

Inside this issue:

Wrestling, Hall of Fame displays during RR Days
Staples EDA eyes building purchase opportunity
LSS Meals moving to Hi-Rise
Petition to stop meat processing plant
Gage Bjerga wins national wrestling title



A song for ‘the Maestro’ Steve Hoemberg, former director of the Staples Area Men’s Chorus (SAMC), returned to the podium to direct the chorus as they performed for Stan Carlson at his Staples home. Carlson, reorganizer of the SAMC, directed the choir from 1971 - 2010. At the keyboard is longtime accompanist Sandy Paskewitz and Teresa Hamp (partially hidden), the current director of the men’s chorus. (Staples World photo by Dawn Timbs)

Stan Carlson to be inducted in S-M Artistic Hall of Fame



Special backyard concert

Stan Carlson of Staples, center, applauded at the end of a song sung by members of the Staples Area Men’s Chorus, the choral group he had directed for nearly 40 years. The concert was held in the backyard of Carlson’s house May 7, with a few friends and neighbors in attendance. Due to health challenges Carlson’s faced in recent years, the men’s

chorus decided to bring their Wednesday night rehearsal to their former director’s home. It turned into a mini concert, much to the delight of ‘the Maestro.’ Pictured, from left, are Bruce and Bev Nelsen; Diane and Stan Carlson; Bonnie Odell, Sally Gorton, Cheryl Carey and Penny Olsen. (Staples World photo by Dawn Timbs)

To recognize the talent that has excelled, adorned our community and streets, filled Staples-Motley auditoriums and halls, and continues to inspire future artists, an Artistic Hall of Fame has been formed. The mission is to recognize significant accomplishments and contributions to artistic creation in the Staples-Motley community and to stimulate creativity in our schools, organizations and homes. Music, digital creation, debate, visual arts, dance, speech, writing, drama/theater are categories that will be recognized at an annual celebration.

Stan Carlson is the inaugural inductee in the Staples-Motley Artistic Hall of Fame and will be celebrated during Railroad Days at 2 p.m. on Sunday, Aug. 17, at Centennial Auditorium in Staples.

Stan became the highly regarded leader of choral activities at Staples High School and then at Staples-Motley from 1965-1999. He directed major works, musicals and madrigals, while raising the standard of choral performance to new levels in the area. He had over 100 students participate in All State Choirs and became well known at state and national levels, presenting on classroom management and support for young men experiencing changing voices. He



Inaugural inductee

Stan Carlson is the inaugural inductee in the Staples-Motley Artistic Hall of Fame and will be celebrated during Railroad Days at 2 p.m. on Sunday, Aug. 17, at Centennial Auditorium in Staples. Pictured, Artistic Hall of Fame board member Jeanne Rohr presents the award to Stan Carlson. At right is Stan’s wife, Diane Carlson. (Staples World photos by Dawn Timbs)

was the founder of the Staples Area Men’s Chorus in 1971 and continued as its director until 2010. He was a driving force behind the creation and operation of the Centennial Auditorium. On the state and regional level he received many awards and recognition, including:

- 1990 - Minnesota Choral Director of the Year Award from the American Choral Directors Association of MN
- 1998 - Music Educator of the Year from the Minnesota Music Educators Association
- 1985 - AMCA Director

of the Year from the Associated Male Choruses of America

- 2010 was inducted into MMEA Hall of Fame.

As a member of the Lion’s Club, Carlson was a Melvin Jones Fellow of the Lions Club International.

At his induction into the Artistic Hall of Fame Aug. 17, “Alumni and Friends of Stan Carlson,” a special choir under the direction of Steve Hoemberg, will perform selections as part of the program. Several speakers will share memories of Stan’s impact on

See **CARLSON** on page 10a

Little Red Caboose Show is Aug. 14

The Little Red Caboose Variety Show is back again to kick off the Railroad Days festivities with a showcase of local talent. It will be held on Thursday, Aug. 14, at the Centennial Auditorium in Staples with the show starting at 7 p.m. Doors open at 6:15 p.m.

This year’s show boasts newcomers and favorite acts, all local talent.

Newcomers to the show include Laken Hines and Walker Johnson who will be performing their State placing speeches from this past school year’s State

Speech Tournament, and Kathy Iverson, Eric Neznik and Meredith Hoemberg. Returning favorites include music by the Staples Area Men’s and Women’s choruses, Gary and Dawn Timbs, Sarah Kroll, Nathan Beard and The Little Moran

See **CABOOSE** on page 10a

Weather

2025

This Week’s Forecast

	High	Low	Cond.
July 30	77	53	P. Cloudy
July 31	79	53	Sunny
Aug. 1	80	54	Sunny
Aug. 2	78	59	M. Sunny
Aug. 3	76	61	M. Cloudy
Aug. 4	77	62	Cloudy
Aug. 5	77	63	Cloudy

Last Year, 2024

	High	Low	Cond.
July 30	86°	65	Sunny
July 31	84	67	M. Sunny
Aug. 1	71	63	Rain
Aug. 2	87	65	Sunny
Aug. 3	80	72	Sunny
Aug. 4	75	64	Cloudy
Aug. 5	64	63	Rain

Average Temps:

H = 81° Low = 59°

Compiled by

Dale Hausmann,

WCCO’s Staples area

Weatherwatcher

Public Notices

Todd Cty Planning 9A

Todd Cty Commissioners 9A

City of Motley 9A

Obituaries

Shirley Greig

Patricia Stokely



Lifesaving commendations

Staples Police Officers Dawson Waldvogel and Chris Goff, center, were honored at the July 22 Staples City Council meeting for saving a life during a fire incident on July 2. Police Chief Melissa Larson, left, and Officer Ryan Walwick, right, presented the commendation to the officers.

At 2:15 a.m. on July 2, Goff was patrolling the city and observed smoke near 5th Street NE. He drove into the alley and saw a fire at the Jeff Scribner residence. He called dispatch, which brought Officer Waldvogel to

the scene. They knocked on the door with no response, so Waldvogel kicked in a door and found one individual sleeping. The person didn’t have any response so Waldvogel started carrying the subject, who then woke up and was able to get outside. Fire damage was kept to a minimum and the officers were given credit for saving a life and a house. The city council and audience gave the officers a standing ovation following their commendation. (Staples World photo by Mark Anderson)

Alexus Willey is newest behavioral health provider at Lakewood Health System

Lakewood Health System, Staples, welcomes Alexis Willey, psychiatric mental health nurse practitioner (PMHNP), as the newest provider to its behavioral health team.

Originally from Baxter, Willey completed her graduate degree at Walden University. She is a member of the American Association of Nurse Practitioners, American Nurses Association, and the Minnesota Organization of Registered Nurses.

As a board-certified psychiatric mental health nurse practitioner, Willey is honored to provide compassionate care to patients throughout their lives. Her evidence-based approach



Alexus Willey

emphasizes the individualized needs of each patient, ensuring an empathetic and tailored treatment. Willey integrates medication management, therapy and holistic strategies to sup-

port patients' mental health journeys. Passionate about making a positive impact, she ensures patients feel heard, empowered and well-informed about their health. "Lakewood is more than just a healthcare system – it's a community that values compassion and connection. I'm thrilled to be here, making a positive impact every day."

Willey cherishes her time with her husband, Travis, and their four children: Henri, Scarlett, Charles and Blair. They share a passion for golfing, traveling, hunting and enjoying the outdoors, such as taking their family dog, Frank, for walks.

Citizen petition sent to Staples City Council

By Mark Anderson
Managing Editor

Citizens concerned about the meat processing facility being built in the Staples Industrial Park presented a petition signed by more than 50 Staples residents asking not to renew the conditional use permit (CUP) for the facility.

The Farmers Union Processing + Meats facility is currently under construction.

Staples resident Heidi Cline presented the petition to the council and told them that the public was not aware of the slaughterhouse facilities needed for the processing plant and for the Central Lakes College meat processing program.

Cline researched wastewater violations at three rendering plants owned by the Minnesota Farmers Union, Central Bi-Products in Long Prairie, Redwood Falls and Estherville, Iowa.

Cline said "Every single business out of Central Bi-Products had multiple violations. They broke their promise 100 percent of the time."

She said there have been hundreds of complaints in

Minnesota, but the state doesn't have a good way to address the issues.

"It's not a benefit to our town or our residents," said Cline.

Staples resident Amanda Hinson told the council that she did not think the wastewater issue has been addressed for the facility.

Hinson also said there isn't a need for the facility since there are seven other small meat processors that this one will be in competition with.

Both speakers acknowledged that a meat processing facility is different than a rendering business.

"But they go hand in hand," said Hinson, "they both deal with dead, smelly carcasses and byproducts."

Steve Hinson also spoke to the council, urging them to listen to their voters and enforce their ordinances.

CIP

The council approved the Capital Improvement Plan that projects equipment purchases and facility upgrades for the next five years.

City Administrator Jerel Nelsen pointed out some of the expenditures scheduled for the next year, including

a plow truck replacement, an epoxy floor in the street shop and planning for the Staples Community Center locker room project.

Nelsen said in 2027, the police department will start replacing body cameras. The 4th Street NE reconstruction is also scheduled for 2027.

In 2028, Nelsen said a Dower Lake Recreation Area park expansion is on the schedule, but that will depend on grants and funding. The possible expansion would help the park achieve recognition as a regional recreation center and qualify them for bigger grants.

In other news, the council

- Approved parcel combination related to the Mid Minnesota Federal Credit Union construction project.
- Approved development agreement with Blue Spruce Properties for a 10 year tax increment finance (TIF) district at the Valley View subdivision.
- Heard from Nelsen about the new siren at Dower Lake that wasn't working correctly.
- Heard from Nelsen that the Dower Lake safe room footings are going in.

SEDA looking into building purchase option

By Mark Anderson
Managing Editor

The Staples Economic Development Authority (SEDA) is looking into an opportunity to purchase the Taylor Funeral Home, which was formerly the Staples City Hall.

At the July 22 SEDA meeting, Economic Development Director Lucas Wakefield informed the board that Brenny Funeral Homes has purchased the Taylor Funeral Home that is currently in the building on the corner of 6th Street NE and Highway 10. He said Brenny does not plan to use the building and they asked if the city would be interested in purchasing it.

Wakefield said he normally wouldn't advocate for the SEDA to purchase a building owned by a private business, but this one has special circumstances. To start, there is no parking for the building other than the parking lot of the current City Hall.

Wakefield talked about possible uses for the building. He said it could be used for a co-working space where home-based businesses, internet businesses

or new businesses could get help expanding or getting off the ground. They could also use the building for meeting space. He gave an example of a building in Bemidji that was bought by the local government and is now called LaunchPad, with a wide range of services for businesses and entrepreneurs who use the building.

The SEDA board agreed that this is an opportunity they could look into.

Mayor Ron Murray noted that it is in a unique location.

Board member Doug Case called the location a "million dollar corner" that could be worth a lot to a business. He suggested putting a fast food restaurant on that corner.

Wakefield talked about the historic value of the building.

"It is in good shape, you couldn't build that right now," said Wakefield.

He said the roof may need some repairs and the building is a split level, so they may need an elevator lift to make sure it is ADA compliant.

