

Inside this issue:

Rutten reaches 1,000 points in basketball win
Sourcewell approves \$2.2 million in grants
Cardinal Showcase - Improving School Climate
Gingerbread house decorating at library



Polar blast An unexpected visitor at the Polar Xpress event on Dec. 14 was the abominable snowman from the Rudolf TV show. Kids on the train ride had a polar blast of sub-zero temperatures as the train turns around, they could catch a glimpse of the character. (Photo by Mark Anderson)

Kyra Ladd honored by the Minnesota County Attorneys Association

Kyra Ladd, Wadena County Attorney, was presented with the Minnesota County Attorneys Association (MCAA) Johnson Distinguished Service Award at the 48th Annual MCAA meeting in Bloomington, Dec. 3, 2025.

The Johnson Distinguished Service Award is presented to a County Attorney who has demonstrated a history of significant leadership, strived to improve the quality of justice, and whose activity has increased and enhanced public awareness of the office of County Attorney at the state and/or national level while adhering to the highest ethical standards of the legal profession.

MCAA President and Winona County Attorney, Karin Sonneman, presented the award stating that County Attorney Ladd is the “MCAA representative on the Minnesota Sentencing Guidelines and she has put in countless hours of work in reviewing guide-



Kyra Ladd

lines and representing our interests in this important work. Sonneman went on to say that, “Kyra’s tireless work and extra hours spent on comprehensive review of the Guidelines was extra work done while being chronically understaffed in her own office.” President Sonneman further noted that, “Kyra gave time to all of us in the association in representing us and it was time that she simply did not have but she sacrificed her time for all of us and

for public safety across the State of Minnesota. The Sentencing Guidelines Commission is a thankless job that comes mostly with criticism as we generally do not get what we think is right. However, Kyra keeps working hard and standing up for public safety.”

Ladd has been the MCAA representative on the Minnesota Sentencing Guidelines Commission since replacing the late Washington County Attorney, Pete Orput, in 2020. President Sonneman stated that, “Kyra has also been an integral part of MCAA for many years” having served as Co-Chair on the Education Committee from 2017 to 2025. Ladd is a MCAA Board member since 2017 and is currently serving as Vice President.

In her remarks in receiving the award, Ladd stated that she was grateful and humbled by the recognition of her 86 other colleagues from around the

See **LADD** on page 10a

School tax levy increases by 1.79 percent

By Mark Anderson
Managing Editor

The Staples-Motley School Board approved a levy increase of 1.79 percent at their Dec. 1 meeting, which was also their Truth in Taxation meeting. The only three members of the public who attended were one student, one teacher and one newspaper reporter.

Staples-Motley Business Manager Ellie Hill explained how the school’s funding and tax process works and showed graphs on how the budget is used.

Most of the school’s funding comes from the state, with 17 percent local revenue and six percent from federal funding.

A big factor in this year’s budget was a reduction in debt service, Hill said. The general fund is doing well because of increased enrollment last year, which brought in more per pupil funding from the state.

Of the school’s expenditures, 56 percent goes to salaries. Hill said that is a little below average for schools, which is one

reason Staples-Motley is not making staff cuts this year. She said some schools were at 80 percent, and are currently going through a cutting process.

A new staff master contract was reached with the Staples-Motley Education Association. Superintendent Shane Tappe said the negotiation process was “the most professional and most positive I have seen.”

Board members Mary Freeman and Sherry Frisk were on the negotiating committee. Freeman said “Everyone was on the same page.”

Following the presentation, no school board members had any questions. One question came from the reporter about how much of the school’s levy has been approved by voters.

Hill said the school has only one tax that has been approved by voters, the operating referendum that was passed in 2013 and renewed by the board in 2023. That referendum expires in 2034. That referendum only goes to school programming, not to buildings or maintenance. The

rest of the school tax levy comes from the state formula for school taxation. Hill said almost all districts take the maximum amount of tax levy allowed.

“If you choose not to take levies, you have to cut programs,” said Hill.

The school currently levies \$5,960,653 per year, the increase approved by the board is 1.79 percent, or around \$104,700.

A facilities maintenance bond will expire in 2026. Voters will be asked to replace that with a building referendum that will be voted on in April. This will be a 20 year levy to address building issues.

In other news, the board

- Approved resignation of Carlie Rowe, middle school social worker, pending if the district can find a suitable replacement. If no replacement is found, the board recommended to ask that the contract be filled. Tappe said “We don’t think it’s a good idea to approve resignations mid-year unless we can find replacements.”

Weather

2025

This Week's Forecast

	High	Low	Cond.
Dec. 17	35	20	Cloudy
Dec. 18	25	-13	Cloudy
Dec. 19	12	10	Cloudy
Dec. 20	21	-2	P. Sunny
Dec. 21	13	2	P. Cloudy
Dec. 22	20	6	Cloudy
Dec. 23	17	12	P. Cloudy

Last Year, 2024

	High	Low	Cond.
Dec. 17	24°	20	Cloudy
Dec. 18	18	17	Cloudy
Dec. 19	20	17	Snow
Dec. 20	10	-1	Sunny
Dec. 21	16	7	Cloudy
Dec. 22	27	17	Cloudy
Dec. 23	23	18	Cloudy

Average Temps:
H = 23° Low = 7°

Compiled by
Dale Hausmann,
WCCO's Staples area
Weatherwatcher

Public Notices

Staples Township 9A

Thomastown Township 9A

Motley Township 9A

Bullard Township 9A

Fawn Lake 9A

Byron Township 9A



Public enters the Polar Xpress

Adults and children were enthralled in the Polar Xpress scene at Central Lakes College in Staples Dec. 13-14,, with model trains and a video making visitors feel as if they were in a train car. The event is put on the Central Lakes College and the Staples Historical Society. (Staples World photos by Mark Anderson)



Picking out gifts

Children in the community enjoyed picking out gifts for their family members at the Santa Day event Dec. 6, at Motley United Methodist Church. The variety of

gifts were donated by church members. While children 'shopped', their parents enjoyed coffee and Christmas treats. (Staples World photos by Dawn Timbs)



Four generations

Precious memories were made by families attending the recent Santa Day at Motley United Methodist Church, including a four generation family from Pillager, above. Pictured back row, from right, are Linda Mudgett, her granddaughter Lindsy (Spilman) Fuller, and her daughter Cindy (Mudgett) Spilman, dressed as Mrs. Claus. In front are Linda's great-granddaughters Tana and Letty Fuller.



Wrapping presents

Hundreds of gifts were wrapped for 'shoppers' at the recent Santa Day event at Motley United Methodist Church. Pictured at right, church member Sharon Sandberg helps package a present for a boy. A total of 139 children attended Santa Day, with each invited to pick out free gifts for their family members. The annual community event is a ministry of the church.



Serving Christmas goodies

A number of volunteers helped at the recent Santa Day event at Motley United Methodist Church. Pictured above serving treats to young shoppers and their parents are, from left, Linda Guptill, Gayle Quinn and Florence Berndt.

Santa's helpers

At left: A few youngsters helped children pick out free gifts for their family members at the annual Santa Day event Dec. 6, at Motley United Methodist Church. Pictured, from left, are Tana Fuller, Aspen Kavanaugh and Sarah Cole.

Predatory Offender Registration verifications for Morrison County completed

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

Each year the sheriff's office organizes a verification check for all predatory offenders who are on the registry and residing within the county. It is important to note that Minnesota only began registering predatory offenders in 1991 and did not assign risk level until 1997. Only those offenders who have been sentenced to prison and who were released after Jan. 1, 1997 have been assigned a risk level. Offenders sentenced to probation or juvenile offenders are not assigned a risk level.

Level 1 offenders are those deemed by Department of Corrections officials as those least likely to re-offend while Level 3 offenders are considered most likely to re-offend. It should also be noted that Level 2 offenders are checked two times a year and Level 3 offenders are checked quarterly.

During the most recent round of checks, multiple predatory offenders were checked in Morrison County. Fifty-eight predatory offenders were checked by the Morrison County Sheriff's Office and the Pierz, Motley and Royalton Police Departments. Of that number: 19 were Level 1 offenders, seven were Level 2, one was Level 3 and 31 offenders were not assigned a risk level. Little Falls Police Dept. completes their own compliance checks and are not part of this breakdown. All offenders were found to be compliant.

According to Sheriff Larsen, "Each year these verification checks remind us how important it is to stay proactive monitoring predatory offenders living in our communities. Our staff and partnering police departments put in a tremendous amount of work to ensure the safety of Morrison County residents. I am proud of their dedication and professionalism throughout this process. Our office will continue to remain vigilant and hold offenders accountable to the full extent of the law."

Motley area law enforcement

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

Nov. 24 - Motley Police and Morrison County deputies received a call from the Motley United Methodist Church reporting suspicious activity. A deputy handled the call.

