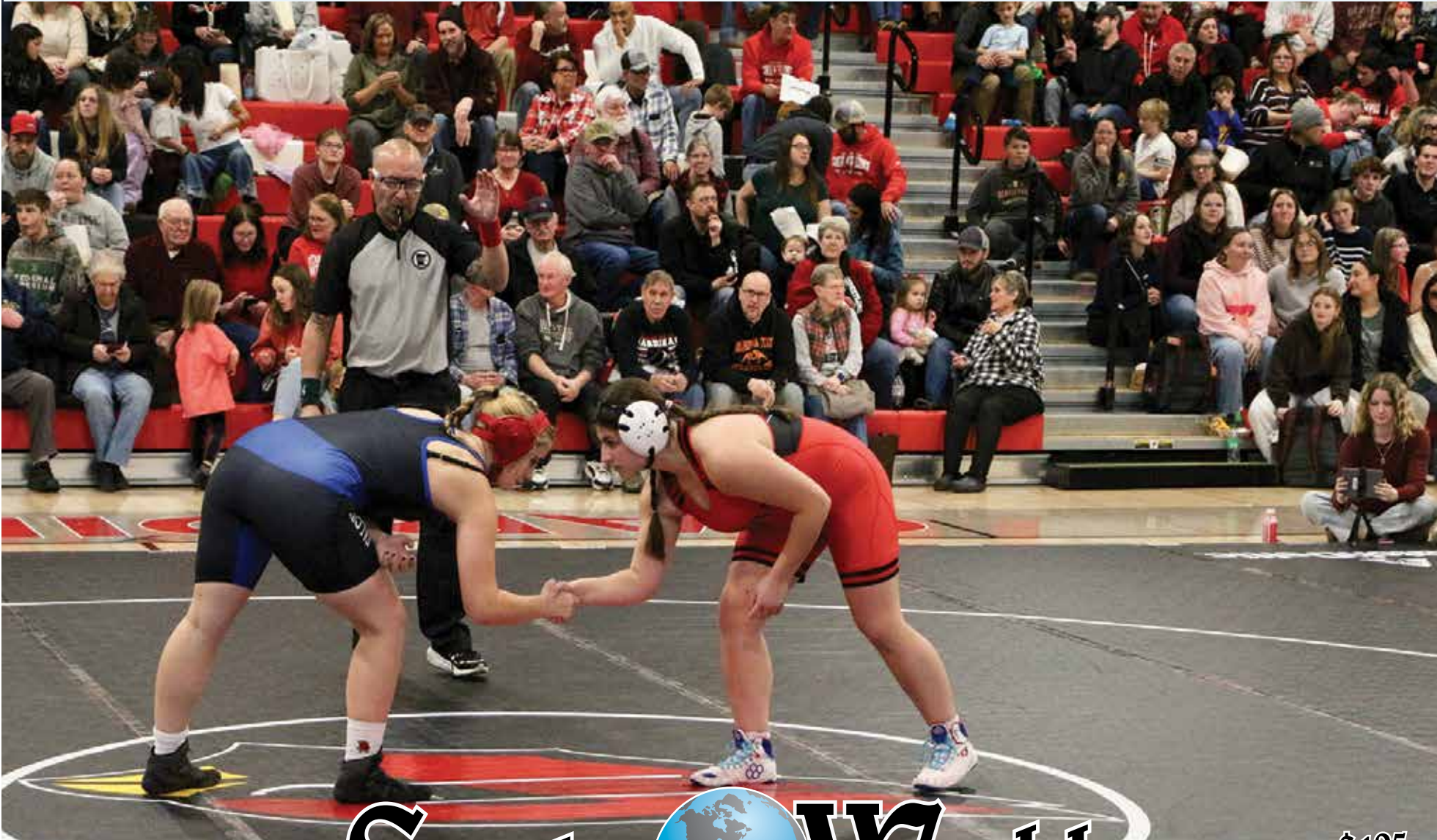


Inside this issue:

Ice skating in Motley
Wrestlers continue to win
Basketball teams lose leads



Girls wrestling in the spotlight Some of the loudest cheers at the Jan. 8 wrestling match were for Staples-Motley's Anika Tureson, right, in the only varsity girls match of the evening. The large crowd gathered to see Staples-Motley against Foley were excited to see girls wrestling at a high level. (Photo by Mark Anderson)

Carr announces he won't run for re-election

Wadena County Sheriff Michael Carr announced he will not run for his office again in the 2026 election in November. He will continue as sheriff until the newly elected sheriff starts in 2027.

Carr has been in law enforcement for 32 years, 19 as Wadena County Sheriff.

In a letter announcing his decision, Carr said "I am deeply grateful to the citizens of Wadena County for the trust you have placed in me, and to those who came before me who laid the foundation for this office. I also want to thank every current and past employee who has worked alongside me throughout my career."

The letter did not state what Carr plans on doing after leaving his long-time position.

Read the full announcement letter on page 4a.



Wadena County Sheriff Michael Carr

Wright elected school board chair

By Mark Anderson
Managing Editor

Ryan Wright will be the Staples-Motley School Board chair for 2026, as voted by the board at their organizational meeting on Jan. 5. Chandler Trout will be the Vice Chair, Sherry Miller Frisk the Clerk and Jeremy Reeck the Treasurer.

The board also set committee assignments, including:

- Finance Committee: Mary Freeman, Jeremy Reeck
- Policy Committee: Kyle Reese, Chandler Trout
- District Technology Committee: Mary Freeman
- Meet and Confer Committee: Chandler Trout, Sherry Miller Frisk
- Facility Committee: Kyle Reese, Jeremy Reeck
- Superintendents Evaluation: Jeremy Reeck, Ryan Wright
- Contract Negotiation Teams:
- Instructional Group: Mary Freeman, Sherry Miller Frisk
- Support Staff: Chandler Trout, Sherry Miller Frisk
- Principals & Transportation: Ryan Wright, Jeremy Reeck
- Superintendent: Kyle Reese, Chandler Trout

Building referendum

The board took the next steps in setting up a building referendum vote on April 14.

They passed a resolution stating the referendum will be for \$42,500,000.

The resolution said the funds are "for the acquisition and betterment of school sites and facilities, including the construction and equipping of a secure entry and career and technical education (CTE) addition to the High School/Middle School site; the construction and equipping of an addition to the Elementary School; the renovation and remodeling of classrooms and restrooms at school sites and facilities; upgrades to casework and finishes; the acquisition and installation of furniture, fixtures and equipment; the construction of athletic and activity field improvements, including track replacement and renovations and upgrades to the football field, bleachers, press box, scoring

Haircuts with Grandma Barb... no need to change a good thing

By Dawn Timbs
Staples World reporter

As a college freshman at the University of Jamestown in N.D., Grant Bestland has experienced a number of 'firsts' since graduating from Staples-Motley in 2025.

Finding a new hairdresser is not one of them.

In fact, the Staples native has only had his blonde locks cut by one person in all of his 18 years: his grandma, Barb Rach, of rural Verndale.

There's a picture of Grant when he's barely a year, sitting in his mother's lap at Mane Hair Design in Verndale where Grandma Barb worked for many years. "He didn't cry once," Barb recalled, adding, "I guess he just trusted Grandma."

Grant's mom, Gretchen Bestland, has other pictures of her son having his hair cut throughout the years... some taken at that same Verndale salon, and later, after Barb's retirement, at the 'home salon' set up at the Rach farmhouse.

She may have retired, but Barb's held on to the tools of the trade she loved for so many years, and pulls them out when her grandson stops by for a trim.

When asked if Grant's ever requested some sort of wild style, Grandma Barb laughs and says, 'no.' Although there *was* that one time he wanted his hair cut like golf pro Collin Morikawa, she recalled. Which makes sense to this reporter, since Grant was a top golfer during his years at Staples-Motley and now plays for the University of Jamestown Jimmies. Hmmm. Do you think that stylish 'Morikawa do' helped Grant earn his golf scholarship to Jamestown?! this reporter pressed. Grant just shakes his head, wondering how he ever agreed to this 'interview' in the first place, and Grandma

See **HAIRCUT** on page 10a



Trusting Grandma

Grant Bestland, about a year old, looked up at his Grandma Barb Rach during his first hair cut at her salon in Verndale. Holding him is his mother, Gretchen (Rach) Bestland. That was the start of many haircuts Grant would receive over the years from his one and only barber. On back page, Grant's still all smiles at the salon a few years later. (Submitted photos)

Weather

2026

This Week's Forecast

	High	Low	Cond.
Jan. 14	15	2	Sunny
Jan. 15	27	21	Snow
Jan. 16	26	-9	Cloudy
Jan. 17	-2	-8	M. Cloudy
Jan. 18	10	-3	M. Sunny
Jan. 19	8	-3	P. Cloudy
Jan. 20	14	5	P. Sunny

Last Year, 2025

	High	Low	Cond.
Jan. 14	2°	-13	Sunny
Jan. 15	28	0	Cloudy
Jan. 16	29	20	M. Sunny
Jan. 17	24	11	Cloudy
Jan. 18	0	-13	M. Sunny
Jan. 19	-8	-20	Sunny
Jan. 20	-20	-23	P. Cloudy

Average Temps:
H = 21° Low = 3°

Compiled by
Dale Hausmann,
WCCO's Staples area
Weatherwatcher

Public Notices

City of Staples 9A

May Township 9A

Moran Township 9A

Obituaries

Charles Crews

Daniel Kittilson

Richard Trout



Brothers on ice

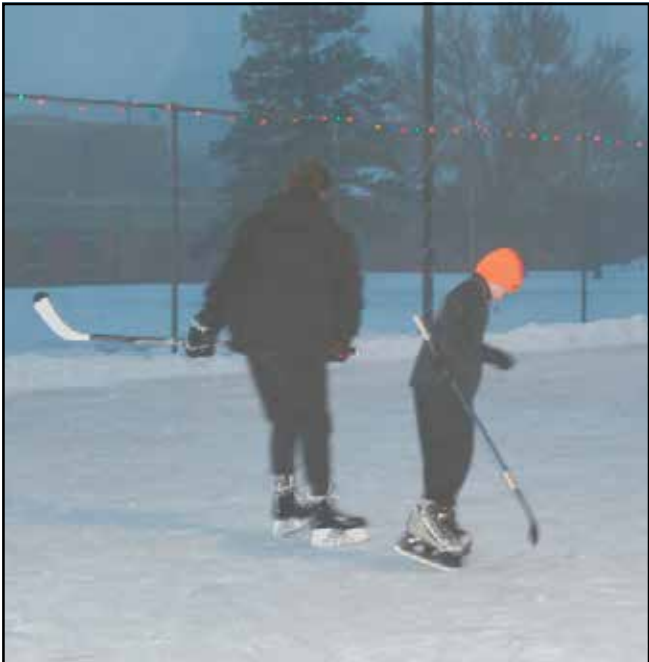
Brothers Landon (left) and Damian Albertson, Pillager, had fun skating at the ice rink in Motley the evening of Jan. 5. The boys, ages 17 and eight respectively, had just begun learning to skate a few days prior and were also practicing some basic hockey drills. Landon said he'd been inspired to take up the sport from watching his friend Conner Fulton who plays hockey at Brainerd High School. In addition to the skating rink, the Albertsons said they enjoy coming to Motley to visit their grandma, Connie Mosack. (Staples World photos by Dawn Timbs)



Winter fun on ice

The ice rink in Motley, located across from Veterans Park on Main St. E., drew a few skating enthusiasts the evening of Jan. 5. Colorful holiday lights helped illumi-

nate the rink that evening. (Staples World photo by Dawn Timbs)



In the warming house

The Albertson brothers of Pillager took off their street shoes and donned ice skates inside the warming house, prior to hitting the ice rink in Motley Jan. 5. Pictured, from left, are Damian, eight, and Landon, 17. The

boys brought their own skates, but there are a limited number of skates available for public use on a first come first serve basis. (Staples World photo by Dawn Timbs)

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for reading
the
Staples World



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Motley area law enforcement

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

Jan. 4 - A Morrison County deputy issued a citation to Chantel Ann Kuklak, 21, for driving after revocation.

