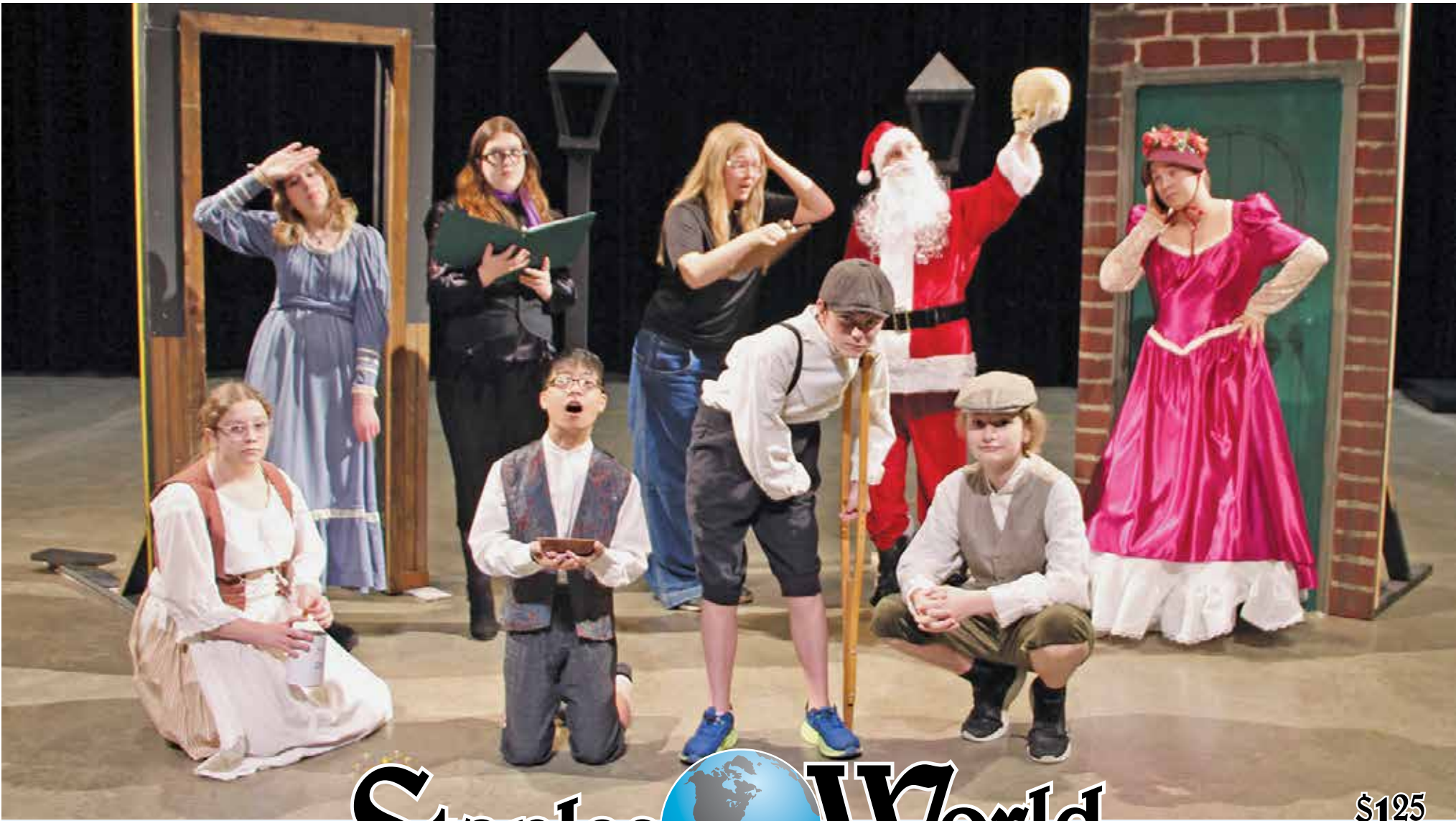


Inside this issue:

SEDA considers industrial building sale
Elijah Statema earns black belt
Terry Brisk's murder still unsolved
Concerns about farmer mental health



Wednesday, November 12, 2025 **Staples World** Staples, Minnesota \$1²⁵

Christmas Chaos Everyone has their own version of A Christmas Carol as Staples-Motley students are preparing to act out the comedy “A Christmas Chaos,” their fall play to be held Nov. 21, 22 and 23. Pictured, front row from left, Ava Davis, Caleb Bestland, Landon Ziegler and Alex Tkalcich; back row, Lexa Graves, Charlotte Aldrich, Hailey Richardt, Addison Potter and Joshua Cushing. (Photo by Mark Anderson)

Walsh teaches parents how kids react to stress

By Mark Anderson
Managing Editor

New brain science is showing what children are thinking about our modern world and Erin Walsh has some practical ideas for parents, grandparents, teachers, coaches and caregivers to benefit from the new science.

Walsh will be speaking Tuesday, Nov. 18, at Faith Lutheran Church in Staples. A free supper begins at 5:30 p.m., with the program to start at 6 p.m. The event is hosted by Staples-Motley Beyond Poverty.

