property in General Development Shoreland Zoning District.

Adjournment.
Next meeting:
December 17, 2026

All persons interested are invited to attend said hearing or submit a letter to be heard on these matters. All correspondence must include name, mailing address and be received 48 hours before the date and time of the hearing.

Todd County Board of Adjustment
Russell VanDenheuvel, Chair

46pnc

NOTICE LAKE SHORE AERATION WARNING LAKE SHAMINEAU

Open water along the shore with thin ice around the edge on the West shores of Lake Shamineau. Starting November 2026 and early months of 2027. For inquiries call 218-821-1470.

45-46pnp

NOTICE OF HEARING ON 2027 STREET AND UTILITY IMPROVEMENTS

Notice is hereby given that the City Council of Motley will meet in the Council Chambers of the City Hall at 4:30 p.m. on Monday, November 9, 2026, to consider the proposed 2027 Street and Utility Improvements, composed of the making of improvements on Front Street from US Highway 10 to 300 feet east of 1st Avenue, Main Street, Beaulieu Street, Ash Street, and Cedar Street from US Highway 10 to 1st Avenue, and 1st Avenue from Ash Street to Front Street consisting of the replacement of streets, sidewalks, driveway entrances, storm drainage systems, water services, water mains, and sanitary sewer spot repairs, pursuant to Minn. Stat. § 429.011 to § 429.111. The area proposed to be assessed for such improvement is composed of the properties abutting these streets and properties directly served via these streets and utilities. The estimated cost of the improvement is $1,934,500. A reasonable estimate of the impact of the assessment and methodology used to calculate individual assessments will be available at the hearing. Such persons as desire to be heard with reference to the proposed improvement will be heard at this meeting.

Tami Brotherton, Clerk
City of Motley

45-46pnc

See **NOTICES** on page 10a

Todd County Board of Commissioners

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE TODD COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS HELD SEPT. 15, 2026

Public Comment

The Todd County Board of Commissioners met in the Commissioner's Board Room in the City of Long Prairie, MN on the 15th day of September, 2026 at 9:00 a.m. The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Byers. The meeting was opened with the Pledge of Allegiance. All Commissioners were present except Commissioner Noska.

Approval of Agenda

On motion by Becker and seconded by Neumann, the following motion was introduced and adopted by unanimous vote: To adopt the agenda as presented with addition of item 5.6 CMCOA Update.

Consent Agenda

On motion by Denny and seconded by Neumann, the following motions were introduced and adopted by unanimous vote:

To approve the Todd County Board of Commissioner's Meeting Minutes for September 1, 2026 as presented.

Accept resignation of Elizabeth Perish, seasonal worker at Todd County Transfer Station effective 8-14-2026.

Hire Laura Bunde for the Administrative Specialist position start date TBD at a pay rate of $24.41 an hour Grade 5/E Step A

To approve the hire of Jessica Scherping to fill an open Eligibility Worker position. Grade F/6, Step A, $26.36. Start date: TBD

To approve the hire of Kimberly Orozco to fill an open Eligibility Worker position. Grade F/6, Step A, $26.36. Start date: TBD

Auditor-Treasurer

On motion by Neumann and seconded by Denny, the following motion was introduced and adopted by unanimous Roll Call vote: To approve the August 2026 Auditor Warrants number (ACH) 906244 through 906325 in the amount of $660,097.74 (Manual) 1449 through 1492 in the amount of $3,002,375.98 and (Regular) 246842 through 246992 in the amount of $869,517.56 for a total of $4,531,991.28.

On motion by Becker and seconded by Denny, the following motion was introduced and adopted by unanimous Roll Call vote: To approve the Commissioner Warrants number (ACH) 404669 through 404695 in the amount of $18,658.23 and (Regular) 60069 through 60110 in the amount of $127,809.57 for a total of $146,467.80.

On motion by Denny and seconded by Becker, the following motion was introduced and adopted by unanimous Roll Call vote: To approve the Health & Human Services Commissioner Warrants number (ACH) 807836 through 807874 and (Regular) 714474 through 714510 for a total of $71,055.78.

On motion by Neumann and seconded by Becker, the following motion was introduced and adopted by unanimous Roll Call vote: To approve the Health & Human Services SSIS Warrants number (ACH) 602096 through 602111 and (Regular) 519101 through 519113 for a total amount of $64,741.64.

On motion by Denny and seconded by Becker, the following resolution was introduced and adopted by unanimous vote:

RESOLUTION FOR A PUBLIC LAND AUCTION OF TAX-FORFEITED PARCELS IN TODD COUNTY

WHEREAS: Tax-Forfeited Parcels in Todd County have been reappraised and classified as provided by M.S. § 282.01, and will be offered for sale by the Todd County Auditor/Treasurer at a public auction.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Todd County Board of Commissioners do hereby approve said land auction to be held online with bid4assets starting on Monday, October 19, 2026. The Todd County Auditor/Treasurer is hereby directed to publish a notice of the upcoming land auction as provided by law.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the terms of sale are as follows:

All properties that are sold with bid4assessts will need to follow their payment schedule, no payment plans will be offered, and full payment are due per bid4assets parameters.

A charge of $25 will be made for each State Deed issued.

A charge of $46 will be made to record the State Deed.

State Deed Tax on the amount of purchase will be collected. (0.0033 x purchase price of more than 3k or minimum of $1.65)

A $50 fee for well certificate, if applicable, will be collected.

A Tax Forfeiture Administration fee of $250 will be collected.

A three percent (3%) Assurance Fund charge will be made (as per M. S. § 284.28, Subd. 8).

