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Alumni Basketball Tournament
Farm Families of the Year
Chamber golf tournament
SMBP plans National Night Out
Motorcycle accident



Wednesday, July 23, 2025 **Staples World** Staples, Minnesota \$1.25

Circus comes to town

Close to 600 people attended the Culpepper & Merriweather Circus at the Motley Fairgrounds July 19. A variety of acts were part of the Big Top show, including high-flying aerialists, Leo the Circus Clown and two lions. The event was sponsored by the Motley Lions Club and the Morrison County Fair. (Photo by Dawn Timbs)

Staples seeks street sweeper

At the July 8 Staples City Council meeting, the council reviewed their Capital Improvement Plan, which lays out major expenditures for the next five years. One big item on the budget for 2026 is \$300,000 for a new street sweeper. Public Works Director Scott Grabe said the refurbished street sweeper that the city purchased a few years ago has spent as much time in the shop getting fixed as it has on the road cleaning streets. Grabe said they are looking at a suction type of street sweeper, rather than the type with rotating brushes. He said it may be more expensive but has better performance and should have fewer repairs. Another large item in 2026 is \$120,000 for a lift station replacement at Dakota Ave. and 4th Street SW. The city also has \$400,000 on the budget for a new light shop building. City Administrator Jerel Nelsen said they will start with design and engineering work in 2026, after which they will have a better idea for what the total cost will be. Another item for the

light department in 2026 includes a digger-derick truck that will cost around \$130,000. They also have \$100,000 scheduled to put underground utilities where the Mid-Minnesota Federal Credit Union is planning to build their new facility. Bigger items for 2027 include \$10,000 for a police drone, \$250,000 for light shop building and \$6 million for reconstruction of 4th Street NE from 3rd Ave. to Warner Road. The city's share would be \$3.7 million for the road reconstruction. The city has scheduled \$1 million in improvements at the Staples Community Center, which is paid for through the city's sales tax that will end when the renovation amount is reached. The city is also looking at \$20,000 for Dower Lake softball field updates. Looking farther into the future, the city has a \$750,000 fire pumper truck scheduled for 2028. Nelsen said one "wish list" item is a permanent amphitheater at Norther Pacific Park to replace the bandshell

See **STAPLES** on page 10a



Pillager's Citizen of the Year

Donna Klimek, left, served as Grand Marshal at the Pillager Parade July 19. Klimek, a longtime member of the Pillager Fair Board, was recently named Pillager's 2025 "Citizen of the Year." Also pictured is Pillager Mayor Adam Sparrow. (Staples World photo by Dawn Timbs)

Ahrendt takes Staples-Motley AD position to make a difference

By Mark Anderson
Managing Editor

Paige Ahrendt grew up with sports and activities as a primary focus. She is now starting as the Staples-Motley Activities Director with the same focus to improve the programs and enrich the lives of students participating in activities. "Kids grow and find out who they are through sports and activities," said Ahrendt, "they meet people and learn to work with people." Ahrendt started working the summer rec sports programs in her home town of Pipestone while in 10th grade and continued through college, by which time she was the assistant director of the program. She played three sports in high school and went on to play college softball at Southwest Minnesota State University in Marshall. Ahrendt earned a degree in sports management with minor in business and marketing. After college, she attended a sports administration graduate program at LSU, where she worked in game operations and event management. She plans to finish that degree this



New Staples-Motley Activities Director

Paige Ahrendt has started as the Staples-Motley Activities Director. (Staples World photo by Mark Anderson)

year while working at Staples-Motley. While working for a big time sports program was a great experience, Ahrendt said "I wanted to be back closer to kids, I want to make an impact with kids." When the Staples-Motley job was posted, Ahrendt called her mother. "I said 'Mom, this is everything I want in a job, I just hope they give me a shot to interview for it.'" The school district did give Ahrendt the interview and found her to be the best

See **AHRENDT** on page 10a

Weather

2025

This Week's Forecast

	High	Low	Cond.
July 23	78	64	Rain
July 24	82	59	P. Cloudy
July 25	83	64	M. Sunny
July 26	87	66	M. Sunny
July 27	87	66	M. Cloudy
July 28	84	63	Rain
July 29	81	59	M. Sunny

Last Year, 2024

	High	Low	Cond.
July 23	71°	62	Cloudy
July 24	75	55	Sunny
July 25	80	58	M. Sunny
July 26	84	68	Sunny
July 27	88	72	M. Sunny
July 28	80	71	Sunny
July 29	87	62	Rain

Average Temps:

H = 82° Low = 60°

Compiled by Dale Hausmann, WCCO's Staples area Weatherwatcher

Public Notices

Todd Cty Commissioners 9A

City of Staples 9A

Obituaries

Marsha Achermann

Tamera Mack

Debra Mertens



Community gatherings are a hit

Pastor Jim Johnson, above left, of the Free Methodist Church in Motley, enjoyed visiting with a number of people at the free community picnic at Converse Park in Motley July 9. The Free Methodist Church hosts the

gatherings during the summer on the second Wednesday of each month. The next/final Community Picnic will be held on Wednesday, Aug. 13, at 5 p.m. (Staples World photos by Dawn Timbs)



Meeting up with friends

In addition to enjoying a tasty meal at the free Community Picnic in Motley July 9, people of all ages had a great time socializing with friends and relatives. Pictured above, from left, are Catherine Judd,

10; Albert Reynolds, 10 mos.; Joci Vogt, 13; Kaylee Bachmann, 13; Aila Dickinson, 12. The monthly Community Picnics, held at Converse Park, are hosted by the Motley Free Methodist Church.

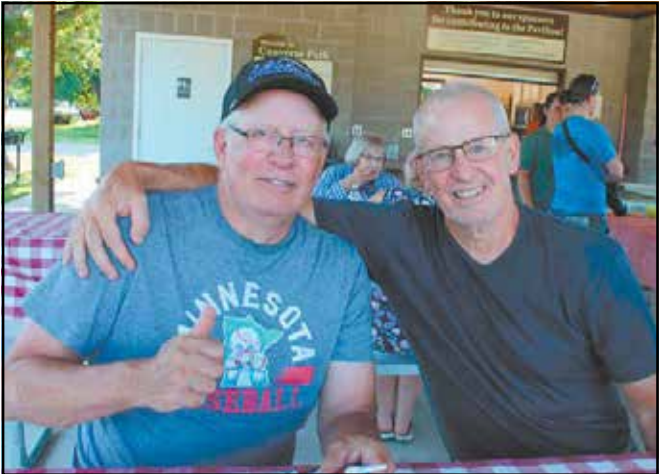
Car seat safety for families

Todd County Health & Human Services

One of the most important jobs as a driver is keeping a child safe when a child is riding in your vehicle. Each year, thousands of young children are killed or injured in car crashes. Proper use of car safety seats helps keep children safe. Because so many differ-

ent seats are on the market, many parents find this overwhelming. If you are expectant parents, consider working with a certified passenger safety technician (CPST or CPS technician), before your baby is born, to ensure a safe ride home from the hospital. The type of seat your child needs depend on several things; your child's age,

size, and developmental needs. The 5-Step Test Demonstrates, How the Seat Belt Fits Correctly: 1. The child sits all the way back against the vehicle seat. 2. The child's knees bend over the edge of the vehicle seat. 3. The lap belt fits snugly across the hips near the top of the child's thighs, not the child's abdomen. 4. The shoulder belt snugly crosses the center of the child's chest and shoulder, not the child's neck. 5. The child sits correctly, without slouching, for the duration of the ride. Todd County Health & Human Services has trained car seat technicians and can answer questions regarding car seats. Call Todd County Health & Human Services at 320-732-4500.



Brotherly love

Brothers Ken Swecker, left, and Kevin Swecker, both of Motley, enjoyed catching up at the Community Picnic in Motley July 9. The free events are hosted by the Motley Free Methodist Church.



Fun at Converse Park

Young people enjoyed playing a number of games at the free Community Picnic at Converse park in Motley July 9. The picnics are hosted by the Motley Free Methodist Church and held on the second Wednesday of the month during the summer.

Motley area law enforcement

Recent reports from the Motley Police Department (MPD) and Morrison County Sheriff's Office (MCSO) included the following: July 15 - Motley Police responded to a report of a possible tornado south of Motley near Atlanta and Pulaski roads, assisting Morrison County deputies. Upon arrival, nothing was located. July 13 - Motley Police received a report of an unwanted subject at the Country Terrace Apartments in Motley. The incident was handled by a Morrison County deputy.

July 15 - A Morrison County deputy issued a state citation to Michael James Ausland, 56. July 14 - Morrison County deputies responded to a call of a domestic situation at the 29000 block of Bear Rd., Cushing. July 13 - Morrison County deputies responded to a report of suspicious activity at the 400 block of Pine Ave., Motley. July 9 - A Morrison County deputy responded to a report of a small fire in a boat house at the 33000 block of E. Shamineau Dr., Motley.

Staples-Motley Middle School honor roll

Staples-Motley Middle School recently announced the Fourth Quarter honor roll for 2024-25.

A Honor Roll

Grade 8

Waylen Anderson, Chloe Badger, Logan Bendson, Garrett Bjerga, Eli Bounds, Isaac Cole, Domanick Dause, Millinda DeWald, Jessica Dukowitz, Elaina Elfstrum, Brock Graton, Lexa Graves, Airen Gutknecht, Preston Hangge, Alea Holst, Ella Judd, Kennedy Judd, Caleb Kopp, Aubrey Lang, Levi Larsen, Alex Leach, Olivia Lynch, Roxy Mertens, Rylee Mevissen, Abby Miller, Hudsyn Nanik, Evah Noska, Jackson Odden, Kaylee Perius, Taylee Reese, Owen Roline, Nadia Santos, John Schotzko, Alexis Schwegel, Daniel Sturm-Hughes, Cooper Tappe, Ryder Thompson, Karsyn Wingert.