Jan. 4 - Morrison County deputies responded to a report of an assault at the 32000 block of 60th Ave., Cushing. The incident involved a juvenile.

Jan. 3 - Law enforcement responded to a report of reckless driving and a hit and run at the 31000 block of Aston Rd., Cushing.

Jan. 2 - The MCSO received a report of property damage at the 2200 block of Red Oak Ln., Motley. Subject stated that sometime this winter a vehicle drove through his yard.

Dec. 31 - Morrison County deputies were dispatched to a one vehicle

rollover at Hwy 10 and Bear Rd., Cushing. Upon arrival, contact was made with three occupants. The driver, Cedrick Scott Ince, 36 of Kimball, transported to St. Gabriel's Hospital in Little Falls with non-life threatening injuries. Two juvenile passengers were not injured. Alcohol was not a factor. The vehicle and attached fish house were towed to AutoSmith in Motley.



Sundogs over Staples

Sundogs could be seen shining in Staples the morning of Dec. 29, when temperatures were in the sub-zero range. (Staples World photo by Dawn Timbs)

Staples Police report

Dec. 28, Staples Police responded to a report of a hit and run. Respondent said they heard a loud noise and saw a small black or dark blue car leaving after crashing into a truck. The car should have significant damage on the passenger side.

Dec. 28, Staples Police cited a minor for underage consumption and giving a false name. Police provided a ride to Lakewood Health System because there was no sober party to give them a ride.

Dec. 28, Staples Police received a report of a person tampering with propane tanks in the back of a vehicle.

Jan. 1, Staples Police responded to a report of a break-in. Reporting party said they have it on camera.

Jan. 1, Staples Police responded to a report of a domestic assault. Police advised the two parties to stay in separate parts of the house. One party decided to leave, police stayed while the person packed bags.

Jan. 4, Staples police responded to a verbal domestic dispute. It was determined no assault had occurred, officers stood by until one party left the residence.

Todd Cty. court report Jan. 7

Long Prairie Police
Claudia Del Carmen Cruz, Long Prairie Driving without a valid license for vehicle class or type. Fine \$100. Fee \$85.

Rafael Ivan Duran Malave, Long PRairie Driving without a valid license for vehicle class or type. Fine \$100. Fee \$85.

Segundo Antonio Espinoza Garcia, Long Prairie. Driving without a valid license for vehicle class or type. Fine \$100. Fee \$85.

Yanilda Del Socorro Herrera Charvarria, Long Prairie. Driving without a valid license for vehicle class or type. Fine \$100. Fee \$85.

Katherine Ann Kowalczyk, Swanville. Driving without a valid license for vehicle class or type. Fine \$100. Fee \$85. Driver entering/crossing roadway from non-roadway fails to Yield. Fine \$50.

Santiago Pop Ax, Sibley, IA. Driving without a valid license for vehicle class or type. Fine \$100. Fee \$85.

MN Dept. of Natural Resources
Zachary Alvin Robert Bruder, Grey Eagle. Fishing-extra line. Fine \$50. Fee \$85.

MN State Patrol
Thomas Patrick Mount, Verndale. Speed 82/65. Fine \$60. Fee \$85.

Elizabeth Sarah Bahr, St. Paul. Speed 80/70. Fine \$40. Fee \$85.

Eli Brian Borgerding, Sauk Centre. Window restrictions. Fine \$50. Fee \$85.

James Shaw Darabi, Brainerd. Speed 65/60. Fine \$40. Fee \$85.

Shannon R. Dodge, Grand Forks, ND. Speed 83/70. Fine \$50 Fee \$85.

Shane Raymond Erdmann, West Fargo, ND. Speed 88/70. Fine \$60. Fee \$85.

Dylan Austin Janshen, Melrose. Speed 90/70 Fine \$70. Fee \$155.

Sara Elizabeth Jensen, Waconia. Hands free law. Fine \$50. Fee \$85.

Arreal Michelle Klarich, New Richmond, WI. Speed 80/70. Fine \$40. Fee \$85.

Joston John Lucas, Ogilvie. Speed 65/60. Fine \$40. Fee \$85.

Youki Nojima, Arlington Heights, IL. Speed 89/70. Fine 60. Fee \$85.

Jose Luis Portovioje Orellana, St. Louis Park. Speed 71/60. Fine \$50. Fee \$85.

Karmandeep Singh, West St. Paul. Weaving over lane lines. Fine \$50. Fee \$85.

Staples Police Dept.
Angela Marie Blakemore, Pillager. Driving after revocation. Fine \$200. Fee \$85.

Gary William, Jr. Mertens, Staples. Driving after revocation. Fine \$200. Fee \$85.

Nicholas Lee Niemi, Motley. Windshield general prohibitions-no cracked or discolored windshields. Fine \$40. Fee \$85.

Rome Junior, Jr. Sigafos, Wadena. Driving after revocation. Fine \$200. Fee \$85.

Todd County Sheriff's Office
Preston Jon Thomas Buescher, Bovey. Driver fails to stop for STOP sign. Fine \$50. Fee \$85.

Juan Carlo Garcia Covarrubias, Long Prairie. Driving after revocation. Fine \$200. Fee \$85. Driver must carry proof of insurance when operating vehicle. Fine \$200.

Tyler Jeffery Hacker, Aitkin. Liquor-consumption by persons under 21. Fine \$100. Fee \$75.

Isaiah Martyn Nance, Staples. Speed 91/65. Fine \$100. Fee \$185.

Luis Miguel Fijo-Morlas, Perham. Speed 70/60. Fine \$40. Fee \$85.

The following cases were heard before Judge Daniel A. Benson in Seventh District Court in Todd County December 31, 2025.

Morgan Deeanne Meyer, Burns-ville. Criminal vehicle operation-bodily harm-under influence alcohol. Dis-missed. 3rd degree DWI-Operate motor vehicle under influence of alcohol. Sentenced. Local confinement (364 days, stay 0 yr 0 mo 360

days for 2 yr credit for time served: 4 days). Supervised probation, 2 yr. Fine \$300. Fee \$505. Open bottle law. Possession. Dismissed.

Daniel Lee Bachner, Browerville. Damage to property-1st degree-value reduced over \$1000. Stay of imposition Pursuant to M.S. 609.135. Local confinement (20 days, stay 0 yr 0 mo 0 days credit for time served: 4 days) Supervised probation, 5 yr. Domestic assault-fear. Dismissed.

Kami Khristine Fritz, Wadena. Drugs-5th degree-possess Sched-ule 1,2,3,4 or paraphernalia resid-ual-not cannabis/hemp. Continued. Local confinement (3 days, stay 0 yr 0 mo 0 days credit for time served: 3 days) Supervised probation, 1 yr. Fine \$250.

Kevin Roger Trosen, Bertha. Domestic assault strangulation. Dis-missed. Domestic assault. Dismissed. Domestic assault. Sentenced Local confinement (90 days, stay 0 yr 0 mo 0 days credit for time served: 71 days. Fine \$50. Fee \$75. Driving after cancellation-inimical to public safety. Sentenced. Local confinement (364 days, stay 0 yr 0 mo 291 days for 2 yr credit for time served: 73 days). Supervised probation, 2 yr. Fine \$300. Fee \$75. 5th degree possession of a controlled substance. Dismissed. B Card Violation. Dismissed. Drugs-5th degree-pos-sess Schedule 1,2,3,4 or parapher-nalia residual-not cannabis/hemp. Continued. Local confinement (69 days, stay 0 yr 0 mo 0 days credit for time served: 69 days) Supervised probation, 4 yr. Fine \$300. Fee \$75.

The following cases were heard before Judge Daniel A. Benson in Seventh District Court in Todd County December 30, 2025.

Zavior Allen Wold, Browerville. Theft-by Swindle. Stay of imposition Pursuant to M.S. 609.135. Super-vised probation, 5 yr. Local confine-ment (68 days credit for time served: 68 days). Fine \$50. Fee \$75. Resti-tution of \$18,808.

Hassan Ahmed Mohamed, Little Canada. Speed 81/70. Sentenced. Fine \$50. Fee 75.

Douglass Edward Turner, Eagan. Speed 84/70. Fine \$50. Fee \$75.

Esmeralda, Litchfield. Speed 84/70. Sentenced. Fine \$50. Fee \$75.

Patrick Thomas Block, Swanville. Domestic assault-bodily harm. Con-tinued. Supervised probation, 1 yr. Fine \$50 Fee \$50. Fleeing a Peace Officer by a means other than a motor vehicle. Dismissed.

Jarred Joseph Schwab, Perham. Traffic-DWI-operate motor vehicle-any amount Schedule I/II Drugs/metabo-lite; Not cannabis/hemp. Sentenced. Local confinement (90 days, stay 0 yr 0 mo 334 days for 4 yr credit for time served: 20 days) Supervised proba-tion, 4 yr. Fee totals \$155.

Dana Eugene Cooper, Staples. DWI-operate motor vehicle-any amount Schedule I/II drugs/metab-olite, not cannabis/hemp. Local con-finement (90 days, stay 0 yr 0 mo 80 days for 2 yr credit for time served: 10 days). Supervised probation, 2 yr. Fine \$300. Fee \$100.

Daniel John Goranson, Hewitt. Driving after cancellation-inimical to public safety. Dismissed. Driving after cancellation-inimical to public safety. Local confinement (180 days, stay 0 yr 0 mo 0 days credit for time served: 180 days. Fine \$50. Fee \$75. Theft-theft of motor fuel from retailer. Res-titution \$25.