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that Tax-Forfeited Parcels will be offered for sale subject to liens, existing roads, easements and leases, if any, and any special assessments canceled at forfeiture may be reassessed by the municipalities after the sale.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that all Tax-Forfeited Parcels are sold as is.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the right is reserved by Todd County, in the interest of the public, to cancel this sale at any time prior to its sale.

Central Minnesota Council On Aging

Lori Vrolson provided an update to the board regarding the Central Minnesota Council On Aging's roles, responsibilities and programs offered to senior citizens.

County Sheriff

On motion by Denny and seconded by Becker, the following motion was introduced and adopted by unanimous vote: Approve the change in the Organization Chart from two Court Security positions to Road Deputy positions.

Solid Waste

On motion by Denny and seconded by Neumann, the following motion was introduced and adopted by unanimous vote: Approve the bid by Oberg Fence in the amount of $18,388.

On motion by Neumann and seconded by Becker, the following motion was introduced and adopted by unanimous vote: Approve the bid by Two Rivers Enterprises in the amount of $10,840.

Planning & Zoning

The September 2026 Planning Commission minutes and staff report were provided for review.

On motion by Neumann and secondeded by Denny, the following motion was introduced and adopted by unanimous vote: To adopt the findings of the Planning Commission and grant the rezoning of the identified parcel from Shoreland- NE to Shoreland - NE and Commercial with no conditions.

On motion by Becker and seconded by Denny, the following motion was introduced and adopted by unanimous vote: To adopt the findings of the Planning Commission and allow the continuation of CUP-2024-015 and allow for the construction of one additional 30'x40' greenhouse structure.

On motion by Denny and seconded by Becker, the following motion was introduced and adopted by unanimous vote: To adopt the findings of the Planning Commission and grant the CUP with the following conditions:

1. Operation is restricted to wholesale production of products as identified in the application.

2. Operation shall be conducted within a permitted structure.

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

4. Storage of finished products must be located outside of the road right-of-way.

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

6. Applicant shall abide by all other applicable federal, state, and local standards.

On motion by Denny and seconded by Neumann, the following motion was introduced and adopted by unanimous vote: To adopt the findings of the Planning Commission and grant the CUP with the following conditions:

1. Site is limited to the construction of a single structure as proposed in the application. Additional storage structures shall require the review of the Planning Commission.

2. New accesses from the public roadway shall be approved by the road authority prior to installation.

3. Vegetative screening shall always be maintained to provide sufficient screening to Turtle Lake.

4. Applicant shall abide by all other applicable federal, state, and local standards.

On motion by Becker and seconded by Neumann, the following motion was introduced and adopted by unanimous vote: To adopt the findings of the Planning Commission and grant the CUP with the following condition.

1. Applicant shall abide by Section 9.17 of the Todd County Planning and Zoning Ordinance.

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

Resolution to Amend Section 9.04-Prohibited Structures of the Todd County Planning and Zoning Ordinance

WHEREAS, on July 7, 2026, the Todd County Board of Commissioners discussed an amendment to Section 9.04 of the Planning and Zoning Ordinance and recommended the Planning Commission review this section;

WHEREAS, on August 6 and September 3, 2026, the Todd County Planning Commission held a public hearing and reviewed an amendment to Section 9.04;

WHEREAS, following a full review and discussion by the Planning Commission, a recommendation was made to adopt an amendment to Section 9.04;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, at the Todd County Board of Commissioners now has adopted an amendment to Section 9.04 which shall take effect on September 15, 2026.

Health & Human Services

On motion by Becker and seconded by Denny, the following resolution was introduced and adopted by unanimous vote:

A RESOLUTION ESTABLISHING SUPPORT FOR ARROWS FAMILY SERVICES

WHEREAS, Arrows Family Services is a charitable 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization providing services to the residents of Todd County, and;

WHEREAS, Arrows Family Services is seeking funding through Sourcewell's Impact Funding to develop and operate a Mobile Community Resource Center designed to bring information, resources, referrals and community-based services directly to communities within Todd County, and;

WHEREAS, a mobile Community Resource Center can increase access to resources and supports, therefore removing potential barriers and to improve overall community functioning, and;

WHEREAS, Sourcewell's Impact Funding requires eligible projects to be a collaborative effort between a non-profit organization and a local unit of government, and;

WHEREAS, Todd County recognizes the value of collaboration among local government and community partners to improve access to services to enhance the quality of life for the residents of Todd County, and;

WHEREAS, Todd County will collaborate with Arrows Family Services by helping to identify communities and populations to serve, coordinate referrals to Arrows Family Services, and provide information for, or participate in, mobile-site events;

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Todd County Board of Commissioners hereby expresses its formal support for Arrows Family Services to apply for Sourcewell Impact Funds for the development and operation of a mobile Community Resource Center to serve and support the residents of Todd County.

Administration

Discussion was held regarding potentially changing the terms of the current Lease of the Todd County Expo Building with Long Prairie Hockey Association.

Commissioner Becker made a motion to continue the LPHA Lease Agreement as-is with two percent (2%) annual rent increase which was later rescinded.

The current Lease of the Todd County Expo Building with Long Prairie Hockey Association remains as originally signed and valid through March 31, 2027.

On motion by Denny and seconded by Becker, the following motion was introduced and adopted by unanimous vote: Adopt the tentative agreement with Teamsters-Sheriff's Supervisors.

