

Inside this issue:

New Year's wishes, hopes and dreams
SBDC business, entrepreneur training events
Four players in double figures in boys hoops win
Third, fourth grade holiday concert



Lifesaving commendation
Staples Mayor Ron Murray congratulates four Staples Fire Department firefighters for saving a life during a fire incident at the Staples Hi-Rise on Nov. 26. From left, Assistant Chief Brandon Brusewitz, Captain Kyle Karolus, Assistant Chief Blake Gerard and firefighter Drew Yungbauer. Staples Fire Chief Cole Yungbauer said the fire attack team was investigating heavy smoke on the second floor of the apartment building as other teams were evacuating residents. They found a person who was unresponsive but still breathing. The victim was removed from the building, transported to Lakewood Health System and flown to a metro hospital, where he survived. "The best outcome possible happened that night," said Chief Yungbauer. Mayor Murray said "I've talked to many of the tenants, they could not speak highly enough about the fire department and how it went down."

SMACF gave \$30,500 in 2025

The Staples Motley Area Community Foundation (SMACF) announced that \$30,500 in grant funding was awarded in 2025 to programs and organizations serving the Staples and Motley communities. The SMACF is a partner fund of the Initiative Foundation and serves as a philanthropic resource for accumulating and distributing funds that benefit the Staples and Motley area. Income from donated and non-endowed designated funds is distributed locally to support charitable projects, based on recommendations from the SMACF Board. The SMACF Board considers funding proposals/

requests that align with one or more of the following priorities:
+ Strengthening Youth and Families: Supporting efforts that create positive opportunities for youth and families.
+ Improving Community Appearance: Enhancing the look and feel of the community to make it welcoming for visitors and a source of pride for residents.
+ Increasing Community Involvement and Leadership: Encouraging civic engagement by developing and identifying community leaders and strengthening community connections.
During the spring grant cycle (October 16 - April 15),

School district making budget fit modern education needs

By Mark Anderson
Managing Editor
Staples-Motley Business Manager Ellie Hill said the school is undertaking a process to align the school budget with modern educational needs and the school's Continuous Improvement Plan. She said they are transitioning from the process of "historical rollovers" where the school just budgets for the same things every year, to a more strategic process that aligns funding with educational needs. "We want the budget to be an expression of what we do every day," said Hill. The process will assess needs of every grade level, student needs, teachers, specialists, career pathways, technical education, administration, food service and building and grounds. They will see how each part of the district supports the learning environment. Hill said they will have the process complete by the time the school does budgeting in May, and will

bring it to the school board in June, when they approve the budget.
Academic goals
Staples-Motley Teaching/Learning Coordinator Jennifer Pantzke and Elementary Principal Ryan Koenigs updated the board on the Comprehensive Achievement and Civic Readiness goals the school has set. Two unmet goals included preparing students for kindergarten and the achievement gap. The kindergarten goal was to have 80 percent of incoming students to know at least 10 letters before starting kindergarten. They found that 73 percent met that goal. They will be expanding kindergarten goals to include social skills such as listening. "It's more than just academic," said Koenigs. For the achievement gap goal, the school had been tracking the gap between students whose families receive free and reduced See **SCHOOL** on page 3a

2025 - The Year In Review

The year 2025 revealed solid progress in many community sectors of Staples and Motley. New additions included the groundbreaking for the Farmers Union meat processing facility and the opening of the Lakewood Health System Cancer Center. The new Artistic Hall of Fame inducted its first member, Stan Carlson, and the Staples World covered many performances of music and theatre. The school district completed a long term educational and facilities study that resulted in a building referendum. In sports, Staples-Motley won the state wrestling title, as many other sports achieved a high level.
The many stories covered by the Staples World in 2025 include:
Jan. 1 - Miranda Lape has recently started as Executive Director of the Five Wings Arts Council. Lape went to college out of state and found out that the arts scene is very different in other places. "Growing up, I took for granted how much art is a part of life," she said. "Our funding of the arts makes Minnesota one of the best places to live."
Jan. 8 - Grayson Amir, son of Sarai Juarez and Albert Becerra, Sauk Centre, was the first baby born in 2025 in Staples on Jan. 2, 2025.
Jan. 15 - The Staples-Motley School Board elected Mary Freeman as board chair at their organizational meeting on Jan. 6.
Jan. 15 - When she heard the news of Jimmy Carter's passing, Phyllis Paskewitz of Staples immediately thought of the time she and her husband, Bob, had the opportunity to attend one of the former president's famed Sunday School classes at his hometown church.
Jan. 22 - Mandi Polito has opened Mandi's Accounting Services in Staples.
Jan. 29 - David Jeremiason has joined Lakewood Health System, Staples, as its foundation development officer.
Jan. 29 - Dr. Mike Koller of St. Louis, Mo., stopped by the Staples World to search the archives for obituaries and other information relating to his kinfolk, including the Goethe, Rondorf, Dyer and DeMund families.
Feb. 5 - The Staples-Motley School District is maintaining enrollment numbers and is expecting to grow this year.
Feb. 12 - Former Staples resident Amy Hunter is returning with an original one-act play that she has written. Lamplighter Community Theatre will perform The Lost Souls of Ireland, which Hunter is also directing. "It is heart wrenching and powerful," said Hunter.
Feb. 12 - The Staples-Motley girls wrestling team had two section medal winners and several other competitors who made a good run in the tournament. Leah Greenwaldt placed sixth at 106 pounds and Aika Tureson was sixth at 170.
Feb. 19 - Staples city employee Del Cole was credited with going above and beyond his duties, fixing a broken valve by inventing a wrench to turn off a water line seven feet underground. His ingenuity prevented the city from having to shut down water lines to Lakewood Health System.
Feb. 26 - Hannah Krebs is back safe at home after surviving the airplane crash in Toronto where the plane flipped upside down upon landing on Feb. 17.
Feb. 26 - Put on your dancing shoes and head to the Ten-Hi bar in Motley. On Feb. 11, at least a dozen dance



Photos of the year - Aug. 20
Director Justin Edin joins the Lamp Camp Ensemble in their dance learned at the annual theatre camp, one of many highlights of local talent for the Little Red Caboose Variety Show on Aug. 14.



Photos of the year - Oct. 15
Dr. Sheilaine Mabanta shows U.S. Representative Pete Stauber the new linear accelerator in the new Lakewood Cancer Center.
enthusiasts braved the weather for an afternoon of dancing to the music of the Jerry and Joyce Band. "This is a great place to dance," Jerry Morse said of the Ten-Hi, adding that the bar's owners have always gone out of their way to make the dance group feel welcome.
March 5 - There was a lot of positive energy and ideas exchanged at the public kickoff meeting in Motley Feb. 20, the first of five dedicated toward working on See **2025** on page 10a

Weather
2025-26
This Week's Forecast
High Low Cond.
Dec. 31 13 -5 Cloudy
Jan. 1 11 3 M. Cloudy
Jan. 2 12 3 P. Cloudy
Jan. 3 17 13 Cloudy
Jan. 4 26 15 Cloudy
Jan. 5 18 6 M. Sunny
Jan. 6 19 10 Cloudy
Last Year, 2024-25
High Low Cond.
Dec. 31 26° 23 Cloudy
Jan. 1 15 10 Cloudy
Jan. 2 10 5 M. Cloudy
Jan. 3 5 -2 Sunny
Jan. 4 5 -7 Sunny
Jan. 5 12 -6 M. Sunny
Jan. 6 16 -8 Sunny
Average Temps:
H = 21° Low = 5°
Happy New Year!
Compiled by
Dale Hausmann,
WCCO's Staples area
Weatherwatcher

Public Notices
City of Staples 9A
Todd County Commissioners 9A
Obituary
Paul Vasecka

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Food drive at Camp Ripley

Thanks to a recent food drive at Camp Ripley, a donation of 476 pounds was delivered to the Motley Area Food Shelf (MAFS) Dec. 19. Pictured, from left: Pearl Dingman, volunteer; Col. Troy Fink, Camp Ripley

Garrison Commander; Diana Miller, volunteer; Bob Miller, volunteer; CW2 Kaisone Ithivongkham; Ken Swecker, volunteer; SPC Alexander Larson; Deb Greig, volunteer. (Submitted photo)

Dr. Paul J. Crowe to provide spine and orthopedic care at Lakewood Health System

Twin Cities Orthopedics (TCO) orthopedic surgeon, Dr. Paul J. Crowe, will be providing orthopedic care to Lakewood Health System patients in Staples, starting in January, 2026.

Crowe received his medical degree from Washington University School of Medicine, which is located in St. Louis, Mo. His residency was completed at State University of New York-Upstate Medical Center and he completed a fellowship in spine surgery at the University of Toronto Sunnybrook Medical Center. He is a member of the American Academy of Orthopedic Surgeons; Minnesota Medical Association; Minnesota Orthopaedic Society; Hennepin County Medical Society; Mid-America Orthopaedic



Dr. Paul J. Crowe

Association; North American Spine Society; and the State of Minnesota Medical Services Review Board.

As an orthopedic surgeon, Crowe specializes in treating disorders of the spine, orthopedic fracture care, joint reconstruction,

and joint replacement revisions. He emphasizes the importance of individualized care, making sure each of his patients feel comfortable before, during and after their treatment. Crowe is a Top Doctor and was voted a top orthopedic surgeon by his peers in Mpls. St. Paul Magazine

Crowe joins an outstanding team of TCO orthopedic specialists currently providing care at Lakewood: Drs. Jonathan Cooper; Paul Diekmann; David Gesen-sway; Benjamin Gulli; and Peter Holmberg.

To schedule an appointment with Dr. Crowe, call 218-894-8259, or talk with your primary care provider.

Elizabeth Redemske is newest chiropractor at Lakewood Health System

Lakewood Health System, Staples, welcomes Elizabeth Redemske, Doctor of Chiropractic (DC), to its chiropractic team.