75 YEARS Ago - 1951

• Jan. 11, 1951 - A fire discovered in the basement of their home completely destroyed the home and most of the contents at the Charles Christopher-son farm in Thomastown township Thursday, Jan. 4, during the middle of the day.

Lewis Christopherson was burned about the face and hands trying to save some of the fixtures and in trying to put out the blaze.

• Jan. 11, 1951 - Duane R. Lund, head of the vocational guidance department of the Staples high school, was unable to appear at the

- o -
Compiled by
Dawn Timbs
- o -

school Monday morning of this week due to an out-break of chicken pox.

He is confined to his bed at the home of Mrs. E. E. Greeno where he rooms. It will be several days before he will be able to return to his school duties.

• Jan. 11, 1951 - Not many aliens have registered at the Staples postoffice, according to Mrs. Evelyn McGivern, postmaster, who released the report Tuesday of this week.

The internal security act of 1950 requires each alien who is required to register under the Alien Registra-tion Act of 1940 and who is residing in the United States as of Jan. 1, 1951, to report his current address to the Commissioner, Immi-gration and Naturalization within the period Jan. 1 to 10, 1951.

50 YEARS Ago - 1976

• Jan. 8, 1976 - A young rural Motley couple and their three children suffered a heavy loss late Monday morning , Jan. 5, when fire completely destroyed their home.

Suffering the loss by fire were Mr. and Mrs. Virgil All-guer and family, who reside about two miles east and two miles north of Motley.

The members of the Motley Fire Department were summoned to the scene about 11:30 a.m., E. L. Morey, Motley Fire Chief, reported. Morey said that the two-story house was completely destroyed by the fire and the Allguers lost all their personal belongings in the blaze.

• Jan. 8, 1976 - The first baby of 1976 to be born at the United District Hos-pital, Staples, was a son born to Mr. and Mrs. Terry Stumvoll of Route 2, Pequot Lakes. He has been named Richard Wayne.

• Jan. 8, 1976 - The sno-daze coronation of the king and queen at Staples High school is slated to be held at 3:15 p.m. Friday, Jan. 9, in the Staples Auditorium.

Queen candidates are Melaine Miller, Kathy Lund, Mary Kirk, Cheryl Sauer, Sue Becker and Donna Brown.

Seeking the king's crown are Dave Blanchard, Bruce Crocker, Clark Dahl, Jim Johnson, Randy Snyder and Dave Sowers.

• Jan. 8, 1976 - Live Music at the Ace Bar in Staples every Friday and Saturday Nite. Come in and dance, sing or just listen. Featur-ing: "Carol & Tamara."

25 YEARS Ago - 2001
• Jan. 11, 2001 - Movie goers should not be too surprised to see a familiar



Mystery photo

Hello readers. This week's archive photo is from 1966. Do you know who these people are and perhaps the con-text 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 an-swers will be published in next week's paper, as well as a new mystery photo.

face in one of the big screen attractions in theaters since the Christmas release rush.

No, we're not talking about Sandra Bullock, although she is the star in 'Miss Congeniality.' Along with Bullock and other big names like Candice Bergen, Michael Caine and Benja-min Bratt, Staples native Scott Grossman plays an acting role. He also was cho-reographer for Miss Conge-niality's pageant routines.

Scott, son of Bonnie and Doug Grossman of Staples, plays himself in the movie in the role of the choreog-rapher for the Miss United States Pageant.

"I spent about seven weeks, in June and July, in Austin, Texas, making that movie. It was great," Scott said. Grossman is a 1978 graduate of Staples High School.

• Jan. 11, 2001 - A young minister at one of the Sta-ples churches, who also worked here as a teacher, is leaving for a new opportu-nity.

But Paul Johnson will leave the Staples Alliance Church with very mixed feelings. On the one hand, he has the opportunity to be the senior pastor at a grow-ing church in Wisconsin. At the same time, he said it will be difficult to leave.

"Leaving is much more difficult than I thought it would be. We have had a tre-mendous opportunity here, working with Jonathan Wiggins and the people at our church have been great. I would not trade it for any-thing," he said.

Pastor Johnson, along with his wife Tammy, is leaving to take the senior pastor position at Chetek Alliance Church in Chetek, Wisc.

• Jan. 11, 2001 - A ten year old manufacturing plant in Staples is headed down the road to Baxter, taking 19 jobs with the move.

Patrick Finn, the presi-dent of Ultra Tool Company of Grantsburg, Wisc., made the announcement official on Jan. 8. The move had long been rumored in Sta-ples, and was finalized last week when Ultra Tool pur-chased a Baxter tool com-pany.

In Staples, Ultra Tool was formerly Fawn Lake Tool and is located in the former Northern Manufacturing Company plant on South Sixth Street.

• Jan. 11, 2001 - Grace LeVasseur was recently rec-

ognized for her 28 years of service as a Greater Staples Hospital and Care Center District governing board member representing Sta-ples Township. LeVasseur also served as the district board clerk during the 28 years. She has retired from the board and Ron Storbak-ken was elected to fill her position effective Jan. 1, 2001.

• Jan. 11, 2001 - A bomb threat note left in a boy's bathroom closed the pil-lager School on Wednesday afternoon, Jan. 3. The note was found by a student and the school was officially evacuated around 2 p.m.

Elementary students walked to the First Ev. Lutheran Church and high school students went to the First Baptist Church.

The Cass County Sher-iff's Department and the Pillager Fire Department searched the school, but found nothing suspicious.

"We have a good plan in place for these things," said Superintendent Phil John-son.

• Jan. 11, 2001 - Centen-

nial Auditorium will pres-ent the Country Legends Family Show on Jan. 20, 2001, in back-to-back perfor-mances at 2 p.m. and 7 p.m.

The show stars Donna Douglas who played "Elly May" from the Beverly Hill-billies television show and famous country music per-former and radio personal-ity, Frank Dell.

Also featured will be Brian Bannister, award winning steel guitarist, and Toosie McClintosh, country comedian.

10 YEARS Ago - 2016

• Jan. 14, 2016 - Lakes Area Habitat For Humanity has started work on their first renovation project in Staples. James and Sheena Ziegler will be moving into the home, at 324 3rd St. NE with their three children, twins Landon and Lucas, ages three, and Hayden, five.

• Jan. 14, 2016 - Commis-sioner Jim Hofer of Sta-ples was elected chair of the Wadena County Board. Comm. Dave Hillukka of Menahga was re-elected to serve as vice chair.



Mystery solved

Last week's mystery photo published in the Aug. 21, 1986 edition of the Staples World featured Renee Haessig, left, and Ramona Reichel, two Staples girls who won prizes in a McDonald's Sweepstakes. Ramo-na, 14, daughter of Roger and Judy Reichel of rural Staples, won a grand prize of an all-expense paid trip for two to Hawaii for a week, valued at about \$3,500. She and her mother planned to leave for Hawaii Aug. 26. Renee, also 14 and a friend of Ramona's, entered the same contest, winning a first prize of a Panasonic radio, valued at about \$150.



DEADLINES
Newspaper deadline for copy
and advertising: 12 noon Fridays

Bob's BASEBALL Tours

June 2-7, 2026—See MLB games in Minnesota, Milwaukee and both a day and night game at Wrigley Field in Chicago.
Tour begins/ends at hotel near Minneapolis-St Paul International Airport \$1,700/person based on double hotel occupancy

August 1-10—See games in Pittsburgh, Philadelphia, Baltimore, Boston & New York (Yankees and Mets). Free time at Niagara Falls and Baseball Hall of Fame in Cooperstown, NY. Sightseeing in Manhattan, Philadelphia & Baltimore.

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Letters to the Editor

○

My own morality

I hope I never utter words like President Trump uttered in a recent interview. When asked if there were any limits on his global powers, Trump answered, “Yeah, there is one thing. My own morality. My own mind. It’s the only thing that can stop me.”

Were I not Christian, it is conceivable that I could possibly utter words as audacious as that. But I am

Christian; and therefore, to make such a claim goes against everything we confess. To make such a claim disparages our baptism. To make such a claim casts aside the body and blood of Jesus Christ. To make such a claim is antithetical to everything we read in the Bible.

No Christian could ever utter those words because it ignores two core principles of Christianity. We confess that we are sinners in need of redemption through Jesus Christ and that God’s omnipotence (his power)

reigns over all of creation, including fallible man. It does not matter what denomination you are, which church you attend, or if you are a conservative Christian or a liberal Christian, these two truths are universally true for Christians.

President Trump ignores his own human sinfulness and fallibility, and he ignores God’s power over him. Trump equates himself with God.

Rev. Robert Drake, Faith Lutheran Church, Staples

MN American Legion calls for constitutional order

By Linda Dvorak
Commander
American Legion Department of Minnesota

Like veterans, elected officials take oaths to support the U.S. Constitution. Over the course of 250 years, Americans have embraced the principals of law and order embedded in the framework of the Constitution.

The American Legion Department of Minnesota unequivocally supports law and order. “To maintain law and order” is in the third line of the American Legion Preamble. Today, I call on our elected officials to provide law enforcement to keep both immigration agents and protesters and all of our citizens safe. We do not want to see a repeat of what happened Jan. 7 in Minneapolis.

The legal standard for judging the use of lethal force under the Fourth

Amendment is the totality of the circumstances — the legal standard since 1937. It will allow the courts to consider the fact there was purposeful withholding of local law enforcement, along with other facts.

To that, we want to note that in cities where the mayors provided law enforcement to keep protesters and federal agents both safe, the immigration enforcement went far more orderly and safely. Immigration enforcement is something that commonly happens in countries around the globe and has happened in the United States starting in 1891, with the creation of the first immigration laws and the federal Office of Immigration.

What’s different now is politicians have made immigration a wedge issue, trying to divide Americans yet again in their quests for power. When did the definition of “illegal” change? We must obey the laws that are

on the books to maintain peace and an orderly society. And now, a Minneapolis mother and wife has died.

The Minnesota American Legion calls on our leaders to end this irrational political ploy of being against law and order and, instead, do what’s right. Cooperate with law enforcement agencies to keep protesters, immigration agents and citizens of our great country safe, just as they surely would if their own political party’s national convention were in town.

Federal agents are tasked with carrying out the law, and in doing so, they already accept significant personal risk. They are not present to provoke conflict, and they should not be subjected to violence by the very communities they are sworn to protect. Upholding the law requires allowing officers to perform their duties safely and without obstruction.

Sheriff Carr election announcement letter

By Sheriff Michael D. Carr

After much thought and reflection, I want to share that I will not be seeking a sixth term as Wadena County Sheriff. I have been truly blessed to serve this profession for 32 years and to be elected to five terms as your sheriff. There is no greater honor than being chosen by the people of Wadena County to serve you as your Sheriff.

I am deeply grateful to the citizens of Wadena County for the trust you have placed in me, and to those who came before me who laid the foundation for this office. I also want to thank every current and past employee who has worked alongside me throughout my career. I have been fortunate to surround myself with solid, character-based

people who take great pride in what they do every single day. Any accomplishments we have achieved were only possible because of the people who serve in this office.