Nov. 27 - Motley Police and Morrison County deputies responded to a crash at the intersection of Hwy 10 and Hwy 210 in Motley.

Nov. 26 - Motley Police issued a citation to Cory Roger Eckel, 43, for dog at large.

Nov. 25 - Motley Police received a call from a resident at the 900 block of Poplar Ln., Motley, who reported that her dog had been attacked by her neighbor's dog.

Dec. 2 - Morrison County deputies responded to a report of property damage at the 33000 block of Cherry

Ln., Motley. Subsequently, Deanna Marie Denio, 44, was arrested.

Dec. 1 - Glenn Alan Johnson, 51, reported his location to the MCSO, turning himself in for his warrant. A Morrison County deputy made contact with Johnson at the 200 block of Hwy 10 W., Motley and transported him to the Morrison County Jail without incident.

Dec. 5 - Motley Police received a call from the Holiday Store in Motley reporting that a known juvenile came in the store and took approximately \$65 worth of items and left without paying for them.

Dec. 4 - Motley Police received a call from Dollar General in Motley requesting a trespass on a subject because they keep stealing from the store. A trespass was delivered to the subject.

Dec. 5 - The MCSO received a report of suspicious activity at the 3600 block of 270th St., Cushing.



LAKEWOOD WELCOMES

Don Hughes, MD

FAMILY MEDICINE PHYSICIAN

Lakewood is pleased to announce the arrival of on-staff family medicine physician, Dr. Don Hughes. Dr. Hughes cares for patients of all ages and has a special interest in teaching and mentoring students and resident physicians. He also performs flight physicals for FAA pilots. In his free time, he enjoys spending time outdoors with his wife, Cathy, their three adult children, and four grandchildren. He will be seeing patients at Lakewood's Staples clinic.

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Staples Police execute search warrant assisted by Lakes Area SWAT Team

The Staples Police Dept. with assistance from the Lakes Area SWAT Team, successfully executed a search warrant Dec. 12 at a residence located in the 400 block of 5th St. SE, Staples. The incident began when Staples Police officers attempted to make contact with a male subject who had an active felony-level drug warrant. Upon officers' arrival, the individual refused to exit the residence. Due to the refusal to comply and the seriousness of the warrant, a search warrant was obtained to safely take the suspect into custody. The Lakes Area SWAT Team was deployed to assist

in the operation. The team is a multi-jurisdictional unit composed of members from Wadena County, Hubbard County, Becker County, Staples Police Dept. and Wadena Police Dept. Their support ensured the safe and efficient execution of the warrant. The male subject was taken into custody without further incident and is currently being held on the outstanding felony drug warrant. The report does not identify the subject. The Staples Police Dept. was assisted by Lakes Area SWAT Team and the Todd County Sheriff's Office.

Todd Cty. court report Dec. 10

Long Prairie Police
Anner Antonio Cuatro Bonilla, St. Paul. Driving without a valid license for vehicle class or type. Fine \$100. Fee \$85.
Bryan Fugencio Rosario, Long Prairie. Driving without a valid license for vehicle class or type. Fine \$100. Fee \$85.
Adonij Godoy Bracho, Long Prairie. Driving without a valid license for vehicle class or type. Fine \$100. Fee \$85.
Nancy Vasquez Aquino, Browerville. Driving after revocation. Fine \$200. Fee \$85.
Dept. of Natural Resources
Jason Lee Dickinson, Zimmerman. Hunting-tresportation of fire-arms-loaded firearm. Fine \$100. Fee \$85.
Eugene Harry, Jr. Gibson, Nelson. Walleye regulation violation. Fine \$50. Fee \$85.
Jack Brian Jacobson, St. Paul. ER Big Game-fail to validate deer license. Fine \$25. Fee \$85.
Eric John Spaeth, Long Prairie. Fail to register deer as required. Fine \$100. Fee \$85.
Andrew Dale Stevens, St. Cloud. Fail to register deer as required. Fine \$100. Fee \$85.
Rickey Allen Stevens, St. Cloud. Fail to register deer as required. Fine \$100. Fee \$85.
Evan Jaymes Lenzen, Eagle Bend. Trespass. Fine \$100. Fee \$85.
Andrew John Maher, Little Falls. Take fish without angling license. Fine \$100. Fee \$85.
Gerald Keith Martin, Long Prairie. Fail to validate deer licensing. Fine \$25. Fee \$85.
Michael Lee Skoglund, Nelson. Walleye Regulation violation. Fine \$50. Fee \$85.
MN State Patrol
Jacelyn Arino Hugo, Staples. Speed 75/65. Fine \$40. Fee \$85.
John Earle Bennett, Sauk Centre. Fail to yield upon entering roadway. Fine \$50. Fee \$85.
Tony Sewell Brown, St. Paul. Speed 84/70. Fine \$50. Fee \$85.
Rodrigo Antonio Gonzalez Kjel-dergaard, Sauk Centre. Speed 75/60. Fine \$60. Fee \$85.
Wyatt Lowell Hanson, Monticello. Hands free law. Fine \$50. Fee \$85.
Rachael Lynn Hartsock, Burtrum. Seat belt required. Fine \$25. Fee \$85.
Shaun David Johnson, Melrose. Speed 65/60. Fine \$40. Fee \$85.
Leticia Lopez, Denver, CO. Speed 80/70. Fine \$40. Fee \$85.
Edwin Reyes Ocasio, Long Prairie. Speed 70/60. Fine \$40. Fee \$85.
Andrew David Schornack, Rosemount. Speed 84/70. Fine \$50. Fee \$85.
Arturo Suarez Ruiz, Melrose. Speed 86/70. Fine \$60. Fee \$85.
Window tint. Fine \$50.
Heather Rose Tepley, Long Prairie. Speed 65/55. Fine \$40. Fee \$85.
Brooke Ann Thompson, Sauk Centre. Hands free law. Fine \$50. Fee \$85.
Jordan Lee Trisco, Osakis. Speed 65/55. Fine \$40. Fee \$85.
Andre Gene Schraufnagel, Waukesha, WI. Speed 79/70. Fine \$40. Fee \$85.
Maguire Alex Dostal, Hutchinson. Speed 75/55. Fine \$70. Fee \$155.
Abraham Ambriz Barragan, Hopkins. Driving after cancellation. Unsupervised probation, 6 mo. Fine \$200. Fee \$75.
Christopher Lance Abers, Browerville. Speed 65/60. Fine \$40. Fee \$85.
Miguel Angel Ambriz, Long Prairie. Hands free law. Fine \$50. Fee \$85.
Lucy Cecelia Beecher, Elk River. Speed 80/70. Fine \$40. Fee \$85.
Logan Jake Busse, Glencoe, Speed 89/70. Fine \$60. Fee \$85.
Joseph Armando Espinoza, Moorehead. Duty to drive with care. Fine \$40. Fee \$85.
Michael James Ewertsen, Osakis. Speed 65/60. Fine \$40. Fee \$85.
Tarum Rae Hirsch, Atwater. Speed 80/70. Fine \$40. Fee \$85.
Shayla Morawczynski, Black River Falls, WI. Speed 74/60. Fine \$50. Fee \$85.