Originally from Pequot Lakes, Dr. Redemske received her undergraduate degree in exercise science from the University of Minnesota Duluth and her Doctor of Chiropractic degree from Northwestern Health Sciences University. She is a member of the Minnesota Chiropractic Association.

Dr. Redemske is well-versed in diversified techniques, Thompson drop-table technique and Activator Methods® with a focus on family and pediatric chiropractic care. She is also board-certified in



Dr. Elizabeth Redemske

physiotherapy techniques to support soft tissue health, including heat therapy, cupping, electrical stimulation and instrument-assisted soft tissue mobilization.

“I’m excited to offer holis-

tic care to a rural community, and building lasting relationships with my patients,” said Dr. Redemske.

Outside of work, Dr. Redemske enjoys spending time with her family and being outdoors. She can often be found bow hunting, fishing and gardening, or taking her two children on ranger rides with her husband. Dr. Redemske also enjoys traveling, exploring new places, reading and listening to audiobooks.

To schedule an appointment with Dr. Redemske, call 218-894-8259. She will be seeing patients at Lakewood’s Pillager clinic, and starting in March, she will also see patients in the Browerville clinic.

CLC, SBDC leadership and management series

Central Lakes College Workforce Solutions is excited to announce the return of its professional development series, Leadership and Management for the 22nd Century. The four-part series begins in January 2026 and is designed to help current and emerging leaders strengthen their ability to drive positive change within their organizations.

Leadership and Management for the 22nd Century is a hands-on, cohort-style program that combines practical skill-building with meaningful reflection and discussion. Each session focuses on a different aspect of effective leadership, helping participants grow their capacity to lead with confident and clarity.

The 2026 sessions include:

• Session 1: Leading with Impact - The Art of Communication and Conflict Management Jan. 16, 2026,

8:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m.: CLC Brainerd Campus, Room E208

• Session 2: Cultivate and Connect: Crafting Company Culture and Employee Engagement Jan30, 2026, 8:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m., CLC Brainerd Campus, Room E203

• Session 3: Sustainable Success - The Road to Change and Continuous Improvement, Feb. 13, 2026, 8:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m., CLC Brainerd Campus, Room E203

• Session 4: Summit Session - Culmination and Determination, Feb. 27, 2026, 8:30 a.m.-10:30 a.m., CLC Brainerd Campus, Room E203

Each participant will complete a CliftonStrengths for Leaders assessment, leadership development plan, employee engagement plan, and change roadmap, ensuring the experience leads to actionable growth and measurable outcomes.

The series will be instructed by Katie Heppner, Regional Director of the North Central Small Business Development Center at Central Lakes College. Heppner brings years of experience in leadership development, team performance, and organizational growth. “Now more than ever, our workforce needs adaptive, empathetic and forward-thinking leaders,” Heppner said. “This series equips participants with both the mindset and the management skills to lead effectively in today’s fast-changing environment.”

To register visit: https://mnscu.schooltoday.com/public/costoption/class_id/306405

Questions about the workshop can be directed to CLC Workforce Solutions at 218-855-8118 or training@clcmn.edu.

Motley area law enforcement

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

Dec. 12 - Morrison County deputies assisted the MN State Patrol with a crash at Hwy 10 and Azure Rd., Cushing. According to the report, a 2007 Chevrolet Tahoe SUV, driven by Randy Lee Bakken, 66, of Sebeka, was eastbound on Hwy 10 at Azure Rd, when his vehicle ran off the roadway and into the median. Bakken and his passenger, 30-year-old Brandon Joel Frank of Minneapolis, were transported to Lakewood Health System Hospital in Staples. Both had non-life threatening injuries. Other responders included Randall Fire Dept., and Mayo Ambulance. Road conditions: snow and ice.

Dec. 15 - Motley Police received a call regarding the theft of a purse and iPod taken from a vehicle at Cedar St. E., Motley. The items were valued at \$300.

Dec. 11 - Motley Police responded to a crash at 316 Hwy 10 S., Motley. No injuries or damage reported.

Dec. 16 - The MCSO

received animal complaints at the 1900 block of East River Rd., Motley.

Dec. 13 - The MCSO called out Motley Fire for mutual aid at 11862 Cty 32 SW, Motley, in Cass County.

Dec. 10 - The MCSO received a call from Cass County requesting Motley Fire and Rescue be paged out for an incident at Hwy 64 and 112th St. SW in Motley.

Dec. 22 - Motley Police issued a speeding citation to Gordon Arvid Mitchell, 70.

Dec. 22- Motley Police issued a speeding citation to Ofelia Garcia, 49.

Dec. 19 - Motley Police received a report that heavy snow took down part of the fence at the Motley Fairgrounds.

Dec. 21 - The MCSO received a report of harassment at the 3600 block of 270th St., Cushing.

Dec. 20 - A Morrison County deputy responded to a report of a driver that was all over the road at the 1600 block of 320th St., Cushing. Subsequently, Amy Sue Guyre, 50, was arrested.



Lights in the Pines

Lion Tom Crawford captured these photos recently of the ‘Lights in the Pines’ display at Pine Grove Park in Staples.

Featuring a variety of holiday scenes and thousands of lights, the display was open weekend evenings from Thanksgiving through December. It was sponsored by the Staples Lions and Discover Staples.



*Thank you
for reading
the
Staples World*

SBDC webinars coming up

The North Central Small Business Development Center (SBDC) at Central Lakes College is hosting two webinars in early 2026 to help new and growing business owners feel confident as they take their next steps. These online sessions are designed for people who want to start a business or are thinking about applying for a small business loan. Each webinar breaks down important topics into simple, easy-to-understand steps.

Starting a Small Business 101 Webinar

This practical, no-nonsense webinar from the North Central SBDC walks you through the key steps of starting a small business in Minnesota. It covers business planning, registrations, financing basics, and simple marketing strategies to help you reach your customers. You will leave with a clearer path forward and resources you can use right away.

• Jan. 22, 2026 at 12 p.m. on Zoom
• March 19, 2026 at 12 p.m. on Zoom

Lender Ready Webinar

The North Central SBDC’s Lender Ready Webinar helps entrepreneurs understand what it takes to secure financing with confidence. This session explains the main parts of a strong loan package, including financial statements, business plans, projections, and other key documents. It shows people how to approach a lender prepared and professional.

• Feb. 19 at 12 p.m. on Zoom
• April 2 at 12 p.m. on Zoom

Students, alumni, and employees of Central Lakes College may attend for free through the Raider Family Discount. To register and learn more, visit www.northcentralsbdc.com/workshops-and-events and click “Workshops.”

SCHOOL continued from page 1a

College-ready students, graduation rates hit goals

meals and those who do not. Although progress was made, the goal was not met. The school is setting a new goal for this category to look at the achievement gap for students who receive special education services. They will also try to reduce the number of students who need special education services.

Goals that were met was having all students college-ready or work-force-ready by graduation. The school recorded 97 percent of seniors had established a personal learning plan with career pathways. Graduation rate goals were also met, with the past five years ranging from 92 to 95 percent of students graduating.

A new goal is being set to prepare students to be life-long learners.

Another new goal is for students and staff to identify Cardinal priorities. In the first test of that, the students met the goals but staff did not.

Transportation

Staples-Motley Transportation Director Norby Klimek gave the school an update on his department. He said the school buses traveled 193,000 miles for regular bus routes in the past year, with 64,000 miles for special education and 43,000 miles for extracurricular activities.

“We’re a pretty mobile district,” said Klimek.

He said bus drivers are starting to use new electronic time clocks and get training materials on e-learning days when they are not needed on the roads.

Klimek said the school

buses have reported five stop-arm violations this year, when vehicles drive past a bus with their stop arm out. He said one of the stop-arm violation cases went to court last spring, and the technology helped get a conviction on that one. School buses have cameras that show when the driver turns on the warning flashers and when the stop arm is deployed. The cameras can then identify any vehicle that passes a bus when the stop arm is deployed.

Klimek said the district is saving money by having its own wrecker to pick up buses that break down, and by doing their own in-house repairs. Future improvements will include a new fuel island and the removal of an old storage garage.

In other news, the board

- Approved negotiation settlement of the 2025-27 principal/administrator master agreement
- Approved Paul Mithun as weight room supervisor
- Approved fundraiser requests from Student Council, FFA and ProStart
- Approved CLC farm lease agreement
- Approved certified staff seniority list
- Accepted resignation of Penny Sebring, paraprofessional
- Koenigs said the elementary school is looking for ways to make connections from school to home. He said a breakfast event was successful, with bringing 45 family members to the school to have breakfast with their students.

Todd Cty. court report Dec. 24

Long Prairie Police

Rachel Lee Robick, Long Prairie. Sale of tobacco/tobacco related device to children under 21 years old. Fine \$50. Fee \$85.

Julio Chavez Montanez, Long Prairie. Driver fails to stop at STOP sign. Fine \$50. Fee \$85.

Alexander Gonzales Ruiz, Lares PR USA. Driving after revocation. Fine \$200. Fee \$85. Driver must carry proof of insurance when operating vehicle. Fine \$200.

Roy Robles Vega, Long Prairie. Driving after revocation. Fine \$200. Fee \$85. Driver must carry proof of insurance when operating vehicle. Fine \$200.

Dept. of Natural Resources

Brian Gerald Voller, Royalton. Game and Fish-Licenses-must have license or proper paperless in personal possession. Fine \$25. Fee \$85.

MN State Patrol

Kaitlyn Elizabeth Anderson, Vernadale. Speed 74/55. Fine \$60. Fee \$85.

Antonio Campos, Long Prairie. No MN Driver's License. Fine \$100. Fee \$85.

Gabriel Omar Chavez, FL. Hands free law. Fine \$50. Fee \$85.

Jessica Lynn Cole, Baxter. Speed 65/60. Fine \$40. Fee \$85.

Dominique Jermicheal George, St. Paul. No MN Driver's License. Fine \$100. Fee \$85. Seatbelt required. Fine \$25.

John George Karnas Dubie, Wiliston, ND. Seat belt required. Fine \$25. Fee \$85.