We have made many positive changes over the years, and I am proud to say that this will be a true turnkey operation. This office is filled with some of the finest law enforcement professionals in central Minnesota—men and women who protect and serve the public and put themselves in harm’s way daily with honor, integrity and pride.

While I still love this job and would do it all over again tomorrow, I know the time is right to step away knowing the office is strong and well positioned for the future. I have one full year remaining on this term, and I promise to finish with the

same dedication and commitment that I have given throughout my 19 years as sheriff.

I also want to thank the people of Wadena County for your continued support of law enforcement, which is more important than ever and never goes unnoticed. I also want to thank my family and friends who have always been my biggest advocates and support system. I thank God every day for protecting our staff and this community. Without Him, none of this would have been possible.

Serving as your sheriff has been the greatest honor of my life. I will leave this office confident in the people who carry the badge forward and grateful beyond words for the opportunity you gave me as your Sheriff. Thank you, Wadena County.

Quote of the week

“I have found that people go to the wilderness for many things but, the most important of these is perspective. They may think they go for the fishing or the scenery or companionship but, in reality it is something far deeper. They go to the wilderness for the good of their souls.” - Sigurd Olsen

Cabin fever causes, cures

Illness statistics that are being reported across the country remind us that it’s influenza season. Influenza, or more simply “the flu,” is a viral illness that is extremely resourceful in its ability to change its form by mutation from one flu season to the next, in order to better penetrate our body’s defenses. Meanwhile, on our side, epidemiologists and vaccine makers try to anticipate what the next season’s flu characteristics will be, so that the next version of the flu shot can bolster our body’s defenses, and prevent—or at least minimize—its sometimes-deadly effects.



Mike Rahn

There’s another malady we may begin to see symptoms of in the weeks to come. It’s a malady whose effects are not as easily predicted or diagnosed as the flu, and for which—though there are treatments—there certainly is no preventive vaccine! That’s the seasonal malady we’ve come to know as cabin fever, brought on by being more confined and isolated than normal.

For some, this kind of isolation and confinement is a rare experience, perhaps brought on by such unexpected events as the

COVID pandemic, which led to closure of many public spaces, and to performing our jobs or being educated from remote and isolating locations. But for others—Minnesotans, for example—cabin fever can be a regularly recurring thing, brought on by one very predictable isolating factor: winter.

While it’s unwise to believe everything that pops up on our computer screen when we use its search functions, with cabin fever there’s little danger of being misled. There’s widespread agreement that cabin fever is not a clinical diagnosis, yet is a very real phenomenon that can manifest itself in emotional detours from our normal attitude, outlook, and personality. Those googling results identify such things as moodiness, boredom, irritability, anxiety, restlessness, frustration, sleep changes, and difficulty in concentrating.

Anecdotal evidence suggests that the term cabin fever has roots in ways of life that once literally meant seasonal isolation in a cabin. Prospectors in the mountainous mineral belt of the American West often spent the winter indoors in an isolated cabin, remote from contact with more than a handful of other human beings. The same was true of fur trappers in the far North. Historical accounts reveal that in extreme cases some who were very isolated for months at a time “went crazy” with one form of mental illness or another. Another, perhaps more colorful term for this kind of seasonal isolation is “the shack nasties.”

While we think of cabin fever as being brought on by changes in activity and social contact, there can also be a physiological component, as a result of diminished exposure to sunlight. Unlike cabin fever, this has a clinical name recognized by the National Institute of Mental health. That name is “seasonal affective disorder,” or SAD. For some, sunlight deprivation in winter can lead to an imbalance in brain chemistry; specifically a disruption in serotonin and melatonin, which regulate mood and sleep. Similar to more temporary bouts of cabin fever, the consequences of SAD can be more enduring melancholy, depression, undue fatigue, oversleeping or insomnia, mood and appetite disorders, and loss of interest in those things that are normally appealing.

Some of us are more susceptible to this than others. And one factor that has little to do with family history,

or genetics, is the distance one is from the equator. The greater the distance—the less winter sunlight—the higher the incidence, so studies have shown. To counteract this, those who suffer from SAD are sometimes prescribed therapy that consists of exposure to artificial lights that simulate sunlight.

Fortunately, most of us are more likely to experience low grade, garden-variety cabin fever rather than a clinical form of SAD. The seasonal isolation we experience is not total, and we are not prevented from engaging in activities that can break the cycle of monotony, boredom, and isolation.

The big thing is to find the resolve to break a cycle of inactivity, to not use inhospitable weather—and the extra effort needed to deal with it—as an excuse to hunker down on a couch or in a recliner with a TV remote, and self-isolate.

Either one—hiding out, or getting out—can be habit-forming. To counter cabin fever’s effects, we can establish a routine of regularly getting on the ice with our portable angling shelter or pull-behind wheelhouse, and inviting an angling buddy to join us. We can make a habit of regularly spending time on a groomed grant-in-aid trail with our snowmobile, or on cross-country skis. Some make a practice of winter scouting for potential new places to deer or bird hunt in the season to come. Our hunting dogs can get overweight and lose muscle tone—like us—from winter inactivity, if we don’t make the effort to regularly get the outdoor exercise we both need.

There are also indoor activities that have a direct bearing on the time we will spend outdoors from spring to fall. There is routine maintenance of fishing equipment, from sharpening hooks, to lubricating and spooling fresh line on reels. Some of us make our own fishing lures, and—especially the case with fly fishermen—there are never too many of the ones that work best.

If your boat is due for an upgrade in electronics, now—not April—is the time to do the research to determine just what that upgrade will be. Maybe it’s a new boat/motor rig altogether, and attending a winter boat show may help in your decision-making, on both.

Cabin fever is curable, if not preventable. And—without any professional advice—we have a pretty good idea of what the best therapies are for it.

A call to recognize the harms of stalking

By Barb Dinkel Goodrich
Domestic Violence/
Sexual Assault Lead Advocate
Hands of Hope Resource Center –
Todd County

January 2026 marks the 22nd annual National Stalking Awareness Month (NSAM) - a call to action to better recognize and respond to this criminal, traumatic, and dangerous victimization. It is a time to spread awareness about stalking through this year’s theme “KNOW IT, NAME IT, STOP IT.”

More than 1 in 5 women and approximately 1 in 10 men in the U.S. experience stalking in their lifetimes, but too often it goes unnamed and unaddressed. It takes all of us to better recognize and respond to stalking - including advocacy and support services, legal system professionals, healthcare services and friends, family and community members.

Stalking is defined as a pattern of behavior directed at a specific person that would cause a reasonable person to feel fear or emotional distress. As fear is highly personal, so is stalking; stalkers often engage

in behaviors that seem benign to outsiders but are terrifying in context. Most stalkers target people that they know, and many are current or former intimate partners or acquaintances who have knowledge about the victim’s specific vulnerabilities and fears. Individual incidents may or may not be criminal acts themselves; common stalking tactics include unwanted communication, showing up uninvited, spreading rumors, and following and watching the victim.

Most victims tell friends or family about their situation first, and ‘how they (friends and family) respond’ influences whether they (victims) seek further help. It is important during Stalking Awareness Month that we bring attention to the prevalence and dangerous potential of stalking. It is a time to recognize stalking behaviors, be able to intervene when necessary, provide resources for victims, and advocate for stronger legal protections.

If you would like additional information on how to get involved with NSAM, visit www.stalkingawareness.org. You can also speak with a Todd County Hands of Hope Resource Center advocate about stalking by calling 320-732-2319 or 800-682-4547.

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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.

Note to Advertisers: Advertisers should check their ad following first publication. This newspaper shall not be liable for failure to publish an ad or for the typographic error or errors in publication except to the extent of the cost of the ad for the first day's insertion. Adjustment for errors is limited to the cost of that portion of the ad wherein the error occurred. The publisher reserves the right to cancel any advertisement at any time.

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

Senior Nutrition Program
Call mornings (218-979-4118) the Thursday before to reserve next week's meal(s) and for current suggested donation info. LSS Meals - traditional older adult menu. Menu is subject to change.
LOCATED AT: Staples Hi-Rise, 615 4th St. NE, Staples. Seniors welcome to dine-in at 11:00 a.m., if meal is reserved.

Staples 218-979-4118
Jan. 19 - Jan. 23
MONDAY - Holiday (closed)
TUESDAY - Beef stew, sliced carrots, apple dump cake, marg., biscuit, 1% milk.
WEDNESDAY - Oven roasted turkey, gravy, mashed potatoes, mixed veggies, wheat bread, marg., gingersnap cookie, 1% milk.
THURSDAY - Beef goulash, mixed veggies, pumpkin bar, dinner roll, marg., 1% milk.
FRIDAY - Tuna noodle casserole, green beans, hot spiced peaches, dinner roll, marg., vanilla pudding/topping, 1% milk.

wk4

Staples Library events

Great River Regional Library events at the Staples Library for January and february include:

Tech Time
Trouble understanding your laptop, iPad, Kindle or other electronic device? Would you like to download books from the library website or use eBooks, but aren't sure how? Tech help will be available the first Wednesday of each month from 10:00 to Noon. Registration is required. For teens or adults.
First Wednesday of each month
10:00 a.m. to Noon
Mobile WorkForce Services
Get help with online applications, resumes, career explorations, interviewing skills, unemployment applications and other resources.
First Wednesday of each month
2:00 to 4:00 p.m.

Underwater Escape Room
You have 20 minutes to solve all the clues and find the missing gold medallion. You can play as a family or as a group. The family/group that completes the challenge in the shortest amount of time will win a \$25 pizza party provided by the Friends of the Staples Library. The challenge runs January through February during select library open hours. Please call the library to register for a time slot. For adults. Limit five per group. Sponsored by the Staples Friends of the Library.
Jan. 5 to Feb. 28
Exploration Station
Come and explore your creative side at the Exploration Station. Each month we will have different fun, educational activities to challenge your imagination. For ages 5 and up. No registration is needed.
Mondays, Jan. 12 and Feb. 9
10:00 a.m. to Noon
Preschool Storytime
Join us in Reading Roundhouse for singing, playing, and other age appropriate activities and crafts. We will engage their curiosity, while developing important literacy skills and fostering a life-long love of reading and learning. For preschoolers. Limit 10. Registration is required. Sponsored by the Staples Friends of the Library.
Wednesdays, Jan. 21 and Feb. 18
10:30 to 11:30 a.m.

For more information on Staples Library events, contact Cathy Perish, Phone: 218-894-1401.
Library hours: MON. 10 - 6, TUE. 1 - 8, WED. 10-6, THU. 1 - 8, FRI. 1 - 5, SAT. 9 - 12

Mark Your Calendar

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

Jan. 16
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. 18
CELEBRATE RECOVERY GROUP MEETINGS Sundays, 6 p.m., at Motley Free Methodist Church, 33 Wellwood St. E., Motley.