Finance Committee

On motion by Neumann and seconded by Becker, the following resolution was introduced and adopted by unanimous vote:

DISCONTINUE ANNUAL FUNDING TO THE NEW LONG PRAIRIE SHOP SAVINGS ACCOUNT

WHEREAS, on July 1, 2014, the Todd County Board of Commissioners approved a resolution that created a dedicated savings account for the sole purpose of the construction of a new Long Prairie Public Works Shop with annual deposits funded at no less than a minimum of $200,000 annually until the construction of the new Long Prairie Shop is completed, and;

WHEREAS, the Todd County Board of Commissioners adopted funding reductions for FY2015 via BA #20141202-11, FY2016 via BA #20151103-18 and FY2018 via BA #20170919-04 which reduced the annual funding for the Long Prairie Shop Savings Account for these years, and;

WHEREAS, on September 19, 2017, the Todd County Board of Commissioners adopted a restructuring of the funding plan for the future construction of a new Public Works Long Prairie Shop to include the resolve that future annual deposits be sourced from and remain within Fund 01-General Revenue at no less than a minimum of $219,000 annually until the construction of the new Long Prairie Public Works Shop is completed or other direction is passed by the County Board, and;

WHEREAS, during the preparation of the County's Fiscal Year 2024, 2025 and 2026 Budgets its was approved a reduction of the required annual savings deposit to $0 would be in the best interest of the county, and;

WHEREAS, during the preparation of the County's Fiscal Year 2027 Budget it was determined that reduction of the required annual savings deposit to $0 and discontinuing this annual commitment would be in the best interest of the county to reduce the overall financial impact to the County's local levy.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Todd County Board of Commissioners does hereby reduce the required annual $219,000 deposit to the New Long Prairie Shop Savings Account to $0 for Fiscal Year 2027 and discontinue this annual deposit indefinitely or until the Todd County Board of Commissioners passes a resolution for providing other direction.

On motion by Denny and seconded by Becker, the following resolution was introduced and adopted by unanimous vote:

A RESOLUTION ADOPTING THE 2027 PRELIMINARY LEVY

WHEREAS, the Laws of the State of Minnesota direct that the Todd County Board of Commissioners are required to approve by resolution a preliminary levy no later than September 30 annually, and;

WHEREAS, The Todd County Board of Commissioners have considered the financial situation of the County and had an opportunity to deliberate the levying of property taxes upon property owners within the County.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Todd County Board of Commissioners approve the 2027 Preliminary Levy for Todd County, for property taxes payable in 2027 per table below, with the authority to reduce this levy before the final levy deadline of December 28, 2026.

Certified Levy Program Aid
Local Levy

General Revenue: 14,576,001.00, 1,945,705.00, 12,630,296.00

Road & Bridge: 2,425,720.00, 2,425,720.00

Human Services: 4,717,014.00 4,717,014.00

Public Health: 441,851.00, 441,851.00

Comp Water: 5,360.00, 5,360.00

Regional Library: 369,108.00, 369,108.00

Bonded Indebtedness: 379,385.00, 379,385.00

County Fair: 25,000.00 , 25,000.00

Parks & Trails 25,000.00 25,000.00

Total: 22,964,439.00, 1,945,705.00, 21,018,734.00

On motion by Becker and seconded by Neumann, the following motion was introduced and adopted by unanimous vote: To set the Truth in Taxation Hearing for Monday, November 30, 2026 to begin at 6:00 p.m. in the Todd County Commissioner's Boardroom.

Closed Session

On motion by Denny and seconded by Becker, the following motion was introduced and adopted by unanimous vote: To enter into closed session pursuant to MN Statute 13D.05, Subdivision 3, at 10:58 a.m.

On motion by Becker and seconded by Neumann, the following motion was introduced and adopted by unanimous vote: To reopen the session at 11:16 a.m.

County Auditor-Treasurer's Report

The County Auditor-Treasurer reported that absentee voting for the State General Election opens Friday, September 18; any interested persons can reach out to the office or utilize the mnvotes.gov website for more information.

County Coordinator's Report

The County Coordinator reported attending meetings including Policies, Emergency Management, County Attorney, PZ, AMC, Park Board, Solid Waste, Insurance, and TWCC.

County Commissioner's Report

The Commissioners reported on meetings and events attended.

Commissioner Denny attended meetings including Personnel, Dept Head, SWCD, Solid Waste, and Finance.

Commissioner Becker attended meetings including Policies, Rainbow Rider and TWCC.

Commissioner Byers attended meetings including Dept Head, Rep Fischbach Visit, TCDC and TWCC.

Commissioner Neumann attended meetings including Sauk River 1W1P, CMCOA, Park Board, Solid Waste and Rainbow Rider.

Adjourn

On motion by Becker and seconded by Denny, the meeting was adjourned for the month of September 2026.

AUDITOR WARRANTS

VENDOR NAME	$ AMOUNT
ELECTION SYSTEMS & SOFTWARE INC	$2,415.25
GOVERNMENTJOBS.COM, INC	5,781.13
HAZARD CONSULTANTS INC	3,681.20
PRAIRIE LAKES MUNICIPAL SOLID WASTE AUTH	98,136.20
SCHOMMER/MICHAEL	2,788.49
SEACHANGE PRINT INNOVATIONS	10,317.88
WEST CENTRAL REG JUVENILE CTR	6,554.00
20 PAYMENTS LESS THAN $2,000	6,734.93
CENTRA CARE	13,350.31
CENTRAL APPLICATORS INC	7,947.22
CHARM-TEX	4,859.90
CITY OF LONG	

See **TCC** on page 10a

Public Notices

NOTICE
TODD COUNTY
Important Property Tax Homestead Notice

This will affect your 2027 property taxes and eligibility for Property Tax Refund.

Have you purchased or moved into a property in the last year?