Sun Ho Kim, Narrowsburg, NY. Speed 94/70. Fine \$70. Fee \$155.

Tucker Virden Kuhlmann, Sauk Centre. Speed 79/70. Fine \$40. Fee \$85.

John Clayton Martineau, Zimmerman. Speed 86/70. Fine \$60. Fee \$85.

Javier Montanez-Morelos, Long Prairie. No MN Driver's License. Fine \$100. Fee \$85.

Karina Marie Morales Banks, Brownville. Speed 70/60. Fine \$40. Fee \$85.

Landyn Matthew Randt., Siren, WI. Speed 88/70. Fine \$60. Fee \$85.

Maddox Davis Restad, Alexandria. Window tint. Fine \$50. Fee \$85.

Anthony Freeman Richmond, Maplewood. Speed 86/70. Fine \$60. Fee \$85.

Evit William Schleder, Wadena. No MN registration. Fine \$100. Fee \$85.

Dylan John Witzel, Alexandria. Window restrictions-windowshield tinted or glazed. Fine \$50. Fee \$85. Window tint (less than 50% light transmission). Fine \$50.

Osakis Police Dept.

Cade Adam Schultz, Hawley. Drivers license-operate motor vehicle after license suspension/revocation/cancellation. Fine \$200. Fee \$85. Speed 70/60. Fine \$40.

Sauk Centre Police Dept.

Pedro Sarmiento Martinez, Sauk Centre. MS-traffic-drivers license-driving after suspension. Fine

\$200. Fee \$85.

Staples Police Dept.

Zachary Andrew Koon, Hewitt. Speed 45/30. Fine \$60. Fee \$85.

Rocio Fernanda Mendoza Martinez, Staples. Driving without a valid license for vehicle class or type. Fine \$100. Fee \$85.

Cory Alexander Schmitz, Staples. Drivers license-instruction permit violation-persons under 18 years or older. Fine \$50. Fee \$85.

Todd County Sheriff's Office

Eduardo Alonzo Botello Tovar, Long Prairie. Speed 85/55. Fine \$100. Fee \$185. Driver must carry proof of insurance when operating vehicle. Fine \$200.

Dakota Ann Marie Ebnet, Bertha. Driver must carry proof of insurance when operating vehicle. Dismissed. Expired registration. Fine \$30. Fee \$85.

Andrea Nerelly Gonzalez, Clarissa. Driving after revocation. Fine \$200. Fee \$85.

Makail David Schroeder, Brownville. Driving after revocation. Fine \$200. Fee \$85. Uninsured vehicle-driver violation. Fine \$200.

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

Steven David Dominguez, Long Prairie. Domestic assault-bodily harm. Dismissed. Obstruct legal process-interfere w/Peace Officer. Sentenced. Supervised probation, 1 yr. Local confinement (90 days, stay 0 yr 0 mo 88 days for 1 yr credit for time served: 2 days). Fine \$50. Fee \$75. Criminal damage to property in the 4th degree. Dismissed.

Carisa Cheyenne Haviland, Hewitt. Issue dishonored check-value more than \$250-\$500. Continued for dismissal. Unsupervised probation, 1 yr.

Jennifer Ann Orth, Swanville. Assault-3rd degree-victim under four. Convicted. Community work service, 36 hours for indeterminate. Supervised probation, 5 yr. Local confinement (150 days, stay 0 yr 0 mo 0 days credit for time served: 1 day). May have work release or sentence to serve if qualifies under Sheriff's rules. Child torture. Dismissed. Malicious punishment of a child. Dismissed.

Kayla Rose Thieschafer, Long Prairie. Drugs-5th degree-possess Schedule 1,2,3,4 or paraphernalia residual-not cannabis/hemp. Local confinement (90 days, stay 0 yr 0 mo 0 days for time served: 9 days). Supervised probation, 4 yr. Fine \$200. Drugs-store chemical substances in the presence of child or vulnerable adult. Dismissed. Endanger child-permit present sale/poss cont. Sentenced. Local confinement (364 days, stay 0 yr 0 mo 274 days for 2 yr credit for time served: 9 days). Supervised probation, 2 yr. Fine \$50. Fee \$75. Contempt of court-willful disobedience to court mandate. Dismissed.

The following cases were heard before Judge Daniel A Benson in Seventh District Court in Todd County December

75 Years Ago - 1950

- Dec. 28, 1950 - George Lehner, Todd county treasurer, was arrested Wednesday, Dec. 27 , on a warrant charging misappropriation of \$1,688.62 in county funds, according to J. H. Wolter, county sheriff.
- Dec. 28, 1950 - Staples postoffice was one of the busiest places in the whole city during the Christmas season, in that the mail-

- O -
Compiled by
Dawn Timbs
- O -

ing of letters and parcels through the office was about the highest on record, according to the count of the canceling machine at the office.

A total of 84,465 letters was cancelled from December 16 to Dec. 23, according to postoffice personnel.

The largest day at the office foe cancellation was on Dec. 18 when the machine registered 16,065 cancellations. The smallest day of the period was on December 23 when an even 2,000 cancellations were made.

These cancellations do not include the enormous parcel post mailing of the same period.

On Dec. 18 more than 100 sacks of parcel post were sent out from the local office. Postoffice personnel had to return to the office after their dinner hour and worked until long after nine o'clock to get the packages sacked and ready for the early morning trains.

- Dec. 28, 1950 - Daily newspapers last week reported that Sgt. Laurence Ostroski of Moran township, has been wounded in Korea. Date, time and place was not given nor had his parents received such information up to last Thursday.

Sgt. Ostroski was 19 years old and had been in the army a little more than a year. He was home on furlough in July, but it was cut short when he was ordered to report back for duty .

He left immediately for Korea where he had since engaged in the fighting.

- Dec. 28, 1950 - Sat. Dec. 30. Two Ten Tavern. Herb Beckner and his Dixieland Band. New Years Eve Dance at Two Ten Tavern, Sunday, Dec. 31. Music by Al Berndt and his Vagabonds.

- Dec. 28, 1950 - Skate Sharpening. We have just installed a new skate sharpening machine and can give you the best service possible. Skates sharpened for only 35 cents. Anderson Hardware, Staples.

50 Years Ago - 1975

- Dec. 25, 1975 - Robert A. and Joan D. Doll, operators of the Dairy Queen store in Staples, have won American Dairy Queen Corporation's Silver Cone Award, according to an announcement by Harris Cooper, president.

The Silver Cone Award recognizes that Doll's store recorded a 500 gallon increase in mix usage over the previous year.

- Dec. 25, 1975 - Winners in the Jaycee-sponsored home lighting contest were announced this week, with judging being carried out in two categories: traditional and religious. First place in the religious category was won by the Fran Volesky home at 516 Sixth Street N. Runners-up in this category were the Methodist Church, and the Mary Rondorf

Home.

- Dec. 25, 1975 - Winner in the traditional division of the home-lighting competition was the home of the Paul Metzlers on Nebraska Ave. S. The display features painted cut-outs of Santa and his sleigh and reindeer, a revolving Christmas tree, and other cut-outs. Honorable mention in the traditional category was won by Bud Haskin and Lester Wert.

- Dec. 25, 1975 - Showing at the New Continental Theatre in Wadena Thursday - Wednesday, Dec. 25 - 31: Benji, rated G. Benji is the most entertaining family picture of our time. On Sat. & Sun., "The Land That Time Forgot," starring Doug McClure. Rated PG. Both films are in Color.

- Dec. 25, 1975 - Greet the new year with Happy Holiday Savings at Sunshine Warehouse Market in Staples. Glazed donuts, 6 for 59 cents; Caraway Rye Bread, 1 lb. loaf, 49 cents; 7-Up or Coke, 28 oz. bottles, 5/\$1.00; Jumbo 28 oz. jar of Skippy Peanut Butter, \$1.29; Elf-Jar Fish, Spiced Outlets, Large 22 oz. jar, \$1.39; Macaroni and Cheese Dinners, 4 boxes/\$1.00; Folger's or Butternut Coffee, 3 lb. can, \$3.39; Lambrecht's Pizzas, large size, 59 cents.

25 Years Ago - 2000

- Dec. 28, 2000 - The Staples City Council was in an increasing mood Tuesday night. The council, minus Mayor Mike Goff and council member Glenda Kotula, increased several items, from wages to electric fees to water and sewer rates.

But they held the line on taxes, okaying a tax levy for the coming year that is down one-quarter of one percent.

- Dec. 28, 2000 - New Year's Eve Dance, Sunday, Dec. 31, 2000 - 8 p.m. - 1 a.m. at the Staples High School Gym. Live music by: Fish on the Wall. Also music by a D.J. Admission: \$4. Refreshments provided.

- Dec. 25, 2000 - Ring in the New Year at Ten Hi in Downtown Motley! Saturday, Dec. 30, Dance to Boomerang, Midnight Luncheon, Party Hats and all the trimmings.

- Dec. 25, 2000 - New Year's Eve Specials at the River Inn, Aldrich. Featuring our special menu: Sea-



Mystery photo

Hello readers. This week's archive photo is from 1975. Do you know who this person is 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.

English and photography.

10 Years Ago - 2015

- Dec. 31, 2015 - The Staples Motley boys basketball team clamped down on defense, holding Long Prairie-Grey Eagle to 17 points in each half, defeating them 46-34 on Dec. 22.

- Dec. 31, 2015 - With an American Idol, multiple state champions and other major accomplishments, the Staples area had a stellar 2015. Several local institutions hired new leaders and three major expansion projects were announced.

- Dec. 31, 2015 - Top stories in Motley during 2015 included a ribbon cutting ceremony held Oct. 10, at the new skate park located on the west side of Converse Park; and the completion of the city's new Water Treatment Plant, located near the corner of 3rd Ave. So. and Cemetery Road in Motley.