Grade 7

Tenley Bartylla, Tucker Baumgartner, Caleb Bestland, Easton Bitzer, Jackson Bitzer, Emma Borash, Maxx Carlson, Naudia Djuren, Layla Dumpprope, Natalie Dumpprope, Mari'vel Duran, Kelsey Elfstrum, Katelyn Erickson, Maggie Grunewald, Danielle Hanson, Piper Hanson, Meredith Hoemberg, Addyson Holst, Annabella Hurtig, Aubrey Lund, Ryan Macheel, Lucille Maros, Cydney McGree-Schmitbauer, McKinley McGuiness, Brielle Mevisen, Blake Mongan, Berkeley Nelson, Nathan Nelson, Payton Nelson, Charlie Noska, Angelina Paklonsky,

Grade 6

Everett Allen, Phaedra Arndt, Paislee Boozell, Ashlynn Borntrager, Kamryn Brenna, Kalliemae Corey, Tyler Daly, Lukas Jares, Ryleigh Johnson, Mia Kriesel, Elizabeth Kroll, Reed Leach, Zane Leach, Porter Lehner, Timothy Lind, Abbie Lucas, Isaac Norring, Alexis Odden, Breydi Orozco, Serenity Scharen, Camrik Tappe, Corey Wojciechowski.

Grade 5

Emily Beard, Danni Borash, Kaiya Brenna, Isaiah Detloff, Adalynn DeWald, Charlee Dukowitz, Hugo Ellingsen, Eva Greenwaldt, Willow Hines, Adaline Hogate, Dakota Karjala, Brekken Kuhns, Andrew Larsen, Evan Lehner, Gustavo Lozano, Ellianna Mumm, Leah Nelson, Robert N. Owen, Iker Ramos, Ava Roline, Roman Ross-Sullivan, Tristan Samborski, Benjamin Santos, Camden Sirucek, Bennett Sonenstahl, Shay Sturm-Hughes, Dominic Thiede, Reese Thompson, Zara Vogel, Anna Warner, Annika Weber, Derek Zimmerman.

B Honor Roll

Grade 8

Jackson Alexander, Juan Bernacet La Santa, Elliott DiGiovanni, Gabriel Gibson, Brayden Granby, Hannah Holker, Liam Jen-

Grade 7

Alivia Bingham, Lily Brichacek, Quinn Brichacek, Braxton Cherry, Mya Dobson, Gemma Fairbanks, Blake Hafften, Benjamin Hoggatt, Logan Hoggatt, Aubree Hove, Liana Michel, Levi Mumm, Nyah Noska, Carter Odden, Kade Potter, Brennen Sonenstahl, Aubrey Suomi, Tanden Weite, Landon Ziegler, Lucas Ziegler.

Grade 6

Malakai Bestland, Gavin Caldwell, Nakoda Church, Kaitlyn Dahlvang, Shyloh Dahlvang, Nevaeh Elfrits, Brooke Georges, Harrison Grunewald, Katherine Hoppe, Nathan Huwe, Rylan Kuhns, Taylin Lind, Charlie Maros, Maddy Michael, Matthew Michel, Wyatt Nanik, Lylianne Nurnberger, Alexandria Pearson, Parker Sharpe, Tajia Shequen, Andromeda Smith, Makenna Warner, Jayden Wilson.

Grade 5

Junior Converse, Emma Dumpprope, Tyler Fraundorfer, Kayd Ingersoll, John Mendoza Hernandez, Libby Mumm, Jace Odden, Lillith Orr, Austin Thomson, Carson Vargas, Ryker Weite, Axel Young.

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Staples Police report

Recent Reports taken by the Staples Police Dept;

July 6, at 2:30 a.m., Staples Police received a call regarding a person drinking/ driving with a five year old child in the car. The child's grandmother drove the child home. Police gave the subject a ride home, both parents agreed to separate for the night.

July 6, Staples Police received a report of a duffel bag at the Staples Depot. Police found the bag with medication bottles in it.

July 6, Staples Police received a report of a female and her four year old son who where hit by a car. The child was riding in a toy vehicle and it flipped backwards.

July 7, Staples Police responded to a report of a person entering a building on Hwy 10 and stealing a window air conditioning unit.

July 8, at 1:46 a.m., Staples Police assisted other agencies with a DWI report of a vehicle going east in the westbound lane on Hwy 10.

July 8, Staples Police received a report of a person who stole camera system components from a building on 4th St. NE. Party stated that they may have used a key card to get into the building.

July 8, Staples Police arrested a driver for DWI, open package of cannabis and driving after license revocation.

July 8, Staples Police made a traffic stop and arrested a subject who matches the description of a burglary suspect. Driver also had canceled drivers license.

July 9, at 1:11 a.m., Staples Police received a report of a male party who caller believed to be drunk and was stumbling around in front of the caller's house. Police located suspect and gave intoxicated subject a ride to a friend's residence.

July 9, Staples Police

received a report of a vehicle following a UPS delivery vehicle and honking their horn. Subject was located, admitted to honking at the UPS driver, stating that the driver honks his horn near his house. Police advised that it's standard procedure for UPS to honk for children, dogs and while backing up the delivery vehicle.

July 9, Staples Police received a call from a subject who stated he booked a hotel room online and drove to the Love Hotel in Staples to find the hotel was closed. Subject was unable to get a refund online and wanted to make a report.

July 10, Staples Police were requested to watch a property on 7th St. NE because of thefts in the area.

July 11, Staples Police received a report of burglary from a business on 2nd Ave. NE. Subject said a package worth \$250 had been stolen a month ago and now \$60 was stole from the cash register.

July 11, Staples Police assisted other agencies with a vehicle pursuit at Cty Rd 7, near Cottingham Dr. Staples Ambulance was requested to evaluate subjects at Wahoo Valley.

July 7, Staples Police responded to loud music complaints at Dower Lake Campground.

July 12, Staples Police responded to loud party on 7th St. NE.

July 12, Staples Police assisted getting an injured fawn out of a fenced area on 275th Ave, south of Staples.

July 12, Staples Police assisted with a motorcycle/pickup crash on Warner Rd and 301st Ave. in Staples. Subject transported to Lakewood Health System Hospital and then air lifted. A second ambulance evaluated the pickup driver.

July 12, Staples Police received a report of children climbing on structures at NP Park in Staples.

Todd County Court report July 16

Long Prairie Police
John Anthony Brackin, Laporte. Speed 40/30. Fine \$40. Fee \$85.
Ulises Orozco Ambriz, Melrose. Driving after revocation. Fine \$200. Fee \$85.

MN Dept. of Resources
Bobbie Jo Blommel, Clarissa. ATV-prohibitions on youthful operators-permit unlawful operation. Fine \$100. Fee \$85
Rafael Dos Santos, Long Prairie. Game-license required to take/buy/sell/transport/possess protected wild animals. Fine \$50. Fee \$85.

State Patrol
Mykenzie Millie Jo Barlow, Clarissa. Speed 75/65. Fine \$40. Fine \$85.
Alissa Rae Hageman, Staples. Speed 79/65. Fine \$50. Fee \$85.
Aoife Rae Haney, Wayzata. Speed 75/65. Fine \$40. Fee \$85.
James Allan Lenk, Staples. Speed 75/65. Fine \$40. Fee \$85.
Justin Leslie McPhail, Cloquet. Speed 84/65. Fine \$60. Fee \$85.
Jill Bryanna Salo, Ottertail Speed 75/65. Fine \$40. Fee \$85.
Melissa Lynn Walker, Mendota Heights. Speed 84/65. Fine \$60. Fee \$85.
Daniel Hunter Whipps, Miltona. Speed 75/65. Fine \$40. Fee \$85.
William Patrick Atkinson, St. Paul. Speed 80/70. Fine \$40. Fee \$75.
Julia Elizabeth Bates, Santa Cruz, CA. Speed 86/70. Fine \$60. Fee \$85.
Christopher Lee Brandt, Marshall. Speed 70/60. Fine \$40. Fee \$85.
Rodney Gene Cannon, Little Falls. Speed 70/60. Fine \$40.
Renee Lynn Coburn, Long Prairie. Speed 70/60. Fine \$40. Fee \$85. No insurance owner. Fine \$200. No insurance driver. Fine \$200.
Ethan Ray Goodwin, Osakis. Expired registration. Fine \$30. Fee \$85.

Jesse Hong Ha, Alexandria. Speed 80/70. Fine 440. Fee \$85.
Brandt Samuel Hogenson, Winona. Speed 89/70. Fine \$60. Fee \$85.
Johnathan Ibbara Rodriguez, Brownsville, TX. No proof MV insurance. Fine \$200. Fee \$85. No MN driver's license. Fine \$100.
Aramis Of Ion, Kent, WA. Speed 96/70. Fine \$200. Fee \$85. No MN driver's license. Fine \$200.
Tayah Ann King, Bemidji. Speed 80/70. Fine \$40. Fee \$85.
John Jay Meyer, West Fargo, ND. Speed 82/70. Fine \$50. Fee \$85.
Owen Thomas Meyer, Sauk Centre. Speed 73/60. Fine \$40. Fee \$85.
Ilianel J. Milano Camps, Blaine. Speed 99/70. Fine \$100. Fee \$185. No MN driver's license. Fine \$100.
Terance Seery Morrow, St. Peter. Speed 83/70. Fine \$50. Fee \$85.
Greta Amanda Pfeifer, Twin Valley.

Window tint. Fine \$50. Fee \$85.
Jacob James Plautz, Bertha. Speed 65/60. Fine \$40 Fee \$85.
Ava Candace Preble, West Fargo, ND. Speed 79/70. Fine \$40. Fee \$85.
Grisia Rodriguez, Long Prairie. Window tint. Fine \$50. Fee \$85.
Chad Jeffrey Thomas, Osakis. Speed 74/60. Fine \$50. Fee \$85.
Eduardo David Vazquez Fradera, Sauk Centre. Speed 72/60. Fine \$50. Fee \$85.

Todd County
Rebecca Ann Cheung, Burnsville. Speed 75/60. Fine \$60. Fee \$85.
Manuel, Jr. Elizondo, Long Prairie. Driving without a valid license. Fine \$100. Fee \$85. Speed 78/60. Fine \$60.
Austin Michael Hoverud, Clontarf, Liquor-consumption by persons under 21. Fine \$100. Fee \$85.
Gretchen Marie Mishler, Isanti. Driving after revocation. Fine \$400. Fee \$85. Driver must carry proof of insurance when operating vehicle, Fine \$400.
Anthony James Herman Ninow, Long Prairie. Cannabis-use, possess, or transport cannabis or hemp products under 21 years of age. Fine \$50. Fee \$85.
Jose Guadalupe Paramo Hernandez, Long Prairie. Driving without a valid license for vehicle class or type. Fine \$100. Fee \$85.
Alexander Robles Almanzar, Long Prairie. Speed 86/60. Fine \$100. Fee \$185.
Rosa Hilda Zamora, Long Prairie. Driving after suspension. Fine \$200. Fee \$85.