Mitchell Chase Murphy, Grand Forks, ND. Speed 80/70. Fine \$40. Fee \$85.
Lisa Christine Wold, Farmington. Speed 85/70. Fine \$60. Fee \$85.
Todd County Sheriff's Office
Anderson Median Alvarado, Long Prairie. Expired registration. Fine \$30. Fine \$85. Driver must carry proof of insurance when operating vehicle.
Ryker Johnathan Beckner, Staples. Driving after suspension. Fine \$200. Fee \$85.
Francia Casimir, Browerville. Speed 70/60. Fine \$40. Fee \$85.
Tracielee Churlik, Motley. Expired registration. Fine \$30. Fee \$85.
Mauricio Vidal Gutierrez Orozco, Long Prairie. Speed 40/30. Fine \$40. Fee \$85.
Nathaniel Thomas Juergens, Browerville. Speed 64/55. Fine \$40. Fee \$85.
Kira Ruth McClain, Brainerd. Liquor consumption by persons under 21. Fine \$100. Fee \$85.
Xavier Perez Torres, Long Prairie. Driving after revocation. Fine \$200. Fee \$85.
Scarlen Nahiaara Valdez, Long Prairie. Speed 79/60. Fine \$60. Fee \$85.
Aiden James Winter, Staples. Window restrictions. Tint too dark. Fine \$50. Fee \$85. Speed 64/55. Fine \$40.
Christine Ann Swanson, Brainerd. Speed 90/60. Fine \$100. Fee \$185.
The following cases were heard before Judge Nathaniel D. Welte in Seventh District Court in Todd County December 2, 2025.
Travis Robert Milhausen, Waverly. Speed 75/70. Sentenced. Fine \$40. Fee \$75.
Ashton Curtis Rosenow, Long Prairie. Duty to drive with due care. Sentenced. Fine \$50. Fee \$75.
The following cases were heard before Judge Karl L. Schmidt in Seventh District Court in Todd County December 1, 2025.
Ashley Marie Olson, Detroit Lakes. DWI 4-operate motor vehicle-any amount Schedule I/II drugs/metabolite: not cannabis/hemp. Local confinement (90 days credit for time served: 3 days. Supervised probation, 2 yr. Fine \$200. Fee \$100. DWI-operate motor vehicle-any amount Schedule I/II drugs/metabolite: not cannabis/hemp. Dismissed. Driving after cancellation. Dismissed. Speed 74/55. Fine \$60. Fee \$85.
The following cases were heard before Judge Daniel A. Benson in Seventh District Court in Todd County November 26, 2025.
Sherri Lynn Wolpert, Bertha. DWI 2-operate motor vehicle-alcohol concentration 0.08 within 2 hours. Sentenced. Local confinement (364 days, stay 0 yr 0 mo 0 274 days for 4 yr credit for time served: 2 days). Domestic assault. Dismissed.
The following cases were heard before Judge Daniel A. Benson in Seventh District Court in Todd County November 25, 2025.
Manuel De Jesus Romervasquez, Wheaton. Disorderly conduct. Continued. Unsupervised probation, 1 yr. Fine \$100. Fee \$75.
Kaleb Robert Cusey, Staples. Dangerous weapon-permit holder-possess on school property. Continued. Unsupervised probation, 6 mo. Fine \$200.
Donavan August Decker, Browerville. DWI-fourth degree driving while impaired. Dismissed. Traffic-DWI-opoerate 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 \$200. Fine \$100.
Corissa Mae Oestich, Browerville. DWI-operate motor vehicle under influence of controlled substance. Dismissed. DWI-Operate motor vehicle-any amount Schedule I/II Drugs/metabolite, not cannabis/hemp. Adult community service, 16 hours. Supervised probation, 2 yr. Local confinement (90 days, stay 62 days for 2 yr credit for time served: 28 days). Fine \$400. Fee \$100.

75 YEARS Ago - 1950
• Dec. 21, 1950 - Alert orders for the 194th Tank battalion of the Minnesota National Guard have been received by the commanding officers of the unit at Brainerd and are to report on Jan. 16 for federalization. There are 19 men from Staples who are affiliated with the 194th Battalion. Names were not released because of security reasons.
• Dec. 21, 1950 - Sixteen hundred children of Staples

- O -
Compiled by
Dawn Timbs
- O -

and the community were in attendance at the annual Christmas party sponsored by Staples Civic & Commerce Association on Saturday, Dec. 16. The first show in the morning at the Staples theatre was attended by the city children, and the show in the afternoon was presented for the country children.

Santa Claus did a good job for the C&C and before the special train arrived at the depot, dozens of children from the city and community were there to greet him as he came off the train. Santa was also present at both movie shows, handing out bags of treats.
• Dec. 21, 1950 - Dear Santa, We would like a electric train and a filling station, a watch and a truck. Bring our dog Buff something. Thank you, Larry and Mickey Qualen.
• Dec. 21, 1950 - Dear Santa, I am a good boy. I am 6 years old and in the 1st grade. I want a toy gas station or a set of Lincoln logs. My baby sister wants a doll or a pull train. She calls it a Too-Too. Her name is Karel. How is Rudolph? Merry Christmas, Santa. Your friend, Verne Smith, Philbrook.
• Dec. 21, 1950 - Dear Santa, I would like a truck that hauls cars. Thank you. Denny German.
• Dec. 21, 1950 - Dear Santa Claus, I am writing for my two little brothers. They would like a gas station and a farm set and some cars and trucks. We have been good boys. Eugene and Ronnie Wicht.
• Dec. 21, 1950 - Dear Santa, I want a cowboy suit, train, jack in the box, doctor set, bike. Bring my little brother a bike, and a wagon, a ball. My little sister, a ball,



Mystery solved

Last week's mystery photo published in the May 13, 1965 edition of the Staples World featured the newly elected officers of the Staples high school Student Council for the 1965-66 school year. Pictured, from left, are Terry Hokenson, president; Kathy Lenk, secretary-treasurer; and Steve Germann, vice-president. Rick Odden of Staples, a 1966 SHS graduate, recognized all of his classmates. Thanks for participating in our mystery photo.

Great River Eye Clinic
formerly Crosby Eye Clinic

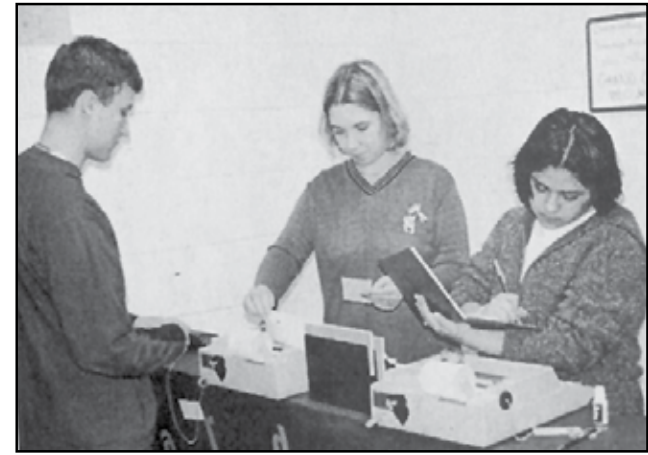
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Staples World
DEADLINES
Newspaper deadline for copy and advertising: 12 noon Fridays

Looking back



Mystery photos



and a bike, a doll and bring us all some candy. Love, Richard and Walter Morey, Motley, Minn.
• Dec. 21, 1950 - A new cafe opened for business in Motley last week, with Miss Jean Munson of Brainerd, manager. Miss Munson purchased this building from Aaron Haney. This building will be better remembered by some as the old First National Bank Building, or as a recreation room recently operated by James Norton.
50 YEARS Ago - 1975
• Dec. 18, 1975 - Country correspondents of The Staples World were invited to a Christmas tea last Friday afternoon, hosted by Beverly Shea and Kay Mergens of The World staff. Among those attending were Mrs. Lester Fleisher, Mrs. Kermit Kristenson, Mrs. Leon Ricker, Mrs. Ferdinand Martin, Mrs. Allen Rollins, Gertie DeWald, Mrs. A. Oehlenschlager, Betty Smith, Mrs. Herman Grondahl, Mrs. Ed Grossman, and Mrs. Guy Irwin.
• Dec. 18, 1975 - The Motley girls' basketball team traveled to Menahga Dec. 8, and

recorded their first victory of the season. This was also the first victory for the girls' "A" team in their history. The score ended 40-37 in overtime. Both teams were quite evenly matched, Motley having a slight edge in the height department. Both teams are young ball clubs and played some fine basketball.
• Dec. 18, 1975 - The Cardinals of Coach Kay Pettitt chalked up two victories in their girls basketball action during the past week to bring their record for the young season to three victories as compared to a lone loss.
On Dec. 9, the Cardinals were not very good hostesses for the New York Mills Eagles as they handed them a 34-27 loss on the home court.
Two free throws by Sandy Denning, her only points of the game, with seven seconds showing on the clock, provided the winning points for Staples in their 30-29 squeaker past the Crosby-Ironton Rangerettes on Dec. 11.
• Dec. 18, 1975 - Big Dance! Concert! The Amazing "Spiff Cool" and His Fabulous "Keen-O-Jets." Thursday, Dec. 18, 8 - 11 p.m., Staples Community Center.
• Dec. 18, 1975 - Hey, Mom, Look! Throw away that apron...come to Holm's Cafe for a restful evening and lots of good eating! Friday Night Fish fry, 11 a.m. - 9 p.m., Adults \$1.75 plus beverage. Kiddies, 75 cents. Holm's Cafe in Staples, Minn., Phone 894-3651.
• Dec. 18, 1975 - Donovan Stern, president of the Stern Rubber Company, was elected president of the Staples Chamber of Commerce for 1976 at that group's annual meeting and Christmas party in the V.F.W. hall Dec. 11.