Contact your county assessor to file a homestead application if you or a qualifying relative occupy the property as a homestead on or before December 31, 2026.

What is a qualifying relative?

For occupied agricultural or residential property a qualifying relative a parent, child, grandparent, grandchild, sibling, uncle, aunt, nephew, or niece. This relationship may be by blood or marriage.

When do I apply?

You must apply on or before December 31, 2026.

Once homestead is granted, annual applications are not necessary unless they are requested by the county assessor.

Contact the assessor by December 31, 2026, if the use of the property you own or occupy as a qualifying relative has changed during the past year.

If you sell, move, or for any reason no longer qualify for the homestead classification, you are required to notify the county assessor within 30 days of the change in homestead status..

Todd County Assessor's Office
215 1st Avenue South,
Suite 202
Long Prairie, MN 56347
320-732-4431

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NOTICE
NOTICE OF SPECIAL SCHOOL BOARD MEETING ISD #2170 CANVASSING

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that a special meeting of the Staples-Motley School Board is scheduled for Tuesday, November 10, 2026 at 7:45 a.m. at the ISD #2170 District Office, 905 4th St NE, Staples, MN 56479.

This meeting is to canvass the results of the school board election held in conjunction with the general election..

46pnc

STATE OF MINNESOTA
COUNTY OF TODD
DISTRICT COURT
SEVENTH JUDICIAL DISTRICT
PROBATE DIVISION
Court File No.
77-PR-26-1049

In Re: Estate of Daniel C. Owen Sr. (a/k/a Daniel Owen) Decedent

NOTICE OF AND ORDER FOR HEARING ON PETITION FOR FORMAL ADJUDICATION OF INTESTACY, DETERMINATION OF HEIRS, FORMAL APPOINTMENT OF PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE AND NOTICE TO CREDITORS

It is Ordered and Notice is given that on November 30th, 2026 at 11:14 a.m., a non-appearance hearing will be held in this Court at 221 First Avenue S., Long Prairie, Minnesota, on a petition for the adjudication of intestacy and determination of Decedent's heirs, and for the appointment of Donald Brusewitz, whose address is 27212 124th Street, Staples, MN 56479, as personal representative of the Decedent's estate in an unsupervised administration.

Any objections to the petition must be raised at the hearing or filed with the Court prior to the hearing. Any objections filed will result in an appearance hearing to be set at a future date. If the petition is proper and no objections are filed or raised, the personal representative will be appointed with the full power to administer the Decedent's estate, including the power to collect all assets; to pay all legal debts, claims, taxes, and expenses; to sell real and personal property; and to do all necessary acts for the Decedent's estate.

Notice is further given that, subject to Minn. Stat § 524.3-801, all creditors having claims against the Decedent's estate are required to present the claims to the personal representative or to the Court within four (4) months after the date of this notice or the claims will be barred.

BY THE COURT

Dated: October 19, 2026

Heidi Hovis,
Judge of Distric Court

SKOOG LAW
Grant K. Skoog
MN #0403246
24 Colfax Ave. SW
PO Box 623
Wadena, MN 56482
Telephone: (218) 631-1228
E-mail: Grant@Skooglaw.com
ATTORNEY FOR PETITIONER

