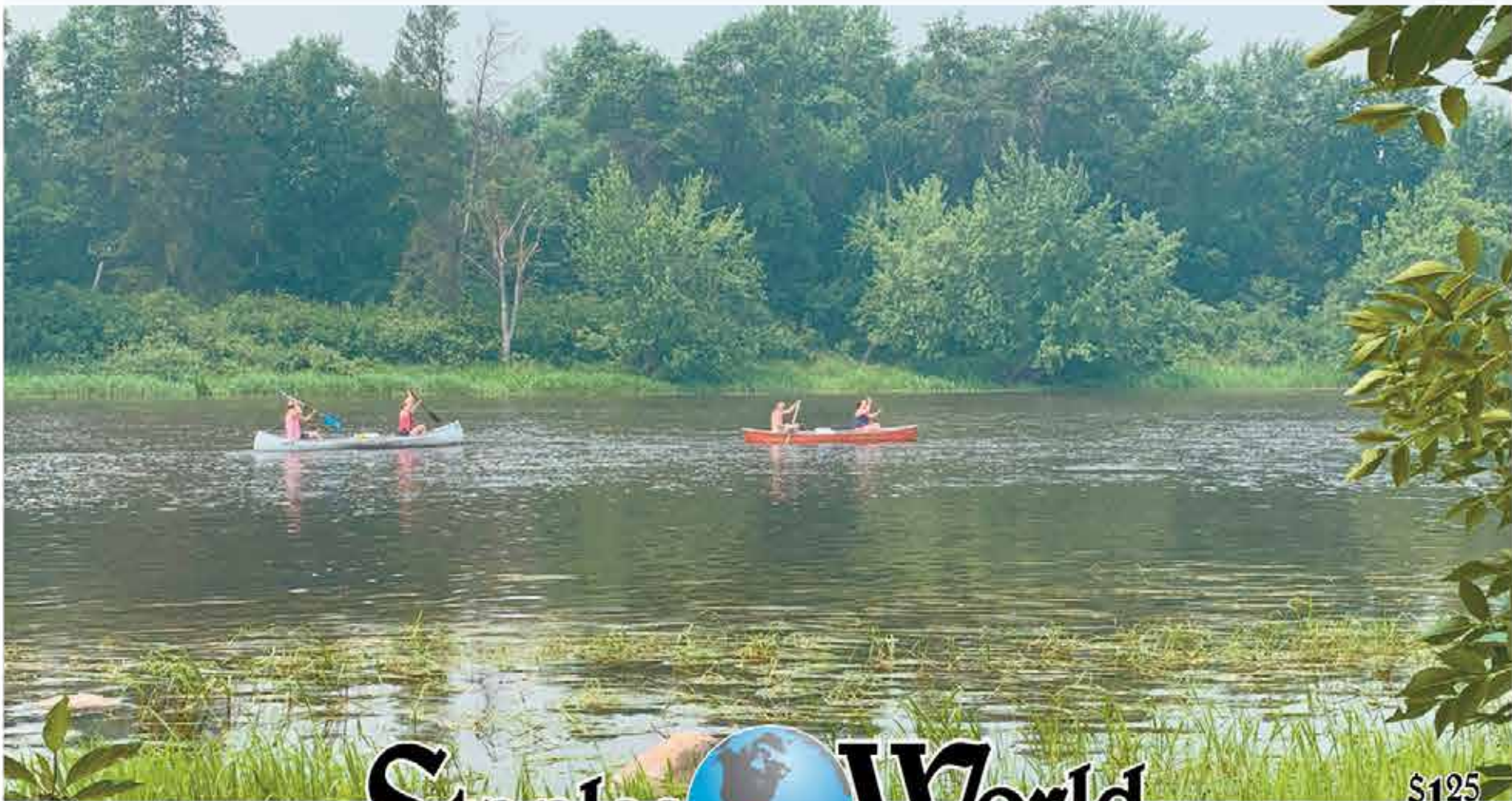


Inside this issue:

Old Wadena board plans Rendezvous
Basketball camp
Music in the Park



Wednesday, July 22, 2026

Staples World

Staples, Minnesota

\$1.25

Smoke on the water... Framed by a green landscape, paddling through cool water on a hot day, canoers were gliding the Crow Wing River near McGivern Park landing despite the heavy layers of smoke that rolled into Staples and the surrounding area July 15. (Staples World photo by Janice Winter)

Staples Police looking into K9 program

Mark Anderson
Managing Editor

The Staples Police Department is starting the process to pursue a K9 program, which would bring a service dog into the ranks of the department.

At the July 14, 2026 Staples City Council meeting, officer Dawson Waldvogel said that he would be the officer in charge of the dog and told the council what the program would look like.

Waldvogel said there are two types of dogs that can be obtained for the program, a single purpose or dual purpose dog.

A single purpose dog is

used for sniffing objects to find drugs or other illegal items and tracking people. A dual purpose dog does those same tasks but is also trained to bring down a person by biting them. The Staples Police Department would go for a single purpose dog, just for sniffing and searching.

"Trainers can handle their dogs to be offensive or defensive," said Waldvogel. "In this case we're going to be nice."

Waldvogel said the need is there because Staples Police have many calls of missing persons every year, often for vulnerable adults

See **STAPLES** on page 3a

City of Motley receives proposal to expand municipal building

By Mark Anderson
Publisher

The City of Motley is considering a proposal that would add on to their municipal building that currently houses the fire department, police and city offices.

At the July 13 Motley City Council meeting, Barbara Marks of Bollig Engineering presented the feasibility report that is the result of a study that has been ongoing for more than a year. She said this is a preliminary proposal; if the city wants to move forward they will have to request further engineering and design.

In this proposal, the fire truck bays would remain in place, but everything else would change. The city and police offices would be switched to the other side of the building, where new offices would be built. After

the new offices come in, the current city offices would be torn down.

The estimated cost of the proposal is between \$4.4 and \$5.6 million. Although the square footage of the proposed building is larger than the current facility, the operating costs are expected to be reduced because of energy efficiencies. Marks said the new building would qualify for energy rebates while new doors would keep mice out of the building.

The city facility study started in May of 2025, with help of a grant from the Region Five Development Commission.

Bollig Engineering used thermal imaging and inspections to show heat loss and moisture infiltration in many areas. Marks said the current building setup creates traffic issues with the city offices directly

across the street from the DQ restaurant. The engineers also found lack of storage space and a lobby too small for multiple people.

Positive aspects of the current building included "location, location, location," said Marks. Being in the center of the city makes the building accessible to residents and having access onto Highway 10 is good for the fire department.

The study considered options such as building an entirely new city hall at a different location or remodeling the existing structure. The final recommendation was a mixture of remodeling and building new.

The proposal starts with the fire truck bays remaining in place, but they will be renovated and space will be created to store turnout gear away from the truck area.

New city and police offices, restrooms, a larger lobby and community rooms would be added to the south side of the fire bays. Another fire bay and maintenance bay or wash bay are in the proposal.

The fire department space will also have restrooms, a laundry and decontamination space.

The new offices will emphasize security and it will include a room to take people who need private space.

The new spaces would be more accessible, as the current building is not quite up to code for ADA requirements because the rules have changed since it was last updated.

After the new spaces are built, the proposal calls for the current city offices to be torn down and that open

See **MOTLEY** on page 10a



Orchestra pit filled

Volunteers hauled in thousands of wheelbarrows of sand over three days in July to fill the orchestra pit at Centennial Auditorium at Staples-Motley High School. The pit will now be covered in concrete, with a ramp and more space added, to create a thrust stage, extending out towards the audience. (Staples World photos by Mark Anderson)



Weather

2026

This Week's Forecast

	High	Low	Cond.
July 22	78	57	Sunny
July 23	84	61	M. Sunny
July 24	84	64	Sunny
July 25	91	68	Sunny
July 26	93	66	M. Sunny
July 27	89	61	Sunny
July 28	87	60	Sunny

Last Year, 2025

	High	Low	Cond.
July 22	87°	70	Cloudy
July 23	77	70	Rain
July 24	79	62	Cloudy
July 25	83	63	M. Sunny
July 26	83	69	M. Sunny
July 27	85	73	Rain
July 28	81	60	Rain

Average Temps:
H = 78° Low = 60°

Compiled by
Dale Hausmann,
WCCO's Staples area
Weatherwatcher

Public Notices

May Township **9A**
Meadowbrook Township **9A**
Moran Township **9A**
Todd Planning **9A**

Obituaries

Joseph Dubbels
Marilyn Hall
Donna Miller
Larry Oman
Benjamin Spilman
Roger Weske

Old Wadena Rendezvous

Board finalizes plans

August 8 - 9, at Old Wadena Park

-Submitted by Jerry Mevissen

It's mid-July and the annual Old Wadena Rendezvous is right around the corner, August 8 - 9. Time to recheck the plan, fill in the gaps and get this machine in motion.

- Musicians and their time slots: Confirmed
- Artisans and location assignments: Confirmed
- Personnel assignments: gate keepers, parking lot attendants, canopy raisers and lowerers. Confirmed
- Firewood for the camping re-enactors; call Ranger Glenn for Thursday delivery.

With decades of experience, this group knows how to plan its work and work its plan.