The following cases were heard before Judge Daniel A. Benson in Seventh District Court in Todd County July 8, 2025.
Patricia Ann Fearing, Long Prairie. No MN Registration. Fine \$100. Fee \$75.
Jennifer Talley, West Fargo, ND. Speed 80/70. Continued. Unsupervised probation, 1 yr. Fine \$40. Fee \$75

The following cases were heard before Judge Daniel A. Benson in Seventh District Court in Todd County July 3, 2025.
Rodney Gene Cannon, Little Falls. Speed 70/60. Continued. Unsupervised probation, 12 mo. Fine \$40. Fee \$75.

The following cases were heard before Judge Daniel A. Benson in Seventh District Court in Todd County July 1, 2025.
Martin Charles Mertes, Huntsville, TX. Speed. 65/60. Fine \$40. Fee \$75.
Eliacin Marcderkson, Browerville. Speed 99/60. Sentenced. Fine \$150. Fee \$225.

News

Looking back



Mystery photo

Hello readers. This week's archive photo is from 1993. 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.

75 YEARS Ago - 1950

• July 27, 1950 - A transaction was completed early this week whereby the house owned by W. W. Trushenski, former school superintendent of Motley was purchased by the Motley Methodist Church to be used as a parsonage. Perhaps this place is better remembered as the former George Theide home. It is

- O -
Compiled by
Dawn Timbs
- O -

located in the southwest part of the village and is only 2 blocks from the church. There are 6 large rooms in this home. Rev. and Mrs. John A. Nymark and daughter plan to move into their new home some time in August.

• July 27, 1950 - For Sale: 40 Acres 2 miles from Staples. 5 room house, electricity, barn, coop. Priced \$2400. Some terms. Quick possession. Also 240 acres, good improvements, electricity, 4 miles from Staples. Price \$3500. Good terms. See E. W. Beeson, 3 miles west of Staples.

• July 27, 1950 - "lifer", who spent 28 years behind prison bars was ordered freed by the state pardon board that he might "go home to die" when the board reviewed his case on July 24 of this year.

The prisoner is William J. McHugh, 71, convicted in 1922 in Todd county of the killing of town marshall George Williams of Long Prairie, while McHugh was resisting arrest. He was confined to the state prison from the time of his conviction until last April when he was moved to the St. Cloud reformatory for medical care.

Nearly three weeks ago the pardon board heard a plea from McHugh's attorney, Keith Kennedy of Staples, for a medical reprieve. The members of the board were told that the "lifer" was suffering from Parkinson's disease, paralysis, and with constant tremors, and was bedridden.

Under the terms of the medical reprieve, McHugh will be taken to St. Louis to live with his son, C. E. McHugh. The board, in its official order, recognized the prisoner was "affiliated with the disease from which there can be no recovery."

50 YEARS Ago - 1975

• July 24, 1975 - The Rev. Clayton E. Allen assumed the pastorate of the Staples Church of the Nazarene Sunday, July 20. He succeeds the Rev. Wilbur Moulton, who moved to Baker, Montana.

The Allens have two daughters and four grandchildren. They are residing in the Church of the Nazarene parsonage, 307 Third Ave. N., Staples. Pastor Allen is a native of Ohio.

• July 24, 1975 - For Rent: 2 Room apartment. Downtown location. \$85 monthly. Hengel Realty, 894-1062. Residence 894-2103.

• July 24, 1975 - Miss Gertie DeWald, with the Aldrich News, reports there will be no services at the



Mystery solved

Last week's mystery photo published in the Oct. 8, 1959 edition of the Staples World featured Staples high school teacher Mr. Peter Peterson (standing) assisting Sandra Schafer (left) and Clyde Japke during tryouts for

the Junior Class Play, "Curious Savage." The play, written by John Patrick, was presented on Nov. 12. It was directed by Peterson, who was assisted by John Grondahl, student director; and Gene Betts, stage manager.

Aldrich Congregational Church for the next month as Pastor Olson and family will be on vacation.

• July 24, 1975 - The members of the Staples Fire Department answered a call about 11:30 p.m. last Thursday, July 17, to a home owned by Peter Card Sr. on the north end of Fifth Street.

The house was rented from Card by Joe Zamora.

Firemen reported that the fire apparently started in the living room of the house. A chair and davenport were burned, as was the wall, and considerable damage resulted throughout the dwelling. No estimate of damage was released.

• July 24, 1975 - Bob Luman, Epic recording star, will be the featured entertainer at the Morrison county fair at Motley Tuesday, Aug. 5. He will put on two shows, one at 2 p.m. and the other at 8 p.m. Luman has been a member of the Grand Ole Opry since 1965. He has a million-seller record, "Let's Think About Livin'."

• July 24, 1975 - Tuesday, July 29, is the arrival day of LeVan Nghia, his wife and five children, who are coming to Staples under the sponsorship of the people of Faith Lutheran Church.

The Nghia family comes to Staples from Saigon prior to nearly a three-month stay at the Refugee Relocation Center in Fort Chaffee, Ark.

Mr. Nghia is 38 years of age and for 14 years, was a member of the South Vietnamese Air Force, where he was an air traffic control instructor.

Pastor Paul Lundborg of Faith Lutheran Church said, "The people of Faith have acquired a rental house and a job possibility for the Nghia family and now begin their task of stocking the house. Escaping from Vietnam with American assistance, the Nghia family left behind everything they owned, thus Staples

becomes for them a place to start a new life."

• July 24, 1975 - After an undefeated league title, the Staples Babe Ruth (baseball) team, coached by Craig Dezell, topped off their season with the league playoff championship as well.

Duane Miller fired a no-hitter against Verndale for a 12-0 opening round victory and Mark Redemske fired a 2-hitter at Park Rapids for a 6-1 victory in the title game. The tournament was held at Pine Grove Park.

25 YEARS Ago - 2000

• July 27, 2000 - All charges of selling controlled substances against 12 people arrested June 15 in Staples have been dropped, according to Todd County authorities.

Charges were dropped July 19 after it was found that the state's only witness to the sale of the drugs has disappeared.

"His present whereabouts are unknown," Joe Judd, assistant county attorney, said Tuesday morning.

Judd, who said that the whole thing is rather disturbing, explained that the state's witness was Douglas Erickson, an informant who had agreed to work with the agents of the West Central Drug Task Force. In that role, he supposedly made several purchases of controlled substances from

the various suspects who were arrested in a task force sweep June 15.

Those arrested, all from Staples, but those cases have now been dismissed, Judd added.

• July 27, 2000 - Florence and Bill Berndt of rural Motley were awarded the Yard of the Month distinction by the area Sprinkle and Sprout Garden Club. The Berndts live outside of Motley just past the Mosquito Creek Road on Hwy 210 on Bill's grandfather's place. The curving driveway leads into the trees revealing a neat home and bright red barns accentuated by the many filled flower beds.

• July 27, 2000 - Jerry and Maryann Riewer of Staples were awarded the Yard of the Month distinction by the area Sprinkle and Sprout Garden Club. The Riewers yard is a jewel of peaceful greenery, trees, hostas and a variety of flowers. The couple also takes care of the trees on the railroad property located behind their house and Jerry is known for his careful mowing of Pine Grove Park as well. Their home can be seen at 707 Wisconsin S.E., Staples.

10 YEARS Ago - 2015

• July 23, 2015 - Contemporary roots and ragtime band My Sweet Patootie, from Canada, will perform at Music in the Park series in Staples July 28.



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Over a long lifetime of making my way through both wild and domestic places where stinging insects are found, I've encountered many, and from time to time have even been stung. But I've never been surprised by them in quite the way I was recently.

It started with an evening ride on our lawn mower. When thus engaged, your eyes should be focused ahead and downward, watching for obstacles you don't want to run over, and observing the "cut line" from your last pass, which will dictate how you steer your machine to make the next.

Unfortunately, I'm easily diverted by visual distractions. I was on my second circuit around the rectangular grassy field behind our home, a space that presents a lawn mower with a number of navigational obstacles. These include a scattering of trees, a decorative fence that hides our natural gas tank, the standpipe for our deep well, and two large, fake, fiberglass boulders that cover equipment for our septic system drain field.

I was on a long straight-away between the paved driveway and the line of trees that borders it, when I happened to look up as I passed under one of several trees from whose branches we've hung bird houses. Not just any bird houses, but ones that have bona fide credentials as collectibles, if not antiques.

One in particular is unique. No simple, box-like structure with slanted roof that resembles a miniature house. This one is cylindrical, roughly the diameter of a small Hills Brothers coffee can. It has a cone-shaped roof, like one you might see on your local water tower. Its walls are meant to look like vertical logs, made of half-round wooden dowels, placed side by side around

its circumference.

But as I looked up from my seat on the mower, to where it hung from a limb of a soft maple, these unique bird house features were not at all evident. That's because the bird house had been "mummified," and only a small slice of its conical roof, and decorative gingerbread along its bottom, were visible.

It was mummified in layers of gray, papery bands that fully encircled and hid its recognizable features. They suggested Egyptian mummy wrappings, or maybe a haphazard wrapping with an ace bandage. My first thought, seeing the paper-like, swaddling folds, was "paper wasp." But after some conferring with Wikipedia, the hive descriptions and images I found suggested hornets, instead.

Hornets tend to build enclosed structures, high above ground—commonly in trees—while paper wasp nests are often open, and shaped like upside-down umbrellas, often attached to the undersides of structures, such as building eaves or peaks.

They are officially called European hornets, though they are widely distributed in the Northern Hemisphere across North America, Europe, Russia, and northeastern Asia. Hornets, by scientific classification, are members of an insect group known as "eusocial wasps;" eusocial means that they have cooperative brood care, overlapping generations of adults in the same colony, and divisions of labor. There are both reproductive and non-reproductive colony members. Each nest has one queen, who is attended by workers. Only the queen will survive the winter, in hibernation, to begin a new hive with the coming spring.

The papery wrappings that encased our bird house were manufactured by the hornets with a pulp made from a combination of chewed wood fibers, and the saliva of these industrious insects. The finished surface has a structural regularity that seems almost—if crudely—man-made.