45-46pnc

Todd County Commissioners Minutes

TCC continued from page 9a

PRAIRIE	104,934.14
COUNTIES PROVIDING TECHNOLOGY	8,235.00
FLEET SERVICES/WEX BANK	11,904.88
MN DEPT OF FINANCE	9,419.50
PACIFIC LIFE INSURANCE CO	2,325.00
POPE DOUGLAS SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT	27,555.04
VERIZON	6,863.86
VOYANT COMMUNICATIONS, LLC	3,278.60
WORMS LUMBER & READY-MIX INC	4,188.00
34 PAYMENTS LESS THAN $2,000	19,716.06
BRAUN INTERTEC CORPORATION INC	3,700.00
CENTRAL APPLICATORS INC	14,908.32
CITY OF STAPLES	250,910.52
FRANKLIN OUTDOOR ADVERTISING CO	5,395.00
GALLAGHER BENEFIT SERVICES INC	2,000.00
HOST CONSTRUCTION CO LLC	2,917.50
HOST/RON AND STACY	15,285.19
KEYL KXDL HOTROD RADIO	2,415.00
KUNKEL/MARK AND GWEN	21,879.00
LANDWEHR CONSTRUCTION INC	110,189.31
LONG PRAIRIE OIL CO	5,637.71
LUTZ/EZRA	5,850.00
MADDEN GALANTER HANSEN, LLP	11,230.75
MINNESOTA POWER	20,603.85
PETERS/MARC AND SHARON	16,245.00
RAHN'S OIL & PROPANE	31,173.21
THIESCHAFER/JUSTIN AND SARA	15,750.00
39 PAYMENTS LESS THAN $2,000	18,508.83
AFSCME COUNCIL 65	4,764.44
CENTURY TRAFFIC, LLC	136,744.23
D & D AUTO REPAIR	2,190.71
DOUCETTE'S LANDSCAPING & CONTRACTING	10,650.00
DS SOLUTIONS, INC	2,620.00
GRIFF'S PIZZA	2,221.72
JERRY'S AUTO BODY	2,251.71
LAW ENFORCEMENT LABOR SERV INC	2,387.82
LIBERTY TIRE SERVICES LLC	4,612.20
LINCOLN FINANCIAL GROUP	7,245.82
METROPOLITAN LIFE INSURANCE CO	14,691.16
MINNESOTA ENERGY RESOURCES CORP	23,304.79
MN TEAMSTERS NO 320	2,991.24
MOTOROLA	2,973.06
NORTHSTAR PLUMBING, HEATING, & AIR LLC	2,770.04
PACIFIC LIFE INSURANCE CO	2,325.00
PETERS LAW OFFICE, P.A.	9,621.25
QUALITY AUTO BODY & GLASS LLC	16,510.58
SHI CORP	73,375.45
STEP	13,253.75
WATERGUARDS LLC	14,023.50
30 PAYMENTS LESS THAN $2,000	14,706.42
ARNZEN CONSTRUCTION INC	58,843.97
DECISION POINTS AUTHORS LLC	3,000.00
GOODWIN/EILEEN AND STEVE	94,272.12
L&K RENTALS LLC	5,000.00
LONG PRAIRIE OIL CO	19,144.78
MOTOROLA	2,973.06
SCHOOL DISTRICT 213	7,368.82
SCHOOL DISTRICT 2170	4,404.23
SCHOOL DISTRICT 2753	4,498.79
SCHOOL DISTRICT 787	11,675.02
TOWN OF BIRCHDALE	3,110.32
TOWN OF GORDON	3,724.41
TOWN OF WARD	2,862.14
TOWN OF WEST UNION	2,637.94
WEX BANK-SINCLAIR	2,400.98
38 PAYMENTS LESS THAN $2,000	21,878.05
BETTER HEALTH COLLECTIVE	30,160.00
PAYCOM PAYROLL, LLC	40,027.88
PAYCOM PAYROLL, LLC	3,467.11
PUBLIC EMPLOYEE RETIREMENT	6,310.75
WEX HEALTH INC - HSA	4,268.70
CASEY'S BUSINESS CARD	3,733.84
PUBLIC EMPLOYEE RETIREMENT	165,820.63
WEX HEALTH INC - HSA	41,597.25
VOYA (MSRS)	7,316.48
COUNTY OF TODD	2,694.96
BETTER HEALTH COLLECTIVE	327,450.00
PAYCOM PAYROLL, LLC	795,387.57
MN DEPT OF REVENUE	109,488.90
US BANK-CC	9,186.44
PAYCOM PAYROLL, LLC	3,467.10
PAYCOM PAYROLL, LLC	40,237.17
PUBLIC EMPLOYEE RETIREMENT	6,193.45
COUNTY OF TODD	2,532.46
WEX HEALTH INC - HSA	16,737.30
VOYA (MSRS)	16,488.73
HUMANA INSURANCE COMPANY	7,855.25
MN DEPT OF REVENUE	4,681.00
PUBLIC EMPLOYEE RETIREMENT	101,187.44
PAYCOM PAYROLL, LLC	608,246.55
PAYCOM PAYROLL, LLC	3,467.11
PAYCOM PAYROLL, LLC	39,285.03
PAYCOM PAYROLL, LLC	588,128.62
17 PAYMENTS LESS THAN $2,000	16,958.26
TOTAL	**$4,531,991.28**

COMMISSIONERS WARRANTS

VENDOR NAME	$ AMOUNT
CENTRAL APPLICATORS INC	11,379.28
CROSBY AND SONS CONSTRUCTION	38,373.12
FARM-RITE EQUIPMENT, INC	30,218.02
GALLS LLC	3,784.26
JENKINS IRON & STEEL INC	3,400.00
JERRY'S AUTO BODY	7,388.99
LONG PRAIRIE LEADER	3,455.00
LONG PRAIRIE OIL COMPANY	3,346.10
NORTHERN STAR COOP	2,609.52
SHI CORP	8,226.90
SUMMIT COMPANIES	9,661.50
VILLARD IMPLEMENT COMPANY	2,703.43
57 PAYMENTS LESS THAN $2,000	21,921.68
Total:	**$146,467.80**

HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES WARRANTS

VENDOR NAME	$ AMOUNT
RURAL MN CEP INC	11,430.25
TODD COUNTY AUDITOR TREASURER	15,096.10
USPS-POC	4,774.81
61 PAYMENTS LESS THAN $2,000	29,487.69
TRAFERA LLC	2,848.00
11 PAYMENTS LESS THAN $2,000	7,418.93
Total:	**$71,055.78**

VENDOR NAME	$ AMOUNT
CENTRACARE - ST CLOUD AUTO OWNERS INSURANCE	2,000.00
V #18360	3,113.99
V #18340	5,311.83
LITTLE SAND GROUP HOME	12,398.14
PORT GROUP HOMES	9,979.68
PRESBYTERIAN FAMILY FOUNDATION INC	12,249.39
STEP	6,416.24
22 PAYMENTS LESS THAN $2,000	13,272.37
Total:	**$64,741.64**

On a motion by Denny and seconded by Neumann, the preceding minutes of the County Board meeting held September 15, 2026 were duly approved by unanimous vote at the Todd County Board of Commissioners at the Regular Board Meeting held on October 6, 2026.

Witness my hand and seal:
/s/ on file: Bob Byers,
County Board Chairperson
/s/ on file: Denise Gaida,
Todd County Auditor-Treasurer

46pnc

With 57 measles cases, Todd County leads highest state total in 36 years

Minnesota Department of Health

The Minnesota Department of Health (MDH) reported that the number of measles cases in Minnesota for 2026 has reached a total of 80 cases - the most the state has seen in a single year since 1990. Health officials are stressing that now is the time for people to check their vaccination status and make sure they are up to date.

All but two of the 2026 cases have been among people who had not received two doses of the measles, mumps and rubella (MMR) vaccine and most of them, 71 percent (%) have been children (under 18 years old).