The 2026 Rendezvous kicks off on Saturday, August 8, at 10 a.m. and concludes Sunday, August 9, at 3 p.m. at Old Wadena County Park north of Staples. This year's agenda is much like previous years - folk music, demonstrations and sale of period arts, crafts and trades and re-enactment campers in full frontier regalia, eager to spin tales of yesteryear around a small campfire. Although festivities allow for fun and entertainment, the driver here is education of an earlier period of our history and culture, plus retention of some of the skills that forged our national identity.

Artisans this year include perennial favorites like Lowell Bayerkohler, wheel-thrown pottery; Mike and Diane Hoffman, blacksmith and retailer of Rendezvous memorabilia and blacksmithing art; Gail Johnson, demonstrating the fine art of tattooing or lace making. Also included

are Dan Kern, local beekeeper who literally takes us inside the hive; Rae Lindquist, fur trade clothing historian and haberdasher; Cliff Fegert, leather smith who demonstrates the art of tanned leather (Sunday only) and Karen Stout Heller, herbalist of plants native to Wadena County. Retired Minnesota Science Museum Collections Manager and Nimrod native Dick Oehlenschlager, with his display of regional flora and fauna; Beth Kern, face and hand painter; Elisa Johnson, providing her take on fry bread; and an every-year crowd pleaser, Jon and Darlys Hamberg, guiding you through a bluebird house building project - which is yours to keep.

Blacksmith Mike Hoffman is eager to return, for the 14th (or 15th) time, he says. This year he follows a multi-day gig at the Crow Wing County Fair, one of his wall-to-wall events this summer. This Rendezvous is his first as a solo act, back when he was a member of a Muzzleloaders group. Might be time to slow down he says. "We have events practically every weekend. Then all week, I'm restocking inventory." Diane Hoffman manages the retail end of the business offering first-hand information on how this tool or utensil or trinket is made and what it's used for.

Musicians, all returning Rendezvous crowd favorites, include Bemidji's Jake Kaehne, who opens each day with a traditional Ojibwe tune played on an Ojibwe wooden flute; Boots & Needles, a vintage musical group offering a fusion of country, traditional and rockabilly; and perennial

favorites Curtis and Loretta, singer-songwriter duo entertaining with a stage-full of stringed instruments - plus a clawhammer. Can't wait. (For times of events, directions to the park, and a list of sponsors, see the insert included in this newspaper.)

Old Wadena Society Board Chair Darlys Hamberg radiates competence and confidence in this year's event and expresses her gratitude to the Wadena County Parks Department's Deana Malone and Glenn Motzko for their support and enthusiasm. "They've worked and continue to work tirelessly to bring the park back from storm damage and restore it to its beautiful, natural state."

Rendezvous Secretary Lora Foust sums it up. "The Old Wadena Society, the Wadena County Parks Board, community businesses, the rendezvous re-enactor community and many volunteers have come together to create a great event. We invite all ages to time travel back to the pre-1840s when ox carts carried pelts from the Red River Valley to St. Paul."

Be assured the Old Wadena County Park will be alive with crafts-people, musicians, re-enactment and demonstrations. "If you've never been to a Rendezvous, or it's been a long time, this will be a good year to enjoy it."

-The Old Wadena Society activity is made possible by a grant from the Five Wings Arts Council, thanks to a legislative appropriation from the arts and cultural heritage fund. Additional support has been provided by Wadena County.



Learning about Morey's Fish Co. history

A documentary on the history of Morey's Fish Company was shown at the Motley Historical Society's meeting July 14, at Motley City Hall.

The iconic Motley business was started in 1937 by Ed Morey, after a fisherman's truck broke down in Motley. Morey, a local farmer, offered to trade his load of corn for the fish. He smoked it, learned it was a hit with the community and the rest is history. Ed's son Loren Morey came on board in 1964, helping expand Morey's into a nationwide business (Morey's Seafood International), introducing surimi (imitation crab) and creating jobs for hundreds over the years. In 2020, Morey's was sold to Rich Products. Today, a 'Rich's Seafoods' sign has replaced the 'Morey's Fish Co.' sign, but Morey's legacy remains.

Following the showing of the documentary, Loren Morey led a discussion and answered questions from the public. In lower photo, from left, Sherry Frisk, Motley Historical Society member; Loren Morey, second-generation leader and past president/CEO of Morey Fish Company; Bob Thiede, longtime employee and former vice-president of operations at Morey's; Motley Mayor Pat O'Regan. Both Loren Morey and Thiede credited the success of the business to hard work and the building of long-lasting relationships. (Staples World photos by Dawn Timbs)



Old Wadena Society prep meeting held

Darlys Hamberg (back to camera) steers the Old Wadena Society group toward a big 2026 Rendezvous weekend. Other members of the OWS include: Byan Winkels, Chris Neal, Sam Foust, Lora Foust, Jon Hamberg, Jim Hofer. (Submitted photo)



Close encounter with a baby goat

The Noordmans family of Motley enjoyed time at the Pillager Fair July 11, including an opportunity to hold a baby goat owned by the Rosvolds of Cushing.

From left, Ruthie, Asher, Beth (mom of the trio), and Hannah with the goat. (Staples World photos by Dawn Timbs)



Hanging out at the barn

Some participants at the Pillager Fair's horse show took a break outside the barn, thankful for a shady spot on a hot day. From left, Makenzie Radueg with her horse, Sage, Nash Ausland, Kiya Pope, Carter Kesler, all of the Motley area.



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Experience the old ways

A pelt display featured at the Old Wadena Rendezvous. (Staples World file photo)



Steve Fields
Minnesota Attorney



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SCAN TO APPLY



National Night Out is Aug. 4

Staples-Motley Beyond Poverty is hosting their annual National Night Out celebration Tuesday, Aug. 4, from 5 to 7 p.m. at the Staples Airport.

The event will have first responders, their vehi-

cles, law enforcement, fire department, ambulance and a helicopter.

This family-friendly event will have games for kids and a free meal at the airport hangar.

STAPLES continued from page 1a

Police dog discussion reveals concerns on increase of mutual aid calls

Police Chief Melissa Larson said the missing persons calls have been getting more frequent because there is an increase in group homes and sober houses in the community.

“The vast majority of missing persons are from group homes,” said Larson.

Although the missing persons have all been located, it can take a lot of time for officers to look for them. Waldvogel thought a search dog would cut down on officer search time and would also be helpful in burglary cases or other crimes, because the dogs are able to track burglary tools and masks, for example.

Council member Doug Case asked if having a dog would increase the number of requests from outside the city, any time another agency has a missing person or other need. Case was concerned that it would increase the costs to the city and also leave the city short-handed during those instances. Case said he already sees Staples Police going to many different communities for calls.

Larson said mutual aid calls have been increasing, partially because most law enforcement agencies are short-handed. She said it is now an expected part of the job.

“We will continue to help our neighbors if they call for help,” said Larson, “and they will do the same for us.”

Council member John Jewison said he did some research and didn’t find anything negative about having a K9 program. He said it can be a cost savings if it speeds up officer resource time. Another advantage is the public relations a dog can create in the community.

Council member Mary Theuer said that seniors are having dementia issues at increasing rates.

“We’re not going to not take care of our people,” said Theurer, “I would sure like to have that extra resource.”

Case said he is not

opposed to the program, but he would like to know the full cost of the program.

Waldvogel said they would raise money in the community to purchase and train the dog. Larson said there are grants available to keep the program funded. She agreed that the program can’t be a financial burden.

Staples Police officer Ryan Walwick said the department will have to write a policy on how the dog can be used. For example, he said they wouldn’t call the K9 unit for a drug search if it means giving them overtime hours.

The council had a general concensus to move forward with starting the progam. Waldvogel said it will take time, they will have to raise funds first and then train the dog at a facility near Park Rapids.

Larson said “Dawson is very passionate about it and we think he’ll do a great job.”

In other news, the council

- Approved resolution to remove hazardous buildings at 512 5th Street NE, which were damaged in a fire last year. The resolution calls for the building to be cleaned out in 21 days or the city will demolish and remove it.
- Approved closing of 5th St. NE for NAPA event.
- Approved change order for 4th Street NE construction project to add water lines to 5th Street NE.

“There was never going to be a better time to bring the water over,” said City Administrator Jerel Nelsen.

- Heard from Nelsen that the 4th Street NE street reconstruction has pushed back their schedule a little, but will still try to finish the portion near the high school before school starts.
- Rescheduled the Aug. 11 Staples City Council meeting to start at 8:01 because of the primary election that day.

- Approved school resource officer agreements with Central Lakes College and Staples-Motley School District.

75 YEARS Ago - 1951

- July 19, 1951 - Morey’s Fish Company of Motley was robbed Sunday morning at 1:25 o’clock of approximately \$1,500 in cash, and about \$700 in merchandise, according to Ed Morey owner of the place, who gave the information to The World late Tuesday afternoon, July 17.

This was the third time in 13 months that the place had been robbed, but this is the largest amount which has been taken.

The thieves entered the place through the back door, removed the 300-pound safe through the south door, then reentered the building, bolted all of the doors and went out through an east door, which was self locking.

The Moreys had been in

- O -
Compiled by
Dawn Timbs
- O -

Canada since June fourth, and had returned to their home in Motley Sunday evening. The robbery was not discovered until employees of the company opened the doors early Monday morning.

- July 19, 1951 - Once again The World has to chronicle two car accidents, one of which occurred in the city of Staples Sunday, July 15, about noon, and the other south of Staples on the Browerville road about nine o’clock that evening.