Adult hornets have a sweet tooth. They consume

flower nectar and sugar-rich plant foods, including honey, certain tree saps, and fruits—especially rotting fruits. But their developing larvae in the hive are fed a protein-rich diet, typically other insects, including honey bees, katydids, and even grasshoppers. The adults' strong jaws and venom are potent predatory tools when they're on the hunt for these and other insects. Their predation on some destructive insects can actually benefit humans.

Unlike bees, hornets do not lose their stinger and die when they sting a person or another creature, albeit usually in self-defense. And sting they will if their hive seems threatened. One hornet can sting repeatedly. Though death is extremely rare, it can happen if a person has a highly reactive allergy to their venom, particularly if a victim of multiple stings. A hornet's sting can be more painful than that of other stinging insects, due to a large amount of the chemical acetylcholine.

The hornet's ability and readiness to defend itself has made it a cultural symbol. We use the expression "madder than a hornet" to describe a very angry person. We might describe a dangerous, unpredictable situation as "a hornet's nest." Ships of the United States Navy in World War II included the aircraft carrier U.S.S. Hornet. From her decks were launched the bombers of the Doolittle Raid on Tokyo, Japan, in early 1942, in response to the Japanese attack on the U.S. fleet at Pearl Harbor in December of 1941. The U.S.S. Hornet also participated in the Battle of Midway, considered by many to be the turning point of the war in the Pacific. Obviously she was aptly named.

As for my own particular hornet's nest, I'm deliberating whether to engage them in battle, or leave them in peace. There is a certain amount of risk to humans when a hive is located where this one is. At the same time, I have a strong aversion to combat with any creature without good cause.

Some soul searching will be required here.

Quote of the week

“Far and away the best prize that life has to offer is the chance to work hard at work worth doing.”

— Theodore Roosevelt

Being poor in America

By Arlyce Menzies
Peacevoice

I grew up poor, that is, American poor. I fantasized about food at night—mashed potatoes, buttery dinner rolls, raspberry cheesecake. I would wake up and imagine a breakfast-strawberry waffles with whipped cream, cold orange juice—then, talk myself toward accepting what I knew was there—toast with peanut butter and usually, milk. My dad did not tolerate ungratefulness.

I couldn't pay school fees like the dreaded \$10 workbook fee and was harangued by the dogged collectors as I repeated that I forgot it. I couldn't rent an instrument, so I didn't play one, but singing lit my heart on fire. I couldn't join sports, couldn't buy uniforms or pay for trips. My gym teacher in seventh grade said I was great at running and hurdles, and she encouraged me to join the track team. I joined, but immediately sprained my big toe and quit. I think my teacher, the coach, knew I could have overcome this minor injury, but couldn't overcome going without the right shoes, walking two miles home from practices, having no money or rides or, in fact, confidence to run.

I got the free lunch at school. We had to walk up to the stage in the cafeteria to find our ticket—a white card with our name on it—before getting in line. Not only were we conspicuous, frantically searching for the ticket in front of everyone, but we were also the last to get the food our bagged-lunch friends couldn't recognize. "What is that? Are you going to eat that?!" When we had to bring a lunch for field days, my dad would pack something in a bread bag like an only-peanut-butter sandwich and a whole carrot with the white root hairs obscenely pressed against the clear plastic. Variations on this lunch included a boiled egg crayoned with "B" on the shell or a plain

baked potato.

Packaged snacks weren't covered by food stamps or WIC—milk stuffs for Women Infants and Children. We had whole milk and bricks of government cheese food. We had unmarked cans and other food bank finds including, once, a sugary cereal we were excited about until we tasted that it had been contaminated by the powdered laundry soap it had sat with in the donation box. We were turned away in shops because what we wanted couldn't be bought with this other-colored money or because they said they didn't have change for food stamps. Thankfully, my mom mostly knew where she could stock up and on what.

We rarely went to the doctor. We all have scars that show no one stitched them or set the bones straight—ok, only one broken finger set with a stick and tape. When my sister was really sick, the irritated doctor didn't want to take Medicaid. He only gave her Claritin. It turned out to be mono and she was in bed for a week, then she got pneumonia. She recovered. Our remedies were to pray, drink water, put a cloth on your head or where you hurt, hot or cold, depending.

My mother-in-law says I'm an exception. She says people on welfare are lazy, only busy pumping out babies and watching TV. She thinks it's easy to have no job, let the checks roll in, buy steaks and chocolate with your government winnings. She hasn't sat in the welfare office for three hours only to be yelled at, looked down upon, and rejected for the second time because you couldn't get the papers right. She hasn't had a disability or loved a person who is blind from a genetic disease like my dad was. She hasn't had a nervous breakdown, spent months in mental wards after suicide attempts like my mom has. She doesn't know anyone who grew up on or

is on welfare, except for me.

In some ways, I am an exception. I grew up with both my married parents. My great grandfathers were a doctor and a lawyer. The lawyer left us each \$4,000 for college. There wasn't any question—we had to go to college. My dad went blind slowly. He memorized children's books so he could "read" to us without seeing the pages. Although she didn't finish college, my mom loves poetry and had a full mahogany bookcase. She planted daffodils in the yard; we lived in our own house. My parents got a settlement after being in a dormitory fire. My mom's dad got a lawyer who won them enough to buy a house on an acre of grassy land with crab apple trees that bloomed pink in spring.

I am not an exception in that I am white. More than 62 percent of welfare recipients are white and about 46 percent are single mothers. Despite the term "white trash" my mother-in-law imagines this waste of money is for People of Color.

I am not an exception in that my parents are disabled. The majority of welfare recipients are children, the elderly, and people with disabilities.

I am not an exception in that I am hardworking and work to improve my life and the lives of others.

I am not an exception in that very young, I knew some strangers, teachers, and people around me thought I was a useless weight, a tax burden, a bad decision, a mistake. I am not an exception in carrying this shame, trying to shape it, alchemize it into empathy, motivation, a commitment to justice.

Arlyce Menzies has spent her adult life teaching writing to people from all over the world. She received her MFA in poetry from Boston University and teaches at Nazarbayev University in the windy steppe capital of Kazakhstan, Astana.

Food banks stretched thin

By Heather Close
The Rural Blog

With food prices continuing to climb higher than overall inflation, many Americans have turned to food banks to make ends meet. But food pantry organizers say they are already strapped by increasing needs and fear that when Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, known as SNAP, changes start pinching people's budgets, pantries won't have enough food to meet the demand.

Food bank shortages are likely to become more

common for rural pantries because they rely more heavily on Department of Agriculture programs and have fewer private donors to lean on for assistance.

"Food banks across the country were already straining under rising demand. Now, they worry many more Americans will go hungry," reports Dan Frosch of The Wall Street Journal. "Some food banks and pantries are pushing for more state, local and private funding. Others are considering cutting back services and the amount of food they can distribute."

Changes that have al-

ready gone into effect significantly shift age and work requirements to receive benefits. The new budget "expands work requirements for SNAP, raising the upper age limit for able-bodied adults from 54 to 64, meaning those people will typically have to work for 80 hours a month to qualify for food benefits," Frosch writes. Individuals caring for children 14-17 will now have to work to qualify for SNAP.

Some pantries are planning to make cuts if needs overwhelm their supply, but others already run out of food sometimes.

Region Five adding mental health providers for agriculture

Continuing its commitment to rural mental health, Region Five Development Commission announces that two new part-time agricultural mental health providers have joined its team. Tracie Rutherford Self and Jennifer Vaughn will serve farm families, employees, and agricultural advisors across Minnesota, alongside Monica McConkey, who has been serving these groups since 2019.

Tracie Rutherford Self brings 25+ years of mental

health experience, focusing on trauma, stress, and suicide prevention in rural communities. Raised in West Virginia and rooted in Midwest farm life, she collaborates with farmers, agricultural groups, and first responders to deliver real-world mental health support across rural Minnesota. Tracie can be reached at (507) 514-7057.

Jennifer Vaughn has been providing mental health services in rural communities to individuals, families, and couples since 2009. Her experience working with youth and adults from diverse backgrounds, with a wide range of experiences and needs, enhances her ability to thrive in this new role. Her work emphasizes supporting the mental health of farmers and their families as they navigate the unique challenges of rural and agricultural life. Jennifer can be reached at (218) 820-6626.

Monica McConkey has over 30 years of experience in the rural mental health sector, working with both youth and adults across a broad spectrum of emotional and psychological challenges. Raised on a farm herself, she has a deep understanding of the unique pressures faced by those in agriculture. Monica is deeply committed to supporting farmers, their families, and agricultural industry partners in recognizing, managing, and navigating the stresses associated with life and work in the agricultural sector. Monica can be reached at (218) 280-7785.

"Mental health is an important issue in our rural communities where stress and isolation can take a heavy toll," said Cheryal Hills, Executive Director of Region Five Development Commission. "Our agricultural mental health program ensures that farmers, their families, and farm service providers have local trusted, confidential supports to help navigate the challenges of our complex and changing agricultural industry."

Agricultural mental health professionals provide confidential care at no cost, sometimes for one or two sessions, and other times on an extended basis. They provide flexible options for meeting and focus on helping individuals manage stress and build healthy coping strategies.

If you need help and are concerned the hour may be too late, you can also call the 24/7 Minnesota Farm & Rural Helpline at 833-600-2670 or call 988. More resources are available at www.mn-farmstress.com.

About the Agricultural Mental Health and Wellness Program:
Region Five Development Commission facilitates and fiscally administers the Agricultural Mental Health and Wellness Program, funded by the Minnesota Legislature, in partnership with the Minnesota Department of Agriculture and the Minnesota State Agricultural Centers of Excellence.

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Acoustofiddle in Staples

Jeff Menten and Paul Nye played at Faith Lutheran Church in Staples last year. (Staples World file photo)

Acoustofiddle is next Music in the Park

Paul Nye and Jeff Menten make up the duo Acoustofiddle, a group that plays “Funky Folk, Punky Polka, Cool Celtic, Caffeinated Classical, Grassy Blues, and Gypsy Jazz,” according

to the band.

With Nye on guitar and harmonica and Menten playing violin and mandolin, these two skilled artists have played thousands of performances in Minnesota.

ta.

They will play Sunday, July 27, at 7 p.m. at Northern Pacific Park in Staples as the fourth featured band for Music in the Park, hosted by Staples Motley Area

Arts Council.

In case of inclement weather, the backup location is Faith Lutheran Church in Staples.