"The measles, mumps and rubella vaccine is well-tested, highly effective and provides long-lasting protection," said Minnesota Commissioner of Health Dr. Brooke Cunningham. "We strongly advise anyone who is recommended to receive the MMR vaccine and has not been vaccinated to contact their healthcare provider and get vaccinated now."

While most people who get measles recover, the disease can cause lifelong complications or even death. With more than 4,500 measles cases reported in the U.S. so far this year, it's now more important than ever to get vaccinated to prevent these serious risks.

Over the past year, MDH has identified several clusters of measles cases stemming from people who traveled within the United States. Currently, there's an historic amount of measles circulating in the U.S. and health officials expect Minnesota to see more cases in the coming weeks and months. Measles is extremely contagious and a single introduction into a community with low vaccination coverage can quickly lead to outbreaks.

Vaccination rates dropped during the COVID-19 pandemic and have not rebounded to prior levels. This leaves many people, especially children, vulnerable. Vaccination protects you and your family and helps protect those who can't get vaccinated because they are too young, are pregnant, or have certain medical conditions.

MDH encourages people to check their immunization records to confirm that they and their children have received the MMR vaccine. Anyone who has questions about the MMR vaccine is encouraged to talk to their healthcare provider. For those who want to get vaccinated, contact your regular healthcare provider. If you do not have a regular provider, other options include local health departments or community health boards, pharmacies or retail locations.

As of Oct. 29, Minnesota has identified 80 cases of measles in the state. Case counts by county from the start of the yearinclude: Anoka 6, Dakota 1, Fillmore 6, Hennepin 4, Polk 2, Todd 57, Scott 1, Wright 3.

New statewide education standards resets testing

Mark Anderson, Publisher

At the Oct. 19 Staples-Motley School Board meeting, school Curriculum and Assessment Coordinator Jennifer Pantzke told the board that new state standards means they will be unable to compare new test scores to other years.

"There are more rigorous English standards, more emphasis on analysis and higher order thinking," Pantzke said about new state education standards. "The MCA (Minnesota Comprehensive Assessments) is more rigorous, it can't be evaluated according to prior years, it is not the same."

The school is still testing every student and evaluating their education on a personal basis, classroom basis, plus regional and statewide basis.

Pantzke said 43 staff have completed training in the science of reading, with 17 more to finish by the end of the school year. This training focuses on phonemic awareness in students, how they are able to segment and blend words together with sounds. Starting with kindergarten, Staples-Motley students will now have four years of structured literacy training.

Compared to 27 schools in the region, Pantzke said Staples-Motley is seeing good educational growth and are in the top half of area districts for growth, according to data compiled by Sourcewell.

Staples-Motley schools are slipping in regular student attendance, falling behind the state average for the first time in four years. At the same time, school graduation rates continue to be well above the state average and above most other schools in the region.

Other new statistics show Staples-Motley has the second highest homeless rate for students in the region. High School Principal Debbie Ferdon said the school does a good job of tracking and reporting the issue, which could be one reason they have higher numbers. She said the school fosters a lot of communication between social workers and staff to identify needs for specific students who may need more support.

Superintendent Shane Tappe said the school has a district homeless liasion who works with local students who are identified as homeless, which could mean they are staying at a friend's house, or going from couch to couch on different nights.



Perfect day for 'Treats in the Streets'



The sun was shining and temps were in the 50s Oct. 30, a perfect day for all who participated in 'Treats in the Streets' in Staples. The event, sponsored by Staples Area Chamber of Commerce, was held after school that day from 3:30 - 5:30 p.m. (Staples World photo by Dawn Timbs)

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

Keep public notices in newspapers!



Eyes on the end zone

Cayden Neisen looks towards the goal line while running for a score against Osakis. (Staples World photos by Mark Anderson)

Cardinals win football playoff opener, fall in second round

The Staples-Motley football team were unstoppable in their opening Section 6AA playoff game, a 51-22 win at Menahga on Oct. 27. They kept that momentum going in the first half of the section semifinal at Osakis on Oct. 31, taking a 17-14 lead into halftime, but they were unable to score in the second half, falling 30-17.

Staples-Motley 51, Menahga 22

The Cardinals kept driving the ball and never punted in this game. After getting a 14-0 lead, they never trailed, although Menahga cut it to within one score a couple of times.

The game opened with Cayden Neisen and Beau Carlson running for first downs. Tristan Moore finished the drive with a 13 yard touchdown run. Neisen kicked the extra point for a 7-0 lead.

Menahga started driving, but Carlson made a tackle on fourth down to get the ball back.

Driving again, Cooper Tappe broke off a 37 yard touchdown run for a 14-0 lead.

Menahga drove down to make the score 14-8. They recovered their own onside kick and had a chance to take the lead, but Ryder Thompson stopped them on fourth down when they tried to do a reverse.

Staples-Motley drove again with the two running backs making big gains and a pass from Tappe to Moore. Neisen scored to make the score 21-8.

Menahga drove again and scored on a long pass. Adrian Caldwell made a tackle on the extra point try to keep the score at 21-14.

Late in the half, the Cardinals got down to the 10 yard line and Neisen kicked a field goal to make the score 24-14 at halftime.

In the second half, Moore made a tackle to set up a fourth down, then Owen Roline knocked down a pass for a turnover on downs.

The Cardinals capitalized with Neisen scoring another touchdown on a 20 yard run, taking a 31-14 lead.

Menahga drove down again but Tappe intercepted a pass at the 10 yard line and ran it out to the 35. A big run by Carlson led and a pass to Evan Schultz led to another touchdown, a short run by Carlson.