The first wreck occurred at the intersection of Highways No. 3 and 10 at Sixth Street as William Henry, game warden, located in Staples, was crossing the street going north. A car being driven by T. J. Filla of St. Cloud crashed into the front side of Mr. Henry’s car. The cars had to be pulled apart by a wrecker. No one was injured in the accident, fortunately, but both cars were damaged considerable.

The second accident of the day happened 4 1/2 miles north of Browerville as Lauren and Donald Coleman, and Barbara and LuJean Batcher were enroute to Long Prairie to go rollerskating.

The Coleman car, a 1950 Chevrolet, came to a “Y” in the road, just about the time the heavy rain storm hit. In trying to start the windshield wiper of the car, Lauren apparently lost control of the vehicle with the result that it went into the ditch at the “Y,” struck the bank, and then turned over end over end, lighting on its wheels on the bank.

The four young people were thrown out of the car as it struck the bank, and fortunately none of them

were killed.

- July 19, 1951 - Word reached Staples just after noon Wednesday of the death of Charley O’dell, 98, Staples oldest resident, who died at the Northern Pacific hospital in St. Paul at midnight Tuesday.

Mr. O’dell observed his 98th birthday anniversary on July third, and there was a party in his honor. The morning of July 4, he became ill, and on July sixth was taken to the NP hospital where he gradually grew weaker until his death at midnight Tuesday.

He had been staying at the home of his granddaughter, Mrs. Oscar Johnson, for the past few years.

50 YEARS Ago - 1976

- July 8, 1976 - The turkey bar-b-q dinner on Forth Street North in Staples was one of the many attractions July 1, during Red, White and Blue days.

Ted Ludovissie of Ted and Gen’s prepared the turkeys, and the dinner was served by the ladies of Sacred Heart church. More than 2,180 dinners were served during the day. The diners were serenaded by the Eagle Valley Playboys.

- July 8, 1976 - A citizen volunteer drive for mental health has raised \$129.50 in Thomastown township, it was announced by Mrs. Edith Geiger, drive chairman.

Helping with the Bell Ringer Drive in Thomastown township was Mrs. Carolyn Raddahl, asst. chairman. Other helpers were Mrs. Emil Wicht, Mrs. James Carlson, Mrs. Mike Blessing, Mrs. Gladys Grondahl, Mrs. Gilbert Bybee, Mrs. Glen Hasselberg, Mrs. Jean Heubner and Mrs. Jean Birch.

- July 8, 1976 - The Staples 8-year-old baseball team downed Wadena 8-6, at



Mystery photo

Hello readers. This week’s archive photo is from 1977. 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.

Todd Cty. court report

JULY 15, 2026
Long Prairie Police
Starlyn Rances Acevedo Guzman, Long Prairie. Driving after revocation. Fine \$200. Fee \$85.
Logan Robert Clasemann, Long Prairie. Windshield tinted or glazed. Fine \$50. Fee \$85
Bethany Denise Hvam, Roseville. Operate vehicle with expired registration. Fine \$30. Fee \$85
Rashida Jataya-Jean Rinnels, Long Prairie. Windshield tinted or glazed. Fine \$50. Fee \$85
MN Dept. of Natural Resources
Ronald Sherman Citrowske, Long Prairie. Take or posses fish over limit. Fine \$275. Fee \$135
Dairol Matos Ferreras, Long Prairie. Game and Fish - Must have license or proper paperless in personal possession. Fine \$25 Fee \$85
Wesley Rafael Monero Aquino, Long Prairie. Game and Fish - Must have license or proper paperless in personal possession. Fine \$25 Fee \$85
Thomas William Richgels, Apple Valley. Game and Fish - Take fish without angling license. Fine \$100. Fee \$85
Steven Andrew Rohde, Browerville. Burn during buring ban. Fine \$100. Fee \$85
MN State Patrol
Gail Helen Paschke, Moorhead. Driver fails to stop for stop sign. Fine \$50 Fee \$85
Trinity Elizabeth Oppegard, Mahnomen. Speed 98/65. Fine \$150. Fee \$85.
Brian Alan Alberts, New York Mills. Seat belt required. Fine \$25. Fee \$85.
Lexi Anne Bosek, Glenwood. Hands-Free Law. Fine \$50. Fee \$85
Resat, Dzemailji, Moorhead. Speed 79/70. Fine \$40. Fee \$85.
Catherine Rose Elliott, Moncks Corner, SC. Duty to drive with due care. Fine \$40. Fee \$85
Crystal Lynn Hahn, St. Martin.

Speed 65/60. Fine \$40. Fee \$85.
Justin Lee Hanson, Lino Lakes. Windshield tinted or glazed. Fine \$50. Fee \$85
Gavin Lowell Hjelle, Alexandria. Liquor consumption by persons under 21. Fine \$100. Fee \$85
Jonathan Marbelt Santiago, Palatka, FL. Speed 77/60. Fine \$60. Fee \$85.
Alexis Martinez Osorino, Osakis. Speed 71/55. Fine \$60. Fee \$85. No Minnesota driver’s license. Fine \$100. Expired Registration. Fine \$30
Dylan Alexander Petersen, Cottage Grove. Speed 85/70. Fine \$60. Fee \$85.
Judith Ann Peterson, Plymouth. Speed 65/55. Fine \$40. Fee \$85.
Micheal David Schmidt, Fergus Falls. Speed 84/70. Fine \$50. Fee \$85.
Adrienne Rose Swenson, Miltona. Driving after revocation Fine \$200. Fee \$85. No Proof MV insurance Fine \$200. Window tint (less than 50% light transmittance). Fine \$50
Lawrene Anthony Thornhill, Marlton, VA. Speed 83/70. Fine \$50. Fee \$85
Niel Ralph Wolbeck, Burtrum. Hands-Free Law. Fine \$50. Fee \$85.
Todd County Sheriff
Anthony Durate Martinez, Long Prairie. Speed 84/60. Fine \$70. Fee \$85.
Rochelle Ann Hulinsky, Burtrum. Operate vehicle with expired registration. Fine \$30. Fee \$85.
Milton Antonio Mendoza, Long Prairie. Driving after revocation. Fine \$200. Fee \$85.
Arelis Judith Rugama Cruz, Alexandria. Driving without a valid license for vehicle class or type. Fine \$100. Fee \$85.
Samantha Marie Wentworth, Motley. Speed 99/55. Unsupervised probation, 1 yr. Fine \$150. Fee \$225. Reckless driving. Fine \$50.
—Court reports forwarded from the Long Prairie Leader.

Staples Police report

Recent incidents reported by the Staples Police Departmnet include:

July 5, at 11:22 p.m., Staples Police responded to a report of a male party crawling on Hwy. 10 nearl Azalea Road, Cushing.

Police located the subject walking near County Road 28. The subject had injuries to face, hands and knees. The subject appeared to be intoxicated and refused an ambulance. Staples Police and Todd County Sheriff’s Deputies stayed with the subject until Morrison County Sheriff’s Department arrived to investigate further.

July 6, Staples Police responded to a report of a subject having suicidal thoughts. Subject stated he was okay and does not wish to harm himself. Subject is living in a tent at Dower Lake Recreation Area.

July 6, Staples Police opened the storm shelter at Dower Lake Recreation Area for campers. Shelter was secured after the storm passed.

July 8, Staples Police took a report of a burtlary at a residence on 140th Street. It appears a person was in the garage/shop area.

July 8, Staples Police investigated a fraud charge on an ATM, bank believes the reporting party made the withdrawl.

July 9, Staples Police were called about an unresponsive person in a car at Lakewood Health System. Staff were able to get person out of the car. Person was alert.

July 11, Staples Police responded to a one vehicle accident at County Road 7 and 470th Street, south of Staples. A care was traveling south on County Road 7 and left the roadway, going in the east side ditch and jumped the approach, landing in the ditch south of 470th Street. Subject was transported by ambulance to Lakewood Health System and flown to another hospital for treatment. A stop sign at the intersection was knocked down.

Wadena, on Friday, July 2.

Ricky Anderson was the winning pitcher for Staples, allowing only 6 hits.

Curt Muus with 3 hits, including a triple, and Scott Gardner with 2 hits, including a home run, led the Staples attack. Doug Peterson and Ricky Anderson each had 2 hits apiece for Staples, while Joe Meyer, Sue Lucas, and Greg Gorton each chipped in with a single.

Also seeing action for Staples were Randy Reichel, Mary Riewer, Scott Danculovich, Darcie Peterson and Cella Corbett.

Jon Miller coached the Staples team.

- July 8, 1976 - The United Methodist Women will have a picnic at the Ruth Peisch’ lake home, north of Brainerd, on July 14.

Kathy Morey will lead the program titled “Let Freedom Ring”. Food, Fellowship and Fun, including swimming.

25 YEARS Ago - 2001

- July 19, 2001 - How often will it happen?

The chances of two girls from the same town sharing a statewide title is not very high.

Sunday evening, Crystal Hamling, from Staples, handed her Miss Teen of Minnesota title to Julia Nytes, from Staples, as 80 other contestants in the 2001 state Miss Teen pageant watched.

“I think it’s just crazy we’re from Staples, and it’s coming back to Staples,” Crystal said. She added that Staples had two girls in the top ten and two others who did well at the Miss Teen program.

“We thought it was a neat idea, that one Staples student hands off the title to another,” Julia said.

