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Lakewood Health System recognized
PWR!Moves class
Summer Rec baseball, leagues
Staples Police novel



Wednesday, July 8, 2026

Staples, Minnesota

\$125

July 4 Celebration A large crowd enjoyed the July 4 celebration at Staples Veterans Park. (Photo by Dawn Timbs)

Clean audit for City of Staples

By Mark Anderson
Publisher

In their annual audit, the City of Staples was given a clean opinion with minor common findings. “A clean opinion is as good as it gets,” said Dean Birkland of the Carlson SV auditing firm. Birkland said this year’s audit was more involved because of \$1,500,000 in federal expenditures, mostly from the airport hangar project. Even after that closer examination, Birkland said When examining the

city’s different funds, Birkland said they all have a positive balance except the wastewater department, which is still paying for the new treatment plant. He said the negative balance will take care of itself over time as it is paid off. “The city is in a good net position,” said Birkland. The findings are related to the size of the city, such as segregation of duties, a standard that can only be met with a larger office staff. Another finding the city has every year is with the Fire Relief Association not having an actuar-

ial valuation, which would cost more than it would be worth. Birkeland said 95 percent of cities have those same findings. The council accepted the audit as presented. **Parks and recreation** City Administrator Jerel Nelsen told the council that the Widseth engineering firm is redesigning the parking lot behind the Staples Community Center and they hope to have it repaved before the start of school. He said the community center locker room project See **STAPLES** on page 2a

MMFCU to acquire Clarissa bank

Mid Minnesota Federal Credit Union announced it has entered into an agreement to acquire the Clarissa branch of Unity Bank, subject to regulatory approval. The transaction is expected to be completed prior to the end of 2026. This acquisition reflects Mid Minnesota Federal Credit Union’s continued

commitment to expanding its presence and strengthening relationships in the communities it serves. “We are excited to welcome the customers and employees of Unity Bank’s Clarissa branch,” said Bob Gerads, President/CEO of Mid Minnesota Federal Credit Union. “This is an opportunity to continue building on the strong rela-

tionships already in place while bringing our member-focused approach and resources to this community.” Mid Minnesota Federal Credit Union emphasized that a top priority throughout the transition will be ensuring a smooth and seamless experience for See **MMFCU** on page 10a

Central Lakes College names interim president

Dr. Kimberly Lynch has begun her role as interim president of Central Lakes College, arriving on campus July 1. With deep experience across Minnesota State and a strong commitment to students, she brings thoughtful, steady leadership to the CLC community. “I am thrilled to join a college known for its culture of caring and for its deep commitment to students and the surrounding communities,” Lynch said. “It is a true honor to steward the excellent work of staff and faculty where, every day, we live CLC’s mission to build futures.” Lynch was selected to serve in this role by the Minnesota State board earlier this spring. “Dr. Lynch has extensive experience with Minnesota State, including serving in leadership roles at three colleges and the system office,” said Scott Olson, Minnesota State chancellor. “She is a strategic thinker with a passion for helping faculty and staff to bring innovation to the forefront to help students succeed, and I am confident she will be a steady and effective leader for Central Lakes College during this year of transition.”



Kimberly Lynch

Lynch has broad higher education experience both in leadership positions as well as in the classroom. Her focus on technology and how human beings can successfully weave technology into their work has been a cornerstone of her leadership across Minnesota State for more than a decade. She joins CLC after serving as associate vice chancellor for educational development and technologies at Minnesota State, where she also held interim leadership roles. She was interim vice president for academic affairs at Northwest Technical College (2022), leading process improvements and launch-

ing a strategic enrollment management effort, and interim associate vice chancellor for academic affairs (2017–2018), advancing transfer pathways and statewide academic initiatives. Earlier, she served in several leadership roles at Anoka-Ramsey Community College, including dean of STEM and computer networking, interim campus information officer, and dean of innovative teaching and learning, where she expanded online learning. She began her career as an English faculty member at ARCC. She holds a bachelor’s degree from Hamline University, and a master’s and doctorate from the University of Minnesota Twin Cities. Lynch succeeds Hara Charlier, who has served as president of Central Lake College since 2016 and has been appointed president of Berkshire Community College in Massachusetts. It is expected that Lynch will serve for one year. A search for the next permanent president will begin in late fall 2026 with the intention of naming the permanent leader in the spring of 2027.

Weather

2026
This Week’s Forecast

	High	Low	Cond.
July 8	76	61	Rain
July 9	80	60	M. Sunny
July 10	82	61	M. Sunny
July 11	85	67	Sunny
July 12	88	68	Sunny
July 13	88	67	Sunny
July 14	86	64	M. Sunny

Last Year, 2025

	High	Low	Cond.
July 8	76°	59	M. Sunny
July 9	81	60	Sunny
July 10	83	67	M. Sunny
July 11	80	66	P. Sunny
July 12	74	57	Cloudy
July 13	85	55	Sunny
July 14	85	60	Sunny

Average Temps:
H = 7 81° Low = 60°
Compiled by
Dale Hausmann,
WCCO’s Staples area
Weatherwatcher

Public Notices

Cass County 9A
Moose Lake 9A
United Hospital District 9A
City of Motley 9A
Todd Cty Accuracy 9A

Obituaries

Nadine Bittner
Dorothy Huebner
Irene Kastanek
Gene Meyer
Orville Meyer



Shed fire near Staples

The Staples Fire Department battles a shed fire south of Staples on July 1. Around 3 p.m., the fire department was called to the fire on property owned by Tim and Lori Miller.

Art and PWR!Moves class offer support and inspiration

By Dawn Timbs
Staples World reporter

Members of the PWR!Moves class (Parkinson Wellness Recovery) held an art show at Lakewood Health System in Staples this past April, showcasing a variety of creative work. The event was spearheaded by class members Bev Goff of Brainerd and Pam Robinson of New York Mills, both of whom have been expressing themselves through art for decades. It's something that's brought even greater meaning since being diagnosed with Parkinson's Disease.

Goff's creative outlets include sewing, jewelry making and drawing. A Staples native and a 1974 graduate of Staples High School, Goff credits her parents, Dr. Bill and Helen Goff of Staples for instilling in her the love of creating. "They bought me an artist kit when I was 10 years old," Goff shared at the recent show at Lakewood. She was just 12 when her mother taught her to sew, a pastime that's continued to offer inspiration decades later.

Goff was just 40 when she saw a neurologist after noticing some shaking. She was 53 when she was diagnosed with Parkinson's disease. Since that time, she's continued to express herself artistically, in unique and creative ways.

Two of Goff's pieces at the art show included gala-worthy dresses made out of repurposed materials such as plastic bags and VCR tapes. She also showcased jewelry made from brass safety pins and washers.

Robinson, who taught art



Art show instigators

Pam Robinson (left) and Bev Goff, both members of the Parkinson Wellness Recovery class at Lakewood Health System, came up with the idea to hold an art show at Lakewood this past April. Both Robinson and Goff are accomplished artists. (Staples World photos by Dawn Timbs)

at Sebekah High School from 1985 - 1995, was diagnosed with Parkinson's in 2016. She has continued painting and drawing even as the symptoms have increased.

Their art is a form of therapy, both Goff and Robinson said. So is the PWR!Moves class, led by Michelle Anderson, PTA. Held twice a week at Lakewood's main campus in Staples, the class is made possible by the Lakewood Health System Foundation.

The therapy class was full the first day it was offered, Anderson said, noting that it started in September of 2025. There are usually 14 people in attendance. It's open to anyone who has Parkinson's dis-

ease, as well as their caregivers, Anderson said of the class.

In addition to working on strength, balance, coordination and cognitive skills, those who attend the PWR!Moves class have formed friendships and a support network. Not all, but several of the class members participated at the recent art show, inspiring others in the midst of their own struggles.

When asked about her thoughts on the PWR!Moves class at Lakewood, Goff teared up, going on to express how much it means to her. "It's helped me so much...being with people that understand."