Stern will succeed Charles Mayer as head of the organization, which comprises membership of the business and professional men and women of Staples.
Robert Zimprich, manager of Lambert Building Center, was chosen as vice-president for the coming year. Lee Jenkins

Hello readers. This week's archive photo(s) is from 2000. 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.

and James D. Randgaard were re-elected to another term as secretary and treasurer, respectively.
25 YEARS Ago - 2000
• Dec. 21, 2000 - A fire Thursday night left a Staples home blackened and heavily damaged.
Staples Volunteer Fire Department fire fighters were called out at 7:22 p.m. Dec. 14 to the Bonnie Reger residence on Hwy 10 (Second Ave.) between 8th and 9th Streets.
No one was home at the time and passers-by and neighbors reported the fire almost at the same time, according to Fire Chief Joe Hassler. The property is owned by Bill Sather.
• Dec. 21, 2000 - Dear Santa, Please bring me a new tractor - thank you for the one you brought me last year. Love Reyd Jordan, age 23 mos.
• Dec. 21, 2000 - Dear Santa, Thank you for my gifts last year. Please bring me a doll with hair and gel pens. Love, Alexis Jordan, 4 1/2 years.
• Dec. 21, 2000 - Dear Santa, How are you? I have been good! Please bring me a game boy. I wood all so like some poke a mon cards. Thank you. Love, Brandon Sterriker.
• Dec. 21, 2000 - Dear Santa, How are you? I have been good! Please bring me a cat. Thank you. Love Chelsea Weishair.
• Dec. 21, 2000 - Dear Santa, How are you? I have been good! Please bring me a barebe I would also like a cute stuff anamle that is a cat. Thank you. Love, Lynnea Iverson.

10 YEARS Ago - 2015
• Dec. 17, 2015 - The Staples Motley Dollars for Scholars held their Hoop Shoot at half-time of the boy's and girl's double header basketball games Dec. 8. Seniors were awarded scholarship money to further their education after graduation. They included Tiffany Veith, Quinn Uhlman, Jenessa Iverson, Lucas Jimenez, John Lund and Brady Smith.

The Staples World office,
224 4th St. NE, is
open every weekday, 8 a.m. - noon.
•For afternoon availability,
call 218-894-1112.
Regular advertising and copy
deadline is Friday, noon.
The office closes at noon on Friday.

Sourcewell announces \$2.2 million in grants

Public safety and local government entities will soon receive over \$2.2 million to improve their public service through Sourcewell's Impact Funding.

The recipients include 31 counties, cities, and townships, and 20 fire departments, police departments, and sheriff's offices throughout Sourcewell's central MN service region.

"These projects represent an incredible impact on our region's communities," said Paul Drange, director of regional services at Sourcewell. "Given the financial realities our local governments are facing, every dollar of funding counts. Every year we see more and more requests for funding, and we're eager to answer that call."

Funding requests were reviewed by either the Local Government Advisory Council or the Public Safety Advisory Council, then awarded by lottery until funding was exhausted. The advisory councils, comprised of local government and public safety leaders respectively, ensure that community input and fairness is at the heart of Sourcewell's funding process.

Impact Funding helps fulfill basic needs for local government and public safety entities such as upkeep, technology, safety equipment, and other project and administrative purchases. To be eligible, a project had to clearly demonstrate how it would have a direct impact on the applicant's community.

Sourcewell's Impact Funding is supported by revenue generated from its national cooperative purchasing program. Sourcewell provides public agencies throughout the United States and Canada with access to hundreds of competitively solicited contracts. Program service fees generated through Sourcewell contracts are reinvested in central Minnesota communities via projects like Impact Funding.

List of projects funded:

Public Safety

Crosby Fire Department Motorola APX N30 radios (20)

Communication is paramount for all emergency responses. Knowing the location and type of emergency you are responding to, knowing what resources and personnel are needed at the scene, and communicating amongst fire, law enforcement, EMS and the public will all be key to working safely and effectively in any emergency.

Federal Dam Volunteer Fire Department side-by-side utility vehicle

Will allow our all-volunteer department to respond more effectively to emergencies in remote or hard-to-reach areas. The SxS will greatly enhance both fire and medical response capabilities across our rural community.

Fifty Lakes Fire and Rescue Department structural fire protective gear, and portable storage

racks

Will allow members to perform their tasks on scene with better movement and better protection from carcinogens and heat exhaustion, leading to quicker and more efficient lifesaving efforts.

Hackensack Area Fire and Rescue Department fire hall siding, soffit, and insulation

Will be able to upgrade building energy efficiency and decrease operational costs.

Grey Eagle Fire Department turnout gear

Will replace outdated turnout gear with new compliant equipment to enhance firefighter safety and operational readiness. This critical upgrade will ensure team is properly protected during emergency responses.

Pierz Police Department patrol unit

Will establish a new Patrol Unit dedicated to enhancing community safety through rapid response, increased visibility, and proactive engagement. This unit will focus on reducing crime, building trust with residents, and supporting local initiatives through a presence that is both strategic and community oriented.

Pillager Area Fire Protection Association extrication tools - spreader, cutter, ram

Will upgrade to modern vehicle extrication tools to enhance emergency response capabilities. These new tools will allow firefighters to perform faster, safer, and more effective rescues during vehicle accidents, when every second counts.

Eagle Bend Fire Department Motorola APX N50 portable radios (11)

Will help to purchase portable radios, replacing outdated supply that are rapidly nearing the end of their life cycle.

Todd County Sheriff's Office Motorola APX N50 portable radios (10)

Will help to purchase portable (hand held) radios, replacing outdated supply that are rapidly nearing the end of their life cycle.

Sebekka Police Department squad replacement

Will replace an aging squad vehicle, saving the city expenses due to frequent repairs and downtime and improving the department's ability to respond to calls, conduct patrols, and maintain a visible presence in the community.

Ironton Fire Department SCBAs

Will help update some personal protective equipment that is in need of replacement.

Hewitt Volunteer Fire Department extrication tools - cutter and spreader

Will replace aging extrication tools with modern, battery-powered equipment to improve emergency response. This upgrade will reduce rescue times and enhance firefighter safety during life-threatening incidents.

Crooked Lake Fire De-

partment turnout gear

Will provide Personal Protective Equipment for fire personnel, allowing them to operate safely while assisting the public during hazardous situations.

Menahga Fire Department fill station, CO2 Monitor, Compressor, and 6000 PSI Bottles

Will upgrade its outdated air compressor with a modern 6,000 PSI system to meet the demands of today's firefighting equipment. This improvement will allow firefighters to refill their breathing air bottles quickly and safely, reducing downtime during emergencies.

Menahga Police Department squad replacement

Will purchase a new patrol squad car to replace an aging vehicle in fleet. The new squad car will be equipped with modern technology.

Motley Volunteer Fire Department tender truck

Will replace aging and unreliable tanker truck, a critical asset for firefighting in areas without hydrants. The newer tanker will greatly enhance the department's ability to protect lives, property, and natural resources across the community. This upgrade will ensure faster, safer, and more effective emergency response for all residents.

Pine River Fire Department Ranger Crew XP 1000

Will purchase a new Side x Side (UTV) equipped with a wildland/medical skid unit, replacing its aging 2001 ATV. This upgraded vehicle will double responder capacity and enhance the department's effectiveness in wildland firefighting and remote rescues, featuring water suppression capabilities.

Swanville Rural Fire Association structural turnout gear, hoods, gloves, and boots

Will keep members of the department safe during fire and rescue scenes. The coats, bibs, hoods, gloves and boots will be a safety upgrade and help with fatigue during scenes.

Cass County Sheriff's Office mud boat, washer and dryer units

Sheriff's Office will replace aged laundry equipment in the Cass County Detention Center with modern, energy-efficient Uni-Mac units. These upgrades will ensure continued safety and efficiency in vital public safety facility operations across the county.

Walker Area Joint Fire Department hoses and nozzles

Will replace outdated, 30-year-old fire hoses with modern, NFPA-compliant equipment. This upgrade will prioritize firefighter safety, ensuring crews have reliable tools when respond-

ing to emergencies.

Local Government City of Pillager Cemetery Information Management System

A Cemetery Information Management System (CIMS) is software that helps manage cemetery operations. It tracks burial plots, maintains deceased records, handles bookings and payments, and stores important documents. The purchase of this system will improve accuracy, save time, and allow easy search and reporting.

City of Walker Towable Crack Sealer

Will be a strategic and proactive approach to road maintenance. This equipment will enable the City of Walker to implement a regular, cost-effective crack sealing program that improves road conditions, extends pavement life, and reduces long-term maintenance costs.

City of Hewitt Two Stationary Generators

Will strengthen city's emergency response capabilities and safeguard vital municipal operations, ensuring the city remains prepared for any disruption.

Morrison County Emergency Duress System

Will upgrade duress alert system to improve emergency response across public-facing facilities. The new technology will enhance staff confidence and ensure faster, more reliable alerts during critical incidents.

Township of Sylvan Township Hall Upgrades

Project includes new concrete flooring and aprons for maintenance sheds to protect road equipment from damage, along with automatic garage door openers for safer staff operations. A new ADA-compliant sidewalk will also ensure equitable and secure access for all residents during important civic events like voting on election day.