River Rats bring music enthusiasts to NP Park

The River Rats band pulled in a large crowd at their July 13 performance at Music in the Park in Staples. The summer music series runs every Sunday starting at

7 p.m. at Northern Pacific Park in Staples, with the final concert scheduled for the Sunday of Railroad Days, Aug. 17. (Staples World photo by Dawn Timbs)

1,000 Books Before Kindergarten

The Staples Public Library celebrated another great reader, Madelyn Odden on completing her 1,000 Books Before Kindergarten program. All children ages 0-5 and their parents/guardian may sign up to participate in this Staples Friends of the Library sponsored program.

Receive a free book bag when you sign your child up during library hours: Mon., 10 a.m.-6 p.m., Tues., 1-8 p.m., Weds., 10 a.m.-6 p.m., Thurs., 1-8 p.m., Fri., 1-5 p.m. and Sat., 9 a.m.-noon.

Above: Madelyn with mom, Darci and Library Aide and Friends of the Library member, Judy Wolak. (Submitted photo)



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For the Staples World

Mark Your Calendar

July 24

STAPLES AREA FARMERS MARKET Thursdays, 2 - 5 p.m., in the clinic patient parking lot at Lakewood Health System's main campus in Staples.

'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, July 24, 7:30 - 10 p.m., at St. Michael's Church, 280 1st Ave. S., Motley. Mark Helfter, caller. For info., 612-743-3480.

July 25

WOMEN'S OPEN AA RECOVERY MEETING Every Friday in person, 10:30 a.m., Motley Free Methodist Church (lower level), 33 Wellwood St. E. Motley. All women welcome.

July 27

CELEBRATE RECOVERY GROUP MEETINGS are held every Sunday at 6 p.m., at Motley Free Methodist Church, 33 Wellwood St. E., Motley.

July 29

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

Menu

Senior Nutrition Program

Call on mornings the Friday before to reserve next week's meal and for current suggested donation info. LSS Meal; traditional older adult menu. Menu is subject to change.

Staples 894-2556

Meals include bread (specific kind noted), marg. and 1% milk.

July 28 - July 31

MONDAY - Spaghetti noodles/meat sauce, Italian veggie blend, green beans, dinner roll, gingersnap cookie.

TUESDAY - Baked herb

chicken, mashed sweet potatoes, peas, Granny Smith apple, wheat dinner roll.

WEDNESDAY Smothered chopped steak, mashed potatoes, sliced carrots, wheat bread, oatmeal cranberry cookie.

THURSDAY - Oven roasted turkey, turkey gravy, mashed potatoes, mixed veggies, wheat bread, chocolate pudding.

wk31

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Obituaries

Tamara Mack

Tamara Lynn (Houde) Mack, 56, of Staples passed quietly and peacefully July 16, 2025, knowing her Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. Funeral services will be held at 10 a.m. on Wednesday, July 23, at Faith Lutheran Church in Staples with a visitation one hour prior to services at the church. Interment will follow at 1 p.m. at the Minnesota State Veterans Cemetery, Little Falls. Tamara was born on August 16, 1968, to Gary and Lynda (Olander) Houde.



Arrangements are by the Brenny Family Funeral Chapel, Staples.
w31c A00006B2020JY23

Debra Mertens

Debra (Deb) Mertens, 67, of Staples, lost her long battle with many chronic illnesses at 9:45 p.m. July 13, 2025 at the Lakewood Health System Care Center in Staples surrounded by her family. (Kacey's lungs January 17, 1985 - July 13 2025) Services were held July 19 at the Motley Free Methodist Church. She was laid to eternal rest at the Evergreen Hill Cemetery, Staples.



Debra was born October 21, 1957 to Thomas and Barbara (Modrow) Trana in Staples. She shared the nursery with Clyde and their mothers had shared a hospital room. She attended Staples Elementary and Staples High School, graduating in 1976. She furthered her education at community college, with vocational training receiving a beautician diploma and worked at a local salon. Deb married Clyde Mertens, her high school sweetheart, June 24, 1978, at Sacred Heart Catholic Church in Staples. Together they had two children, Christopher and Lori. Deb was able to stay home with the children until they were old enough to attend school. She worked as a cook at Central Lakes College in Staples, until the kitchen closed, transferring into maintenance, working at CLC for over 21 years. Due to an unexpected chronic illness (COPD) flare she was hospitalized and disabled in 2011. A second opportunity at life came November 17, 2017, when she underwent surgery receiving a double lung transplant. May God bless her donor and family for making the difficult decision of donating and giving Deb a longer life. Due to the

harsh transplant meds, Deb started dialysis in January 2023 which began a medical health decline. Deb enjoyed crocheting, painting ceramics, cross stitch, flower gardening, riding motorcycle, visiting the mountains, spending time with friends and family and at their river lot. She will be greatly missed by all who knew her. She was a tough and endured so much over the past several years. She fought every battle put in front of her, never giving up - now she can finally rest. Debra is survived by her loving/devoted husband, Clyde; one son, Christopher (Jessica) Mertens of Staples; one daughter, Lori (Mark) Smith of Motley; four grandchildren, Alexis, Clay, Hunter and Carson; one sister, Amber (Dale) Bartylla of Hewitt, two brothers, Thomas (Kathleen) Trana of Staples and Dennis (Mona) Trana of Staples, many nieces and nephews, greats and great-greats. She is preceded in death by her parents; one brother, Kim Trana and one niece, Dezeræ Trana. Arrangements were by the Brenny Family Funeral Chapel of Staples.
w31c A00006B2020JL23

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.....218-894-2296 info@marysacc.org Father JC Duncan, 218-632-7314 Father Rick Aubol, 218-632-7310 Father Greg Sauer 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 4th St., NE, Staples.....218-894-2372 Pastor Vicar Paul Koehler Sunday Divine Service.....9:00 a.m. Sunday School and Bible Class...10:30 a.m. United Methodist 310 5th St. NE, Staples.....218-894-2248 Sunday Worship.....10:30 a.m. (Nursery Available for Sunday Worship)	Aldrich Balsamlund Lutheran 19550 490th Street, Aldrich Janet Eckman SMA.....218-837-5831 jre227@yahoo.com Sunday Worship.....8:30 a.m. Cushing Bethany Lutheran 25430 Bison Rd.Cushing, MN 320-749-2140 Pastor Carl Larson www.bethanylutherancushing.org Sunday Worship.....9:00 a.m. Communion.....1st and 2nd Sunday of each month Lincoln Evangelical Free 1354 320th Street, Cushing, MN 56443 Phone: 218- 575-2449 www.lincolnefree.org Facebook Lincoln E Free Office Hours: Tues. - Thurs., 9 a.m. - 12 p.m. Senior Pastor: Don Reigstad SUNDAY Church Worship Gathering.....10:00 a.m. YouTube Channel.....10:00 a.m. Cushing Baptist 26298 Bear Rd., Cushing Pastor Dan Holmes.....320-749-2583 Sunday School.....9:30 a.m. Worship.....10:30 a.m. WEDNESDAY Bible study.....7:30 p.m. Leader Swan Valley Lutheran Leader.....218-397-2470 Sandy Knight, Synodically Authorized Minister of Word and Sacrament Sunday Worship January - July.....9 a.m. July - January.....11 a.m. Maple Hill Lutheran Sandy Knight, Synodically Authorized Minister of Word and Sacrament Leader.....218-397-2470 (Rural Pine River) Worship and Sunday School.....9:00 a.m. Motley Motley Free Methodist 33 Wellwood St. E Motley 56466.....218-352-6888 Jim Johnson, Senior Pastor Casey Reynolds, Assistant Pastor Sunday Worship.....9:00 and 10:30 a.m. facebook live.....9 a.m. WEDNESDAY AWANA.....4:00-5:30 p.m. Youth Group.....6:00-8:00 p.m. St. John's Lutheran 497 3rd Ave. S, Motley.....218-352-6399 Pastor Vicar Paul Koehler Sunday School and Bible Class.....8:30 a.m. Sunday Worship.....9:30 a.m. St. Michael Catholic Church 1st St. and Birch, Motley.....218-894-2296 info@marysacc.org Fr. Aaron Kuhn.....Fr. Gabriel Walz MASS: Saturday.....4:00 p.m.	St. Michael 280 1st Ave S, Motley.....218-894-2296 Father JC Duncan, 218-632-7314 Father Rick Aubol, 218-632-7310 Father Greg Sauer 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.	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.
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"Perspectives"

By Pastor Donald Reigstad, Lincoln Evangelical Free Church, Cushing

Politics is inescapably theological. One group views the souls of men and women as basically sinful and needing redemption first, then reform. An opposing group understands people to be basically good, in greatest need of education and opportunity. These are theological/philosophical perspectives that inform our political positions. For one, education and opportunity is the cure; for the other, a treatment. The latter group is all about teaching the criminal the benefits of liv-

ing within law and providing opportunities to do that; the former suggests the problem is not just ignorance but evil. These two theological perspectives and resultant political positions are not so much "red or blue" but, frankly, different shades of purple. The irreligious Governor, Pilate, asked Jesus, "What is truth?" (John 18:38) Earlier, Jesus had given the answer. "I AM the way, the truth, and the life. (14:6). Pilate was asking but was he listening? Are you?

Marsha Achermann

Marsha Kay Achermann, 70, of Darby, Montana, passed away on July 13, 2025, surrounded by her husband and children. A graveside service will be held on August 16, 2025, at 11:00 a.m. at Darby Lone Pine Cemetery, followed by a Celebration of Life at 12:30 p.m. at 100 Sunrise Drive, Darby, MT - a day to remember, honor and celebrate the incredible woman she was.