Interacting with the artists

Amber Houselog, left, Senior Communications specialist at Lakewood Health System, Staples, listens as Pam Robinson discusses her drawings and other art work on display at an art show

this past April. Robinson, of New York Mills, was diagnosed with Parkinson's in 2016. She is a former art teacher at Sebekah High School. (Staples World photo by Dawn Timbs)



Proud of their daughter

Bev (Mennis) Goff of Brainerd, left, is pictured with her parents, Helen and Dr. Bill Mennis of Staples. Goff, whose art work was on display at Lakewood Health System in Staples this past April, said that her parents encouraged her to pursue art

from an early age. She noted that they gave her an artist's kit when she was 10 years old and her mother taught her to sew when she was 12. (Staples World photo by Dawn Timbs)



Art show brings inspiration

Bev Goff of Brainerd, far right, holds up some of her art work on display at an art show this past April at Lakewood Health System. The participating artists are part of the PWR!Moves class made

possible by Lakewood Health System Foundation. In the background, looking at the art, are Mary Daniels (left) and April Sandhoff, both of Motley. (Staples World photo by Dawn Timbs)



Displaying their art work

Betty Johannes of Leader, front, had some of her handmade quilts on display at Lakewood Health System this past April. In back, is woodworker Wayne Rahn of Burtrum. Johannes and Rahn are both part of the Parkinson Wellness Recovery (PWR!) Moves class at Lakewood. (Staples World photo by Dawn Timbs)



Variety of art shown

Above is a dress made by Bev Goff of Brainerd, who made it entirely from plastic Target bags. Below, Pam Robinson, New York Mills, stands by one of her paintings.



Supportive group

Members of The PWR!Moves class (Parkinson Wellness Recovery) appreciate the friendship and support they've found there. Above, from left, Betty Johannes of Leader and Bev Goff of Brainerd. Below, Brad Farber of Staples and Wayne Rahn of Burtrum, who call themselves the B&W Rehab Dynamic Duo. All four participated at the art show at Lakewood Health Sytem in Staples this past April. (Staples World photos by Dawn Timbs)

STAPLES continued from page 1a

Caboose history researched

is completed and swimming lessons have started at the swimming pool.

The community center is moving forward with the Minnesota Department of Education grant to upgrade technology in the classroom.

Once the fourth street project is done, Nelsen said the community center will tear out the old stairway and put in a new one, and

they will improve the ramp to the door.

Nelsen also noted that the painting of the railroad caboose at Caboose Park has been finished. He said they still need to put on the original Northern Pacific logo and its proper identification number. Nelsen said a historian is working to determine the actual build date of the caboose.



Staples Police report

Recent reports taken by Staples Police::

June 21, Staples Police observed a vehicle going 115 MPH on Highway 10 through a section with 35 and 55 mile per hour speed limits. Jerald Renell Shelvy, 23, from Fayette, Miss. was arrested on book and release; vehicle was impounded.

June 21, Staples Police responded to a carbon monoxide alarm going off at a residence on Pleasant Ave. NE. Resident was alone and complained of a headache and dizziness. Ambulance arrived and recommended a visit for possible carbon monoxide poisoning.

June 22, Staples Police assisted Lakewood Health System with a subject who is on a hold and trying to leave.

June 22, Staples Police issued citations for the driver of a non street legal dirtbike driving on 2nd St. NE.

June 22, Staples Police assisted with a report of a suicide at a residence on Airview Dr. A party was found deceased with a gun shot wound.

June 22, Staples tested a driver on a traffic stop and found them positive for THC (marijuana).

June 23, Staples Police responded to a call of a disturbance with a female throwing things.

June 23, Staples Police were requested to provide extra patrol, because a person has been attempting to get into an apartment of a deceased party. Party said they were trying to get guns out of the apartment.

June 23, Staples Police assisted Wadena County Sheriff's Dept. with a SWAT team call out.

June 24, Staples Police stopped a vehicle driven by a person with a canceled

driver's license. Police arrested driver with a book and release.

June 24, Staples Police assisted with a jackknifed camper blocking onelane of traffic on Hwy. 10 at County Rd. 83, east of Staples.

June 25, Staples Police investigated a report of teenagers smoking marijuana.

June 25, Staples Police investigated a report of a parent abusing prescription medications while taking care of children.

June 25, Staples Police investigated a report of an ATV driving recklessly on Warner Road at 8th Street NE.

June 25, Staples Police took report of a dog that attacked a person on Airport Road.

June 27, Staples Police took a report of a neighbor who walked to the edge of their property and urinated onto the neighbor's property.

June 27, Staples Police assisted with a disturbance in Aldrich. Reporting party stated their vehicle was struck and was being blocked in. Video footage showed the vehicle was not struck.

June 27, Staples Police investigated a report of a suspicious person stalking an employee at a business in Staples. Police talked to the suspect, who admitted to drinking alcohol. Police dropped party off at Legacy Gardens, vehicle was left at the business.

June 27, Staples Police responded to a report of a person walking in the median on Hwy. 10. Police assisted the party with a ride to a gas station.

July 27, Staples Police took a report of two dogs that got loose and attacked another dog in the neighborhood.

75 YEARS Ago - 1951

• July 5, 1951 - News soon spread throughout the city of Staples Friday morning, that John William Reed, 61, who had made his home with Mr. and Mrs. Christian Jensen for the past five weeks, had been killed in the railroad yards in Staples early the morning of June 29.

Just how the accident happened will never be known, because the lifeless body of Mr. Reed was not discovered until the engine men had change in Staples. Elmer Johnson, engineer in Staples, discovered the body when he boarded No. 3 about 125 feet west of the depot, south of the west bound main line track. Art Willis was the fireman with Mr. Johnson.

- O -
Compiled by
Dawn Timbs
- O -

Not a great deal is known about Mr. Reed, because he had not lived in Staples long enough to make too many acquaintances. Mr. and Mrs. Jensen report that he was an ideal roomer.

• July 5, 1951 - Duane Lund, head of the vocational guidance department of the Staples schools, who is also chairman of the Young Republican League of the state of Minnesota, was in Boston, Mass., last week attending the national Young Republican convention.

Mr. Lund took a plane from Minneapolis and arrived in New York on Tuesday of last week. He will return to Minneapolis the first of this week and resume his teaching at the summer session of the University.

• July 5, 1951 - A news dispatch taken some time ago from an Associated press news item appearing in the daily papers, told of ten English citizens who had embarked from Southampton, England, to come to United States to make their future home.

The family of Tom Ward, 61, his wife of the same age, his son and wife and two children, and his daughter and her husband and two children started the voyage together, bound for Staples, where they were to be met by other relatives now living in the Pillager, Motley and Brainerd areas.

This mass family emigration began when Tom Ward's daughter married a G.I. and came to live near Staples. This was a number of years ago.

The "emigration bug" bit the Ward family. Tom Ward sold everything to go. He had been in the boot and shoe trade in Leicester, England for 44 years.

They arrived in Staples Sunday noon, July 17, and all of the relatives in this area were on the depot platform to greet the people when they arrived.

50 YEARS Ago - 1976

• June 24, 1976 - Jean Hassler, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Clair Hassler, was crowned Miss Staples for 1976 at judging and corona-

tion ceremonies Saturday evening, June 19, in the Staples Auditorium.

Queen Jean won the title of the Staples Jaycee sponsored contest as she competed against 13 other contestants, being judged on poise, personality and appearance, along with interviews, talent and formal wear.

On the talent portion of the program, Miss Hassler delivered an original speech entitled "Portrayals of Freedom." She was sponsored in the contest by Anderson Our Own Hardware.

Upon a vote of the other contestants, Miss Hassler also won the trophy naming her as Miss Congeniality.

Selected by the panel of three out-of-town judges as the first runner-up was Kim Cleveland, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Kenneth Cleveland. A 1976 graduate of Staples High school, Kim performed a timpani solo to the music of "Battle Hymn of the Republic." She was sponsored in the contest by Mid-Central Federal savings and Loan.

Second runner-up honors went to Peggy Finn, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. William Finn. Peggy gave a speech entitled "Let's Make Promises We Can Keep."