Township of Parker, Morrison County (Randall area) Town Hall Building Addition

Will expand its current building for new, more accessible office and storage space. With this addition, the existing building will be able to be utilized for shop and equipment storage.

Township of Ponto Lake Township, Cass County, Cemetery Improvements

Township will improve and modernize its township-owned cemetery, ensuring compliance with Minnesota State Statute #306. The project will include upgrading records to a digital system, replacing deteriorated fencing and entrances, improving burial access, and establishing clear policies for cremation and natural burials. These improvements will enhance safety, preserve community

history, and provide families with better access to accurate and transparent cemetery information.

Township of Powers Township Truck

Will purchase a one-and-a-half-ton pickup to better serve the local community.

City of Jenkins Public Works Equipment and Upgrades

Provides a safe, functional facility and the proper, reliable equipment needed to respond effectively to maintenance and emergencies, enhancing public safety and accessibility. Drastically lowers energy use.

City of Osakis Water Meter Equipment

Will obtain the parts needed to upgrade water meters to allow for accurate monthly water usage readings, and create a more reliable service to residents.

Township of Wilson, Cass County Snowplow Truck

Community will benefit from an enhanced snow removal fleet with the addition of a new, state-of-the-art snow plow truck. This investment will ensure quicker and more efficient snow clearance. Residents can look forward to a higher level of service and increased peace of mind in the upcoming winter season.

Township of Crooked Lake Plow Attachment for Road Grater

Will purchase a new snow plow and mulching head. This new equipment will help township keep roads clear of ice and compacted snow. The mulching head will allow the skidloader to be used to clear brush and small trees and mulch the debris into the ground effectively and safely.

Garrison Kathio West Mille Lacs Lake Sanitary Sewer District Geographic Information System

Will be a step forward in managing the Sanitary District. It will make the District virtually paperless, provide up-to-date information, and make sure all billings are correct to help keep costs down for customers. This tool will help all staff see the same information in real time, allowing much more efficient management of the District.

City of Backus City Standby Generator

Will install a standby generator to ensure continuous power for essential municipal operations during outages. This project will keep public safety services, water systems, and emergency coordination fully operational when residents need them most.

City of Crosslake Community Park Cold Storage

Plans for a new cold storage building at the Community Park. This facility will provide secure, weather-protected space for equipment and supplies, allowing the Parks and Recreation Department to better support programs, events, and year-round park operations. The project will enhance recreational opportunities and community services for residents and visitors alike.

City of Emily replacement needs - security, public works, office

Will purchase city maintenance equipment, upgrade of exterior City Hall lights and parking lot lights for enhanced workplace safety, and upgraded workstations.

City of Garrison City Facility Updates

Will improve its meeting room for a more professional atmosphere. The changes will improve the way the meeting shows audience and council receive information.

City of Grey Eagle City Grounds Equipment & Shop Improvements

Will enhance maintenance operations with the purchase of a zero-turn John Deere mower and the insulation of its maintenance shop. These upgrades will improve efficiency, reduce energy costs, and support year-round operations.

City of Hackensack Security system and cellular power loss monitors

Will enhance public safety and infrastructure reliability by installing new

security camera systems at City Hall, the Community Building, and the Chamber Building, along with a controlled door access system at the Community Center. In addition, cellular power loss monitors will be added to lift stations and grinder pumps to ensure rapid response during outages.

City of Lake Shore Update Public Works and Wastewater Equipment

Will update their public works and wastewater equipment. This will help the City be able to work more efficiently and will save time and money long-term.

City of Menahga Re-roof City Hall

Will replace the aging roof on City Hall to ensure the safety, integrity, and efficiency of this vital government facility. This project will safeguard essential public services, records, and community spaces while reducing future maintenance costs.

City of Pequot Lakes Renovation of Municipal Facility

The City of Pequot Lakes will renovate and modernize its Administration Office, the central hub for day-to-day municipal operations and public services. The project includes structural upgrades, new technology to improve delivery service, and the addition of a second emergency exit to enhance safety and building functionality.

City of Pierz Public Works Truck Replacement

Will purchase a new Public Works truck to improve efficiency, safety, and reliability in delivering essential city services. The new vehicle will support critical operations such as road maintenance, snow removal, and infrastructure repairs.

City of Pine River City Improvements and Upgrades

Will use funding for City Hall improvements to include interior paint, interior flooring, and new presentation technologies for the council chambers.

City of Upsala Water Tower Mixer, Recreation Center Scrubber, and Snow Pusher for Skid Steer

Will help improve water quality, address recreation center needs and upgrade snow removal equipment.

City of Verndale Warning siren and generator

Purchase and install a new tornado siren and generator backup at the fire hall. The siren will replace the existing outdated siren that has been unreliable the last couple of years. The generator will be used to power the siren and the fire hall in power outages. This will allow the fire hall to be used as an emergency management site.

Township of Irontdale Front End Loader with Broom Attachment

Will greatly benefit the safety of residents.

Township of Granite Town Hall Accessibility & Upgrades

After losing the township town hall to arson, updates are needed to facilitate private voting for all citizens. The proposed project includes creating accessible parking, converting a storage room into a restroom, adding shelving for road signs, providing furniture for individuals with disabilities, township board and audience, installing a threshold ramp for easy access, and implementing a message center sign.

City of Burtrum City Snow Plow Truck

This investment will ensure community can stay safe and moving forward all winter.

City of Sobieski Grader

Fill take on an upgrade project for grader (maintainer).

Township of Culdrum Medium-Sized Utility Tractor

Will increase capacity to maintain safe, accessible roads.

Full project list at URL : <https://news.sourcewell-mn.gov/community-impact-across-central-minnesota/>

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Archie, Grace and Alida Hanson.



Finlay Craig and dad, Mathew.



Nash Adams and mom, Jamie.



Fun at Santa Day

Dozens of people attended Santa Day at Motley United Methodist Church Dec. 6. The event offered area children the opportunity to ‘shop’ for free gifts for their family members. Above, from left:

Aspen Kavanaugh assisted Jessica Kleinschmidt of Staples, along with her son Langston, 17 mos., who was trying to pick out something for his daddy. (Staples World photo by Dawn Timbs)

MRE scholarships for Staples

Missouri River Energy Services (MRES) and its 61 member utilities, including the City of Staples, announced the 2026 scholarship applications are open for high school seniors. Each year, MRES and its member utilities provide scholarship opportunities designed to help students pursue higher education at accredited two or four year colleges, universities or technical institutions. The program includes a renewable general scholarship and a one-time powerline scholarship for students pursuing technical training related to the powerline field. Five high school graduates receive a \$1,000 general scholarship to attend an accredited two or four year

college or technical school in fall 2026. These scholarships are renewable for up to three additional years, based on academic performance and other criteria, for a potential total value of \$4,000. Applicants for this scholarship must reside in a home receiving power from the City of Staples. Additionally, seven one-time \$2,000 scholarships are available for students enrolling in a lineworker or powerline-related program at an eligible technical college. Those technical colleges include Bismarck State College; Bismarck, ND; Dakota County Technical College – Rosemount, MN; Minnesota State Community and Technical College ; Wadena, MN; Minnesota West Community and

Technical College; Granite Falls, MN; Minnesota West Community and Technical College; – Jackson, MN; Mitchell Technical College; Mitchell, SD; and Northwest Iowa Community College; Sheldon, Iowa. Applicants for this scholarship do not have to reside in a household receiving power from an MRES member utility. The scholarship program reflects the City of Staples’ continued investment in the community and the next generation of leaders. The application deadline is March 13, 2026. Find full program details and scholarship applications at <https://www.mrenergy.com/services/scholarships>.

Mark Your Calendar

Dec. 18

‘WALK WITH A Doc’ Thursdays at 5:15 p.m., at Lake-wood Health System’s main campus in Staples. Meet at the main entrance. For more information about this free program, visit <https://walkwithadoc.org/join-a-walk/locations/staples-minnesota>

Gingerbread house decorating

The Staples Public Library recently hosted Gingerbread House decorating. The program is sponsored by the Staples Friends of the Library. For information on upcoming free programs, stop by the library, call 218-894-1401 or visit www.griver.org. (Submitted photos)

Dec. 19 - 21

LIGHTS IN THE PINES will be held at Pine Grove Park in Staples Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays, 5 - 8 p.m., through December. Free will donation.

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.

CELEBRATE RECOVERY GROUP MEETINGS Sundays, 6 p.m., at Motley Free Methodist Church, 33 Wellwood St. E.,

Motley.

Dec. 23

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.

Dec. 25

FREE CHRISTMAS MEAL Thursday, Dec. 25, at Timbers Event Center, 1220 2nd Ave. NE, Staples. Register with Discover Staples - watch for info.

