

Inside this issue:

Speech team places at Melrose Extravaganza
Staples-Motley Softball begins
More Polar Plunge photos



Elementary formal dance
Dozens of students at Staples-Motley Elementary School got dressed up for the Candyland Ball March 28, an event hosted by the SM Music Boosters. (Photo by Dawn Timbs)

Community center awarded education grant

By Mark Anderson
Managing Editor

At the March 25 Staples Economic Development Authority (SEDA) meeting, Economic Development Director Lucas Wakefield informed the board that the city was awarded a \$234,000 grant from the Minnesota Department of Education for improvements to the Staples Community Center.

Items to be covered by the grant include remodeling the access ramp to the building and building a modern meeting room that will update the senior center area and can help with programming. Wakefield said they have plans for Lakewood Health System,

Essentia Health, the local school district and Central Lakes College to help with programming.

The grant will also add public wi-fi to the community center and install computer terminals for public use, in order for people to be able to access health and education resources. Wakefield said a survey identified several issues that the senior center patrons would like to know more about, including falls and dementia.

The grant also has a plan for a health kiosk that can read blood pressure and blood oxygen levels.

Wakefield said the money

See **SEDA** on page 12a

Potential government funding cuts affecting school planning

By Mark Anderson
Managing Editor

The Staples-Motley School District is currently in good financial shape, but they are eyeing talk about cuts to education funding at the state and the federal government.

At the March 24 Staples-Motley School Board meeting, Business Manager Ellie Hill told the board that the school is not planning any major moves until they find out what is happening at the state and federal level.

Hill said there are “unsettling things” being said at state and federal levels, making it hard to plan the school budget for the next year. One of the proposals is cutting food service, which Hill said costs almost \$500,000 per year. There are also talks about cutting special education dollars, which are already underfunded.

“I can’t fathom losing food service, I don’t know what we would do if there are major cuts,” said Hill.

Other possible cuts are in funding for summer school and the Q-Comp teacher improvement program.

Hill said some of the discussions have been about shifting funding to different departments, with different opinions being offered on whether that will help or hurt schools.

Declining enrollment is another factor in the school budget. Hill said the school has maintained their enrollment levels this year, but they still project declining enrollment for the future. She said health insurance costs rise every year, although the Staples-Motley district has not seen large increases lately.

Superintendent Shane Tappe said the state has funded education at a record level, although it comes with a record number of mandates. Now the state is looking at \$250 million in education cuts for 2028-29.

“How fast the pendulum swings,” said Tappe.

While they are paying attention to the government funding discussions, Tappe said the school will not react until they know what is coming.

“We will focus on facts, results and outcomes, not opinions,” said Tappe.

With that in mind, Tappe

said they will be cautious with spending as they go into contract negotiations. He said the school’s continuous improvement plan will help them keep the focus on what is best for the students and for the district.

Tappe said the Staples-Motley School District did not use federal ESSER grant dollars for staffing, so now that the grant has run out they do not have to make large cuts like some other school districts are doing, even if they created positive programs with some of those grants.

School/community improvements

Tappe gave the board some examples of community projects that could help the school district and the entire community.

A group has developed a new vision for Centennial Auditorium at the school. Tappe said research by the group discovered that the auditorium was not finished in 1990 because bids for construction came in \$400,000 higher than they had projected for the project, so they cut the scope of it.

The new group has developed a plan of possible updates and will begin fundraising for the project.

Another project is the trails committee proposing to build hiking trails on school property west of Airport Road, which could be used by students and by the community.

“A ton of community members are gaining insight and interest in how we can continue to grow and improve,” said Tappe. “It’s nice to see that pride in our school, we are continuing to move the needle forward.”

Building school culture

High School/Middle School Principal Debbie Ferdon gave a presentation on the school’s efforts to create a positive school culture.

She said school staff attended a conference on Marzano’s High Reliability Schools Framework, which she said fits in with what the school has already been doing.

She said the basis of good schools is that students have “a sense of belonging, are valued and recognized for what they do.”

See **SCHOOL** on page 12a

Weather

2025

This Week’s Forecast

	High	Low	Cond.
Apr. 2	36	28	Snow
Apr. 3	40	23	Cloudy
Apr. 4	45	27	P. Cloudy
Apr. 5	43	22	P. Cloudy
Apr. 6	38	18	M. Sunny
Apr. 7	39	20	M. Sunny
Apr. 8	47	25	M. Sunny

Last Year, 2024

	High	Low	Cond.
Apr. 2	48°	32	P. Sunny
Apr. 3	47	30	Sunny
Apr. 4	54	29	Sunny
Apr. 5	57	28	M. Sunny
Apr. 6	56	32	Sunny
Apr. 7	41	31	Rain
Apr. 8	44	38	Cloudy

Average Temps:
H = 50° Low = 30°
Enjoy the SNOW!

Compiled by
Dale Hausmann,
WCCO’s Staples area
Weatherwatcher

Public Notices

ISD #2170	10A
Bartlett	10A
Byron	9A
Meadowbrook	10A
Motley Township	10A
Moose Lake	10A
Villard	10A
Todd courthouse parking lot	10A

Obituaries

Donna Kastenek
Russell Lee



Faithful volunteers

A number of parishioners helped serve at the recent Community Meal held at Sacred Heart Catholic Church in Staples. The free monthly meals are sponsored by CARE Ministry. Servers, from left, included Terri Kangas, Kelly Schotzko, Sara Hoernberg, Katelyn Schotzko, Mary

Kobliska, Jackie Goff. The meal at Sacred Heart included a hot turkey sandwich with mashed potatoes and gravy, coleslaw and dessert. (Staples World photo by Dawn Timbs)