Marsha was born December 30, 1954, to Lowell and Arelene Thompson in Sioux City, Iowa. She grew up in Nebraska and Minnesota and graduated from Staples High School. She married Michael Achermann on June 30, 1975 and together they raised four children in Leader and Motley, before moving to Darby in 2005. Marsha earned a teaching degree from Bemidji State University in 1995 and enjoyed teaching students across Minnesota, Texas and Montana. She also worked alongside her husband in construction, proudly earning her CDL to drive a water truck. A skilled seamstress and crafter, Marsha turned her talents into a business,

sharing her work at craft fairs and farmers markets. She is survived by her husband, Mike Achermann; three daughters, Susie (Joe) Brichacek, Sarah (Jason) Moen and Heidi Duerr; one son, Josh (Sara) Achermann; nine grandchildren; five great-grandchildren; her mother, Arelene Thompson and four siblings, Dee Thompson, Jim (Vickie) Thompson, Brenda (Tim) Huwe and Dan Thompson. She was preceded in death by her father and father-in-law, Peter Achermann. Online condolences may be shared at www.dalyleachchapel.com.
w31p A00006B2020JL23

Student Achievements

THE UNIVERSITY OF NORTH DAKOTA (UND) recently announced its 2025 Spring Semester Dean's List. To qualify, students must have achieved a grade point average in the top 15 percent of the enrollment, and have completed no fewer than 12 semester hours of academic work for the semester. Local students named include:
• Juanita DeWald, Motley
THE UNIVERSITY OF NORTH DAKOTA (UND) recently announced its 2025 Spring Semester Graduation List.

Local students who graduated include:
• Kayla Kenow, Staples, Master of Science degree in Special Education
ST. CLOUD TECHNICAL & COMMUNITY COLLEGE recently announced its 2025 Spring Semester Honor's List. To qualify for the President's List, students must earn a grade point average of 4.0; and for the Dean's List, a grade point average of 3.5 to 3.99. Local students named include:
• Robb Odden, Pillager, President's List

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2025 Cardinal Basketball Alumni Tournament held

The 2025 Cardinal Basketball Alumni Tournament was held July 12 utilizing for the first time The Nest and the Legacy (old) gyms. Six boy's teams and three girl's teams participated in the all-day tournament. Above: SMHS Alumni Basketball coordinator Colton Thompson breaks from team practice to greet Ray Gildow and reminisce. (Staples World photo by Janice Winter)



Men's number 1 team: Enney and the Vets - Front row from left, assistant coach Carter Buchta, Derek Orth, Travis Wentworth, Nate Rinas, Derek Wolhowe and Jake Zetah; back row, Coach Cole Buchta, Matt Edin, Ben Enney, Derek Peterson and Trevor Wentworth.

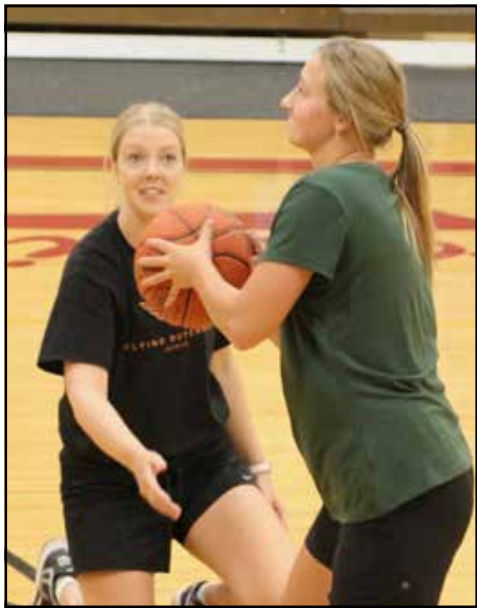


Women's number 1 team: The Brick Chicks (Wolhowe) - Front row from left, Bobbijo Rinas, Grace Wolhowe and Jaelin Beachy; back row, Claire Wolhowe, Jasmine (McGillivray) Craig, Brooke Wolhowe and Kaitlin Spar.



Staples Area Chamber golf scramble held

The Staples Area Chamber held a 9 hole golf Scramble at The Vintage Golf Club July 17 with five four-person teams participating. (Staples World photos by Janice Win-



Alumni basketball 3 point contest

The finals of the Staples-Motley Alumni Basketball three point shooting contest were above from left, Lauren Rutten, 1st place and Ashley Orth, 2nd place; below, Derek Wolhowe, 1st place and Nick Schultz, 2nd place. (Staples World photos by Mark Anderson)



Participating teams included men's: TLC (Thompson), Spare Balls (Schimpp), Enney and the Vets (Orth), Mostly Oldies (Schultz), The Ball Boys (Borders), Below Avg. Joe (Christensen); women's: Ponytail Express (Doll), The Brick Chicks (Wolhowe), 2025 Varsity Mix (Schimpp).



A social hour followed by dinner were held at the pavillion prior to the Staples Area Chamber meeting.



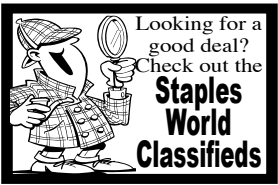
The team of Joshua Winter, Brooklyn Winter, JJ Winter and Mark Forsberg were sponsored by the Staples World.



Attempts were made to drive the rubber piggy the farthest and closest to the hole in the "flying pig" contest.

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GARAGE SALE: 205 5th St. SE, Staples, behind Olson's Feed Store. Fri., July 25, 8 a.m.-5 p.m., Sat., July 26, 8 a.m.-noon. Many household items, refrigerator, stove, furniture, a lot of other misc. 31p

HUGE ANNUAL GARAGE SALE: Thurs., July 24, 8 a.m.-8 p.m., Fri., July 25, 8 a.m.-8 p.m., Sat., July 26, 8 a.m.-noon. Building materials, spiral staircase, hunting clothing, name brand clothing (all sizes), kid's 4-wheeler, scrapbooking materials, furniture, antiques, toys, household, saddles, new horse tack. Yungbauer's Golf Course Rd, 11870 Co Rd 30, Staples. 31p

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Area Farm Families of the Year announced by Extension

Families and growers from across Minnesota will be represented as the University of Minnesota honors them in the 2025 Farm Family of the Year ceremony at 1:15 p.m. Thursday, Aug. 7, at the annual Minnesota Farmfest near Redwood Falls. The event will be held on the Gilfillan Estate in the Wick Buildings Farmfest Center.

Those chosen cover a wide spectrum of farming, from traditional crops and livestock to community-based ventures and operations producing an array of fruit, vegetables and flowers. They were selected by local University of Minnesota Extension committees based on the honorees' demonstrated commitment to enhancing and supporting agriculture.

"This year's 86 Farm Families of the Year reflect the breadth and variety of agriculture in our state," said Extension Dean Bev Durgan. "The University of Minnesota is proud to honor these families and their innovation and dedication

to Minnesota agriculture."

All the 2025 families — one in nearly every county in the state — are featured at z.umn.edu/farm-families-2025.

Cass County
Haehnel family

Bill and Kristi Haehnel began building their farm with determination and grit. They were married in 2000. Bill worked full-time as an electrician until 2018, gradually growing their beef herd year after year. Kristi worked as a dog groomer until stepping back in 2008 after the birth of their first daughter, Mabel. Since then, she has focused her time on raising their three children, Mabel, Mavis and Eldin, as well as helping to manage the daily demands of the farm.

Today, they run a 250-head operation of black and black baldy Angus cows, raising guard donkeys, planting 150 acres of corn and producing hay on over 350 acres. The entire family is hands-on. From calving to working cows, the kids are

fully involved, even helping with herd health protocols each spring and fall. Each child has their own horse and takes pride in helping move cattle between pastures. They also raise chickens, goats and sheep, and are active members of their local 4-H club and FFA chapter.

Bill remains active and committed to his community. He has served many years as the treasurer for the Minnesota Cattlemen's Association, on local township and hospital boards and as a Farm Service Agency committee member. They are also members of the Minnesota State Cattlemen's Association and the Cass County Farm Bureau Association. Their farm reflects a strong family foundation built on service, hard work and a passion for livestock.

Todd County
Middendorf Family

Donnie and Carolyn Middendorf built their farm from the ground up, but their roots in agriculture

run deep. Donnie was raised on his family's farm near Sauk Centre and spent his early years farming alongside his uncle Bill. In 1995, he purchased a farm near Long Prairie, just across the road from where Carolyn was raised on a dairy farm. They married in 1997 and began milking 52 Holsteins in a tie stall barn.

Since then, the operation has evolved considerably. Today, they milk around 110 Holstein-Fleckvieh crossbred cows in a swing parlor they retrofitted from the original barn. Cows are housed in sand-bedded freestalls and graze pasture during the warmer months. The family transitioned to organic in 2016 and now farm about 500 acres of corn, barley, alfalfa, millet and triticale-pea mixes.

Their children, Rachel, Hannah and Landon, remain active in the family farm. Rachel and her husband, Sam, raise organic beef and grow sweet corn. Landon handles a bit of everything, from milking to tractor work. Hannah helps

make hay in the summer months when she is off work.

The family is active in their church community at St. Mary of Mt. Carmel, and enjoy connecting with other farmers to share ideas and support one another.

Morrison County
Rudolph Family

The beginning of the Rudolph family farm traces back to 1892, when it was first homesteaded. In 2011, Nathan and Brenda purchased the farm from Nathan's parents, continuing a multi-generational legacy. Their children, Everett and Vivian, are now the sixth generation to grow up on the land.

Until 2019, the family operated a dairy, but they made the decision to transition to a diversified, direct-market livestock operation. Today, they raise pigs, beef, sheep and poultry, selling their meat directly to customers through farmers markets, food hubs, restaurants and schools. They grow all their own livestock feed, corn, rye, oats and alfalfa, and also custom-raise steers. Farm tours for school groups help bridge the gap between consumers and food production.

While both Nathan and Brenda work off the farm—Nathan at Peterson Modern Blacksmiths and Brenda as a substitute teacher—their family remains hands-on. Everett and Vivian are active in chores and 4-H, with Everett also serving as Little Falls FFA president.

Brenda founded Raising a Farmer, a nonprofit dedicated to farm-based education and connecting urban and rural communities. From cooking demos to hands-on youth workshops,

their mission is simple: grow food and grow community. Together, they have created not just a farm, but a hub for education, service and rural pride.

Wadena County
Horstmann Family

Benjamin and Amber Horstmann's farm started in 2012 with a small herd of registered Hereford beef cattle. A year later, they added a few sheep and goats, but by 2015, they shifted their focus. In 2018, they bought their first group of Registered Suffolk sheep, marking a turning point for their operation.

Today, the farm is home to Registered Suffolk, Hampshire and Babydoll sheep, along with a flock of commercial ewes. The Horstmanns' eldest children, Chloe and Adam, have their own Boer goats. Chloe also runs a small pair of beef cows. Daily chores are a family effort. Feeding, fencing, baling, springtime lambing, kidding and calving all happen with everyone pitching in. The youngest, Stellan, may not be close to the animals yet—but when the weather's good, he's outside with the rest of the crew.