Mary, Mother of the Church Area Catholic Community

CHRISTMAS Mass Schedule

CHRISTMAS EVE | WEDNESDAY, DEC. 24

4:00pm

ST. HUBERT, BLUEGRASS*

4:00pm

SACRED HEART, STAPLES

4:00pm

ST. ANN, WADENA

6:30pm

ST. JOSEPH, BERTHA

6:30pm

ST. MICHAEL, MOTLEY

12:00am

ST. ANN, WADENA - MIDNIGHT MASS

CHRISTMAS DAY | THURSDAY, DEC. 25

9:00am

ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST, BLUFFTON

9:00am

ASSUMPTION OF OUR LADY, MENAHA*

9:00am

SACRED HEART, STAPLES

9:00am

ST. FREDERICK, VERNDAL*

9:00am

ST. ANN, WADENA

* No Incense



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Menu

Senior Nutrition Program

Call mornings (218-979-4118) the Thursday before to reserve next week’s meal(s) and for current suggested donation info. LSS Meals - traditional older adult menu. Menu is subject to change.

LOCATED AT: Staples Hi-Rise Apartments, 615 4th St. NE, Staples. Seniors welcome to dine-in at 11:00 a.m., if meal is reserved.

Staples 218-979-4118

LSS meals include bread (various kinds), marg. and 1% milk.

Dec. 22 - Dec. 26

MONDAY - Baked pork chop, pork gravy, scalloped potatoes, mixed veggies, oatmeal raisin cookie.

TUESDAY - Chicken Cordon Bleu, sliced carrots, rice pilaf applesauce cup.

WEDNESDAY Salisbury steak, mashed potatoes, brown gravy, green beans, vanilla wafers.

THURSDAY - CLOSED. Merry Christmas.

FRIDAY - Beef Lasagna, peas/carrots, diced pear cup, sugar cookie.

wk52



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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.....9:00 a.m. Sunday School and Coffee Fellowship.....10:05 a.m. Sacred Heart Catholic Church 310 4th St. NE, Staples Church.....218-894-2296 info@marysacc.org Rev. JC Duncan, 218-632-7314 Rev. Rick Aubol, 218-632-7310 Rev. Greg Sauer, 218-632-7319 Mass: Sunday.....8:30 a.m. Seventh Day Adventist 421 Dakota Ave. SE, Staples Pastor Joshua Jerecek 218-894-0033 Saturday Worship.....9:30 am. Sabbath School.....10:45 a.m. Thomastown Covenant 15940 251st Ave., Staples.....218-894-3923 Pastor Scott Jorgenson Sunday Worship.....10:30 a.m. WEDNESDAY NIGHT YOUTH.....6:30 p.m. Trinity Lutheran 1000 4th St., NE, Staples.....218-894-2372 Pastor Vicar Paul Koehler Sunday Divine Service.....9:00 a.m. Sunday School and Bible Class...10:30 a.m. United Methodist 310 5th St. NE, Staples.....218-894-2248 Sunday Worship.....10:30 a.m. (Nursery Available for Sunday Worship)

Aldrich

Balsamlund Lutheran 19550 490th Street, Aldrich Janet Eckman SMA.....218-837-5831 jre227@yahoo.com Sunday Worship.....8:30 a.m. Cushing Bethany Lutheran 25430 Bison Rd.Cushing, MN 320-749-2140 Pastor Carl Larson 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.....7:30 p.m. Leader Swan Valley Lutheran 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.....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. Gabriel Walz MASS: Saturday.....4:00 p.m.

St. Michael 280 1st Ave S, Motley.....218-894-2296 Rev. JC Duncan, 218-632-7314 Rev. Rick Aubol, 218-632-7310 Rev. Greg Sauer, 218-632-7319 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 VerndaleFLC@gmail.com Pastor Amos Self.....218-371-7189 Tahna Rurup, Connections & Media Pastor Tillman Phagan, Kid's & Food Shelf Pastor Ryan Wolfenden, Youth Pastor SUNDAY Youth Prayer.....9:20 a.m. Worship Service.....10:00 a.m. Prayer Meeting.....5 p.m. WEDNESDAY Life Groups.....6:30 p.m. Hope Chapel Alliance 18126 County Road 7, Verndale 218-445-5643 or 218-472-3316 Pastor Neal Malcore Sunday Worship.....9:00 a.m. Sunday School.....10:30 a.m. WEDNESDAY Family Night.....5:30 p.m. Immanuel Lutheran Church of Bartlett Township (LCMS) 17097 460th St., PO Box 37, Verndale Pastor Robin Fish Sunday Worship.....9:00 a.m. WEDNESDAY Bible Study.....6:30 p.m. Verndale United Methodist 10 3rd Ave. SW, Verndale 218-445-5108 Pastor Jill Pawlowski Sunday Worship.....9:00 a.m. Central Community Church 5 miles N on Cty Rd 26 (Nimrod tar) Pastor James Middendorf, 320-260-4952 Sunday Service.....9:00 a.m. Bible Study.....10:30 a.m. St. Frederick Catholic Church 20 Mason Avenue NW Verndale.....218-894-2296 info@marysacc.org Rev. JC Duncan, 218-632-7314 Rev. Rick Aubol, 218-632-7310 Rev. Greg Sauer, 218-632-7319 MASS: Saturday.....6:00 p.m. St. Hubert Catholic Church Bluegrass.....218-894-2296 info@marysacc.org Rev. JC Duncan, 218-632-7314 Rev. Rick Aubol, 218-632-7310 Father Greg Sauer, 218-632-7319 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. St. Ann's Catholic Church 514 1st Street SE, Wadena(218) 631-1593 Rev. JC Duncan, 218-632-7314 Rev. Rick Aubol, 218-632-7310 Father Greg Sauer, 218-632-7319 Mass: Sunday.....10 a.m.



Kid-friendly Polar Xpress event at CLC

Hundreds of area children attended the Polar Xpress to view the trains, ride the hobby horse and ring the railroad bells. (Staples World photos by Mark Anderson)

Todd County Historical Society report

Submitted by De Eberle, Administrator

The Todd County Historical Society Christmas Party was held at the American Legion in Long Prairie. The lasagna dinner was catered by the Legion Club. The dinner was gifted to TCHS members by Syd and Nancy Kjeldahl.

TCHS members convened Dec. 1 with the meeting called to order by Vice President Ron Wienhold at 1:00 p.m. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited. The secretary's report was read and approved.

Annual elections were discussed. All officers are required to attend all the meetings.

Nominations are placed by the Nominating Committee. Those brought forward were Rita Stracek and Gene Tschida. Gene declined, due to a conflict of other jobs. No other names were brought forward.

Gerry Ruda briefly discussed the MN Paid Leave Program.

As we start the new year, we will miss two of our long time members, Syd Kjeldahl and Gary Stracek. De will be gone Dec. 17, 2025 - January 14, 2026.

De made the motion to adjourn with Mary Loken seconding.

The Todd County Museum will be closed Dec. 24, 2025 - January 2, 2026.

Next meeting is Monday, Jan. 5, 2026 at 1:00 p.m. at the museum.

Ron Wienhold will provide the program and Reta Dahlen will bring the treats.

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

"Christmas Basics"

By Mary Hake (God's Word For Today)

On Christmas Eve, tears poured down Mary's cheeks as her newborn preemie, Kathryn, struggled for life. Two years later, Mary's healthy little girl made Christmas special as the toddler thrilled at the decorations, lights and music.

Kathryn stared wide-eyed at the nativity set and begged to sing "Away In A Manger" and hear the story of Jesus' birth again and again.

Jesus told his disciples to become like little children, eager to experience the basics of life and faith with wonder and appreciation. Believers should approach the Christmas season in this way.

View it afresh as if you have not heard the narrative of Jesus' birth hundreds of times. Take delight in this wonderful story as you share it, especially with children.

"So I will always remind you of these things, even though you know them and are firmly established in the truth you now have." (2 Peter 1:12, NIV)

Although some wrongly deny Jesus was God in human form and was born of a virgin, much of the world celebrates Christmas. Believers know the truth of Scripture and can rejoice in the Savior's birth like an eager child.

Thought for Today: Jesus makes the difference.

--Submitted by Pastor Roy Miles, Staples Assembly Of God Church

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Team celebrates 1,000 point milestone

Eli Rutten's teammates surround him to celebrate his 1,000th point as a Staples-Motley basketball player. Visible from left, Josiah Burton, Avandre Brandt,

Rutten, Conner Kuhns, Noah Larson and Peyton Jares. (Staples World photo by Mark Anderson)

Rutten reaches 1,000 points while leading team to win

Eli Rutten scored 26 points to lead the Staples-Motley boys basketball team to a 66-54 win over Pierz on Dec. 12. His 25th point was significant because it was his 1,000th career point for the Cardinals.