As far as the economics of purchasing the building, Wakefield said the county valuation of the building is

\$184,000, but there is also a bank loan involved.

City Administrator Jerel Nelsen said when the building was for sale years ago, there were discussions of something going into the building that might be considered a detriment to the city.

SEDA Board member Steve Gertken asked the question "Is that worth controlling that corner or not controlling that corner?"

In other news, the SEDA

- Heard from Wakefield about the LEAP project that has now committed to enhancing holiday events in Staples by making sure activities are coordinated and working in sync.
- Approved facade loans of \$20,000 for the Batcher Building without title insurance because owner Colleen Frost submitted a clear ownership title in lieu of the extra insurance.
- Heard from Wakefield that public parking signs will be put up soon in city parking lots. The signs were paid for by the Blandin grant, which still has some money left that could be used for downtown holiday lighting.



Ribbon winning sisters

Sisters Lily, nine, (left) and Addie, 11, Szczodroski of Pillager both took home top place ribbons at the Pillager Fair for a

variety of art projects they'd entered. (Staples World photo by Dawn Timbs)



Family celebration at Music in the Park

Family members of Tom and Patty Crawford of Staples were in town the weekend of July 19 - 20 for a visit and belated birthday celebration for Tom, above right, who turned 80 this past June 25. The visitors represented three generations and hailed from California, Illinois

and the Twin Cities. In addition to Dairy Queen ice cream birthday cake, the Crawford group enjoyed listening to the music of the Red Letter Band at Northern Pacific Park in Staples July 20. (Staples World photo by Dawn Timbs)



Young cowgirl

Eight-year-old Aspen Kavanaugh of Cushing competed at the Pillager Fair Horse Show July 18, taking home several ribbons. Kavanaugh was also the recipient of the 2025 Jacob Borgstrom Top Hand award. Given in memory of Jacob, this award recognizes the most helpful exhibitor at the Pillager Fair's horse show. (Staples World photo by Dawn Timbs)

Drill Team performs at the fair

At left: Members of the Harmony Hoofbeats Drill Team, under the direction of Coach Kaitlyn Schroeder of Pillager, performed routines to a variety of music at the Pillager Fair July 18. (Staples World photo by Dawn Timbs)



Staples Police report

Recent reports taken by the Staples Police:

July 13, Staples Police investigated a complate of child abuse, neglect and domestic assault.

July 14, Staples Police assted LHS requesting law enforcement stand by regarding a patient. Cleared without incident.

July 14, Staples Police checked vehicles parked in the Love Hotel parking lot.

July 15, Staples Police took information about a boat theft, with a possible suspect vehicle.

July 16, Staples Police assisted Wadena County Sheriff's Dept with a search

Court report July 23

MN Dept. of Resources

Dustin Duane Kern, Burtrum. RV-fail to display valid ATV registration/decals as required. Fine \$25. Fee \$85.

Mark Allen Messman, Burtrum. Watercraft-personal floatation or life-saving devices required. Fine \$25. Fee \$85.

State Patrol

Samantha Marie Hart-Myhre, Bloomington. Speed 87/65. Fine \$70. Fee \$155.

Justin Leslie McPhail, Cloquet. Speed 84/65. Fine \$60. Fee \$85.

Michael Jon Saterbak, Cambridge. Speed 75/65. Fine \$40. Fee \$85.

Bradley William Strelow, Osakis. Vehicle exceeds width restrictions. Fine \$100. Fee \$85.

Daniel Hunter Whippis, Milona. Speed 75/65. Fine \$40. Fee \$85.

Abdulah Barry, Fargo, ND. Speed 84/70. Fine \$50. Fee \$85.

Heather Tracy Bohn, West St. Paul. Speed 109/70. Fine \$150. Fee \$235. Careless driving. Fine \$100.

Renee Lynn Coburn, Long Prairie. Speed 70/60. Fine \$40. Fee \$85 No insurance Owner. Fine \$200. No insurance Driver. Fine \$200.

Cecil Snoh Dargbe, Horace, ND. Speed 89/70. Fine \$60. Fee \$85.

Nikko Michael Donovan, Eagle Bend. Window restrictions-windshield tinted or glazed. Fine \$50. Fee \$85.

Allison Malia Erhard Tomlinson, Denver, CO. Speed 80/70. Fine \$40. Fee \$85.

Jackson Conrad Fiala, Alexandria. Windshield tinted or glazed. Fine \$50. Fee \$85.

Anastasia Joy Fillipi, Faribault. Speed 87/70. Fine \$60. Fee \$85.

Jessica Marie Fromm, Morgan. Hands free law. Fine \$50. Fee \$85.

Aaron Samuel Ray Gonzales, Alexandria. No MN Driver's license. Fine \$100. Fee \$85. No insurance owner. Fine \$200. No insurance driver. Fine \$200.

Cohen Michael Jahnke, Parkers Prairie. Speed 89/70. Fine \$60. Fee \$85.

John Jacob Johansen, Little Falls. Speed 65/60. Fine \$40. Fee \$85.

Lyle Martin, Long Prairie. MN Annual inspection decal violation. Fine \$100. Fee \$85.

Ilaniel J. Milano Campos, Blaine. Speed 99/70. Fine \$100. Fee \$185. No MN Driver's license. Fine \$100.

Miguel Gabriel Miranda Diaz, Long Prairie. Speed 97/60. Fine \$150. Fee \$235.

Jesus Montanez Martinez, Sauk Centre. Speed 71/60. Fine \$50. Fee \$85.

Joseph Jaurean Morales, Brown- erville. Hands free law. Fine \$50. Fee \$85.

Olivia Ann Mumm, Rexburg, ID. Speed 89/70. Fine \$60. Fee \$85.

Stephanie Sue Nalezny, Long Prairie. Hands free law. Fine \$50. Fee \$85.

Marissa May Nicholson, Coon Rapids. Speed 93/70. Fine \$70. Fee \$155.

Gabriella Joy Olson, Long Prairie. Speed 80/70. Fine \$40. Fee \$85.

Andres Perez, Hands free law. Fine \$50. Fee \$85.

Jacob James Plautz, Bertha. Speed 65/60. Fine \$40. Fee \$85.

Abigail Marie Puklich, Chaska. Fine \$50. Fee \$75.

Anshaly Renois, Long Prairie. Speed 77/60. Fine \$60. Fee \$85. No MN Driver's license. Fine \$100.

Dakota Steven Smieja, Long Prairie. Windshield tinted or glazed. Fine \$50. Fee \$85.

Dylan Raymond Vannett, Savage. Speed 84/70. Fine \$50. Fee \$85.

Pavlos Vinicios, Pembroke Pines, FL. Speed 81/70. Fine \$50. Fee \$85.

Jennifer Lynn Weber, Anoka. Speed 80/70. Fine \$40. Fee \$85

Dylan David Winkler, Long Prairie. Speed 71/60. Fine \$50. Fee \$85.

Staples Police

Susan Jane Peterson, Staples. Failure to Yield to vehicle/pedestrian. Fine \$50. Fee \$85.

Todd County

Luke Chaim Ayers, Wadena. Speed 64/60. Fine \$40. Fee \$85.

Kaitlynn Lee Bollig, Grey Eagle. Speed 50/40. Fine \$40. Fee \$85.

Jedidiah Stephen Bulcher, Bertha. Speed 75/60. Fine \$60. Fee \$85.

Uriel Jhonatan Castelan Lopez, Staples. Speed 76/55. Fine \$70. Fee \$155.

Lobsang Yessid Collazo Rosaio, Long Prairie. Expired registration. Fine \$30. Fee \$85. Driving without a valid drivers license for vehicle class or type. Fine \$100.

Isaac Leland Greenwaldt, Staples. Speed 84/55. Fine \$185. Fee \$100.

for a missing person after their vehicle was found near Cty Rd 9 and 23.

July 18, Staples Police received a complaint of a stray dog. Resident was concerned about their chickens in the yard.

July 18, Staples Police took a report of a car that drove into a tree on 3rd St. SW. The driver had walked away and threw car keys down a storm drain. Police retrieved the keys from the storm drain.

July 19, Staples Police received a complaint of a food truck selling food without a required permit to sell food in the city.

Miaya Amanda Guggisberg, Villard. Consumption by persons under 21. Fine \$100. Fee \$85.

Blake Lawrence Irsfeld, Browerville. Speed 65/60. Fine \$40. Fee \$85.

Mykena Lynn Jergenson, Starbuck. Consumption by persons under 21. Fine \$100. Fee \$85.

James Allan Johnson, Clarissa. Speed 82/60. Fine \$70. Fee \$155.

Kimberly Kaye Kenyon-Brown, Long Prairie. Driving after revocation. Fine \$200. Fee \$85.

Biverly Mondelus, North Miami, FL. Speed 75/55. Fine \$70. Fee \$155.

Jose Guadalupe Paramo Hernandez, Long Prairie. Driving without a valid license for vehicle class or type. Fine \$100. Fee \$85.

Cody Robert Payette-Teats, Brainerd. Speed 65/55. Fine \$40. Fee \$75.

Jacqueline Marie Pischke, Clitherall. Fine \$40. Fee \$85.

Steven Omar Rodriguez Calzado, Long Prairie. Expired registration. Fine \$30. Fee \$85.

orge Rodriguez, Long Prairie. Speed 78/55. Fine \$70. Fee \$155.

Shelby Mae Rossum, Brownerville. Expired registration. Fine \$30. Fee \$85.

Presley Scott Severson, Merri-field. Expired registration. Fine \$30. Fee \$85

Juan Ramirez Vasquez, Long Prairie. Driving after cancellation. Fine \$200. Fee \$85.

Victor Allen Zalesak, Clarissa. Speed 89/60. Fine \$100. Fee \$185. Driver fails to stop at STOP sign. Fine \$50.

The following cases were heard before Judge Daniel A. Benson in Seventh District Court in Todd County July 16, 2025.

Mark Steven Whaley, Johnson City, TN. Theft-by swindle. Sentenced. Commit to Commissioner of Corrections-adult (MN Correctional Facility-St. Cloud, 27 mo, stay for 5 yr). Supervised probation, 5 yr. Fine \$50. Fee \$75.

Brian Joseph Dukowitz, Vern-dale. 2nd degree DWI-operate motor vehicle under influence of alcohol. Dismissed. 2nd degree DWI-operate motor vehicle-alcohol concentration 0.08 within 2 hours. Sentenced. Local confinement (364 days, stay 0 yr 0 mo 334 days for 4 yr credit for time served: 5 days). Supervised probation, 4 yr. Fine \$50. Fee \$1180.

Corey David Neubath, Brown- erville. Assault-4th degree-Peace Officer. Dismissed. Obstruct legal process-interfere with Peace Officer. Convicted. Local confinement (364 days, stay 0 yr 0 mo 360 days for 1 yr credit for time served: 4 days). Supervised probation, 1 yr. Fine \$150. Fee \$75. Fleeing Peace Offi- cer by a means other than a motor vehicle. Sentenced. Local confine- ment (4 days, stay 0 yr mo 0 days for credit for time served: 4 days). Fine \$50.