Mystery solved

Last week's mystery photo published in the March 5, 1992 edition of the Staples World featured seven Staples Area High School students that had participated in a state oral German contest at St. Thomas University in St. Paul. From left, front, are Sherry Bergs, Amy Theurer, Heidi Jasmer. Back, Sha-

na Dolezal, Karen Johnson, Sarah Beinhorn and Justin Edwards. The students scored above the 90th percentile on a national German test to qualify for the contest.

Kylie Matteson recognized her mother, Heidi Jasmer. Thanks for participating in our mystery photo.

SBDC Marketing Mornings

The North Central Small Business Development Center has announced the Spring 2026 schedule for Marketing Mornings, a monthly series designed to give small business owners simple, practical tools to strengthen their marketing efforts. Each session runs from 8 a.m. to 8:45 a.m. and is offered both virtually and through local Watch Parties hosted by economic development partners across the region.

This spring's topics were chosen to match the real marketing challenges and emerging trends for entrepreneurs. Sessions include:

- Jan. 9: Introducing Answer Engine Optimization
 - Feb. 6: Quick Wins with Canva
 - March 6: Setting Up Email Campaigns
 - April 10: Google Ads Overview
 - May 1: Telling Customer Stories and Testimonials
- Marketing Mornings continues to be offered at no cost.
- Entrepreneurs and small business owners can register to attend Marketing Mornings at www.northcentralsbdc.com/workshops-and-events.

Several wishes for the new year

If your family is anything like mine, part of the Christmas ritual—perhaps too much of it?—is about wish lists, and the gifts given or received on Christmas Eve or Christmas morning. We may be especially extravagant when it comes to certain people in our lives, like children or grandchildren.

When it comes to the tangible things that can be wrapped and put under a Christmas tree, or stuffed in an oversized stocking, I'm fairly easy to please. Perhaps that's due to being in the upper-middle-aged, grandparent stage of life. A book on a subject that interests me, a subscription to a favorite magazine, or a tool for one of my several hobbies, can be as pleasing as something big-ticket, or exotic. Of course, my children can see a downside in this, telling me—as they often do—"You're so hard to shop for; you have everything you need."

In addition to the tangible things wished for by members of my family this Christmas, I have been considering a number of intangibles. Not just for myself, but things that might be valued by those who share my outdoor interests, and my feelings about the places where we pursue them. Here are several such wishes, which I'm confident I

would not be alone in wanting to come true.

Near the top of this wish list would be a commitment by our nation's leaders to maintaining the nation's heritage of public lands: its national parks, national forests, national wildlife refuges, monuments, wild and scenic rivers, the dedicated places where we hunt, fish, camp, hike, observe wildlife, and do similar things that renew us.

More than at any time in recent memory there is an attitude among some in Congress and on the Executive side of the federal government that these lands are a luxury that we can do without, that they should be sold off to private parties for commercial purposes. Sigurd Olson, Minnesota's most famous conservationist, and champion of the canoe country wilderness, made one of the best arguments for maintaining them: "Wildness to the people of America is a spiritual necessity, an antidote to the high pressure of modern life, and a means of regaining serenity and equilibrium."

Fortunately, there are active and well-organized groups championing the retention of these public lands. Groups like the Izaak Walton League, Backcountry Hunters and Anglers, the Nature Conservancy, and numerous others. These places need not all be untouched wilderness, nor need they exclude multiple-use of some of their resources, such as selective timber harvest that regenerates forests and benefits many valued wildlife species, including those we hunt. But these lands will

lose their value for outdoor recreation and scientific study if they pass into private ownership.

Wishing at a closer-to-home level, it's time for the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources to complete or update the management plans for its Wildlife Management Areas, particularly the largest of these that receive the most intensive use. Together they encompass some 1.3 million acres of diverse habitats—acquired largely with hunters' license fees—that are intended to be managed by the DNR to maintain wildlife populations, and offer such public recreations as hunting, angling, wildlife watching, Nature study, and other compatible recreations.

Of particular importance will be the DNR's commitment to managing these lands first and foremost for wildlife values, their founding mission. The DNR was taken to task in 2023 by the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service when that agency temporarily withheld more than \$2 million in federal grant funding because of concerns that the DNR was placing a higher priority on meeting timber sale targets than it was on managing timber harvest to benefit wildlife. In an unprecedented whistle-blowing, more than two dozen current and former DNR wildlife managers had protested the DNR's timber harvest policies, claiming that they were hurting rather than benefiting wildlife. We will hope that DNR leadership has taken this lesson to heart.

While on the topic of timber harvest, many believe

that the DNR should revise its minimum age for aspen harvest on state-owned lands, raising it from the current 40 years to 50 years, or older. This might reduce the number of state-owned aspen acres available for harvest, but would ensure that there will be more mature aspen trees to provide for the needs of a diverse array of wildlife species, among them such key species as whitetail deer and ruffed grouse.

I'm also wishing—fervently—that people in charge of our nation's energy policy will think twice about abandoning efforts to encourage development of alternatives to fossil fuels: oil, gas, and coal. Already there have been all-but-complete wind energy projects shut down by executive order, and incentives for solar power generating cut in federal legislation passed in 2025. Regardless of whether you agree that vehicle and power plant emissions are contributing to unwelcome climate changes, it's an undebatable fact that oil, gas, and coal are not inexhaustible. Fossil fuel required a tropical prehistoric planet and millions of years to produce it. There will be no more fossil fuel produced under current conditions. Adopting the mantra "drill, baby, drill," and discouraging the development of alternative fuels to supplement fossil fuels, is depressingly short-sighted.

There are some candidates for my short list. Hopefully the year that lies ahead will be filled with good things—serious, or light-hearted—that you're wishing for.

Quote of the week

“The bad news is time flies.
The good news is
you’re the pilot.”
— Michael Altshuler

Quote of the week

“Kindness, kindness,
kindness. I want to make a
New Year’s prayer, not a
resolution. I’m praying for
courage.” — Susan Sontag

Quote of the week

“It’s a new dawn.
It’s a new day. It’s a new life,
for me. And I’m feeling good.”
— Nina Simone

Quote of the week

“I’m just a dreamer,
I dream my life away.”
— Ozzy Osbourne

Quote of the week

“Aim at heaven and you will
get earth thrown in. Aim at
earth and you get neither.”
— C. S. Lewis

Quote of the week

“It is never too late to be
what you might have been.”
— George Eliot

Quote of the week

“Expect the unexpected,
and whenever possible,
be the unexpected.”
— Lynda Berry

Quote of the week

“Change is inevitable.
Growth is optional.”
— John C. Maxwell

Quote of the week

“The greatest danger in times
of turbulence is not the
turbulence - it is to act with
yesterday’s logic.”
— Peter Drucker

Quote of the week

“If at first you don’t succeed,
try, try again. Then quit.
There’s no point in being a
damn fool about it.”
— W. C. Fields

By Deb Brown
Saveyour.town

When rural people talk about what makes their places great, “natural resources” leads the way. Some survey comments included:

- Early California history, nearby state and national parks, access to coastal areas, agricultural roots, near Silicon Valley and the SF Bay Area.
- National parks, Natchez Trace starts here. A lot of outdoor recreational opportunities.
- Nearby lakes, hunting opportunities, strong ag sector, equals other businesses can survive, viable tax base.
- And as the last comment said, it's not just scenery.
- Farming, ranching, mining, and forestry fuel our local economies. When stewarded wisely, these resources become long-term launchpads for rural success.

Community Connection: Our Social Superpower

Plenty has been written about small-town social bonds, but survey respondents dig deeper. Small towns often have strong “like-with-like” ties, but what really moves the needle is a broad sense of community connection. A few of those comments were:

- Strong sense of community; growing arts scene; historic assets; some new schools; some new large and small businesses; some good downtown or-

ganizations throughout the county.

- The people are resilient. Nothing knocks them down permanently. Those who live here are dedicated to the community, even when they don't know what to do.
- We formed an arts council and are doing small things in our community that make a difference.

There's real magic when these connections turn into action, like in Okolona, MS, where an impromptu walkabout became a brainstorming session for new murals and projects. That's rural connection in real time, showing up as one of our top assets.

Workforce Woes—and Wins

Ask rural entrepreneurs about their secret weapon, and workforce comes up again and again. Yes, finding enough good people is a struggle, especially when it's often tangled up with local housing and childcare shortages. However, a good workforce, no matter how small, is fiercely valued. Here's what they said:

- Good workforce, great schools, adequate supply of housing, good paying jobs.
- There are lots of employment opportunities.
- Viral remote worker campaign and the first county in the state of Mississippi to be ACT Workready certified.
- Jefferson, Iowa's beloved coffee shop, bumped starting pay to \$15 an hour, saw 47 applications roll in overnight, and made it work easily by

nudging up specialty coffee prices by a quarter.

Proof positive that rural solutions are anything but boring—they're bold, creative, and people-powered.

Surprise Asset: Broadband Breakthroughs

Here's a twist from the past decade: broadband, once everyone's top headache, is now a rising asset. Our 2015-2019 surveys racked up broadband complaints; today, more folks talk about their fiber connection as a point of pride or share the story of how their town is closing the gap. Here's a few remarks:

- If you love to hike, hunt, or go fishing, this is a perfect spot. Also, we have fiber optic WiFi.
- For being in a town of less than 700 people, our best assets are a small four-year accredited Christian college, a small PreK-8th grade school, and a fantastic internet service provider, Haviland Broadband.
- Take McKee, Kentucky. Every home and business has had high-speed fiber since 2014, thanks to relentless locals like Keith Gabbard and their cooperative, People's Rural Telephone Cooperative.

Curious about the wide range of rural strengths and how communities are turning assets into opportunity? Dive into the ten years of Survey of Rural Challenges results and catch the spirit—and practical steps—of rural innovation at [saveyour.town](#).

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The deadline is 12 noon, Friday. Opinions expressed on this page do not necessarily represent the views of this newspaper.

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Fairness: The Staples World tries conscientiously to report fairly and accurately. If you feel we fall short of this objective at any time, please direct your complaint to the manager whose name appears on this page.