She is a 1976 graduate of Staples High school. Her sponsor was Staples Federal credit Union.

• June 24, 1976 - With Gary Otteson leading the way, both with his pitching and his bat, the Staples American Legion Baseball team shut-out Aitkin 4-0 at Aitkin June 16. Otteson scattered three hits, struck out eight and received errorless support from his teammates for the victory.

• June 24, 1976 - Melanie Fuller of Staples was named second attendant in the Region Three Dairy Princess Contest held at Alexandria June 17.

Melanie, a 1976 graduate of Staples High school, is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Melvin Fuller. She was the Staples Dairy Princess.

• June 24, 1976 - Ground-breaking ceremonies for the new 40-bed hospital and 100-bed nursing home of the United Hospital District, Staples, were held on the site Monday afternoon.

• June 24, 1976 - At 7 a.m. today, Thursday, the 90-member Cardinal Marching Band of Staples High school, directed by Larry Correll, will depart from Staples for Winnipeg for their participation in the

Looking back



Mystery photo

Hello readers. This week's archive photo is from 2001. Do you know who these people are and perhaps the context of the photo? Do you have a memory to share? Email your answers and where you're from to dtimbs@staplesworld.com by Friday, or call 218-894-1112. The answers will be published in next week's paper, as well as a new mystery photo.

parade and other events of the Winnipeg Manisphere.

• June 24, 1976 - Bruce Blake, who was convicted of arson in two fires at the Morey Fish Company, Motley, last October was given a 2 1/2 month work release sentence this week.

According to an article appearing in the Brainerd Daily Dispatch, Blake, 18, was sentenced in Little Falls District Court under the Huber law, which allows him to work during the day and return to the Morrison County Jail at night.

25 YEARS Ago - 2001

• July 5, 2001 - Bishop John L. Hopkins has appointed the Rev. Wesley J. Johnson to Staples United Methodist Church in Staples. He previously served churches in Elmore-East Chain, Hewitt-Bertha, Wrightstown and Austin. Rev. Johnson graduated from the University of Minnesota, Duluth, and has a Masters of Divinity from Asbury College, Wilmore, Ky.

• July 5, 2001 - A new use for an older building in Staples is apparently taking shape.

Mary and David Freeman are purchasing the former Rexall Drug Store building in downtown Staples. Frank Gardner closed his business in April, with the building empty since

then. The Freemans plan to rent the majority of the ground floor space in their building, after some remodeling, to Kari Erickson, who plans to operate a dance school there. Her school will be called "A Time to Dance."

10 YEARS Ago - 2016

• July 7, 2016 - As our country celebrated 200 years of freedom in 1976, the Ly family of Laos celebrated their first year of freedom in the United States of America.

It's been nearly 40 years since the Lys first set foot on U.S. soil, putting down temporary roots in Staples.

They arrived from Thailand on Oct. 29, 1976...Chy Ly, his wife Xiong My, and their four children, Doua Chi, Kablia, Leng and Kasoua.

Members of the Ly family, now of St. Paul, stopped by Staples recently to visit the town they first called "home" after leaving a refugee camp in Thailand in 1976. Originally from Laos, the Lys fled to Thailand in 1975 to escape communist control of their country.

The family, who lived in Staples for two years, was sponsored by the Christian & Missionary Alliance Church in Staples. During their recent visit to Staples, they spent time with friends Ivan and Janice Voeltz.

Todd County court report

JULY 1, 2026

Long Prairie Police
Nadiuska Arias Mayi, Long Prairie. Driving without a valid license for vehicle class or type. Fine \$100. Fee \$85. Expired registration. Fine \$30.

Reyna Lucero Hernandez Chavez, Long Prairie. Driving after revocation. Fine \$200. Fee \$85.

Melvin Francisco Martinez, Esteline, SD. Driving after revocation. Fine \$200. Fee \$85.

Julian Johnathan Valencia, Long Prairie. Window restrictions. Fine \$50. Fee \$85.

MN Dept. of Natural Resources

Michael Thomas Lunch, Eden Prairie. Water safety-fail to have legal lifesaving device on board watercraft or waterfowl boat. Fine \$25. Fee \$85.

MN State Patrol

Nicholas Charles Alley, Randall. Window restrictions. Fine \$50. Fee \$85.

Chase Emmanuel Collins, Alexandria. Speed 83/70. Fine \$50. Fee \$85.

Stacy Lynn Danielson, Parkers Prairie. Speed 88/70. Fine \$60. Fee \$85.

Sarah Leah May Don, Sauk Centre. Speed 79/70. Fine \$40. Fee \$85.

Qusmane Fofana, Grand Forks, ND. Speed 91/70. Fine \$70. Fee \$155.

Hugo Amilcar Gomez Morales, Worthington. Speed 72/60. Fine \$50. Fee \$85.

Cynthia Gutierrez Juarez, Morris. Speed 85/70. Fine \$60. Fee \$85.

Heaven Leigh Hall, Cleveland, TN. Speed 80/70. Fine \$40. Fee \$85.

Lindy Lee Johnston, Burtrum. Seat belt required. Fine \$25. Fee \$85.

Jake Dillon Leuschke, Alexandria. Window restrictions. Fine \$50. Fee \$85.

Lyle Martin, Long Prairie. Speed 70/60. Fine \$40. Fee \$85.

Jeremy Allen Miller, Rice. Window tint. Fine \$50. Fee \$85.

Atshin Rassoul Nejat, Minneapolis. Speed 80/70. Fine \$40. Fee \$85.

Justin Timothy Prois, Fergus Falls. Speed 79/70. Fine \$40. Fee \$85.

Sarah Jayne Riesgraf Sprengeler, Alexandria. Speed 70/60. Fine \$40. Fee \$85.

James Kevin Taylor, Mishawaka, IN. Seat belt required. Fine \$25. Fee \$85.

Prashantkumar Arvindbhai Thakkar, Alpharetta, GA. Speed 75/70. Fine \$40. Fee \$75.

Staples Police Dept.

Richard Irving Boatman, Jr., Jenkins. Driving after revocation. Fine

\$200. Fee \$85.

Todd County Sheriff
Denise Kristine Biggs, Browerville. Expired registration. Fine \$30. Fee \$85.

Riley Clyde Bird, Little Falls. Speed 73/60. Fine \$50. Fee \$85.

Marlin Ivan Castillo Mejia, Long Prairie. Driver must carry proof of insurance when operating vehicle. Fine \$200. Fee \$85. Driving without a valid license for vehicle class or type. Fine \$100.

Dameon Storm Chenoweth, Long Prairie. Speed 82/55. Fine \$100. Fee \$185.

David Thomas Cherry, Browerville. Exceed limit 64/60. Driver must carry proof of insurance when operating vehicle. Fine \$200.

Daniel U Gingerich, Long Prairie. Forestry-open burning-garbage by a person. Fine \$100. Fee \$85.

Nathan Lee Juettner, Browerville. Speed 64/55. Fine \$40. Fee \$85.

Maddison Kay Kraemer, Melrose. Liquor consumption by persons under 21. Fine \$100. Fee \$85.

Marshall James Macey, Iron. Forestry-open burning-violate ban. Fine \$100. Fee \$85.

Juan Josue Melenciano Then, Long Prairie. Failure to obtain a burning permit. Fine \$50. Fee \$85.

Jack Stevens Morales Cruz, Browerville. Driving without a valid license for vehicle class or type. Fine \$100. Fee \$85.

Luke William Sakry, Bertha. Unlawful passing. Fine \$50. Fee \$85.

Breanna Lynn Swanberg, Savage. Speed 71/55. Fine \$60. Fee \$85.

Jessica Fay Wilmes, Little Falls. Expired registration. Fine \$30.

The following cases were heard before Heidi L. Hovis, Seventh District Court in Todd County June 24, 2026.

Miguel Gabriel Miranda Diaz, Long Prairie. Domestic assault. Dismissed. Disorderly conduct. Continued. Local confinement (2 days, stay 0 yr 0 mo 0 days credit for time served: 2 days. Supervised probation, 1 yr. Fine \$200.