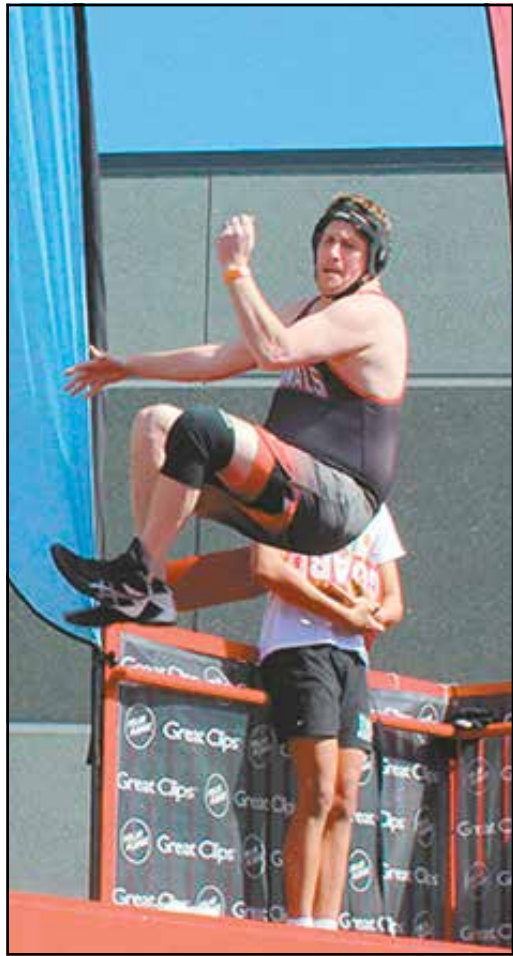
All decked out to jump

Staples-Motley students participating in the Polar Plunge event March 21, dressed up in a variety of costumes Pictured above, from left, are Hannah Cole and Bella Hines. Below, from left, are Charlie Noska, Piper Hanson and Lily Brichacek, who were voted ‘best costume.’ Over \$15,000 was raised for Secial Olympics at the recent Polar Plunge fundraiser. (Staples World photos by Dawn Timbs)



More Polar Plunge photos

A number of students and a few faculty participated at the recent Polar Plunge for Special Olympics, held at the Staples-Motley Middle/High School. Pictured above jumping, from left, are Wyatt Patterson and Aiven Sullivan. Standing is Josiah Critten. At right is Cole Greenwaldt. Below left is Drew Potter and below right is Tina Mitts. (Staples World photos by Dawn Timbs)



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Staples-Motley FFA serves at cattle auction in Sebek

The Staples-Motley FFA Chapter was invited to help with the Hidden Angus Cattle Auction outside of Sebek March 16. Not only did the students have a lot of fun at this service event, but they learned a lot of good life skills along the way. “It was an amazing event where students had the opportunity to chat with local farmers about cattle and get a new perspective on one side of the cattle industry,” said Dan Rowe,

SMHS Advisor. Rowe went on to report that the Staples-Motley FFA students helped with parking at the event, as well as cleaning up chairs and tables. “In return for our help, Tim Nolte generously gave us a donation of all the money from the sale of one of his donkeys,” Rowe said, going on to express his gratitude to Nolte and the Hidden Angus Ranch for “this amazing opportunity for our students.”

Motley area law enforcement

Recent reports from the Motley Police Department (MPD) and Morrison County Sheriff’s Office (MCSO) included the following:
Mar. 19 - 25
Mar. 23 - A Morrison County deputy responded to a report of property damage at the 600 block of Hwy 10 S, Motley.
Mar. 22 - Morrison County deputies arrested Joshua James Thompson,

39, for Driving After Cancellation (Inimical to Public Safety) and fleeing on foot. Subject was released from custody per the jail due to medical reasons. Charges will be long formed.
Mar. 19 - Motley Fire Department was paged, and responded into Cass County for a semi truck that was fully engulfed and starting a nearby structure on fire. The incident took place at 5470 52nd St. SW, Motley.

Lakewood Health System Foundation to hold ‘Give Orange’ Fundraiser & Auction

The Lakewood Health System Foundation will hold its annual ‘Give Orange’ Fundraiser & Auction on Friday, April 25 at Lakewood’s Main Campus in Staples. Proceeds from the event will support the Lakewood Oncology Support Fund which helps patients with medical bills, prescriptions, utilities, groceries, lodging and more throughout their cancer treatment. The evening’s event will include appetizers, games, online and in-person silent auction, and a live auction. Raffle tickets can be purchased for \$100 each before or at the event for a chance to win \$10,000. Second prize is \$2,500, and third prize is \$500. Only three hundred raffle tickets will be sold and are currently available at First International Bank & Trust in Staples and Motley, Lefty’s, Long-

bella Drug by Lakewood – The Plaza, Tower Pizza, The Shoppe at Lakewood, or by contacting Sarah Winter at 218-894-8579 or sarahwinter@lakewoodhealthsystem.com. The event starts at 5 p.m. and seating is limited. Individual tickets are \$65, four seats at a table of eight are \$250, and tables of eight are \$500. VIP tickets are \$600 for a table of eight, which includes two drink tickets per person. Tax deductions apply to a portion of the table purchase. Visit <https://onecau.se/giveorange> to purchase tickets and register for the online silent auction. Online bidding for silent auction items begins on April 18. Call or email 218-894-8638 or alytwardowski@lakewoodhealthsystem.com for sponsorship opportunities or additional event information.

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SELL IT

FIND IT

IN THE CLASSIFIEDS

Lakewood Health System to host ‘Live Well: A Celebration of Aging’

In its second year being facilitated by Lakewood Health System in Staples, the ‘Live Well: A Celebration of Aging’ event will take place on Thursday, May 22, from 8 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. at Central Lakes College in Staples. This event is an opportunity for older adults to hear from engaging and educational speakers on a variety of topics, as well as tour vendor booths, and network with others.

Speaking topics for this year’s event include:

- Panel discussion on senior and specialized care choices (led by Dr. Julie Benson, physician)
- Supporting mental health in the golden years (Dr. Paul Davis, psychologist)
- Legacy planning for

life’s next chapter (Erik Isaak, certified financial planner)

Those interested in being a sponsor for the event or having a vendor booth, should visit the below link to fill out the form and submit payment before April 12.

Those interested in attended the event, should visit the below link to fill out the form and submit payment by May 16. Please note: If registered before May 16, a lunch is included in your purchase. If registered on or after May 16, a lunch is not guaranteed.

Visit <https://shorturl.at/X5HFc> or go to lakewoodhealthsystem.com > click Calendar > scroll to May > click on ‘Live Well’ event to view registration links.

Todd County Court report March 26

Long Prairie Police Department

Jerry Jr. Pabon Padin, Long Prairie. Driving without a valid license for vehicle class or type. Fine \$100. Fee \$85. Driver fails to stop for STOP Sign. Fine \$50.

Ezequiel Tavarez Brito, Long Prairie. Abandon motor vehicle on public/private property without consent of property owner. Fine \$300. Fee \$85.

MN Dept. of Natural Resources

Micheal John Dewitt, Little Falls. Take fish without a license. Fine \$100. Fee 485.

MN State Patrol

Glen James Wilmes, Pequot Lakes. Cargo securement violation-flatten or crushed vehicle. Fine \$300. Fee \$85.

Christina M. Chapman, Leslie, IL. Speed 69/55. Fine \$50. Fee \$85.

