

Inside this issue:

Wrestlers place at The Clash
Girls basketball wins
Motley lights contest winners



Haines/Dunbar Family

Lofthus/Perish Family

Wednesday, January 7, 2026

Staples World

Staples, Minnesota

\$1²⁵

Escape Room at Staples Library

The Underwater Escape Room is open Jan. 5 to Feb. 28 at the Staples Library. Teams have 30 minutes to solve all the clues and find the missing gold medallion. The group that completes the challenge in the shortest amount of time will win a \$25 pizza party. Call the library at 218-894-1401 to register for a time slot. For ages 16 to adults; limit four per group; free and fun. Sponsored by the Staples Friends of the Library. (Submitted photos)

Lakewood saw 518 births in 2025

The final numbers are in and 2025 was a record-breaking year for the Lakewood Health System OB team, with 518 babies delivered in 2025, surpassing the previous record of 515 in 2023. That is an average of 1.4 children born in Staples every day during 2025. Following are some of the statistics from Lakewood Health System births in 2025:

- 260 boys and 258 girls
- 9 sets of twins
- Busiest month: August with 57 deliveries (7 in one day)
- Quietest month: February with 32 deliveries
- Top baby names of 2025 at Lakewood:
 - Boys: 1. Levi, 2. Oliver, 3. Weston
 - Girls: 1. Oaklynn, 2. Nora, 3. Evelyn



New Year baby didn't take long to arrive

Born at 1:34 a.m. on January 1, 2026, just an hour and a half into the new year, Lakewood Health System's New Year's baby, Lainey Aveline, was welcomed into the world by proud parents Annika and Zachary Miklos of Little Falls. She was born weighing 7 pounds, 13 ounces and measuring 21 inches. The delivering provider was Dr. Adrienne Moen, assisted by registered nurse Missi Ironwood. To celebrate Lainey's birth, the Lakewood Health System Foundation and Piecemakers Quilt Club of Staples presented gifts to the family in honor of the new year. The Foundation gave a gift basket of items prepared by The Shoppe (Lakewood's gift shop) and Longbella Drug by Lakewood, and the Piecemakers Quilt Club gave a beautiful handmade baby quilt, prepared just for the first baby of 2026. Pictured are Amy Monson, RN; Annika, Lainey and Zachary; and Dr. Adrienne Moen. Not pictured, Missi Ironwood, RN. (Photo by Tiff Lorber, health unit coordinator/OB tech)



Weather

2026

This Week's Forecast

	High	Low	Cond.
Jan. 7	38	25	P. Cloudy
Jan. 8	36	20	M. Sunny
Jan. 9	33	18	M. Cloudy
Jan. 10	22	10	Cloudy
Jan. 11	23	19	P. Cloudy
Jan. 12	34	18	P. Sunny
Jan. 13	23	17	M. Cloudy

Last Year, 2025

	High	Low	Cond.
Jan. 7	16°	7	M. Sunny
Jan. 8	15	-2	M. Sunny
Jan. 9	26	10	Cloudy
Jan. 10	21	16	Cloudy
Jan. 11	20	10	Cloudy
Jan. 12	15	10	Cloudy
Jan. 13	-2	-10	Cloudy

Average Temps:
H = 21° Low = 4°

Compiled by
Dale Hausmann,
WCCO's Staples area
Weatherwatcher

Public Notices

ISD #2170 9A

City of Staples 9A

Todd BOA 9A

Obituaries

Mavis Galligher

Randy Smith

Daniel Spencer

Staples City Council discusses street assessments for 4th Street NE project

By Mark Anderson
Managing Editor

Several members of the public attended the Staples City Council meeting on Dec. 23, to learn about the 4th Street NE reconstruction project and the special assessments that will be applied to properties along the street.

A representative of Bolton & Menk engineering firm told the council about the project. It will be a complete reconstruction of 4th Street NE, from 3rd Ave.

NE to Warner Road. It will include new sidewalks and infrastructure along the road, including water lines, storm sewer, water mains and street lights. The sidewalk on the west side will go all the way to Warner Road.

The council approved resolutions ording the project to move forward, including preparation of plans and authorizing construction bidding. The bids are expected to be open later in January. The bids will be awarded in Feb. or March,

with construction to start in April or May.

The total cost of the project is expected to be \$7,433,000, with some costs being split with Todd County, such as storm sewers.

Costs for the project will be assessed to landowners along the route. Costs according to the city's assessment policy should mean a cost of \$18.19 per foot for street, \$11.56 for sidewalk and \$2.09 per square foot for driveways. The engineers did have a a

cost estimate for each property, but it will depend on final costs.

Several of the members of the public asked if there would be new water, sewer or electric lines put in to properties that don't need it. City Administrator Jerel Nelsen said they will speak with each landowner to find out their needs. There are a few empty lots on the street, Nelsen said if they are thinking of building there, they might want to put in a

See **COUNCIL** on page 10a



Colorful faces in Motley

Thanks to the efforts of Bruce Brotherton, Public Works Director in Motley, two new colorful faces greeted passers-by during the recent holiday season. Santa Claus, above, is located on the water plant in Motley and the Grinch, below, is located next door to Santa, on the old water plant. (Submitted photos)

Holiday lights contest winners in Motley

A holiday lighting contest, sponsored by the Motley Lions and Motley Community Events Organization, was held recently in the City of Motley. Winners included:

- AutoSmith - Best Decorated Business. Located at Hwy 10 S.
- Bryan Stevens - Best Overall Decorations. Located at Eledredge St. E.
- Best Use of Lights - Marinell Philipp. Located at Beaulieu St. W.

Each of the winners received a certificate and \$100.



Best Decorated Business



Best Overall Decorations



Best Use of Lights

Motley area law enforcement

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

Dec. 28 - Morrison County deputies were dispatched to a domestic at the 2100 block of White Pine Ln., Motley.

Dec. 27 - The MCSO received a report of an ATV that fell through ice on the east side of Lake Shamin-eau in Motley. The responding deputy reported there were no injuries and that everyone involved was safe and made it ashore. They also were able to get the side by side out.



A pine tree frames a snowplow on a snowy day in Staples. (Staples World photo by Mark Anderson)



Lions donate to SM Hall of Fame

The Staples Host Lions recently donated \$1,000 to the Staples-Motley Athletic Hall of Fame. Pictured, from left, are Mike Hajek, SM Athletic Hall of Fame volunteer; and Lion President Bob Schafer. (Staples World photo by Dawn Timbs)



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Legislators call for governor to resign

By Mike Wiener
State Representative

I joined several of my Republican colleagues in the House and Senate in calling on Governor Tim Walz to resign following alarming new information about widespread fraud in Minnesota’s Medicaid waiver programs. According to First Assistant U.S. Attorney Joe Thompson, half or more of the \$18 billion paid through 14 waiver programs during the Walz administration may be fraudulent. These revelations raise serious concerns about leadership, accountability, and the governor’s responsibility to oversee his administration and protect taxpayer dollars intended to serve Minnesota’s most vulnerable residents.