The Miss Teen of Minnesota pageant was held in St. Cloud.

- July 19, 2001 - Amanda

Hoffert, Staples, Erin VanHavermaet, Browerville and Tara Snyder, Wadena, have recently been hired at Lakewood Health System in Staples as summer interns.

Hoffert is a 2000 Staples Motley High School graduate and a student at UMD, VanHavermaet is a senior at Browerville High School and Snyder is a recent graduate of Wadena-Deer Creek High School. Cindy Denning, RN,BAN, is the Summer Intern Program Coordinator at Lakewood.

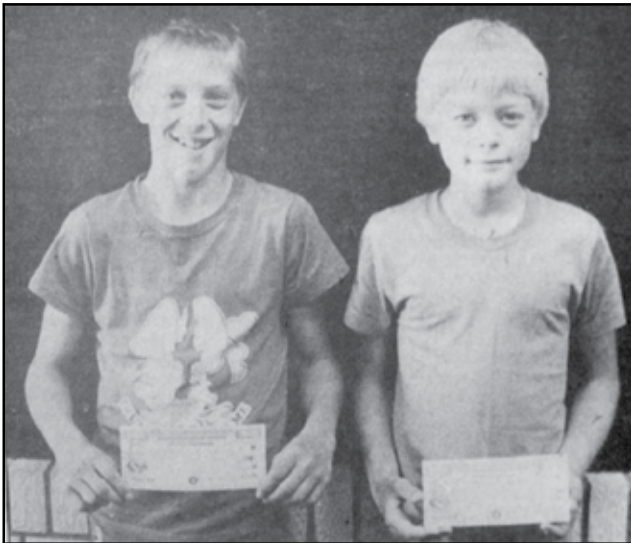
- July 19, 2001 - A sign of changing times for the former Cardinal Cafe building. A new Giovanni’s sign went up Monday over the building which has been freshly painted and re-decorated. Remodeling and installing new furnishings has taken longer than initially expected, but Giovanni’s management is still hoping to be open this month.

- July 19, 2001 - Representatives of the Minnesota Department of Transportation met with the Motley City Council July 10 and brought a second map with them with new ideas on changes for the Highway 10/210 intersection in Motley. It included placing a stoplight at that intersection.

10 YEARS Ago - 2016

- July 14, 2016 - The Staples-Motley Relay for Life will be held Friday, July 22 at the Motley Fairgrounds. Activities start at 5 p.m. and the opening ceremony starts at 7 p.m.

- July 14, 2016 - Chris Halverson has been hired as the new principal at Motley Staples Middle School, a position he assumed July 1. For the past 15 years, Halverson has taught economics and social studies at both the high school and middle school levels in Brainerd.



Mystery solved

Last week’s mystery photo published in a July of 1980 edition of the Staples World featured Pat Bienusa (left) and Mark Giza, winners of \$50 Savings Bonds donated by the Stapels merchants.

Kevin Roline of Nevis correctly identified both Thanks for participating in our mystery photo.



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Heart disease enhanced by wildfire smoke

The American Heart Association

Smoke from wildfires is rapidly drifting into the U.S. and the American Heart Association, a global force changing the future of health for all, warns that this wildfire smoke exposure may pose an increased risk for heart disease.

“Wildfire smoke contains a lot of pollutants including fine, microscopic particles that can be toxic and cause inflammation and get into the blood vessels,” said Dr. Catherine Benziger, M.D., M.P.H., a cardiologist at Essentia Health in Duluth. “The acute toxic effects include increased risk of arrhythmias, such as atrial fibrillation. It may also increase blood pressure, cause dizziness, headaches, strokes, heart attacks and heart failure exacerbations. As these fires continue to burn that contaminated smoke is traveling many miles beyond the immediately affected area.”

Several research studies have linked smoke exposure to an increased risk of sudden cardiac arrest and a higher volume of visits to local emergency rooms for other cardiovascular disease-related causes.

- In research presented at the American Heart Association’s Scientific Sessions 2023, investigators found smoke from summertime wildfires that created short-term spikes in fine particulate matter air pollution was significantly associated with same-day hospitalization for unstable chest pain in Utah.

- A study published in the Journal of the American Heart Association found that exposure to heavy smoke during wildfires raised the risk of out-of-hospital cardiac arrests up to 70 percent. The risk was elevated among men and women, among adults 35-64 years old and in communities with lower socioeconomic status.

- Previous findings from the same research group noted that wildfire smoke exposure was associated with

increased rates of emergency room visits, not just for breathing trouble, but also ischemic heart disease, irregular heart rhythm, heart failure, pulmonary embolism and stroke. ER visits increased 42 percent for heart attacks and 22 percent for ischemic heart disease within a day of exposure to dense wildfire smoke. The increase was most notable for adults age 65 and older, according to the study published in the Journal of the American Heart Association.

People with underlying cardiovascular disease risk factors may be at risk for an acute cardiovascular event when exposed to wildfire smoke.

Heart attack signs

According to the American Heart Association, recognizing the signs of a heart attack or stroke are important. Benziger urges to pay attention to your body and call 911 if you have:

- **Chest discomfort.** Most people having a heart attack feel discomfort in the center of the chest. It can last more than a few minutes, or it may go away and then return. It can feel like uncomfortable pressure, squeezing, fullness or pain.

- **Discomfort in other areas of the upper body.** Symptoms can include pain or discomfort in the arms (one or both), back, neck, jaw, or stomach. Shortness of breath is a sign that can happen with or without chest discomfort.

- **Other possible signs include:** Breaking out in a cold sweat, nausea, rapid or irregular heartbeat, feeling unusually tired or feeling lightheaded.

Knowing and performing CPR can more than double the chance of survival in the event of a cardiac arrest.

Air quality

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, in collaboration with other government and private agencies, offers a zip code-level tracking map of current air quality at airnow.gov. Benziger recommends checking that

site regularly if you’re seeing signs of wildfire smoke and haze developing where you live. It’s also important to stay informed about any special alerts sent out by your local health department.

Benziger offers the following tips for reducing exposure to wildfire smoke:

- Stay indoors with doors and windows closed.
- Use high-efficiency air filters in air conditioning systems or portable air cleaners.
- Avoid exertion.
- Keep well hydrated.
- Consider seeking other shelter if your home does not have an air conditioner and it’s too warm to stay inside.
- Be mindful that your pets may also be affected by the smoke and bring them indoors, as well.

“While these types of wildfires and the extent of their smoke reach can’t always be predicted, protecting yourself and your family from poor air quality throughout the year is something to consider,” Benziger said. “In the American Heart Association’s 2020 scientific statement on air pollution exposure, we note that one of the most effective measures is the use of portable air cleaners, which have been shown to reduce indoor particulate matter by as much as 50-60 percent. Given their modest upfront cost (\$50-\$200) and potential benefits in reducing cardiopulmonary outcomes, this measure has a high benefit for the cost.”

Benziger said while most people in the U.S. are not directly impacted by the physical wildfires burning in Canada and the U.S., the exposure to this lingering smoke can be extremely harmful and shouldn’t be taken for granted. “Protect your air, be alert, be smart and be prepared,” she said.

The American Heart Association has resources to help at www.heart.org.

Quote of the week

“Don’t ever think that just because you do things differently, you’re wrong.”

— Gail Tsukiyama

Questions about medical leave law

Mike Wiener
State Representative

One thing I’ve talked about in the past is Paid Family Medical Leave (PFML). We are now six months into Minnesota’s new PFML program and newly released data raises questions about the program’s long-term sustainability and who’s benefiting from it. While the Department of Employment and Economic Development (DEED) announced that 75,000 Minnesotans had been approved for leave, additional information provided to the Legislature shows that more than 92,000 applications have already been approved. At this pace, the state is on track to approve approximately 184,000 claims this year. Well above the original estimate of 130,000 annual claims.

The data also shows that roughly 67 percent of approved applications come from employees working for businesses with 200 or more employees, while employers with 30 or fewer employees

account for just 14 percent of applications. This raises concerns that small businesses, which contribute to funding the program through payroll taxes but use it at much lower rates, are effectively subsidizing benefits for larger employers.

Minnesota has learned the hard way that government programs lacking proper oversight can quickly become vulnerable to waste, fraud and abuse. With the state’s Paid Family and Medical Leave program already approving more applications than originally projected, it is critical that the Legislature closely monitor its implementation and financial health. The state must ensure strong accountability measures are in place to verify claims, protect taxpayer dollars and prevent the kinds of costly mistakes that have plagued other state programs. Responsible oversight today can help avoid higher taxes and larger financial problems tomorrow.

Rural restaurants are community hubs

Daily Yonder gives five tips for rural restaurant customers

Donna Kallner
The Daily Yonder

Most of us know someone who can be found daily (or even multiple times a day) at a rural restaurant: Retired farmers and widowers who breakfast at the place the rest of us call The House Of Knowledge. The new moms who meet up for coffee and complete sentences and leave quickly when naptime comes. The old couple who will take their noon meal at the corner table as long as one of them can drive.

The regulars rub elbows with tradesmen, sales reps, long-lost relatives, hunters and fisherman, tourists, and motorists inspired to seek out dive bars and diners.

Those of us who eat out less often are important to the mix, as well. And we want to support our supper clubs and casino restaurants, taverns and truck stops, barbecue joints and every other kind of mom-and-pop place that serves food. Because they’re important to our rural communities.