Tracielee Churlik, Clarissa. Hands Free Law. Fine \$50. Fee \$85.

Conner Nicholas Donovan, Alexandria. Seat Belt required. Fine \$25. Fee \$85.

Mason Matthew Gohman, Sauk Centre. Speed 70/60. Fine \$40. Fee \$85.

Gregory Guillaume, Fargo, ND. Speed 97/70. Fine \$100. Fee \$185.

Nancy Sue Herman, Veblen, SD. Hands Free Law. Fine \$50. Fee \$85.

Reese Lee Johnson, Colfax, WI. Speed 80/70. Fine \$40. Fee \$85.

Lazaro Juarez Cristian, Hector. Speed 70/60. Fine \$40. Fee \$85.

Nithish Reddy Kyatham, Tampa, FL. Speed 80/70. Fine \$40. Fee \$85.

Sara MaeJean March, Las Vegas, NV. Speed 85/70. Fine \$60. Fee \$85.

Comlan Senyou Mignagblonglon, Tonawanda, NY. Speed 94/70. Fine \$70. Fee \$155.

Angela Marie Mikulecky, Moorhead. Speed 83/70. Fine \$50. Fee \$85.

Bishal Monger, Fargo, ND. Speed 88/70. Fine \$60. Fee \$85.

Grant Douglas Olmstead, Grand Forks, ND. Speed 86/70. Fine \$60. Fee \$85.

James Edward Plafcan, Browerville. Taillights-Two(working). Fine \$40. Fee \$85.

Brandon James Weady Reidreynoso, Sauk Rapids. Speed 93/70.

Jose Manuel Rios, Howard Lake. No MN Driver’s license. Fine \$100. Fee \$85. Speed 70/60. Fine \$40.

Nicholas Steven Ritari, Buffalo. Speed 85/70. Fine \$60. Fee \$85.

Bruce W. Senti, Grand Forks, ND. Expired driver’s license-over 21. Fine \$100. Fee \$85.

Lucas Steven Sjostrom, Brooten, Speed 70/60. Fine \$40. Fee \$85.

Staples Police Dept.

Wyatt Gary Berg, Motley. Cannabis-use, inhale, smoke or vape cannabis, hemp products where smoking prohibited. Fine \$50. Fee \$85. Cannabis-in public or charter school facility. Fine \$50. Smoking, chewing tobacco or E-Cigarettes prohibited in public or charter school. Fine \$50.

Matthew Randall Goranson, Elk River. Driver must carry proof of insurance when operating vehicle. Fine \$200. Fee \$85.

Todd County Sheriffs Office

Starlyn Rances Acevedo Guzman, Long Prairie. Speed 7060. Fine \$40. Fee \$85.

Jesus Daniel Garcia Montanez, Long Prairie. Driving after revocation. Fine \$200 Fee \$85. Speed 46/30. Fine \$60.

Joe Allan Miller, Brainerd. Driving after revocation. Fine \$200. Fee \$85.

Shantel Marie Trinidad Soto, Long Prairie. Driving after revocation. Fine \$200. Fee \$85.

Hayden Donald Westra, Battle Lake. Expired registration. Fine \$30. Fee \$85.

The following cases were heard before Judge Daniel A. Benson in Seventh District Court in Todd County March 22, 2025.

Joseph Michael Swartout, Brainerd. Drugs-5th degree-possess Schedule 1,2,3,4-not small amount Marijuana. Dismissed, conditions met or expired. Local confinement (9

days, stay 0 yr 0 mo 0 days credit for time served: 9 days). Service-adult (community work service for indeterminate). Fine \$50. Fee \$75. DWI 4-operate motor vehicle under influence of controlled substance. Dismissed. Pharmacy-possess hypodermic syringes. Dismissed.

The following cases were heard before Judge Daniel A. Benson in Seventh District Court in Todd County March 19, 2025.

Ernest Jackson, West Bloomfield, MI. Speed 80/70. Unsupervised probation, 6 mo. Fine \$40.

Brodney Christian Kropuenske, Wadena. DWI-operate motor vehicle-any amount Schedule I/II drugs/metabolite, not cannabis. Sentenced. Local confinement (90 days credit for time served: 60 days). Fine \$100. Fee \$100. Motor vehicle tampering. Dismissed.

Timothy Elliott Aleman, Little Falls. Theft-take/use/transfer movable prop-no consent. Sentenced. Commit to Commissioner of Corrections-adult (MN Correctional facility-St. Cloud, 27 mo) Fine \$50. Fee \$75. Receiving stolen property. Dismissed. Possession of burglary or theft tools. Dismissed. Dangerous weapons-metal knuckles/switch blade. Dismissed.

Dustin Gene Ayres, Fairbault. Theft-take/use/transfer movable prop-no consent. Sentenced. Local confinement (364 days, stay 0 yr 0 mo 0 days credit for time served: 354 days). Fine \$50. Restitution \$580.

Dennis Gordon Lee, Staples. Drugs-3rd degree-possess 10 grams or more of narcotic drug other than heroin or fentanyl. Continued. Supervised probation, 4 yr. Local confinement (3 days credit for time served: 3 days). Fine \$300. Drugs-4th degree-possess Schedule 1,2,3,4 or paraphernalia residual-not cannabis/hemp. Dismissed.

Frank Thomas Orsello, Wadena. Assault-4th degree-Peace Officer-demonstrable bodily harm. Convicted. Local confinement (6 days, stay 0 yr 0 mo 0 days credit for time served: 6 days) Supervised probation, 3 yr. Fine \$50. Restitution \$2,174.39. Assault-4th degree-Peace Officer-demonstrable bodily harm. Dismissed. Drugs-5th degree-possess Schedule 1,2,3,4 or paraphernalia residual-not cannabis/hemp. Dismissed.

The following cases were heard before Judge Daniel A. Benson in Seventh District Court in Todd County March 18, 2025.

Lizardo Anibal Oviedo, Long Prairie. DWI-Operate motor vehicle under influence of alcohol. Dismissed. DWI-4th Degree driving impaired. Sentenced. Local confinement (90 days, stay 90 days for 2 yr). Fine \$400. Fee \$100. Open Bottle law; possession. Dismissed. Speed 50/30. Dismissed.

Peter Thomas Cote, Motley. DWI-4th Degree driving while impaired. Dismissed. DWI-operated motor vehicle-alcohol concentration 0.08 within 2 hours. Sentenced. Local confinement (90 days, stay 0 yr 0 mo 89 days for 2 yr credit for time served: 1 day). Supervised Probation, 2 yr. Fine \$400. Fee \$100. DWI-operate motor vehicle under influence of alcohol. Dismissed.