Below is a copy of the release:

“A group of Minnesota House and Senate Republicans called on Gov. Tim Walz to resign today after First Assistant U.S. Attorney Joe Thompson said that half or more of the \$18 billion paid through 14 Medicaid waiver programs during

Walz’s administration could be fraudulent.

Minnesota State Senators Bill Lieske (Lonsdale) and Nathan Wesenberg (Little Falls), and State Representatives Marj Fogelman (Fulda), Drew Roach (Farmington) and Mike Wiener (Long Prairie), pointed to Article 8, Section 6 of the Minnesota Constitution, which lists serious malfeasance or nonfeasance in the performance of official duties as grounds for recalling executive or inferior officers. The legislators said they are not launching a recall effort against Gov. Tim Walz but believe this constitutional standard also supports resignation.

In a joint statement, the legislators said:

“Minnesotans have been watching the fraud crisis get worse and worse for years. It has gone on long enough. This is not about politics or stunts, and we do not make a call like this lightly. The office of the governor deserves respect, and we have tried to give Gov. Walz time to act.

“But leadership means doing the right thing even when it is difficult, which

is why we are calling on Gov. Walz to resign. We are talking about billions of dollars in fraud that should have gone to vulnerable Minnesotans. The red flags were everywhere. Yet, year after year the fraud kept growing, and year after year, nothing changed.

“People in our districts raise this issue constantly. It is the number one issue we hear about. They want to know why nobody is being held accountable. They want to know when somebody is going to fix it. And they want to know why the governor isn’t resigning.

“What we are seeing from the governor is what nonfeasance looks like. When a governor fails to do what he is required to do, when he watches a crisis spiral out of control and does nothing to stop it, that is nonfeasance. The governor had a duty to oversee his administration and protect these programs. He failed. There needs to be consequences.

“For the good of the state, Gov. Walz should step aside. Minnesota needs accountability, a reset, and new leadership that can get us back on the right track.”

Participating in civic life is our duty as citizens

By Lee H. Hamilton
Hamilton Lugar School of
Global and International
Studies

It’s a fundamental premise of American democracy that our elected representatives will do what we expect them to do. That doesn’t mean we can dictate every action they take. Overall, however, their job is to represent their constituents, not anyone else.

But here’s the catch. Politicians can only do what we want if they know what that is. Representative government is only effective when we take seriously the duty of citizenship. That means we need to inform ourselves, articulate our views, and make clear what we value.

I’ve always been impressed that many Americans want to do this. We volunteer in our communities, vote in elections and contribute to charities. Many of us attend government meetings, write letters to our representatives and respectfully share our views with friends and strangers. This engagement is at the heart of our democracy. It’s what has made America a great nation and made our system of government a model for the world.

One of the great pleasures of my tenure in Congress was seeing how ordinary people could make a difference in their small towns and rural communities. In my southeastern Indiana district, residents often put a great deal of effort

into improving infrastructure. Farmers took the lead in safeguarding the local watershed. Nurses, doctors and patients collaborated to strengthen health care. These efforts were usually nonpartisan and were led by people who knew the community. They didn’t always succeed, but often they energized supporters and produced positive results.

They were a good example of public virtue, the idea that we have a duty to put the common good ahead of their own self-interest. America’s founders wrote often about public virtue and believed it was essential for citizens, not just for our leaders. Practicing citizenship can take work, however, and it’s getting harder. Most people, understandably, are focused on earning a living and caring for their families. They may not have time for much else.

Even being an informed voter, a cornerstone of citizenship, has become challenging in this era of partisan news, pervasive social media and online. Paradoxically, as news and opinion sources proliferate, it can be harder to find information that’s reliable. It’s gotten so bad that the fact-checking organization Politifact dropped its tradition of identifying a “lie of the year” and declared 2025 to be “the year of the lie”. Being a citizen also means understanding how government operates, and it’s concerning that many Americans seem uninformed

about such basics as the three branches of government and the workings of Congress.

As I suggested, the duty of citizenship includes making our views known. If our representatives don’t hear from us, they are unlikely to do what we want. It may seem that politicians only listen to party insiders and lobbyists, or that they only hear those with the loudest voices or the most money. I can assure you that’s not the case.

You can see this in a recent example from Indiana. State lawmakers came under intense pressure from President Donald Trump to redraw congressional districts to give his party an advantage in the 2026 elections. The legislature is overwhelmingly Republican, but it rejected the idea. State legislators listened to the voters, who didn’t want mid-decade redistricting.

Those legislators and the constituents who contacted them were demonstrating public virtue, as were the local leaders whose efforts I described earlier in this column. They put mutual interest ahead of partisanship, just as the founders hoped that future Americans would do.

Engaging in civic life may seem like a burden, but it’s our duty as citizens. Active citizenship is essential for our system of government to work. Without it, there is no way we will find the public-spirited leaders that we need.

Quote of the week

“The greatest enemy of truth is not the lie... but the myth.”
— John F. Kennedy

DCYF conducts ongoing on-site compliance reviews for CCAP

From Minnesota Department of Children,
Youth and Families (DCYF)

DCYF’s Office of Inspector General (OIG) has a team of investigators who conduct regular oversight into all providers participating in CCAP.

Additionally, DCYF investigators work closely with law enforcement, county partners, and community members to identify, investigate, and stop fraudulent activity. After thorough investigation, the agency can take actions such as issuing correction orders, recouping funds, or disqualifying providers from CCAP. DCYF can stop payments during the investigation if there is credible evidence of fraud. The department works closely with law enforcement and refers cases for criminal investigation where fraud is involved.

DCYF currently has 55 open investigations involving providers receiving CCAP funding.

Investigations can range from a one-time compliance check — observing classrooms and reviewing attendance against billing — to longer, in-depth reviews comparing children present with billing records.

For example, in a recent case, OIG investigators used surveillance to confirm that the number of children entering a center over time did not match submitted billing records. The provider and controlling individual were then disqualified from CCAP and other publicly funded DCYF programs. This disqualification was shared with state and county agencies for appropriate follow-up.

OIG also operates the Early and Often program, working with licensing staff to provide technical assistance and conduct frequent visits to newly licensed centers to ensure compliance with licensing and billing requirements. Records reviewed during these visits can trigger further investigation if deficiencies are not corrected.

Additionally, a data analytics team monitors payment data for irregularities that may indicate fraud.

Licensing staff conduct annual unannounced visits to each center, using a supplemental checklist to identify potential concerns and refer them to investigators.

If CCAP payments are suspended, both parents and providers are notified through the CCAP eligibility and payment system. Parent notices include guidance on selecting a new provider through ParentAware.org.