Jan. 20
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.

SPARKS 'Dinner in the Woods' Monday, Jan. 26 Meal, silent auction, awards

SPARKS Mentoring of Staples-Motley will hold its annual "Dinner In The Woods" event Monday, Jan. 26, at Staples Alliance Church, 1512 8th St. NE. The silent auction begins at 5:30 p.m. and the dinner at 6 p.m.
In addition to the dinner, prepared by Clarissa Ballroom and sponsored by community donors, the event will recognize the recipients of the SPARKS Award and the Bonfire Award.
The SPARKS Award is for individual service to SPARKS Mentoring. This year's recipients include Angie Boyd, BRICKS Travel Center in Motley; and Darrel McFedries, the SPOT Cafe in Staples.
The Bonfire Award is for organizational service to SPARKS Mentoring. This year's recipient is Lakewood Health System, Staples.
Tickets must be obtained prior to Jan. 12. For ticket/donation information, call Justin Thorne, 320-761-9022; Rosie Blessing, 218-371-7066; or Rynell Schock, 218-270-0291.

CLC music program meet and greet

Musicians of all skill levels are invited to check out the Central Lakes College Music Program Meet & Greet event happening from 12-2:20pm on Monday, Jan. 12 in the Music Hall, Room E471, Brainerd campus. There are also optional auditions during this time. Musicians ages 16 and older are welcome to join any of the college ensembles.
Questions? Contact Dr. Jonathan Laflamme at Jonathan.Laflamme@clcmn.edu or 218-855-8215

Skating rink open in Motley

Skating enthusiasts have been enjoying the ice rink in Motley, located across from Veterans Park on Main St. E. A lighted entry guides skaters to the warming house, which has skates available for use on a first-come, first-

serve basis. The rink is well lit during evening hours and there are colorful lighted characters along the fence, including a snowman and a skater. (Staples World photos by Dawn Timbs)



Ask a Trooper

Winter driving with flashers

By Sgt. Jesse Grabow of the Minnesota State Patrol

Question: During one of the recent winter storms, I encountered numerous vehicles driving on a 4-lane highway with their four-way hazard lights on. The vehicles were not driving significantly slower than the other traffic, as nearly everyone had slowed considerably due to the low visibility. Is it legal in Minnesota and is it ever suggested to drive with your four-way flashers on? Thank you for your work in keeping Minnesota roadways safe. I always look forward to your Ask a Trooper column.

Answer: This is a great question. A driver can use their hazard lights to warn other motorists of a vehicular traffic hazard that requires caution in approaching, overtaking or passing. Situations with limited

visibility such as a blizzard, thick fog and heavy rain could constitute a traffic hazard. Other hazardous scenarios could include:

- A vehicle having issues maintaining a minimum safe speed.
- A flat tire or mechanical breakdown on the shoulder of the road.
- following an impaired driver or driver conducting dangerous behaviors.

If a line of traffic is moving along at the same speed, I am not sure it would be in the best interest for anyone in that lane to be using hazard lights. It is important to know which vehicle is moving at a slower speed than the rest of the flow of traffic or for those needing to make lane changes and needing to signal. As mentioned earlier, it's generally for the lone vehicle causing the hazard.



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

DEADLINE
for all classified ads and copy is 12 noon Friday
For the Staples World

Craft Vendors Wanted
SYLVAN SHORES
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\$25 per table
Call Harry for details:
952-465-7829
Feb. 14, 2026

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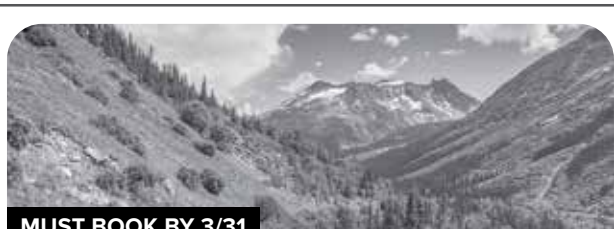
Tues., January 27, 4:30-6 p.m.

Staples Church of Christ

27343 490th St., Staples (across from Pine Grove Park)

Join us for meatballs, potatoes and gravy!





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Hello World

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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 Jeresek
218-894-0033
Saturday Worship.....9:30 a.m.
Sabbath School.....10:45 a.m.

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

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

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

Aldrich

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

Cushing

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

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

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

Leader

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

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

Motley

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

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

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

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

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

Hewitt

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

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

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

Verndale

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

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

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

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

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

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

St. Frederick Catholic Church
20 Mason Avenue NW
Verndale.....218-631-1598
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.)

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

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

St. Ann's Catholic Church
514 1st Street SE, Wadena(218) 631-1593
Rev. JC Duncan, 218-632-7314 Rev. Rick Aubol, 218-
632-7310 Father Greg Sauer, 218-632-7319
Mass: Sunday.....10 a.m.

Obituaries



Richard Trout

Mass of Christian Burial for Richard Trout of Wadena will be celebrated at 11:00 a.m. on Friday, January 16, 2026 at St. Ann's Catholic Church in Wadena. Visitation will be held Thursday from 4:00 to 8:00 p.m. at St. Ann's Parish Hall with Prayers at 6:00 and Rosary at 7:00 p.m. Visitation will resume at the church on Friday from 9:30 a.m. until the time of Mass. Burial will be in Calvary Cemetery, Wadena.

Arrangements are with Schuller Family Funeral Homes & Cremation Services' Johnson-Schuller Chapel, serving Wadena, Bertha, Verndale and surrounding communities in MN. (www.SchullerFamilyFH.com)

w4c A00006B2026JN14



Daniel Kittilson

Daniel "Dan" Kenneth Kittilson, 79, passed away at his home in rural Perham, January 3, 2026.

Visitation will be held from 1:00 to 2:00 p.m. with a Memorial Service at 2:00 p.m. on Saturday, January 24, at Bethany Lutheran Church, 100 3rd Ave, Nevis, MN, 56467.

Interment will be at the church columbarium.

Arrangements are by Schoeneberger Funeral & Cremation Service, Perham, MN 218-346-5175
www.schoenebergerfh.com

w4c A00006B2026JN14

Charles Crews

Charles "Charlie" Warren Crews, Jr., 96, of Staples passed away January 11, 2026.

Funeral services will be held Friday, Jan. 16, at 11 a.m. at the United Methodist Church, Staples. Visitation be held at 10 a.m. at the church.

Burial will be at 1:00 p.m. at Minnesota State Veterans Cemetery, Camp Ripley, Little Falls.

w4c A00006B2026JN14

Student Achievements

SPENCER PORTER Pillager, was recently named to the 2025 Fall Dean's List at the University of Wisconsin-Madison. To qualify, students must complete a minimum of 12 graded degree credits in that semester, as well as the university's required grade point average.

JACE HERMAN Pillager, was recently named to the 2025 Fall Dean's List at Clarke University in Dubuque, Iowa. To qualify, students must be enrolled full-time and have earned a 3.65 grade point average or above, with a minimum of 12 graded undergraduate hours.

"The True Meaning of Holiday Seasons Never End"

Pastor Barry Klein, Staples Church of Christ

We were given by God yet another flow of Thanksgiving, Christmas and New Years. We have a choice in holiday seasons. We can either enter and embrace holidays apart from God or because of God. The difference is immense. How do we choose?

It has everything to do with our frame of mind. Where do we get our bearings? Some have described it as our world views. The apostle Paul clarifies this in Colossians 3:2 when he says, "Set your minds on things above, not on earthly things." To be sure, he is NOT saying that the things of daily life here on earth aren't important. Genesis 1:31 makes that clear. But he IS saying that we don't have the tools to properly handle "earthly things" without the benefit and help of "things above."

We are "fearfully and wonderfully made" (Psalm 139:14). But we also have sobering words in John 2:24-25 about our extreme human dilemma of being very inadequate in and of ourselves. Proverbs 14:12 confirms this as we hear, "There is a way that appears right, but in the end, it leads to death."

SO, how does this apply to holidays or for any day

of the year?) Folks, our need before God is far greater than any one of us can fully perceive. That alone is reason enough for us daily and even moment by moment to seek and love God intentionally...indeed "With all of our heart, mind, soul and strength" as Jesus calls us to in Matthew 22:37-29; Mark 12:30 and Luke 10:27.

A good read about our incredible need before God is described page after page in the classic "The Limitation of Christ" by Thomas A' Kempis (1380-1471). Yes, Ancient Words' continue to teach us, both in this book and especially in Scripture, the Bible (Jeremiah 6:16).

Think back in our recent Thanksgiving, Christmas and New Year's holidays. How did you and I celebrate them? Were they God centered or man centered? Since God gives us our every breath and heartbeat, doesn't His sustaining ownership of us warrant our preoccupation with Him? (Please read that last question again).

We now are looking forward to the holidays of Valentine's Day and Easter. Will they just be full of cupids and bunnies? Or can we begin now to prepare for and share with others how "God is love" (I John 4:8) and that Easter is about the Resurrection of Jesus (Luke 24:1:8).

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For the Staples World

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

Regular advertising and copy deadline is Friday, noon.

The office closes at noon on Friday.



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To request that an obituary, anniversary or other event (including benefit events) be placed word for word, personalized, contain more than one photo, or to run for more than one week, it may be placed as a display advertisement at the regular advertising rates (\$10.75 /col. inch). The item will be placed in our newspaper with a border around it and must be paid for at the time of placement. Deadline for advertising copy is noon on Friday.

Obituaries received from private parties, funeral homes, will be edited to our format and paid for prior to running at our obituary rate (\$10.25 pci) plus \$5 per photo. Minimum is \$60. Deadline for copy is noon on Friday, however, every effort is made to include those with timely services. Death notices are available and are free if followed in the next publication by the entire obituary. Obituaries printed in the Staples World will be posted on our website.

All obituaries are paid advertisements. Obituaries requested to be printed word for word will be charged regular advertising rates and marked as a -Paid Advertisement- with a box around it.

Please be sure to include the name of the deceased, date of birth, age, city of residence, when and where he or she died and the name and city of the funeral home handling the arrangements.