Corey Vern Schmidt, St. Cloud. Driving after revocation. Sentenced. Local confinement (30 days, stay 0 yr 0 mo 0 days credit for time served: 30 days) Fine \$50. Fee \$75. Seat-belt required. Dismissed.

Tashean Lanaa Nelson, Indianapolis, IN. Counterfeit of currency-manufacturing: printing. Dismissed. Counterfeit of currency-means for false reproduction. Dismissed. Counterfeiting of currency-uttering or possessing. Dismissed, conditions met or expired. Local confinement (32 days, stay 0 yr 0 mo 0 days credit for time served: 32 days). Supervised probation, 5 yr. Fine \$500. Giving Peace Officer false name of another person. Dismissed.

Anthony Michael Paskewitz, Staples. Criminal sexual conduct in the 3rd degree. Sentenced. Supervised probation, 15 yr. Fine \$500. Criminal sexual conduct in the 3rd degree. Dismissed. Criminal sexual conduct

75 YEARS Ago - 1950

- April 6, 1950 - LaVonne Michalek and Leatrice Tyrrell have been named co-valedictorians of the 1950 graduating class at Staples high school, and Robert Kurpius has been named salutatorian.

LaVonne is the daughter of Mrs. Valesta Michalek of Staples; Leatrice is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Everett Tyrrell of Staples; and Robert is the son of Mrs. Mable Kurpius of Staples.

- April 6, 1950 - Showing

- O -

Compiled by

Dawn Timbs

- O -

at the New Staples Theatre April 9, 10 and 11, “Cheaper by the Dozen,” starring Clifton Webb, Jeanne Crain, Myrna Loy.

- April 6, 1950 - Cedric Adams, favorite Northwest radio personality and columnist, will appear in Staples, Thursday, April 20, under the sponsorship of the Staples male Chorus.

Adams will act as master-of-ceremonies for a new two-hour variety show featuring a cooking school, style show, vaudeville acts and Adams “Nighttime News” broadcast in the Staples Auditorium April 20, at 8 p.m.

One thousand dollars worth of merchandise prizes including a gas range, hot water heater, radio, chest of silver with service for six, automobile seat covers, electric toaster and scores of other valuable prizes will be awarded to members of the audience during the course of the evening. In addition, there will be free Coca Cola for everyone

50 YEARS Ago - 1975

- April 3, 1975 - Kenny Zetah, President of the Motley F.F.A. chapter placed as the number one high individual out of 48 participants at the general Livestock judging contest. Third contest was held in Fargo March 17. There were 12 teams participating of which Motley placed 6th.

Making up the team was Dewey DiGiovanni, Charles Mick, Floyd Jares, and Kenny Zetah.

- April 3, 1975 - Four members of Coach Ron Beachy’s Cardinal Track Team were named by the coach as Cinder Pickers of the week. They are as follows: Bruce Crocker in mile, pole vault and mile relay; Kevin Crocker in two-mile run; Dave Randgaard in 60, 440 and mile relay; John Sanda in mile run.

- April 3, 1975 - Now Open - Jerry’s Cafe (Formerly Wimpy’s) - Newly Remodeled. Serving full meals - short orders - soup and sandwich specials - homemade pies and rolls. (Greyhound bus depot). Open 7 Days a Week. Hours: 6:30 a.m. to 12 p.m.

- April 3, 1975 - Dedication to their jobs is indicated in a picture taken last Thursday afternoon at Benson Optical in Staples (during blizzard conditions). Benson manager Ken Richardson said that the “determination to

get to work became almost an obsession” with the employees, and they used whatever means they could to get to work.

On snowmobiles were Glen Lewis, Mike Goff, Jack Carlson, Mike Richardson, Jim Carlson, Dave Schmitz, Jim Sauer and Duane Imsande. Two other snowmobilers left before the picture was taken. Pictured by their pickups were Del Haidle, Bill Skeesick, Ron Card, Armin Farber, John Knosalla and John Williams. The tractor was driven by Jerry Skov. Others in the photo were Terry Haidle and Myron Guyer.

25 YEARS Ago - 2000

- April 6, 2000 - Brent McKenzie, a junior at Staples Motley High School and son of Barb and Bob McKenzie of Lincoln, won an all expense paid trip to Washington, D.C. in the Crow Wing Power Co-op Contest.

McKenzie will be among 1,000 other Youth Tour participants from across the country in the nation’s capital from June 17 - 22, 2000.

- The second Harmony House in Motley, located next to the first Harmony House behind the Eastwood Inn, will open this month. The brand new grey duplex has been under construction throughout the winter months, weather permitting through local contractors including Lorber Construction of Motley.

- April 6, 2000 - **Editor’s Note:** Third graders at Staples Elementary are completing the primary standards in science. After learning how to recycle, reduce and reuse earth’s resources, the students wrote editorials in order to convince others to care, too. Below are a few of their editorials:

Nature is important to us. We should not litter. If we see litter, we should pick it up and throw it in the garbage or recycle it.

We want our earth to be clean. If everyone helps out, it makes a big difference.

Nicole Heldman, 9



Mystery photo

Hello readers. This week’s archive photo is from 1975. 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.

Rickie Vukelich, 8
Joshua Lucius, 9
Heather Wierenga, 8

Recycle paper so we don’t waste our trees. Then we don’t have to plant more trees. Write on both sides of the paper.