With a 38-14 lead, the Cardinals were in control and forced a punt right away. A short pass to Neisen turned into a 53 yard touchdown and a 45-14 lead.

Neisen made an interception on the next Menahga drive, setting up a one play drive, a 51 yard touchdown run by Carlson, raising the score to 51-14 with six minutes left in the game.

Menahga drove in for a touchodown and recovered another onside kick. Neisen ended the game with another interception.

Staples-Motley 17, Osakis 30

Staples-Motley got the ball first and mixed up running and passing to go down the field. Tappe hit Neisen, Schultz and John Schotzko to get down to the five yard line. A penalty set the Cardinals back and Neisen kicked a field goal to take a 3-0 lead.

The Cardinal defense made some big plays with Moore stopping running backs in the gap, but they let one long run get down to the six yard line and Osakis scored on a pass, making the score 3-6.

Moore caught a pass and Carlson made yardage with power runs up the middle. On third and long, Tappe set up a screen pass to Neisen and he took it 33 yards for a touchdown and a 10-3 lead.

The defense came close to several stops again but Osakis kept finding a way to get a first down. On a 4th and 10 play, they scored on a passing touchdown and Staples-Motleyw as down 10-17 again.

The Cardinals ran out most of the final five minutes with Neisen and Carlson running for first downs. Tappe also had several quarterback draws and bootlegs in this game to gain valuable yardage. With a minute left in the half, Tappe hit Schotzko for a touchdown pass and they took a 17-14 lead into halftime.

Things were looking good again in the second half when the Cardinals forced a punt on the first drive. Tappe made another incredible run, picking up 15 yards on a 3rd and 15 play. But a penalty forced them to pass and Osakis made an interception.

That resulted in good field position and a passing touchdown for Osakis, making the score 17-22.

The Cardinals drove again but were stopped on a 4th and three play.

Staples-Motley had another chance after Ayden Blue made a tackle for loss and Tappe broke up a pass to force a punt.

Another misfortune hurt the team when Osakis punched out a ball and recovered it for a fumble. They had a short drive for a touchdown to make the score 17-30.

Staples-Motley were stoped on another fourth down try with five minutes left, and Osakis was able to run out the clock the rest of the way.

Vollyball loss in playoffs

The Staples-Motley volleyball team lost 3-0 in the first round of the playoffs, traveling to Sauk Centre to face the third seed in the Section 6AA tournament.

Lucy Maros stepped up as the main setter for the Cardinals, recording 16 set assists. Hannah Cole was the top hitter with six kills to go with two blocks and four digs.

Team results

Staples-Motley 0, Sauk Centre 3

16-25, 11-25, 16-25

Lucy Maros 16 assists, 3 digs

Katelyn Schotzko 1 ace, 3 assists, 2 digs

Chloe Trantina 14 digs

Kylee Chenoweth 1 ace, 6 digs

Clara Maros 3 kills

Hannah Cole 6 kills, 2 blocks, 4 digs

Addison Potter 2 kills, 1 block

Jasmyne Hove 2 kills

Kyleena Rudlang 3 kills, 1 dig

Jocy Lenk 1 dig



The offensive line gives Cooper Tappe time to throw.



Adrian Caldwell and John Schotzko stop a running back for no gain.



Beau Carlson tiptoes the sideline after getting around the defense.



John Schotzko comes down after catching a pass in the end zone.



Natalie Hanson at the state tennis tournament.



Suhaila Mikhaeil attacks the final hill at the section cross country meet.



Tristan Moore tackles a running back.



Treats from "Little Italy"

Colleen and Adam Frost, owners of Batcher Block Opera House, handed out candy from their newly constructed "Traveler's Rest" tiny house located in "Little Italy," Batcher Block's outdoor park in Staples. From left, Colleen Frost, Melissa Yungbauer and son Asher of Wadena; and Adam Frost. (Staples World photo by Dawn Timbs)



No time for pizza

Zander Kane-Hinkemeyer, left, of Aldrich, spoke with Eric Neznik outside Tower Pizza during the Treats in the Streets event. Neznik, along with several other downtown business owners, handed out candy to the many children who participated in the Oct. 30 event. Zander was focused on collecting candy that day, so pizza would have to wait. (Staples World photo by Dawn Timbs)

MOREY continued from page 1a

International experience includes 17 countries, experiencing Cuban missle crisis

His job was far more than simply predicting whether sailors should pack an umbrella. He collected and analyzed atmospheric and oceanographic data, forecasting weather patterns critical for naval operations, aviation missions, and sea navigation. In short, when the Navy wanted to know what the sky and sea were about to do, Loren was one of the people they trusted to figure it out.

And the job took him places.

During his naval service, Loren's ship traveled to at least 17 different countries. Not bad for a young man from Motley. One day you're looking at farm fields and the next you're forecasting winds somewhere halfway around the planet. That's the Navy for you: the world's most ambitious travel agency, except the dress code includes a uniform and the itinerary occasionally involves geopolitical tension.

Speaking of tension, Loren served during the height of the Cuban Missile Crisis era. Following the Cuban blockade, he was temporarily assigned to the naval base at Guantanamo Bay as a weatherman. It was a serious moment in history when the world stood uncomfortably close to catastrophe.

By March of 1963, Loren completed his service and was honorably discharged as an AG Second Class. Not long afterward, Cuban leader Fidel Castro shut off the water supply to the Guantanamo base after the United States refused to return it to Cuban control. Which proves an old truth about international diplomacy: sometimes even global politics can start to resemble a neighborhood dispute over who left the hose running.