The following cases were heard before Judge Daniel A. Benson in Seventh District Court in Todd County July 15, 2025.

Xavier Prez Torres, Long Prai- rie. Assault-3rd degree-substantial bodily harm. Dismissed. Assault 5th degree-inflict bodily harm. Sentenced. Local confinement (90 days, stay 87 days for 1 yr credit for time served: 3 days). Supervised proba- tion, 1 yr. Fine \$500.

Andrew John Jones, Waite Park. Fish & Game-take fish without angling license. Fine \$50. Fee \$75.

Joy Lynn Hill, Staples. Domestic abuse. Dismissed. Disorderly conduct. Continued. Supervised proba- tion, 1 yr. Fine \$100. Fee \$75.

Ryan William Schmidt, St. Cloud. Disorderly conduct. Dismissed. Assalt-5th degree-fear of bodily harm or death. Sentenced. Local confine- ment (90 days, stay 0 yr 0 mo 0 days). Fine \$50. Fee \$75.

Tyler James Hoefs-Gesme, Bertha. Driving after revocation. Local confinement (90 days, stay 10 days for 1 yr credit for time served: 10 days). Unsupervised probation, 1 yr. Fine \$50. Fee \$75.

John Patrick Rowen, Burtrum. 2nd degree-possess 25 grams or more cocaine or methamphetamine. Dismissed. 4th degree DWI-operate motor vehicle under influence. Dis- missed. 4th degree DWI-Operate motor vehicle-any amount Schedule I/II drugs/metabolite. not canna- bis/hemp. Dismissed. Drugs-3rd degree-possess 10 grams or more a narcotic drug other than heroin or fentanyl. Sentenced. Commit to Commissioner of Corrections-adult (MN Correctional Facility-St. Cloud, 39 mo). Fine \$50. Fee \$75.

75 YEARS Ago - 1950

• Aug. 3, 1950 - The Motley baseball team gained undisputed possession of first place in the Northern Pine League Sunday by defeating Mead-ows by a score of 11 to 7 behind the 7 hit pitching of Jack Sklenicka who pitched the complete game for Motley.

• Aug. 3, 1950 - Miss Aleen Shina- barger, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Wilbur Shinabarger of Staples, who is a member of the Hayden Boosters 4-H club, won first place in the agri- cultural demonstration at long Prairie on Aug. 1, and as a result of this will represent Todd county at the state fair the latter part of this month.

Miss Shinabarger won her laurels by demonstrating the making of a cor- sage. She was the only entrant in this part of the county to win first place, although several won blue ribbons.

One of the peculiar happenings at the demon- stration was the fact that

Clair Kap- phahn of the Bertha High Flyers, took first in the pie baking contest and will also represent Todd county at the state fair.

Other young men who won Blue Ribbons for their demonstrations were: Doug Grossman, Lloyd and Boyd Grove, Roy Lenk and Robert Motl; Ernest Schlichting, of Lone Birch; and Lynn Prindle of Hayden Boosters.

• Aug. 3, 1950 - Miss Rhoda Williams, and her mother, Mrs. E. P. Williams, of Hollywood, Calif., who have been guests at the summer home of Mr. and Mrs. Stan Eddy and son Don at Fish Trap Lake left Monday to return by plane from Minneapolis to Hollywood.

Miss Williams has gained fame in Hollywood and over the nation through her appearance on the radio in the NBC program, "Father Knows Best," which stars Robert Young. The program is on vacation at the present time, but will resume regular broad- casts on Sept. 1. She has also taken parts in several motion picture shows including Walt Disney's "Cinderella" where she played the part of Drizella.

During the summer vacation Miss Williams is with the program, "Too Many Cooks," written by Frank Fox. In the program Monday evening the city of Staples was mentioned twice, thus giving Staples a national boost.

In an interview last Saturday with staff members of the NBC station in Minneapolis, Miss Williams stated that Staples was one of the best little cities she had ever visited. "The hospi- tality I have received from everyone is very gratifying to me and my mother. We will surely return here in the near future for another, and I hope, longer visit with you fine people," stated Miss Williams.

50 YEARS Ago - 1975

• July 31, 1975 - "Crazy, Man, Crazy." These words will possibly be repeated many times Friday and Saturday, Aug. 1 and 2, as the Retail Committee of the Staples Chamber of Commerce spon-



Mystery solved

Last week's mystery photo published in the March 25, 1993 edition of the Staples World featured area entertainers joining together at a benefit concert for the Staples Area Food Shelf. The program, held at Centennial Auditorium in Staples, included Barb Cline, the Gary Schimpp family, Amy Knosalla, Mike and Jayme Hajek, Kathy Iverson and the Quance family.

This reporter, Dawn (Schimpp) Timbs, recognized most everyone in the photo, including my dad, Gary Schimpp, and sister Heather, second and third from right, respectively. As a Staples native, the photo brings back many happy memories for me...from having had the opportunity to perform on that stage

Staples World

Advertising

(classified and display),

copy, public notices,

letters to the editor, etc.:

DEADLINE

Friday noon

Looking back

sors Crazy Days in Staples.

Jack Wilson, chairman of the Retail Committee, reported that many excit- ing events are being staged throughout the weekend promotion, in addition to the many crazy bargains at crazy prices being offered by the Staples merchants.

• July 31, 1975 - Grand Champion ribbons were received by members of the Golden Gopher 4-H Club at the Wadena County Fair held last week.

Karen and Dan Meyer received Grand and Reserve Champion ratings in the Conservation project with Mark Sadusky, Gizelle Reese, Jon Ulring, Jeff Meech and John Lauer in the top ten blue ribbons. John Lauer also received grand champion in Geology and Mark Sadusky in Aerospace.

All participants in the Dress Revue received Blue ribbon ratings. They were Mary, Kathy and Terri Lauer and Paula Dravis. Paula also was chosen for the court of honor.

• July 31, 1975 - A recent guest of the Lambert Klose's of Staples was Mr. Peter Voylay of Canberra, Australia. Mr. Voylay was enroute to Australia from London, where he had just completed a year of travel in Asia and Europe, while on leave of absence from his job as a chemical patent examiner for the Australian federal government in Canberra.

During his brief stay in Minnesota, Mr. Voylay took in a professional base- ball game, a canoe outing on the Crow Wing River, and a round of golf at the Terrace Golf Course.

• July 31, 1975 - The Rev. David R. Liefeld was installed as the pastor of Swan Valley Lutheran Church, Leader, and Maple Hill Lutheran Church, Pine River, at services July 20.

25 YEARS Ago - 2000

• Aug. 3, 2000 - One local firefighter trained by the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources for fighting forest fires is now in Montana with a DNR crew.

Matthew Heier of Staples, a student at Bemidji State university, was one of about 100 DNR fire fighters who left Duluth Tuesday, July 25. The five crews were headed to Montana and Idaho to fight fires in one of the worst fire seasons in recent history.

Matt's unit was headed for Montana, where crews were busy this past week trying to contain a 17,000 acre fire east of Helena in the scenic Canyon Ferry Lake region. Two separate fires there had forced about 300 families from their homes since Sunday, July 23.

• Aug. 3, 2000 - Two graduates from Staples Motley High School will continue their volleyball careers this fall as members of the Wildcat team from the North Dakota State College of Science.

Heidi Dumpprope and Jill Mertens, both members of the Class of 2000 at Staples Motley High School, will be playing for Coach Jane Passa and the Wildcats.

• Aug. 3, 2000 - The Wadena Whirla- ways, a local square dance group, will take center stage at the Third Annual Locomotion Talent Promotion at Cen- tennial Auditorium in Staples at 7:30



Mystery photo

Hello readers. This week's archive photo is from 1965. Do you know who this person is and per- haps 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.

p.m., Friday, Aug. 25. The show is a kick off to Railroad Days in Staples Aug. 25 - 27.

• Aug. 3, 2000 - The top official of the Japanese consulate located in Chicago was given tours of Motley's Morey Fish Company and Louis Kemp Sea- food plants on July 21 by Mel Nefstead, Staples Motley Area Chamber of Commerce director.

Mitoji Yabunaka is the consul General and he was accompanied by his wife, Naomi, and by Evan B. Williams of Minnetonka, honorary consul general of Japan.

10 YEARS Ago - 2015

• July 30, 2015 - The following Staples Motley High School students will be attending Minnesota Music Educators Association All-State Camp next week: Josie Erickson, Sarah Daly, Jenessa Iverson, Noah Han, Lucas Jimenez, Cade Bestland and Chris Hart.

• July 30, 2015 - The Prairie Fire Children's Theatre production of "Alladin" will be performed at Cen- tennial Auditorium in Staples on Friday, July 31, at 5 p.m. and 7 p.m. The cast includes 55 area children who auditioned for the show July 26 and rehearsed every day since. The Prairie Fire directors for the week are Justin Doro, from Flowery Branch, Ga., and Shawnee Baird, from Bolivar, Pa.

with my family, and as part of Lamplighter Community Theatre and Railroad Days productions. I'm so happy that I live in a community that supports a variety of areas, including the arts and institutions like the food shelf. I'm also thrilled that efforts are being made to improve Centennial Auditorium, a performing arts center that became a reality thanks to visionaries like Stan Carlson, long-time music director at Staples-Motley High School. And, I'm glad that our town supports the local newspaper, without which there would be no 'mystery photos' or stories from the past. I'm blessed to live in a town like Staples, and to play a part in tell- ing the story of this community.

Donate Your Vehicle

Call (833) 937-2593 to donate your car, truck, boat, RV, and more today!

■ Support Veteran Nonprofits.

■ Free Pickup & Towing.

■ Top Tax Deduction.

Donate Your Vehicle Today

833-937-2593

www.veterancardonations.org/dnt25

While we appreciate every donation, in some cases, we find that we are unable to accept certain vehicles, watercraft, and/or recreational vehicles due to the prohibitive costs of acquisition. If you have any questions, please give us a call at (833) 937-2593.

Time for city council to respond to citizen complaints

By Mark Anderson
Managing Editor

There has been three straight Staples City Council meetings where citizens have raised concerns about air and water quality that could be compromised by the meat processing facility being built in the Staples Industrial Park.

So far, nobody on the council has said a single word about those complaints. They listen to them but don't respond.

I understand that there is a standard practice to not respond to complaints when they are raised, so they don't get into a shouting match or have things escalate. Although they do sometimes correct misinformation if someone brings a complaint that is not based in fact.

But after three meetings with similar complaints, each two weeks apart, I would expect the council would have taken the complaints to their committee meetings and reported back to the full council about where those complaints stand.

For example, one of the citizen complains is that the conditional use permit (CUP) that was granted for

the business should be expired because they didn't start building their facility until after the permit time expired. The council should check on that process and report it to the pubilc so we know what the next steps will be. If they do need to issue another CUP, then we can talk about the merits of the business and the possible reasons to deny a second permit.

While the council didn't respond to any of the citizen complaints, they did have some comments when Farmers Union President Gary Wertish spoke about the project in the same public forum section of the meeting. They asked him some questions and made suggestoins to help him make his arguments.

In that way, they are tipping their hand that they are going to continue to ignore the citizen complaints and will likely approve the CUP if another one is needed. But they should tell us where they stand on these issues, not hide behind smiling faces.