The hospitality industry is tough everywhere, but even more so where the population is thin. Out here, a neighborhood is measured in miles instead of blocks so a restaurant is probably

a destination rather than a stop on the way. Out here, the average income is likely lower than in more urban areas but the cost of food may be higher. Out here, the labor pool can be considerably smaller. Out where it takes longer for a volunteer fire department to arrive, insurance premiums reflect that. Out where it takes longer to restore power after an outage, a restaurant owner risks losing everything in their cooler if they don’t install a backup generator.

There’s little that we, as customers, can do to fix many of the concerns that cause restaurant owners sleepless nights. But there are some simple things we can do to show rural restaurants and their employees our appreciation.

Make it mindful. Your presence is a transaction, but your patronage is a relationship that supports a local business and local families. A friend of mine eats out nearly every day instead of cooking for one. It’s not just about the food. Much of the time, she has plans to eat with people she cares about because she makes a point of nurturing relationships. When she’s alone, she engages with those whose paths happen to cross hers that day. She makes others feel like they’re important and treasured. She works

this magic in local restaurants, which benefit from more than the amount on the check. Patronage fosters a symbiosis between a restaurant and the greater rural community.

Make memories. Going out to eat was not something my family did when I was little, so I have special memories of a few times, like dipping French fries in ketchup with my dad. And I treasure memories made, as an adult, in local restaurants – like Jonah, as a toddler in a high chair at Kubah’s, with long eyelashes and a magnetic smile that pulled ladies of a certain age across the room to coo while waiting for their fish fry.

We have many fond memories of the previous incarnation of a place just up the road. Back when we worked 80 hours a week in an outdoor recreation business, on Sunday nights we went to Porky’s Place. It was a traditional Wisconsin tavern: Burgers and fries. Patsy Cline on the jukebox. A cup of dice on the counter for the shake of the day. When Porky was working alone, he would pour our beers, take our orders, go to the half-door between the bar and the kitchen and holler “order up”. Then he might serve drinks and take orders for someone else. But soon he would stick his head back into the kitchen to “discover” that the “cook” back there was “sleeping”. He would disappear to go wake up that no-good lazy so-and-so. If anyone came in while he was back in the kitchen it was our job, as regulars, to keep up the fiction that he was gone to wake up the cook. He would reappear shortly with our food, shaking his head at how hard it is to get good help.

Manage expectations. Not every meal comes with a floor show like Porky put on. But every place has its quirks. The regulars know them. Others may not, but we can manage our expectations. For example, in my neck of the woods there are still addresses where it’s tough to tune in to a big sporting event. During the playoffs, it’s wise to check the game schedule before planning to meet a soft-spoken or hard-of-hearing friend to catch up over dinner at a restaurant.

Someone coming from a place with many more options may think their ex-

pectations are reasonable until they meet the reality of rural restaurants. The supper club we go to for our anniversary does not take reservations – not by phone, not by app. When you arrive, you go to the bar and get your party on the list for a table.

Expect a wait. In warm weather, we wait outside on the deck overlooking the lake while enjoying an adult beverage. In a while, someone comes outside to take your order. Later, they come back to tell you your table number. When you get inside, your table is set up with a relish tray. Then comes salad, then entree, then the tempting tray of dessert options. The pace is meant to make the meal an occasion.

The fantasy and the reality: It takes hard work to create the impression that everything is relaxed. According to the National Restaurant Association, 63% of adults have worked in the restaurant industry. We should have some insight into what goes on behind the scenes. We could be better about recognizing how we, as patrons, can make an experience memorable in a good way.

For example, a restaurant owner I talked with had been slammed on a Friday night by several unexpected large groups. Like most places up here, they don’t take reservations. But they appreciate a call when a large group is planning to come. That gives the restaurant a chance to call in another server, thaw more fish, maybe even adjust what’s on their next food delivery.

Be kind. Social media and online reviews give customers opportunities to amplify their experiences. That can be great for a rural restaurant – or not so great. And even a great place has a bad day from time to time. My mother used to say, if you can’t say something nice don’t say anything at all. So say something nice about the restaurants in your rural community. Share good thoughts on the Facebook group everyone monitors for local gossip. Save constructive criticism for when you can have a private word with the owner or manager and they can appreciate it.

Donna Kallner writes from Langlade County in rural northern Wisconsin.

Rail moves Americans

By Jim Mathews
President & CEO
Rail Passengers Association

The reasons people ride trains are as different as the country itself. Work. Family. Health. Mobility. Opportunity. Or simply the need to get where they are going in a way that works for their lives. Whatever the reason, for millions of Americans, rail is part of everyday life, and the need is literally every day.

At a time when the country often feels divided and pulled in different directions, passenger rail continues to do something simple but important: it connects people. It moves Americans

through the same spaces, toward the same destinations, sharing the same experience of the country along the way.

As we mark America’s 250th year, we also mark something else: the continued responsibility to ensure this system does not fade into the background of history.

The story of rail in America is not just about infrastructure. It is about people, and whether they can get where they need to go. Like the country it serves, passenger rail continues to evolve, but its purpose remains the same: connecting Americans to each other and to opportunity.

Staples World

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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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Enjoying rockabilly tunes on a beautiful summer night

Northern Pacific Park in Staples was filled with fans of classic rock 'n' roll and rockabilly July 19, as Holy Rocka Rollaz performed at the band-shell. Members of the band included front man Mark Flora, vocals/guitar; his wife, Lisa Lynn, vocals/stand up bass; and drummer Matt Alexander. The free concert was part of the Music in the Park series presented by Staples Motley Area Arts Council. Concerts are held on Sunday evenings at 7 p.m. through Aug. 23. The park is located at 625 6th St. NE, Staples. (Staples World photos by Dawn Timbs)



Mark Your Calendar

July 23

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

WADENA WHIRLAWAYS SQUARE DANCE GROUP DANCING Thursday, July 23, 7 - 9:30 p.m., at St. Michael's Church, 280 1st Ave. S., Motley. Bob Maiden, caller. For info., 612-743-3480.

July 24

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.

July 26

MUSIC IN THE PARK - FREE Featuring Kevin Klimek and The Sideliners. Sunday, July 26, 7 p.m., at Northern Pacific Park, 625 6th St. NE, Staples. Presented by Staples Motley Area Arts Council.

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

July 28

WADENA COUNTY REPUBLICANS MEETING Tuesday, July 28, 7 p.m., at the Wadena VFW. Guest speaker will be Representative Mike Wiener. Come early and visit with like-minded people.



Music in the Park donation

Tim Rice of the Staples Motley Area Arts Council accepts a \$4,000 check from Bob Schafer of the Staples Host Lions Club, for Music in the Park, with performances every Sunday evening at 7 p.m. at Northern Pacific Park in Staples.

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Nyhus Chevrolet 120 2nd Ave NE, Staples
Ken's Collision & Glass/Southside Mini-Mart/Soutside Suds Car Wash 219 6th St SE, Staples

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STAPLES 214 2nd Ave.
218-894-3055

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218-541-5400

Retail, gift and thrift stores

Longbella Drug By Lakewood 1210 Highway 10, Staples
Old 10 Apparel 508 2nd Ave NE, Staples
STEP On In 116 5th Street NE, Staples
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Ray's Tobacco 215 2nd Ave. NE, Staples

119 3rd St. NE, STAPLES 218-296-5191
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Friday: 11 a.m.-9 p.m.
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•FISH FRY •ASIAN FOOD NIGHT

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Spot Cafe 116 2nd Ave NW, Staples
Beck's Burger Co. 119 3rd St NE, Staples
The Boxcar 102 4th St NE, Staples
Still Lefty's 423 2nd Ave NE, Staples
DQ Staples and DQ Motley Highway 10 in Staples and Motley
B&B Sports Bar & Grill 115 2nd Ave. NE, Staples
Stomping Grounds 213 4th St NE, Staples
Bremer's Booze Bank 48 Main Street W, Motley

218-894-3299
414 2nd Ave NE, Staples
Monday-Thursday: 11:00-7:30
Friday-Saturday: 11:00-8:30
Sunday: 4:00-7:30

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would like to extend their
heartfelt thanks for the
kindness, compassion and
support shown during
this time of loss.
Your thoughtful messages,
cards, prayers, flowers and
comforting presence have
meant more to us than words
can express. Each gesture
of sympathy has brought
strength and reassurance,
reminding us that we are
surrounded by care and love.
We especially thank the
local fire department,
Lion's Club and the D.N.R. for
their presence and support.
WITH SINCERE APPRECIATION
AND GRATITUDE,
The Orville Meyer
Family

Hello World

ONLINE BIRTHS REMOVED
AT THE REQUEST OF LAKEWOOD
HEALTH SYSTEM.

Donna Miller

Donna Joanne (Greeno) Miller, 97, of Staples went to be with the Lord on July 19, 2026.

A Celebration of Life will be held Tuesday, July 28 at 4 p.m. at the Staples United Methodist Church. Visitation will be held one hour prior to services at the church.

Donna was born November 21, 1928 to Lillian Greeno in Staples. She attended Staples Public Schools and graduated in 1946. She married L.J. (Pat) Miller July 17, 1948 at the United Methodist Church in Staples. They had three children, Kenneth, Doug-

las and Jon. Donna worked at the Staples State Bank for three years until she became pregnant with her first son. In 1964 she began working with her husband in his photography business, completing administrative tasks.