Viral video

As part of our ongoing commitment to oversight, OIG investigators conducted on-site compliance checks at nine child care centers referenced in a recently circulated video.

Investigators confirmed the centers were operating as expected, gathered evidence and initiated further review. Children were present at all sites except for one – that site, was not yet open for families for the day when inspectors arrived.

Quality Learning Child Care Center: On Dec. 19, 2025, DCYF was made aware that Quality Learning child care center intended to voluntarily close, a statement that DCYF Commissioner Tikki Brown referenced during a Dec. 29 press conference. The closure announcement earlier in the month was not the result of any action taken by DCYF. When licensing investigators visited the center on Dec. 29, they learned the facility had chosen to remain open.

The child care centers referenced in the online video received the following CCAP funding in fiscal year 2025: Super Kids Day-care Center, \$471,787; Future Leaders Early Learning Center, \$3.68 million; Quality Learning Centers, \$1.9 million; Tayo Day-care, \$1.09 million; Minnesota Child Care Center, \$2.67 million; Mini Child Care Center, \$1.6 million; Sweet Angel Child Care, \$1.54 million; ABC Learning Center, \$1.04 million; Minnesota Best Child Care Center, \$3.4 million; Mako Child Care Center has been closed since 2022

DCYF currently has ongoing investigations at four of the centers.

Unvetted claims impact families and investigations

DCYF remains committed to fact-based reviews that stop fraud, protect children, support families, and minimize disruption to communities that rely on these essential services.

Distribution of unvetted or deceptive claims and misuse of tip lines can interfere with investigations, create safety risks for families, providers, and employers, and has contributed to harmful discourse about Minnesota’s immigrant communities.

If you have concerns about potential fraud at a particular child care center, please report your concerns so the tip can be investigated. Doing so ensures providers who have committed fraud may be thoroughly investigated to ensure all administrative and criminal actions can be pursued.

Somali population in Willmar voices concerns

By Heather Close
The Rural Blog

Over the past 30 years, the small farming town of Willmar, Minnesota, has become home to Somali families fleeing civil war and famine. The community of roughly 20,000 residents has welcomed so many Somalis that “a lively stretch downtown is called ‘Little Mogadishu’ because Somalis run more than a dozen storefront businesses,” reports Joe Barretrt of The

Wall Street Journal.

Despite their dedication to family and entrepreneurial contribution, many Willmar Somalis are afraid to leave their homes after “President Donald Trump lashed out against immigrants from Somalia, calling them ‘garbage’ and saying he doesn’t want them in the U.S.,” Barrett writes. U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement agents have reportedly intensified raids in Minnesota after Trump’s comments.

Somalis across Minnesota have already been “shaken by a sprawling fraud scandal that has put the state’s Somali community in the national spotlight and drawn Trump’s ire,” Barrett explains. Federal prosecutors say dozens of people -- almost all of whom are from the Somali community -- used fake

businesses to steal millions from the Federal Child Nutrition Program, beginning in April 2020.

Willmar leaders don’t see the scandal as a fair representation of the Somali population living in the U.S. Willmar’s mayor, Doug Reese, told Barrett, “I can honestly say I haven’t encountered any bad Somalis. I mean, there’s probably some, but by and large, they’re good people.”

If Willmar’s Somalis were forced to leave, it would deeply wound the town’s economy. Rollie Nissen, a 79-year-old Willmar Republican leader, told Barrett, “I don’t think [Trump] should be painting with a broad brush. We should get rid of the people who are here illegally, not ship everybody back to Somalia or Mexico or Venezuela.”

Quote of the week

“You do not lead by hitting people over the head — that’s assault, not leadership.”
— Dwight D. Eisenhower

Quote of the week

“Our lives begin to end the day we become silent about things that matter.”
— Martin Luther King Jr.

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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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Lions Club donations

The Staples Host Lions recently donated \$400 to the Staples '93 Lions for their childhood cancer blankets, and another \$250 for their Christmas for Kids project. Above, from left, are Staples '93 Lion Joann Schornack and Staples Host Lion President Bob Schafer. Below, from left, are Staples '93 Lion Donna Shaw (co-chair of the Christmas for Kids event) and Lion President Bob Schafer. (Staples World photos by Dawn Timbs)



Staples Host Lions donate

The Staples Host Lions recently donated \$500 to the Staples Area Men's Chorus (SAMC) and \$200 to Sourcewell for their Students of Character scholarship fund. Above, from left, are SAMC member Keith Porter and Lion President Bob Schafer. Below, from left, are Shari Steer, from Sourcewell, and Lion President Bob Schafer. (Staples World photos by Dawn Timbs)



Mark Your Calendar

- Jan. 8**
'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. 8, 7 - 9:30 p.m., at St. Michael's Church, 280 1st Ave. S., Motley. Charley Huhtala, caller. For info., 612-743-3480.
- Jan. 9**
WOMEN'S OPEN AA RECOVERY MEETING Fridays in per-
- son, 10:30 a.m., Motley Free Methodist Church (lower level), 33 Wellwood St. E. Motley. All women welcome.

Jan. 11
CELEBRATE RECOVERY GROUP MEETINGS Sundays, 6 p.m., at Motley Free Methodist Church, 33 Wellwood St. E., Motley.
- Jan. 13**
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.



Christmas vendors at CLC

Vendors selling gifts and Christmas items were a new feature at the Polar Xpress event at Central Lakes College in Staples in December. Organizers estimated around 1,000 people came to the event each day. The vendors tables lined the hallways of the college campus building, with a large meeting room also filled with items. (Staples World photo by Mark Anderson)



Christmas carols for big crowd

Members of the Central Minnesota Boys Choir serenaded the crowd that the Polar Xpress event this December, singing traditional carols and some old-fashioned Christmas music. Choir director is Brian Sterriker. (Staples World photo by Mark Anderson)

CLC accepting patients for dental hygiene program

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

Under the supervision of licensed dentists and dental hygiene faculty, students will provide a wide range of preventive services, including oral assessments, radiographs, cleanings (prophylaxis), fluoride treatments, sealants, and personalized patient education. Scaling and root planing services are planned to be added next year. Payments may be made by cash, check or credit card; insurance will not be accepted.

As a teaching clinic, appointments are longer than traditional dental office visits, typically around three hours and some patients may need multiple appointments. To ensure the best learning environment for

students, patients should have had a dental cleaning within the past five years. Individuals with more complex periodontal needs may be better served next year or in private practice.

"We're truly grateful to welcome community members into our clinic," said Katie Thalberg, CLC Director of Dental Hygiene and Dental Assisting. "When you sit in our chairs, you're not only receiving accessible, high-quality preventive care, you're also making a meaningful difference in the lives of our students. Your trust helps them grow, gain confidence and develop the skills needed to succeed in their future careers."