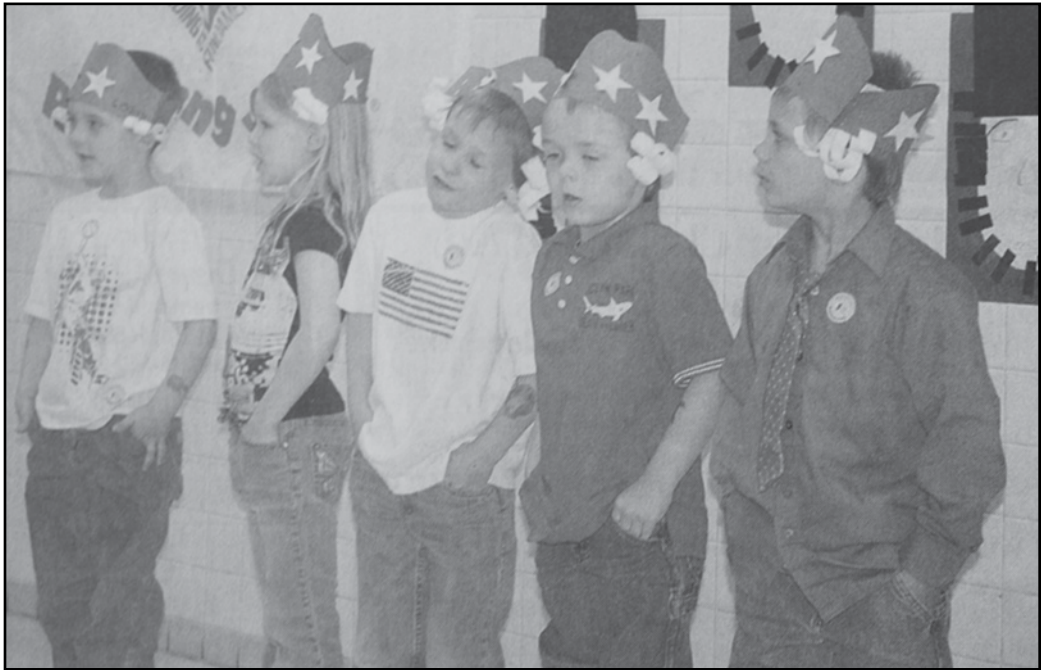
Don’t throw away paper, recycle it instead. Don’t litter, but use paper the right way.

Cord Collision, 8 1/2
Jordan Walz, 9 1/2
Shana Pietz, 9
Ryan Staley, 9

Don’t pollute rivers, lakes and oceans, because I do not want to swim in dirty water. I do not want to catch fish that are dead and dirty. I do not want to drink dirty water. Please do not pollute our water.

Angi Bernstrom, 9
Nicole Weber, 8 1/2
Hallie Denning, 9
Kenneth Christopher Robben, 9

We think that people



Mystery solved

Last week’s mystery photo published in the May 6, 2010 edition of the Staples World featured students in Mrs. Blowers’ first grade class who recited poems and sang songs as part of their

“Running Start Program” April 23, at Motley Elementary School. Pictured, from left, are Logan Hirschey, Christina Johnson, Evan DeChaine, Landon Converse and Ethan Hannahs.

in the 3rd degree. Dismissed.

The following cases were heard before Judge Daniel A. Benson in Seventh District Court in Todd County March 17, 2025.

Aimee Jo Quinn, Onamia. 5th Degree possession of a controlled substance. Sentenced. Local confinement (364 days, stay 334 days for 2 yr credit for time served: 13 days). Supervised probation, indeterminate) Fine \$125. 4th Degree DWI-operate motor vehicle under influence of controlled substance. Dismissed. 4th Degree DWI-operate motor vehicle-body contains any amount Schedule I/II Drugs-not marijuana. Dismissed.

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The following cases were heard before Judge Daniel A. Benson in Seventh District Court in Todd County March 12, 2025.

Cynthia Lissette Torres Santiago, Melrose. Driving after revocation. Sentenced. Local confinement (90 days, stay 0 yr 0 mo 90 days for 1 yr). Unsupervised probation, 1 yr. Fine \$200. Fee \$350.

Christopher Alexandria Williams, Fargo, ND. Hands free Law. Fine \$50. Fee \$85.

DEADLINE

for all classified ads and copy is 12 noon Friday

For the Staples World

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AmeriGlide

Old and young Minnesotans are returning to clay target fields

The prevailing outdoor focus as we welcome April is the reopening of ice-bound lakes, and for many of us a resumption of open water angling. This, and the return of absent or dormant flora and fauna, and—for school-age youth—the resumption of sports that take place on fields, courts, and diamonds.

Another activity resuming with spring’s arrival will take place on other fields. These are the trap, skeet, and sporting clays fields and courses where men and women of all ages will attempt to shatter saucer-size clay disks with swarms of tiny shot pellets propelled from their shotguns.

Many who participate are hunters, whose main motivation may be to improve their ability to harvest game birds during our hunting seasons; birds like pheasants, ruffed grouse, or waterfowl. Some may care relatively little about shooting a perfect round of 25 trap or skeet targets, or 50 targets in sporting clays. Others will shoot primarily to master a challenging sport, analyzing and attempting to perfect their game in the same way that others pursue mastery of golf. Many will be somewhere in between the casu-

al and the highly competitive ends of the clay target shooting spectrum.

One of the beauties of these clay target games is that they do not demand brute strength, Olympian endurance, eagle-eyed vision, or Mercury-like speed. They reward concentration, average hand-eye coordination, perseverance, and practice. They do not favor men over women, youth over maturity, or demand that one is an ideal physical specimen.

This accessibility has contributed to the emergence of a new subset of clay target shooters over the past quarter century, and is altering the demographics of trap, skeet and sporting clays. These are clay target shooters of junior high and high school age, who participate as members of school-sanctioned clay target teams.

From a single informal mentoring relationship between one adult and one Minnesota school in 2001, the idea caught on and led to the formation of the Minnesota High School Clay Target League in 2008, with three teams and 30 students. By 2012 there were more than 3,600 student athletes on 114 school-based Minnesota teams. Clay target shooting sports quickly became the fastest growing school-sponsored team sport in Minnesota. It is estimated that more than 12,000 students in grades six through 12 from more than 350 Minnesota schools will compete in the spring 2025 season.

This phenomenon was evident on the Saturday of the

second weekend of March, when I and a friend visited the clay target range that I call home on its reopening weekend. The turnout was light, understandable with weather whose most notable statistic was a temperature in the middle thirties, a scant few degrees above freezing.

Rather than a typical midsummer mix of shooters, the opening day crowd was heavily skewed toward the young, and it was easy to understand why. On one the club’s several trap fields a middle-age adult held the attention of an audience that stood in an arc that extended from station one to station five, mirroring the regulation layout of a trap field.

As my shooting partner and I waited to begin our first round, we listened to the lecture he was delivering. He was sharing with his listeners the basics of trap shooting; how to mount and align a shotgun in relation to the trap house from which “clay pigeons” are launched; the stance to take in anticipation of a target’s release; and other fine points that a novice shooter would benefit from.

Hats and jackets worn by some of the young on-lookers bore familiar high school team sports identifiers; team nicknames, mascot images, and athlete names, making it clear that the group was made up of members of one of the local clay target teams that regularly practices at our club.

The group’s make-up matched what is considered an important virtue of such teams. It included both young men and young wom-

en. Some looked like stereotypical “jocks,” while others were slight in build. Some tall, others short. Just what you might expect of a student body’s cross-section.