The following cases were heard before Heidi L. Hovis, Seventh District Court in Todd County June 23, 2026.

Todd Michael Gonsior, Glenwood. Hunting-under influence-alcohol. Convicted. Local confinement (364 days, stay 364 days for 2 yr). Supervised probation, 2 mo. Fine \$50. Fee \$75. Hunting-Alcohol concentration 0.08 or more. Dismissed.

Deer hunting-may not hunt with aid or use of bait. Local confinement (3 days credit for time served). Fine \$50.

Ezequiel Tavez Brito, Long Prairie. No proof of insurance. Continued. Unsupervised probation, 1 yr.



Mystery solved

Last week's mystery photo published in the June 17, 1976 edition of the Staples World featured four contestants in an upcoming Miss Staples competition holding trophies which were to be given out. From left, Jody Mueller, Pam Quance, Natalie Wise, Dallas Lewis. Fourteen girls were going to be competing in the contest, scheduled to be held in the Staples High School auditorium.

Judy Wolak of Staples correctly identified Pam Quance.

Cindy (Olson) Mertens of Roseau, a 1972 Staples High School grad, called in regarding the previous week's mystery photo from 1967 which featured award winners at the annual Lettermen's Banquet. Cindy called in for her husband, Larry Mertens, a 1967 SHS grad and one of the athletes who received an award at the banquet. Mertens was named MVP for baseball. Larry Mertens correctly identified all in the previous week's photo.

Staples World

The Staples World office, moved to 207 4th St. NE 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.

Across from the old Staples Theatre marquee

✂

Letters to the Editor

○

Safety factors for motorcycle community

We all need to be aware of our operation of motor vehicles on the state's streets and highways. So far in Minnesota we have had 28,319 crashes reported in 26. There were 7991 injury crashes. So far we have had 160 traffic fatalities in 143 crashes.

And for our motorcycling community, which I am proud to be a part of, there have been approximately 1500 crashes and there have been 32 motorcycle fatalities.

I taught for the Minnesota Motorcycle safety center for nine years. During that time I spoke honestly to future motorcycle riders about causes of crashes and many times told my students that Motorcycle riders tend to be their own worst enemy.

Statistics in Minnesota are backing that up this year. Using AI and going through available information on crashes from various sources the following is a break down of this year's

motorcycle fatalities: Riders actions directly contributed to 20 to 24 fatalities.

That would be 65 to 75 percent for fatalities being based on the operators action. Other drivers were responsible for 8 to 10 of these fatalities which would be 25 to 35 percent. There was one deer fatality and two under-terminated fatalities.

Here are the contributing factors that I was able to find. Going off the road in a curve, 10 to 12 fatalities. Speed 7 to 9 fatalities motorcycle going off road or hitting a fixed object, 6 to 8 fatalities. Over the center line 2 to 3 fatalities. Alcohol 3 to 5 fatalities. Other vehicles failed to yield to a Motorcycle 8 to 10.

Here are my suggestions: 1) Wear some type of high visibility garment. You have the responsibility to be aware of who/what is around you. The other drivers out there need to be able to see you. The easiest way to see you is not by wearing your black colors and seemingly doing your best to not be seen.

Put some high visibility on. Statistically, you're 20% less likely to be involved in a

crash with another vehicle, simply by wearing a white helmet. High visibility colors identify you readily to other drivers.

2) slow down. You, I, we, are not exempt from the laws of physics. The faster you go, the worse the Crash.

3) Remember that there are other vehicles on the road and pay attention to them.

4) Be sober. Sober as in no alcohol, no drugs. For some reason, I am seeing more individuals that do not think riding or driving high is a big deal because they don't feel intoxicated because the intoxicating affects marijuana are much different than the intoxicating effects of alcohol. Please do not be fooled. Your reactions are slowed down as are your thinking processes. And in the world of motorcycling, we need to be 100% on top of our game.

Be safe, Arrive alive. Ninety-five percent of crashes are avoidable if one person does something different. Drive like your family is in every other vehicle on the road.

Bob Swenson
Staples, Minn.

Six word novel emerges from police department

By Mark Anderson
Publisher

The Staples Police Department unwittingly wrote a six word novel in one of their recent reports:

“Releasing property to RP. Wedding ring.”

The six word novel became a popular trend a few years ago, but the origin is accredited to Ernest Hemingway, who started the genre with this story:

“For Sale: baby shoes, never used.”

In just six words, it brings us into a situation and reveals an incredible heartbreak. To do that in six words shows the power of words and how attuned we humans are to storytelling.

In the six word novel from the Staples Police report, “RP” means “reporting party,” so technically they cheated the format by combining two words into one, but that’s police lingo so I’ll let it slide. We could also just change it to “party” if it is used in a different context.

This one actually rivals Hemingway because of the endless possibilities it contains. Is it a triumphant story, a breakup or a tragedy? Maybe someone lost their wedding ring and it was found, hooray. Maybe there was a breakup and the wedding ring is being returned out of sadness. Maybe a

spouse died and the ring was requested by the survivor.

I don’t even want to learn the full story, because I’m satisfied knowing our police department is there to deal with these kinds of life-changing situations. If they decided that returning the wedding ring was the right thing to do, I’m okay with that.

Police deal with problematic situations nearly every day. Sometimes there is no good solution and they help our citizens make the best out of what they have been dealt. They might make a bad decision according to one side, but at least there is someone out there working on it and not everything ends up in a battle or a courtroom.

To encapsulate all that into six words is an artistic stroke. For this story, all we need to know is that the wedding ring was returned, so that’s where life begins again.

Hemingway’s original story is still the best six word novel, inspiring others to try and reach that level. BuzzFeed.com listed some of their favorites online, including:

“A cry rings out. Life begins.”

“Head on a pillow, not sleeping.”

“The war is over, isn’t it?”

“Tomorrow I leave, she said again.”

“He died happy, knowing he lived.”

Those are cool, but I think the Staples Police Department topped them with their gem. I’ll put them at number two on the list.

American infrastructure includes railroad routes

Jim Mathews
President & CEO
Rail Passengers Association

As America celebrates its 250th birthday, this moment invites reflection, not just on how far the nation has come, but on the systems, choices, and connections that made that progress possible. Beneath every era of American growth, there has been a way for people to move, meet, and build lives across distance.

Passenger rail is part of that foundation.

For generations, passenger rail has been part of how this country actually works. Long before interstate highways and crowded airports, trains built A Connected America town by town, city by city, family by family. Rail helped bind together a geographically vast nation,

linking communities across mountains, plains, rivers, and coasts in ways nothing else could at the time.

Passenger rail has always been more than transportation. It’s access. It’s opportunity. It’s core memories. It’s how people got to work, how students got to school, how families stayed connected across distance, and how this country physically held itself together while it grew. From major city terminals to small-town depots still standing today, rail helped define what connection looks like in America.

Over time, investment in passenger rail in America became uneven, and priorities shifted. Service in many corridors declined, and in some places connections were reduced or lost altogether. But that story is not

finished.

In recent years, there has been a renewed focus on rebuilding and strengthening passenger rail, restoring service where it makes sense, improving reliability, and recognizing once again the role passenger rail plays in a balanced national transportation system.

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

Thank you for your continued support and advocacy for the future of passenger rail. As America enters its next 250 years, that work matters more than ever.

America’s strength is meeting challenges

Editor's note: This is the 4th of July speech given by Frank Odell at the July 4th celebration in Staples, marking the 250th year of the United States of America.

By Frank Odell

I am happy to be here today. Actually – truth be told- given my age-- I am pleased-as-punch to be most anywhere.

