

Inside this issue:

Motley City Council
Girls wrestling first dual meet
MN railroad depot documentary



Wednesday, January 21, 2026

Staples, Minnesota

\$1²⁵

StaplesWorld

Filling both gyms Hundreds of out of town visitors came to the Staples-Motley youth wrestling tournament on Jan. 18, where older elementary age wrestlers competed in the Legacy Gym, above left, and the younger wrestlers were at The Nest, right. The youth wrestlers also hosted a team tournament on Jan. 17. (Photos by Mark Anderson)

School district launches web site for April 14 building referendum

Financial case ends with misdemeanor, restitution

By Mark Anderson
Managing Editor

The charge against Natasha Myers of financial exploitation was dismissed, but she was convicted of a misdemeanor for misusing a credit card while working for Lakewood Health System. In a sentencing order on Jan. 8 by Judge Gail Kulick in Todd County Court, Myers was ordered to pay restitution of \$6,400, plus \$135 in fines and court surcharges. A sentence of 90 days in jail was stayed for one year, with probation for that one year. The restitution was a little less than the original charge of \$6,633 Myers was accused of taking from a Lakewood credit card account via cash withdrawals at area banks and bars. She had also been charged with another \$1,856 in unauthorized credit

card charges that were not reflected in the misdemeanor conviction. The charge that was dismissed involved an accusation of Myers taking cash from residents for rent and not depositing it in the Lakewood account. In a court filing from February, 2025, Myers' attorney asked the court to dismiss the complaint, saying there was not sufficient evidence that Myers took cash for personal use. The motion stated that department protocol was always followed when taking payments and that the defendant did not make any unusual purchases or large cash deposits during the time in question. Even though the financial exploitation charge was dismissed, part of the sentencing requires Myers to complete an education course related to caring for vulnerable adults. The original complaint was filed in March of 2024.

Press release from Staples-Motley School District

Staples-Motley School District will hold a bond referendum on Tuesday, April 14, 2026, seeking improvements for classrooms, safety and security measures, career and technical education spaces, and building repairs. Chosen using feedback from community members, the investments aim to better prepare students for local jobs, provide teachers with improved instructional spaces, improve the safety of our students and staff, and reduce long-term maintenance costs. If approved, the referendum will have no impact on the current school property tax rate. The district has launched a dedicated website – SpreadingOurWings.org – to provide voters with information about the upcoming referendum on Tuesday, April 14, 2026. The site offers details about the proposed plan, voting options, and answers to frequently asked questions. The referendum will ask voters to consider a single

Our Goals

- Improve safety and security
- Strengthen technical skills training and career opportunities
- Provide teachers with classrooms equipped for modern learning
- Complete maintenance that improves accessibility and efficiency
- Improve grade alignment between our two schools
- Update activity spaces for our students and communities

Web site explains school building project

The Staples-Motley School District's web site for the school building referendum includes buttons to click to find out more about each aspect of the project. ballot question that proposes a \$42.5 million total investment. If approved, the plan will: Add new space for Career and Technical Education (CTE) programs. Renovate classrooms and create flexible learning spaces. Strengthen safety and security measures at school entrances. Complete essential maintenance and ADA upgrades to roofs, bathrooms. See **REFERENDUM** on page 10a

Weather

2026

This Week's Forecast

	High	Low	Cond.
Jan. 21	16	-4	Snow
Jan. 22	-1	-26	M. Cloudy
Jan. 23	-22	-25	Sunny
Jan. 24	-2	-8	P. Cloudy
Jan. 25	7	-6	M. Sunny
Jan. 26	8	-5	P. Cloudy
Jan. 27	5	-6	Cloudy

Last Year, 2025

	High	Low	Cond.
Jan. 21	9°	-22	Cloudy
Jan. 22	24	20	Cloudy
Jan. 23	5	-12	Sunny
Jan. 24	26	9	Cloudy
Jan. 25	20	5	Cloudy
Jan. 26	30	2	Sunny
Jan. 27	34	17	Sunny

Average Temps:
H = 21° Low = 3°

Compiled by
Dale Hausmann,
WCCO's Staples area
Weatherwatcher

Public Notices

Byron Township 9A

Moran Township 9A

Meadowbrook Township 9A

Kass Krest LLP 9A

Obituaries

Joana Bettis

Charles Crews

Kathryn Crews

James Holub

Richard Koppes

Bradley Mertens

Lawrence Shake

Arlene Stenberg



Girls dual meet invocation

The Staples-Motley girls wrestlers gathered as a team before their first dual match in team history. "We say a prayer before every tournament," said Kalee Winter. They also talk about the upcoming matches. "We remind each other to wrestle smart, and not be too aggressive," said Leah Greenwaldt. See story and results, page 7a. (Staples World photo by Mark Anderson)

Motley City Council holds first regular meeting of 2026

By Dawn Timbs
Staples World reporter

At their regular meeting Jan. 12, the first for 2026, the Motley City Council approved the appointment of four council members to fill vacant Planning Commission seats. Motley resident Darin Flansburg had been appointed to the commission at the previous council meeting, Dec. 8, 2025.

The appointed council members include Steve Johnson, Nikki Bjerga, April Skeesick-Larson and Pat O'Regan. Council member Dennis Erickson, who previously served as Planning Commission Chair, stepped down, as currently only five members can serve at one time.

Flansburg had indicated his desire to be on the planning commission at the Dec. 8 council meeting, but had indicated the 2 p.m. time of the meetings would be difficult for him, due to his job.

Tami Brotherton, City Clerk/Treasurer, reminded the council that if they wanted people in the community involved in the commission, then realistically, the meeting time would need to be later.

After some discussion, the council voted on Dec. 8, to change the Planning and Zoning Commission meeting time to the first Monday of the month at 5 p.m. Then, they proceeded to appoint Flansburg to the commission.

In other matters the council:

- HEARD monthly report from Fire Chief Brad Olson. There were eight calls for December. Chief Olson noted that a MFD Firefighter resigned and that they'd received an application for someone interested



New planning commission member at meeting



in the firefighter position. The council proceeded to approve a hiring committee, which includes Fire Chief Judd, Asst. Chief Nathan Thiede, Police Chief Al Yoder, Public Works Director Bruce Brotherton, MFD liaison Dennis Erickson.

- HEARD monthly report from Police Chief Yoder. There were 33 calls for December.

- HEARD monthly report from Public Works Director Brotherton, during which he noted a water main break at 364 3rd Ave. S., which was repaired on Dec. 30. He went on to say that the skating rink near Veterans Park is being used, as

is the sledding hill. Brotherton also wondered if they should take the holiday decorations/lights down, or keep them up for awhile yet.

- APPROVED Brotherton's request for Maintenance Asst. Bryan Stevens to attend the Minnesota Rural Water Association (MRWA) conference in March.

- APPROVED selling the city's snow blower.

- LEARNED from City Clerk/Treasurer Tami Brotherton that the annual audit is scheduled to begin the week of March 2. She also noted training opportunities available to elected city officials.

- APPROVED the annual Mayor's Association membership for Mayor O'Regan.

- LEARNED from Tami Brotherton that the city received a Community and Economic Development Associates (CEDA) Rural Capacity grant award (up to \$13,500 and 135 hours of technical assistance for Downtown Revitalization). The 12-week program begins April 13.

- ADOPTED the 2026 Fee Schedule with updates.

- APPROVED a resolution authorizing the following signers for banking transactions in 2026: Clerk/Treasurer Tami Brotherton; Mayor Pat O'Regan;

and council members Steve Johnson, Nikki Bjerga, April Skeesick-Larson and Dennis Erickson.

- APPROVED resolutions having Clerk/Treasurer Tami Brotherton as the responsible authority; having EFT (Electronic Funds Transfer) authorization from the Clerk/Treasurer; and authorizing the Clerk/Treasurer to pay all claims presented to the city.

- NAMED First International Bank & Trust and other financial institutions allowable under Minnesota law as the city's official depository for 2026.

- Approved a \$1,000 donation from the Motley

Lions Club, designated to go toward Christmas lights and decorations.

- NAMED the Staples World the city's official newspaper for 2026.

- REVIEWED the 2026 meeting schedule and the city-observed holidays.

- APPROVED the following appointments for 2026: Acting Mayor, council member Nikki Bjerga; Assistant Weed Inspectors, council member Steve Johnson and Public Works Director Bruce Brotherton; Emergency Management Directors, Mayor Pat O'Regan and Police Chief Al Yoder; City Attorney, Pemberton Law.

- APPROVED the following council liaisons for 2026: Police Dept., Nikki Bjerga; Administrative Dept., April Skeesick-Larson; Maintenance Dept., Steve Johnson; Fire Dept., Dennis Erickson.

- APPROVED the Motley Fire Department Relief Association Board of Trustees: Municipal Board Members for 2026, and defined their duties.

- APPROVED donating \$500 to the Staples-Motley High School Grad Blast.

- APPROVED the renewal of existing tobacco licenses at the following establishments: Orton's Motley Holiday, Bremer's Bar, Motley Discount Liquor, BRICKS Travel Center, Y Knot Package Liquor, Dollar General.

- NOTED the next Comprehensive Plan meeting is Tuesday, Jan. 27, at 4:30 p.m.; and the next Planning and Zoning meeting is Monday, Feb. 2, at 5 p.m., to be held at city hall.

- Set the next regular council meeting for Monday, Feb. 9, at 4:30 p.m.



Atreyu Eagle Tail

Throwing it down

Avandre Brandt, left, and Noah Larson, right, both got above the rim for dunks in the game against Wadena-Deer Creek. (Staples World photos by Mark Anderson)

Motley area law enforcement reports

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

Jan. 13 - Motley Police issued a speeding citation

to Parker Grant, 19.

Jan. 7 - Motley Police responded to a complaint of a homeless male at BRICKS Travel Center in Motley.

Jan. 12 - Morrison County deputies received a report of a vehicle roll-over at Hwy 10 and 360th St.,

Motley.

Jan. 10 - The MCSO received a call from Cass County reporting a female who had locked herself out of the house and was stuck on the second floor balcony with no shoes. Motley Fire was paged.

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Staples City Council holds organizational meeting

The Staples City Council held their first meeting of the year on Jan. 13.

The council approved council members for various boards including: Public Works, Roy Miles and Mary Theurer; Airport, Doug Case and John Jewison; Planning and Zoning, Case; Parks and Recreation, Miles, Mary Jo Goff and Jewison; Board of Adjustment, Miles; Economic Development Authority, Mayor Ron Murray, Case and Blake Gerard; Tourism Marketing, Murray and Theurer; Intergovernmental relations, Murray, Jewison and Case; Community Corrections, Murray; President Pro Tem, Miles.

In other news, the council

- Re-appointed commission and board members whose terms are expiring, including Jeff Weitemier, Airport Board; Bruce Nelsen, Public Works Commission; Lisa Toeper, Parks and Recreation; Janet Kiley and Chris Etzler, Board of Adjustment.
- Learned that positions are available on the Planning and Zoning Commission, Public Works Commission and Parks and Recreation Board.
- Approved Staples World as official newspaper.
- Approved official depositories: First International Bank & Trust, Mid-Central Federal, Mid-Minne-

sota Federal Credit Union, Unity Bank, U.S. Bank, PMA Financial Network, Zion Bancorporation, Moreton Capital Markets, PMA Securities, Bank of North Dakota, RBC Capital Markets and United Bank.

- Approved pawnbroker license for Like-Nu-Pawn.
- Approved rental rates for new T-hangars at the Staples Airport, \$120 per month for a 40 foot unit and \$140 per month for a 48 foot unit.
- Approved 2026 fee schedule, with all city fees the same as 2025.

SG - going to be updating contract with WAPA for renewable energy certificates. Missouri River Energy handles renewable credits for the City of Staples.

- Learned that the Public Works Commission denied a request from a resident to discount part of their electric bill for reporting that some street lights were out.
- Learned that bids for the 4th Street NE reconstruction project will be opened Jan. 26.
- Learned that the Staples Community Center locker room reconstruction project will start Jan. 26 and is scheduled to be finished in mid May.
- Learned that five people have inquired about the open Staples Economic Development Director position. Application period ends in early February.