Donna enjoyed traveling with Pat, taking trips to Europe, Hawaii, Mexico, Greece and around the United States. Many trips were on Pat's Harley Davidson motorcycle. Donna played piano and organ for 70 years for Sunday services, Sunday school, Christmas programs, church choir, weddings and funerals at

the Staples United Methodist Church. She loved and served the Lord Jesus with all her heart. She was a prayer warrior whose faith guided her life, a beautiful ministry of music, faith and service, devoted, above all, to glorifying God. Through years of dedication, she shared her gifts with humility and joy, allowing every song, every act of kindness and every moment of service to reflect the light of Christ within her. Those who knew Donna saw in her a faithful heart, generous spirit and a love for the Lord that touched countless lives. Her music was more than a talent - it was a testimony, a gift offered in worship and a source of encouragement to all who were blessed to hear it. Donna was a wonderful wife, mother, grandmother, great-grandmother and friend. Donna had a huge gift of hospitality and opened her home to many foreign exchange students. She is loved and will be deeply missed by her children, grandchildren, great-grandchildren and friends.

Donna is survived by two sons, Kenneth (Kathleen) Miller and Jon Miller; two grandchildren, Michael (Marissa) Miller and Lindsey Miller and five great-grandchildren, Taylonee South, Kendrick South, Theo Miller, Gus Miller and Luna Miller.

Donna is preceded in death by her mother; husband; one son, Douglas Miller; one great-grandson, Jaylen Coward and one uncle, Kenneth Greeno.

Arrangements are by the Brenny Funeral Home.



Marilyn Hall

Marilyn Maxine Hall, 93, of Motley and formerly of Staples, passed away peacefully July 12, 2026, surrounded by the love of her family.

Funeral services were held July 20 at Faith Lutheran Church, Staples.

Marilyn was born May 19, 1933, to Ernest and Edna (Lawrence) Gibbs in Greely, Iowa. She grew up with strong family values that remained the foundation of her life.

Marilyn married the love of her life, Lawrence Hall on April 5, 1950. Together they built a loving home and shared many years of marriage while raising their family.

Marilyn was a dedicated and hardworking woman. She spent 15 years working at Ernie's grocery store in Staples and more than 10 years at Williams Floral, Staples, where she was known for her friendly smile and strong work ethic.

Marilyn found joy in life's simple pleasures. She loved putting together puzzles, baking cakes and cookies for those she loved, dancing and crocheting beautiful handmade items. She was a proud member of the Motley Garden Club for several years, where she enjoyed sharing her love of flowers, gardening and friendship. She will be remembered for her warm heart, generous spirit and the love she shared with everyone fortunate enough to know her.

Family was the center of Marilyn's life. She is lovingly survived by two sons, Blain Hall and Gordon (Nancy) Hall; one daughter, Sandra (Merle) Bryce; nine cherished grandchildren; many beloved great-grandchildren; numerous nieces, nephews, many extended family members and dear friends.

She was preceded in death by her parents; her beloved husband; one sister, Norma Prescott; one son, Bryan Hall and two grandsons, Ryan Hall and Nathan Hall.

Marilyn's memory will live on through the lives she touched, the family she cherished and the many happy memories she created. She will be deeply missed and remembered lovingly. She leaves behind a legacy of kindness, devotion and unwavering love for those who knew her.

Arrangements were by Brenny Funeral Home.

Benjamin Spilman

Benjamin Spilman, 63, of Motley, died July 11, 2026.

Private graveside services will be held at Poplar Cemetery, Leader.

Arrangements are by the Brenny Family Funeral Chapel, Staples.

Roger Weske

Funeral services for Roger W. Weske will be held Tuesday, July 28, at 11 a.m. at Shepherd Of The Valley Lutheran Church, 312 US-71, Clarissa MN 56440.

Visitation will be held Monday, July 27, from 4 to 7:30 p.m. and Tuesday, July 28, 9:30 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.

See **OBITUARIES** on page 9a

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For the
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Staples Area Church Directory

Staples
Staples Alliance
1512 8th St. NE, Staples.....218-894-2891
Pastor John Pavlica, Lead Pastor
Sunday Worship 9:30 a.m.
Sunday School 11:00 a.m.
Weds., 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
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.....218-631-1593
parishsecretary@marysacc.org
Rev. JC Duncan, 218-632-7314
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
Sunday School.....9:15 a.m.
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.lincolnfree.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.....218-631-1593
Rev. JC Duncan, 218-632-7314
Rev. Greg Sauer, 218-632-7319
Mass: Sunday.....10:30 a.m.

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
office@verndaleflc.org
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.....218-631-1593
parishsecretary@marysacc.org
Rev. JC Duncan, 218-632-7314
Rev. Greg Sauer, 218-632-7319
MASS: Saturday.....6:00 p.m.
St. Hubert Catholic Church
Bluegrass.....218-631-1593
Rev. JC Duncan, 218-632-7314
Father Greg Sauer, 218-632-7319
parishsecretary@marysacc.org
Mass: Saturday.....4:00 p.m.

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
Father Greg Sauer, 218-632-7319
parishsecretary@marysacc.org
Mass: Sunday (livestream).....10 a.m.

“What is Significant About July 22?”

By Pastor Barry Klein, Staples Church of Christ

Here we are... July 22, 2026. Did you know that this date in history is quite an active one? On July 22 in 1894, the world's first competitive motor race took place. It was sponsored by the Le Petit Journal newspaper. The race was a competition between horseless carriages from Paris to Rouen. Wiley Post became the first person to fly solo around the world in 1933 on July 22. Public enemy number one, John Dillinger, was killed by FBI agents on this date in 1934. On the date of July 22 in 1944 Communist rule began in Poland. On July 22, 1983, after a year long trip, Australian Dick Smith became the first person to fly a helicopter solo around the world. Many other famous people's birthdays and deaths were on this date too.

So how does this apply to us today, for July 22, 2026? Let's consider Psalm 118:24 which says, "This is the day that the Lord has made; let us rejoice and be glad in it." Maybe you've heard this verse put to song. Music enhances memorizing Scripture.

There's a general application to life in this verse that we will get to shortly. Significantly though, this verse is surrounded by a context. In the midst of this chapter, there's a recounting of God's incredible and intense in-

volvement with the Psalmist in particular and with God's people in general. Then, there's a Messianic prophesy in Psalm 118:22-23 that says, "The stone the builders rejected has become the cornerstone. The Lord has done this, and it is marvelous in our eyes."

The New Testament confirms in verses like Matthew 21:42, Luke 20:17 and Acts 4:11 that Psalm 118:22-23 is clearly pointing to the coming Messiah who is Jesus. It's a plan of God's from before Genesis 1:1 (See Ephesians 1:4 as to His plan including His followers too). No wonder this marvelous unfolding plan has the response in Psalm 118:23 of, "the Lord has done this, and it is marvelous in our eyes."

That eternal plan, placed in history, applies to each and every day we are in. No matter how challenging any day is, Jesus as the cornerstone of eternity and daily living, is reason alone to say, "This is the day the Lord has made, let us rejoice and be glad in it."

Then, as we have our bearings in God and His Sovereign plan for life, we can find many other reasons to rejoice in God, including on July 22 2026. Search well for reasons to embrace today and every day with a rejoicing praise to God.

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

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

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

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



Indoor exercise at basketball camp

With wildfire smoke choking off the outdoors, young athletes found clean air indoors at The Nest for the Staples-Motley Community Education basketball

camps July 14-16. Players were able to learn from Coach Zack Qual, above, and high school players. (Staples World photos by Mark Anderson)

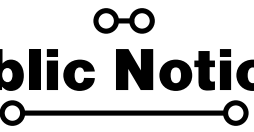


Softball season concludes at tournament

The Staples-Motley 14U softball team finished their summer season with a close loss at Pine River in their league tournament. Pictured, front row from left, Rachael Decker, Grace Halverson and Lily Brichacek; back row, coach Tom Brichacek, Maddy Michael, Milli Dewald, Emily Becker, Aubree Hove, Aunah Shonblom, Alexi deCoup-Crank and coach

Jeff Halverson. The Cardinals were leading 3-2 late in their playoff game, with Milli Dewald pitching six strikeouts and only giving up two hits. Pine River scored the winning runs in the bottom of the last inning. Coach Jeff Halverson said it was their best game of the year, as they played through the smoke-filled skies. (Submitted photo)



Public Notices

PUBLIC NOTICES continued from page 9a

Sections 27 and 28, West Union Township
Site Address: 14244 Stearns Line Rd., Sauk Centre, MN 56378
PID: 27-0021000 & 27-0021601

1. Request for CUP to expand an existing feedlot from 1,471.7 animal units to 2,471.3 animal units in AF-1 Zoning Districts

4. **Yvonne Christensen:** Section 36, Gordon Township
Site Address: 16777 Co. 4, Osakis, MN 56360
PID: 10-0033400

1. Request for CUP for Temporary Family Housing in AF-1 Zoning District.

5. **John H. Kessler and Jessie A. Kessler Jacobson, "Kessler's Bay Addition":** Section 22, Kandota Township
Site Address: 11264 US 71, Sauk Centre, MN 56378
PID: 14-0025200

1. Request to Create a two-lot Plat in Recreation-

al Development Shoreland Zoning District.

6. **Proposed Amendment to Section 9.04 Prohibited Structures, of the Todd County Planning and Zoning Ordinance..**

Adjournment.