But- also- truth be told I am a veteran – well-sort of- I am a veteran of three Honor flight trips – 2008 2011 and 2012. Life changing for me and I think for our community. Staples Host Lions sponsored all the trips and the community graciously funded the trips. And I am the son of a World War II veteran who was able to return home and also son-in-law of Bonnie’s dad who was in the Pacific as a crew member on ‘rescue planes’ that followed the bombers returning from bombing runs on Japan. In my generation-Viet Nam- my number in the draft drawing was 300 something and then the conflict was over. So – all-right- truth be told I am really not a veteran veteran but I sincerely appreciate and thankful for those of you who are veterans. And about today--

This is a big day- 250 years. Really. Happy Birthday, USA! Two hundred and fifty years old. What a ride.

For 250 years, America has been a nation of soaring eagles and occasional turkey-sized mistakes. We have climbed mountains, crossed rivers, walked on the moon, and sometimes tripped over our own shoelaces. Yet here we stand.

We survived the revolution, (oh by the way--John ‘hoppin’ Odell was my distant relative and was part of George Washington’s army) civil war, depression, world wars, recessions, political squabbles, and enough disagreements to fill the Grand

Canyon twice over. At times, our national conversation has sounded less like a choir and more like a room full of toddlers arguing over the last cookie. Yet somehow, the music continues.

America’s story has never been a straight highway. It has been a winding road filled with potholes, detours, construction zones, and the occasional sign that simply says, “Good Luck.” We have known triumph and tragedy, prosperity and hardship, unity and division.

But that is the miracle of this experiment in freedom.

When storms gathered, we bent but did not break. When darkness settled in, we lit candles instead of surrendering to the night. When challenges appeared, generation after generation rolled up their sleeves and got to work.

The United States is not perfect. Never has been. Never will be. But perfection was never the goal. Progress was. The Founders planted a seed in rocky soil. Over two and a half centuries, millions of ordinary Americans watered that seed with courage, sacrifice, faith, and hard work. Today it stands as a mighty oak whose roots run deep.

As we celebrate this historic birthday, perhaps the greatest lesson is this: our strength has never come from agreeing on everything. Our strength comes from believing that tomorrow can be better than today.

Two hundred and fifty years later, the American spirit still refuses to quit.

So raise a flag. Share a smile. Enjoy the fireworks. Celebrate the dream. Happy 250th Birthday, USA.

What a ride.

What a story.

And by God’s grace, we’re still writing the next chapter.

StaplesWorld

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Quote of the week

“Let us never negotiate out of fear. But let us never fear to negotiate.”

— John F. Kennedy



Passing the gavel

The new president of the Staples Rotary Club Trevor Haasch, left, accepted the gavel from past president Kurt Wilson at the annual “Passing on the Gavel” event at The Vintage Golf Club on June 29. After a nice dinner, the club celebrated the past year with comments and individual member callouts from outgoing President, Kurt Wilson. Peter Nelson, incoming District Governor, recognized eight members as Paul Harris Fellows: Colleen Frost, Lisa Kajer, Brenda Halvorson, Jim Hofer, Del Lecy, Dan Orth, Kurt Wilson and Tom Kajer. A Paul Harris Fellow is awarded to members for each \$1,000 donation to the Rotary International Foundation, which helps fund local district, national and international humanitarian and community projects. (Submitted photo)

Menu

Senior Nutrition Program, Staples
Call mornings (218-979-4118) the Thursday before to reserve next week’s meal(s) and current suggested donation info. LSS Meals - traditional older adult menu (subject to change).
LOCATED AT: Staples Hi-Rise, 615 4th St. NE, Staples. Seniors welcome to dine-in at 11:00 a.m., with meal reservations.
• **Staples Site: 218-979-4118.**
• **Motley Site: 218-824-3820.**
July 13 - July 17
Monday - Country fried chicken, cream gravy, mashed potatoes, peas, wheat bread, marg., sugar cookie, 1% milk.

TUESDAY - Pizza casserole, country veggie blend, spiced peaches, dinner roll, marg., 1% milk.
WEDNESDAY - Oven roasted turkey, turkey gravy, mashed potatoes, whole kernel corn, wheat bread, marg., tapioca pudding w/ topping, 1% milk.
THURSDAY - Beef goulash, mixed veggies, pumpkin bar, dinner roll, marg., 1% milk.
FRIDAY - Baked pork chop, pork gravy, scalloped potatoes, diced carrots, wheat bread, oatmeal raisin cookie, marg., 1% milk.
wk29x

Day Camp for Kindergarten to 6th Graders

At Staples Alliance Church

Join us for games, art, drama skills, music and more.



Staples Alliance.org or call 218-894-2891

Registration Open! Max 75 kids

StaplesAlliance.org or Call 218.894.2891

At Northern Pacific Park, 625 6th St NE, Staples, MN

MUSIC IN THE PARK

SUNDAYS

JULY 12 - 7PM

RIVER RATS BAND

JULY 19 - 7PM

HOLY ROCKA ROLLAZ

JULY 26 - 7PM

KEVIN KLIMEK & THE SIDELINERS

AUG 2 - 7PM

ERIC NEZNIK AND JASON FRANZEN

AUG 9 - 7PM

MOTLEY! MOTLEY VETERANS PARK ERIC E.

AUG 16 - 7PM

UNCLE MUSKRAT

AUG 23 - 2PM

RED LETTER BAND

FREE

FREE

NORTHERN PACIFIC PARK → 6" STREET NE

Arts Council

w29c

The Staples World newspaper thanks you for your continued support

Mark Your Calendar

July 9

‘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>

July 10

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

July 12

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

July 14

WADENA COUNTY SHERIFF’S FORUM Tuesday, July 14, 7 p.m., Wadena VFW, 213 1st St. SE, Wadena. Hear from all five candidates and learn their priorities. Primary Election: Aug. 11, will narrow the field from five candidates to two. General Election: Nov. 3.

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

July 16

STAPLES ALL VETERANS AND COMMUNITY PARK ASSOCIATION MEETING Wednesday, July 16, 5:30 p.m., in the lower level of Lakewood Health Sytem’s main campus, 49725 Cty Rd 83, Staples. Public invited. To attend via Zoom, call Bob Hamann at 218-894-3139.

Benefit for Korrie

(Carlson) Angevine

JULY 25TH

STARTING AT NOON

LEFTY’S BAR STAPLES, MN

FOOD & DRINKS

GAMES

AUCTION

GUN RAFFLE

50/50 RAFFLE

Korrie was diagnosed with stage 4 kidney cancer that has spread to her brain and lungs. All funds raised will go directly to Korrie to help with ongoing treatments and expenses.
*THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT!

Staples Area Church Directory

Staples

Staples Alliance
1512 8th St. NE, Staples.....218-894-2891
Pastor John Pavlica, Lead Pastor
Janet Eckman SMA
jre227@yahoo.com
Sunday Worship.....9:30 a.m.
Sunday School.....11:00 a.m.
Weds., AWANA.....6:00 p.m.

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

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

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

Sacred Heart Catholic Church
310 4th St. NE, Staples Church.....218-631-1593
parishsecretary@marysacc.org
Rev. JC Duncan, 218-632-7314
Rev. Greg Sauer, 218-632-7319
Mass: Sunday.....8:30 a.m.

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

Thomastown Covenant
15940 251st Ave., Staples.....218-894-3923
Sunday School.....9:15 a.m.
Sunday Worship.....10:30 a.m.
WEDNESDAY NIGHT YOUTH.....6:30 p.m.

Trinity Lutheran
1000 4th St., NE, Staples.....218-894-2372
Pastor Vicar Paul Koehler
Sunday Divine Service.....9:00 a.m.
Sunday School and Bible Class...10:30 a.m.

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

Aldrich

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

Cushing

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

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

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

Leader

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

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

Motley

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

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

St. Michael Catholic Church
280 1st Ave S, Motley.....218-631-1593
Rev. JC Duncan, 218-632-7314
Rev. Greg Sauer, 218-632-7319
Mass: Sunday.....10:30 a.m.