It is always good for the public to raise concerns and research possible environmental hazards. We should engage with their efforts, not ignore them.

There are some good reasons why the council might think the meat processing facility won't create environmental hazards. This is a food facility where everything will be indoors and refrigerated. They will need to keep it clean in order to meet USDA standards to keep it open.

But I grew up in a town with two food processing plants, and they did each have their own smell. One processed chicken in a contained building and you could tell the difference when they were doing garlic chicken or packaged chicken. I didn't notice the smells much more than two blocks away, but it was a thing we all noticed when riding our bikes past it. The other one processed bread and sometimes it smelled great, other times there was a sharp fermented smell.

So food processing does produce a smell, although it doesn't have to create a stink. At a minimum, the citizen complaints should put pressure on the facility to keep environmental hazards to a minimum. If the council actually joined the citizens and took an interest in exploring the complaints, it would go a long way in ensuring a clean facility.

USDA looking to reduce ultra-processed foods

From the USDA

Under the leadership of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services Secretary Robert F. Kennedy, Jr. and the U.S. Department of Agriculture Secretary Brooke L. Rollins, the U.S. Food and Drug Administration and U.S. Department of Agriculture are accelerating federal efforts to address the growing concerns around ultra-processed foods and the current epidemic of diet-related chronic disease that is plaguing America. The agencies are announcing a joint Request for Information (RFI) to gather information and data to help establish a federally recognized uniform definition for ultra-processed foods, a critical step in providing increased transparency to consumers about the foods they eat.

"Ultra-processed foods are driving our chronic disease epidemic," said HHS Secretary Robert F. Kennedy, Jr. "We must act boldly to eliminate the root causes of chronic illness and improve the health of our food supply. Defining ultra-processed foods with a clear, uniform standard will empower us even more to Make America Healthy Again."

Currently, there's no single authoritative definition for ultra-processed foods for the U.S. food supply. Creating a uniform federal definition will serve as a key deliverable on the heels of the recently published

Make Our Children Healthy Again Assessment, which recognizes that the overconsumption of ultra-processed foods is one of the driving factors of the childhood chronic disease crisis.

"President Trump has made it a priority to improve health outcomes for American families and communities. This Request for Information is yet another step in seeking commonsense ways to foster improved and more informed consumer choice. A unified, widely understood definition for ultra-processed foods is long overdue and I look forward to continued partnership with Secretary Kennedy to Make America Healthy Again. As this process unfolds, I will make certain the great men and women of the agriculture value chain are part of the conversation," said U.S. Secretary of Agriculture Brooke L. Rollins.

"I'm delighted to lead this critical effort at the FDA," said FDA Commissioner Marty Makary, MD, M.P.H. "The threats posed to our health by foods often considered ultra-processed are clear and convincing, making it imperative that we work in lockstep with our federal partners to advance, for the first time ever, a uniform definition of ultra-processed foods."

It is estimated that approximately 70 percent of packaged products in the U.S. food supply are foods often considered ultra-processed, and that children

get over 60 percent of their calories from such foods. Dozens of scientific studies have found links between the consumption of foods often considered ultra-processed with numerous adverse health outcomes, including cardiovascular disease, Type 2 diabetes, cancer, obesity and neurological disorders. Helping to address overconsumption of ultra-processed foods is a key element to Make America Healthy Again.

A uniform definition of ultra-processed foods will allow for consistency in research and policy to pave the way for addressing health concerns associated with the consumption of ultra-processed foods. The RFI will be publicly available in the federal register and seeks information on what factors and criteria should be included in a definition of ultra-processed foods.

Alongside developing a uniform definition, the FDA and National Institutes of Health are investing in high-quality research to help answer remaining questions about the health impacts of ultra-processed foods through its recently announced Nutrition Regulatory Science Program. The department will also continue to pursue developing and implementing other key policies and programs that seek to, collectively, dramatically reduce chronic disease and help ensure a healthy future for our nation.

Quote of the week

“If you don’t like change, you’re going to like irrelevance even less.”
— General Eric Shinseki

Thank Caesar, and Latin, for the month of August

In the world of foreign languages, nothing seems more foreign than Latin. Some who poke fun at the language not only describe it as “dead,” but claim that studying Latin prepares you for just one thing in life: more study of Latin. True or untrue, I was unaware of such opinions when as a ninth grader I pondered how I would fulfill a high school language elective.

Perhaps I was influenced by my religious upbringing. Back then, our church services were conducted in Latin. As an “altar boy”—they’re “servers” now, and include both genders—I had learned to respond with most of the right Latin words, at most of the right times. I already had one foot in the Latin door, you might say. So, when my fellow ninth graders chose French, or German, I fatefully chose Latin.

I studied Latin for just one year, reflecting either my failure to properly appreciate the language, or a lack of academic commitment. But now, much later in life, I would challenge those who say that Latin is of little use.

It may not be useful to be able to speak it. But if you know the meanings of an assortment of Latin words, you can figure out a great number of unfamiliar words in our own English language. Thus equipped, you’d not only be able to ace a multiple-choice vocabulary quiz, but can “get the gist” of an unfamiliar word in a novel, or in a work of nonfiction, words that might send a Latin-ignorant reader scurrying for a dictionary, or to Wikipedia. Latin is, its critics notwithstanding, a useful tool in a reader’s toolbox.

So what has this got to do with August? In the Latin language, “august” means to grow, to increase, to signify greatness, majesty, something to be exalted, worthy of respect. It was a title that the Latin-speaking Roman Senate in 27 B.C. gave to their emperor, known thereafter as Augustus Caesar. And he, like others in history who name things after

themselves, renamed the month we’re about to enter “August.”

That’s a lot for a month to live up to. August is a pivotal month, one that is almost certain to be summer-like much of the time, yet it is steadily dropping hints of big changes, whose arrival can be measured in days, or weeks. Those who spend much of their time outdoors are already beginning to see these changes.

Not everyone is enthusiastic about the departure of summer, or eager to see the first signs of fall. But if you are, then August is a time to make the most of summer-like days ahead, as well as to feel your pulse quicken in anticipation of fall joys to come. To us, these signs indeed make August what its Latin meaning suggests: something great, majestic, to be exalted.

One of the most evident signs of transition is the widespread appearance of the delicate, clustered goldenrod heads of goldenrod in rural road ditches. It’s a plant whose natural habitat is meadows and prairie, but has become equally at home in the grassy borders of our roadways. Goldenrod is often wrongly blamed for fall allergies. But goldenrod is pollinated by insects, so its pollen is not borne on the wind, and is thus innocent of the charge.

August is also a time of harvest. Chokecherries are ripening, as evidenced by songbirds—robins, in particular—balancing on the heavily-laden branches to pluck the deep red fruits. To a lesser degree, humans compete for them, too, as my late mother-in-law did in order to make jam and jelly, preserves that are both tart and sweet. The robins are harvesting them already, but they may be just a tad short of ready for the kitchen.

A trout fishing friend is suspending that priority to begin prowling the woodlands near his home to find ripened blueberries that are ready for picking, and—especially well guarded—locations where he’ll find several varieties of mushroom. These include the bright yellow-orange, bracket-shaped sulphur shelf—often called chicken-of-the-woods for its taste and texture when fried—and known too as one of the “foolproof four,” a mushroom highly unlikely to be confused with any poisonous variety.

August foragers should



Mike Rahn

Fischbach supports big bill

By Michelle Fischbach
U.S. Representative

The American people

elected Republicans to put America first and restore fiscal sanity to the federal government and we’re delivering. The One Big Beautiful Bill extended critical tax cuts so the average taxpayer can keep more money in their pocket and recently the House and Senate passed a rescissions package to make sure the tax dollars are being used responsibly.

These are not cuts to critical government operations. They’re cuts to ensure taxpayer dollars are working for the people and not for an America-last, woke agenda. They are cuts to international organizations that are fraught with waste, fraud and abuse, and do not align with American values. And they are cuts to Left-wing propaganda media. NPR went along with the Russian collusion hoax, helped in the cover-up of President Biden’s decline, and spends taxpayer dollars

be aware that they may not be the only large mammal with a food gathering agenda. Black bears, too, are fond of blueberries, ripening wild raspberries, and other fruits. It’s reasonable to believe that a bear will leave an area if they know you’re there, but it’s important that a bear not be taken by surprise, or feel its cubs threatened.

To this end, it’s common in grizzly country for pack horses to wear bells in order to prevent coming upon a bear unexpectedly. Since the recent mauling of a Wisconsin woman by a black bear, I’ve adopted the practice of hanging a dog’s grouse hunting bell on the belt of my fishing waders when I’m walking a wooded trail along a trout stream. This precaution certainly can’t hurt, and might be a good idea for a fall forager, too.

It’s common in late July or early August for the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources to release the findings of their spring ruffed grouse population survey. This procedure consists of following the same routes each year, with stops made at intervals to listen for the grouse’s rapid, audible wingbeat “drumming,” a part of its mating ritual.

This year’s drumming counts were down from last spring’s numbers, suggesting a smaller breeding population than in 2024. Last year yielded the highest drumming count numbers since the 1970’s. This year’s data suggests the potential for a drop in overall ruffed grouse numbers this fall. But it should be remembered that a number of variables play into both an accurate estimate of breeding grouse in spring, and the nesting and brood rearing success that ultimately determine what grouse hunters will find in September through December.

In our garden, the first Early Girl tomatoes have taken on an orange hue, telling us that they’ll be ripening soon. Locally grown sweet corn is not far off, and we will then begin visiting a nearby farmer whose pick-your-own corn field has provided a “where food comes from” lesson for my grandchildren.

These are but a few hints of what is to come. August is, as those Latin-speaking Romans might have said, a month of great things.

StaplesWorld

Established in 1890. USPS 518-760
©2025 RMM Publications
Published Wednesdays by RMM Publications
Office located at 224 4th Street NE
Periodicals postage paid at Staples, Minnesota 56479.

MINNESOTA NEWSPAPER ASSOCIATION

1897

FREE PRESS

FREE PEOPLE

Mailing Address: P.O. Box 100
Telephone: 218-894-1112 - Fax: 218-894-3570
Toll Free: 1-888-894-1112
www.staplesworld.com - E Mail: editor@staplesworld.com
Deadline: 12 noon, Friday
Official Newspaper for:
City of Staples, Todd County,
Staples-Motley School District,
Freshwater Ed. District and area townships.

Letters: Readers are encouraged to express their views by writing letters to the editor. Letters are verified for authenticity, so please include a name, address and phone number. Only the author's name and city will be published. Letters may be edited for spelling and grammar errors, libel, length and other factors. Private thanks, solicitations and libelous letters will not be published. Letters are printed on a space available basis. The editor reserves the right to reject letters.
The deadline is 12 noon, Friday. Opinions expressed on this page do not necessarily represent the views of this newspaper.
Printed at Quinco Press, Lowry, MN

Fairness: The Staples World tries conscientiously to report fairly and accurately. If you feel we fall short of this objective at any time, please direct your complaint to the manager whose name appears on this page.
Note to Advertisers: Advertisers should check their ad following first publication. This newspaper shall not be liable for failure to publish an ad or for the typographic error or errors in publication except to the extent of the cost of the ad for the first day's insertion. Adjustment for errors is limited to the cost of that portion of the ad wherein the error occurred. The publisher reserves the right to cancel any advertisement at any time.