Next meeting:
September 3, 2026

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 Planning Commission
Jim Pratt, Chair

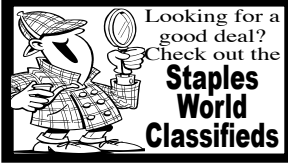
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107 SERVICES & EMPLOYMENT

205 Help Wanted
Have creative flare? Strive for details? Consider the Staples World, your locally owned, community newspaper: Advertising, copy page layout, special projects, + more. Submit resumé to Staples World, PO Box 100, Staples, MN 56479 or email editor@staplesworld.com. Physical address: 207 4th St. NE, Staples, across from the old Staples Theatre marquee.

208 Storage

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218-884-9356
6x20, 10x12, 10x20, 10x24



209 Business Services

PAUL DRAKE TREE SERVICE, SINCE 1978: General, lot clearing, storm damage clean-up, stump grinding, brushing, 55 ft. bucket truck. 218-894-2871, Staples. 20tfc

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GARAGE SALES

701

CHURCH GARAGE SALE: SWAN VALLEY LUTHERAN CHURCH. Thurs., July 23, Fri., July 24, Sat., July 25, 8 a.m.-5 p.m. each day. 13 mi. North of Motley on Hwy 64. Watch for signs. Many new items added including furniture. 30x-31p

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Downtown Longbella's store, across from Tower Pizza
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Obituaries

Joseph Dubbels

Joseph P. Dubbels, 98, of Little Falls, passed away July 10, 2026 at Bridgeway Estates in Little Falls.

Funeral services were held July 17, 2026 at Zion Lutheran Church in Little Falls, with Rev. Brandon Johnson officiating.

Burial will take place at a later date in the Minnesota State Veterans Cemetery north of Little Falls.

Joe was born November 20, 1927, to the late Joseph and Verna Dubbels on the family farm in Cushing Township, Morrison County. He attended Lincoln Country School through grade eight and graduated from Motley High School in 1945 as Salutatorian. Joe farmed with his father until enlisting in the U.S. Army in the spring of 1946. He served in Korea and was honorably discharged on September 24, 1947. He was united in marriage to Robertta Thiel in July of 1949. The couple settled on the family farm. Their marriage was blessed with two children. Joe enjoyed driving school bus and getting to know all the kids on his route, in addition to raising beef cattle and farming until his retirement. He was an active member of Saint Peter's Lutheran Church in Randall, serving in many capacities within the congregation. Joe was a lifelong member of the Randall VFW and a past member of the Lincoln/Scandia Valley Lions Club. Joe was an avid fisherman, participating in league play and hosted many family and friends at his home and



farm for deer hunting every year. He also enjoyed reading, gardening and playing cards, especially 500 and cribbage. He was a born storyteller, sharing innumerable events of his life with anyone who wanted to listen. Joe loved to travel; he frequented Florida and Alaska to visit and travel with his nephews.

Joe is survived by one daughter, Judy (John) Bentler; granddaughter, Kelly (Travis) Dorweiler; two great-grandchildren, Brianna Dorweiler and Tyler Dorweiler.

He was preceded in death by his wife, Robertta; one daughter, Diane Grothem; parents; siblings, Bernelda Holmberg, Alaire Savannah, Warren Dubbels, Monna Heinis/Jeffrey and Donna Thiel.

Joe's family would like to thank the staff at Bridgeway in Little Falls and Horizon Health in Pierz for their excellent care.

Memorials are preferred to the MS Society.

Arrangements were by the LeMieur Funeral Home in Little Falls.

w31c A00006B2026JY22

Larry Oman

Larry Earl Oman, 81, passed away July 10, 2026, while maintaining the land he loved.

Larry was born January 11, 1945 to and Richard and Ruth (Dailey) Oman, in Wadena. He graduated from South High School in Minneapolis in 1964.

Larry married the love of his life, Linda (Doten), on October 22, 1966. They began their family and in 1978, moved to Little Falls to operate a dairy farm. During those years, Larry also worked full-time at Quebecor Printing in St. Cloud. When life was busy with family and work, Larry made time for trap shooting (he was a natural marksman) and for training his beloved German Shorthair hunting dogs, Mox and Maxine.

After retiring, Larry had more time to enjoy fishing and hunting. He purchased land in Leader where he loved being near family and took great pride in the food plots he created and tended, nurturing the deer and wildlife that lived there.

He is survived by his wife of 59 years, Linda Oman; one daughter, Angie



(Bob) Deering; one son, Brian (Valerie) Oman; five grandchildren, Robert Deering, Kristine Deering, Erin Deering, August Oman and Henrik Oman as well as many dear cousins, family and friends.

He is preceded in death by his parents; grandparents and other loved ones.

His dedication to his family will remain a lasting part of his legacy. Larry is cherished so deeply that missing him is a part of us, a quiet reminder of how lucky we are to have known and loved him.

Arrangements are by the Brenny Family Funeral Chapel, Staples.

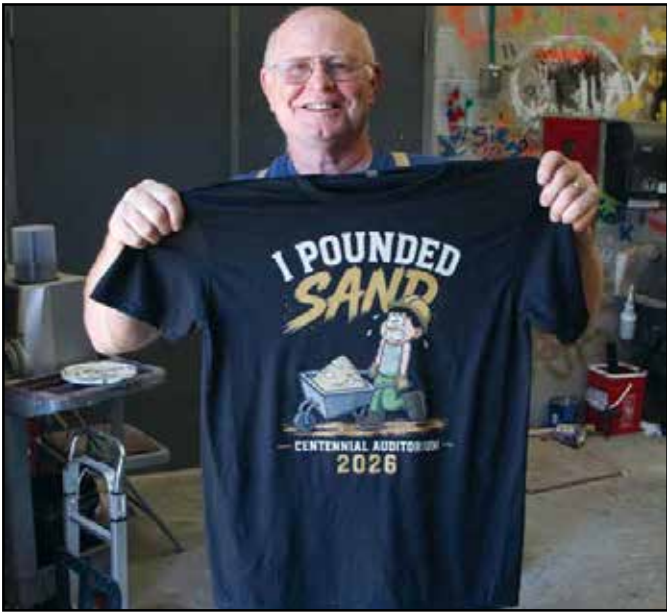
w31c A00006B2026JY22



Construction production

It took a lot of coordination to choreograph the filling of the orchestra pit at Centennial Auditorium, as the haulers, shovelers, rakers and packers kept a level surface as they filled six feet, eight inches of space, one wheelbarrow at a time. The stage is expected to be finished in time for the Little Red Caboose Variety Show in August, with a kick-off celebration show being scheduled for Sept. 19. This project is part of the larger auditorium renovation that intends to turn it into a first-class production auditorium with full lights, sound, technology and backdrops. Sound panels have already been installed to help with the acoustics, with much more to come. The Centennial Auditorium Committee is starting a \$425,000 fundraising effort to finish their part of the renovation.

Right, Mike Gold, a member of the auditorium committee, shows the t-shirt prepared for this effort. (Staples World photos by Mark Anderson)



Pit crew

As the orchestra pit was being cleared and dismantled, school grounds staff posed with members of the auditorium committee and Staples-Motley Area Arts Council to show the depths of the pit. From left, Dave Trantina, Leroy Peterson, Mike Roloefs, Paul Patrick, Mark Anderson, Tim Rice and Mike Gold. Before filling the pit, the sump pump and electrical wires had to be capped off. (Staples World photos by Mark Anderson)



Public Notices

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS STAPLES-MOTLEY ISD 2170, MN

Pursuant to MN Statue 471.6161, notice is hereby given that Staples-Motley ISD #2170 requests proposals for Group Term Life, Long Term Disability, and Short Term Disability Insurance

Specifications will be available from the District's agent of record, National Insurance Services, at 300 North Corporate Drive, Suite 300, Brookfield WI, 53045, phone 800-627-3660.

Proposals are due no later than 11 a.m. on August 12, 2026 to 300 North Corporate Drive, Suite 300, Brookfield WI, 53045 and as specified in the RFP.

Staples-Motley ISD 2170 reserves the right to reject proposals, waive formalities, and to select the proposal that best meets the District's needs.

Criteria for the evaluation of proposals will be provided when the specifications are requested.

31pnc

MEADOWBROOK TOWNSHIP NOTICE OF CANDIDATE FILING DATES

A reminder that the following township offices will be voted for at the State General Election to be held Tuesday, November 3, 2026. Candidates may file for these offices through 5:00 p.m. on Tuesday, July 28, 2026. You may call Ty Peterson, 703-209-2678 for an appointment or the office of the clerk will be open Tuesday, July 28, 2026, from 1:00 to 5:00 p.m. located at 7969 65th Ave. SW, Motley, MN 56466. Candidates must complete an Affidavit of Candidacy and pay a \$2.00 filing fee at the time of filing.

Filings will be accepted during the filing period for the following offices to be elected on November 3, 2026:

- One (1) Township Clerk - four (4) year term
- One (1) Supervisor - four (4) year term (Seat 1)
- One (1) Supervisor - four

(4) year term (Seat 3)

Ty Peterson, Clerk Meadowbrook Township 30-31pnc

MAY TOWNSHIP NOTICE OF COMBINED OR SEPARATE CANDIDATE QUESTION

May Township residents will see something new on the ballot this year. They have a choice to make: Should the township keep separate town clerk and treasurer positions or should they be combined to help save the township money. If you have any questions regarding this option, contact one of the supervisors or the clerk at 218-820-6430.