United Methodist

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

Oylen

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

Pillager

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

Casino Assembly of God

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

First Baptist

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

Hewitt

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

Trinity Lutheran Church (LCMS)

524 Front Street, PO Box 116, Hewitt, MN
Pastor Robin Fish
Sunday Worship.....10:30 a.m.

Hewitt Community Church

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

Verndale

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

Family Life Church

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

Hope Chapel Alliance

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

Immanuel Lutheran Church of Bartlett Township (LCMS)

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

Verndale United Methodist

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

Central Community Church

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

St. Frederick Catholic Church

20 Mason Avenue NW
Verndale.....218-631-1593
parishsecretary@marysacc.org
Rev. JC Duncan, 218-632-7314
Rev. Greg Sauer, 218-632-7319
MASS: Saturday.....6:00 p.m

St. Hubert Catholic Church

Bluegrass.....218-631-1593
Rev. JC Duncan, 218-632-7314
Father Greg Sauer, 218-632-7319
parishsecretary@marysacc.org
Mass: Saturday.....4:00 p.m.

Leaf River Township

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

Wadena

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

St. Ann’s Catholic Church

514 1st Street SE, Wadena(218) 631-1593
Rev. JC Duncan, 218-632-7314
Father Greg Sauer, 218-632-7319
parishsecretary@marysacc.org
Mass: Sunday (livestream).....10 a.m.

“What Does It Mean to Be a Nation?”

By Pastor Robert Drake, Faith Lutheran and Bethany Lutheran Churches

This month I started a sermon series titled “Our 250 Years.” All month we are exploring and celebrating our nation’s 250th anniversary. Last week, the day after the Fourth of July, I preached about “What Does It Mean to Be a Nation?” This coming Sunday, I will preach about “What Does It Mean to Be a Christian Nation?” Anyone is welcome to drop by for worship (Faith Lutheran, 8:30 a.m. and Bethany Lutheran, 10:00 a.m.).

In preparation for the opening sermon, I did some research on the definitions of words like nation, country, and state. From a political science perspective, a “nation” is defined as a group of people sharing a common identity, such as language, ancestry, religion, culture, etc. Whereas a “state” is defined as a group of people united under one form of government with borders defining the jurisdiction of that government.

So, as it applies to our nation’s 250th anniversary, what does it mean for us, as Americans, to be a nation?

Do we have a common language? We do - mostly. This is a problem with some immigrants today, but it has always been a problem with new immigrants to America. My best friend growing up, back in the early 80’s, had a very elderly German neighbor, who seemed so ancient to us! Her English was so bad that I could barely understand her. She even needed help filling out forms like her taxes, social security and voting.

Do we have a common ancestry? Nope! My grandparents on my mom’s side were 100% Norwegian, my grandma on my dad’s side was also 100% Norwegian, but my grandpa was mostly English and Scottish. I’m sure many of your own family

bloodlines are as diluted as mine.

How about religion? There too, we are very different: Christian, Jewish, Muslim, Native American spiritualism, or no religion at all. And lest you think all Christians are the same, the American colonists were very divided by denomination; Puritans were the largest at about 20%, Presbyterians were 18%, Anglicans and Baptists were next at 15%, and don’t forget the Quakers at about 10%.

Did they get along? Not really. They not only separated over religious ideas, but they also separated their town governments based on religious majorities. It was hard to worship freely as a Presbyterian in pre-Revolution Boston, where membership in a Puritan church was required to vote or hold office.

So, what is that makes us, as Americans now and 250 years ago, a nation?

I believe that we are all united around the idea of a free society called the United States of America. And as it states in our Declaration of Independence, this idea of freedom is breathed into our human yearning by God: “We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness.”

In other words, we are a nation because we value the idealistic goal of freedom for all to pursue life, liberty and happiness; and the source of that yearning for freedom comes from God.

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Orville Meyer

On September 30, 1961, Orville married Marjorie Kraemer. They first met on the farm when his sister, Janice, invited Marge to help bale hay. Together, they raised five children in Staples, Karen, Dan, Cindy, Joe and Amy.

In addition to his career with the DNR, Orville spent his time as a volunteer Staples firefighter, a trustee of Sacred Heart Church and a member of the Staples Lion's Club. After retire-

She is preceded in death by her parents, Curtis Yeager and Pauline (Polly) Yeager.

w29p A00006B2026JY08

Orville was preceded in death by his parents, one sister, Delores Macey, one brother, Vern Meyer, an infant sister, Viola and one grandson, Christopher Miller.

Orville "Orv" was an avid lover, protector and teacher of all things outdoors. He will be deeply missed as a husband, father, brother, uncle, grandpa, "Opa" and friend to many. "Auf Wiedersehen and Prost."

Arrangements are with the Iten Funeral home of Browerville, www.itenfuneralhome.com

w29c A00006B2026JY08

She is survived by four sons, Vern (Marie) Bittner, Donnie (Resa) Bittner, Clint (Patty) Bittner and Jim Snider; three sisters, Joyce Rollins, Bessy Mueller and Yvonne Joy; one brother, Jim Rollins; 10 beloved grandchildren, Patrick (Ashley) Bittner and family, Christopher Bittner (Rosalee Bowstring) and family, Dalton Beach Bittner (Carly Drake) and

w29c A00006B2026JY08

Irene is survived by one daughter, Debbie; one daughter-in-law, Shelly; one son-in-law, Pat; one sister-in-law, Ramona and cher-

w29c A00006B2026JY08

TRUTH

You can't know the truth until you know all of you
Years before the family dynamic was unveiled, did I ever realize your pain?
I knew your heart, but did I ever know you
Could I have ever known your struggle?
Did I ever see the real you?
See your strength.
I saw your smile and the happiness that it brought.
But how would I have ever known what went on in your mind?
I mean, I was completely blind.
If I even asked about your path.
Do they ever get that you were just a loving son in my eyes?
You were always there for me, maybe I was just too self-absorbed to be there for you.
Could you have been wearing a mask?
I'm sorry I never did ask.
The world revolved around me and I was too selfish to see.
Only in my later years, realizing how much it defined me.
I knew the music that you loved.
I knew the desire to travel away from here.
I didn't know your pain and angst in your heart.
Maybe I was too afraid to.
You will always be an ember in my heart that burns eternal.
Forever in my heart and soul.
Love and miss you,

Mom.

Mitchell Koppes 12/27/84 - 7/12/08



6/23

207 4th St. NE
Staples, MN

Staples World

Staples World

Dorothy was a devoted wife, mother, grandma and great-grandma, but the most important thing about Dorothy was her living faith in the Lord Jesus Christ. She lived a life of steadfast trust and hope in all seasons, praying always

GUNS, TRAPPING

Auction

**COLLECTIBLES
Much More!
Indoors**

The following personal property will be sold at public auction, located at the
Motley Fairgrounds, Motley, MN 56466. Indoors in case of rain. Watch for signs on:

Saturday, July 18, 2026

SALE TIME: 10:00 A.M.
LUNCH ON GROUNDS

RESTROOMS AVAILABLE











Floor model cigarette machine,
from the 1970's, wood frame
Bar top cigarette machine
2 neon signs, Summit and
Third Street Brew House

2007 never opened beer,
Sturgis bottles.
3 Old Hansen's Beer 2-1/4
gallon beer kegs, 2 w/box
Many glasses and pitchers
of different brands of beer

Beer trays, Hamm's and more
Pool table lights
Metal beer signs
Beer lamps, beer lights
Schmidt beer advertising signs
Bar top lamps

2" x 8" 7UP advertising
menu board, plastic
Many more items
too numerous to mention

Motley Resident

COLLECTOR'S GUNS, MORE



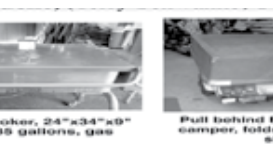
Winchester 300 win. mag. 1964/7,
74227
Stevens Model 671 22 cal., Patent
#2504768 20W4577
Model 12 A Remington pump rifle,
Patent 1-5-1909
Model 94-70 WCF 30-30 lever rifle,
118383 Winchester "early 1900's"
1920?
1951 J.C. Higgins 12 ga., slug only
J.C. Higgins, scope, Model 20-12
583290
J.C. Higgins Model 20-12 12 ga.,
modified choke 583300
Harrington Richardson, Model 402,
3 inch chamber, 410 pump shotgun,
whaling kill
BB guns: 2 Red Riders, 1 APX,
1 Crossman Assort ammo

Guns sell approximately noon.
Guns stored in a secure place until day of sale.