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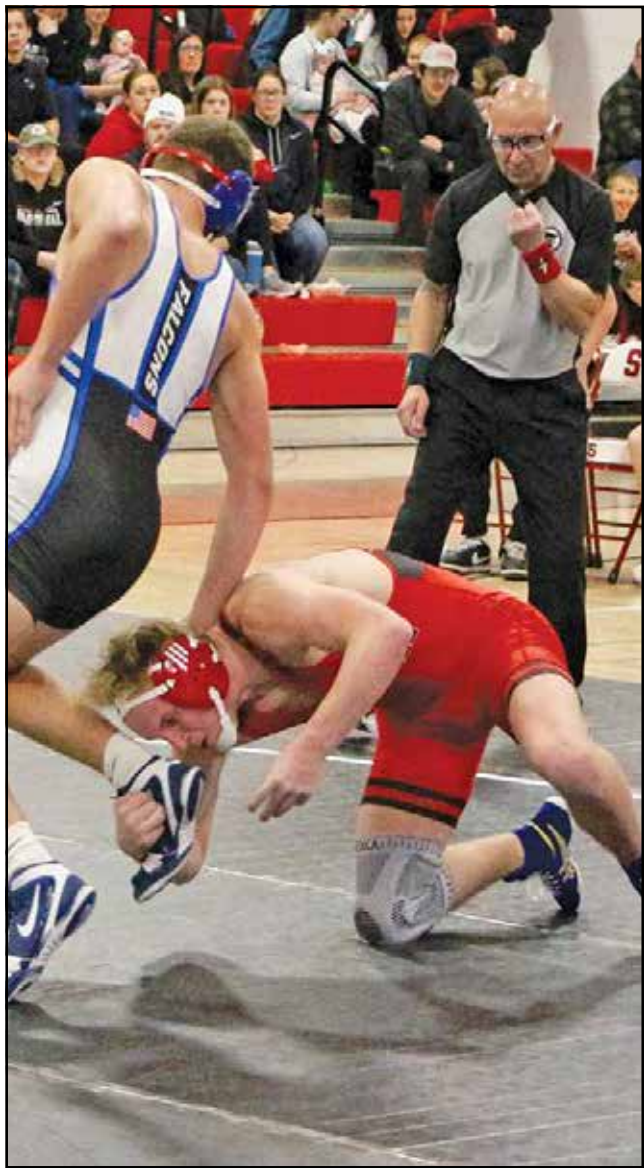
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Lower level attack

Seth Cossentine grabs the foot of his opponent before pulling it in for a takedown against Foley. (Staples World photos by Mark Anderson)

Bjerga wins marquee matchup against nationally ranked wrestler

The Staples-Motley boys wrestling team proved they are one of the top teams in the state by rolling through the Bemidji Rick Lee Duals, after defeating Foley earlier in the week.

As they continue to win matches, the team is showing health concerns at the same time. Wrestlers have been in and out of the lineup for various reasons throughout the season. Staples-Motley has 11 wrestlers who have been ranked in the state top 10 by The Guillotine, out of 13 weights. But the only time all 11 have been in the lineup at the same time was the first meet of the season.

Foley, ranked in the top 10 in Class AA this season, had two of their ranked wrestlers get wins. Gage Bjerga defeated a ranked wrestler with a major decision as the team result was never in question.

At Bemidji, the marquee matchup of the tournament came against Grand Rapids, where Gage Bjerga faced a nationally ranked wrestler. They engaged in several scrambles where each wrestler had ahold of a leg and had a chance to end up on top. In the first period, one scramble led to Bjerga getting taken down. In the second period, Bjerga earned the takedown after making his opponent work to get out of the bottom position for more than a minute. With the score tied in the third period, Bjerga got a takedown, got reversed, but escaped to go ahead by two points. He earned a penalty point late in the match to win 11-7.

Bjerga's win was crucial to the team score, because



Justin Olson

Grand Rapids has five ranked wrestlers in the last six weights. But Colbe Tappe, Riley Reese and Zach Tabatt all earned pins against ranked wrestlers to finish off the match.

There were similarly close duals against Bemidji, Brainerd and Moorhead. In each one, the Cardinals won the tough matches they needed to get the team win. The match against Thief River Falls was not as close, but TRF went on to beat some of those other teams to place third in the tournament.

Team results

Staples-Motley 48, Foley 6
107 double ff, 114 Garrett Bjerga W fall, 121 Justin Olson W fall, 127 Caden Kramer W 16-0 tf, 133 Turner Beachy W 20-5 tf, 139 Gage Bjerga W 10-0, 145 Eli Greenwaldt W 5-3, 152 Beau Carlson L 4-1, 160 Colbe Tapp W fall, 172 Riley Reese W 10-2, 189 Seth Cossentine W 5-1, 215 Zach Tabatt L 7-1, 285 Adrian Gomez W fall

Bemidji Rick Lee Duals
Staples-Motley 69, Thief River Falls 6

107 Gt. Bjerga W fall, 114 Olson W 16-6, 121 Kramer W fall, 127 Beachy W fall, 133 Jackson Odden W fall, 139 Gg. Bjerga W fall, 145 Greenwaldt W fall, 152 Carlson W fall, 160 Tappe W fall, 172 Reese W fall, 189 Cossentine

L fall, 215 Tabatt W fall, 285 Gomez W fall

Staples-Motley 46, Brainerd 20

107 Gt. Bjerga W 17-2 tf, 114 Andrew Dobson L fall, 121 Kramer W 4-1, 127 Beachy W 10-3, 133 Odden L 18-1, 145 Greenwaldt W fall, 152 Carlson L 10-1, 160 Tappe W 17-2 tf, 172 Reese W fall, 189 Cossentine L fall, 215 Tabatt W fall, 285 Gomez W fall

Staples-Motley 44, Moorhead 18

107 Gt. Bjerga W fall, 114 Jude Thompson L 16-1, 121 Kramer W fall, 127 Beachy W 7-0, 133 Odden L 19-2, 139 Gg. Bjerga W fall, 145 Greenwaldt W 17-0 tf, 152 Carlson W 19-4 tf, 160 Tappe W 14-6, 172 Reese W fall, 189 Cossentine W 19-4 tf, 215 Tabatt W 7-6, 285 Gomez L 3-1

Staples-Motley 50, Bemidji 20

107 Gt. Bjerga W fall, 114 Dobson L 18-1, 121 Kramer W fall, 127 Beachy W fall, 133 Odden L fall, 139 Gg. Bjerga W fall, 145 Greenwaldt L fall, 152 Carlson W 12-4, 160 Tappe W fall, 172 Reese W 19-4 tf, 189 Cossentine W 23-7 tf, 215 Tabatt W ff, 285 Gomez L 4-1

Staples-Motley 57, Grand Rapids 15

107 Gt. Bjerga Wa fall, 114 Olson W ff, 121 Kramer W fall, 127 Beachy L 6-2, 133 Odden L fall, 139 Gg. Bjerga W 11-7, 145 Greenwaldt W ff, 152 Carlson W ff, 160 Tappe W fall, 172 Reese W fall, 189 Cossentine L fall, 215 Tabatt W fall, 285 Gomez W ff



Jackson Odden won his match against Foley and filled in as the 133 pound var-

Exciting the fans

Right, Anika Tureson starts to turn her opponent in the varsity match against Foley. Below, her teammates rise up to cheer after she scores a pin in the match. Tureson wrestled the next day at Bemidji and finished second in the tournament. (Staples World photos by Mark Anderson)



Tureson, Greenwaldt, Kist place in tourney

Leah Greenwaldt, Maddie Kist and Anika Tureson all earned places in the Rick Lee Girls Individual Tournament on Jan. 9 at Bemidji. The Cardinals finished 12th out of 29 teams at the tournament.

Tureson won her first two matches by fall to reach the championship at 170 pounds. She lost to finish second.

Greenwaldt scored a technical fall to reach the semifinal match at 112 pounds. She lost a close 6-2 match to drop into the third place match. She scored two takedowns and two reversals in a 10-2 win to place third.

Kist lost her first match at 118 pounds, then worked her way back up the bracket with two pins to reach the

fifth place match, but lost there to finish sixth.

Team results

Bemidji Rick Lee Tournament

100 Kana Reese 2-2
106 Isabelle Dobson 2-2
112 Leah Greenwaldt 2-1, 3rd place
118 Maddie Kist 2-2, 6th place
124 Kyleena Rudlang 0-2
130 Talyn Lind 0-2
170 Anika Tureson 2-1, 2nd place

Cardinals lose big lead

The Staples-Motley girls basketball team lost a late lead to lose to Pierz 47-43 on Jan. 6. They traveled to Breckenridge on Jan. 9 and lost 77-46.

Against Pierz, the Cardinals built an early lead with Clara Maros getting inside baskets after good passing by the whole team. When Sophia Luna hit two straight 3-pointers and Hannah Cole put in a rebound basket and a jump shot, Staples-Motley took a 26-11 lead. Maros finished the half with a fast-break basket after a steal, giving the team a 28-13 lead at the half.

Throughout the half, the

Staples-Motley zone defense prevented Pierz from getting inside baskets and Pierz missed a lot of three point tries.

In the second half, Pierz started trapping, trying different presses and jumping in front of passes, but neither team scored for the first two minutes. Pierz started coming back, but Maros stepped up again with a three point shot, a basket, a free throw and another three pointer to give the Cardinals a 16 point lead with 7:20 to play. But the team could only muster one more point the rest of the way and Pierz made six

three pointers to take the lead. The game ended 43-47.

Against Breckenridge, the Cardinals fell behind by 20 in the first half. Pam Lawrence led a second half comeback but it wasn't enough to make up the gap.

Team results

Staples-Motley 43, Pierz 47

Scoring: Clara Maros 17, Sophia Luna 13, Hannah Cole 6, Addie Potter 3, Pam Lawrence 2, Chloe Larson 2

Staples-Motley 46, Breckenridge 77

Scoring: Pam Lawrence 12, Sophia Luna 9, Chloe Larson 9, Clara Maros 7, Joci Lenk 5, Addie Potter 2, Brooklyn Winter 2

Cardinals come close to conference leaders

The Staples-Motley boys basketball team won a conference game at Barnesville, 68-60 on Jan. 6, then came close to knocking off undefeated Breckenridge on Jan. 9, taking a lead in the second half, only to allow a bunch of three pointers that led to a 70-64 loss to the Heart O Lakes Conference leaders.

At Barnesville, the Cardinals were efficient on offense, with Noah Larson making seven of eleven shots, including one three pointer. Conner Kuhns was three of five on three pointers and Josiah Burton made two of three long shots. Four Cardinals were in double figures in this game.

At Breckenridge, the Cardinals started out with

the next eight points. They fell behind by more than 10 and worked hard to get back. Staples-Motley missed a lot of free throws in the first half, but Eli Rutten was perfect at the line to keep the team in the game.

In the second half, Avandre Brandt led Staples-Motley back, starting with two three pointers. Kuhns hit a three pointer to pull within two. Brandt got a steal and finished at the other end with a dunk to give the team a one point lead, but it only lasted a few seconds as Breckenridge hit an open three pointer to take the lead back. They then hit three more to go up 63-57. Rutten took an offensive rebound, scored and made

point play to come within three, but another three pointer by Breckenridge pushed the lead to six again. Larson scored on a rebound basket with 20 seconds left to pull within two, but it was the last score for the Cardinals and Breckenridge hit enough free throws to stay ahead.