Todd Cty. court report Jan. 14

Long Prairie Police
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.

Dept. of Natural Resources
Caleb Neal Goodwin, Osakis Big Game-fail o register deer as required. Fine \$100. Fee \$85.

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

Loren Stanley Vanhavermaet, Eagle Bend. Speed 70/60. Fine \$40. Fee \$85.

Ian Russell Barrick, Horace, ND. Speed 88/70. Fine \$60. Fee \$85.

Casey Joseph Brooks, Watertown, SD. Speed 65/60. Fine \$40. Fee \$85.

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

Cheyenne Marie Dean, Bertha. Speed 78/60. Fine \$60. Fee \$85.

Diana B. Gwee, Fargo, ND. Speed 85/70. Fine \$60. Fee \$85. No insurance owner. Fine \$200. No MN Drivers License. Fine \$100. No MN Registration. Fine \$100.

Frederick Lamont Hardy, Long Prairie. Speed 78/55. Fine \$200. Fee \$85. No Proof MV Insurance. Fine \$70.

Mackenzie Ann Joos, Fargo, ND. Speed 65/60. Fine \$40. Fee \$85.

Steven Scott Larson, Motley. Speed 71/60. Fine \$50. Fee \$85.

Bryan Scott Lerner, Orlando Park, IL. Speed 79/70. Fine \$40. Fee \$85.

Ashlee Siera McPerpherson, Bismarck, ND. Speed 75/70. Fine \$40. Fee \$85.

Freddy Mejia, Long Prairie. Speed 88/60. Fine \$100. Fee \$185.

Erik James Norseeth, Alexandria. Speed 65/55. Fine \$40. Fee \$85.

Tate Earl-Gregory Rasmussen, Edina. Speed 79/70. Fine \$40. Fee \$85.

Curtis-John Delos Santa Masa, Grand Forks, ND. Speed 80/70. Fine \$40. Fee \$85.

David Michael Spencer, Alexandria. Hands free law. Fine \$50. Fee \$85.

Shane Robert Zablocki, Sauk Rapids. Hands free law. Fine \$50. Fee \$85.

Staples Police Dept.
Jaden Anthony Jantz, Browerville. Headlamps required on all motor vehicles, except motorcycles. Fine \$40. Fee \$85.

Todd County Sheriff's Office
Amer Abdelhamid Isma Almaghathah, Lakeville. Speed 84/55. Fine \$100. Fee \$185.

Guillermo Ensastegui Pulido, Osakis. Driver must carry proof of insurance when operating vehicle. Fine \$200. Fee \$85. Driving without a valid drivers license for vehicle class or type. Fine \$100.

Tyler Jeffrey Hacker, Aitken. Liquor consumption-by persons

under 21. Fine \$100. Fee \$85.

Jonah Daniel O'Leary, Browerville. Speed 92/55. Fine \$150. Fee \$235.

Molly Marie Powell, Clarkfield. Speed 75/60. Fine \$60. Fee \$85.

Luis Miguel Rijo-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 30, 2025.

Walter Frank Lipa, Osakis. Domestic assault-fear. Dismissed. Disorderly conduct-offensive/abusive/boisterous/noisy/obscene. Continued for dismissal. Unsupervised monitoring without conviction, 6 mo.

The following cases were heard before Judge Daniel A Benson in Seventh District Court in Todd County January 2, 2026.

Morgan Deeanne Meyer, Burns-ville. Criminal vehicular operation-bodily harm-under influence alcohol. Dismissed. 3rd Degree DWI-Operate motor vehicle under influence of alcohol. Stay of imposition to M.S. 609.135. 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.

The following cases were heard before Judge Gary R. Larson in Seventh District Court in Todd County January 5, 2026.

Berkis Amada Perez De Tiburico, Long Prairie 3rd Degree Driving while impaired. Dismissed. 3rd Degree driving while impaired-blood alcohol content greater than .08 within 2 hours. Sentenced. Local confinement (364 days, stay 0 yr 0 mo 363 days for 2 yr credit for time served: 1 day) Supervised probation, 2 yr. Fine \$500. Fee \$105.

James Louis Schnettler, Clarissa. DWI 3-refuse to submit to chemical test; breath or test refusal or failure. Sentenced. Local confinement (364 days, stay 0 yr 0 mo 364 day for 3 yr credit for time served: 10 days) Supervised probation, 3 yr. Fine \$500. Fee \$105. Disorderly conduct. Dismissed.

The following cases were heard before Judge Daniel A Benson in Seventh District Court in Todd County January 5, 2026.

Jesus Daniel Garcia Montanez, Long Prairie. Driving after revocation. Dismissed. Failure to notify owner/policy of damaged property. Sentenced. Local confinement (90 days, stay 79 days for 1 yr credit for time served: 11 days). Supervised probation, 1 yr. Fine \$200. Fee \$450. Liquor consumption by persons under 21. Dismissed Driver must carry proof of insurance when operating vehicle.

75 YEARS Ago - 1951

- Jan. 18, 1951 - Ardelle Hollister, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Joe Hollister, Jr., is in the Staples Municipal hospital with a broken right leg as a result of a skating accident on Jan. 12, about 4:30 o'clock.

Ardelle was skating with a number of other children on the rink on the south side when the accident happened, but just how it happened is not definitely known.

She did fall on the ice, and in so doing her right leg was injured below the knee, bones being broken. She is

- O -
Compiled by Dawn Timbs
- O -

progressing satisfactorily at the Staples Municipal hospital at the present time.

- Jan. 18, 1951 - Two women from Motley are in the Staples Municipal hospital suffering from many wounds which they suffered from the result of a car accident on Hwy 64 about 20 miles south of Walker Sunday afternoon, Jan. 14, about three o'clock, according to reports coming to The World.

Mrs. Wallace Scruppie, one of the occupants sustained a dislocation and broken bones in her right wrist and arm and other body injuries.

Mrs. Blanche Stelck received a severe scalp wound, a chest injury, a right arm and elbow injury and lacerations about her right leg. Mr. Stelck received facial lacerations. The tiny Scruppie baby was thrown from the car, as well as Mrs. Scruppie, but the baby received no injuries according to the attending physician.

The Motley folks were driving north along Hwy 64 and were enroute to Walker to visit friends, so the report goes.

All of a sudden a car with a four-wheel trailer full of black pigs came on to the road from a side road and the crash could not have been averted, from the reports.

The car, a 1949 Plymouth, driven by Mr. Stelck, was a complete wreck. The trailer was smashed to smithereens, and the pigs wandered about the roadside as though nothing had happened at all.

People in a car from Minneapolis brought the injured Motley people to the Staples Municipal hospital and arrived here about 4:30 o'clock, where they were given immediate attention.

50 YEARS Ago - 1976

- Jan. 15, 1976 - Sue Becker and Bruce Crocker were crowned queen and king of the Sno-Daze festivities at Staples High School at special ceremonies held in the Staples Auditorium last Friday afternoon. The Sno-Daze dance was held Saturday evening.

Queen Sue is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Kenneth Becker. King Bruce is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Gordon Crocker.

Other queen candidates included Cheryl Sauer, Kathy Lund, Donna Brown, Melaine Miller and Mary Kirk. The other king candidates were Dave Sowers, Randy Snyder, Clark Dahl, Dave Blanchard and Jim Johnson.

- Jan. 15, 1976 - The Cardinalettes of Coach Kay Pettitt picked up their seventh victory of the season with two wins during the

past week in girls basketball action.

Tasting defeat before the hands of the Cardinalettes were Detroit Lakes to the tune of 42-20 and Park Rapids 28-24.

The Cardinalettes have suffered only one loss in their eight starts this season, that being by a 58-31 score to the powerful contingent from Wadena, who also faced Staples again Monday evening of this week on the home court.

- Jan. 15, 1976 - The Cardinal matmen of Staples High School wasted no time in showing the Aitkin Gobblers that they were the power in the Mid-State Conference was Coach Don Dravis' contingent wrestled their way to an easy 44-12 triumph Thursday evening, Jan. 8, on the home mat.
- Jan. 15, 1976 - Hans Borstad scored 43 points as the Staples Faculty narrowly squeezed by Wadena Tech 69-68 in Staples-Wadena Area basketball play Sunday evening, Jan. 11, on the Eagle Bend hardwood.

Borstad was a one-man show for Staples Faculty as no other player hit double figures. Dr. Jon Theurer and Don Hesse each finished with 7, while Jerry Riewer connected for 6 and Joe Joerger had 4.

25 YEARS Ago - 2001

- Jan. 18, 2001 - The Motley City Council held their first meeting in 2001 on Jan. 9, with newly elected mayor Karla J. Peterson at the helm. Both Mayor Peterson and new council member Patrick O'Regan took their Oath of Office preceding the council's work session on Jan. 2. The lack of quorum, however, cancelled the work session.

That meant only incumbent Kathy Storry, who won her seat by drawing the high card at the election tie-breaker, would take her Oath of Office at the regular meeting Jan. 9.

- Jan. 18, 2001 - Ever wished you had started a diary or journal when you were just a kid. Now 20, 30 or 40 years later, you could check back to see when some significant event happened.

Let's see now, was that big storm back in 1974 or 1975?

Amy Messer of Staples does not have that problem. She just checks out the last 56 years of her diary to refresh her memory.

"I started my diary in January, 1944," she said. Her first entry states, "New



Mystery photo

Hello readers. This week's archive photo is from 1980. Do you know who these people are and perhaps the context of the photo? Do you have a memory to share? Email your answers and where you're from to dtimbs@staplesworld.com by Friday, or call 218-894-1112. The answers will be published in next week's paper, as well as a new mystery photo.

Year's Day and it's a cold one, 20 below. We waked in the New Year at the Luen-ingholner home, popped popcorn. Tommy has the measles."

She went on to say, "These books are full of news of the family and neighborhood. I wrote every day. I went back some days and wrote when I missed one, but not often." Amy noted that they are not deep topics or personal feelings, by and large.

- Jan. 18, 2001 - New members of the National Honor Society at Staples Motley High School were announced Jan. 11 at the school. They include Emily Goff, Martin Brenny, Rachel Landecker, Brigitte Koppes, Julia Nytes, Kathy Johnson, Melanie Wilson, Renee Klein, Tenessa Capistrant, Jackie Bueckers, Leah Capistrant, Peter Swenson, Mike Schafer, Jeff Brever, Brad Moore, Dave Anderson, Jessica Nytes, Rachel Domier, Beth Warner, Katie Palmer, Nicole Bender and Alison Edin. Previous members included Jason Reck,

Mary DiGiovanni, Amy Peterson, Tom Craft, Dan Bounds, Mary Thorman and Tina Blake.

10 YEARS Ago - 2016

- Jan. 21, 2016 - Dr. Jonathan and Amy Claussen of rural Browerville are passionate about family and committed to making it a priority in their lives, as well as helping other families through their ministry, "Family Restoration Project."

The Claussens founded their ministry in 2012, which they lead by way of speaking, worship and writing.

Last year, traveling by way of their motorhome when they are on tour with their ministry, they logged over 12,000 miles, traveling to a variety of destinations, including Idaho, Montana, Ohio and Wisconsin. Dr. Jonathan (a family medicine physician at Lakewood Health System Hospital in Staples) and Amy have eight children, ages three to 19 years.



Mystery solved

Last week's mystery photo published in the May 12, 1966 edition of the Staples World featured bowling champions from Aldrich. For the fourth consecutive year, the Aldrich team had captured the championship of the Thursday Nite Women's League at Hi-Way Lanes.

The members of the championship team, front row from left: Georgene Falldorf and Ardy Colianni. Back: LaDonna Peterson, Barbara Martin and Mary Jane Friedli. Absent were Doris Peterson and Gloria Lund.



DEADLINES
Newspaper deadline for copy and advertising: 12 noon Fridays



The following cases were heard before Judge Gary R. Benson in Seventh District Court in Todd County January 7, 2026.

Benjamin Timothy Doherty, Fridley. Speed 80/70. Fine \$40. Fee \$75.