The family is active in their local ag community. Benjamin helps with the open-class sheep shows at the county fair. Amber co-leads the Junior Citizens 4-H Club. Chloe and Adam have been involved in 4-H for nearly a decade and are now active members in the Wadena-Deer Creek FFA Chapter. They show their livestock locally and nationally, including the State Suffolk Show and the All American Junior Sheep Show.

CITY OF STAPLES							
Annual Disclosure of Tax Increment Districts For the Year Ended December 31, 2024							
DISTRICT INFORMATION	TIF 5 STAPLES SQUARE	TIF 6 PRAIRIE VIEW	TIF 7 STAPLES TOWNHOMES	TIF 8 HOTEL	TIF 9 CARDINAL PINES	TIF 10 MEDICAL OFFICES	TIF 11 MILL TOWNHOMES
Current net tax capacity	\$5,798	\$14,471	\$52,394	\$94,134	\$79,708	\$10,353	\$52,280
Original net tax capacity	\$9	\$25	\$730	\$10,788	\$370	\$817	\$322
Captured net tax capacity	\$5,789	\$14,446	\$51,664	\$83,346	\$79,338	\$9,536	\$51,958
Principal and interest payments in 2025	\$0	\$9,354	\$53,531	\$95,545	\$92,483	\$10,327	\$17,498
Tax Increment received in 2024	\$7,524	\$18,757	\$62,599	\$118,919	\$103,179	\$11,492	\$60,582
Tax increment expended in 2024	\$37,361	\$18,757	\$60,473	\$112,854	\$96,007	\$10,548	\$56,453
Month and Year of first tax increment receipt	Jun-2005	Jun-2006	May-2018	May-2018	May-2020	May-2020	Jun-2022
Date of required decertification	12/31/2030	12/31/2031	12/31/2043	12/31/2026	12/31/2045	12/31/2028	12/31/2047

Todd County Board of Commissioners

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE TODD COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS HELD JUNE 17, 2025

Moment of Silence: The Todd County Board of Commissioners observed a moment of silence due to the tragic events in the Twin Cities affecting our elected officials and specifically the State Representative and Spouse that lost their lives.

Call to Order

The Todd County Board of Commissioners met in the Commissioner's Board Room in the City of Long Prairie, MN on the 17th day of June, 2025 at 9:00 AM. The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Byers. The meeting was opened with the Pledge of Allegiance. All Commissioners were present. Approval of Agenda On motion by Neumann and second by Becker, the following motion was introduced and adopted by unanimous vote: To adopt the agenda as presented.

Consent Agenda

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

To approve the Todd County Board of Commissioner's Meeting Minutes for June 3rd, 2025 as presented.

GAMBLING PERMIT - ROTARY CLUB OF SAUK CENTRE

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

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Todd County Board of Commissioners approve a Gambling Permit for the Rotary Club of Sauk Centre to hold a raffle event at the Greystone Golf Club in Kandota Township at the address 10548 Andrews Drive, Sauk Centre, MN on August 22nd, 2025. Hire Camden Terwey for the full time Deputy position on a rate of pay of Grade 10 step 1 \$28.48 per hour start date TBD.

Approve the resignation of Eligibility Worker Carrie Wiechmann, effective June 20, 2025.

Auditor-Treasurer

On motion by Becker and second by Denny, the following motion was introduced and adopted by unanimous Roll Call vote: To approve the Commissioner Warrants number (ACH) 403929 through 403950 in the amount of \$48,941.87 and (Regular) 58988 through 59020 in the amount of \$44,822.43 for a total of \$93,764.30. On motion by Noska and second by Neumann, the following motion as introduced and adopted by unanimous rollcall vote: To approve the Health & Human Services Commissioner Warrants number (ACH) 806533 through 806587 and (Regular) 713118 through 713168 for a total of \$145,661.80.

On motion by Denny and second

by Becker, the following motion was introduced and adopted by unanimous rollcall vote: To approve the Health & Human Services SSIS Warrants number (ACH) 601698 through 601714 and (Regular) 518454 through 518478 for a total amount of \$110,253.89. Public Works On motion by Neumann and second by Noska, the following resolution was introduced and adopted by unanimous vote:

LOCAL BRIDGE REPLACEMENT PROGRAM GRANT AGREEMENT 1057245 GRANT TERMS AND CONDITIONS SAP 077-599-065

WHEREAS, Todd County has applied to the Commissioner of Transportation for a grant from the Minnesota State Transportation Fund for construction of Bridge #77J93, and;

WHEREAS, the Commissioner of Transportation has given notice that funding for this project is available, and; WHEREAS, the amount of the grant has been determined to be \$185,010.25 by reason of the lowest responsible bid.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, be it resolved that Todd County does hereby agree to the terms and conditions of the grant consistent with Minnesota Statutes, section 174.50, and will pay any additional amount by which the cost exceeds the estimate, and will return to the Minnesota State Transportation Fund any amount appropriated for the bridge but not required. The Todd County Board Chairperson and Todd County Auditor/Treasurer are authorized to execute a grant agreement and any amendments thereto with the Commissioner of Transportation concerning the above-referenced grant.

Sheriff's Office

On motion by Noska and second by Denny, the following motion was introduced and adopted by unanimous vote: Approve the purchase of 2-2025 Chevy Tahoe's from North Country GM of Hibbing for the total cost of \$106.980.56.

Planning & Zoning

On motion by Neumann and second by Becker, the following items were tabled to the July 1, 2025 meeting: 1) Smiejka & Wiener request for rezoning 2) Tomsche Request for CUP 3) Yoder Request for CUP.

Solid Waste

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

2025 TODD COUNTY INTERIM FINANCING FOR CAP GRANT PROJECT AND TRANSFER OF FUNDS AUTHORIZATION

WHEREAS, Todd County received a \$4,000,000 Capital Assistance Program (CAP) grant through the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA) and \$2,795,000 from the Minnesota General Fund to construct a new Transfer Station Building, Scale house and associated exterior improvements at the existing Transfer Station Facility in

Browerville (Project), and;

WHEREAS, on March 19, 2024 the Todd County Board of Commissioners approved financing for the project whereby the total project budget was established at \$10,197,156.43. Local match (Todd County, including solid waste department) funding was set at \$3,402,156.43. This includes funding from ARP and Solid Waste Department with a loan from the General Fund.

WHEREAS, Todd County awarded the majority of the work (less equipment, engineering, etc.) in the Project to Hy-Tec Construction on March 19, 2024. The work awarded to Hy-Tec has a substantial completion date of September 20, 2025.

WHEREAS, The State of Minnesota entered into an Agreement with Todd County effective December 31, 2021 for the \$4,000,000 CAP Grant. These funds have all been reimbursed to Todd County for work completed.

WHEREAS, The MPCA and State of Minnesota have not prepared a grant agreement for the additional \$2,795,000 committed by the State Legislature. State of Minnesota staff have indicated that the money can remain encumbered without an agreement until December 31, 2027.

WHEREAS, The Solid Waste Department does not expect it can pay for the remaining cost of the project without the aforementioned state funding. Recently, pay requests were received from the general contractor (Hy-Tec) that have not been paid in the amount of approximately \$1,497,206. The Solid Waste Department desires to find an interim funding source in case the State of Minnesota continues to be delayed in its obligations.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, the Todd County Board of Commissioners does hereby authorize interim financing from the General Fund for the Project to be called upon for up to 18 (eighteen) months for an amount not to exceed \$2,795,000 (Two million, seven hundred ninety-five thousand and 00/100 dollars) at an interest rate of zero (0) percent. Repayment of this advance to coincide with the State of Minnesota's delivery of funding per the CAP Grant Agreements.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Todd County Board of Commissioners does hereby authorize the County Auditor-Treasurer to transfer the requested funds, as necessary to coincide with vendor payment withdrawals for CAP Grant project expenses, in an amount not to exceed \$2,795,000 in total from Fund 01-General Revenue to Fund 51-Solid Waste based on the monthly cash balance of the Fund 51-Solid Waste. On motion by Noska and second by Denny, the following motion was introduced and adopted by unanimous vote: Authorize solid waste director to sign attached proposals from Widseth for \$12,500 for

Stormwater Permitting.

On motion by Becker and second by Becker, the following item was tabled: CAP Grant Change Order.

Health & Human Services

On motion by Becker and second by Neumann, the following motion was introduced and adopted by unanimous vote: To approve the agreement between Todd County Health & Human Services and Lakes Country Associates. County Attorney

On motion by Noska and second by Denny, the following motion was introduced and adopted by unanimous vote: To approve the Assistant County Attorney job description.

Administration

On motion by Becker and second by Noska, the following motion was introduced and adopted by unanimous vote: To approve the Annual Service Agreement with Safe Assure in the amount of \$12,412.53 with funding from the Safety Account and Public Works. On motion by Neumann and second by Noska, the following resolution was introduced and adopted by unanimous vote:

A RESOLUTION REJECTING THE U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY'S "SANCTUARY JURISDICTION" DESIGNATION FOR TODD COUNTY

WHEREAS, the U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS) recently released a public list designating 20 Minnesota counties, including Todd County, as so-called "sanctuary jurisdictions;" and

WHEREAS, DHS has not promulgated an official definition of "sanctuary jurisdiction;" and

WHEREAS, this "sanctuary jurisdiction" designation was made without consultation, clearly defined criteria, or notice to Todd County in advance of the public release; and

WHEREAS, this lack of communication placed local officials in the difficult position of responding to media inquiries and constituent concerns without any explanation or context for this "sanctuary jurisdiction" designation; and

WHEREAS, Minnesota state law prohibits the detention of individuals for more than 48 hours without formal charges, thereby limiting the ability of counties to comply with certain ICE requests; and

WHEREAS, this "sanctuary jurisdiction" designation could lead to serious and unfair consequences, including potential loss of critical federal funding that supports public safety and essential community services; and

WHEREAS, national organizations such as the National Sheriffs' Association and the National Association of Counties have expressed similar concerns regarding the lack of clarity, transparency, and due process in the DHS designation process.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Todd County Board of Commissioners formally rejects to the designation of Todd County as a "sanctuary jurisdiction" and expresses deep concern about

the lack of communication and transparency demonstrated by DHS in this matter.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Board requests that our Minnesota Congressional Delegation to advocate for:

1.Immediate clarification from DHS regarding the criteria and methodology used in making "sanctuary jurisdiction" designations;

2.A transparent and accountable process that includes notice, input, and the opportunity for so-called "sanctuary jurisdictions" to appeal this designation; 3.Assurances that Minnesota counties, including Todd County, will not be unfairly penalized, especially in terms of federal funding vital to public safety and community well-being.