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Ask a trooper

Snow plow safety

By Sgt. Jesse Grabow
Minnesota State Patrol

Never drive into the cloud of snow and spray behind a plow.

- Be Patient & Slow Down: Plows work slowly (20-30 mph) to clear roads; slow down to a safe speed for conditions.

- Stay Alert: Plows may drift over the centerline or partially into traffic, and their wing plows can extend 10 feet out from the truck.

- Don't Pass: Passing is dangerous due to hidden obstacles and the plow's width; let operators pull over when it's safe.

- Use Your Lights: Turn on your headlights and turn off cruise control.

Question: I've heard about some snow plows getting hit out on the highway this winter: Can you remind people what they should be doing when sharing the roads with our plow drivers?

Answer: For people to stay safe around plows, they just need to practice good common sense and have some patience.

- Give Space: Stay at least 10 car lengths (about 200 feet) behind a plow.
- Avoid Snow Clouds:



Fourth grade musicians

Staples-Motley fourth grade students played recorder flutes and finger cymbals for their Christmas concert. (Staples World photos by Mark Anderson)



Third grade kazoo band

Staples-Motley third grade students all played kazoos for a song in their holiday music program.

CLC accepting patients for dental hygiene

Central Lakes College Dental Hygiene Program is now accepting patients in its on-campus dental clinic at the Brainerd campus. Beginning February 2026, dental hygiene students will begin seeing patients on Tuesdays and Wednesdays from 8:30–11:30 a.m. Offering high quality preventive care at significantly reduced rates.

Under the supervision of licensed dentists and dental hygiene faculty, students will provide a wide range of preventive services, including oral assessments, radiographs, cleanings (prophylaxis), fluoride treatments, sealants, and personalized patient education. Scaling and root planing services are planned to be added next year.

As a teaching clinic, appointments are longer than traditional dental office visits, typically around three hours and some patients may need multiple appointments. To ensure the best learning environment for students, patients should have had a dental cleaning within the past five years. Individuals with more complex periodontal needs may be better served next year or in private practice.

“When you sit in our chairs, you’re not only receiving accessible, high-quality preventive care, you’re also making a meaningful difference in the lives of our students,” said Katie Thalberg, CLC Director of Dental Hygiene.

Community members are invited to schedule appointments or learn more about available services.

To schedule an appointment, contact CLC Dental Clinic: 218-855-8254; Email: clcdental@clcmn.edu

For a list of service fees and other information, go to www.clcmn.edu/dental-clinic/



Little drummer students

Staples-Motley third graders, above, and fourth graders, left, incorporated drums into their holiday concert on Dec. 11. (Staples World photos by Mark Anderson)



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www.staplesworld.com





The Staples World office, 224 4th St. NE, is open every weekday, 8 a.m. - noon.

•For afternoon availability,
call 218-894-1112.

The Staples World will be closed
Thurs., Jan. 1 and Fri., Jan. 2, 2026.

Happy New Year!





Mark Your Calendar

Jan. 1

‘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>

Jan. 2

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.

Jan. 4

CELEBRATE RECOVERY GROUP MEETINGS Sundays, 6 p.m.,

at Motley Free Methodist Church, 33 Wellwood St. E., Motley.

Jan. 6

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

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

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



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Thank you
for reading
the
Staples World

Obituary

Paul Vasecka

Paul (Butch) Gary Vasecka, 84, passed away December 5, 2025.

A Celebration of Life is planned for early May, 2026.

Paul was born November 22, 1941, to Charles and Fern (Krogh) Vasecka in Staples.

He is survived by his wife of 61 years, Etta (Ament) Vasecka; one son, Byron (Katy) Vasecka; one daughter, Bonnie (David) Kirby; four grandchildren, Niki (Tom) Craft, Alex Tivis, Emma Vasecka and Tess Vasecka; three great-grandchildren, Corbin Craft, Brock Craft and Claire Tivis and two sisters, Barb Peterson and Fran (Ivan) Judd.

He was preceded in death



by his parents and one brother, Vernon Vasecka.

Arrangements are by Dare's Funeral and Cremation Services.

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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.....218-631-1598
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
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.

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.

St. Michael Catholic Church
280 1st Ave S, Motley.....218-631-1598
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 Matthew 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.
218-746-3839
Phone.....218-746-3768
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@tbpillager.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.

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109 NW Brown Street, Verndale, MN 56481
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Youth Pastor Joe Ward
Sunday Worship.....9:30 a.m.
Sunday Bible Fellowship Classes 11-11:45 a.m.

St. Frederick Catholic Church
20 Mason Avenue NW
Verndale.....218-631-1598
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.....218-631-1598
info@marysacc.org
Rev. JC Duncan, 218-632-7314 Rev. Rick Aubol, 218-632-7310 Father Greg Sauer, 218-632-7319
Sunday Service.....10:30 a.m. (Dec. - April)
Saturday.....4:00 p.m. (May - Nov.)

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.

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.

Sourcewell's
AscendRural
starting senior
tech group

AscendRural announces the launch of the AscendRural Senior Care Community Cohort, a new innovation program for senior care entities in central Minnesota and other rural communities across the country. Community collaborators will forge connections with other cohort members, build capacity to test new solutions, and receive support in implementing and tracking those solutions.

Cohort members will also have a chance to test new technology solutions in an upcoming pilot, serving as a guiding voice to shape the solutions for the rural-specific senior care challenges they face. The pilot will have three main areas of focus:

- Care systems and workforce capacity
- Social connection and engagement
- Daily living, safety, and aging at home

"Innovation can transform lives for the better, and AscendRural is making sure those benefits extend to the 46 million Americans who live in rural areas and are often excluded from pilot opportunities," said Melissa Kjolsing, Managing Director of AscendRural. "Nearly 20 percent of rural residents are over age 65, and compared to seniors in urban areas, they experience higher rates of chronic illness, disability, isolation, and premature mortality. With this community cohort, our rural senior care providers will get a rare chance to apply rural-focused innovations to these challenges."

The AscendRural Senior Care Community Cohort is seeking rural organizations in its central Minnesota service area, as well as nationally, who work in senior care to apply. Cohort members will receive:

- A pathway to participate in real, funded pilots with vetted technologies
- A meaningful voice in shaping the direction of national technology sourcing
- Early ownership and influence over the solutions brought to their region and organization
- Tools, templates, and frameworks designed specifically for innovation in rural contexts
- A peer network of organizations facing similar challenges and opportunities
- Actionable insights that can be applied immediately in their own programs and services

Senior care organizations are encouraged to apply for the cohort now through January 9, 2026. Final cohort selections will be announced January 21, 2026. Cohort members will also be able to attend the AscendRural 2026 Summit in late March in Minneapolis, where they will meet and learn about potential tech partners and pilot solutions for senior care.

To learn more or apply to the AscendRural Senior Care Innovation Accelerator program, visit <https://www.ascendrural.org/senior-care>. For inquiries regarding the application process, contact melissa.kjolsing@sourcewell-mn.gov.

About AscendRural
AscendRural is a technology-driven innovation hub dedicated to boosting well-being in rural America. Initiated by Sourcewell, it embodies their commitment to helping communities thrive. We bring together local leaders and the innovation community to fund and facilitate technology pilots in rural communities. Our goal is to address accessibility, availability, and affordability issues while accounting for what makes rural communities unique. For more, visit www.ascendrural.org.



“After Christmas Devotional”

Pastor Don Reigstad, Lincoln Evangelical Free Church, Cushing

Now, after Jesus was born...” (Matthew 2:1)

Someone once said, “Nothing’s over like Christmas when it’s over.”

Most of the Christmas story from the Gospel of Matthew takes place AFTER Christmas. Shoot. The tree is dropping all its needles and colored lights seem so passe. (Only white lights allowed after Christmas.) Bags of wrappings are set out for the garbage collection and the eggnog is going bad. (Was it ever good?) Retailers are on to Valentine’s Day. Nothing is over like Christmas when it’s over.

Now, it’s after Christmas. But have you forgotten that “The Twelve Days of Christmas” begin after, not before, Christmas?

(No doubt because the idea was conceived by the religious, not the retailers.) Twelve days after Christmas, leading to a celebration of the arrival of the Magi. Wise men who were late for Christmas. Maybe it’s okay to miss the hoopla.

Your Christmas is also over. I pray that like the wise men who came after Christmas:

1. You still seek Jesus;
2. You still bow before Him;
3. And that you still give Jesus your best gifts.

Thanks for your time. Pastor Don

Staples World

The Staples World office,
224 4th St. NE, is
open every weekday, 8 a.m. - noon.

•For afternoon availability,
call 218-894-1112.

The Staples World will be closed
Thurs., Jan. 1 and Fri., Jan. 2, 2026.

Happy New Year!

To become a
Church Directory
supporter,
call 218-894-1112.

Ernie's Food Market
Groceries - Gas - Convenience - more
Staples, MN 218-894-1072

Staples Veterinary Clinic
"Complete Animal Care"
Staples, MN 218-894-1775

Tower Pizza
Pizza, Pasta, Salads, Sandwiches
Staples, MN 218-894-3299

Central Building Supply
Hwy. 10 West, Staples, MN
218-894-3794

Staples World
Your community newspaper since 1890
224 4th St. NE, Staples, MN
218-894-1112

The Church Directory is supported by the advertisers listed above and the Ministerial Association.

***To update your church information or to advertise on the Church Directory, email: jwinter@staplesworld.com. or call 218-894-1112. Continue to email your Ministerial pastoral message or advertisement to: jwinter@staplesworld.com



Cardinals to wrestle in national tournament

The Staples-Motley wrestling team took the Christmas break off from competition, as they prepare for The Clash National Duals, the biggest regular season wrestling tournament in the region.

The team duals tournament will be Jan. 2-3 at the LaCrosse Center in Wisconsin. This is the 23rd year of the tournament.

In their opening bracket, Staples-Motley has teams from Connecticut, Wisconsin,

Iowa, Florida and Illinois, as well as two teams from Minnesota. After day one, teams will be lined up according to their finish in the opening bracket.