Elizabeth Gonzalez Rodriguez, Browerville. School bus-safety of school children;use of stop arm signal. Continued. Unsupervised probation, 6 mo. Fine \$50.

Justine Ann Olson, Sauk Centre. Toxic substance-use for intoxication prohibited. Local confinement (90 days, stay 0 yr 0 mo 0 days credit for time served: 45 days) Fine \$50.

Nathaniel Jon Kettner, Willmar. 3rd Degree DWI-operate motor vehicle-alcohol concentration 0.08 within 2 hours. Sentenced. Local confinement (364 days, stay 334 days for

4 yr credit for time served: 1 day). Supervised probation, 4 yr. Fine \$50. Fee \$505

Renters, workers hurt by housing shortage

From Minnesota Housing Partnership

A new state housing profile shows that Minnesota’s housing shortage continues to strain renters, workers, and first-time homebuyers, with the greatest impacts falling on households with the lowest incomes and on communities of color.

“These findings make clear that Minnesota’s housing shortage isn’t an abstract problem — it’s showing up in people’s day-to-day lives,” said Anne Mavity, Executive Director of MHP. “When people working in our most in-demand jobs can’t afford to live near where they work, and when renters are forced to choose between housing and ba-

sic needs, that’s a sign our housing system is out of balance. This report points to where the gaps are — and why action matters.”

Key Findings from the 2026 State Housing Profile

Nearly half of Minnesota renter households are cost burdened, leaving families less money for food, health care, and other basic needs. The strain is even greater for older adults, with 63 percent of senior renters cost burdened.

Minnesota’s housing shortfall has the greatest impact on renters with the lowest incomes. For extremely low-income renters alone, there is a shortage of more than 101,000 affordable and available homes.

The median age of a first-time homebuyer in Minnesota has risen to a historic high of 40 years, reflecting growing barriers to entering the housing market.

Home values are rising faster than homeowners’ incomes. None of Minnesota’s top five in-demand jobs pay enough for workers to afford homeownership, and, of the five, only registered nurses earn enough to afford quality rental housing.

Minnesota ranks 45th in the nation, one of the worst homeownership gaps between white (non-Hispanic) households and households of color in the nation. Homeownership rates declined in the past year for Black, Native American, Hispanic, and Asian households.

Community tackles poverty on their own

By Heather Close
The Rural Blog

The ‘War on Poverty’ failed to help McDowell County, W. Va. They’ve decided they’re on their own.

The once bustling streets of McDowell County today are empty. The county’s only Walmart closed down in 2016.

The U.S. War on Poverty was launched more than 60 years ago as a social and humanitarian-driven initiative to address extreme poverty in regions like Appalachia. But for residents in McDowell County, W. Va., where the federal government “poured more than \$3.6 billion into trying to ease hardship ... It hasn’t worked,” reports Dan Frosch of The Wall Street Journal. “Some two-thirds of households with children still get food stamps, among the nation’s highest rates.”

McDowell residents have watched their once-vibrant coal town’s popula-

tion shrivel “from just over 51,000 to roughly 17,000,” Frosch writes. “With little faith left in government to break the cycle of poverty, those who remain say it’s up to them to forge a brighter economic path.”

While the billions in federal dollars couldn’t replace the jobs and money the coal companies provided, new resources and a keen eye for a plan B have become part of McDowell’s revival. Frosch explains: “A network of nonprofits has sprung up. Many are funded with federal grants and private donations and run by locals. Most have had to figure out how to keep going when government money runs out.”

Often considered a food desert, some McDowell residents are learning mountain farming from their neighbors, Jason Tartt and Amelia Bandy, who “began transforming a 350-acre plot into a teaching farm,” Frosch reports. “Tartt, Bandy and a shoestrung staff

have trained some 60 people on farming the mountain valleys.”

Mavis Brewster, who heads the McDowell County Public Service District, has “spent the past two decades working to get clean water to as many people as she can with few resources,” Frosch adds. “She spends her days jigsawing state and federal funding sources for new water systems.”

Stacy Henderson is working for the nonprofit converting the area’s old Walmart store into a new factory. She told Frosch, “There’s been this helicopter approach where people come in and tell the community, ‘This is what we’re going to do.’ This project is being worked on from within.”

“Their efforts are small in comparison to the government programs that have sought to revive McDowell County,” Frosch adds. “But they are spurring hope for renewal in some places, driven by one of the few constants here: resilience.”

Rail Passengers eyeing merger

By Jim Mathews
President & CEO
Rail Passengers Association

The first ninety days of 2026 are shaping up to be some of the most consequential for passenger rail in more than a decade. The decisions made this winter will directly affect the trains you ride, the projects you care about, and the progress we’ve all worked so hard to build.

The biggest issue on the horizon: the proposed merger of Union Pacific and Norfolk Southern.

Now, mergers come and go. But this one, this one IS different. Together, UP and NS currently host 25 of Amtrak’s 44 state-supported and long-distance routes – that’s 57 percent of the entire national network. Those lines carried more than 11 million passengers in 2024. That’s almost two-thirds of riders outside the Northeast Corridor.

And it’s not just today’s trains that hang in the balance. Of the 69 corridors selected by the Federal Railroad Administration for development, 33 would operate partly or entirely on UP or NS tracks. That’s nearly half of the future passenger rail network in this country.

The math is pretty simple: If this merger degrades passenger service, the consequences will ripple across the entire national system for years, even decades.

The impact UP and NS have on individuals and communities reliant upon passenger rail is SIGNIFICANT. We can’t ignore what this merger could mean now and in the future

The Rail Passengers Association is already preparing to engage – in the formal filings at the Surface Transportation Board, in the oversight process, and in the policy space where mergers like this one rise or fall. We will insist that regulators look at the particulars of this deal with objective skepticism, and that rejecting the deal – not just improving it – should be in the list of possibilities. And if the answer turns out to be moving forward with a merger, we’ll insist on strong conditions: real passenger priority, clear on-time performance standards, transparent reporting, and meaningful enforcement. We know from Norfolk Southern’s own Crescent settlement with the Justice Department last Fall that when regulators insist on accountability, passenger service improves. We’re going to make sure that principle guides every decision in this merger.

Fridays with a Forester for woodlands landowners

By Gary Wyatt, University of Minnesota Extension

Join University of Minnesota Extension foresters to discuss some of the key issues and questions around forest and woodlands facing Minnesota landowners.

These online sessions will be very informal, open to the public and free of charge. Each session will start with a brief presentation, followed by a discussion framed around participants’ questions on the topic. Each Zoom session will be from 9 a.m. to 10 a.m.

The 2026 topics and presenters are listed below:

- Jan. 30: Life, death, and

dinner in the forest canopy: The spruce budworm and its predators - Jessica Rootes

- Feb. 13: Stewardship strategies for resilient forests - Anna Stockstad
- Feb. 20: ParSci summary from 2025 and what’s coming in 2026 - Angela Gupta & Hana Kim
- March 20: Disturbance and woodland stewardship - Eli Sagor
- March 27: Recognizing, preventing, and managing oak wilt - Grace Haynes
- April 10: Management considerations to enhance forest habitat for birds - PeterDieser
- April 17: Get ready for tree seed collection in spring (Scouting & ParSci) - Kira Pollack
- April

24: Growing and selling wood: Production forestry on private lands. - Eli Sagor

- Feb. 27: Climate ready trees for windbreaks and silvopasture - Gary Wyatt, Angie Gupta, and Kira Pollack

To learn more about each topic and sign up for these Zoom sessions, register at this link:

z.umn.edu/Fridays2026

Recordings from all sessions in the series will be made available on the Extension YouTube page:

z.umn.edu/Fridays

There is no session on March 13 because the forestry team will be at the MN Family Woodland Conference in Collegeville, MN.

From National Congress of American Indians (NCAI)

In an unprecedented show of unity, Tribal governments and inter-tribal organizations across the country are standing together against the Trump Administration’s attempt to rescind the 2001 Roadless Area Conservation Rule. With the adoption a resolution at NCAI’s 82nd Annual Convention in Seattle (November 16-21, 2025), and a parallel resolution (#2025-49) passed by ATNI at its Annual Convention in Suquamish, Washington, this October, Tribal leaders are demanding the Trump Administration immediately halt the Roadless Rule rescission process. Both resolutions represent a collective voice of sovereign Tribal governments across the country that unequivocally oppose the rescission as “a violation of treaty rights, trust responsibilities, and federal law,” citing the Administration’s failure to comply with USDA Departmental Regulation 1350-002, Executive Order 13175, and the federal government’s trust responsibility to Tribal Governments.

Tribal leaders are calling for a very different approach—one based on consent, consultation, and conservation, not a rushed

decision that sidelines Tribal voices. They are urging an immediate halt to the rescission process, a meaningful extension of the public comment period, and time for real, leadership-level government-to-government consultation so that Tribal governments can fully assess the impacts on their lands, rights, and communities.

The official notice the Trump Administration gave announcing their intent to repeal the Roadless Rule, published in the Federal Register on August 29, 2025, provided only a 21-day public comment period that ended September 19, 2025. This timeline is “wholly inadequate for meaningful Tribal engagement on a decision affecting millions of acres of ancestral territories,” according to the NCAI resolution. Press statements given by the Secretary of Agriculture announcing their plan came without any formal consultation with affected Tribal governments.

Tribal governments are also pressing for a stronger role in shaping what happens next: being treated as cooperating agencies under federal environmental review, gaining tools to petition for co-management of key forest areas, and ensuring that any federal decisions fully examine impacts on treaty rights, cultural resources, subsistence, water, and climate resilience. Together, they are sending a clear message that the future of these forests must be decided with Tribal governments at the table, not after the fact.

“This attempt to strip protections from 44.7 million acres of ancestral homelands, including treaty-protected resources and sacred sites, without a single meaningful conversation with Tribal governments is a direct violation of our sovereignty and the federal government’s own binding regulations,” said Larry Wright, Jr., Executive Director of the National Congress of American Indians (NCAI). “USDA’s own Departmental Regulation specifically prohibits promulgating any regulation without first consulting with Tribal officials early in the process. The Administration ignored this requirement entirely. NCAI stands united with our member Tribes in demanding an immediate halt to this pro-

cess, extension of the NOI scoping period to at least 90 days, and initiation of a legitimate 120-day government-to-government consultation period as required by the Forest Service’s own ‘Strengthening Tribal Consultations’ action plan.”

The 2001 Roadless Area Conservation Rule protects approximately 44.7 million acres of National Forest System lands from road construction and timber harvesting. These lands encompass ancestral territories, treaty-protected resources, and sacred sites of NCAI member tribes, including the Tongass National Forest in Southeast Alaska, the world’s largest remaining intact temperate rainforest, and the traditional homeland of the Tlingit, Haida, and Tsimshian peoples. Southeast Alaska Tribal governments, who have served as stewards of the Tongass National Forest since time immemorial, joined in the NCAI resolution. Southeast Alaska Tribes, who have long served as stewards of the Tongass and whose traditional territories encompass the forest’s 9.2 million acres of roadless areas, have been at the forefront of this advocacy for decades.

“Our Tribe, the Organized Village of Kake, has always stewarded and protected the Tongass National Forest with the help of our partners - successfully keeping the roadless rule intact,” said President Joel Jackson, Organized Village of Kake. “Southeast Tribes are proud to again to join the National Congress of American Indians to fight for the protection of the Tongass Forest and other areas protected by the roadless rule. The remaining old growth trees and the critical salmon spawning and rearing habitat in the Tongass are not only important to our way of life, but the entire ecosystem is the largest remaining temperate forest in the world and is also the largest carbon sink, absorbing more carbon dioxide than it releases.”

But the threat is not limited to Western states or Alaska. If the Roadless Rule is rescinded, Tribal governments and communities in 39 states and territories, including those in the Great Lakes region, stand to lose critical protections that safeguard culture, treaty rights, and the health of vital ecosystems.

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

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

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Mark Your Calendar

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Jan. 22

‘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>

WADENA WHIRLWAYS SQUARE DANCE GROUP DANCING Thursday, Jan. 22, 7 - 9:30 p.m., at St. Michael’s Church, 280 1st Ave. S., Motley. Bob Maiden, caller. For info., 612-743-3480.