Conner Kuhns opened the game with steals on the first two possessions, setting the tone for the team to deny drives to the basket. Staples-Motley took an early lead, fell behind by six, then pushed into the lead with three point shots by Josiah Burton and Rutten. They took a 29-27 lead into half-time.

In the second half, the Cardinals went on a 12-2 run to go up by 11. They maintained the lead the rest of the way, with Rutten sinking four straight free throws at the end, one of them his 1,000th point of his career.

Team results

Staples-Motley 66, Pierz 54

Scoring: Eli Rutten 26, Conner Kuhns 11, Noah Larson 11, Josiah Burton 7, Peyton Jares 7, Carter Sarbaum 4

Cardinals place at Paul Bunyan

Kana Reese, Leah Greenwaldt, Maddie Kist and Talin Lind all won their weight class at the Paul Bunyan wrestling tournament Dec. 12-13 at Brainerd.

The Cardinal girls had eleven wrestlers in the tournament.

Team results

Paul Bunyan Wrestling Tournament
100A Kana Reese 3-0, 1st place



Cooking in the lane

Eli Rutten gets to the basket again against Pierz. (Staples World photo by Mark Anderson)

place
100B Ali Reese 2-1, 2nd place
106 Mikayla Pesta 2-1, 5th place; Addyson Holst 0-3, 8th place
112 Elise Trif 1-2, 4th place; Isabelle Dobson 2-1, 5th place
118 Leah Greenwaldt 3-0, 1st place
124B Maddie Kist 3-0, 1st place; Jadin Linehan 1-2, 3rd place
130B Talin Lind 3-0, 1st place
136 Kaylee Winter 1-1, 3rd place

Wrestlers win at Northfield

The Staples-Motley boys wrestling team tested themselves against some southern Minnesota teams at the Northfield Larry Severson Invite on Dec. 13.

Without a few of their top wrestlers, the Cardinals ended up on top with six wrestlers winning their weight class and six others in the top three.

Staples-Motley upper weights were the strength of the team, with Luke Bjerga winning at 189 pounds, Zachary Tabatt at 215 and Adrian Gomez at heavyweight. Bjerga pinned a ranked wrestler in his championship match. Tabatt beat a ranked wrestler 2-1 in overtime, riding him out for the final 30 second overtime period. Gomez scored two pins and a technical fall to reach the final. He won his championship match with a 9-1 major decision.

Team results

son Invite
Staples-Motley 258, Pine Island 177, Lewiston-Altura-Rushford-Peterson 166, Eastview 140, Anoka 122, Howard Lake-Waverly-Winstead 110, Northfield 88, Two Rivers 51, Robbinsdale Armstrong 51, Cretin-Derham Hall 42, Sauk Rapids-Rice 40, Austin 36, Burnsville 21, Minneapolis Roosevelt 19, Lake City 11
107 Garrett Bjerga 3-0, 1st place
114 Justin Olson 2-1, 3rd place
121 Caden Kramer 4-0, 1st place
127 Camrik Tappe 0-2
133 Cayden Neisen 3-1, 2nd place
139 open
145 Eli Greenwaldt 3-0, 1st place
152 Beau Carlson 2-1, 2nd place
160 Seth Cossentine 5-1, 3rd place; Cooper Tappe 3-1, 4th place
172 Riley Reese 3-1, 3rd place
189 Luke Bjerga 3-0, 1st place
215 Zachary Tabatt 3-0, 1st place
285 Adrian Gomez 4-0, 1st place

One of the wisdoms we might have heard from our grandparents is that "It's an ill wind that blows no good." Meaning, that an event some might find unfortunate could be seen by others as positive, or even a blessing.

That expression could be applied to the recent snows that so recently swept across Minnesota in a swath from northwest to southeast. Minnesotans' feelings about our winter weather can be as polarized as they are on political issues. Some look forward to and savor the dramatic seasonal changes and the alternative recreations that winter brings. Others passionately dislike the cold, the ice-covered sidewalks, and the snow that blankets the landscape, limits mobility, and makes driving treacherous.

Wild creatures may not have the powers of perception to anticipate and respond emotionally as we do, but the character of our winters most certainly affects them. All those that do not migrate to more temperate southward destinations face survival challenges. And, in one way or another, their hazard is determined by the nature and magnitude of the wintry elements.

This latest snow event, added to snow already on the ground, has left a substantial share of central and northern Minnesota with snow depths that range from 12 to 16 inches. The timing is certainly not unique, but this earlier-than-normal accumulation could set us up for what our grandparents might call



Big basket late in the game

Peyton Jares scores at the basket late in the game against Pierz as his teammates rise from the bench to cheer him on. (Staples World photo by Mark Anderson)

Early snow brings cheers and fears

nesota winter."

Those whose livelihood is directly tied to this sort of winter are understandably enthusiastic. If you're a snowmobile dealer, a retailer who sells cross-country ski or snowshoe gear, a hardware or big box store that sells snow-throwers and shovels, or if you operate a plowing and snow removal business, you're excited about the look of the winter thus far.

The enthusiasm will be mutual if you're an avid snowmobiler, skier, or snowshoer. Groomed snowmobile and cross-country trails in those areas blessed by the abundant snowfall should be in great condition. Many downhill ski areas have snow making equipment, but for snowboarders and downhill skiers, there's no such thing as too much snow.

Also anticipating hearing the "cha-ching" of their cash register are travel agents who sell getaway vacation packages to destinations like Arizona, the Gulf Coast, or the Bahamas. By February there will probably be a growing number of MINOs—Minnesotan In Name Only—who will eagerly trade their scarves and neck warmers for t-shirts, shorts, and sunblock!

Ice fishermen are not enthusiastic about heavy snow events that occur early, before there is substantial ice thickness. On the lake where I do most of my open water fishing, the main portion achieved a covering of ice less than a week before heavy snow arrived the second week of December. The consequence of too much snow over too little ice can be a slush layer on the surface—making on-ice travel difficult—and more time needed before the ice is uniformly solid enough to support the weight of vehicles, especially heavier ones pulling wheelhouse-type angling shelters.

Wildlife also absorb the

of the weather that comes with a Minnesota winter. Coming immediately to mind are whitetail deer, big game that is still in-season through the end of December if you hunt with a bow.

Following two winters in a row with modest snow depths—widely believed to have led to better winter deer survival—the first two weeks of the 2025 general firearms deer season saw a harvest increase of roughly nine percent over 2024. When the total deer harvest during all firearm and archery season frameworks is finally tallied, there's little doubt that 2025 will be a plus over 2024.

But what the 2026 season will bring could be influenced by the Minnesota weather from now through spring. When snow depth reaches 15 inches it begins to impact deer movement and the effort they must expend in their travels between feeding and security areas; not to mention their efforts to escape a primary predator, the Eastern gray wolf. When deer movement is too greatly restricted for too long a period, starvation can be the outcome. As you might expect, the difficulty may be greatest for younger, smaller deer.

Our Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (DNR) and other wildlife agencies in the snow belt states use a measurement called the winter severity index, or WSI, to anticipate the likely impact of deep snow and cold temperatures on deer survival. The WSI counts the number of days throughout the winter with 15 or more inches of snow on the ground, and days with temperatures of zero, or below, Fahrenheit. A total of 50 or fewer such days is considered a mild winter, 120 or more days severe, and WSI totals in between a moderate winter.

Based on 36 years of keeping this data, Minnesota DNR records show an

of every four winters to be severe in terms of deer survival. This doesn't mean that severe winters can't occur back to back, as did the last two moderate winters. The timing of thawing weather in late winter and spring has a direct bearing on how severe the winter will prove to be for deer survival. An early spring can be a boon to winter-stressed deer. That said, the earlier those deep snow and sub-zero days begin—like this year—the higher the probability of a deer-stressing winter.

While deep snow is generally the bane of Minnesota's whitetail deer, it's a boon to ruffed grouse, the most sought after upland game bird in Central and Northern Minnesota. When snow is deep enough—about 10 inches, give or take—grouse burrow under the surface, sheltered there from the wind and the coldest air, not to mention from roving predators, and leave this "snow roost" generally only to feed. Soft, fluffy snow's insulating properties can keep a grouse many degrees warmer than if it is exposed to the elements.

Like whitetail deer, pheasants do best during mild winters. Perhaps the best winter pheasant shelter is found in dense wetland cattail stands. Ideally these are not far from harvested crop fields and weedy fencerows and uncut ditches, where they feed on crop "leftovers" and weed seeds. But when deep snow covers farm fields and those weedy fencerows and ditches, and fills those wetlands—diminishing their protective qualities—pheasants will suffer.