Randall Resident (Terry Schwanke, Owner)
Listing continued on side 2.

Trantana Auction Service






Rigid generator 6,500, 8 hp Yamaha,
1/4 hour on, w/cords

Smoker/cooker, upright
Meat saw and grinder, HDC

Maple sap cooker, 24"x34"x9"
deep, 25 - 35 gallons, gas

Pump behind Bel-Aire trailer
camera, folds out to queen
size

Second and Third,
Les Kouba signed and numbered
prints and other Kouba prints

Numbered
Les Kouba print:
SURVEYING HIS DOMAIN, signed

Kouba prints:
-DARK HOUSE ACTION, 4737/5000
-DARK HOUSE FINALE, 3170/5000
-BY THE COUNTRY STORE, 397/5000
-HUNGARIAN PARTRIDGE, 428/2000

Some Red Wing Items

Bowling Resident

Compound bow,
Impulse warrows
Archery equipment

MISCELLANEOUS
2 life vests Old trap bags
18 AA Halls 100/bag
Rem. Hulls 100/bag
Screen tent, 12' X 12'
6' x 8' trailer, homemade
Lg. dog crate Ladder jacks
Gas tank, boat, Mercury
Cordless drill set, no batt.
Shelf brackets
Bed frame (full/queen)
Chair, table
Vacuum Kirby, w/accessories
Tree stand seat Steps, screw-in
Back pack Bench vice
Hack saw Deer stands
Landing net 3 bikes
Misc. items Speakers
Fire chains Car floor mats

GUNS
20 ga. single shotgun, Stevens?
12 ga semi auto, Winchester 1400
Reloading misc.
Reloading supplies

Ice augers, one hand, one gas
Tire stand ladder
Chimney cap Battery tester
Earthquake chopper, gas, 212cc
Mr. Heater Sunflower
DUCKS
12 Bluebill decoys - rig
12' Jon boat w/cars
4 grass mats 6 butt decoys
6 Teal decoys
4 Mallard sleeper decoys
Decoy bags and camo burlap
Duck bill push pole
12 Ringneck duck decoys, like new
6 Canvasback decoys, like new
24 Bluebill decoys, like new
6 Goose decoys
24 Mallard decoys

14' Duck boat and paddles,
collector, Louisiana

Older alum. duck boat

TRAPPING
Trapping supplies, parts and tote
Trap tools and bucket
78 - 1 1/2 CA 14 - #1 Jump
13 - #1 LS 33 - #1 C.S
65 - #110 Conibear and stabilizer
Trapping supplies, wooden box,
gloves
6 - 350 Conibears 3 - #4 DLS
3 - #4 S.S., #3 LS 45 - #2 CS
18 - 1 3/4 CS 11 - #1-1/2 LS
4 - #2 LS 45 - #1-1/2 LS
Snare, trap parts Old traps
30+ Fur stretchers, muskrat
12 Fox fur stretchers Trap dye
12 Mink fur stretchers
50+ trap stakes (rebar)

Col. Walter Trantana, Lic. #77-51 • Browerville, MN 56438 • 218-820-1019

TRAFFIC COLLATERAL, TENNIS, CARBON GOOD CHARGE, handling fee as received only unless otherwise noted. Buyer must make by expiration of auction. Everything sold "AS IS". You are responsible for all taxes and duties. All items are sold without warranty or return due provisions except any printed materials. Purchases in excess of \$500 must be accompanied with a bank letter of credit. Refund non-refundable. See AGENTS.

Previews at allauctionsales.com and www.midwestauctions.com

2029x-30c

Arrangements are through the Creamation Society of Minnesota.

w29p A00006B2026JY08

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Colt League teams #2 and #3

With three teams in the traveling Colt League for third and fourth graders, Staples-Motley teams 2 and 3 played against each other at Converse Park in Motley in June. (Staples World photos by Mark Anderson)



Mustang league summer recreation

The Mustang League summer recreation baseball teams played at Dower Lake fields in Staples. Students in grades K-2 learned the basics of game play with live pitching. (Staples World photos by Mark Anderson)



Public Notices

NOTICE
CASS COUNTY
PUBLIC ACCURACY
TEST AND BALLOT
COUNTING
LOCATIONS
AUGUST 11, 2026,
STATE PRIMARY
ELECTION

Notice is hereby given that a public test of optical scan ballot tabulating and assistive voting equipment will be conducted on Monday, July 20, 2026. Public testing of Election Systems and Software DS200 precinct tabulator, DS450 central tabulator, and OmniBallot assistive voting device will begin at 1:30 p.m. at the Cass County Courthouse, Second Floor Election Room, 303 Minnesota Avenue West, Walker, Minnesota. This equipment will be used for the State Primary on August 11, 2026.

Ballots will be counted using DS200 and DS450 tabulators after the polls close at 8:00 p.m. on August 11, 2026, at multiple locations. Ballots cast at the polling places on election day will be counted using DS200 tabulators. Accepted absentee and mail ballots will be counted using a DS450 tabulator at the Cass County Courthouse, Walker, Minnesota.

The public accuracy test will be conducted in accordance with Minnesota Statutes 206.83 and is open to the public.

Betsy Woodford, Specialist
Cass County
Administration

29pnc

MOOSE LAKE
TOWNSHIP
NOTICE OF
CANDIDATE FILING
DATES

The following Moose Lake Township offices will be voted for at the state General Election to be held Tuesday, November 3, 2026. Candidates may begin filing for these offices on Tuesday, July 14, 2026 and continue until Tuesday, July 28, 2026. The office of the clerk will be open from 1:00 - 5:00 p.m. on July 28, 2026, for candidates to file.

Candidates must file at the Office of the Moose Lake Township Clerk, 5335 51st Ave SW, Pine River, MN 56474. Candidates must complete an affidavit of candidacy and pay a \$2.00 filing fee at the time of filing.

Candidates who will be absent from the state during the filing period may arrange to file in person with the Clerk within seven days prior to departure by giving a written affidavit of reasons for absence and completing all other filing requirements.

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

Township Clerk, (four (4) year regular term)
Township Supervisor
Seat 1, (four (4) year regular term).

Karen Roubal, Clerk
Moose Lake Township

28-29pnc

NOTICE
CITY OF MOTLEY
ADOPTS HEMP
BUSINESS
ORDINANCE

This is a summary of amendment to Ordinance No. 213, Regulations for Licensed Hemp Businesses.

The amendment revised provisions relating to licensing timelines and fees. Specifically, it clarifies the timing and due dates for annual license renewals and provides that the initial registration fee includes the first annual renewal period.

Ordinance No. 214 becomes effective following its passage and publication on June 8, 2026. A full text of the ordinance is available for review and inspection at the Motley City offices during regular business hours.

Tami Brotherton,
City Clerk
City of Motley

29pnc

NOTICE
TODD COUNTY
NOTICE OF PUBLIC
ACCURACY TESTING

The public is welcome to observe the Public Accuracy Testing of the Omni-Ballot and DS200 Vote Tabulator Machines for the upcoming State Primary Election.

Testing will be held on July 21, 2026 beginning at 1:30 p.m. located in the Main Street Government Center at 347 Central Avenue, Long Prairie, MN.

Contact 320-732-4414 with any questions.

Denise Gaida, Todd County
Auditor-Treasurer

29pnc

NOTICE OF
ELECTION
OF UNITED HOSPITAL
DISTRICT BOARD
MEMBERS

Notice is hereby given that the Regular Election of the United Hospital District, Staples, Minnesota, will be held on Tuesday, November 3, 2026, to elect members to serve on the District Board of Directors.

Any person desiring to be a candidate for member of the District Board shall file with the clerk of the city or the township in which they reside, an application to be placed on the ballot as a candidate for election as a member representing such city or township that is included in the Hospital District. Filing opens Tuesday, July 14, 2026 and closes Tuesday, July 28, 2026.