Subscription Rates:
Local: (Todd, Wadena, Morrison, Cass Counties) \$53 per year
Website: \$50 per year
Minnesota: \$58 per year - *Out of State:* \$63 per year
Foreign: on-line only - *Student Rate:* (Sept. through Apr./in-state) \$43
There is a \$5 charge for address change from local to out-of-state.

Member: Minnesota Newspaper Association, MCAN Advertising

Quote of the week

“I fear no man, no beast or evil, brother.”
— Hulk Hogan



Menu

Senior Nutrition Program

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

NEW location: Staples Hi-Rise Apartments, 615 4th St. NE, Staples.

Staples

NEW number:

218-979-4118

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

August 4 - 8

MONDAY - Baked pork chop/pork gravy, scalloped potatoes, mixed veggies, oatmeal raisin cookie.

TUESDAY - Chicken Cordon Bleu, sliced carrots, peas, red Delicious apple.

WEDNESDAY Salisbury steak, mashed potatoes, brown gravy, green beans, lemon bar.

THURSDAY - Tater tot hot-dish, whole kernel corn, apple crisp.

FRIDAY - Beef lasagna, peas/carrots, cauliflower, dinner roll, fresh orange, sugar cookie.

wk32



Celebrating July birthdays

Tootie Moris and Maryann Riewer celebrated their birthdays with friends and cake at the Senior Citizens Room located at the Staples Community Center held July 23. The seniors meet in the Senior Citizens Room once a month. (Staples World photo by Janice Winter)



Motley June Fest coloring contest winners

There were 18 participants in Motley's June Fest coloring contest. Three age groups competed with winners in each group receiving a new fishing rod, reel, tackle box filled with fishing gear and a life jacket. Second place winners received adult and child tickets to the Culpepper & Merriweather Circus which came to Motley July 19 with shows at 2 p.m. and 4:30 p.m. The other 12 participants won a free Mini Blizzard donated by the Motley Dairy Queen.

Eight and nine-year-old winners: Christopher Decker, 1st; Ethan Decker, 2nd.

10 and 11-year-old winners: Sierra Decker, 1st; Ben Decker, 2nd.

12- 18-year-olds: Rachel Decker, 1st; Mistalove Reynolds, 2nd. (Submitted photos)



Waiting their turn

Competitors at the Pillager Fair's Horse Show waited outside the arena prior to the start of the Obstacle

Course competition. (Staples World photo by Dawn Timbs)

LSS Meals moving their location to Staples Hi-Rise

Beginning August 1, 2025 the Lutheran Social Service (LSS) Meals community dining site will be located at the Staples Hi-Rise Apartments, 615 4th St. NE, Staples. The new number to call is 218-979-4118 to preregister for a meal.

LSS Meals offers hot

meals Monday through Friday, either dine-in or delivered at a nominal fee. The Hi-Rise will be the site for congregate meals and the meals on wheels pickup site.

Dine-in meals are offered from 11 a.m. to 12 p.m. Call 218-979-4118 during the morning the Friday before

to order a meal. (Menus are posted in the Staples World).

For more information go to lssmn.org/meals or or contact Michelle Kern, 218-539-5095.

The congregate dining site was formerly located at the Staples Community Center.

Mark Your Calendar

July 31

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>

August 1

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.

August 3

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

August 5

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.

OLD TIME DANCE is held the first Tuesday of every month at the Wadena VFW. For information, call 218-639-0132.

RUBY'S PANTRY will be held Tuesday, Aug. 5, from 4:30 - 6 p.m. at the parking lot of Central Lakes College in Staples.

Saturday August 16th

11:00 am - 3:00 pm



DRIVER'S TROPHIES:
DRIVERS CHOICE,
PEOPLES CHOICE,
SPONSORS CHOICE.

Car Show 2025

Staples Railroad Days

Free for spectators.

(We accept free will offerings at the gate, Donations appreciated and welcome)

Drivers The Staples Motley Women of Today are extremely thankful for your support! Because of you we are able to make a difference. Pre-registration postmarked by Monday August 4th = \$15 per vehicle. Pre-registration after August 5th = \$20 per vehicle. Registration 10:00am, in place by 10:45 / Show 11:00 am - 3:00 pm	NAPA AUTO PARTS WIN Retro Garage Fridge!
---	--

Registration, Volunteer, to Join, send inquiries to:

Staples Motley Area Women of Today / PO Box 72 / Staples MN 56479 / Facebook: Staples Women of Today / Email: narky8645@yahoo.com / 507.381.0786



Hosted by Staples Motley Area Women of Today

Located at:
107 Fifth St NE, near NAPA Auto Parts

Staples, Minnesota 56479

TWO PARCEL AUCTION IN TODD COUNTY

AUCTION

ONLINE ONLY

BIDDING OPENS THURSDAY, AUGUST 21, 2025 AT 8:00 AM

Thursday, August 28, 2025 • 2:00 PM

Online Only Auction in Fawn Lake Twp, Todd Co

Two Parcel Auction - 190± Total Deeded Acres

Go to FladeboeLand.com for more details and to view the drone video & aerial photos	Parcel 2 80± Deeded Acres 43.75± Tillable Acres
Parcel 1 110± Deeded Acres 35.32± Tillable Acres	

FLADEBOE LAND

Building Site Address:
42243 County Road 7, Browerville, MN

Open House Dates:
July 16, 3 - 5 p.m.; August 2, 1 - 3 p.m.;
August 19, 3 - 5 p.m.; August 27, 3 - 5 p.m.

Glen Fladeboe 651-208-3262
Glen@FladeboeLand.com

SCAN FOR INFORMATION

We Buy Houses For Cash!

Liz Buys Houses Connects Home Sellers with Legitimate Cash Buyers Nationwide!
No Repairs. No Fuss.

- | | | |
|--|---|---|
| | <ul style="list-style-type: none">Fair Cash OfferQuick ClosingNo Realtor Fees | <ul style="list-style-type: none">No House RepairsSimple Home SaleConvenient Closing Date |
|--|---|---|

Call (844) 978-0683

Be prepared before the next power outage.



It's not just a generator. It's a power move.

Receive a free 5-year warranty with qualifying purchase* - valued at \$535.

Call 855-984-8982 to schedule your free quote!

GENERAC

*Terms and Conditions apply.

DEADLINE
for all classified ads and copy is 12 noon Friday

For the
Staples World

Staples World

The Staples World office, 224 4th St. NE, is open every weekday, 8 a.m. - noon.

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

Regular advertising and copy deadline is Friday, noon.

The office closes at noon on Friday.





Wedding announcement

Autumn Nelsen and Douglas Dufrin announce their wedding August 31, 2025.

Student Achievements

THE UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA DULUTH (UND) recently announced its 2025 Spring Semester Dean’s List. To qualify, students must earn a 3.50 grade point average or higher while earning a minimum of 12 letter-graded credits. Local students named include:

- Maxwell Strickland, Motley
- Jade Benton, Pillager
- Cayden Kleffman, Pillager
- Aften Robinson, Staples

MINNESOTA STATE AND TECHNICAL COLLEGE (M STATE) with campuses in Detroit Lakes, Fergus Falls, Moor-

head and Wadena, recently announced its 2025 Spring Semester Grad’s List. Local graduates named include:

- Griffin Bettis, Motley, Electrical Line Worker-Diploma
- Olivia Vogt, Motley, Psychology Transfer Pathway, AA
- Colby Zetah, Motley, Electrical Technology: Electrician-Dip
- Sadie Ellstrom, Pillager, Massage Therapy-Diploma
- Tarissa Halvorson, Pillager, Radiologic Technology-AAS
- Zoey Marlette, Pillager, Massage Therapy-Diploma

- Aleeah Halverson, Staples, Digital Marketing-AAS
- Grace Jennissen, Staples, Cosmetology-Diploma
- Reid Michael, Staples, Sonography-Echocardiography Technology
- Eli Smith, Staples, Electrical Line Worker-Diploma
- Heidi Smith, Staples, Human Resources-Certificate.

ROBB ODDEN, Pillager, has been named to the 2025 Spring Semester Dean’s List at St. Cloud Technical & Community College. To qualify, students must achieve a grade point average of 3.5 to 3.99.

Obituaries

Shirley Greig

Shirley Ann Greig, formerly of Motley, passed away peacefully on July 14, 2025, in Woodbury after fighting to recover from a stroke.

Shirley is survived by her three loving children Mark, Timothy and Jennifer Johnson; eight grandchildren and five great-grandchildren.

She is preceded in death by her parents, Leroy and Ann Greig; husbands, Larry Johnson and Donn Peck; one nephew, Jeff Fahnlander and two brothers, Lee and John Greig.



<http://www.sandbergfuneralhome.com/>.
w32p A00006B2020JU30

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 218-894-2296
Church
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.

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

Family Life Church
402 NE Clark Drive, Verndale 218-445-5568
VerndaleFLC@gmail.com
Pastor Amos Self 218-371-7189
Tahna Rurup, Connections & Media Pastor
Tillman Phagon, 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 218-894-2296
info@marysacc.org
Father JC Duncan, 218-632-7314
Father Rick Aubol, 218-632-7310 Father Greg Sauer
MASS: Saturday 6:00 p.m.

St. Hubert Catholic Church
Bluegrass 218-894-2296
info@marysacc.org
Father JC Duncan, 218-632-7314
Father Rick Aubol, 218-632-7310 Father Greg Sauer
Sunday Service 10:00 a.m. (Dec - April)
Saturday 4:00 p.m. (May - Nov.)

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

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

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

Patricia Stokley

Patricia (Pat) L. (Rollins) Stokley, 78, passed away June 20, 2025 at Fair Oaks Lodge, Wadena, surrounded by family.

A private family burial will be held at a later date.

Pat was born August 30, 1946 to Richard and Lillian (Swecker) Rollins in Brainerd. Following graduation at Motley High School in 1964, she obtained her nursing degree through the Swedish Institute in Minneapolis. Pat was employed with Abbott Northwestern

Hospital for 40 years.

Pat is survived by four sisters, Nadine Bittner, Yvonne Jay, Joyce Rollins and Bessie (Mike) Mueller; one brother, James Rollins of Staples and many neices and nephews.

She was preceded in death by her parents; one infant brother, Clarence Rollins; one brother, Richard Rollins; one sister-in-law, Virginia Rollins and one niece, Stacey Schneider.

w32p A00006B2020JL30

Great River Regional Library offers Minnesota state park passes

Great River Regional Library (GRRL) which includes the Staples Public Library, is participating in the library park pass program in partnership with the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (DNR). The program provides access to state parks and recreation areas at no cost to library patrons.

“State parks and recreation areas in Minnesota are for everyone and this program is an important way we’re expanding access,” said Ann Pierce, director of the DNR’s Parks and Trails Division. “There’s many benefits to spending time outdoors, from health and wellness benefits to education and making memories with loved ones. This program helps us bring meaningful experiences in state parks and recreation areas to more Minnesotans.”