In other brackets, there are teams from Ohio, Missouri, Idaho, Nebraska and California, as well as the top ranked teams from Minnesota.

The Staples-Motley girls will travel to a tournament in Fergus Falls on Jan. 3.



Cardinals tested by top conf. team

The Staples-Motley girls basketball team struggled against a 7-1 Dilworth-Glyndon-Felton team who is in first place in the Heart Of Lakes Conference.

Guards Chloe Larson and Sophia Luna did a good job of handling the ball, but

the Cardinals struggled in finishing shots against a taller team.

Team results

Staples-Motley 30, DGF 73

Scoring: Chloe Larson 13, Joci Lenk 5, Sophia Luna 5, Hannah Cole 4, Clara Maros 3

Four Cardinals hit double figures in basketball win

The Staples-Motley boys basketball team jumped out to a lead against Dilworth-Glyndon Felton on Dec. 22 and never let them back into the game, maintaining a 10 point lead after the first few minutes of the game. The final score was 73-60.

DGF had won three Heart Of Lakes Conference games coming into Staples-Motley, but they didn't have an answer to the athletes the Cardinals threw at them.

Eli Rutten got the team off to a good start by hitting an open three point shot, then followed that up with three more long shots in the first half. Staples-Motley had opportunities to score more, but missed several put-back shots after getting the offensive rebound. Carter Sarbaum broke that streak with two straight rebound baskets, then Josiah Burton hit two

inside shots to put the team up by 10. Avandre Brandt hit a three pointer to put the team up by 11 at halftime, 36-25.

In the second half, Conner Kuhns expanded the lead with two straight three point shots, then Noah Larson went to work inside for a couple of baskets and a free throw as the Cardinals built a 16 point lead.

DGF made a run late in the game to get within 10, but Staples-Motley hit half of their free throws to stay in the lead.

This was a good win against a good team for the Cardinals, who have started the season 4-3, with all three losses in close games.

Team results

Staples-Motley 73, DGF 60

Scoring: Conner Kuhns 17, Noah Larson 16, Eli Rutten 15, Avandre Brandt 11, Carter Sarbaum 7, Josiah Burton 7

Cardinal hoops action

Above, Jocelyn Lenk leads a fast break while Isabel Cole, back left, fills a lane.

Below, Sophia Luna puts up a shot over a taller DGF player in the lane. (Staples World photos by Mark Anderson)



Mid-air battles

Above, Eli Rutten attempts a shot while getting pushed in the back and hit on the arm, but still pushing back with an arm on an opponent's face. Below, Noah Larson muscles through the inside defense of DGF.



Staples-Motley cheerleaders show some new moves before a basketball game. (Staples World photo by Mark Anderson)



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,

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

ADVERTISEMENT FOR BIDS

4TH STREET NE (CSAH 43) IMPROVEMENTS SAP 077-643-004 CITY OF STAPLES TODD COUNTY, MN

RECEIPT AND OPENING OF PROPOSALS: Proposals for the work described below will be received online through QuestCDN.com until 2:00 p.m. on Monday, January 26, 2026, at which time the bids will be opened and publicly read at the office of the City Administrator, City of Staples, 122 6th Street NE, Staples, MN 56479.

DESCRIPTION OF WORK: The work includes the construction of approximately:

12,000	CU YD	Common Excavation	37	EACH	6" - 10" Gate Valve and Box
3,600	TON	Aggregate Base, Class 5	5,000	LIN FT	6" - 10" Watermain
6,400	TON	Bituminous Pavement	11	EACH	Hydrant
8,770	LIN FT	Concrete Curb Des. 8618	4,350	LIN FT	12" - 36" RCP Storm Sewer
36,265	SQ FT	Concrete Walk	282	LIN FT	Construct Drainage Structure
1.5	ACRE	Turf Establishment	118	LIN FT	Construct Sanitary Manhole
80	LIN FT	8' X 5' Precast Box Culvert	3,800	LIN FT	8" - 15" PVC Sanitary Sewer

together with numerous related items of work, all in accordance with Plans and Specifications. This project is subject to Prevailing Wage Rates, Truck Rentals, Disadvantaged Business Enterprise Goals, Equal Employment Opportunity Provisions, Buy American Iron and Steel Provisions, and Responsible Contractor Certification.

COMPLETION OF WORK: All work under the Contract must be complete by 7/16/2027.

PLAN HOLDERS LIST, ADDENDUMS AND BID TABULATION: The plan holders list, addendums and bid tabulations will be available for download on-line at www.questcdn.com or www.bolton-menk.com.

TO OBTAIN BID DOCUMENTS: Complete digital project bidding documents are available at www.questcdn.com or www.bolton-menk.com. You may view the digital plan documents for free by entering Quest project #9610208 on the website's Project Search page. Documents may be downloaded for \$50.00. Please contact QuestCDN.com at 952-233-1632 or info@questcdn.com for assistance in free membership registration, viewing, downloading, and working with this digital project information.

BID SUBMITTAL: A bid shall be submitted online no later than the date and time prescribed. For this project, the Owner will only be accepting online electronic bids through QuestCDN. To access the electronic bid form, download the project document and click the online bidding button at the top of the advertisement. Prospective bidders must be on the plan holders list through QuestCDN for bids to be accepted.

BID SECURITY: A Proposal Bond in the amount of not less than 5 percent of the total amount bid, drawn in favor of City of Staples shall accompany each bid.

OWNER'S RIGHTS RESERVED: The Owner reserves the right to reject any or all bids and to waive any irregularities and informalities therein and to award the Contract to other than the lowest bidder if, in their discretion, the interest of the Owner would be best served thereby.

Dated: December 18, 2025 /s/ Mr. Jerel Nelsen City Administrator

Published: December 31, 2025, January 7, 2026, January 14, 2026

Finance and Commerce: December 31, 2025, January 7, 2026, January 14, 2026

2-4pnc

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Todd County Board of Commissioners

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE TODD COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS HELD DEC. 2, 2025

Public Comment

Greg Hansen expressed his support for the value of the law enforcement's service to the citizens of Todd County and its lasting affects on these public servants.

Call to Order

The Todd County Board of Commissioners met in the Commissioner's Board Room in the City of Long Prairie, MN on the second day of December, 2025 at 9:00 a.m. The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Byers. The meeting was opened with the Pledge of Allegiance. All Commissioners were present.

Approval of Agenda

On motion by Becker and second by Neumann, the following motion was introduced and adopted by unanimous vote: To adopt the agenda as presented.

Consent Agenda

On motion by Denny and second by Noska, the following motions and resolutions were introduced and adopted by unanimous vote:

To approve the Todd County Board of Commissioner's Meeting Minutes of November 18, 2025 as presented.

Approve the resignation of Administrative Assistant II - Bilingual Maria Vazquez Botello, effective November 4, 2025.

Hire Susan Thoennes for the FT Admin Assistant at the wage of \$24.24 Grade 5/E step B start date TBD.

GAMBLING PERMIT - NWTF STRUTTIN BLACKBEARDS WHEREAS, the Todd County Board of Commissioners are establishing their approval for a Gambling Permit for the NWTF Struttin Blackbeards through this resolution;

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Todd County Board of Commissioners approve a Gambling Permit for the NWTF Struttin Blackbeards to hold a raffle event at the Clarissa Ballroom in Eagle Valley Township at the address 19281 Kottler Road, Clarissa, MN on February 7, 2026.

GAMBLING PERMIT - STAPLES SPORTSMENS CLUB

WHEREAS, the Todd County Board of Commissioners are establishing their approval for a Gambling Permit for the Staples Sportsmens Club through this resolution;

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Todd County Board of Commissioners approve a Gambling Permit for the Staples Sportsmens Club to hold a raffle event at the Clarissa Ballroom in Eagle Valley Township at the address 19281 Kottler Road, Clarissa, MN on March 14, 2026.

Auditor-Treasurer

On motion by Noska and second by Becker, the following motion was introduced and adopted by unani-

mous Roll Call vote: To approve the Commissioner Warrants number (ACH) 404213 through 404236 in the amount of \$69,503.30 and (Regular) 59399 through 59425 in the amount of \$57,162.39 for a total of \$126,665.69.

On motion by Neumann and second by Noska, the following motion was introduced and adopted by unanimous Roll Call vote: To approve the Health & Human Services Commissioner Warrants number (ACH) 807067 through 807083 and (Regular) 713612 through 713632 for a total of \$18,285.92.

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

Hold Harmless Agreement for Ditch Maintenance - County Ditch 33 WHEREAS, Cory Larson is requesting to maintain approximately 1,876 feet of CD33 located in Reynolds Township, Section 29. A Hold Harmless Agreement has been signed and submitted to the Ditch Authority, an onsite inspection has been done, and;

WHEREAS, there was a November 2012 Hold Harmless Agreement done for this same section of ditch. The DNR gave their input at that time, on what was allowed to be cleaned, to protect the water level of an unnamed water basin on this section of ditch, and;

WHEREAS, applicant is allowed to maintain the drainage ditch to the original width and depth. An improvement by lowering or widening the ditch bottom is not allowed. Sediment and vegetation can only be removed to the extent of the original ditch bottom elevation. Spoil may be side cast and leveled, staying within 16-1/2 feet of the ditch, or moved to an approved upland site, and;

WHEREAS, Unnamed Basin 77-173W is in the maintenance area. Per the DNR, excavation of the outlet channel of this water body cannot alter the natural runoff elevation. In order to maintain this elevation, a permanent grade control structure may need to be installed. If the landowner or his contractor cause drainage of the water body which results in a DNR violation, the landowner will be responsible for the costs involved with restoration of the basin. If the landowner refuses to complete the restoration, the Ditch Authority will hire the work done and assess the cost only to parcels 20-0032900 & 20-0033000.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, the Todd County Ditch Authority gives permission to Cory Larson to maintain a portion of CD33

located on parcels 20-0032900 & 20-0033000. The maintenance will be done on his own property at his own expense.