Ballot question: Option D - Combining Clerk and Treasurer

May Township has previously passed Option B - appointing the clerk and treasurer.

The May Township Board of Supervisors are now asking residents to

vote on Option D - combining the positions of clerk and treasurer. Vote Yes or No on the ballot.

Bianca Wyffels, Clerk May Township 31pnc

NOTICE MORAN TOWNSHIP WEED TOUR

Moran Township will conduct the Moran Township weed tour on July 28, 2026 at 6 p.m. Supervisors will leave from the town hall to conduct the weed tour.

Diane Mack, Clerk Moran Township 30-31pnc

TODD COUNTY PLANNING COMMISSION

215 First Ave. South Suite 103 Long Prairie, Minnesota 56347 320-732-4420 toddplan.zone@co.todd.mn.us

PUBLIC NOTICE

Notice is hereby given

that the Todd County Planning Commission will hold a public hearing on **Thursday, August 6, 2026 at 6:00 p.m.** in the Commissioners meeting room, Historic Courthouse, 215 First Ave. South, Long Prairie, MN to consider the following applications.

NOTE: This meeting is again being held in-person and the public is encouraged to attend, and 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? Phone 320-732-4420 or Email toddplan.zone@co.todd.mn.us

- Agenda
- Call to Order
- Pledge of Allegiance
- Introduction of Planning Committee Members and process review
- Approval of agenda
- Approval of July 2, 2026 Planning Commission meeting minutes
- The applicant is intro-

- duced
- Staff report
- Applicant confirms if staff report accurately represents the request
- Correspondence
- Site Visit Review
- Public Comment
- Board review with applicant, staff and public

1. John U. Gingerich: Section 04, Iona Township **Site Address:** 32404 185th Ave., Clarissa, MN 56440

PID: 13-0003502

1. Request for CUP for Temporary Family Housing in AF-1 Zoning District.

2. Tom Brichacek: Sections 21 and 22, Moran Township **Site Address:** 40919 County 21, Browerville, MN 56438

PID: 19-0021700 & 19-0022300

1. Request for CUP to expand an existing cabinet business with an office and manufacturing space addition in AF-1 and AF-2 Zoning Districts.

3. Allied Dairy LLP: See **NOTICES** on page 9a



Honey and holly

A honey bee hovers collecting pollen from a hollyhock. (Staples World photo by Janice Winter)



Old Wadena donation

The Staples Host Lions donated \$1,000 to the Old Wadena Society. Pictured is Jim Hofer of Old Wadena and Bob Schafer of the Staples Host Lions.



Veterans park donation

The Staples Veterans Park received a \$500 donation from the Staples Host Lions Club. Bob Hamann of the veterans park receives the check from Bob Schafer of the Lions Club.

MOTLEY continued from page 1a

Proposed City of Motley building could cost \$4.4 to \$5.6 million

space on the north end of the building would be for volunteer responders to use. That will also create a separate entrance for fire and rescue personnel on the north side.

The engineering firm estimated the total cost of the project to be \$4.4 to \$5.6 million. Marks said that is an “aggressive” estimate because costs are uncertain and she said they would like to see the final project come in under that figure.

The study suggested that funding could come from a variety of sources. Marks said many rural projects get help from USDA loans. Marks suggested community members could lead a local pledge drive or they could get larger amounts from businesses or people as a legacy donation.

“People like to have their name on things,” said Marks.

The city could also apply for grants from the Initiative Foundation, Blandin Foundation, or rural electric providers who have economic development funds. Marks suggested the added community space could qualify for a donation from the Staples Motley Area Community Foundation or other local groups.

The next step is for the city council to review the project. If they approve the preliminary design, they can request a more detailed design with the purpose of finalizing what direction they want to go.

The council did not discuss the proposal at length at their July 13 meeting, but seemed open to exploring the next steps. Council member April Skeesick-Larson said she thought it was important to give city staff the space they need to do their jobs. Council member Dennis Erickson thought it would solve some of the parking and traffic issues, saying that trucks parked in the lot currently stick out into the street.

The council agreed to discuss the proposal at their next meeting.

Public Works Director Bruce Brotherton said they have a street project scheduled for next year, but might have to hold it off so it can fit in with whatever plan the city approves.

Marks said this could be a good time for the city to make improvements on the building.

“You’ve got good problems here, you have growth and people interested in improving things,” said Marks.

New fire truck

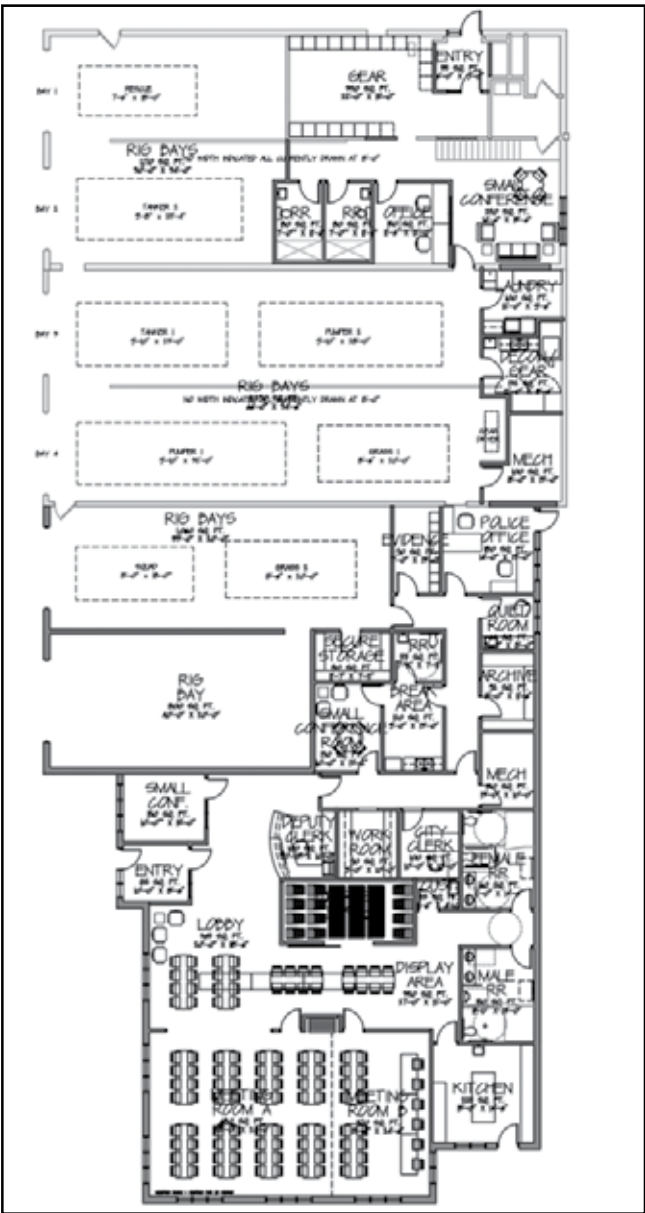
Motley Fire Chief Todd Judd told the council they

are ready to ship the new fire truck from where it was built in Phoenix, Ariz. The truck has a 4,000 gallon water tank.

He said they are going to send a couple of firefighters there first to test it out and make sure it is working. They decided it would be better to ship it to Motley rather than drive it. The delivery cost will be \$7,700, making the total cost a little more than \$100,000.

In other news, the council

- Accepted grant funds of \$13,500 for the CEDA Rural Capacity Program.
- Accepted Initiative Foundation grant funds of \$5,000 for the city’s facade revitalization program.
- Approved \$410 annual donation to Initiative Foundation.
- Appointed Mayor Pat O’Regan to act as the council’s police liason.
- Learned that Planning and Zoning scheduled a public hearing for a setback variance for their Aug. 3 meeting.
- Approved application from Motley Discount Liquor to begin sales of low potency hemp edible products.
- Approved Phase I environmental site assessment by Carlson McCain for industrial property preparation for sale. The bid was \$1,985, with the next lowest bid at \$3,100. The council also approved a “for sale” sign for the same property to be completed by Froggy’s Signs for \$450.
- Approved starting a City of Motley Business Spotlight program to highlight one business per month to promote local businesses.
- Approved a variance to allow five horses on a 10 acre parcel on E. River



Possible floor plan

The Motley municipal building floor plan by Bollig Engineering includes the existing fire truck bays on the upper left portion, plus new construction on the south side of the building, with city and police offices, a kitchen and community meeting rooms.

Road. The city ordinance allows two horses on five acres. The variance was recommended by Planning and Zoning, which did not see any problems after a site visit.



Room to build

The current Motley municipal building has space on the south side that is currently owned by the city. After a building study, the engineers proposed building new city offices on this portion of the

property and tear down the current city offices, a corner of which can be seen on the left side. (Staples World photo by Mark Anderson)



Working amidst wildfire smoke

With air quality conditions reportedly among the world’s worst on July 17, Rynn Mammenga (left) and Jeremy Haskin donned N95 masks while mowing grass for the City of Staples. The hazardous air

quality throughout much of the state was caused by wildfire smoke in northern Minnesota and Canada. (Staples World photo by Dawn Timbs)

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RMM Publications, LLC • 207 4th St. NE • P.O. Box 100 • Staples, MN 56479

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