Walsh has previously come to Staples to speak to school students and the community about how screens (computers, smart phones and televisions) are impacting their lives and how to handle the constant lure of screens wisely.

Walsh said she is excited to come back to Staples and



Erin Walsh

share what she has been studying with the Spark and Stitch Institute. Walsh also has a new book, titled “It’s Their World ... Teens, Screens, and the Science of Adolescence.”

“Children experience stress as they grow and develop,” said Walsh, “What does that show up as?”

She said her talk will help identify how children handle stress and shine a more accurate light on how stress problems could show up in a child’s behavior.

“It comes out sideways, there could be irritability, anger or volatility,” said Walsh. “As a parent, we can misinterpret that and it leads to power struggles and battles.”

Learning how a child’s brain responds when under stress can lead to empathy and ideas on how to help the child. Walsh said children need appropriate challenges to build skills for handling stress.

“As they set goals and move through challenges, they rely on parents and caring adults to help them build the skills,” said Walsh.

The Spark and Stitch Institute of Minneapolis has been working on relationships for parents and

See **WALSH** on page 10a

School looking at building referendum in April

By Mark Anderson
Managing Editor

Based on community survey and input sessions, the Staples-Motley School District was given a proposal to expand shop space at the high school and move the fifth grade classes to the Staples-Motley Elementary School building.

To do this, they are proposing a \$42 million building referendum for April 14, 2026. The proposal also includes moving administration and the main entrance to the cafeteria door area, constructing a new entrance and offices facing the Staples Community Center.

“From a financial standpoint, this is what people asked for,” said Staples-Mot-

ley Superintendent Shane Tappe. “Taxpayers told us they don’t want to see a tax increase.”

He said because it keeps the school taxes at the current level, it’s a tax-neutral proposal, although the ballot will say that this will increase your taxes.

“The stakeholders spoke, we listened,” said Tappe. “This addresses the needs we have as a district, it’s an investment for the next 20 years.”

The plan was presented at the Nov. 3 school board meeting. It included a tax impact study that shows the tax impact would not go above the current level of taxes being paid to the school district.

Dave Bergeron, Managing Partner at ICS, the

building consultant company that conducted the study, told the board, “A lot of time, thought, energy and hours went into this.”

Building study

Bergeron said the study asked “How do you invest in our spaces for the next 20 years?”

Jason Splett of ICS went through the building study at the Nov. 3 meeting. The current study included input from school personnel from every sector, a physical space survey, an educational adequacy study, a steering committee, an online survey and a community open house with a facility tour.

Common themes included a need for class-

See **REFERENDUM** on page 10a



High school construction proposal

The preliminary plan for the Staples-Motley School District’s construction proposal for the high school/middle school includes new shop spaces, in

blue at the top right, and a new main entry, the dark blue at the lower central area. Proposed upgrades are shown in red.

Council denies school’s land swap request

By Mark Anderson
Managing Editor

The Staples City Council rejected a land swap proposal where the Staples-Motley School District would take over the parking lot between the high school and the Staples Community Center and exchange it for a parcel of land next to city owned property on Pine

Grove Road and Dakota Ave. SE.

Staples City Administrator Jerel Nelsen said the additional land would help the city with their long term goal of eliminating the duplicate roadway near Pine Grove Road, with a tiny strip of land between the two roads. That would allow the city to sell the land on the south side of

town so that it goes onto the tax rolls.

The parking lot had been school property before the community center was built, when the school made a deal for the city to own the parking lot.

Staples-Motley Superintendent Shane Tappe was at the meeting and told

See **COUNCIL** on page 3a

Weather

2025

This Week's Forecast			
	High	Low	Cond.
Nov. 12	50	27	Sunny
Nov. 13	52	32	M. Sunny
Nov. 14	55	44	M. Cloudy
Nov. 15	48	30	Rain
Nov. 16	40	26	Rain
Nov. 17	37	27	Cloudy
Nov. 18	37	27	M. Cloudy

Average Temps:

Last Year, 2024			
	High	Low	Cond.
Nov. 12	46°	32	Sunny
Nov. 13	44	40	Rain
Nov. 14	45	39	Cloudy
Nov. 15	43	32	M. Cloudy
Nov. 16	46	35	M. Sunny
Nov. 17	47	38	Sunny
Nov. 18	53	31	P. Sunny

H = 38° Low = 24°
Compiled by Dale Hausmann, WCCO's Staples area Weatherwatcher

Public Notices

City of Staples 9A

Obituaries

Garry Carpenter
Steven Dille
Kenneth Johnson
Caroline Statema
Carl Trager

Threat didn't affect school

A story in last week’s newspaper about a threat taking place near the high school happened outside the school and did not involve school personnel.

In this case, the school didn’t learn about the incident until after it had been reported and there was no imminent threat to the school or to students.

Staples-Motley Superintendent Shane Tappe said if there had been a threat to the school or to students, parents would have been notified immediately by the school district.