Public Works

On motion by Noska and second by Denny, the following motion was introduced and adopted by majority vote with Becker and Neumann against: Approve attached Budget Request Form to amend \$18,300 within Fund 03 Public Works 2025 Budget.

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

RESOLUTION OF SUPPORT FOR LOCAL ROAD IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM FUNDING FOR BIRCHDALE TOWNSHIP

WHEREAS, Minnesota Townships can apply for funding support for transportation infrastructure projects on Township Roads as part of the Minnesota Department of Transportation's Local Road Improvement Program which has approximately \$47,000,000 in bond funds (with a cap of \$1,500,000 per project) available for constructing or reconstructing local roads in Fiscal Years 2026-2028, and;

WHEREAS, Local Road Improvement Program Funds can be used for reasonable elements associated with roadway construction activity and that all other costs associated with project development and delivery need to be funded by Local Township Funds, and;

WHEREAS, funding may be requested for city projects that will reconstruct routes that have regional significance (Routes of Regional Significance Account), and;

WHEREAS, Townships are required to have a county sponsor in order to apply for funding and Birchdale Township has requested Todd County sponsorship by Resolution, and;

WHEREAS, Birchdale Township understands that it will be responsible for all costs not covered by LRIP including but not limited to consultant engineering, right of way acquisition, construction administration and inspection, utility construction, as well as construction costs above the LRIP grant selection amount, and;

WHEREAS, Birchdale Township has agreed to maintain such improvements for the lifetime of the improvements, and;

WHEREAS, Birchdale Township requests support for submitting the following project for State of Minnesota Local Road Improvement Program Funding as a Route of Regional Significance:

Alcott Drive: from the Stearns County Line to County State Aid Highway 15

A BITUMINOUS IMPROVEMENT PROJECT

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Todd County Board of Commissioners does hereby support the Birchdale Township in their Local Road Improvement

Program Application and that Todd County agrees to act as the project sponsor for the project should the township be selected for LRIP funds, and that such sponsorship shall include the following responsibilities:

#1 - Serve as the fiscal agent on behalf of the Birchdale Township

#2 - Request a state aid project number for the project

#3 - Ensure the project meets milestones and dates for scheduled completion

#4 - Assist the Township in execution of any grant agreement

#5 - Assist in the development, review and approval of the construction plan

#6 - Ensure that required environmental documents and permits are received, and requirements are followed

#7 - Submit plan, engineers estimate, and proposal to the District State Aid Engineer

#8 - Advertise/let/award the project in accordance with state aid procedures

#9 - Submit the State Aid Pay Requests and project grant progress reports to the District State Aid Engineer

#10 - Communicate progress and updates with the District State Aid Engineer

#11 - Ensure that the project receives adequate supervision and inspection to ensure that project is completed in conformance with approved plans and specifications

#12 - Assist with project close out and final contract documents

#13 - Retain project documents in accordance with document retention schedule

County Attorney

On motion by Noska and second by Denny, the following motion was introduced and adopted by unanimous vote: To sign the Board Ratification Statement for Renewal of Professional Services Agreement MnCCC & STI.

Planning & Zoning

On motion by Neumann, agenda item 9.1 Brown Bear North Final Plat was tabled future meeting to get clarification on the plat drawing prior to formal adoption.

On motion by Neumann and second by Noska, the following resolution was introduced and adopted by unanimous vote:

A RESOLUTION REGARDING THE ADMINISTRATION OF THE MINNESOTA WETLAND CONSERVATION ACT RESOLUTION TO ADOPT The Sauk River Watershed Collaborative Watershed Based Implementation Fund (WBIF) Revised FY2024 Workplan

WHEREAS, Todd County approves the Sauk River Comprehensive Watershed Management Plan (CWMP) for the area of the county identified within the Sauk River Watershed.

WHEREAS, the Sauk River CWMP called for the development and adoption of biennial work plans,

to be completed by a Policy Committee established via the execution of a joint powers collaborative agreement amongst partnering entities implementing the Sauk River CWMP.

WHEREAS, Todd County entered into a joint powers collaborative agreement with partnering entities to implement the Sauk River CWMP, and under this agreement a Policy Committee was established to, amongst other duties, review and recommend approval of any modifications or additions to the biennial work plans to collaborative partner's governing boards.

WHEREAS, Todd County has received notice from said Policy Committee that: 1) The revised fiscal year 2024 WBIF workplan has been reviewed on November 20th, 2025 and 2) the Policy Committee recommends approval of the same by each collaborative member's governing board.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, Todd County hereby approves the submission of the Sauk River Watershed Collaborative's revised fiscal year 2024 workplan to the Minnesota Board of Water and Soil Resources.

ALSO, BE IT RESOLVED, Todd County adopts the revised fiscal year 2024 workplan upon approval of the Minnesota Board of Water and Soil Resources and the Sauk River Watershed Collaborative Fiscal Agent.

Health & Human Services

On motion by Noska and second by Becker, the following motion was introduced and adopted by unanimous vote: Approve the extension of the Accounting contract as presented with Jena Peterson through August 31st, 2026.

County Auditor-Treasurer's Report

The County Auditor-Treasurer reminded the TNT hearing was December 2, 2025, at 6 p.m., the AMC Conference was held last week and the preliminary audit from CLA will begin the week of December 15.

County Coordinator's Report

The County Coordinator reported meetings with personnel, website discussion, radiothon, broadband, TWCC interviews, MACA and Paycom.

County Commissioner's Report

The Commissioners reported on meetings and events attended.

Commissioner Becker attended meetings including Friendly Rider, Rainbow Rider, MTWCHB and discussions for Moran Twp. to further utilize our county website.

Commissioner Denny has attended meetings as usual and encouraged persons to support others in the community during the upcoming holiday and winter seasons.

Commissioner Noska has attended meetings including the TWCC and addressed concerns about closed captioning of the YouTube livestream postings.

Commissioner Byers attended meetings including the Opioid, Lake Association groups, Personnel, TCDC, Extension and Long Prairie Watershed.

Commissioner Neumann attended meetings including the SRWD 1W1P, Rainbow Rider, and CPT.

Recess

On motion by Becker and second by Denny, the meeting was recessed to December 16, 2025.

COMMISSIONER WARRANTS VENDOR NAME \$ AMOUNT

APPLIED CONCEPTS INC	
.....	\$12,884.50
BUTTWELLER'S DO ALL	 4,972.00
CHAMBERLAIN OIL	
COMPANY	 3,260.13
HENNEN FLOOR COVERING	
INC	 3,958.55
INNOVATIVE OFFICE	
SOLUTIONS, LLC	 2,160.08
INTRADYN	 2,166.66
LONG PRAIRIE	
LEADER	 21,964.50
M-R SIGN COMPANY	
INC	 12,736.69
METAL CULVERTS	
INC	 28,397.00
NUSS TRUCK & EQUIPMENT	 19,925.31
41 PAYMENTS LESS	
THAN \$2,000	 14,240.27
Total:	 \$126,665.69

HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES WARRANTS

VENDOR NAME	\$ AMOUNT
34 PAYMENTS LESS	
THAN \$2,000	 12,718.19
BRENNY FUNERAL	
CHAPEL	 3,500.00
3 PAYMENTS LESS	
THAN \$2,000	 2,067.73
Total:	 \$18,285.92

VENDOR NAME \$ AMOUNT COMMUNITY AND FAMILY SRVS LLC.....\$3,418.75 GREATER MN FAMILY SRVS INC 4,994.65 LUTHERAN SOCIAL SERVICES OF MN - ST PAUL..... 3,998.55 NEXUS-KINDRED FAMILY HEALING 2,739.87 NORTHERN PINES MENTAL HLTH CTR INC..... 2,509.00 PRAIRIE LAKES YOUTH PROGRAMS 13,950.00 VILLAGE RANCH INC 33,874.61 19 PAYMENTS LESS THAN \$ 2,000 10,278.13 Total:\$75,763.56

On a motion by Denny and second by Becker, the preceding minutes of the County Board meeting held December 2, 2025 were duly approved by unanimous vote at the Todd County Board of Commissioners at the Regular Board Meeting held on December 16, 2025..

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

2pnc

2025 continued from page 1a

Progress made in many sectors of Staples, Motley communities

updating the City of Motley’s Comprehensive Plan.

March 12 - Noting a need for housing in the area, the Staples Economic Development Authority (SEDA) discussed the value of the city investing in housing at their February 25, meeting. “There’s not a lot of appetite for new construction,” said Economic Development Director Lucas Wakefield.

March 19 - The Staples Motley Athletic Hall of Fame will induct a group of firsts in 2025, including the school’s first state basketball team, the first wrestling state champion and the first girls cross country state champions. Athletes are Loren Bendson, Kristi (Wolhowe) Halverson, Kevin Johnson and Alex Griffith. Coaches are Norm Card and Tom Honek. Community contributor is Dick Bremer. Teams are the 1981 and 1982 Staples boys basketball teams and the 2002 and 2003 Staples Motley girls cross country teams.

March 19 - Sourcewell launched AscendRural on March 10, a new program designed to help rural communities improve lives through technology.

March 19 - Cassie Roberts is the new Plant Manager at Trident Seafoods in Motley, a position she officially started this past September. She’s the first woman to wear this title at Trident.

March 26 - Four Staples-Motley athletes signed letters of intent to compete in college during a signing ceremony on March 21. Grant Bestland and Peyton Mithun will compete in golf, Logan Robben and Sawyer Ferdon signed to compete in track and field.

April 9 - In her first few months as Executive Director of the Five Wings Arts Council, Miranda Lape is finding that the goals of the organization continue to be the same, with perhaps more of a push for networking among artists and the public. “There is a drive to connect artists with audiences,” said Lape. “There is very strong support for the role of arts in the region.”

April 23 - The Staples-Motley School District is not seeing a budget shortfall like many other school districts in the state. At the April 14 school board meeting, Business Manager Ellie Hill said the school is benefiting from planning ahead and “right-sizing” the district so that their expenditures fit their income.