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

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

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



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DINNER IN THE WOODS
SPARKS Mentoring of Staples-Motley annual "Dinner In The Woods"
Join us in Honoring the 2026 Recipients of:
The SPARKS Award **Angie Boyd, Bricks Travel Center**
For individual service to SPARKS Mentoring.
The Bonfire Award **Lakewood Health System**
For organizational service to SPARKS Mentoring.
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(Prepared by Clarissa Ballroom & Sponsored by Community Donors)
TICKETS and DONATIONS
Tickets can be obtained by sending your check for \$35/person before January 12th to: SPARKS Mentoring, Dinner in the Woods, PO Box 273, Staples, MN 56479
For more information, call:
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Hello World

Obituaries

ONLINE BIRTHS REMOVED
AT THE REQUEST OF LAKEWOOD
HEALTH SYSTEM.

Daniel “Dan” Spencer

Daniel Francis Spencer, 83, died December 29, 2025 after years of battling Parkinson’s disease.

A memorial service will be held at 11:00 a.m., Saturday, January 10, 2026 at Mattson Funeral Home, 343 North Shore Drive, Forest Lake. Visitation starts at 10 a.m.

Dan Spencer always said he loved his growing up years. Dan was born April 11, 1942 and raised in Staples, the 10th child of Daniel Frank and Marian (Kisler) Spencer. With two brothers and seven sisters, Dan lived in a home busy with family. There was love galore and music too. Always music. Dan idolized Elvis Presley, took up guitar in his teens and taught himself to become a polished picker. After graduation from Staples High School in 1960 he married another musician and school mate, LaVyrle Kulick. Their shared love of playing guitars and singing together was a tie that bound them through 63 years of marriage. Living in the Twin Cities and Stillwater, Dan worked in construction as a surveyor and estimator, retiring early when LaVyrle became a published author. Together they travelled extensively and built a country home near Cushing, where Dan relished nature and loved hunting with family and friends. The cabin became



the heart of the Spencer joy in hosting many guests in grand style.

Dan also loved playing baseball, basketball and golf in his younger years, then later watching them on TV.

Throughout his life, Dan loved and was loved by too many nieces and nephews to name. He shared a special bond with his sisters, Jeanie Huebner and Barb Longbella.

He is survived by two grandsons, Spencer Kimball and Logan Kimball, their wives, Nicole and Alicia and three great-granddaughters, Sydney, Parker and Penelope.

He and LaVyrle were blessed with three children, Sarah, Amy and Beth, all who preceded them in death.

w3c A00006B2025JN07

Randy Smith

Randy Smith, 66, of Staples passed away January 1, 2026 after a courageous battle with ALS.

He was born November 1, 1960, in Staples.

Visitation will be held January 10, at 11:00 a.m. at the Motley Free Methodist Church with a funeral service beginning at 11:30 a.m. Lunch will follow.

Arrangements are by the Brenny Family Funeral Chapel, Staples.

w3c A00006B2026JN07



Mavis Galligher

Mavis Galligher, 95, passed away on December 29, 2025, in Brainerd.

Services were held at Bethlehem Lutheran Church in Brainerd January 6, 2026.

Mavis was born June 24, 1930, to Charles and Mabel Woodhouse. She grew up in the Pillager area. On November 1, 1952, she married Ronald Galligher. Together they raised four children, two boys and two girls. Mavis worked at Staples State Bank and Motley Bank before retiring in 1991 and moving to Brainerd.

Mavis is survived by four children, Thomas (Patricia) Galligher, Timothy (Deb Sanders) Galligher, Roxanne (Bradley) Nelson and Debra (Bryan) Silg-



jord; 10 grandchildren; 16 great-grandchildren and one sister-in-law, Barbara Schrupp;

Arrangements are with Nelson-Doran Funeral Home in Brainerd.

w3p A00006B2026JN07

Staples Area Church Directory

Staples

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

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

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

Faith Lutheran
430 12th Street. NE., Staples.....218-894-1546
Pastor Carl Larson
Sunday Worship Service.....9:00 a.m.
Sunday School and Coffee Fellowship.....10:05 a.m.

Sacred Heart Catholic Church
310 4th St. NE, Staples
Church.....218-631-1598
info@marysacc.org
Rev. JC Duncan, 218-632-7314
Rev. Rick Aubol, 218-632-7310
Rev. Greg Sauer, 218-632-7319
Mass: Sunday.....8:30 a.m.

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

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

Trinity Lutheran
1000 5th St., NE, Staples.....218-894-2372
Pastor Vicar Paul Koehler
Sunday Divine Service.....9:00 a.m.
Sunday School and Bible Class...10:30 a.m.

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

Aldrich

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

Cushing

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

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

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

Leader

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

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

Motley

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

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

St. Michael Catholic Church

280 1st Ave S, Motley.....218-631-1598
Rev. JC Duncan, 218-632-7314 Rev. Rick Aubol, 218-632-7310 Rev. Greg Sauer, 218-632-7319
Sunday.....10:30 a.m. (May - Nov.)
Saturday.....4:00 p.m. (Dec - April)

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

Oylen

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

Pillager

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

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

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

Hewitt

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

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

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

Verndale

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

Family Life Church

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

Hope Chapel Alliance

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

Immanuel Lutheran Church of Bartlett Township (LCMS)

17097 460th St., PO Box 37, Verndale
Pastor Robin Fish
Sunday Worship.....9:00 a.m.
WEDNESDAY
Bible Study.....6:30 p.m.

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

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

St. Frederick Catholic Church

20 Mason Avenue NW
Verndale.....218-631-1598
info@marysacc.org
Rev. JC Duncan, 218-632-7314 Rev. Rick Aubol, 218-632-7310 Rev. Greg Sauer, 218-632-7319
MASS: Saturday.....6:00 p.m

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

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

Wadena

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

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

“Bleak Midwinter”

Pastor Scott Jorgenson, Thomastown Covenant Church, Staples

What do we do in Minnesota? Talk about the weather. Even our Christmas carols refer to the winter season. As much as our bleak midwinter differs from that of the manger and the Christ-child, so differs each of the seasons of our souls.

Yes, seasons of our souls. Ecclesiastes says it best... to everything there is a season and a time for every purpose under heaven.

Some of us embrace the winter season more than summer. I can’t say I embrace it MORE than Summer, but I certainly take joy in the -10 degree snowshoe tromp along the Leaf River. And I won’t say “No” to a sledding day with my grandson. God has His ways of redeeming the cold, snowy, windy, bleak midwinter days.

Others have difficulty finding the redemption in another ice covered driveway or flat tire in subzero weather. In those moments, I too agree. Where is the joy in that?