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, that a copy of this resolution be forwarded to the U.S. Department of Homeland Security, the Association of Minnesota Counties, and our Minnesota Congressional Delegation, as a formal statement of Todd County's position that DHS's arbitrary "sanctuary jurisdiction" designation for Todd County is unfounded and inaccurate. County Auditor-Treasurer's Report The County Auditor-Treasurer reported the 2026 budget preparations are well underway.

County Coordinator's Report

The County Coordinator reported attending the solid waste, soil and water, personnel, finance committee, interviews and has received a grant for our wellness program from Sourcewell.

County Commissioner's Report

The Commissioners reported on meetings and events attended.

Commissioner Becker attended the Extension, AMC District 4, TWCC, Rainbow Rider and Soil & Water Conservation Tour meetings. Commissioner Neumann attended the Rainbow Rider and Solid Waste meetings. Commissioner Noska attended the regular meetings with mention of the upcoming wellness program employee event Commissioner Denny attended the Finance Committee and regular meetings. Encouraged public to attend our local community summer events. Commissioner Byers extended thanks and gratitude to County Staff and the Todd County Community during his family's recent loss. Closed Session Chair Byers closed the session pursuant to MN Statute §13D.05 Subd. 3(a) at 10:01 a.m. Chair Byers provided a summary of the closed session that Department Head Evaluations were held for the following persons and all were deemed satisfactory standing:

Jackie Och, HHS Director. Mitch Johnson, Facilities Manager Adam Ossefoort, PZ/SWCD Director Chris McConn, Solid Waste Director Chris Odden, County Assessor Mike Eberle, Solid Waste Supervisor Loren Fellbaum, County Engineer Peter Berscheit, Veterans Service Officer

Chair Byers reopened the session at 12:34 p.m.

Adjourn

On motion by Becker and second by Denny, the meeting was adjourned for the month of June 2025.

COMMISSIONER WARRANTS

VENDOR NAME	\$ AMOUNT
ARC ELECTRIC SERVICE...	3,314.25
CHAMBERLAIN OIL COMPANY	2,735.26
EMERGENCY AUTOMOTIVE TECHNOLOGIES	2,557.22
LAKES AREA BLASTING	15,760.00
LONG PRAIRIE LEADER	3,015.00
COMPANY	\$5,306.58
MENCH/JAMES	4,375.00
METAL CULVERTS INC.	28,265.60
NOW MICRO INC.	\$9,936.00
SALAM INTERNATIONAL, INC.	2,242.20
46 PAYMENTS LESS	
THAN \$2,000	19,571.44
Total:	\$93,764.30

HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES WARRANTS

VENDOR NAME	\$ AMOUNT
V#15231-COST EFF	
HEALTH INS.	2,493.84
V#16675-COST EFF	
HEALTH INS	4,346.28
AMAZON CAPITAL SERVICES	2,750.68
RURAL MN CEP INC	20,284.93
MORRIES ELECTRONICS INC	3,112.84
USPS-POC	5,820.00
90 PAYMENTS LESS	
THAN \$2,000	44,628.60
AMAZON CAPITAL SERVICES	2,167.17
DHS - SWIFT	51,405.97
NOW MICRO INC.	2,484.00
PETERSON/JENA.	3,810.00
6 PAYMENTS LESS	
THAN \$2,000	\$2,357.49
Total:	\$145,661.80

VENDOR NAME \$ AMOUNT

180 DEGREES INC 9,059.68

17598 \$4,189.03

GERARD TREATMENT PROGRAMS 9,475.46

HEARTLAND GIRLS RANCH.....22,278.46

LUTHERAN SOCIAL SERVICE OF MN 3,059.15

RESOURCE TRAINING AND SOLUTIONS 2,470.00

STEP 10,217.59

#16359 2,084.00

#17734 2,929.50

VALLEY LAKE BOYS HOME INC 10,168.00

WEST CENTRAL REG JUVENILE CTR 18,298.00

31 PAYMENTS LESS

THAN \$2,000 16,021.48

Total: \$110,253.89

On a motion by Noska and second by Neumann, the preceding minutes of the County Board meeting held June 17th, 2025 were duly approved by unanimous vote at the Todd County Board of Commissioners at the Regular Board Meeting held on July 1, 2025.

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

31pnc



SMBP plans NNO for Aug. 5

Staples Motley Beyond Poverty (SMBP) will host the National Night Out on Tuesday, Aug. 5, at the Staples Airport, where there will be first responder vehicles and aircraft, plus free food and kids games. Pictured above, the group meets on July 10 to discuss their activities. Other items on the agenda were putting a resource awareness committee together to give people access to agencies that offer services. The group is planning a lunch and learn event for service providers who attend their Communities Connect event.

Another event is being scheduled to bring Erin Walsh to the area to speak about mental health. SMBP brought Walsh to the Staples-Motley School District to talk about the pitfalls of social media for students.

The meeting was also a celebration of long-time treasurer Judy Richer, who is stepping down from that role on the board. SMBP is a nonprofit that started in 2013, Richer has been a board member since 2016. (Staples World photos by Mark Anderson)



STAPLES continued from page 1a

Citizen concerns about thefts, speeding

trailer there now. Nelsen said the \$100,000 estimated cost would have to come from outside fundraising, not from the city budget.

In other news, the

council

• Heard from city resident Tom Toepper who said he has concerns about thefts going on in the city. He said there is a lack of police pre-

sense on the south side of town, especially at night. Toepper also brought up speeding issues on 6th Street SE, coming in to town and leaving after the stoplight. He asked if they

city could put an electronic speed sign there again. Nelsen said the city owns one electronic speed sign and they move it around to different locations.



Two injured in motorcycle/truck collision

First responders from the Todd County Sheriff's Office, Staples Police, Staples Fire Department and Lakewood Ambulance were at the scene of an injury crash at the intersection of Warner Road and 301st Ave., Staples, July 12.

The Todd County Sheriff's Office received a report of the incident at 11 a.m. According to their report, a 2000 Ford F150 driven by Russell Johnson of rural Staples was attempting to make a turn into a driveway when it collided with a 2000 Harley-Davidson Softail driven by Grant Woodwick of Staples. Woodwick collided with the front driver's side of Johnson's vehicle, causing extensive damage to both vehicles. Woodwick sustained severe injuries was transported to Lakewood Health System (LHS) Hospital in Staples. Johnson was later transported to LHS Hospital for minor injuries sustained in the crash. (Staples World photos by Dawn Timbs)



New hangar nearly done at Staples Airport

The Staples Airport Board toured construction on the new hangar being built at the airport by the city using FAA funding. The six-plane hangar is on schedule and should be finished by the end of July. Once this is built, the Staples Airport will have the capacity to house 31 airplanes on site. Airport Board members are Ken Peterson, Kent Nordell, Jeff Weitemier, Bruce Nelsen, and Staples City Council representatives Doug Case and John Jewison. (Staples World photos by Mark Anderson)



AHRENDT continued from page 1a

Passionate people in Staples-Motley activities

candidate for the position.

"I can't imagine life without sports," said Ahrendt, "I want to help people find their passion and help them be the best version of themselves."

In her first few weeks at Staples-Motley Ahrendt is figuring out the system.

"I'm learning how I can dive in and how I can fit in, there are new things every day," she said.

Ahrendt has enjoyed meeting coaches, assistants and youth sports volunteers.

"I've met so many passionate people who want to see Staples-Motley grow," she said.

Ahrendt is aware of the upswing in many of the sports programs over the past few years, with outgoing Activities Director Josh Lee.

"Josh had rave reviews when I talked to people here," said Ahrendt. "I want to keep growing and keep expanding so we won't get complacent, we will keep working on being the best version of ourselves."

Ahrendt is continuing to expand the options for community education. The school recently hired an assistant to help that program grow.

Comfort gets an upgrade with Lakewood's newest mammogram technology

Lakewood Health System, Staples, is among the first facilities in the area to offer Genius™ 3D Mammography™ exams, and announce the addition of the SmartCurve® breast stabilization system—designed to reduce discomfort and improve image clarity. With this new technology, Lakewood reaffirms its commitment to providing patients with the most advanced diagnostic tools available.

Utilizing advanced breast tomosynthesis technology, 3D Mammography™ exams are clinically proven to significantly increase the detection of breast cancers while decreasing the number of women asked to return for additional testing. It can mean an earlier detection and diagnosis of breast cancer, and a greater variety of treatment options available to the patient. Aided by the addition of the SmartCurve®, which is a curved compression surface that mirrors the natural shape of the breast to more evenly distribute pressure

and reduce pinching, this newest technology is the most gentle and thorough available.

"This new SmartCurve® technology marks a significant milestone in our commitment to our community's health," said Lakewood Director of Radiology, TJ McCall. "By continuing to further enhance our capabilities for early breast cancer detection, we're reinforcing our dedication to providing superior care and comfort to patients."

In offering the SmartCurve® technology addition to the existing 3D Mammography™ technology, Lakewood takes a proactive step towards enhancing the quality and comfort of breast cancer screening in our community. Patients interested in learning more about getting a 3D Mammography™ exam should talk with their primary care provider. The exam is covered by 95 percent of insurance plans for women ages 40 to 74.

Wadena County missing person investigation update

The Wadena County Sheriff's Office received a report July 16 that a vehicle matching the description of the Jeep referenced in the missing person investigation had been located. Upon arrival, deputies confirmed the vehicle was a match. A search of the area was conducted and a deceased male was located approximately 240 feet above the ground on a tower located in Section 28 of Rockwood Township.

Due to the height of the tower, an Urban Search and Rescue team was requested. Minnesota Task Force 1 responded and recovered the deceased male from the tower. The deceased male

was identified by the Midwest Medical Examiner's Office as 30-year-old Samuel Waln.

The Wadena County Sheriff's Office believes this was an isolated incident and there is no danger to the public. No foul play related to the death is suspected at this time.

The WCSO was assisted on scene by the MN State Patrol, MN BCA, Wadena County Highway Department, Karvonen Funeral Home and Ken's Towing.

Additional information will be released as it becomes available from the Midwest Medical Examiner's Office.