April 30 - Laken Hines and Olivia Opheim are state speech champions while Brynn Bestland placed second and Walker Johnson was seventh at the state speech meet. Raina Mikhael placed 12th in her preliminary round and did not make the finals.

April 30 - Paul and Alison Augustinack purchased The Vintage golf course in Staples.

May 7 - Staples-Motley Middle School students performed “Dr. Experimentor and the League of Evil” at Centennial Auditorium in Staples.

May 21 - Mid-Minnesota Federal Credit Union (MMFCU) announced plans to purchase properties and build a new facility on Highway 10 in Staples.

May 21 - The Staples-Motley High School Class of 2025 has 21 students graduating with their AA degree, completing their first two years of college while still in high school.

May 21 - A vehicle involved in a high-speed police chase crashed into a

building in Motley.

An ‘Autumn Blaze’ maple tree was planted near the Staples Community Center May 22, in memory of Dr. John Gorton who passed away in January.

May 28 - From Activities Director Josh Lee: “While the community has long supported its student-athletes, recent years have brought an unmistakable momentum to the Staples-Motley activities programs. From increased student participation to rising success on the field, court and stage, the district’s commitment to excellence in activities is now producing results that are both measurable and meaningful.”

June 11 - After three years of planning, many partners and hundreds of hurdles to overcome, the Minnesota Farmers Union has broken ground on a new facility at the Staples Industrial Park, named Farmers Union Processing + Meats.

June 18 - A drive to update Centennial Auditorium was presented to the Staples-Motley School Board at their June 9 meeting.

June 18 - Turner Beachy won the boys pole vault, Audrey Brownell won the 1,600 meter run and was second in the 3,200 at the state track and field meet. Noah Larson was the other medal winner, getting ninth place in the 110 meter high hurdles. Other competitors were Avandre Brandt in the 200 and high jump, Adrian Gomez in the shot put and Sawyer Ferdon in the triple jump and long jump.

June 18 - The ancestors of Ragnhild and Botolf Hefte are planning a reunion this week, which will incorporate the early settlers of Byron Township and the Leader area.

June 18 - Carter White finished in eighth place in the boys state golf tournament, while Walker Johnson was 52nd in the girls tournament.

June 25 - The Staples Area Chamber of Commerce is moving forward with a new web site, new events and new people on the board.

July 2 - After 24 years serving as a firefighter, Motley Fire Chief Brad Olson decided it was time to retire. His official last day in this role was July 1, 2025.

July 2 - Three Staples residents voiced concerns about the new meat cutting facility being constructed at the Staples Industrial Park, including permit violations and odor concerns.

July 2 - The Staples-Motley School District is updating their mission and vision statements.

July 9 - Shakespeare performed live with actors learning which roles they will play right in front of the audience as the performance starts. That’s the plot of Romeo and Juliet Lottery Style, which will be performed Sunday, July 20 at 6 p.m. at Centennial Auditorium in Staples.

July 9 - Rollee Penfield was inducted into the Valley City State University Coaches Hall of Fame on June 12.

July 23 - Paige Ahrendt is now starting as the Staples-Motley Activities Director with a focus to improve the programs and enrich the lives of students participating in activities.

July 30 - Stan Carlson is the inaugural inductee in the Staples-Motley Artistic Hall of Fame and will be celebrated during Railroad Days. The Artistic Hall of Fame is

to recognize significant accomplishments and contributions to artistic creation in the Staples-Motley community. Music, digital creation, debate, visual arts, dance, speech, writing, drama/theater are categories that will be recognized at an annual celebration.

July 30 - Staples Police Officers Dawson Waldvogel and Chris Goff were honored at the July 22 Staples City Council meeting for saving a life during a fire incident on July 2.

Aug. 13 - The Lakes Area Pregnancy Support Center (LAPS) in Staples is celebrating its 30th anniversary along with introducing ultrasound services

Sept. 10 - A story in the Looking Back section of the Staples World prompted an investigation into a 1950 farming incident involving Art Farber, who still lives in rural Motley.

Oct. 1 - Declining enrollment seems to have been reversed at the Staples-Motley School District, a trend that could continue for the next 10 years, according to Dave Bergeron of ICS and consultant John Powers.

Oct. 15 - Visitors to the Lakewood Health System Cancer Center open house got their first view of the new facility that will officially open Oct. 23. The 19,270 square-foot addition to the Lakewood Staples campus has 14 infusion rooms, 10 exam rooms and two radiation exam rooms. Two large pieces of technology are the PET/CT imaging scanner and the linear accelerator for radiation therapy.

Oct. 15 - Ronnie Noska is heading back to the state tennis tournament after winning the Section 8A singles title.

Oct. 22 - The Staples-Motley School District is in the middle of a long term planning study that is looking at future education and workforce needs, in order to develop a facilities plan to meet those needs.

Oct. 29 - According to Staples city officials, at least half of the boulevard trees along 4th Street NE, from 3rd Ave. to Warner Rd., will be cut down, due to construction plans for 2026.

Nov. 5 - Audrey Brownell finished in second place at the Minnesota State Cross Country Meet.

Nov. 12 - Based on community survey and input sessions, the Staples-Motley School District was given a proposal to expand shop space at the high school and move the fifth grade classes to the Staples-Motley Elementary School building. To do this, they are proposing a \$42 million building referendum for April 14, 2026.

Nov. 12 - Staples-Motley students are performing the comedy “A Christmas Chaos for their fall play.

Nov. 19 - Master Sergeant Izaak Schafer recently retired after nearly 22 years of service in the Army National Guard.

Nov. 19 - Nicole Neff has fixed up a house in Staples to use as a sober house for women. It is called The Hive, which opened this spring.

Nov. 19 - Three Staples-Motley athletes signed to play sports for college programs on National Signing Day. Colbe Tappe committed to play baseball at St. Cloud State University, Audrey Brownell will run cross country and track and field at the University of Tulsa, and Noah Larson

will run track and field at Northern State University.

Nov. 26 - Starlight Cannabis LLC was hoping to set up shop at the former school property in Motley, adapting the long-vacant school into a modern, secure cultivation site. That isn’t going to happen, as was made clear at a public hearing Nov. 17, led by Motley’s Planning and Zoning Commission.

Nov. 26 - A fire at the Staples Hi-Rise apartments the evening of Nov. 19 resulted in one victim being air-lifted to a metro hospital, and other tenants being displaced due to smoke.

Nov. 26 - Around 35 Staples and Motley area businesses set up shop at Staples-Motley High School for the Hometown Careers Collective on Nov. 19. Local manufacturers and industries showed students what is produced in the community and many of them provided hands-on displays where students could see what and how they were produced. This is the first year for this event.

Dec. 3 - Housing and social vibrancy are ahead of predictions, while business development and marketing are still needed to meet the goals of the Staples Economic Development Authority.

Dec. 17 - 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.



Photos of the year - June 11

Derek Wiese looks up at the dignitaries attending the groundbreaking ceremony in Staples while posing for a photo with his older brother Owen and father Dustin. Left is U.S. Senator Amy Klobuchar and right is Minnesota Farmers Union President Gary Wertich.



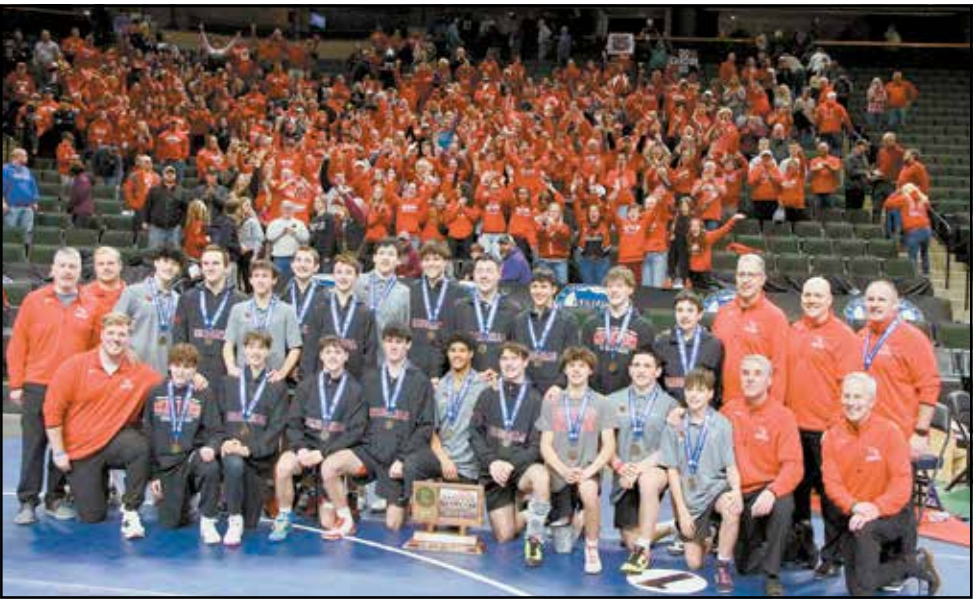
Photos of the year - March 26

Temperatures were chilly outside March 21, and even chillier in the water that students and faculty braved during the Polar Plunge at Staples-Motley Middle/High School. Pictured are Braxton Cherry, Violet Dahlvang, Anika Mollner and Emma Lamke.



Photos of the year - March 12

Avandre Brandt had a double-clutch dunk against Greenway in the first boys basketball playoff game, avoiding the 6’10 shot blocker.



Photos of the year - March 5

The Staples-Motley boys wrestling team won the state title by beating Chatfield 33-16 on Feb. 26.



Photos of the year - Oct. 8

Steph (Jares) Schmidt and Amanda (Reichel) Fox discover their 2003 team’s mural at the Legacy Gym, as their team was inducted into the Athletic Hall of Fame.



Photos of the year - Aug. 27

A group of hikers at the Legacy Arboretum and Nature Trail in Staples at the grand opening on Aug. 13.