Team results

Staples-Motley 68, Barnesville 60

Scoring: Noah Larson 19, Conner Kuhns 17, Eli Rutten 16, Carter Sarbaum 10, Josiah Burton 6

Rebound leaders: Larson 12, Rutten 7, Peyton Jares 5

Assists leaders: Kuhns 7, Burton 5, Jares 4, Rutten 4

Steals leaders: Jares 7, Kuhns 2, Burton 2

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Todd County Board of Commissioners

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE TODD COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS HELD DEC. 16, 2025

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 16th 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 Neumann and second by Noska, 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 Becker, the following motions and resolutions were introduced and adopted by unanimous vote:
To approve the Todd County Board of Commissioner's Meeting

Minutes for December 2, 2025 as presented.
Approve the resignation of Public Works Heavy Equipment Operator Jason Wehking, effective December 8, 2025.
Hire Ross Bollin for our FT Road Deputy at the wage of \$28.48 Grade 10 step 1 start date TBD.
Approve the retirement of Eligibility Worker Maria Eisenbraun, effective January 31, 2026.
Approve the resignation of Social Worker Intern Ryan Rhodes, effective December 15, 2025.
To approve the 2026 tobacco license applications: American Legion Oscar Jacobsen Post #417, City of Clarissa – Clarissa Municipal Liquor, Don and Dave's Store – Staples, LCC/Eagle Valley Express – Clarissa , Jon's Family Foods – Clarissa, Partridge Creek Blinds and More LLC – Bertha, Shady's Golden Eagle – Burtrum, Shady's Midway - Long Prairie, Sidewalks Saloon & Grill - West Union.
To approve a One-Year On & Off Sale 3.2 Malt Liquor License for Don & Dave's Store at the address of

26762 County 26, Browerville, MN in Moran Township effective January 1st, 2026 through December 31st, 2026.
To approve a One Day On Sale 3.2 Malt Liquor License for the Swanville/Sobieski Lions on the Long Lake in Burnhamville Township effective February 21st, 2026.
GAMBLING PERMIT – SAUK VALLEY GOBBLERS
WHEREAS, the Todd County Board of Commissioners are establishing their approval for a Gambling Permit for the Sauk Valley Gobblers through this resolution;
NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Todd County Board of Commissioners approve a Gambling Permit for the Sauk Valley Gobblers to hold a raffle event at Diamond Point in Birchdale Township at the address 12867 Bayview Dr, Sauk Centre, MN on February 28, 2026.
GAMBLING PERMIT – SAUK VALLEY GOBBLERS
WHEREAS, the Todd County Board of Commissioners are establishing their approval for a Gambling

Permit for the Sauk Valley Gobblers through this resolution;
NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Todd County Board of Commissioners approve a Gambling Permit for the Sauk Valley Gobblers to hold a bingo and raffle event at Diamond Point in Birchdale Township at the address 12867 Bayview Dr, Sauk Centre, MN on April 25, 2026.
GAMBLING PERMIT – SAUK CENTRE FAIRY LAKE ASSOCIATION
WHEREAS, the Todd County Board of Commissioners are establishing their approval for a Gambling Permit for the Sauk Centre Lions Fairy Lake Association through this resolution;
NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Todd County Board of Commissioners approve a Gambling Permit for the Sauk Centre Lions Fairy Lake Association to hold a raffle event at the Lions Fairy Lake Association in Kandota Township at the address 10500 County 95, Sauk Centre, MN on May 27, 2026.
Accept the resignation of Samuel Wicken PT Correctional Officer effective Dec. 11, 2025

Auditor-Treasurer
On motion by Denny and second by Becker, the following resolution was introduced and adopted by unanimous vote:
Resolution of Support for and Agreement to Sponsor the City of Long Prairie's Pursuit of 2025 Local Road Improvement Program Funding for the 9th Street Northeast Improvement Project
WHEREAS, 9th Street NE is an important City of Long Prairie corridor that provides direct access to the County Fairgrounds, residential neighborhoods, the Long Prairie Grey Eagle High School, and commercial and utility properties, while serving as a key connector between State Highway 27 and County State Aid Highway 5, and;
WHEREAS, the project area spans 9th Street NE from State Highway 27 on the southern end to

Warrants number (ACH) 601874 through 601891 and (Regular) 518733 through 518755 for a total amount of \$50,046.26.
On motion by Becker and second by Noska, the following motion was introduced and adopted by unanimous vote: To approve the contract with Peters Law Office for Public Defender services in Todd County for 2026.
Public Works
On motion by Denny and second by Becker, the following resolution was introduced and adopted by unanimous vote:
FINAL PAYMENT AUTHORIZATION – 2025 HIGHWAY CONSTRUCTION CONTRACT
WHEREAS, the contract with Mark Sand & Gravel Co. for the 2025 Highway Construction Contract known as SAP 077-603-010, SAP 077-622-014, CP 25:73, CP 25:78, and CP 77-25-01 located on various routes in Todd County, has in all things been completed, and;
WHEREAS, construction work on this contract was scheduled and completed in 2025 with the value of the total work certified being \$4,023,678.55, and;
WHEREAS, partial payments amounting to \$3,818,544.90, have been previously been made to the contractor as work progressed, and;
WHEREAS, it has been determined that \$205,133.65 still remains to be paid to Mark Sand & Gravel Co.
NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Commissioners does here accept said completed project for and in behalf of the County of Todd and authorize final payment as specified.
On motion by Noska and second by Denny, the following resolution was introduced and adopted by unanimous vote:
Resolution of Support for and Agreement to Sponsor the City of Long Prairie's Pursuit of 2025 Local Road Improvement Program Funding for the 9th Street Northeast Improvement Project
WHEREAS, 9th Street NE is an important City of Long Prairie corridor that provides direct access to the County Fairgrounds, residential neighborhoods, the Long Prairie Grey Eagle High School, and commercial and utility properties, while serving as a key connector between State Highway 27 and County State Aid Highway 5, and;
WHEREAS, the project area spans 9th Street NE from State Highway 27 on the southern end to

County State Aid Highway 5 on the northern end, and;
WHEREAS, the roadway is deteriorating, with prior maintenance limited to crack filling and seal coating, and now requires more extensive, long-term rehabilitation, and;
WHEREAS, the proposed project will reconstruct the roadway to a 10-ton design standard, include storm sewer improvements, and add ADA-compliant sidewalks and crossings along 9th Street NE, and;
WHEREAS, the Local Road Improvement Program (LRIP) administered by the Minnesota Department of Transportation makes available up to \$1,500,000 to apply towards projects on local roads that are regionally significant, result in safety improvements, address transportation deficiencies, and contribute to economic development, and;
WHEREAS, the Local Road Improvement Program requires a city, such Long Prairie, that is not a State Aid city, to have a county sponsor and the support of the County Board, and;
WHEREAS, the City of Long Prairie has requested sponsorship from Todd County for the 9th Street Northeast Improvement Project, and;
WHEREAS, the proposed year for project construction is 2027.
NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Commissioners does hereby support the City of Long Prairie's pursuit of Local Road Improvement Program funds for the 9th Street Northeast Improvement Project and that the County agrees to sponsor the City of Long Prairie's Local Road Improvement Program application to MnDOT and act as the City's fiscal agent for this project.

On motion by Becker and second by Neumann, the following resolution was introduced and adopted by unanimous vote:
Resolution of Support for and Agreement to Sponsor the City of Long Prairie's Pursuit of 2025 Local Road Improvement Program Funding for the 1st Street South Improvement Project
WHEREAS, 1st Street South, 8th Avenue South, and Lake Charlotte Road serve as vital roadways for Long Prairie's commercial and industrial district, with 8th Avenue South and Lake Charlotte Road providing key connections between 1st Street South and US Highway 71, supporting business access and regional connectivity, and;
WHEREAS, recent seal-coating has improved surface conditions on 8th Avenue South and the northern portion of 1st Street South; these segments, as well as Lake Charlotte Road, nonetheless require full reconstruction to achieve a 10-ton pavement standard suitable for commercial and heavy vehicle traffic, and;
WHEREAS, 1st Street South includes an unpaved gravel segment extending from Lake Charlotte Road to approximately 1,100 feet north of Lake Charlotte Road, which limits reliable access, increases maintenance burden, and is prone to flooding, thereby impacting travel time and connectivity in the commercial district, and;
WHEREAS, 1st Street South, 8th Avenue South, and Lake Charlotte Road are routes of regional significance, identified in Long Prairie's economic development plan, and together will form a proposed 10-ton rated road loop that connects the commercial district to the trunk highway system and supports high employment and business activity, and;

WHEREAS, the Local Road Improvement Program (LRIP) administered by the Minnesota Department of Transportation makes available up to \$1,500,000 to apply towards projects on local roads that are regionally significant, result in safety improvements, address transportation deficiencies, and contribute to economic development, and;
WHEREAS, the Local Road Improvement Program requires a city, such Long Prairie, that is not a State Aid city, to have a county sponsor and the support of the County Board, and;
WHEREAS, the City of Long Prairie has requested sponsorship from Todd County for the 1st Street South Improvement Project, and;
WHEREAS, the proposed year for project construction is 2027.
NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Commissioners does hereby support the City of Long Prairie's pursuit of Local Road Improvement Program funds for the 1st Street South Improvement Project and that the County agrees to sponsor the City of Long Prairie's Local Road Improvement Program application to MnDOT and act as the City's fiscal agent for this project.
Ditch/Ag Inspector
On motion by Noska and second by Becker, the following motion was introduced and adopted by unanimous vote: Acting as Ditch Authority approve a Minor Maintenance project to remove two large trees that have fallen down across County Ditch 19, on parcel 26-0012000. The trees will be removed with an excavator at the estimated cost of \$500 by Statema Backhoe Service LLC.

County Sheriff
On motion by Neumann, the following motion was introduced and adopted by unanimous vote: To renew the 5-year VESTA SAAS contract.
MIS
On motion by Noska and second by Denny, the following motion was introduced and adopted by unanimous vote: Approve the purchase of two Microsoft Datacenter licenses.
Facilities
On motion by Noska and second by Becker, the following motion was introduced and adopted by unanimous vote: Approve the office renovations to Annex 1 from Miller Brothers Construction for a cost of \$21,701.78.