Based on the experience of coaches here over the past quarter century, the clay target sports attract not only students who may already be involved in their student body and extra-curricular activities, but also many for whom this might be their most important means of feeling connected to their school and to fellow students.

Youth clay target leagues are no longer a phenomenon exclusive to Minnesota. The idea that germinated here has now spread to other parts of the country, and it’s estimated that it now involves roughly 50,000 students on more than 1,600 teams in 37 states.

The rapid growth of high school clay target leagues has the potential to dramatically alter the demographics of shooting sports participation. In 2001, research by the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources placed the average age of gun club participants at 57. Hardly a healthy and dynamic age profile. It’s reasonable to expect that many who participate in clay target sports will continue once they’re beyond high school. Their training in safe firearms handling, the camaraderie they found in this activity, and the satisfaction of skills mastery and accomplishment may lead many to remain participants for life.

At far less expense than a round of golf.

Quote of the week

“Even if you are on the right track, you’ll get run over if you just sit there.”
— Will Rogers

Cutting waste in state government programs

By Senator Paul Utke

It’s no secret that Minnesota’s budget is in bad shape. At the end of last year, we knew we were looking at a \$5.1 billion deficit. That was already disappointing, but not surprising. Considering Democrats took the 2023 Session to pass a number of spending bills that ran through the entire \$19 billion surplus, news of a deficit was not a shock. Unfortunately the February Forecast painted an even worse picture: the new deficit now totals \$6 billion. This is alarming on all fronts. Given the circumstances, Republicans took a hard look at areas of potential waste, and we’ve put together a plan that not only cuts out that waste, but also puts forward a series of good government proposals to ensure future budget mismanagement like what we’ve seen never happens again.

Our first cost-saving suggestion is to undo the budgetary earmark of \$21 million to fund a public option health care plan. Given the economic state of our budget, this just doesn’t make sense. It’s an incredible waste we can easily avoid.

The second area of waste comes from pointless transportation spending projects. The Northern Lights Express alone would cost the state \$194.5 million, and that doesn’t even count the federal dollars that would be required to complete it. The Blue Line Extension is also a wasteful project, amounting to \$30 million. Not to mention the fact that it has constantly endured delays and cost overruns. Cancelling the NorthStar Rail could also save taxpayers about \$22 million per biennium. In fact, a recent study showed how low ridership numbers were for this passenger rail – it just doesn’t make sense to keep throwing money at something folks don’t use. We could also easily point to the Reconnect Rondo project. We could easily save the remaining \$500,000 that is left over from the original \$6.2 million appropriation. All of these projects have been heavily scrutinized for good reason – they have all faced questions regarding cost, feasibility, and rider-

ship numbers. If we cut out all this wasteful transportation spending, we could immediately save taxpayers around \$250 million.

There are also a number of expensive benefits that are being funded for undocumented non-citizens. We could save taxpayers about \$220 million alone just by cutting MNCare for Undocumented non-Citizens. This is something Democrats advocated for in recent sessions, and it’s coming at an incredible cost to families in the state. While Governor Walz is proposing over \$200 million in cuts to nursing homes, Democrats are championing expanded MNCare funding to those here illegally. The North Star Promise is another great program that was intended to help Minnesota families who were seeking college options for their kids, but Democrats opted to expand it to include non-citizens. This comes at a cost of \$86,000 per funded student. Democrats also have passed controversial tax credits for non-citizens, totaling up to \$158 million. Every single dollar going to an illegal citizen in this state is a taxpayer dollar that is not supporting taxpayers. If we cut these programs, savings could easily total about \$378 million.

As a final portion of our plan, we have a series of proposals designed to prevent future budget mismanagement, therefore ensuring greater accountability in state spending. For starters, we’d require legislators to disclose any financial ties to entities seeking state funding. We also want to impose restrictions on grants to non-profits where officers and employees receive excessive compensation. Additionally, we’d like to see a report on vacant state office spaces, sunsets for commissions and working groups, and zero-based budgeting.

Folks, this is a common-sense plan – it involves cutting waste in the most obvious areas and implementing minor changes that would keep our budgeting responsible and transparent as we move forward. Being that we have a \$6 billion deficit on the horizon, it’s long past time for us to make these changes. The state of our budget and those we serve demand it.

Post office cuts affecting rural mail delivery

Letter from U.S. Representative Pete Stauber to the U.S. House Committee on Oversight and Government Reform

Dear Chairman Comer,

I am writing to request that the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform hold a hearing to examine the growing operational issues at the United States Postal Service (USPS) and its inability to effectively serve rural America. The concerns I have received from constituents in Minnesota’s 8th Congressional District, in addition to broader national trends, highlight significant challenges within the USPS that must be addressed to ensure that rural communities continue to receive the reliable and timely postal services they depend on.

As you may be aware, USPS is facing severe staffing shortages, especially in rural areas, where the difficulty of recruiting and retaining postal employees is only made worse by mismanagement of job postings and lengthy hiring processes. In some cases, potential applicants face delays of up to six months before being hired, creating a backlog in staffing that strains the existing workforce. These shortages are causing postal

service supervisors to take on additional responsibilities, leading to excessive work hours without overtime compensation.

My district has directly seen the inefficiency and decline of rural mail delivery, with extended delivery times for vital services such as medications, benefit checks, and other time-sensitive materials. Weekly, my offices receive calls concerning overdue bills upon USPS delivery. Slower mail delivery in rural America not only inconveniences residents but can also have serious consequences for vulnerable populations, including seniors and veterans.

My constituents are not the only ones experiencing these issues, and I believe everyone living in rural America would benefit from a hearing. A hearing on this matter would allow the Committee to hear directly from USPS officials, postal employees, and even constituents impacted by these issues, and ultimately, it would provide valuable insight into how the agency can improve its operations to better serve the needs of rural America.

Thank you for considering this important issue.

Quote of the week

“If you have any young friends who aspire to become writers, the second greatest favor you can do them is to present them with copies of The Elements of Style. The first greatest, of course, is to shoot them now, while they’re happy.”
— Dorothy Parker

StaplesWorld

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Minnesota budget cut proposals targeting vulnerable populations

By Mike Wiener
State Representative

This week, I want to highlight more troubling cuts in Governor Walz’s proposed budget. In an attempt to address the \$6 billion deficit he created, Walz is targeting essential services for our most vulnerable populations, senior citizens, students, and people with disabilities.