Well, the joy comes not in the season but in The Creator of the season. God has designed and created a world of seasons. We have our “daily seasons” of being alert and asleep, eating and digesting, sitting and walking, working and playing. We have our “work seasons” of youth and adult, employed and unemployed, child and parent. The comparisons go on and on as enumerated in

Ecclesiastes 3.

And this is true of our souls as well. Paul reminds us that early in our walk with God we are in the “spiritual milk” season giving way to a “spiritual meat” season of our life digesting the deeper aspects of God’s power in us. And Jesus reminds us that our spirits are in a constant state of change from mountain top “joys unspeakable” to valleys of darkness. Remember Jesus’ words on the cross in Mark 15:34, “My God, My God, why have You forsaken Me?” Knowing full well that God had our eternal safety in mind when He sent His Son to die for us, Jesus was willing to endure the season of the cross for the sake of God’s love for us and the season of eternity in heaven.

Whatever season we are in, God will redeem it. He will take our “joy unspeakable” and multiply it. He will take the “dark night of our soul” and He will bless others through it.

The best part of God’s plan is that one day the tears will cease and the joys will never end. Until that season is upon us, when Christ comes again, may we see the seasons of our lives and our souls as means by which God blesses the world around us just as He did through the life of His Son, Jesus: born in a manger, born for the redemption of our lives and souls. May God bless us this winter and the season of our souls.

THE STAPLES AREA CHURCH DIRECTORY IS SPONSORED BY THESE AREA BUSINESSES:

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Life Currents Policy

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

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

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

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

Needing/Wanting a Granite Memorial FOR YOUR FAMILY?



I can help!
Diane M. Hahn
30 years serving our area!

Rep. for Fergus Falls Monument Co.

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

DEADLINE

for all classified ads and copy is 12 noon Friday

For the Staples World



Wrestlers take on nationally ranked teams

The Staples-Motley boys wrestling team placed fourth at The Clash National Duals Jan. 3-4 at LaCrosse, Wisc. The Cardinals nearly upset nationally ranked Stillwater, losing by one point. If they had won, it would have created a three-way tie for second place, since St. Michael-Albertville won all their matches and Stillwater beat Creighton Prep, Neb., for second place.

The tournament had 29 teams representing 11 states.

Seeding bracket

On the first day, Staples-Motley started slowly against Caledonia, Minn., then were unstoppable the rest of the day. This dual started at 172 pounds, and the Cardinals lost three of their first six matches, but gained seven straight pins after that to win 60-9.

In the second round, they faced Evansville, Wisc., who had advanced with a close win against Xavier, Conn. This time Staples-Motley started out hot, building a 20-0 lead before facing two wrestlers in a row who are ranked number one in their Wisconsin class. Justin Olson avoided getting pinned but lost with a technical fall. Caden Kramer took care of the other top ranked wrestler, earning two takedowns for a 6-0 win. At 139 pounds, Gage Bjerga pinned a wrestler ranked number one in Wisconsin.

For their final match on the first day, Staples-Motley faced Washington, Ill., ranked fourth among mid-sized schools in Illinois. They had defeated Decorah, Iowa, in the previous round.

The match started at 215 pounds, where Zach Tabatt faced the top ranked wrestler in Illinois. Tabatt was never in danger of getting pinned, but lost by technical fall when he fell behind by 15 points. That saved a team point but the Cardinals didn't need it because they won nine straight

before Colbe Tappe faced the top ranked wrestler in the nation at 160 pounds. After a scoreless first period, it became a high-scoring match with Tappe falling 19-9. Staples-Motley advanced with a 53-12 team win.

Championship round-robin

By winning their bracket, Staples-Motley advanced to the championship group of four bracket winners for a round-robin of duals. All of their opponents on day two were nationally ranked teams, Creighton Prep, Neb., #37, Stillwater #42 and St. Michael-Albertville #25.

They first faced Creighton Prep, whose lineup had state champions and top three finishers at nearly every position. Beau Carlson and Colbe Tappe had big wins, but the Cardinals lost a few close matches to lose the team score 37-21.

They next faced Stillwater and nearly upset the 2nd ranked team in Minnesota's big schools class. Eli Greenwaldt earned a win over a ranked wrestler with a take-down in overtime. Colbe Tappe faced another nationally ranked wrestler. He took the match to the final overtime, where he won with an escape. The team match came down to Adrian Gomez going against the third ranked heavyweight in the state. He got the first takedown but ended up with an 8-4 loss, which dropped the team score to 29-28 in favor of Stillwater. Garrett Bjerga and Reece Headley also had close losses to ranked wrestlers.

In the final match, the Cardinals lost 37-13 to the top ranked team in Minnesota, St. Michael-Albertville. Cooper Tappe, Colbe Tappe and Gomez all had wins in this match. Garrett Bjerga beat the top-ranked wrestler in Class AAA 5-0, his second win of the season against that wrestler.

Team results

First day bracket

Staples-Motley 60, Caledonia 9

172 - Riley Reese L 7-2, 189 Reece Headley W ff, 215 Zach Tabatt L 5-3, 285 Adrian Gomez W fall, 107 Garrett Bjerga W fall, 114 Justin Olson L 12-0, 121 Caden Kramer W fall, 127 Turner Beachy W fall, 133 Cayden Neisen W fall, 139 Gage Bjerga W fall, 145 Eli Greenwaldt W fall, 152 Beau Carlson W fall, 160 Colbe Tappe W fall

Staples-Motley 50, Evansville, Wisc., 11

189 Headley W fall, 215 Tabatt W 5-1, 285 Gomez W tf 17-2, 107, Gt. Bjerga W fall, 114 Olson L tf 16-0, 121 Kramer W 6-0, 127 Beachy L 10-3, 133 Neisen W fall, 139 Gg. Bjerga W fall, 145 Greenwaldt W tf 17-0, 152 Carlson L 4-2, 160 Tappe W ff, 172 Reese W 14-2

Staples-Motley 53, Washington, Ill. 12

215 Tabatt L tf 21-5, 285 Gomez W fall, 107 Gt. Bjerga W fall, 114 Olson W 7-3, 121 Kramer W fall, 127 Beachy W ff, 133 Neisen W 7-2, 139 Gg. Bjerga W fall, 145 Greenwaldt W fall, 152 Carlson W tf 17-1, 160 Tappe L 19-9, 172 Reese L 8-5, 189 Headley W fall

Day 2 championship round-robin

Staples-Motley 21, Creighton Prep, Neb., 37

285 Gomez L 14-6, 107 Gt. Bjerga W fall, 114 Olson L 12-0, 12 Kramer L 18-3, 126 Beachy W fall, 133 Neisen L 6-1, 139 Gg. Bjerga W fall, 145 Greenwaldt L 17-1, 152 Beau Carlson W 7-1, 160 Tappe W 10-3, 172 Riley Reese L 15-0, 189 Seth Cossentine L 18-3, 215 Headley L 7-5