Jan. 23

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. 25

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

Jan. 26

SPARKS MENTORING OF STAPLES-MOTLEY ANNUAL ‘DINNER IN THE WOODS’ Monday, Jan. 26, at Staples Alliance Church Dining Room, 1512 8th St. NE, Staples. Silent auction at 5:30 p.m., dinner at 6 p.m. For info., call Justin Thorne, 320-761-9022; Rosie Blessing, 218-371-7066; Rynell Schock, 218-270-0291.

Jan. 27

CARE MINISTRY FREE MEAL Tuesday, Jan. 27, 4:30 - 6 p.m., at Staples Church of Christ, 27343 490th St. Join us for meatballs/potatoes and gravy. Free to all. The free meals are held on a monthly basis to promote fellowship, connection and nourishment.

WADENA COUNTY REPUBLICANS MEETING Tuesday, Jan.

27, 7 p.m., at the Wadena VFW. Guest speakers will be Wadena County Sheriff Mike Carr and Sgt. Bryan Savaloja. Come early and visit with like-minded people.

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

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Menu

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Senior Nutrition Program

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

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

Staples 218-979-4118

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

Jan. 26 - Jan. 30

MONDAY - Baked pork chop, gravy, scalloped potatoes, mixed veggie, whet bread, marg., oatmeal raisin cookie, 1% milk.

TUESDAY - Chicken Cordon Bleu, sliced carrots, rice pilaf, applesauce cup, wheat dinner roll, marg., 1% milk.

WEDNESDAY - Salisbury steak, mashed potatoes, brown gravy, green beans, dinner roll, marg., vanilla wafers, 1% milk.

THURSDAY - Tater tot hot-dish, while kennel corn, apple crisp, wheat bread, marg., 1% milk.

FRIDAY - Cheese ravioli, marinara sauce, country veggie blend, fruit crumble, dinner roll, marg., 1% milk.

wk5

The Last Stop: documentary on Minn. railroad depots

From Lakeland PBS

Lakeland PBS has announced the premiere of its latest original documentary, “The Last Stop: Railroad Depots of Minnesota” a poignant exploration of the railroad depots that once served as the lifeblood of Minnesota’s small towns. Produced by Lakeland PBS’s own Randy Cadwell, the film goes beyond architecture to tell a deeply personal story of community, connection, and the enduring legacy of the rails.

For Producer Randy Cadwell, this project was a labor of love rooted in his own history. Growing up as the son of a Depot Agent, Cadwell spent his childhood witnessing firsthand the vital role these hubs played in the daily lives of his neighbors. His lifelong appreciation for the railroad was reignited after discovering the book *Shadows of Time: Minnesota’s Surviving Railroad Depots* by Bill Schranker, who is featured in the film, which inspired him to traverse the state and document the remaining structures that shaped our region.

“I grew up knowing exactly what these depots meant to their communities—they were the windows to the rest of the world,” says Cadwell. “With this film, I wanted to honor that history while celebrating the organizations and towns that recognize their value today.”

Early Screening Event

In celebration of the film’s upcoming release, Lakeland PBS invites the public to a special early screening at a location that perfectly embodies the documentary’s message.

Join Lakeland PBS on Friday, Jan. 23, at 5 p.m. at the Little Falls Chamber of Commerce, housed in the Historic Little Falls Depot. Attendees will have the unique opportunity to view the documentary inside one of the very landmarks featured in the film and participate in a brief Q&A session.

Broadcast and Streaming Information “The Last Stop” will officially premiere on Lakeland PBS on Thursday, Jan. 29 at 7 p.m., with a re-airing on Saturday, Jan. 31 at 7 p.m. Viewers can also watch the documentary on-demand for free starting Jan. 29 via the PBS App, which is available on most smart TVs and mobile devices.

Event Details:

- What: Early Screening of “The Last Stop”
- When: Friday, Jan. 23 at 5 p.m.
- Where: Little Falls Chamber of Commerce (606 1st St SE, Little Falls, MN)
- Admission: Free and open to the public
- RSVP: Seats are limited. 218-333-3027 or jstearns@lptv.org

Lakeland PBS is the only local public television station serving the citizens of north and central Minnesota.

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
Sunlight (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.

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
City, 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
Bible Study.....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. i. (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.



Join Us at the
Todd–Wadena DFL Caucus

When: Tuesday, February 3, 2026
Registration Starts: 6:30 PM
Meeting Starts: 7:00 PM

For Todd County Residents:
Browerville Community Center
653 Main St S
Browerville, MN 56438

For Wadena County Residents:
Wadena–Deer Elementary School
South Entrance
215 Colfax Ave SW
Wadena, MN 56482

Send email to ToddCountyDFL@gmail.com
or call 612-419-4033 for more information.

Come and help us choose our priorities and candidates!

Paid for by Todd-Wadena DFL, Browerville, MN

“UNSINKABLE”

William H. Goddard, “Wonderful Words of Life,” Hope Publishing Company

“When thou passest through the waters, I will be with thee; and through the rivers, they shall not overflow thee...” (Isaiah 43:2).

It is reported that on her deathbed, Mrs. Booth, wife of the founder of the Salvation Army said, “The waters are rising, but I am not sinking.” The reason she did not sink was because of spiritual buoyancy. All through her life the storms of life raged against her and her ministry. The truth is that no depth of water, nor height of waves ever sank a ship. A ship sinks when the inner braces give way, or the water outside the ship gets inside.

This is God’s promise to His children - make the inner braces secure, and you will not sink though the waters rise. He does not promise us smooth sailing through the years, but He does provide the assurance of His presence in

our boat.

When Jesus’ disciples were in the middle of a storm with their Master asleep in the stern, their plea was, “Master, don’t You care that we perish?” His reply was, “Peace be still.” He is with us through the tempest without and the turmoil within. You won’t sink as long as the water rising around you has not found its way into your boat.

PRAYER: Thank you, Lord, that you are with us in high tides and low, in good times and bad, in spring time and harvest. We thank You that You go through the waters of life with us to give buoyancy and a safe passage. In Jesus’ name. Amen.

--Submitted by Pastor Roy Miles, Staples Assembly of God

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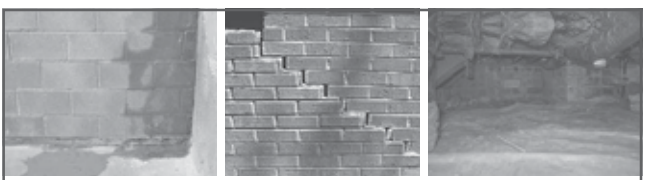
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Thank you for reading
the Staples World



Obituaries

Arlene Stenberg

Arlene June Stenberg passed away peacefully, surrounded by her family, on January 16, 2026, at her home in Wadena.

Funeral services will be held January 22, 2026, at 11:00 a.m. at Karvonen Funeral Home in Wadena. Visitation will be held one hour prior to services.

Burial will be at Motley Cemetery.

Arlene was born August 1, 1945, to Herman and Monta (Icenhower) McMillian in Redtop, Missouri. She was the youngest of six children.

Arlene graduated from high school in Fair Grove, MO. On October 24, 1968, she married Juel Stenberg, beginning a life together. Their marriage was blessed with two children, Missy and Jerel (Bubba). Juel and Arlene left Missouri in 1979 and moved to New York Mills. They had a farm and enjoyed country life. In 1987, they moved to Grygla continuing to raise sheep and cattle. In 1992, they moved to Motley, where they started their business, Stenberg's Supply, with their son, Jerel (Bubba).

Arlene had several hobbies she enjoyed over the years: puzzles, collecting recipes to share and coloring. She had a deep passion for gardening and canning, taking pride in teaching several grandchildren to can. Most of her favorite pastimes took place in the garden or the kitchen. Arlene also greatly enjoyed flowers. Her son built her a greenhouse of her own which was one of her prized possessions. She took a special delight in her flowers decorating her yard with potted flowers every summer.



Above all else, Arlene cherished her family deeply. Her warmth and generosity touched many lives.

Arlene will be remembered by one daughter, Missy (Wayne) Ament; five grandchildren, Ashley (Dan) Shingledecker, Emily (Brenden) Honebrink, Steph (Kevin) Nelson, Seth (Rachel) Ament and Kristyn (Jake) Rude; 17 great-grandchildren, Caleb, Logan, Olivia and Allyson Shingledecker, Adelle, Paxton and Natalie Honebrink, Wayne, Jedd, Hanse and Maevie Nelson, Arlo, Hank and Coy Ament, Colt, Archer and Remi Rude and one sister-in-law, Maxine McMillian.

Arlene is preceded in death by her parents; husband Juel; one son, Bubba, four brothers, Thoman, Hertha, Otis and Winston McMillian and one sister, Glenda Eagleburger.

"May her memory bring comfort to those who knew and loved her."

Those wishing to leave condolences and well wishes are encouraged to visit Arlene's obituary page at www.KarvonenFuneral-Home.com. Services are by Karvonen Funeral Home of Wadena.

w5c A00006B2026JN21

James Holub

James "Jim" Warren Holub, 57, of Oak Grove, passed away January 3, 2026 at his home.

Services will be held Saturday, January 31, at 11 a.m. at the Motley Free Methodist Church.

Jim was born February 12, 1968 to Larry and Sharon Holub in Wadena.

He attended school in Motley and was a proud Motley Rocket.

He served his country in the U. S. Navy, where he was on active duty from 1988 to 1992, followed by multiple years in the Navy Reserves. He served aboard the USS Wichita. During his service, Jim proudly became a Shellback on January 1, 1990, an accomplishment he deeply cherished.

Following his military service, Jim built a career in manufacturing sales. He was a passionate Minnesota sports fan, especially devoted to Golden Gopher Athletics before and during his daughter's academic time there. He also faithfully followed Naval Academy football, never missing the annual Army-Navy game and continuing a long-standing wager each year with his nephew, Jacob Holub. Outside of sports, Jim loved Bigfoot lore, 1980's hair bands and



spending time at the cabin and lake. He was dedicated to his Wordscape app and would be happy for everyone to know he reached level 10,853.

Jim is survived by his wife of 28 years, Kathy Holub; one daughter, Emma Holub; parents; one sister, Susan (Mike) Horstmann; many nieces and nephews; great-nieces and great-nephew.

Jim was preceded in death by one brother, Dale Holub, who passed away in 2023. The two are now reunited.

Flowers can be sent to Motley Free Methodist Church: 33 Wellwood St. Motley, MN 56466

Arrangements are by the Brenny Family Funeral Chapel, Staples.

w5c A00006B2026JN21

Charles Crews

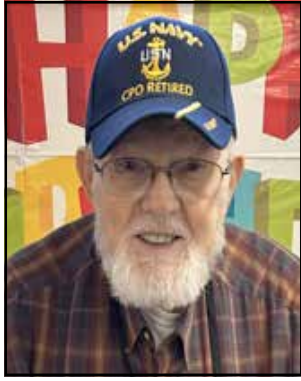
Charles "Charlie" Warren Crews, Jr., 95, of Staples passed away January 11, 2026.

Funeral services were held January 16 at the United Methodist Church, Staples.

Burial was at Minnesota State Veterans Cemetery, Camp Ripley, Little Falls.

Charlie was born September 27, 1930, to Helen (Jamison) Crews in Charlott, North Carolina. Charlie enlisted in the U.S. Navy on his 17th birthday, with the consent of his mother, in Augusta, Georgia. Charlie traveled the world on the USS Greenwich Bay (AVP-41), serving 22 years in the Navy. While serving, he met his wife, Pat, and they were married on February 20, 1954 in Alameda, California. Upon retiring from the Navy he went to work for 3M for 17 years ending his career as a division national sales manager. He also helped develop the national service center for 3M in St. Paul.

After his retirement he and Pat moved to Sylvan Shores near Staples. He couldn't stay retired long and started Service Technology, teaching start-up companies how to service their product. Charlie also brought computer technology to Todd County, installing computers at businesses and training people how to use them. Through the Initiative Foundation, his computer training pro-



grams for seniors were set up under the Healthy Communities Partnership for three years.