Walz is proposing to cut funding for nursing homes, which provide critical care for our seniors. He is also planning to cut education funding, including non-public pupil aid and merit-based teacher pay, penalizing hardworking students

and teachers who deserve better. This comes after already burdening school districts with over 65 unfunded mandates in 2023.

Walz budget also reduces projected state spending on Medicaid waivers that serve more than 70,000 low-income Minnesotans with disabilities.

Yet, while reducing support for seniors, students, and the disabled, Walz continues to allocate hundreds of millions of taxpayer dollars towards specific one-party interests.

Our priorities should reflect the needs of our communities, not political agendas. I will continue to fight for responsible budgeting that puts Minnesotans first.



Food packing event at Staples Church of Christ

Volunteers needed to help feed hungry people around the world

An opportunity to help feed hungry people around the world will be offered at the Staples Church of Christ Saturday, April 12, beginning at 9 a.m.

Church member Bruce Paskewitz is the organizer of the 'food packing event,' the idea for which was inspired during a Sunday School class he teaches.

Collectively, the class felt called to "make a difference" in the world and learned about the GAP (God Always Provides) food packing program sponsored by International Disaster Emergency Service in Indiana. They decided to host an event at their church.

According to information on a brochure, "GAP is an opportunity for people of all ages to serve together. Youth groups, co-workers, schools, family and friends pack nutritious meals for those who are suffering from hunger and malnutrition around the world."

In addition to raising funds to pay for the supplies, Paskewitz said volunteers are needed to help pack the meals, which consist of rice, dried vegetables, soy and a vitamin packet.

As noted in the event's Ground Rules:

- No one is required to be there for the entire time, although times may be assigned to even out the workforce
- Children under the age of 12 need to be accompanied by an adult in order to participate
- All funds donated for the event will be used for the event itself, any overhead expenses are covered by the Church of Christ. If the event does not go forward all donated funds will be forwarded to IDIES.

"We invite you to come along while we do God's work and have fun as well," is a message from the Church of Christ.

For more information, or to sign up for this volunteer opportunity, call Bruce Paskewitz at 218-296-2498.

Enjoying the CARE Community Meal

Dozens of people stopped by Sacred Heart Church in Staples March 25, to enjoy a hot turkey sandwich while visiting with others in the community. The free monthly meals are sponsored by CARE Ministry, with volunteers at participating churches helping prepare and serve them. (Staples World photo by Dawn Timbs)



Young helper

Eight-year-old Scotland Story was busy washing dishes at Sacred Heart Church in Staples March 25, during the CARE Community Meal. She enjoys helping out, Story said. Pictured below, Lee Jenkins of Staples, who attended the meal, gives Scotland a 'tip' for her work in the kitchen. (Staples World photos by Dawn Timbs)



Mark Your Calendar

April 2, 3

FREE TAX-AIDE Wednesdays, 1-4 p.m. and Thursdays, 10 a.m.- 4 p.m., through April 10, Staples City Hall. Must call for an appointment at 218-296-6616. For low to moderate income taxpayers.

'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>

April 4

WOMEN'S OPEN AA RECOVERY MEETING Every Friday in person, 10:30 a.m., Motley Free Methodist Church (lower level), 33 Wellwood St. E. Motley. All women welcome.

April 6

CELEBRATE RECOVERY GROUP MEETINGS are held every

Sunday at 6 p.m., at Motley Free Methodist Church, 33 Wellwood St. E., Motley.

April 8

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

EXPERIENCE STRENGTH AND HOPE AA GROUP MTGS IN STAPLES are held at the Church of Christ, 27343 490th St., Tuesdays, 7 - 8 p.m. For info., call Dan at 218-640-7228.



Staples-Motley softball players make plays at the plate and in the field.

Staples Police report

March 17, Staples Police were called to a suicidal subject at a home on 3rd Street NE.

March 17, Staples Police were requested to patrol Lakewood Health System hospital area. Five mental health patients were checked in at hospital.

March 17, Staples Police assisted Lakewood Health System with a mental health patient. Patient urinated on police.

March 18, Staples Police took a report of a stolen

backpack and tools.

March 19, Staples Police investigated a report of a domestic assault between a mother and daughter. Police made sure daughter had a place to go with her children.

March 21, Staples Police took a report of two cars racing on 6th Street NE.

March 22, Staples Police initiated a pursuit on County Road 21 of a vehicle that was possibly involved in the street racing complaint. Vehicle was pulled over in

Wadena County, south of Verndale.

March 22, Staples Police assisted Wadena County Sheriff's Office with a report of a person who jumped into a lane of traffic on 120th Street and County Road 32.

March 22, Staples Police assisted traffic at railroad crossing where stop arm was bent and going up and down. Reported crossing malfunction to BNSF.

Easter Egg Hunt & SHOW

FREE!

SATURDAY, APRIL 19TH
9AM-10AM ACTIVITIES
10AM-10:30AM RANDY SHOW
10:30AM HUNT
STAPLES ALLIANCE CHURCH

RANDY CHRISTENSEN
AWARD-WINNING CHILDREN'S ENTERTAINER
JUGGLING, MAGIC, COMEDY FOR ALL AGES
PRE-EVENT PERFORMER FOR CIRQUE DU SOLEIL
1ST VP OF THE INT'L FELLOWSHIP OF CHRISTIAN MAGICIANS

Easter Egg Hunt

w15-17c

Needing/Wanting a Granite Memorial FOR YOUR FAMILY?



I can help!

Diane M. Hahn

30 years serving our area!

Rep. for Fergus Falls Monument Co.

Call 218-445-5685 or 218-640-2341

DEADLINE

for all classified ads and copy is 12 noon Friday

For the Staples World

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Hello World

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ONLINE BIRTHS REMOVED
AT THE REQUEST OF LAKEWOOD
HEALTH SYSTEM

o o

Obituaries

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Russell Lee

Russell (Russ) Lee, 85, retired Staples educator, died Feb. 17, 2025 at his home in Washington state. There will be a reception at Halvorson-Taylor Funeral Home in Staples at 9:30 a.m. Saturday, April 12, followed immediately be a graveside service at St. James Cemetery in Philbrook.

Russ was born March 4, 1939 in Gradesville, Wisconsin. He grew up working on his father's farm and later on a fishing resort his parents purchased. After high school he attended and graduated from University of Wisconsin-River Falls. He joined the U.S. Air Force in the early 1960s and received his pilot's training, but never served overseas.

He married Arlene Kovash Dec. 18, 1965 in St. Paul. Russ worked as a commercial charter pilot, as a flight instructor and started his teaching career in Staples in 1972. He taught social studies and history until retiring in 2001. During his years teaching, Russ and several other faculty members started and supervised a mock election class during presidential election years.