Staples-Motley 28, Stillwater 29

107 Gt. Bjerga L 5-1 OT, 114 Olson L fall, 121 Kramer W fall, 127 Beachy W 16-0, 133 Neisen L 21-3, 139 Gg. Bjerga W 19-3, 145 Greenwaldt W 12-9 OT, 152 Carlson L 4-0, 160 Tappe W 3-2, OT, 172 Reese W fall, 189 Headley L 9-3, 215 Tabatt L fall, 285 Gomez L 8-4

Staples-Motley 13, St. Michael-Albertville 37

114 Olson L fall, 121 Kramer L 8-4, 127 Beachy L 17-2, 133 Neisen L 4-2, 139 Gg. Bjerga L 3-2, 145 Greenwaldt L 21-6, 152 Cooper Tappe W 8-1, 160 Cb. Tappe W 18-2, 172 Reese L 7-1, 189 Cossentine L 16-1, 285 Gomez W 19-12, 107 Gt. Bjerga W 5-0



Switching hands

Normally a right-handed player, Chloe Larson goes to her left hand to get the ball over a tall front fline from Swanville. (Staples World photos by Mark Anderson)

Larson, Lawrence lead scoring in Cardinal win

Chloe Larson scored 32 points and Pam Lawrence had 17, leading the Staples-Motley girls basketball team to a 76-62 win over Swanville on Jan. 2. They traveled to Pelican Rapids the next day and came back with a 99-36 loss.

Against Swanville, Larson started the team off on the right foot, hitting a driving basket and three point shot for a 5-2 lead. The Cardinals started getting into foul trouble later in the half, allowing Swanville to take the lead again.

Near the end of the first half, Sophia Luna made a steal and dribbled the

length of the floor to score and tie the game 33-33 with five seconds left.

In the second half, Staples-Motley started playing better defense without fouling, forcing Swanville into taking hard shots. On offense, the team started getting the ball to Larson at the corner of the free throw line, where she could drive, shoot or pass. By doing that, Larson had 18 points in the second half.

Some of her passes were to Lawrence standing at the three point line. She made two three pointers in a row to put the team up by 12, their biggest lead of the

game. Larson, Lawrence and Hannah Cole scored 25 of the team's final 27 points, getting to the basket for most of their scores.

Against Pelican Rapids, the Cardinals gave up a lot of outside shots, with PR hitting 18 3-pointers.

Team results

Staples-Motley 76, Swanville 62

Scoring: Chloe Larson 32, Pam Lawrence 17, Clara Maros 12, Sophia Luna 9, Hannah Cole 6

Staples-Motley 36, Pelican Rapids 99

Scoring: Larson 13, Joci Lenk 7, Cole 7, Maros 4, Lawrence 3, Addie Potter 2

Cardinal girls place second at FF Invite

With three weight bracket champions, the Staples-Motley girls wrestling team placed second at the Fergus Falls Invite on Jan. 3. Kana Reese, Leah Greenwaldt and Anika Tureson were the champions. All three dominated their bracket, Greenwaldt with three pins, and two pins each for Reese and Tureson.

Team results

Fergus Falls Invite

Sauk Centre-Melrose 246, Staples-Motley 160, Jamestown 136, MayPort CG, ND 117, Fergus Falls 11, Fertile-Beltrami 7

100 - Kana Reese 3-0 first place, Ali Reese 1-2 3rd

106 Isabelle Dobson 3-1 3rd, Mikaela Pesta 2-2 4th

112 Leah Greenwaldt 3-0 1st

118 Maddie Kist 3-1 3rd
124 Kyleena Rudlang 1-3 4th place

130 Talyn Lind 3-1 2nd

136 Kylee Winter 1-2 4th

170 Anika Tureson 2-0 1st

100 JV - Addyson Holst 2nd

112 JV Elise Trif 1-1 2nd,

Yarethzy Lopez Montana 0-2, 3rd place

130 JV Jocelyn Vogt 3-1 2nd



Versatile scorer

Pam Lawrence drives on the baseline for a basket against Swanville. When she wasn't hitting three point shots, Lawrence was able to drive to the basket. (Staples World photo by Mark Anderson)



TODD COUNTY BOARD OF ADJUSTMENT
215 First Ave. South
Long Prairie,
Minnesota 56347
320-732-4420
toddplan.zone@co.todd.mn.us

PUBLIC NOTICE
Notice is hereby given that on **Thursday, January 22, 2025 at 6:00 p.m.** the Todd County Board of Adjustment will hold a public hearing in the Commissioner's board room, 215 1st Ave South, Suite 301, Long Prairie, Minnesota.

NOTE: This meeting is again being held in-person and the public is encouraged to attend. Those who do attend in person can find parking atop the hill on the west side of the Historic Courthouse and enter through the north doors, near the American Flag and monument.

Questions? Call or email 320-732-4420 or toddplan.zone@co.todd.mn.us

Agenda

- Call to Order
- Pledge of Allegiance
- Introduction of Board of Adjustment Members and process review
- Approval of agenda
- Approval of December 18, 2025 Board of Adjustment's meeting minutes
- The applicant is introduced
- Staff report
- Applicant confirms if staff report accurately represents the request
- Site Visit Review
- Public comment
- Board review with applicant, staff, and public

1. Reorganization of the Board and review of Business Rules

2. USS Eagle Bend Solar LLC: Section 02, Wykeham Township
Site Address: 14910 380th Street, Eagle Bend, MN 56446
PID: 28-0001100

1. Request to remove the prime farmland solar restriction from Section 9.20 to allow for the submission of a CUP application for a 10-megawatt solar energy system in AF-1 Zoning District.

3. Luke Peterson: Section 02, Burnhamville Township
Site Address: 34040 Explorer Drive, Swanville, MN 56382
PID: 06-0003600

1. Request to reduce the side yard property line setback from 30' to 16.9' in AF-1 Zoning District.
Adjournment.

Next meeting: February 26, 2026
Adjournment.

All persons interested are invited to attend said hearing or submit a letter to be heard on these matters. **All correspondence must include name, mailing address and be received 48 hours before the date and time of the hearing.**

Todd County Board of Adjustment
Russell Vandenheuvel,
Chair
3pnc

ADVERTISEMENT FOR BIDS

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

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

DESCRIPTION OF WORK: The work includes the construction of approximately:			
12,000	CU YD	Common Excavation	37
3,600	TON	Aggregate Base, Class 5	5,000
6,400	TON	Bituminous Pavement	11
8,770	LIN FT	Concrete Curb Des. B618	4,350
36,265	SQ FT	Concrete Walk	282
1.5	ACRE	Turf Establishment	118
80	LIN FT	8' X 5' Precast Box Culvert	3,800
		6" - 10" Gate Valve and Box	
		6" - 10" Watermain	
		Hydrant	
		12" - 36" RCP Storm Sewer	
		Construct Drainage Structure	
		Construct Sanitary Manhole	
		8" - 15" PVC Sanitary Sewer	

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Finance and Commerce: December 31, 2025, January 7, 2026, January 14, 2026
2-4pnc

Staples-Motley School Board Minutes

ISD #2170 SCHOOL BOARD MEETING #7
Nov. 17, 2025
6:00 p.m.
District Office

MINUTES

Call to Order
The meeting was called to order by Chair Freeman at 6:00 p.m.