Despite the sophistication of modern forecasting, "unpredictable" is still a term that applies to weather in general, and a Minnesota winter in particular. About all we can do is prepare for what might be coming our way, and make the best of it, knowing that one size does

Inside the Outdoors



Mike Rahn

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Public Notices

BULLARD TOWNSHIP
NOTICE OF FILING

Bullard Township is accepting filings for:
Supervisor for a three (3) year term
Supervisor for a one (1) year term
Clerk for a two (2) year term
The filing period for these offices opens on December 30, 2025 and closes on January 13, 2026.
Filing fee is \$2.00.
Please contact the Bullard Township Clerk at 218-296-1612 to file for office. .

Janelle VanAlst, Clerk
Bullard Township
52-1pnc

MOTLEY TOWNSHIP
FILING NOTICE

Motley Township will hold an election in March, 2026 for one (1) supervisor for a three- (3) year term and one (1) clerk for a two- (2) year term.
The filing period for these offices opens December 30, 2025 and closes January 13, 2026 at 5:00 p.m. To file for office, contact Ken Swecker, Township Clerk, at 218-330-7887.

Ken Swecker, Clerk
Motley Township
51-52pnc

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: January 22, 2002
ORIGINAL PRINCIPAL AMOUNT OF MORTGAGE: \$65,000.00
MORTGAGOR(S): Richard T. VanNorman, an unmarried man
MORTGAGEE: Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc., as nominee for Washington Mutual Bank, FA
DATE AND PLACE OF FILING: Recorded on January 29, 2002 as Document Number 406496; as modified of record by Richard T. VanNorman and Christine Mary VanNorman by document recorded on July 31, 2019 as Document Number A515362 in the Office of the County Recorder of Todd County, Minnesota.

ASSIGNMENTS OF MORTGAGE: Assigned to: Wells Fargo Bank, N.A. by assignment recorded on December 14, 2012 as Document Number 482007 in the Office of the County Recorder of Todd County, Minnesota; thereafter assigned to U.S. Bank Trust National Association, not in its individual capacity, but solely in its Capacity as Trustee of Citigroup Mortgage Loan Trust 2022-RP3 by assignment recorded on August 18, 2022 as Document Number A533219 in the Office of the County Recorder of Todd County, Minnesota.

LEGAL DESCRIPTION OF PROPERTY: The Southeast Quarter of the Northeast Quarter (SE 1/4 NE 1/4) lying North of Highway #12,

NOTICE OF FILING
STAPLES TOWNSHIP

Staples Township is accepting filings for:
Supervisor for a three (3) year term
Clerk for a two (2) year term
The filing period for these offices opens at the home of the Clerk located at 48301 County 21, Staples, on December 30, 2025 and closes at 5:00 p.m. on January 13, 2026.
Filing fee is \$2.00.
Contact Bonnie Thoele at 218-296-2151 to file for office.

Bonnie Thoele, Clerk
Staples Township
52-1pnc

THOMASTOWN
TOWNSHIP
FILING NOTICE

Thomastown Township will hold an election in March, 2026 for one (1) supervisor for a three- (3) year term and one (1) clerk for a two- (2) year term.
The filing period for these offices opens December 30, 2025 and closes January 13, 2026 at 5:00 p.m. To file for office, contact Sue Walsvik, Township Clerk, at 218-639-8465.

Sue Walsvik, Clerk
Thomastown Township
51-52pnc

FAWN LAKE
TOWNSHIP
FILING NOTICE

Fawn Lake Township will hold an election in March, 2026 for the following offices:
One (1) clerk, two (2) year term
One (1) supervisor, two- (2) year term.
The filing period for these offices opens December 30, 2025, until 5:00 p.m. January 13, 2026. To file for office, call the clerk to make an appointment, 218-531-0287.

Kelly Miller, Clerk
Fawn Lake Township
51-52pnc

BYRON TOWNSHIP
MEETING/
REORGANIZATION

Byron Township's regular and reorganizational meeting will be held on Monday, January 5 at 7:00 p.m. at the Leader Community Hall.

Becki Rassler, Clerk
Byron Township
52pnc

PUBLIC
NOTICES:
Your Right
to Know

Section Thirty-three (33), Township One Hundred Twenty-nine (129) North, Range Thirty-two (32) West of the Fifth P.M., Todd County, Minnesota.

STREET ADDRESS OF PROPERTY: 31326 COUNTY 12, BURTRUM, MN 56318

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

THE AMOUNT CLAIMED TO BE DUE ON THE MORTGAGE ON THE DATE OF THE NOTICE: \$52,442.11

TRANSACTION AGENT: Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc.

NAME OF MORTGAGE ORIGINATOR: Washington Mutual Bank, FA

RESIDENTIAL SERVICER: Nationstar Mortgage LLC

TAX PARCEL IDENTIFICATION NUMBER: 04-0033701 and 04-0033702

TRANSACTION AGENT'S MORTGAGE IDENTIFICATION NUMBER: 1000541-3000216461-2

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: February 12, 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 February 12, 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: December 09, 2025

U.S. BANK TRUST NATIONAL ASSOCIATION, NOT IN ITS INDIVIDUAL CAPACITY, BUT SOLELY IN ITS CAPACITY AS TRUSTEE OF CITIGROUP MORTGAGE LOAN TRUST 2022-RP3 Mortgagee

TROTT LAW, P.C.
By: /s/
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
(25-1121-FC01)

THIS IS A COMMUNICATION FROM A DEBT COLLECTOR.

52-5pnc

Cardinal Showcase

Improving School Climate (ISC) activities

By Aubrey Lund, Grade 8
Staples-Motley ISC

Have you ever heard the word ISC and never really understood what it meant? ISC stands for; Improving School Climate and is made up of 5th - 8th grade students that apply in the spring and require a teacher recommendation to be part of the group. Our climate in this school is basically the shared feeling of our staff, teachers, and students, so we want to create a safe, kind, healthy, and positive climate for everyone. ISC wants to create a climate like this, positive, healthy, and safe because a positive climate leads to better education, better mental health, and a stronger sense of belonging.

In ISC, we brainstorm, create, help people, and most importantly, have fun. We also do things like volunteering and community service.

Here's the list of all of our committees with an explanation of what we do in them:

Lions Serving Committee: Our lions serving committee goes to help serve the Scandia Valley Lions Thanksgiving dinner.

Positive Vibes Committee: When every month in the school year our Positive Vibes committee comes up with one to three positive quotes, acknowledging one girl and one boy from each grade (5th - 8th) to get an award for showing kindness and positivity around the school (which are called out on the announcements) and creating and coloring posters to put around the school.

Coffee Cart Committee: Once every other month, our coffee cart committee goes around with a cart with coffee, sodas, water, candy, snacks, and more for staff to have a nice snack once in a while.

Holiday Decoration Committee: Every holiday, our holiday committee goes around and sets up decorations around the school, they create them, or use the donations we get from others to set the decorations up.

Day Before Break Committee: Everyone in this committee chooses some movies to watch before Christmas break, helps with the sign-up sheet to see the movie, and gets a snack for all students when they are watching the movie.

Last Day Of School Committee: The people on this committee configure what activities we do on the last day of school, where we do them, and help set them up.

Dance Committee: Our dance committee sets up the dances and the fun things we do and the songs at our dances.

Foodshelf Committee: The foodshelf committee helps with the foodshelf drive for people in need of food.

Veterans Day Committee: Everyone on this committee helps set up the Veterans Day Program and serve the Veterans food.

ISC gives students the chance to be part of a leadership group that creates fun opportunities for students but also gives back to the community.



Christmas creatures

Children enjoyed many displays at the Polar Xpress on Dec. 13. Above, a child gets excited about the circus train and sights. Below, the abominable snow-

man was inside the event when it was too windy to set up outside. (Staples World photos by Mark Anderson)



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Presenting the award

MCAA President and Winona County Attorney Karin Sonneman (left), presented Wadena County Attorney Kyra Ladd (right) with the MCAA Johnson Distinguished Service Award Dec. 3, in Bloomington. Prior to the presentation, Sonneman

LADD continued from page 1a

Attorney job advocates for safety, justice

state and that there are others also deserving of this award. Ladd encouraged others to be involved, stretch themselves to give voice to important issues, and that no county does this important work alone. Ladd further stressed the importance of rural county attorneys in small offices to have a seat at the table and advocate for the needs in greater Minnesota. Ladd stated, “We need to show up and speak up to advocate for public safety and justice across the entire state Minnesota.”



With her daughters

Wadena County Attorney Kyra Ladd (center) of Staples was congratulated by her daughters Emily Wick (left) and Aryn Ladd, both of the Twin Cities, after receiving the MCAA Johnson Distinguished Service Award. (Submitted photo)



Polar Xpress scenes

The face-painting station was popular with children, above, while others gathered to talk and view the model trains at the event. (Photos by Mark Anderson)



Free Christmas Meals

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