Before retiring, Russ and Kay Pettit, faculty member, started and supervised a class called Senior Seminar, where high school seniors had to plan a public service project, have it approved by an appropriate governing body, then carry out the project, all in their final semester of high school.

Russ was a volunteer firefighter with the Staples Fire Dept., retiring after 20 years. An avid history buff, Russ was a member of the Old Wade Society, serving as treasurer, and helping to stage the annual Old Wadena Rendezvous. He was awarded the group's Friend of Old Wadena award in 2024.

Russ was also an avid outdoorsman, fisherman and hunter.

Russ is survived by two sons, Sean (Jamie) of Metairie, Louisiana and Josh (Jen) of Portland, Oregon; four grandchildren, Josh, Jordan and Alexa of Louisiana and Alice of Oregon; six great-grandchildren, Grayson, Scarlett, Millie, Harrison, Elliot and Noah.

His wife, Arlene, preceded Russ in death in 2020.



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His wife, Arlene, preceded Russ in death in 2020.

w15x A00006B2020APR02

Donna Kastanek

Donna D. Kastanek, 98, of Staples passed away March 26, 2025 at Lakewood Manor in Staples.

Services were held March 31 at the Staples United Methodist Church with Pastor Dan Crocker officiating.

Interment was at Evergreen Hill Cemetery in Staples.

Donna was born August 21, 1931 to Werley L. and Myrtle P. (Roche)Hagenson in Staples. She grew up in the rural Staples area. She attended rural District #36 graduating from the eighth grade in 1945, Staples High School in 1949 and Staples Teacher training in 1950. She married George J. Kastanek on June 6, 1955, at the United Methodist Church, Staples.

Donna was a graduate of St. Cloud University. She taught in rural schools in Todd and Crow Wing counties. She was a fifth grade teacher at Lowell Elementary School in Brainerd for 31 years.

She moved to Brainerd and lived in that area until May of 2023, when she moved back to the Staples area to be closer to her niece, Joanne and family. She enjoyed reading, crocheting, playing cards and board games.



She is survived by one niece, Joanne (Jerald) Carpenter; one great-nephew, Jason (Kayla) Carpenter; two great-nieces, Jolene (Brad) King and Jill (Tony) Carpenter; five great-great nephews, Jacob, Charles, Caedin, Brody and Wyatt; six great-great-nieces, Gabrielle, Danielle, Alison, Mariah, Kylie and Madison; one great-great-great-nephew, Lukas; one great-great-great-niece, Cynthia and a host of friends.

She was preceded in death by her husband, George; parents; one brother, Dick and one great-great-nephew, Bentley.

Arrangements were with Taylor Funeral Home of Staples.

w15c A00006B2020APR02

Staples Area Church Directory

Staples

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

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

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

Faith Lutheran
430 12th Street. NE., Staples.....218-894-1546
Pastor Carl Larson
Sunday Worship Service.....8:30 a.m.
Sunday School and Coffee Fellowship.....10:05 a.m.

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

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

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

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

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

Aldrich

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

Cushing

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

Lincoln Evangelical Free
1354 320th Street, Cushing, MN 56443
Phone: 218- 575-2449
www.lincolnefree.org
Facebook Lincoln E Free
Office Hours: Tues. - Thurs., 9 a.m. - 12 p.m.
Senior Pastor: Don Reigstad
SUNDAY
Church Worship Gathering.....10:00 a.m.
YouTube Channel.....10:00 a.m.

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

Leader

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

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

Motley

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

St. John's Lutheran
497 3rd Ave. S, Motley.....218-352-6399
Pastor Vicar Paul Koehler
Sunday School and Bible Class.....8:30 a.m.
Sunday Worship.....9:30 a.m.

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

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

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

Oylen

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

Pillager

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

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

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

Hewitt

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

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

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

Verndale

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

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

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

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

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

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

St. Frederick Catholic Church
20 Mason Avenue NW
Verndale.....218-894-2296
info@marysacc.org
Fr. Aaron Kuhn and Fr. Rick Aubol
MASS:
Saturday.....6:00 p.m.

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

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

Wadena

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

"Look Toward the Faith"

Pastor Carl Larson, Faith Lutheran Church, Staples

In February, much of the news in our various media sources centered around the Russian - Ukrainian War, a terrible war of unwarranted bloodshed. And that then led, within our church walls, questions concerning our countries loyalties in that unconscionable war.

But along with the uncertainties and questions concerning the European conflict, there were also numerous other anxieties addressed concerning the decisions offered by our Washington D.C. leadership. It was with these numerous questions and follow up discussions held by our congregation members that I was moved to ask, 'where should our Christian understanding take us' when considering these very pertinent topics of our day.

As I reflected back on all that was discussed, the single issue that kept pushing my thoughts centered on questions about what God wants for us in this ever changing, challenging world. And in my search, I found solace in an article written by Rev. Dr. Gene McAfee.

Rev. Dr. McAfee wrote:

"We claim to value life in our country, but we don't have much time for resurrection. The religious leaders and theologians and the politicians of Jesus' day didn't either. The Sadducees refused to believe in a resurrection at all. And when others saw what happened before their very eyes, as in the case of Lazarus, they conspired to kill Him, and put Him right back in the tomb where he belonged.

The disciples wanted no part of a resurrection. They scattered like chaff in the wind before Jesus died, and had no idea that Jesus might reappear. Thomas could scarcely

bring himself to believe in the resurrection even after the fact.

Were the technology available, it's safe to bet that Nicodemus and Joseph of Arimathea would not have permitted a resurrection to take place either, but would have instead brought Jesus down off the cross as soon as possible, stuck a few IV's in His veins, hydrated Him with saline solution and put Him on life support until all options could be considered.

And given the fact that they had no clue what Jesus was talking about when He occasionally alluded His approaching death, they certainly would not have considered Old Testament prophecies, or any number of messianic texts, Psalm 22, for example, to be a sort of emergency directive or Living Will.

Even as we gather during Lent and prepare for Easter, we're ambivalent about the resurrection.

Most of us would agree that we live as though Jesus were still in the tomb – where, we might add – He belongs. A resurrected Jesus can be a nuisance sometimes, inconvenient and demanding."

What Rev. Dr. McAfee did for me, was give me permission to look beyond the issues of our day, that are so often surrounded by missteps and with tragedy, and look toward the faith and life issues of the resurrection. For as a follower of Christ, the resurrection is where his promises point. That is where our questions and concerns in our world today should eventually lead.

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