Charlie was very involved with the United Methodist Church in Staples. He was a certified lay speaker and would preach at the assisted living and Lakewood Health System Care Center in Staples. He was a member of the Minnesota Annual Conference of the Methodist Church for 10 years.

Charlie is survived by one son, William "Bill" (Terri) Crews of Bemidji; one granddaughter, Chelsea (Alex) Patterson and two great-granddaughters, Rae Crews and Nina Patterson.

He was preceded in death by his wife Beatrice "Pat" Crews; one daughter, Teresa Crews; mother, Helen Crews and two sisters, Helen Owens and Dorothy Staples.

w5x A00006B2026JN21

Joana Bettis

Joana Marie Bettis, 90, of Motley, arrived in Heaven January 11, 2026, while at Lakewood Health System Hospital in Staples.

Services were held January 15, at the Motley Free Methodist Church in Motley, with Pastor Jim Johnson officiating.

Interment was at Motley Public Cemetery in Motley.

Joana was born September 12, 1935 to Ernest and Edith (Shockey) Nickell in Dixon, Illinois. She was united in marriage to Stanley Bettis on November 22, 1953 in Lineville, Iowa.

Joana cherished her life on the farm and found great joy in baking, cooking, decorating and home interiors. She enjoyed her time with Avon and selling Longaberger baskets. Above all, Joana treasured spending time with her family, who were the center of her world.

Joana is survived by two sons, Mark (Sue) Bettis and Kirk (Anita) Bettis; one daughter, Tonya (Terry) Carlson; eight grandchildren; 13



great-grandchildren; three great-great-grandchildren and many nieces, nephews and extended family members who will miss her dearly.

She was preceded in death by her parents; beloved husband, Stanley and one brother, Jay Nickell.

"A special thank you to the doctors and nurses at Lakewood."

Arrangements were by Brenny Funeral Chapel in Staples.

w5c A00006B2026JN21

Lawrence Shake

Lawrence (Larry) Shake, 61, passed away peacefully January 12, 2026, at A Daughter's Love Care Center in Staples.

Memorial Services will be held Saturday, January 24, at 11:00 a.m. at the Swan Valley Lutheran Church, Motley. Visitation will begin at 10:00 a.m. Lunch will be served following the service.

Larry was born March 20, 1964, to Woodrow and Margie Shake. He grew up in the area, graduating from Staples High School. He worked at the Staples Golf Course for a number of years before being diagnosed with paralysis. Larry married Barbara Madson, they had two children, Sean and Naomi Shake.

Larry enjoyed the outdoors, being on his four-wheeler touring and visiting all the neighbors.

Larry is survived by his children, Sean Shake and Naomi Shake; two sisters,



Betty (Steve) Lorber and Denise (Steve) Bickford; grandchildren, nieces and nephews.

He is preceded in death by his parents; two brothers, Gary and Steve and three sisters, Emily, Jo and Sherry.

Larry was loved by his family and will be greatly missed.

Arrangements are by Brenny Family Funeral Chapel, Staples.

w5c A00006B2026JN21

Richard Koppes

Richard Koppes, 89, of Staples passed away January 11, 2026.

Mass of Christian Burial was held January 17, 2026 at Sacred Heart Catholic Church in Staples.

Graveside services were held at Evergreen Hill Cemetery, Staples.

Richard Edmund Koppes was born June 1, 1937, in Moran Township, to Raymond and Clara (Etzler) Koppes. He attended country school and helped on the family farm.

On June 27, 1959, he married Donna Mae Reger at Sacred Heart Catholic Church in Staples. They lived for a short time in Minneapolis, before buying a farm in Staples Township, where they raised four children, Jeff, Deanna, Doreen and Sherri. They were blessed to have 28 years of marriage. Donna passed away October 1, 1987. Richard married Jean Marie (Knox) Martin on October 8, 1993, at Sacred Heart Catholic Church, Staples. They were blessed to have 27 years of marriage. Jean passed away March 21, 2021.

Richard enjoyed hunting, fishing and trapping in his youth. Later, he enjoyed traveling, playing cards and was an excellent gardener. He was a farmer, steel fabricator and welder most of his life. He was proficient with a chain saw and was cutting wood and using his welding talents to build things, well into his 80's. He loved his family, was a faithful soul, who loved his Catholic faith, making a final pilgrimage



to the Shrine of Our Lady of Champion in Wisconsin, in June of 2025. He was a member of Sacred Heart Catholic Church in Staples.

His memory will be cherished by family and friends. Richard is survived by one son, Jeff (Kim) Koppes; three daughters, Deanna (Mike) Soukup, Doreen (Scott) Nelson, Sherri (Linus) Koval; four step-children, Ronald (Cheryl) Martin, Dale Martin, Mike (Mary) Martin and Patty (Tim) Wiebold; 15 grandchildren, 26 great-grandchildren, one brother-in-law, Paul Marte, Jr., one sister-in-law Elinor Reger and many nieces and nephews.

He is preceded in death by his parents; wife, Donna Koppes; wife, Jean Koppes; three brothers, Raymond, Jr. (Delores), Lawrence (Eileen), Harold, Jerold (Kaye); one sister, Marie Marte and one grandson, Mitchell Richard Koppes.

Arrangements were by Brenny Family Funeral Chapel, Staples.

w5c A00006B2026JN21

Bradley Mertens

Bradley Eugene Mertens, 75, went to meet the Lord on January 17, 2026 at the St. Cloud Hospital after battling a longtime illness.

Funeral services have been entrusted with Brenny Family Funeral Chapel, Staples.

Services were not available at press time.

w5x A00006B2026JN21



Kathryn Crews

Kathryn Crews, 89, passed away peacefully at her home on January 11, 2026, surrounded by her family.

Her family will hold a celebration of life in June 2026 in Fulda.

Kathryn will be laid to rest with her parents and younger brother in the Summit Lake Cemetery, Reading.

Kathryn Rachel Crews was born October 31, 1936, to Fred and Mabel Schumm in Graham Lakes Township near Kinbrae. Kathryn grew up on the family farm, attending local country school and graduating from Fulda High School. After graduation, Kathryn married Joseph Meyers, and they later divorced. Kathryn married Mel Morrison in 1978, then moved to Sylvan Shores, Brownville, in 1980. After Mel passed away Kathryn moved to Staples. Because of her declining health, Kathryn's family moved her to Havenwood of Buffalo in 2024. Havenwood provided her with the care she needed and she was closer to her family.

Kathryn's fondest memories of growing up near Kinbrae were the outdoor movies shown on the brick buildings and getting into a good deal of mischief with her siblings on the farm. She will always treasure her beloved dog, Daisy. Throughout her life she was a dedicated quilter, had many wonderful friends, was a member of the Staples



United Methodist Church, Staples Senior Citizen group, quilt clubs and more. Kathryn loved her time at Havenwood, making many new friends and was active in their many social activities.

Kathryn is survived by two sons, David (Cathy) Meyers of St. Cloud and Jim (Cheryl) Meyers of Eau Claire, WI; one daughter, Pat (Wendell) King of St. Bonifacius; six grandchildren; five great-grandchildren; two sisters and two brothers.

Kathryn was preceded in death by one daughter, Diane VanderVeen; one grandchild; one great-grandchild; her parents and two brothers.

Her family, friends and all who knew her will miss Kathryn. She was a kind and wonderful mother, grandmother and friend. Rest in peace, mom.

Kathryn requested donations in her honor be made to your local food bank or pet rescue.

w5c A00006B2026JN21

IN MEMORIUM

Richard Koppes

6/1/1937 - 1/11/2026

Touch Me Before I Fly

There's wonderous visions before my eyes.

The weight I feel is being lifted high.

There's no pain when I fly.

Touch me before I fly.

The peace that surrounds me cleanses me of fear.

The rays of God's light are so near.

Earthly bounds are at my will,

my love for you keeps me still.

Touch me before I fly.

Shed no tears when you see me fly,

there's so much glory in the sky.

There's no reasoning why,

just smile when you see me fly.

My soul will soar as I know

my heart lives on

in you forever more.

Your touch has given me

strength to fly.

~Kim Olsen Koppes

w5p

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Luna, Larson, Potter in double figures in win

The Staples-Motley girls basketball team beat Verndale 63-33 on Jan. 15, but also had a conference loss during the week, falling to Hawley 76-44 on Jan. 13.

Against Verndale, the Cardinals did most of their work inside, with the team only making one three point shot in the entire game. In the first half alone, Sophia Luna made six baskets, Addison Potter four, Chloe Larson three and Clara Moros three.

That build a 40-14 lead at halftime and although their offensive output was less in the second half, they still increased their lead to win 63-33.

Against Hawley, the Cardinals were facing a stingy defense and scored 12 points from the free throw line, with Larson hitting six of them. Luna made two three pointers in the first half, but Staples-Motley was unable to keep up and ended up losing 76-44.

Team results
Staples-Motley 63, Verndale 33

Scoring: Sophia Luna 19, Chloe Larson 15, Addison Potter 10, Clara Moros 8, Pam Lawrence 4, Joci Lenk 3, Isabel Cole 2, Hannah Cole 2

Staples-Motley 44, Hawley 76

Scoring: Larson 18, Luna 14, Maros 5, Lenk 3, Lawrence 2, Potter 1



Leah Greenwaldt

Cardinals never trail, win two

The Staples-Motley boys basketball team beat Osakis 63-59 on Jan. 12 and won against Wadena-Deer Creek 71-53 on Jan. 13. The Cardinals never trailed in either game, but one was close the whole way.

Against Osakis, Josiah Burton opened the game with a three point shot to give the team an early lead. Conner Kuhns and Noah Larson made baskets to keep building up. Eli Rutten made a three pointer with four minutes left in the first half to increase the lead to 12 at 26-14, but Osakis went on a run to make the half-time score 28-25.

In the second half, the Cardinals worked hard to maintain their position until the final two minutes. Peyton Jares made a basket and then passed to Burton for another basket and a 61-56 lead with less than two minutes left. After Osakis cut the score to two, both teams had multiple turnovers in the final minute. Finally, Carter Sarbaum made two free throws with five seconds left to make the

final score 63-59.

Against Wadena-Deer Creek, Staples-Motley never trailed, building a 20 point lead in the first half, with Rutten hitting three 3-pointers. They played pressure defense to force turnovers. Jares was playing a great game on both ends of the floor, converting on fast breaks and finding open teammates for baskets, but he went in for a layup and got injured in the first half and did not return. The team maintained their lead in the second half to win 71-53.

A game scheduled against conference leader Pelican Rapids was postponed due to weather.

Team results
Staples-Motley 71, Wadena-Deer Creek 53

Scoring: Noah Larson 18, Eli Rutten 17, Peyton Jares 9, Avandre Brandt 7, Josiah Burton 6, Atreyu Eagle Tail 5, Carter Sarbaum 4, Conner Kuhns 3, Evan Schultz 2

Rebound leaders: Burton 7, Larson 7, Sarbaum 3

Assists leaders: Brandt 6, Rutten 4, Sarbaum 2, Kuhns 2, Jares 2

Wrestlers keeping eye on postseason

With their conference tournament postponed because of weather, the Staples-Motley boys wrestling team got one week without a competition. Seniors Eli Greenwaldt and Riley Reese said the team would rather have wrestled the tournament instead of having three matches in three days this week. Looking at the season so far, the wrestlers said the team is on track with their goal to repeat as state champions.

"We're where we expected to be," said Greenwaldt, "it's been a great season."

"We're still improving," said Reese.

Greenwaldt pointed to how well the team has been doing despite multiple injuries to some of their top wrestlers. "The guys filling in are doing really well, that's a sign of improvement for the whole team," said Greenwaldt.

They said they expect the

team to be healthy by the time the section meet starts on Feb. 13.

The Cardinals have been ranked first in Class A this entire season and the two seniors think they will be able to maintain that ranking. Although some other Class A teams are rising in the rankings, the wrestlers said they are not focusing on any other team.

"We're doing our own thing, we are focusing on what we need to do," said Reese.

But at the same time, they know the rest of the state is looking up and going after them.

"We're not going to overlook anybody," said Reese.