See **TCC** con't in Jan. 21 issue

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

NOTICE OF TERMINATION OF CONTRACT FOR DEED

YOU ARE NOTIFIED: Default has occurred in the Contract for Deed ("Contract") dated December 10, 2021 and recorded on December 10, 2021, as Document Number A529445 in the Office of the County Recorder of Todd County, Minnesota, in which Leah N. Bardwell, as Seller, sold to Jordan A. Anco and Jacqueline A. Horwath, as Purchaser, the real property in Todd County, Minnesota, described as follows: Lot 7, Block 4, Shellabarger's First Addition to Staples, according to the plat thereof on file and of record. The default is as follows: Purchaser has failed to timely pay 24 monthly payments and the balloon payment due December 1, 2024. Total amount due and owing as of September 1, inclusive of late fees and interest, is \$45,022.90. The conditions contained in Minn. Stat. 559.209 have been complied with or are not applicable.
THIS NOTICE IS TO INFORM YOU THAT BY THIS NOTICE THE SELLER HAS BEGUN PROCEEDINGS UNDER MINNESOTA STATUTES, SECTION 559.21, TO TERMINATE YOUR CONTRACT FOR THE PURCHASE OF YOUR PROPERTY FOR THE REASONS SPECIFIED IN THIS NOTICE.
THE CONTRACT WILL TERMINATE 90 DAYS AFTER THE FIRST DATE OF PUBLICATION OF THIS NOTICE UNLESS BEFORE THEN: (a.) THE PERSON

AUTHORIZED IN THIS NOTICE TO RECEIVE PAYMENTS RECEIVES FROM YOU:
(1.) THE AMOUNT THIS NOTICE SAYS YOU OWE; PLUS
(2.) THE COSTS OF SERVICE (TO BE SENT TO YOU); PLUS
(3.) \$1,000.00 APPLY TO ATTORNEYS' FEES ACTUALLY EXPENDED OR INCURRED; PLUS
(4.) FOR CONTRACTS EXECUTED ON OR AFTER MAY 1, 1980, ANY ADDITIONAL PAYMENTS BECOMING DUE UNDER THE CONTRACT TO THE SELLER AFTER THIS NOTICE WAS SERVED ON YOU; PLUS
(5.) FOR CONTRACTS, OTHER THAN EARNEST MONEY CONTRACTS, PURCHASE AGREEMENTS, AND EXERCISED OPTIONS, EXECUTED ON OR AFTER AUGUST 1, 1985, \$83.37 (WHICH IS TWO PERCENT OF THE AMOUNT IN DEFAULT AT THE TIME OF SERVICE OTHER THAN THE FINAL BALLOON PAYMENT, ANY TAXES, ASSESSMENTS, MORTGAGES, OR PRIOR CONTRACTS THAT ARE ASSUMED BY YOU); OR (b.) YOU SECURE FROM A COUNTY OR DISTRICT COURT AN ORDER THAT THE TERMINATION OF THE CONTRACT BE SUSPENDED UNTIL YOUR CLAIMS OR DEFENSES ARE FINALLY DISPOSED OF BY TRIAL, HEARING OR SETTLEMENT. YOUR ACTION MUST SPECIFICALLY STATE THOSE FACTS AND GROUNDS THAT DEMONSTRATE

YOUR CLAIMS OR DEFENSES.
IF YOU DO NOT DO ONE OR THE OTHER OF THE ABOVE THINGS WITHIN THE TIME PERIOD SPECIFIED IN THIS NOTICE, YOUR CONTRACT WILL TERMINATE AT THE END OF THE PERIOD AND YOU WILL LOSE ALL THE MONEY YOU HAVE PAID ON THE CONTRACT; YOU WILL LOSE YOUR RIGHT TO POSSESSION OF THE PROPERTY; YOU MAY LOSE YOUR RIGHT TO ASSERT ANY CLAIMS OR DEFENSES THAT YOU MIGHT HAVE; AND YOU WILL BE EVICTED. IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS ABOUT THIS NOTICE, CONTACT AN ATTORNEY IMMEDIATELY.
The name, mailing address, street address or location and telephone number of the Seller or of an attorney authorized by the seller to accept payments pursuant to this notice is: Name: Daniel M. Eaton, Attorney for Seller, Waypoint Law PLLC, 400 South 4th Street, Suite 1025, Minneapolis MN 55415
Street Address or Location where the Seller or the Attorney will accept payment pursuant to this notice:
Waypoint Law PLLC, 400 South 4th Street, Suite 1025, Minneapolis MN 55415, Telephone: 612-445-7596
This person is authorized to receive the payments from you under this notice.
Daniel M. Eaton
4-6pnp

NOTICE MORAN TOWNSHIP MEETING CHANGE

The regular monthly meeting scheduled for February 3, 2026 has been moved to Weds., February 4, 2026.

Diane Mack, Clerk
Moran Township

4-5pnc

NOTICE MAY TOWNSHIP SCHEDULED MEETINGS

Meetings begin at 7:00 p.m. at the May Township Hall

Regular Meeting Dates:
January 12, 2026
February 9, 2026
March 9, 2026
March 10, 2026 (ANNUAL MEETING)
April 13, 2026
May 11, 2026
June 8, 2026
June 22, 2026 (second meeting, road issues only)
July 13, 2026
July 27, 2026 (second meeting, road issues only)
August 10, 2026
August 24, 2026 (second meeting, road issues only)
September 14, 2026
October 12, 2026
November 9, 2026
December 14, 2026
January 11, 2027

Bianca Wyffels, Clerk
May Township

4pnc

CITY OF STAPLES NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING Progress of the Small Cities Grant Fund Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Funding

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, that the City Council of Staples, Minnesota will meet in Council Chambers of the Staples City Hall, located at 122 6th St. NE, Staples, Minnesota 56479, at 7:00 p.m. on Tuesday, January 27, 2026, thereby dedicating a portion of their regular monthly meeting to review the progress of the Small Cities Development Program/Communi-

nity Development Block Grant rehabilitation program. The Central Minnesota Housing Partnership, Inc., Program Administrator, will provide an update of completed projects and available funding. Citizens will be given the opportunity to comment on the program.

Jerel Nelsen,
City Administrator
City of Staples

4pnc

STAPLES ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING Proposed Drainage and Utility Easements

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, that the Staples Economic Development Authority of Staples will meet in the Council Chambers of the City Hall, located at 122 6th St. NE, Staples, Minnesota 56479, at 5:05 p.m. on January 27, 2026, to hold a public hearing prior to taking action on two drainage and utility easement requests related to the proposed 4th St NE Street and Utility reconstruction project. The easements impact PID #38-4012800.

All interested persons are invited to attend the hearing and provide comment. Written comments may also be submitted to the Staples City Hall prior to the meeting.

Jerel Nelsen,
City Administrator
City of Staples

4pnc

NOTICE LAKE SHORE AERATION WARNING LAKE SHAMINEAU

An aeration system will be operated in order to protect shoreline from ice expansion January 15, 2026 to May 1, 2026 on the south shore of Lake Shamineau located off shore of 2002 Arras Lane, Motley MN 56466.

DNR Permit #2025-3295
Be aware of thin ice and open water.

4-5pnp

SCHOOL continued from page 1a

Referendum to include auditorium enhancements

board, concession stand and locker rooms; the construction of upgrades to the High School/Middle School building envelope; and the acquisition and installation of lighting, acoustic, sound and other enhancements to the High School/Middle School auditorium.”

The resolution approved working with the Minnesota Department of Education and following state statutes to set up the special election for April 14, asking voters to approve the referendum.

The ballot will have one question, asking voters to approve the \$42 million project. State law requires the ballot to say that voting yes would be for a property tax increase, but the board points out that the school portion of property taxes will stay at the current level if the referendum passes.

- In other news, the board**
- Approved Pemberton Law Office, Knutson, Flynn & Deans, and Kennedy & Graven as official school district attorneys.
 - Approve official depostories: First International

SMACF gave \$30K 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), \$20,000 was awarded to the following organizations:

- Faith Lutheran Church: \$2,000 (back to school fair)
 - Motley Community Events Organization: \$2,500 (June Fest)
 - LEAP Inc.: \$3,000 (Cardinals Performing Arts Center)
 - LEAP Inc.: \$2,000 (Legacy Arboretum and Nature Trail)
 - LEAP Inc.: \$2,500 (Railroad Days)
 - Old Wadena Society: \$1,000 (Old Wadena Rendezvous and Chautauqua)
 - Staples Motley School District: \$2,000 (Cardinal Way 2.0)
 - Staples Motley Area Arts Council: \$2,000 (Music in the Park)
 - Staples Area Men’s Chorus: \$1,500 (Little Red Caboose Variety Show)
 - Wadena County - Friendly Rider: \$1,500 (free rides for summer rec)
- During the fall grant cycle (April 16 - October 15), \$10,500 was awarded to the following organizations:
- LEAP Inc.: \$5,700 (Staples Trails Committee)
 - Staples Historical Society: \$3,000 (Polar Xpress)
 - Staples Motley School District: \$1,050 (accessible recess equipment)
 - Staples Motley School District: \$750 (meat-cutting supplies)
- Those interested in applying for a grant, donating, or learning more about the Staples Motley Area Community Foundation can visit <https://funds.ifound.org/smacf>.

HAIRCUT continued from page 1a

Grandma’s salon sessions are a time of bonding

Barb laughs again. Oh, they’ve always had fun during these haircut appointments, Barb says. “Grant’s a special kid. All my grandkids are.”

And, yes, there’s something special to have been the only person to have cut her grandson Grant’s hair. Not only have they shared laughter, but the ‘Grandma Barb and Grant’ salon sessions have been times of bonding as they visit and catch up on each other’s lives.

If the appointment’s timed ‘just right,’ the hair cut might just end in time for Grant to share a bite to eat with both Grandma Barb and Grandpa Larry before it’s time to head back to college.

Yep, it’s January of 2026. A new month, a new semester and a time for making new year’s resolutions. Most likely, Grant has a



few new golf plays he’d like to put into practice as the spring sport kicks up, and he might have intentions to spend even more time studying. But what ever Grant’s resolutions may be, there are some things that need no improvement and are best left the same. Like getting his hair cut by Grandma Barb.



Joy-filled tradition

Barb Rach of rural Verndale has been cutting her grandson Grant Bestland’s hair since he was a year old. She had the opportunity to get the scissors out again while he was home from college over the recent holidays. Grandma Barb says this is one of those traditions that brings her ‘joy,’ a word she focused on this past Christmas. In addition to their haircut bond, Grandma Barb and Grant are both Cardinal alumni...Barb having graduated from Staples High School in 1966, and Grant from Staples-Motley in 2025. She wore a sweater with Cardinals on it just for this occasion, Grandma Barb said. (Staples World photos by Dawn Timbs)



Winter wonderland

Veterans Park in Motley was all decked out for the holiday season, much of the decorating done by Bryan Stevens, Maintenance Assistant for the city. (Staples World photo by Dawn Timbs)

LAKEWOOD WELCOMES



Paul Crowe, MD
ORTHOPEDIC SURGEON

Lakewood is pleased to announce its newest **Twin Cities Orthopedics Surgeon, Dr. Paul Crowe**. Dr. Crowe specializes in spine disorders, orthopedic fracture care, joint reconstruction, and joint replacement revisions, with a focus on individualized, patient-centered care.

He will be seeing patients at the Staples clinic.

TO SCHEDULE AN APPOINTMENT,
CALL 218-894-8259
LAKWOODHEALTHSYSTEM.COM