The program is available at select GRRL locations. Participating libraries met specific criteria for serving lower-income communities and were approved by the Council for Regional Public Library System Administrators. Each library has between one and four passes available for a seven-day checkout period. Park passes are available at GRRL’s participating libraries on a first-come, first-serve basis and passes can simply be recycled after seven days - no return necessary.

Great River Regional Library locations with passes for checkout include:

- Annandale Public Library
- Big Lake Public Library
- Buffalo Public Library
- Cokato Public Library
- Eagle Bend Public Library
- Foley Public Library
- Little Falls Carnegie

Library

- Long Prairie Public Library
- Monticello Public Library
- Sauk Centre Sinclair Lewis Library
- St. Cloud Public Library
- Staples Public Library
- Upsala Public Library
- Waite Park Al Ring-smuth Public Library

The program was developed to expand access to Minnesota state parks to people who may not be able to purchase a vehicle permit. The program was piloted in 2018 and launched statewide in 2021. On July 1, 2025, the program more than doubled the number of participating libraries and the number of passes available to check out and now includes a total of 450 passes available at more than 200 libraries and bookmobiles across the state. The cost of the passes is covered by the Parks and Trails Legacy Fund, while partnering libraries facilitate the checkout process. To see a list of participating libraries, visit mndnr.gov/librarypass.

A 2024 survey of people using library park passes found that most respondents were checking out a pass to save money, and the cost of a vehicle permit was a barrier to visiting state parks. Some survey respondents noted they were not frequent visitors and were looking to try visiting a state park before they buy a permit.

Library park passes only cover the vehicle entrance fee. If participants would like to camp, they will need to make and pay for camping reservations, either online at mndnr.gov/reservations or by phone at 866-857-2757.

“Eight 3x5 Cards That are in My Pocket Calendar”

Pastor Barry Klein, Staples Church of Christ

I know. The fact that I still use a pocket calendar says a lot about my low technology skills. I’ve been writing down key Scriptures that I want to ponder whenever I can and wherever I am if I don’t have a Bible near me.

I would like to share these eight Scriptures...three that are needfully sobering and five that will hopefully encourage you.

The first is from Isaiah 55:8 and says, “Fro My thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways My ways.” This is a clarion call for us to adjust our life to God and not the other way around.

The second Scripture come from Judges 21:25 that says, “In those days Israel had no king; everyone did as they saw fit.” This is a reminder of why anarchy destroys. Left to ourselves, without God’s counsel, we will (and do) go down deadly paths. There’s no “enlightenment” apart from God.

The third Scripture is from II Chronicles 36:16 which says, “But they kept ridiculing God’s messengers, despising His words and scoffing at His propheth, until the Lord’s wrath was so stirred up against His people that there was no remedy.” Yes, God is an incredibly patient God...more than we can fully be aware of and comprehend. But God is not the white-bearded grandfather in the sky that always says, “boys will be boys.” As one priest reminded me, “God is both perfect mercy and perfect justice at the same time.” The universe was created and designed with great cause and effect. Consequences exist when design is not respected.

The fourth 3x5 card comes from Deuteronomy 15:16-17 which says, “But if your servant says to you, ‘I do not want to leave you because he loves you and your family and is well off

with you, then take an awl and push it through his ear lobe into the door, and he will become your servant for life.” Now I know that may sound like a strange practice, but the Bible provided for servants to be freed in a timely way. This reminds me of how we are so graciously treated by God that we don’t want to leave Him even if we could.

The fifth Scripture is from Jeremiah 32:17 which says, “Oh, Lord God! You Yourself made the heavens and earth by Your great power and with Your outstretch arm. Nothing is too difficult for You!” That’s hope!

The sixth Scripture is from Isaiah 41:10, which says, “Do not fear, for I am with you; do not be afraid, for I am your God. I will strengthen you; I will help you; I will hold on to you with my righteous hand.” That’s encouragement!

The seventh Scripture comes from Job 12:7-10 which says, “But ask the animals, and they will instruct you; ask the birds of the sky, and they will tell you. Or speak to the earth and it will instruct you; let the fish of the sea inform you. Which of these does not know that the hand of the Lord has done this. The life of every living thing is in His hand, as well as the breath of all humanity.” That’s a daily life lesson!

And finally, our eight 3x5 card Scripture comes from Isaiah 46:9-10 which says, “Remember what happened long ago, for I am God, and no one is like Me. I declare the end from the beginning, and from long ago what’s not done yet, saying, ‘My plan will take place, and I will do My will.’” That’s providential perspective and care. What are your engaging Scriptures? I would value hearing from you. Feed well upon God’s Word!

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Needing/Wanting a Granite Memorial FOR YOUR FAMILY?



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

Rep. for Fergus Falls Monument Co.

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

DEADLINE

for all classified ads and copy is 12 noon Friday

For the Staples World



Wrestling room open house to reveal championship displays

A special Staples-Motley wrestling room open house will be held Friday, August 15, from 4-7 p.m. at the new wrestling room at The Nest. It's an opportunity to see the new wrestling room, and the unveiling of permanent display posters featuring 20 of the Cardinal state individual wrestling champions and the eight state team championships.

Wrestlers and coaches will be there to reminisce and talk about the rich wrestling history at Sta-

ples-Motley. "This is one of the best facilities in the area," said Staples-Motley Wrestling Coach Jim Jackson about the new wrestling practice room at The Nest. "We want people to see what's happening here and see the history of this program." Besides the state champion posters, the wrestling room wall displays will also list all the state wrestling individuals in program history and will have a display of college All-American

wrestlers who came from the program. The display project was organized by Mike Hajek, chair of the Staples-Motley Athletic Hall of Fame. He researched the state champions, found photos at the Staples World and statewide wrestling media. Pete Card enhanced the photos and created the displays. The displays were paid for by donations from the local wrestling community.



State champion displays

Kevin Swecker and Derek Holst hang the final team state championship poster in the new wrestling room. Right, some of the individual champion posters. (Staples World photos by Mark Anderson)



Hall of fame murals

The Staples-Motley Athletic Hall of Fame is planning to have their new mural displays on display at the entrance to the Legacy Gym during the Aug. 15 wrestling room open house. This is an artist's rendering of what the display will look like. (Submitted photo)



Gage Bjerga after a big win at the USA Wrestling national tournament in Fargo (Submitted photos)

Bjerga wins national wrestling title

Staples-Motley wrestler Gage Bjerga earned a national title in the USA Wrestling 16U Greco-Roman National Championships at Fargo July 18-19. Bjerga also was 3rd in freestyle wrestling, held July 14-16, also at Fargo. Gage won his title with wins over wrestlers from Nevada, Alaska, Pennsylvania, California, Oklahoma and Virginia. In the finals, he won 10-2 over a wrestler from Idaho. There were

wrestlers from all 50 states in the tournament. His brother Garrett Bjerga was 4th in Greco-Roman and reached the quarterfinals in freestyle. Garrett was 4-2 in Greco-Roman and 4-2 in freestyle. Two other Cardinals also wrestled for Team Minnesota in the tournament, Cayden Neisen was 3-2 in the Greco-Roman tournament and 4-2 in freestyle; Seth Cossentine was 2-2 in freestyle.



Seth Cossentine



Cayden Neisen



Garrett Bjerga

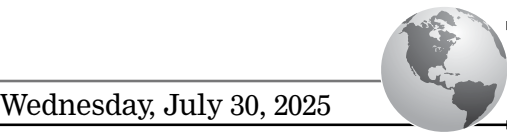


Baseball action

Photos from the Staples-Motley U10 baseball league at Converse Park in Motley.







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 7, 2025 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**
- Call to Order
 - Pledge of Allegiance
 - Introduction of Planning Committee Members and process review
 - Approval of agenda
 - Approval of May 1, 2025 Planning Commission meeting minutes
 - The applicant is introduced
 - 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. William and Dawn Vowles:** Section 20, Grey Eagle Township, Big Birch Lake
Site Address: 11734 Co. Rd. 47, Grey Eagle, MN 56336
PID: 11-0027400 1. Request a CUP for seasonal campground with hook-ups, 40' X 40' office building and 17 sites in Recreational Development Shoreland Zoning District.
- 2. Jodi Marohn:** Section 25, Hartford Township
Site Address: 28333 284th St., Long Prairie, MN 56347
PID: 12-0030200 1. Request a CUP to open a public, indoor riding arena with up to four RV campsites in AF-1 Zoning District.
- 3. Great River Energy:** Section 33, Eagle Valley Township
Site Address: 18530 County 84, Clarissa, MN 56440
PID: 07-0039200 & 07-0039201 1. Request a CUP for rebuilding a transmission line and substation in AF-1 Zoning District.
- 4. Tobie Danielson:** Section 05, Birchdale Township
Site Address: 24935 Cedar Lake Rd, Sauk Centre, MN 56378
PID: 03-0004000 1. Request a CUP for a salvage yard in AF-1 Zoning District.
- 5. Alvin A. Yoder:** Section 03 Reynolds Township
Site Address: 19785 270th St., Long Prairie, MN 56347
PID: 20-0001700 1. Request a CUP to operate a cabinet and woodworking shop for retail sales in AF-1 Zoning District.
- 6. Scott and Karla McCall:** Section 31, Burlene Township
Site Address: 10525 280th Street, Carlos, MN

56319
PID: 05-0022500 1. Request a CUP for Temporary Family Housing in AF-1 Zoning District.
7. Samuel Hershberger: Section 33, Reynolds Township
Site Address: 19283 County 10, Long Prairie, MN 56347
PID: 20-0036500 1. Request a CUP for a School House in RT Zoning District. .

Adjournment.

Next meeting:
September 4, 2025

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

Todd County Board of Adjustment
Jim Pratt, Chair

32pnc

STATE OF MINNESOTA COUNTY OF TODD SEVENTH JUDICIAL DISTRICT DISTRICT COURT PROBATE DIVISION Court File No. 77-PR-25-689

Estate of Joseph F. Lamusga, Decedent

NOTICE AND ORDER OF HEARING ON PETITION FOR FORMAL ADJUDICATION OF TESTACY, DETERMINATION OF HEIRSHIP, APPOINTMENT OF PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE AND NOTICE TO CREDITORS

It is Ordered and Notice is given that on September 8, 2025, at 10:14 a.m., a hearing will be held in this Court

at 221 1st Ave. S, Long Prairie, Minnesota, for the adjudication of intestacy and determination of heirship of the Decedent, and for the appointment of Mary Lamusga, whose address is 28416 County Road 14 , Browerville, MN, 56438 as Personal Representative of the Estate of the Decedent in an unsupervised administration. This hearing will be held administratively in which no appearances are necessary. Any objections to the petition must be filed with the Court prior to the hearing. If proper and if no objections are filed or raised, the Personal Representative will be appointed with full power to administer the Estate, including the power to collect all assets, to pay all legal debts, claims, taxes and expenses, to sell real and personal property, and to do all necessary acts for the Estate.

Notice is also given that (subject to Minnesota Statutes section 524.3-801) all creditors having claims against the Estate are required to present the claims to the Personal Representative or to the Court Administrator within four months after the date of this Notice or the claims will be barred.