The Heart O Lakes Conference is rescheduled for Friday, Jan. 23 at Frazee. Staples-Motley also has a dual scheduled for Thursday, Jan. 22 and a tournament at Bertha-Hewitt on Saturday, Jan. 24.

Cardinals host first ever girls wrestling dual meet at home

By Mark Anderson
Managing Editor

The Staples-Motley girls wrestling team hosted a four-team dual meet on Jan. 15, with teams from Bertha-Hewitt/Verndale/Parkers Prairie, Bemidji and Wadena-Deer Creek facing off in a series of dual matches.

In their third year as a girls program, this was the first dual match for the Cardinals. Some of the wrestlers found that dual matches have a different feel than the individual tournaments they had been going to.

Kalee Winter liked that "everyone was together instead of going everywhere for your matches."

"It felt different, it wasn't as long of a wait for your matches," said Leah Greenwaldt, "and the whole team was right there."

Maddie Kist said "You felt more confident going out with everyone on the team behind you."

Winter agreed, saying "You have a better feeling going out onto the mat."

Greenwaldt said once on the mat, the wrestling wasn't much different, but the girls did acknowledge it might have helped them beat some pretty good wrestlers during the team duals.

In their first match, the Cardinals beat BHVPP 36-12. Most of their points were scored on forfeits, with only three matches wrestled.

In the second match, W-DC had a full team with ranked wrestlers in the lineup. Kana Reese, Isabelle Dobson and Leah Greenwaldt got the team off to a 15-0 lead. After a pin by W-DC, Kyleena Rudlang got another win against a tough opponent. But W-DC had too many good wrestlers after that and went on to a 45-24 win.

Bemidji is ranked 9th in the state by theguillotine.com, but the Cardinals held their own in the matches that were wrestled. Greenwaldt had a tough opponent and emerged with a 5-3 win.

Maddie Kist, Kalee Winter and Anika Tureson all earned pins against good opponents to throw a scare into Bemidji, but the Cardinals didn't have enough spots filled and had to forfeit a couple of weights before losing 42-27.

Cardinal season

The Staples-Motley girls wrestling team is getting acknowledged in the state, with wrestlers Kana Reese and Leah Greenwaldt ranked in the top 10 individually. Reese is ranked sixth at 100 pounds and Greenwaldt is seventh at 112. Girls wrestling only has one class, so this is a statewide ranking of all schools large and small.

Having one class also creates a tough path to qualify for the state tournament, with Staples-Motley in Section 7, easily the toughest section in the state. The section has three ranked teams and multiple ranked individuals at every weight class.

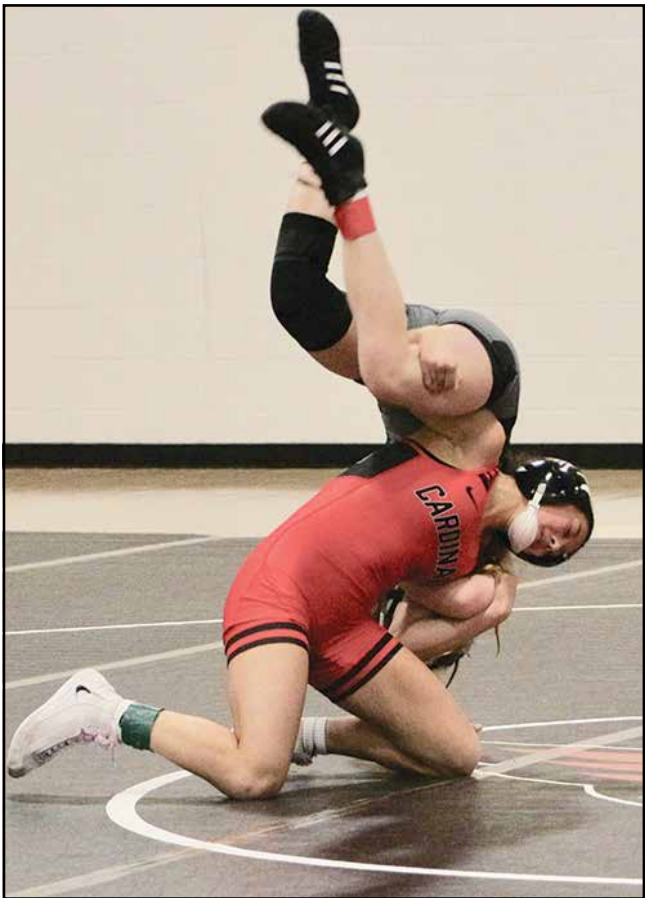
The Section 7 tournament is Friday and Saturday, Feb. 6-7, at Mora. This year girls will have a full individual state tournament with two wrestlers from each section qualifying for the state tournament. So far there is not a state team tournament for girls wrestling.

Team results

Staples-Motley Cardinal girls duals

Staples-Motley 36, Bertha-Hewitt/Verndale/Parkers Prairie 12

100 Kana Reese W fall, 106



Kana Reese

Isabelle Dobson W ff, 112 Leah Greenwaldt W ff 118 Maddie Kist W ff, 124 Lilly Czechowicz L fall, 130 Taylin Lind W ff, 136 Kalee Winter W ff, 142 double ff, 148 double ff, 155 double ff, 170 Aubrie Houchin L fall, 190 double ff, 235 double ff

Staples-Motley 24, Wadena-Deer Creek 45

100 Reese W fall, 106 Dobson W 22-4 tf, 112 Greenwaldt W 13-0, 118 Kist L fall, 124 Kyleena Rudlang W 7-2, 130 Charlie

Hoffman L fall, 136 Lind L fall, 142 Winter L fall, 148 ff, 155 ff, 170 Houchin W ff, 190 Anika Tureson L 3-0, 235 ff

Staples-Motley 27, Bemidji 42

100 Reese W ff, 106 Dobson L fall, 112 Greenwaldt W 5-3, 188 Kist W fall, 124 Czechowicz L fall, 130 Lind L fall, 136 Jocelyn Vogt L fall, 142 Winter W fall, 148 ff, 155 ff, 170 Tureson W fall, 190 Houchin L fall, 235 double ff



Maddie Kist



Isabelle Dobson

TCC continued from page 9a

team for the preparation of the new Paycom system which is rolling out for use and reminded of the Solid Waste Ribbon Cutting this afternoon.

County Commissioner's Report

The Commissioners reported on meetings and events attended.

Commissioner Becker attended meetings including AMC Conference, MRC, TWCC and Rainbow Rider.

Commissioner Denny has attended meetings as usual and expressed thanks to our emergency, facility and public works staff for their efforts from the recent weather event.

Commissioner Noska has attended meetings including TNT, TCDC, Wellness, and TWCC.

Commissioner Byers attended meetings including the Personnel, TCDC, SWCD, and Administrative.

Commissioner Neumann attended meetings including the MRC, AMC Conference, Solid Waste, Park Board, and Rainbow Rider.

Recess

On motion by Neumann and second by Becker, the meeting was recessed until December 30, 2025.

AUDITOR WARRANTS	
VENDOR NAME	\$ AMOUNT
ACITY OF LONG PRAIRIE	
JOHNSON FITNESS & WELLNESS	\$27,200.00
LONG PRAIRIE OIL COMPANY	3,867.00
MN TARP AND LINER	4,819.84
PETERS LAW OFFICE, P.A.	8,425.63
TODD CO AGRICULTURAL SOC	7,005.75
VERIZON	6,454.50
VIKING GARAGE DOOR CO	6,308.88
WEX BANK-SINCLAIR	4,253.00
ZIEGLER INC	2,170.52
27 PAYMENTS LESS	377,950.45
THAN \$2,000	12,987.41
BENJAMIN F MOON	3,131.40
CARD SERVICES	
COBORN'S	4,162.50
CENTRA CARE	12,714.58
DOUGLAS SWCD	36,636.10
FLEET SERVICES/WEX BANK	7,646.71
HEALTH PARTNERS	
DENTAL	9,272.34
IDEAL CONSTRUCTION LLC	5,430.00
LANDWEHR CONSTRUCTION INC	39,624.60
LARSON ABSTRACT COMPANY	2,208.25
LONG PRAIRIE OIL COMPANY	6,078.12
LONG PRAIRIE SANITATION INC	6,543.77
MN DEPT OF FINANCE	8,205.50
PRAIRIE LAKES MUNICIPAL SOLID WASTE AUTH	93,473.61
STEP	11,225.53
SWENSON AGGREGATE & CONSTRUCTION	14,679.05
TODD CO AUD-TREAS	8,778.00
VEOLIA ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES LLC	2,978.70
VOYANT COMMUNICATIONS,	

LLC	3,405.94
WIDSETH SMITH	
NOLTING INC	3,849.30
WONDERLICH/SCOTT A	7,725.00
40 PAYMENTS LESS	
THAN \$2,000	20,270.74
BROWERVILLE TRUCKWASH/ BIG BOYZ	9,549.55
COUNTIES PROVIDING TECHNOLOGY	7,240.00
GALLAGHER BENEFIT SERVICES INC	2,000.00
HAUER/JOSH	21,532.50
JOE RILEY CONSTRUCTION INC	70,417.49
JOSH'S AUTOBODY	6,906.55
LONG PRAIRIE OIL COMPANY	2,400.36
MADDEN GALANTER HANSEN, LLP	2,388.45
MINNESOTA POWER	19,530.73
MORRISON COUNTY	32,234.70
RAHN'S OIL & PROPANE	22,374.69
STAPLES ADVANTAGE	2,867.13
51 PAYMENTS LESS	
THAN \$2,000	21,316.29
BIG SWAN LAKE IMPROVEMENT ASSOCIATION	12,600.00
BLOMBECK CONSTRUCTION CO INC	3,315.00
CENTERPOINT ENERGY	2,357.13
CITY OF CLARISSA	4,200.00
COLBY/JACOB	4,381.80
EBSO INC	326,769.00
KUHL/LORI	9,520.00
LONG PRAIRIE OIL COMPANY	22,876.54
MASWCD	2,270.00
PHEASANTS FOREVER	3,250.00
29 PAYMENTS LESS	
THAN \$2,000	15,986.97
CITY OF BERTHA	23,657.87
CITY OF BROWERVILLE	26,605.20
CITY OF BURTRUM	2,900.19
CITY OF CLARISSA	25,282.96
CITY OF EAGLE BEND	34,307.90
CITY OF GREY EAGLE	19,303.48
CITY OF HEWITT	6,744.05
CITY OF	
LONG PRAIRIE	112,155.43
CITY OF OSAKIS	21,048.85
CITY OF STAPLES	206,713.22
REGION V DEVELOPMT COMMISSION	5,168.25
SAINT PAUL PORT AUTHORITY	4,368.56
SAUK RIVER WATER SHED DISTRICT	19,200.85
SCHOOL DISTRICT 213	
SCHOOL DISTRICT 2170	126,916.95
SCHOOL DISTRICT 2753	248,287.63
SCHOOL DISTRICT 2753	384,763.29
SCHOOL DISTRICT 486	84,124.97
SCHOOL DISTRICT 740	20,785.52
SCHOOL DISTRICT 743	
SCHOOL DISTRICT 786	241,921.01
SCHOOL DISTRICT 787	119,017.39
SCHOOL DISTRICT 818	250,356.28
TOWN OF BARTLETT	11,915.03
TOWN OF BERTHA	19,684.05
TOWN OF BIRCHDALE	26,884.68
TOWN OF BRUCE	69,185.61
TOWN OF BURLEENE	27,995.21
TOWN OF	14,993.78
BURNHAMVILLE	27,646.20
TOWN OF	
EAGLE VALLEY	29,669.25
TOWN OF FAWN LAKE	20,268.63

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Minimum Requirements: The ideal candidate will have two years of post-high school education or training with at least two years of experience in a similar position. Must have strong customer service skills, excellent oral/written communication, proficiency in Microsoft Word and Excel, ability to learn new software, and organizational abilities. All City of Staples employment is subject to background check.