Members will be elected as follows: The election of one member of District Board for a term expiring December 31, 2030, representing and from each of the following cities and townships:

City of Staples
Moran Township
Motley Township
Becker Township
Byron Township
Thomastown Township

By Order of the District
Board of Directors
United Hospital District
Staples, Minnesota

Lana Hansen
District Clerk

28-29pnc

Lakewood Health System recognized by Minnesota Hospital Association

The Minnesota Hospital Association (MHA) recognized 60 hospital and health system teams and individuals from across the state recently for their work to strengthen patient care, communicate with patients and their communities, and support Minnesota's health care workforce. The awards were presented during MHA's 2026 Spring Innovation Forum.

"Across Minnesota, hospitals and health systems are finding innovative ways to improve care, strengthen the workforce and better serve their communities," said MHA President and CEO Dr. Rahul Koranne.

"At a time when hospitals and health systems are navigating significant uncertainty, these awards highlight the dedication, creativity and collaboration happening every day in health care organizations across our state."

Lakewood Health System, Staples and two Lakewood staff were honored with three awards:

• 2026 Excellence in Addressing Social Influencers of Health Award for The Nest, a community wellness and fitness center powered by Lakewood Health System in partnership with the Staples-Motley School District.

- This award recognizes organizations that develop innovative solutions to address factors that influence health beyond traditional medical care. For rural communities facing challenges such as aging populations, limited recreational infrastructure, and economic barriers, The Nest serves as an example of how partnerships can create lasting improvements in community health.

• 2026 Delivering the Message Award presented to Lisa Bjerga, Lakewood president and CEO.

- This award is presented by the MHA to individuals who demonstrate

exceptional leadership and advocacy on behalf of healthcare organizations and the communities they serve.

• 2026 Communicator Excellence Award presented to Dana Cantleberry, Lakewood's social media and community outreach specialist.

- This award recognizes outstanding communications, marketing and public relations professionals who excel at storytelling, community engagement and amplifying the mission of their organizations.



Accepts the Delivering the Message Award

Accepting the Delivering the Message Award is Lisa Bjerga, president and CEO (center) of Lakewood Health System, Staples, with, from left: Sarah Baumgartner, VP of nursing; Kelly Hotch-

kiss, director of clinic nursing; Angie Paavola, system manager of quality, risk and regulatory services; and Loren Walz, provider pipeline program manager. (Submitted photo)



Accepting the award

Lisa Bjerga, president and CEO at Lakewood Health System, Staples, accepts the Excellence in Addressing Social Influencers of Health Award. (Submitted photo)



Communicator Excellence award

Dana Cantleberry, social media and community outreach specialist (center) accepts the Communicator Excellence Award from Lisa Bjerga, president and CEO (left), and Loren Walz, provider pipeline program manager (right).



Firefighters

Staples firefighters rush to get equipment into position while fighting the shed fire south of Staples. (Staples World photo by Mark Anderson)

County union endorses Savaloja for sheriff

The Executive Board of Local #433 (Wadena County Sheriff Deputies) announced their official endorsement of Bryan Savaloja as Sheriff of Wadena County.

"After a thorough review of all the candidates' platforms, budget experience, supervisory/leadership experience, grant writing experience and dedication to labor, it is clear that Bryan Savaloja is the strongest choice to lead the Wadena County Sheriff's Office," a press release stated.

They described Savaloja as "A leader who respects the workforce and protects our neighborhoods is important. Bryan Savaloja has demonstrated integrity, experience and vision required for this vital role."

leader who respects the workforce and protects our neighborhoods is important. Bryan Savaloja has demonstrated integrity, experience and vision required for this vital role."

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Hundreds attend Fourth of July program in Staples

An estimated 300 people attended the Fourth of July program at Veterans Park in Staples. Pictured above, a number of veterans posed for a photo following the program. They included Jerry Cleveland, Roddy Sams, Ronald Nichols, Douglas Fahnlander, Lee Jenkins, Jim Vollegraaf, Jack Giza, Duane Jensen, Tom Cross, Mike Blessing, Joe Radermacher, Kevin Hunt, Bruce Nelsen, Ken Klose, David Johnson, Cecil Johnson, Bob Hamann, Bruce Knosalla, Josh Ulring, Teresa Sorenson, Milt Peterson, Wayne Berry, Greg Frisk, Larry Knosalla, Rick Anderson, Derrick Knosalla, Earl Allee, Paul J. Kern, Dar-

rell Monson, Paul Ridge, Michael P. Heier, Mark Holper, Jay Jares, Brian Pogreba, Chuck Holst, Al Dolezal, Ron Kimball, Roger Randgaard, Greg Kessler, Roger Donovan, Dan Shaw, Richard Lange, Chad Converse, Loren Morey, Jerry Berg, Michael Sanoski, Jim Rutten. Back row, members of the Motley American Legion Post #124. Above right, Rosie Blessing of Staples waved an American flag. In lower photo, Frank Odell of Staples spoke at the program. (Submitted photos by Joanne Gilligan) *More photos from the July Fourth celebration will be in next week's paper.*



MMFCU continued from page 1a

Employees, customers to transition to MMFCU

customers. “We understand that banking relationships are built on trust,” said Bob Gerads, President/CEO. “Our goal is to make this transition as easy as possible while continuing to provide the personal service customers expect.” Customers of the Clarissa branch will receive additional communication outlining the transition details, including account information and any steps that may be required. Both organizations are working closely together to ensure clear and consistent communication throughout the process.

Mid Minnesota Federal Credit Union also looks forward to welcoming branch

employees as part of the transition. “The team at this location brings strong relationships and deep knowledge of the community,” said Bob Gerads. “We’re committed to supporting them through this transition and working together to continue delivering a great experience for customers.” Mid Minnesota Federal Credit Union noted that the transition supports its long-term strategy of serving local communities with accessible, relationship-focused financial services.

Following the completion of the transaction, Mid Minnesota Federal Credit Union will continue to operate the branch location,

integrating it into its network while maintaining a strong focus on customer service and community engagement. “As an organization already serving this community, we’re proud to deepen those relationships and see this as a natural fit,” said Bob Gerads. McQueen Financial Advisors provided financial advisory services to Mid Minnesota Federal Credit Union and Tim Oppelt, Partner at SW&M served as Mid Minnesota’s Federal Credit Union’s legal counsel. Hovde Group served as financial advisor to Unity Bank and Honigman LLP served as legal counsel to Unity Bank.



New train depot platform

A new concrete platform is being poured at the Staples Depot, to make it easier for Amtrak passengers to load and unload. (Staples World photo by Mark Anderson)



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- and more

Call 218-894-7870 or schedule online at EssentiaHealth.org/Schedule



St. Joseph’s-Staples Clinic
Monday-Friday: 8 am–4:30 pm
Urgent Care Monday-Friday: 8 am–6 pm



SMBP clean-up day volunteers

Many of the volunteers that worked on the May 29 City Wide Cleanup day for Staples-Motley Beyond Poverty, cleaning up outdoor spaces for residents in Staples. The crew went to eight homes, including one who hauled their own refuse after it was loaded and one who paid for their own load. Sixteen volunteers loaded and hauled the items to the city wide cleanup site. A total of seven trailers took away the garbage, mattresses, furniture, tires and appliances. In total, there was over 3,000 pounds of garbage, 13

mattresses, many tires, scrap metal, and more. Volunteers in the picture are: back row, Gail Honek, North Wiebesick, Joe Knosalla, Bob Schafer, Stewart Wiebesick, Jim Hanson, Bill Evans; middle row, Penny Olsen, Megan Lindgren, Pam Evans, Sherry Frisk, sitting: Bobbe Braford; kneeling: Kerry Lindgren. Volunteers not pictured: Tom Honek, Wayne Berry, Roy and Kathy Miles, Norman Drone, Les Killian, Steve Sing and Chad Longbella. (Submitted photo)