Dated: 7/22/2025

BY THE COURT
Daniel Benson
Judge of District Court

Kim Peterson
Court Administrator

Attorney for Petitioner
Dawson T. Quick
Quinlivan & Hughes, P.A.
1740 W. St. Germain Street
St. Cloud, MN 56301
Attorney License No: 0403721
Telephone: (320) 251-1414
FAX: (320) 251-1415
Email: dquick@quinlivan.com
32-33pnc

Todd County Sheriff's report

Recent report(s) from the Todd County Sheriff's Office (TCSO) included:

July 27, 2025, 2:19 a.m.: The Todd County Sheriff's Dept. received a report of a male with a firearm that had shot a window out of a vehicle in the 100 block of Main St. West, Eagle Bend. Deputies responded and began to investigate the incident.

Law enforcement identified the suspect as Monty Austin Thornberg. A Code Red Alert was sent to the general public. After hours of searching the area, law enforcement received information of a male party walking in the ditch on US Hwy 71, north of Eagle Bend.

Deputies made contact with a male party identified as Thornberg. He was taken into custody without incident and is currently in custody at the Todd County Detention Center on several charges. No injuries were reported.

The Sheriff's Dept. would like to thank the public for their vigilance and assistance during this incident.

July 22, 2025, at 7:36 p.m.: Todd County Sheriff's Dept. responded to a one vehicle accident on Cty Rd 11 near the intersection of 360th St.

The driver of a 2021 Black Chevrolet Colorado was northbound on Cty 11 when she lost control of the vehicle and went into the south-bound ditch. A camper trailer that was being towed, flipped on its side before being righted when it reentered the roadway. Minor damage was sustained to the truck while the camper was significantly damaged. There were no injuries. Todd County Sheriff's Dept. was assisted on scene by the Clarissa Fire Dept. and Petrie's Towing.

July 19, 2025, approx. 8:30 p.m.: Todd County Sheriff's Dept. was dispatched to a one vehicle accident with injuries near the intersection of Hwy 210/Cty Rd 23, rural Hewitt. Deputies arrived on scene and located the male driver, Cain Buehler driving a 2016 Ford F150. Buehler was treated for his injuries and transported to the Lakewood Health System Hospital for further medical evaluation. The accident remains under investigation. Alcohol is believed to be a contributing factor. Todd County Sheriff's Dept. was assisted at the scene by the Bertha Ambulance and Scott's Southdown Towing.

CITY OF MOTLEY NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN: Notice is hereby given that the Motley Planning Commission will convene on Monday, August 18, at 2 p.m. at City Hall, 316 US-10 S, Motley, MN 56466, to conduct the following public hearing:

Ordinance Amendment 25-01 - To amend ordinance number 24-01 "Ordinance amending the land use matrix to allow cannabis businesses in certain zoning districts." This

amendment is to add a section for the licensing of cannabis events.

All interested persons are invited to attend this hearing at Motley City Hall, located at 316 US-10 S, Motley, MN 56466, and be heard. Alternatively, written comments may be submitted to City Hall or via email at clerk@cityofmotley.com. The draft amendment will be available at City Hall one week before the meeting.

Tami Brotherton, Clerk
City of Motley

32pnc

Todd County Board of Commissioners

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE TODD COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS HELD JULY 1, 2025

Call to Order

The Todd County Board of Commissioners met in the Commissioner's Board Room in the City of Long Prairie, MN on the 1st day of July, 2025 at 9:00 a.m. The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Byers. The meeting was opened with the Pledge of Allegiance. All Commissioners were present.

Approval of Agenda

On motion by Noska and second by Becker, the following motion was introduced and adopted by unanimous vote: To adopt the agenda as presented with the addition of item 4.4 Hire Chris Manders for the FT Jailer position.

Consent Agenda

On motion by Noska and second by Neumann, the following motions were introduced and adopted by unanimous vote: To approve the Todd County Board of Commissioner's Meeting Minutes for June 17, 2025 as presented.

Approve the resignation of Resource Navigator/Interpreter Kimberly Santana, effective June 24, 2025. Approve the resignation of Eligibility Worker Stacie Ilgen, effective June 20, 2025. Hire Chris Manders for the FT jailer position start date TBD.

Commissioners

The Todd County Board of Commissioners recognized the 2nd Quarter 2025 Service Awards for County employees service to Todd County.

Auditor-Treasurer

On motion by Becker and second by Neumann, the following motion was introduced and adopted by unanimous rollcall vote: To approve the Commissioner Warrants number (ACH) 403951 through 403968 in the amount of \$11,673.29 and (Regular) 59021 through 59060 in the amount of \$229,625.61 for a total of \$241,298.90.

On motion by Noska and second by Denny, the following motion as introduced and adopted by unanimous rollcall vote: To approve the Health & Human Services SSIS Warrants number (ACH) 601715 through 601722 and (Regular) 518479 through 518506 for a total amount of \$114,896.05.

Emergency Management

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

RESOLUTION DECLARING A STATE OF EMERGENCY

WHEREAS the high winds have impacted the population of Todd County;

and WHEREAS the high winds event has caused a significant amount of public property damage;

and WHEREAS the Todd County Department of Emergency Management requests the Todd County Board of Commissioners to declare Todd County in a STATE OF EMERGENCY for the June 20 event of 2025;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Todd County Board of Commissioners declares Todd County in a State of Emergency for conditions resulting from the high winds event of June 20, 2025 (date).

Public Works

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

FINAL PAYMENT AUTHORIZATION - 2024 BRIDGE CONSTRUCTION CONTRACT

WHEREAS, the contract with Redstone Construction LLC for a 2024 Bridge Construction Contract known as SAP 077-614-022 located on County State Aid Highway 14 over the Long Prairie River, has in all things been completed, and;

WHEREAS, construction work on this contract was scheduled and completed in 2024 and 2025 with the value of the total work certified being \$1,728,627.35, and;

WHEREAS, partial payments amounting to \$1,641,376.61, have been previously been made to the contractor as work progressed, and;

WHEREAS, it has been determined that \$87,250.74 still remains to be paid to Redstone Construction LLC.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Commissioners does here accept said completed project for and on behalf of the County of Todd and authorize final payment as specified.

Ditch/Aq Inspector

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

Acting as Ditch Authority, acknowledge receipt of a Hold Harmless Agreement application to install a private crossing in Lateral 6 on CD18 in Section 15, Iona Twp. Todd County 4-H, Extension Office Heidi Igo, 4-H Youth Development Educator, shared updates about Todd County 4-H programing and enrollment.

Kristin Saarela, Extension Admin-

istrative Specialist, shared updates about the Todd County Master Gardener Program.Planning & Zoning

On motion by Neumann and second by Noska, the following motion was introduced and tabled by unanimous vote:

Smieja and Wiener request for rezoning to request input from the Long Prairie Airport Commission.

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

Adopt the findings of the Planning Commission and grant the CUP to expand an existing feedlot on parcels 03-0018600 and 03-0018602 with the conditions below.

1. Issuance of an Interim Permit from the County Feedlot Program and correction of non-compliances shall be completed prior to stocking of additional animal units.

2. Expansion to the existing liquid manure storage area shall consist of no less than 12 months storage.

3. Air quality exemption notices shall be provided to Todd County prior to all future manure application events.

4. In the event of a manure spill or other discharge, applicant must notify the County and the Minnesota Duty Officer immediately upon discovery of said discharge.

5. Open lots north of component 3 will remain in nonuse until further permitting is acquired.

6. Permits for construction will be issued following a receipt of acknowledgement by the DNR that the Livestock Appropriations Permit has been updated or covers the proposed numbers.

7. Applicant must abide by all other applicable federal, state, and local standards.

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

Adopt the findings of the Planning Commission and grant the CUP to establish a wood working business on parcel 01-0011100 with the following conditions.

1. Outdoor storage of products shall be allowed but shall be conducted in compliance with Section 9.01B of the Todd County Planning and Zoning Ordinance.

2. There shall be no loading or unloading of materials within the road right of way.

3. Applicant shall abide by all other applicable federal, state, and local standards Solid Waste

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

To authorize staff to sign change order CO-3 in the amount of \$51,119.14 and consultant release form for participating cost.

Notice of Informal Probate of Will and Appointment of Personal Representative and Notice to Creditors
State of Minnesota
District Court Todd County
Seventh Judicial District
Court File Number: 77-PR-25-658
Case Type: Informal Probate

In re the Estate of Larry Herbert Brustad, Deceased

Notice of Informal Probate of Will and Appointment of Personal Representative and Notice to Creditors

TO ALL INTERESTED PERSONS AND CREDITORS:

Notice is hereby given that an application for informal probate of the above-named Decedent's Last Will dated January 13, 2011

has been filed with the Probate Registrar, and the application has been granted. Notice is also given that the Probate Registrar has informally appointed the following:

Eric Roy Brustad of 10019 Fremont Ave S, Bloomington, MN 55431 as personal representative of the Estate of the Decedent. Any heir, devisee or other interested person may be entitled to appointment as personal representative, or may object to the appointment of the personal representative. Unless objections are filed pursuant to Minn. Stat. § 524.3-607, and the court otherwise orders, the personal representative has full power to administer the Estate, including, after 30 days from the date of issuance of letters, the power to sell, encumber, lease or distribute real estate.

Any objections to the probate of the Will or to the appointment of the personal representative, must be filed with this court, and will be heard by the court after the filing of an appropriate petition and proper notice of hearing.

Notice is also given that, subject to Minn. Stat. § 524.3-801, all creditors having claims against the Estate are required to present the claims to the personal representative or to the Court Administrator within four (4) months after the date of this Notice, or the claims will be barred.

Attorney for Personal Representative
RONALD ERIC BERGLUND
Attorney License No.: 7444
Berglund Law Office
8609 Lyndale Avenue South
Suite 205
Bloomington MN 55420
Telephone: 952-955-9755
E-Mail: Ronald@ronaldberglundlaw.com

Probate Registrar: Lea Hippe Date: 07-18-2025
Court Administrator: Kim Peterson Date: 07-18-2025

32-33p

Health & Human Services

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

To approve the funding request from the Staples Police Department.

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

To approve the funding request from the Fairy-Lily-Long Lake Association.

Closed Session

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

Enter into closed session pursuant to MN Statute 13D.05 Subd. 3(a) at 10:05 a.m.

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

To reopen the session at 10:27 a.m. Chair Byers provided a summary of the closed session that a Department Head Evaluation was held for Lisa Parteka, MIS Director which was deemed satisfactory.

County Auditor-Treasurer's Report

The County Auditor-Treasurer reported that the majority of the Finance Committee department reviews have been held and call-backs will be happening in the coming weeks, attended MACATFO conference and preparing to send out the Mobile Home Tax Statements.

County Attorney's Report

The County Attorney extended appreciation to the community for the recent community festivals held within Todd County.

County Coordinator's Report

The County Coordinator reported attending the Soil & Water bus tour, grant project with Grey Eagle city, Paycom continued conversations, department head meeting and new website update preparations.