Applications, cover letters and resumés will be accepted until February 2, 2026, or until filled. For more information and to apply, visit our website
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TOWN OF GERMANIA	19,215.61
TOWN OF GORDON	33,276.32
TOWN OF GREY EAGLE	33,860.17
TOWN OF HARTFORD	49,315.08
TOWN OF IONA	28,090.72
TOWN OF KANDOTA	17,569.57
TOWN OF LESLIE	23,453.44
TOWN OF LITTLE ELK	11,207.61
TOWN OF LITTLE SAUK	33,040.09
TOWN OF	
LONG PRAIRIE	29,080.39
TOWN OF MORAN	18,012.09
TOWN OF REYNOLDS	22,557.46
TOWN OF	
ROUND PRAIRIE	63,985.06
TOWN OF STAPLES	23,979.37
TOWN OF	
STOWE PRAIRIE	26,179.22
TOWN OF	
TURTLE CREEK	7,964.15
TOWN OF VILLARD	15,715.36
TOWN OF WARD	38,699.91
TOWN OF WEST UNION	25,303.03
TOWN OF WYKEHAM	45,125.26
10 PAYMENTS LESS	
THAN \$2,000	6,166.61
MN DEPT OF REVENUE	3,390.00
MN DEPT OF REVENUE	83,293.49
US BANK-CC	5,020.23
MN DEPT OF REVENUE \$	141,948.53
7 PAYMENTS LESS	
THAN \$2,000	4,210.32

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COMMISSIONER WARRANTS	
VENDOR NAME	\$ AMOUNT
A.W. RESEARCH LABORATORIES, INC.	\$3,165.00
CARGILL SALT DIVISION ..	22,578.47
CROSBY AND SONS CONSTRUCTION	33,278.16
DLT SOLUTIONS INC	6,107.70
FASTENAL	2,612.95
FORUM COMMUNICATIONS PRINTING	8,754.49
KEYL KXDL HOTROD RADIO	2,200.00
LAKES AREA BLASTING	2,750.00
LONG PRAIRIE LEADER	2,115.30
METAL CULVERTS INC.	23,724.00
NUSS TRUCK & EQUIPMENT	2,329.38
SHI CORP.	7,385.58
TODD SOIL & WATER CONS DIST	36,317.00
WIDSETH SMITH NOLTING INC.	6,791.80
60 PAYMENTS LESS THAN \$2,000	25,293.29
Total:	\$185,403.12
HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES WARRANTS	
VENDOR NAME	\$ AMOUNT
DHS - SWIFT	\$2,049.19

FOR SALE

305 Pets

SHITZU-BICHON PUPPIES: \$450. Go to link: my.gooddog.com/angies-teddy-bear-puppies-minnesota-minnesota-to-see-available-puppies-or-text-218-232-9362. 3-5p

610 Parcel for Sale

FOR SALE BY OWNER: Luann McGrane for \$85,225. Tenants in common with 3 other siblings. 1/4 parcel 01-0035600. Contact daughter, Christine, POA, 218-639-3173. 51tff

WANTED TO BUY

501 Miscellaneous

JUNK CARS & TRUCKS. 218-639-5509. 4-5c

REAL ESTATE

602 Apartments for Rent

FRONTIER TOWNHOMES

FOR RENTAL INFO CALL **218-296-5031**
Under new ownership

We are accepting applications for 2 and 3 bedroom townhomes in Staples, a community you can get attached to. Rent based on income. Now professionally managed by

**BRUTGER**
EQUITIES, INC.
Income guidelines apply.

Sunny Pines Apts. in Motley

Tenant must be income eligible, 62 years or older, handicapped or disabled. Heat, water, sewer, electric provided.

Call Rosie Talberg, Manager at: **320-468-2303**

EEO/AA

Vendor #18103	2,150.44
Ronald McDonald House	4,920.00
Rural MN CEP INC	15,271.50
Todd County Auditor	
Treasurer	15,096.10
USPS-POC	4,845.11
112 Payments less	
than \$2,000	46,987.26
HUBBARD'S HARDWARE	6,986.92
COST EFF HEALTH INS	2,950.00
WADENA COUNTY PUBLIC HEALTH	11,013.92
8 PAYMENTS LESS	
THAN \$2,000	5,253.89
Total: \$117,524.33	
VENDOR NAME \$ AMOUNT	
COMMUNITY AND FAMILY SRVS LLC	2,901.25
LUTHERAN SOCIAL SERVICE OF MN - ST PAUL	3,481.80
NEXUS-KINDRED FAMILY HEALING	3,757.88
NORTHERN PINES MENTAL HLTH CTR INC	2,034.00

PINE MANORS INC	2,400.00
#15442	2,289.60
STEP	5,193.76
#16359	2,170.20
WEST CENTRAL REG JUVENILE CTR	7,798.00
32 PAYMENTS LESS	
THAN \$2,000	18,019.77
Total: \$50,046.26	
On a motion by Neumann and second by Noska, the preceding minutes of the County Board meeting held December 16th, 2025 were duly approved by unanimous vote at the Todd County Board of Commissioners at the Regular Board Meeting held on December 30, 2025.	
Witness my hand and seal: /s/ on file: Bob Byers, County Board Chairperson /s/ on file: Denise Gaida, Todd County Auditor-Treasurer	5pnc

*SERVICE DIRECTORY*SERVICE DIRECTORY*SERVICE DIRECTORY*SERVICE DIRECTORY*SERVICE DIRECTORY*SERVICE DIRECTORY*SERVICE DIRECTORY

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- GEOTHERMAL
- NEW CONSTRUCTION
- REMODEL
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Ultimate Septic Service LLC
David Odden - Owner/Operator
Services:

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- Emergencies

Call **USS** for all your septic pumping needs!
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ultimateseptic-service@gmail.com

**Altrichter**
Excavation & Septic Service
218-575-2222

- Septic System Installation
- Camera Inspection, Tank Pumping and Cleaning

MN State Certified
6685 330th St., Cushing, MN. 56443

**LPS**
Inc.
Long Prairie Sanitation
Long Prairie, MN
218-631-3101 888-878-5578

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PROFESSIONAL

Mandi's Accounting Services
Tax Prep • Bookkeeping • Payroll • Financial Planning
Mandi Polito
Accountant **218-296-5006**
mandipolito1384@gmail.com
138 4th St., Staples, MN 56479
PO Box 95, Staples, MN 56479

Sellnow Law Office, P.A.
Thomas H. Sellnow*
sellnowt@sellnowlaw.com
Jason R. Sellnow
sellnowj@sellnowlaw.com
218-894-4618 • 133 4th St. NE, Staples
229 Central Ave., Long Prairie
320-732-1919 • Toll free: 877-297-1125
*Thomas Sellnow is a Real Property Law Specialist certified by Real Property Section of Minnesota State Bar Association.

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CONSTRUCTION

**IDEAL**
CONSTRUCTION LLC
Asphalt Paving • Seal Coating • Excavating • Driveways
Roads • Parking Lots • Site Prep • Gravel • Rock • Black Dirt
Fill • Peat • Ponds • Demolition • Hauling • Landscaping
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Excavating Inc.
Septics • Waterlines • Trenching • Basements • Retaining Walls
Landscaping & Site Preparation • Backhoe & Skid Loader Work
Sewer Pipe Cleaning and Steaming • Custom Pressure Washing
Equipment, Buildings, Driveways, etc. • Snow Plowing & Removal

*SERVICE DIRECTORY*SERVICE DIRECTORY*SERVICE DIRECTORY*SERVICE DIRECTORY*SERVICE DIRECTORY*SERVICE DIRECTORY*SERVICE DIRECTORY



CON'T
MINUTES OF THE
MEETING OF THE TODD
COUNTY BOARD OF
COMMISSIONERS HELD
DEC. 16, 2025

Planning & Zoning
On motion by Neumann and second by Denny, the following resolution was introduced and adopted by unanimous vote:

THE SAUK RIVER WATERSHED COLLABORATIVE WATERSHED BASED IMPLEMENTATION FUND (WBIF) REVISED FY2024

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

WHEREAS, the Sauk River CWMP called for the development and adoption of biennial work plans, to be completed by a Policy Committee established via the execution of a joint powers collaborative agreement amongst partnering entities implementing the Sauk River CWMP.

WHEREAS, Todd County entered into a joint powers collaborative agreement with partnering entities to implement the Sauk River

NOTICE OF
MORTGAGE
FORECLOSURE SALE

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

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

DATE OF MORTGAGE: April 29, 2025

ORIGINAL PRINCIPAL AMOUNT OF MORTGAGE: \$116,400.00

MORTGAGOR(S): Sondra Mevissen, as an individual
MORTGAGEE: Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc., as nominee for Zillow Home Loans, LLC

DATE AND PLACE OF FILING: Recorded on April 30, 2025 as Document Number A545637 in the Office of the County Recorder of Todd County, Minnesota.

ASSIGNMENTS OF MORTGAGE: Assigned to: PennyMac Loan Services, LLC by assignment recorded on October 17, 2025 as Document Number A548370 in the Office of the County Recorder of Todd County, Minnesota.

LEGAL DESCRIPTION OF PROPERTY: Lots 10, 11 and 12, Block 9, Townsite of Hewitt, according to the plat thereof on file and of record in the office of the County Recorder in and for Todd County, Minnesota.

STREET ADDRESS OF PROPERTY: 408 N MAIN ST, HEWITT, MN 56453

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

THE AMOUNT CLAIMED

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

CWMP, and under this agreement a Policy Committee was established to, amongst other duties, review and recommend approval of any modifications or additions to the biennial work plans to collaborative partner's governing boards.

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

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, Todd County hereby approves the submission of the Sauk River Watershed Collaborative's revised fiscal year 2024 workplan, attached as Exhibit 1, to the Minnesota Board of Water and Soil Resources.

ALSO, BE IT RESOLVED, Todd County adopts the revised fiscal year 2024 workplan, attached as Exhibit 1, upon approval of the Minnesota Board of Water and Soil Resources and the Sauk River Watershed Collaborative Fiscal Agent.

On motion by Denny and second by Noska, the following resolution was introduced and adopted by majority vote with Neumann against:

Final Plat Approval – "Brown

TO BE DUE ON THE MORTGAGE ON THE DATE OF THE NOTICE: \$123,012.38

TRANSACTION AGENT: Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc.

NAME OF MORTGAGE ORIGINATOR: Zillow Home Loans, LLC

RESIDENTIAL SERVICER: PennyMac Loan Services, LLC

TAX PARCEL IDENTIFICATION NUMBER: 35-0016100

TRANSACTION AGENT'S MORTGAGE IDENTIFICATION NUMBER: 100278200006378243

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

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

DATE AND TIME OF SALE: March 19, 2026 at 10:00 AM.

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

to pay the debt then secured by said mortgage and taxes, if any actually paid by the mortgagee, on the premises and the costs and disbursements allowed by law. The time allowed by law for redemption by said mortgagor(s), their personal representatives or assigns is six (6) months from the date

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

Bear North" Subdivision
WHEREAS, Applicant Barry and Debra Brown applied to subdivide a property owned by Jeffrey Myrum and Debra J. Myer-Myrum that is described as part of Section 28 of Turtle Creek with the plat to be known as "Brown Bear North",

WHEREAS, Brown Bear North consists of one lot; Block One, Lot 1, 2.23 acres located in Shoreland Recreational Development Zoning District in Turtle Creek Township,

WHEREAS, On September 9, 2025, the Todd County Planning Commission recommended the following property be considered for Subdivision pursuant to Todd County Subdivision Regulation and Ordinance:

That part of Lot 3, Block One, John Japp Estates First Addition, of record in the Office of the County Recorder in Todd County, Minnesota, lying southerly and westerly of the following described line:

Commencing at the southwest corner of said Lot 3; thence North 01 degrees 12 minutes 08 seconds West, plat bearing, 300.00 feet along the west line of said Lot 3 to the point of beginning of said line to be described; thence North 76 degrees 38 minutes 47 seconds East 327.33 feet; thence South 01 degrees 12 minutes 08 seconds

of sale.

TIME AND DATE TO VACATE PROPERTY: Unless said mortgage is reinstated or the property redeemed, or unless the time for redemption is reduced by judicial order, you must vacate the premises by 11:59 p.m. on September 21, 2026.