Roll Call was taken, members Wright, Frisk, Reeck, Trout, Reese and Freeman were present, comprising a quorum. Also present were Superintendent Tappe, Recording Clerk Larson, Business Manager Hill, Principal Ferdon, AD Ahrendt, Staples World Managing Editor Anderson, students, staff members and community members. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Motion by Wright seconded by Reese, to adopt the agenda. MC

Chair Freeman recognized and welcomed those in attendance

School/Community Forum - NONE

The 2024-2025 Audit Report was presented by Brady Martz

Motion by Reeck, seconded by Frisk to accept the 2024-2025 audit as presented by Brady Martz. MC

Consent Agenda
Approve minutes from the October 20, 2025 Board Meeting

Approve minutes from the November 3, 2025 Board Work session

Approve the fundraiser request from Middle School REACH

Approve the resignation of:

Paul Petrich, Elementary Custodian
Audra Steffen, Elementary Paraprofessional
Drew Potter, JH Basketball and Baseball Coach
Approve the hire of:
Dillen Avenson, Middle/

High School Paraprofessional
Paul Petrich, Middle/High School Lead Custodian

Approve the 25/26 winter coaches list

Approve the fundraiser request from Student Theatre

Motion by Trout, seconded by Reeck, to approve the consent agenda. MC

Donations and In-Kind Contributions

Motion by Frisk, seconded by Wright, to approve the Resolution to accept Grants and Donations in the amount of \$ \$27,543.20 and In-kind donations in the amount of \$1,237.12. MC

Thank you to Staples Ace Hardware, Ives Family/Timberlake Hotel, LEAP, SM Music Boosters, Staples Lions Club, Lincoln Scandia Valley Lions Club, SM Basketball Boosters, Staples-Motley Arts Council and Kevin Tvedt.

Finance Items
(Finance Committee Meeting Minutes 10/28/25)

Financial Report presented by Business Manager Hill

Motion by Reeck, seconded by Trout, to approve the October, 2025 disbursements. MC

General Fund : \$817,082.56

Food Service: \$59,425.52

Community Service: \$14,914.64

Construction Fund: \$0.00

Debt Service: \$0.00

Fund 21 Student Activities: \$7,469.25

Fund 45: \$0.00

Motion by Wright, seconded by Frisk, to approve the October receipts. MC

General Fund : \$1,260,604.63

Food Service: \$100,154.64

Community Service: \$36,667.36

Construction Fund: \$0.00

Debt Service: \$975,958.76

Fund 21 Student Activities: \$13,998.46

Fund 45: \$0.00

Cabinet Presentation by Teaching & Learning Coordinator Pantzke

2024-2025 Student Achievement Data

Personnel

Motion by Trout, seconded by Reeck, to accept the retirement of Yolanda Koppes, Elementary Paraprofessional effective December 31, 2025. MC

Thank you Yolanda for your 27 years of service to the Staples-Motley School District.

Motion by Frisk, seconded by Wright, to accept the retirement of Cindy Denning, School District Nurse effective June 30, 2026. MC

Thank you Cindy for your five years of service to the Staples-Motley School District.

District Long Range Facility Plan Presentation by Superintendent Tappe, Business Manager Hill & ICS Representative Splett

Review and Comment

Motion by Wright, seconded by Reeck, to approve the Submission of the Review and Comment to the Commissioner of the Minnesota Department of Education. MC

Reports

School Board:

Freshwater

Sourcewell - 9-16-25

Minutes

Elementary Principal

Middle/High School Principal

Activities/Community Ed Director

SMEA

Superintendent

Other

Motion by Frisk, seconded by Trout, to adjourn the meeting at 7:38 p.m. MC

Trisha Larson, Clerk
ISD #2170

3pnc

ISD #2170

SCHOOL BOARD MEETING #8
Dec. 1, 2025
6:00 p.m.
District Office

MINUTES

Call to Order
The meeting was called to order by Chair Freeman at 6:00 p.m.

Roll Call was taken, members Wright, Frisk, Reeck, Trout, Reese and Freeman were present, comprising a quorum. Also present were Superintendent Tappe, Recording Clerk Larson, Business Manager Hill, Principal Ferdon, Staples World Managing Editor Anderson and members of the public. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Motion by Reese seconded by Reeck, to adopt the agenda. MC

Chair Freemann recognized those in attendance

Truth in Taxation Levy Presentation - Business Manager Hill

Truth in Taxation Levy and Budget Public Discussion

Motion by Reeck, seconded by Frisk, to Approve and Certify the 2025 payable 2026 levy in the amount of \$5,960,653.28. MC

Other

Motion by Frisk, seconded by Trout, to approve the resignation of Charlie Rowe, Middle School Social Worker, pending the hire of a suitable licensed replacement, with permission to post. MC

Motion by Freeman, seconded by Reeck, to ratify the 2025-2027 Certified Staff Master Contract. MC

Motion by Trout, seconded by Reese, to adjourn the meeting at 6:36 p.m. MC

Trisha Larson, Clerk
ISD #2170

3pnc

PUBLIC NOTICE

Official Publication for Todd County

NOTICE OF ONLINE SALE OF FORFEITED LANDS

February 12 through February 19, 2026
Online: Bid4assets

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, that the parcels of Tax-Forfeited Land that is contained herein shall be sold to the highest bidder online with bid4assets. The sale will be governed by the provisions of Minn. Stat. § 282.01 and by the resolution of the Todd County Board of Commissioners authorizing such sale. The resolution reads as follows:

BE IT RESOLVED, that all parcels of tax-forfeited land listed on the List of Tax-Forfeited Land be classified as nonconservation land; that the basic sale price of each parcel on List of Tax-Forfeited Land, that is on file with the Clerk of the County Board, be approved and authorization for an online sale of this land be granted, pursuant to Minn. Stat. § 282.01; that the sale will be held at 10:00 AM, Thursday, February 12 and closes February 19, 2026, by the Todd County Auditor/Treasurer online with Bid4assets, for not less than the basic sale price; and that all sales shall be full payment or on the terms set forth on the List of Tax-Forfeited Land.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the conditions and terms of the public sale shall be as described in the list of Tax-Forfeited Land contained here-in and approved by the Todd County Board of Commissioners.