County Commissioner's Report

The Commissioners reported on meetings and events attended. Commissioner Becker attended the Soil & Water bus tour, Equalization, Region V and Todd County Fair meetings. Commissioner Neumann attended the Sauk River Watershed, Appeals & Equalization, Soil & Water bus tour and Osakis parade meetings. Extended concern to the West Union area from the recent storms. Commissioner Noska attended the regular meetings with mention Appeals & Equalization and Tri-CAP meetings. Commissioner Denny attended the regular meetings with mention of the Appeals & Equalization and Finance Committee meetings. Extended appreciation for all the work on

community events recently. Commissioner Byers attended the Tri-CAP, Finance Committee, Personnel and Equalization meetings.

Recess

On motion by Neumann and second by Denny, the meeting was recessed until July 15, 2025.

COMMISSIONER WARRANTS	
VENDOR NAME	\$ AMOUNT
AAGLE BEND WELDING.....	8,114.23
HERDERING INC	29,871.50
NELSON'S SERVICE	
CENTER.....	3,955.68
NORTHERN STAR COOP ..	3,528.79
NYHUS CHEVROLET INC....	2,520.88
OTTER TAIL CO SOLID	
WASTE.DEPT	2,000.00
TODD SOIL & WATER	
CONSER DIST	164,413.29
TOTAL RESPONSE.....	3,235.55
50 PAYMENTS LESS	
THAN \$2,000.....	23,658.98
Total:	\$241,298.90

HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES WARRANTS	
VENDOR NAME	\$ AMOUNT
BRENNY FUNERAL	
CHAPEL	3,500.00
DHS - SWIFT	13,936.54
QUALITY LOGO	
PRODUCTS.....	3,603.17
14 PAYMENTS LESS	
THAN \$2,000	2,265.43
DHS - SWIF	43,804.43
49 PAYMENTS LESS	
THAN \$2,000	15,173.56
Total:	\$82,283.13

VENDOR NAME	\$ AMOUNT
DHS - MSOP - MN SEX OFFENDER PROG - 462	17,921.60
GREATER MN FAMILY SRVS INC	13,804.42
LUTHERAN SOCIAL SERVICE OF MN - ST PAUL	3,132.35
LUTHERAN SOCIAL SERVICE OF MN - ST PAUL	4,683.53
NORTHWOOD CHILDRENS SERVICES	9,041.46
PRAIRIE LAKES YOUTH PROGRAMS	6,750.00
PRODUCTIVE ALTERNATIVES NC - FERGUS FALLS	2,577.52
RESOURCE TRAINING AND SOLUTIONS	2,470.00
VILLAGE RANCH INC	34,025.71
WEST CENTRAL REG JUVENILE CTR	7,798.00
25 PAYMENTS LESS	
THAN \$2,000	12,691.46
Total:	\$114,896.05

On a motion by Becker and second by Neumann, the preceding minutes of the County Board meeting held July 1, 2025 were duly approved by unanimous vote at the Todd County Board of Commissioners at the Regular Board Meeting held on July 15, 2025.

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

32pnc

CARLSON continued from page 1a

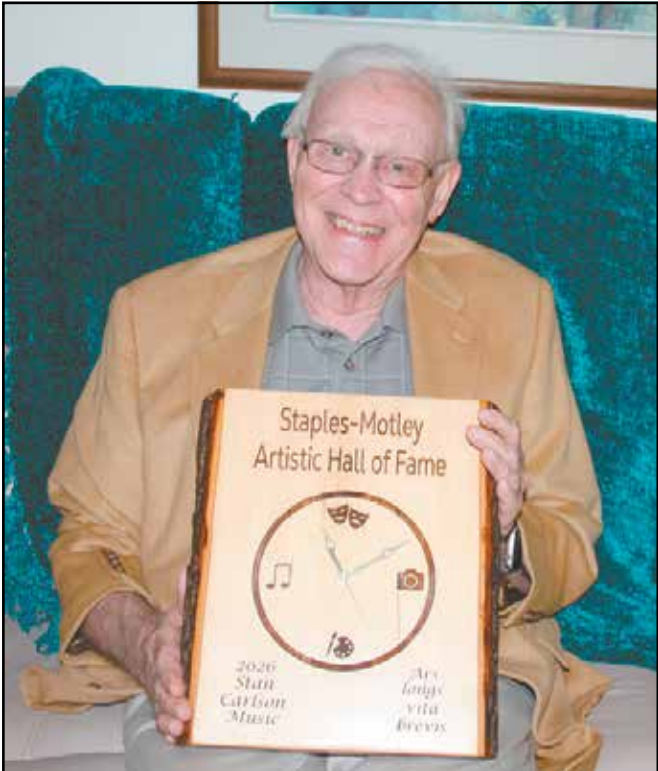
Legacy of arts in Staples-Motley community

the local, state and national levels in choral music. After a brief program, attendees will be able to greet Stan and his wife, Diane, in the lobby of the auditorium. People interested in joining the Alumni and Friends choir are asked to RSVP to jmertens@brainerd.net by Aug. 10.

Anyone who has photos of Stan in any of his music endeavors is asked to submit them by email to gmjmrohr@gmail.com before Saturday, Aug. 2.

Much like athletics in the Staples-Motley community, the arts also have a rich legacy of high regard and accomplishment. Evidence of creativity, artistic influence and entertainment surround us in the Staples-Motley community. From concerts to barn quilts, to photography, there are authors, painters, potters, quilters and metal workers around us and we are fortunate to be able to enjoy and benefit from the talent that is embedded in our community.

Five nominees will be recognized in May of 2026. The board of the Artistic



Stan Carlson

Hall of Fame is seeking funding from individuals and groups to support the effort to increase awareness,

involvement, and appreciation of the lifelong impact of artistic creation on our community.

CABOOSE continued from page 1a

Local talent showcased at Little Red Caboose

River Band as well as many, many more.

Proceeds from the show will benefit Lamplighter Community Theatre's summer Lamp Camp, a performance arts camp featuring singing, dance and drama which gives children and young adults from the age of 8-18 a great learning experience in all three of those areas. The other half goes to the Staples Area Men's Chorus and their Real Men Sing choral festi-

val which gives young male singers and their directors a full day of educational experiences with choral clinicians and male singers from all age groups from junior high to high school to college and adult choruses and culminates in a mass chorus concert that evening.

Tickets can be purchased at the door, or for a discount, tickets are available in advance at the Staples World office, Hubbard Hardware and Ace Hardware in

Staples, or online at www.lctstaples.com.

Co-hosts for the Little Red Caboose Variety Show are the Staples Area Men's Chorus and Lamplighter Community Theatre. Sponsors include the Staples Motley Area Community Foundation, Lakeland Public Television and the Five Wings Arts Council.

The show supports local organizations and promotes some fantastic local talent.

Essentia resumes urgent care after nurses strike

Essentia Health is resuming services at several Brainerd Lakes area locations after the Minnesota Nurses Association (MNA) withdrew its strike notice for advanced practice providers (APPs). The MNA leadership's unilat-

eral move to withdraw the strike notice comes despite no change in position from Essentia regarding the importance of the legal review process before the National Labor Relations Board (NLRB).

Services were tempo-

rily suspended at the following Essentia Health St. Joseph's locations: Deerwood, Emily, Hackensack and the urgent care at the Staples.

These facilities are now open and ready to provide patient care during their

Men's Chorus shares songs and a toast to 'The Maestro'

By Dawn Timbs,
Staples World reporter

"You made the maestro cry," Diane Carlson said as the Staples Area Men's Chorus finished their opening song, "There Will Be Singing," at an intimate outdoor concert in Staples this past May.

It was held in the backyard of Stan and Diane Carlsons' home in the Park Estates neighborhood. Retired after decades of directing both the Staples-Motley High School Choir and the Staples Area Men's Chorus, the beloved 'maestro' has experienced health issues in recent years that have made it difficult for him to participate in many of the things he holds dear, including music.

'Why not bring music to him?' was the consensus of the Men's Chorus. After some brainstorming, and with the blessing of the Carlsons, the crew decided to hold their regular Wednesday night rehearsal in their back yard. But it turned into more of a concert event, with a few neighbors setting up chairs along side the Carlsons to enjoy a half hour or so of music.

It was a lovely spring evening for such an event, with leaves beginning to bud and birds chirping along as the men sang a number of SAMC favorites including, "Down in the Valley," "Bring Him Home" and, "And Can it Be."

With longtime accompanist Sandy Paskewitz at the keyboard, conductor Teresa Hamp directed the men in that opening song, "There Will Be Singing," which evoked a few tears as well as heartfelt applause from the small audience. Steve Hoemberg, a former student of Stan's as well as his successor in directing both the high school choirs and the SAMC, returned to be a part of the special outdoor rehearsal.

As per usual with the Men's Chorus events, there was laughter along the way as well. When Hoemberg apologized for missing a verse of one song, Stan quipped, "You can get it right at Lefty's." And longtime chorus member Tim Rice joked that, "when the birds get the note right ahead of you," it's a sign they need another rehearsal.

Choir members took

time to individually greet Stan and share special memories. Paskewitz recalled that "Stan got me my first gig at the school, playing piano for recitals." That turned into a career of accompanying the Cardinal choirs and later the Men's Chorus.

Ron Denning, another longtime chorus member, shook Stan's hand and reminded him of a few post-rehearsal social times out on the Carlsons' deck where the guys swapped stories and drank some bourbon...or was it the other way around?

But prior to the handshakes and visiting that beautiful spring evening, the Men's Chorus gathered in a circle, surrounding the Carlsons and friends, to sing their final song, with lyrics that included: "A Toast to all who gather here, that's you, that's you, yes you. To all our friends and loved ones here, that's you, that's you, yes you."

The song ended with, "a toast to happy days ahead with health and wealth for all," going on to conclude that best of all was having friends, "like you, yes you, and you."



After 'the show'

Members of the Staples Area Men's Chorus and others spoke with former director Stan Carlson following a backyard concert held for him and his wife, Diane, at their Staples home in May. Above, Steve Hoemberg, a former music student of Carlson's at Staples-Motley High School,

speaks with his teacher and friend. Hoemberg would go on to succeed Carlson at his alma mater, and later as director of the men's chorus. Below, longtime men's chorus member, Tim Rice, greets Carlson. (Staples World photos by Dawn Timbs)



WALK-IN SPORTS PHYSICALS

Thursday, August 7th

St. Joseph's-Staples Clinic
301 2nd Ave NW, Staples

8:30am-11:30am

St. Joseph's-Orthopedics Clinic
2014 S 6th St, Brainerd

1:00pm-5:00pm

No charge for walk-in sports physicals.

Minors must be accompanied by parent and/or guardian.



Essentia Health



Daniel Douts, Agent
812 4th Street NE
Staples, MN 56479
Bus: 218-894-1717
daniel.douts.f27q@statefarm.com

Get great service & great rates.

You know I'm always here with Good Neighbor service. But I'm also here with surprisingly great rates for everyone. Call me for a quote to see how much you can save. You might be surprised.

Like a good neighbor, State Farm is there.®

Individual premiums will vary by customer. All applicants subject to State Farm® underwriting requirements.

State Farm
Bloomington, IL
2001875



Sneak peak

A chipmunk peers through the trees at a grove of trees in Staples. (Staples World photo by Mark Anderson)