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

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

Dated: January 13, 2026

PENNYMAC LOAN SERVICES, LLC
Mortgagee

TROTT LAW, P.C.
By: /s/
N. Kibongni Fondungallah, Esq.
Samuel R. Coleman, Esq.
Alexa Marsh, Esq.
Attorneys for Mortgagee
25 Dale Street North
St. Paul, MN 55102
(651) 209-9760
(25-1247-FC01)

THIS IS A COMMUNICATION FROM A DEBT COLLECTOR.

5-10pnc

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

East 300.00 feet to the intersection with the south line of said Lot 3 and said line there terminating.

WHEREAS, On September 16, 2025, the Todd County Board of Commissioners considered the Preliminary Plat for the above described property and approved the Brown Bear North preliminary plat with no conditions.

WHEREAS, the Planning & Zoning Department has completed the necessary final plat review and find that all items required for final plat approval have been completed.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, the final plat of "Brown Bear North" be approved as presented.

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

1. Business signage shall not be placed within the road right of way.
2. Off-street parking shall be provided for all business traffic.
3. Applicant shall abide by all other applicable federal, state, and local standards.

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

1. Off-street parking shall be provided for all business traffic.
2. Business signage shall not be placed within the road right of way.
3. All vehicles, parts, and supplies must be stored in a manner that does not create public nuisance characteristics.
4. No more than six (6) automotive vehicles shall be on the site at any time. This includes vehicles for sale and being worked on.
5. All fluids and other hazardous wastes must be properly stored in an approved container and disposed of in a manner that is compliant with federal, state, and local regulations.
6. Applicant must abide by all other applicable federal, state, and local standards.

Health & Human Services

On motion by Becker and second by Neumann, the following motion was introduced and adopted by unanimous vote: Approve Northern Pines Purchase of Service Agreements renewal.

Solid Waste

On motion by Noska and second by Denny, the following motion was introduced and adopted by unanimous vote: Authorize the Solid Waste Department to issue licenses and permits for the following applicants: Long Prairie Sanitation, Waste Management, and G&T Sanitation.

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

A RESOLUTION TO APPROVE 2026 SOLID WASTE ENTERPRISE FUND BUDGET

WHEREAS, The Todd County Board of Commissioners is required to adopt an annual budget and certify it to the County Auditor.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, the Todd County Board of Commissioners hereby approves the following as the 2026 Budget for the Solid Waste Enterprise Fund of the County of Todd, Minnesota and directs that it be forwarded to the County Auditor.

SOLID WASTE ENTERPRISE FUND 2026 BUDGET
Description of Revenue Source
2026 Proposed Budget
Property Taxes and Penalties \$1,035,600
Licenses and Permits \$800
HHW Reimbursement & Stipend \$19,000
SCORE Grant \$88,000
Charges for Service \$2,050,000
Recyclables \$250,000
Equipment Disposal \$00
Revenue Total \$3,443,400

Description of Expense 2026
Proposed Budget
Personnel Services \$724,015
Services and Charges \$377,450
Supplies and Materials \$210,150
Capital Expenditures \$300,000
Tipping Fees \$1,775,000
Other Expenditures \$98,000
Expense Total \$3,484,615
BALANCE (REVENUE - EXPENSE) \$-41,215

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

RESOLUTION
ACKNOWLEDGING DNR NOTICE AND DECLARING NO COUNTY ACTION

WHEREAS, the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (DNR) notified Todd County on October 22, 2025, that Minn. Stat. § 97B.318 (the shotgun zone) will be repealed on January 1, 2026; and

WHEREAS, beginning January 1, 2026, counties within the former shotgun zone may choose to adopt an ordinance limiting the types of firearms used to take deer under Minn. Stat. § 97B.031, subd. 7; and

WHEREAS, the DNR provided Todd County with this information and a sample ordinance for reference only.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Todd County Board of Commissioners acknowledges receipt of the DNR's notice; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Todd County Board of Commissioners is not taking any action to adopt an ordinance or implement any firearm restrictions at this time; and
BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, that this Resolution is adopted to provide clarity to the public regarding the County's position.

Finance Committee

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

A RESOLUTION ADOPTING THE 2026 FINAL LEVY

WHEREAS, the Laws of the State of Minnesota direct that the Todd County Board of Commissioners are required to approve by resolution a

preliminary levy no later than September 30th annually, and;

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

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Todd County Board of Commissioners approves the following as the 2026 Final Levy for the County of Todd, Minnesota, for the property taxes payable in 2026 & directs that it be forwarded to the County Auditor.

Certified Levy Program Aid
Local Levy
General Revenue
14,219,896.00 2,018,099.00
12,201,797.00
Road & Bridge 2,262,357.00
2,262,357.00
Human Services 4,137,488.00
4,137,488.00
Public Health 282,945.00
282,945.00
Comp Water 5,360.00
5,360.00
Regional Library 362,537.00
362,537.00
Bonded Indebtedness
419,984.00 419,984.00
County Fair 20,000.00
20,000.00
Parks & Trails 25,000.00
25,000.00
Total 21,735,567.00
2,018,099.00 19,717,468.00

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

A RESOLUTION TO APPROVE 2026 COUNTY BUDGET

WHEREAS, The Todd County Board of Commissioners are required to adopt an annual budget and certify it to the County Auditor, and;

WHEREAS, the County Board of Commissioners have had an opportunity to discuss the operations costs and revenues of the County for fiscal year 2026;

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, the Todd County Board of Commissioners hereby approve the following as the 2026 Budget for the County of Todd, Minnesota and directs that it be forwarded to the County Auditor.

REVENUES 2025 2026
Property tax 18,804,881

4-5pnc

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

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

NOTICE
MEADOWBROOK
TOWNSHIP

Board of Audit

The Board of Audit for Meadowbrook Township will meet at 7:45 p.m. on Tuesday, February 3, 2026 at the Leader Community Hall, immediately following the monthly town board meeting.

Ty W. Peterson, Clerk
Meadowbrook Township

NOTICE
BYRON TOWNSHIP
MEETING and
BOARD OF AUDIT

Byron Township will hold their regular meeting Monday, February 2 at 7:00 p.m. at the Leader Hall followed by the Board of Audit meeting. For questions call 218-839-8611.

Becki Rassler, Clerk
Byron Township

5pnc

NOTICE
APPLICATION
TO MINNESOTA
POLLUTION CONTROL
AGENCY
Kass Krest, LLP

Notice is hereby given per Minnesota Statutes, Chapter 116, that Kass Krest, LLC has made an application to the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency/County of Cass to do an expansion on an existing livestock feedlot.

The existing feedlot in the SW ¼ of the SW

19,710,868
State General Purpose Aid 2,404,142 2,269,803
Other taxes 1,428,917 1,631,948
Licenses & Permits 174,800
Federal Grants 4,068,850 5,159,456
State Aids 12,243,428 12,323,962
Local Grants 0 0
Charges for Service 2,670,927 2,494,514
Misc Revenue 2,997,164 3,321,751
Interest on Investments 251,000 250,000
Other Financing Sources 28,000 28,500
Transfers 5,000 5,000
Total Revenue & Other Source 45,077,109 47,370,602

EXPENDITURES
General Government 7,236,005 8,153,129
Public safety 6,186,128 6,601,372
Highway/Construction 9,119,710 10,242,034
Streets & Highways (excluding Constr) 4,531,355 4,687,327
Human Services 10,493,622 10,740,262
Health 2,915,750 2,876,079
Culture and Recreation 448,734 481,592
Conservation of Nat Resources 1,628,853 1,650,590
Economic Development 99,458 107,800
Gen Debt Service 415,354 419,984
Capital Outlay 1,682,736 746,100
Transfers 619,404 664,333
Other Fiscal Charges 0 0
Total Expenditures & other uses: 45,377,109 47,370,602
Budget Balance 300,000 0
County Auditor-Treasurer's Report

The County Auditor-Treasurer summarized the TNT meeting, made note that the ag tax settlement payments have been balanced and has attended the AMC Annual Conference.

County Coordinator's Report

The County Coordinator expressed thanks to the Admin
See **TCC** con't on page 8a

Public Notices

¼ of Section 10 in Byron Township, in Cass County, Minnesota. There are currently four existing barns on this site. The existing farrowing barn 1 is a total confinement barn 252' x 181' with a 2' below barn concrete manure storage area that pull plugs to the gestation barn. This barn has a capacity of 416 head of swine weighing over 300 pounds or 166.4 animal units. The existing farrowing barn 2 is a total confinement barn 197' x 181' with a 2' below barn concrete manure storage area that pull plugs to the gestation barn. This barn has a capacity of 416 head of swine weighing over 300 pounds or 166.4 animal units. The existing gestation barn 1 is a total confinement barn 573' x 122' with an 8' below barn concrete manure storage area. This barn has a capacity of 2,080 swine weighing over 300 pounds or 832 animal units. The existing gestation barn 2 is a total confinement barn 630' x 122' with an 8' below barn concrete manure storage area. This barn has a capacity of 2,080 head of swine weighing over 300 pounds or 832 animal units. The existing site currently has 4,992 heads of swine weighing over 300 pounds or 1,996.8 animal units.

The proposed new gilt development barn will be a total confinement barn 364' x 102'6" with an 8' below barn concrete manure storage area. This barn will have a capacity of 2,100 head of swine weighing 55-300 pounds or 630 animal units and 696 head of swine weighing over 300 pounds or 278.4 animal units. This expansion will have a total of 908.4 animal units.

After construction, the new capacity will be 5,688 head of swine weighing over 300 pounds and 2,100 head of swine 55-300 pounds for a total of 2,905.2 animal units.

This publication shall constitute as notice to each resident and each owner of real property within 5,000 feet of the perimeter of the proposed feedlot, as required by Minnesota State Law.

Estimated timeframe of construction: August 2026 - November 2026

Estimated timeframe of occupancy: December 2026 - February 2027

Kass Krest, LLP
1275 Highway 15 South
Fairmont, MN 56031

5pnc

Keep an eye on radon

From Todd County Health and Human Services

What is radon?
Radon is a colorless and odorless gas that comes from the soil. The gas can accumulate in the home. Radon gas decays into fine particles that are radioactive. When inhaled, these fine particles can damage the lungs. Exposure to radon over a long period of time can lead to lung cancer. It is estimated that 21,000 people die each year in the United States from lung cancer due to radon

exposure. A radon test is the only way to know how much radon is in your home. Radon can be reduced with a mitigation system.

Where does radon come from?

Radon is produced from the natural decay of uranium and radium, found in rocks and soil. Uranium breaks down to radium, and radium eventually decays into the gas radon. Radon gas is in the soil and common throughout Minnesota. Because soil is porous, radon moves up from the soil and into the home. It can then accumu-

late in the air and become a health concern.

Radon in Minnesota

Two in five homes have high radon. Radon is a serious public health concern in Minnesota. The average radon level in Minnesota is more than three times higher than the U.S. radon level. More than two in five homes have radon levels that pose a significant health risk.

For more information visit: <https://www.health.state.mn.us/communities/environment/air/radon/index.html>

REFERENDUM continued from page 1a

School building plan to modernize classrooms, expand career opportunities

rooms, and exterior walls.

- Update Centennial Auditorium, football field facilities, and track.

“This referendum reflects career preparation and intentional maintenance of our existing buildings, which our community has repeatedly asked us to prioritize,” said Superintendent Shane Tappe. “We’re proud to have developed a plan that will improve safety, modernize classrooms, and expand career opportunities without increasing taxes for our residents.”

The proposed referendum, if approved, the current school property tax rate will stay the same. It would be tax-neutral because new debt from the



Staples-Motley School District logo for the school referendum.

referendum will replace old debt that is expiring.

SpreadingOurWings.org includes proposed blueprints, plan details, answers to frequently asked questions, and instructions

for where and when to vote on or before April 14.

Residents with questions can contact the district by completing the connect form at SpreadingOurWings.org/connect.



Youth team tournament

At the Staples-Motley youth wrestling team tournament on Jan. 17, the Cardinals were able to get a close-up

view of their teammates competing, from youth to older elementary students. (Staples World photos by Mark Anderson)



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