With his naval duty complete, Loren returned home, married Kathy, and resumed his education at Hamline College. He earned



USS Providence

During his naval service, Loren Morey of Motley was assigned to the USS Providence, a ship that traveled to at least 17 different countries. (Submitted photo)

a Bachelor's degree in Economics and soon joined the family business - the Morey fish plant in Motley, founded by his father in 1937.

From that point forward, Loren traded the forecasting of storms for the steady work of building a business. But make no mistake: the discipline learned in the Navy never left him.

Father and son worked side by side seven days a week, often 12 to 14 hours a day. That schedule would make most people cry uncle by Wednesday afternoon. For Loren and his father, it was simply called "getting the job done."

The company eventually grew into a major force in seafood production. In 1979, the same year Loren retired from the original company, the business was sold to Minneapolis-based International Multifoods. Loren's father, Ed Morey, passed away in 1987, but his legacy - and Loren's work - continued.

Loren helped expand the operation and pushed for the construction of a large surimi imitation crab plant in Motley. That facility eventually produced nearly 80 percent of the imitation crab meat in the United States.

Which means that somewhere, in countless seafood salads and California rolls across America, there's a small culinary reminder of the work Loren helped build. Not many people can say they served their country and improved the nation's seafood supply. That's what you call multitasking.

Even while managing business responsibilities, Loren remained deeply involved in his community. He served as a volunteer firefighter and as a member of the Lakewood Health System board. Apparently, when Loren saw a problem, his instinct wasn't to walk away - it was to roll up his sleeves and help fix it.

He continued working until 2015, before finally retiring. And by that point, "retirement" probably just meant he had slightly fewer places to be before breakfast.

Looking back, Loren Morey's life tells a powerful story about service in its many forms. He served his country in uniform during a tense moment in world history. He served his family through years of tireless work. And he served his community through civic involvement and leadership.

Not everyone storms beaches or commands fleets. Sometimes service looks like forecasting storms for the sailors who do. Sometimes it looks like building a business that supports families for generations. And sometimes it looks like quietly doing the right thing day after day for decades.

In a world that often celebrates noise, Loren Morey represents something better: steady character.

And if you ask the Navy - or the town of Motley - they'll tell you the same thing.

That kind of service deserves recognition. And perhaps a good weather forecast, too. Because if Loren Morey predicted sunshine, you could pretty well bet on leaving the umbrella at home.

HOMETOWN HIGHLIGHTS
HIGHLIGHTING CHAMBER MEMBER BUSINESSES
Staples AREA CHAMBER

Hometown Highlights is a collaborative feature brought to you by the Staples Area Chamber of Commerce and the Staples World, dedicated to showcasing the businesses, people, and organizations that make our community thrive. Through this ongoing series, we celebrate Chamber member businesses, share their stories, highlight their impact, and help residents connect with the local entrepreneurs who invest in our hometown every day.

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Hometown Highlights: Orton's Circle K—"More Than a Convenience Store. Part of Your Community."

A hot cup of coffee, a freshly prepared meal, and a friendly face can make a difference in someone's day. At Orton's Circle K in Staples, those everyday moments are at the heart of what the team does. It's about neighbors helping neighbors, businesses working together, and the familiar faces who walk through the store's doors. So, whether someone is heading to work, traveling through town, or picking up a quick meal, the goal is to help each customer feel welcome and appreciated.

The store opened in 2021 and is owned by Frank Orton. Manager John Johnson, is the face behind the Staples store, along with the people behind the counter who make the store the best!

"Our employees are what make our store special," John shared. "We have a team of individuals with different personalities, strengths, and experiences who come together to serve our customers." That team takes pride in recognizing regular customers, building relationships, and keeping the store clean and welcoming.

John will celebrate five years with Orton's Circle K on November 1, 2026, and has served as store manager for three years. One of his favorite parts of the job is helping employees develop their skills and confidence.

"I believe strong stores are built by strong teams," he said.

Behind every visit is work that customers may never see—from preparing food and managing inventory to keeping the store running smoothly. John wants people to know that these responsibilities can also open doors. Employees have opportunities to build new skills and advance into leadership and management positions, including at other company locations. For John, creating a workplace where employees feel valued, supported, and encouraged to grow is an important part of serving customers well.

That same spirit of support extends into the community.

Orton's Circle K donates bread and other food items to the local food shelf and contributes to local benefits, school functions, community events and member of the Staples Area Chamber. The team sees giving back as part of being a dependable hometown business.



Manager John Johnson

Outside of work, John enjoys visiting the CLC Living Legacy Gardens. He is also a wedding officiant, helping couples celebrate one of the most meaningful days of their lives. Anyone who knows him knows two of his favorites: coffee and spaghetti! Especially when a cool Minnesota morning calls for that first hot cup of coffee and a one of the best moments to enjoy it is when it becomes fall in Minnesota!

Fall is definitely my favorite season! I love the crisp, cool air and the beautiful colors as the leaves turn shades of red, orange, and gold. There is something peaceful about autumn in Minnesota.

Looking ahead, the store is focused on strengthening its team, developing future leaders, and continuing to improve the customer experience. Above all, John wants to thank the Staples community and recognize the employees whose daily efforts make the store what it is. Preparing food to serving customers and handling the details behind the scenes, every team member contributes.

Customers can stop for fuel, deli foods, coffee, cold beverages, snacks, everyday essentials, and car wash services. Also watch for seasonal products, Circle K promotions, and opportunities through the Inner Circle loyalty program.

The Staples Area Chamber of Commerce is proud to highlight Orton's Circle K and the people who help make every day stops feel a little more like home. Visit Orton's Circle K at 1101 2nd Ave NE, Staples, call 218-894-1361, or learn more at ortonoilco.com