Information about the sale of tax-forfeited land in Todd County can be obtained at the office of the County Auditor/Treasurer, Todd County Courthouse, 215 1st Avenue So, Suite 201, Long Prairie, Minnesota, 56347. Telephone: (320) 732-4469, or online with Bid4assets.

3pnc



Eighty percent of people polled believe that governments should be **required to publish** public notices in newspapers. But for years, government has tried to “hide” public notices by either posting them on government websites only, or by not publishing them at all.

Newspapers across the country are fighting for YOUR right to that information. *That's our job.*

Keep public notices public.
Keep them in newspapers.
Support your local newspaper.

• SOURCE: 2011 Readership Survey by National Newspaper Association.



Laura Valencia is newest anesthesia provider at Lakewood health System

Lakewood Health System, Staples, welcomes certified registered nurse anesthetist (CRNA) Laura Valencia as the newest provider to the anesthesia team.

Originally from Big Lake, Valencia received her undergraduate degree from Saint Catherine University and her Doctor of Nursing Practice in Nurse Anesthesiology degree from Saint Mary's University of Minnesota. She is a member of the American Association of Nurse Anesthesiology, the Minnesota Association of Nurse Anesthetists, and the Society of Opioid Free Anesthesia.

As a certified registered nurse anesthetist, Valencia works alongside the surgical team at Lakewood



Laura Valencia

Health System, administering anesthesia and other medications to patients of all ages during medical procedures and surgeries. She is also responsible for monitoring patients during and after receiving anesthe-

sia. Valencia has a special interest in caring for pediatric and obstetric patients and offering alternative approaches to pain management.

"I chose to work at Lakewood because it's the kind of place where I would trust my own family and children to receive care. Every staff member is exceptional at what they do and genuinely happy to be here, creating an environment that provides unmatched patient care."

Valencia is married and has three children. She loves spending time outdoors and on the water, especially at their family's cabin in Canada. She enjoys relaxing with family board games and a good book.

Friendly Rider propane bus on funding list

The Federal Transportation Administration recently awarded the Minnesota Department of Transportation \$17.9 million in grant funding to help rural Minnesota transit providers upgrade their vehicle fleets and infrastructure.

MnDOT manages the federal funding of rural Minnesota transit programs and works with local partners. The money will help replace aging vehicles and transition fleets into cleaner propane technology.

"These funds improve a critical lifeline for people living in rural Minnesota, because when we invest in modern transit facilities, it supports long-term service reliability," said Sarah Ghandour, MnDOT's Office of Transit and Active Transportation Director. "We selected these projects based on demonstrated local need, readiness to pro-

ceed, and strong alignment with the competitive grant program criteria."

Nearly \$13.5 million in funding comes from the FTA's Buses and Bus Facilities Program:

- \$7.4 million will contribute to the cost of 40 replacement buses. MnDOT will prioritize and rank potential recipients based on vehicle ages, miles, and lifetime maintenance costs.
- \$6.1 million will fund two new transit facilities for United Community Action Partnership's Community Transit Program. The facilities, located in the city of Slayton and the city of Pipestone, will feature bus storage, maintenance/wash bays and administrative offices.

MnDOT also received \$4.4 million in "Low and No Emissions Program" grant funding for:

- Wadena County -

Friendly Rider Transit: One propane bus

- Tri-County Action Partnership (Benton, Mille Lacs, Morrison, Sherburne, Stearns counties): Five propane buses, fueling infrastructure
- Hubbard County Transit: Six propane buses, fueling infrastructure
- Tri-Valley Opportunity Council (Clearwater, Kittson, Mahnomen, Marshall, Norman, Pennington, Polk, Red Lake counties): Four propane buses, fueling infrastructure
- Brown County Heartland Express: Two propane buses, fueling infrastructure
- Rolling Hills Transit (Dodge, Olmsted, Winona, Fillmore, Houston counties): One propane bus, fueling infrastructure



Lions donate to Polar Express

The Staples Host Lions recently donated \$2,000 for the Polar Express event in Staples. Pictured, from left, are Polar Express volunteers Jim Vollegraaf, Rick Brichacek, John Wolak; and Lion President Bob Schafer. (Staples World photo by Dawn Timbs)



Lions donate to Discover Staples

The Staples Host Lions recently donated \$2,000 to Discover Staples for the community meals. Pictured, from left, are Jordan Goodwater and Mary Theurer with Discover Staples; and Lion President Bob Schafer. (Staples World photo by Dawn Timbs)

Wadena Sheriff's Office changes CodeRED after cyber attack

By Sgt. Bryan Savaloja
Wadena County Sheriff's Office

The Wadena County Sheriff's Office has taken measures to transition our CodeRED emergency system following a recent cyber attack and data breach that has impacted hundreds of agencies nationwide. CodeRED is a critical notification system used to deliver time-sensitive alerts during severe weather events, public safety threats, and other emergencies.

CodeRED has reported the impacted dataset may contain contact information of CodeRED users such as: name, address, email address, phone num-

bers, and/or associated passwords used to create user profiles for alerts. If the same password is used by system users for any other personal or business accounts, those passwords should be changed.

The Wadena County Sheriff's Office has a plan for notification redundancy. During this transition, partner agencies with emergency alerting capabilities will issue Integrated Public Alert and Warning System (IPAWS) and Wireless Emergency Alerts (WEAs) on our behalf.

We encourage residents to take the following steps:

- Change any usernames or passwords to other personal or business accounts similar to those used for

CodeRED profiles

- Ensure Emergency Alerts are turned ON in phone settings
- Follow Wadena County Sheriff's Office and your local public safety agencies on Facebook
- Maintain multiple ways to receive alerts, such as NOAA Weather Radio and local news outlets

The CodeRED provider has decommissioned the current platform. CodeRED has reported there is no evidence that any user information has been used to carry out identity theft or fraud.

We appreciate your patience and cooperation as we work diligently to provide rapid emergency communication systems.

COUNCIL continued from page 1a

City, chamber support Amtrak proposal to add passenger train from St. Paul to Fargo

water line.

In other news, the council

- Approved supporting a proposal for a new Amtrak passenger line from St. Paul to Fargo. A new line from St. Paul to Chicago has been successful. The Staples Area Chamber of Commerce also sent a letter of

support for the new train route. The train would have stops in Little Falls, Staples and Wadena. Nelsen said amtrak is currently working on a platform at the Staples Depot, for train passengers to get on and of easier.

- Approved resolution to finish paying Valley View subdivision bonds.

- Approved lender documents related to the Staples Multi-Family Project (Cardinal Pines Apartments). The current owners are selling the apartments to the company that has been managing it. TIF District requirements will transfer to the new owners with the same requirements.

LAKEWOOD WELCOMES

Paul Crowe, MD

ORTHOPEDIC SURGEON

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

He will be seeing patients at the Staples clinic.

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