Coffee-lovin’ cowgirls



Ronnie Noska, left, of Staples and Lily England of Motley, with their respective horses Romeo and Lily, rode to town Nov. 6, to get a cup of java at the Stomping Grounds coffee shop in Staples. The Quarter Horses are owned by Julie Peterson of Staples. Noska and England said their round trip ride was approximately 10 miles. (Staples World photos by Dawn Timbs)

Headed home

Lower photo: Fueled with their favorite caffeinated drinks, cowgirls Noska and England began their trek back home.



Rural backyard viewing

The recent fall weather has offered beautiful landscape viewing; a harvested hay field in the afternoon, cattle in the pasture under a morning sky and an evening harvest moon. (Staples World photos by Janice Winter)



WIC continues during shutdown

Minnesota WIC services continues during the federal government shutdown. The Minnesota Dept. of Health has received additional funding from the USDA to continue WIC program benefits into mid-November.

WIC clients should:

- Keep their WIC appointments.
- Continue shopping with their WIC Card and use

their benefits.

- Watch for updates in the WIC mobile app
- Check with MN WIC website for updates: <https://www.health.state.mn.us/people/wic>
- Call or email Todd County’s WIC Program at 320-732-4456 or wic@co.todd.mn.us if they have any questions or concerns

What is WIC? The Spe-

cial Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants & Children (WIC) is a nutrition and breastfeeding program that helps eligible pregnant women, new mothers, babies and young children. WIC provides nutrition education and counseling, nutritious foods, and referrals to health and other social services.

Motley area law enforcement

Recent reports from the Motley Police Department (MPD) and Morrison County Sheriff’s Office (MCSO) included the following:

Nov. 3 - Motley Police issued a citation to Michael Dearane Terrell, 46, for driving after revocation.

Oct. 30 - Motley Police issued a citation to Steven George Paquette, 78, for stealing \$400 worth of fuel from a parked semi at BRICKS Travel Center in Motley.

Oct. 29 - Motley Police received a report of property damage from a res-

ident at the 100 block of Birch St., Motley.

Nov. 1 - Morrison County deputies responded to a report from the Cass County Sheriff’s office of a domestic situation at the 6600 block of Azalea Rd., Motley. Cody John Peterson, 27, was arrested.



LAKEWOOD WELCOMES



Taylor Heck, DPM
PODIATRIST

Lakewood is pleased to announce the arrival of on-staff podiatrist, Dr. Taylor Heck. Dr. Heck provides comprehensive foot and ankle care for patients of all ages, with special interests in limb salvaging and sports medicine. In his free time, he enjoys skiing, hiking, golfing, cooking, traveling, and spending time with his wife, Aimee, and their dog. He will be seeing patients at Lakewood’s Staples clinic.

TO SCHEDULE AN APPOINTMENT CALL
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COUNCIL continued from page 1a

City council wants parking lot to remain with community center

the council that the school would be able to use funding to fix up the parking lot, but they can't contribute to the lot if it's owned by the city.

Council member Doug Case said he was opposed to losing control of the parking lot because it's the only land connected to the Staples Community Center. He said if the city wanted to expand the community center, they would have nowhere to go. Also if they wanted to sell the building, it would be hampered because there would be no parking spaces.

"It locks the building into being what it is," said Case. "You don't know what's going to happen in 20 or 30 years."

Nelsen said the city would still be able to use the lot for community center events. Several council members noted that the lot is in bad shape and it's not a good look when people come to sporting events at The Nest.

They also noted that the school uses the parking lot more than the city does.

Case suggested charging the school \$50 a day to use the lot, then use that money to fix it up.

Council member Blake Gerard also opposed the land swap, noting that the city is currently putting a million dollars into fixing up the community center.

"We didn't grow that community center just to lose that parking lot," said Gerard.

Council member Roy Miles said the city should fix up the parking lot and suggested putting it in the city budget.

Citizen complaint

Carla and Dale Leehy told the council they were frustrated by the city's building inspector, who pre-

vented them from building a home in the city. Carla said they wanted to build a "shouse," which is part shed and part house. She said they could not get a permit until they had a structural engineering drawing that met city codes. She said they had been living in a camper while trying to get it done but now have left the community.

Community Concern for Youth

Haley Buhl of the Todd County Community Concern for Youth Program updated the council on their activities this year. She said they had 23 cases of students completing the program, putting in 284 community service hours and 48 volunteer hours. They participated in 10 city clean-ups, including parks and school areas.

Students in the program grew 1,200 pounds of food that were donated to area food shelves.

In other news, the council

- Approved five percent increases in electric, water and sewer rates for city residents. This will result in approximately \$10 per month increase for the average customer's total utility bill.

- Approved Dena Iverson to host an outdoor band on Aug. 21, during Railroad Days, for a private party at her residence on 4th Street SE. Nelsen said they have hosted the event in the past and there have been no problems.

- Scheduled public hearing for Nov. 25 council meeting to consider non-payment of delinquent charges for properties in tax forfeiture.

- Canceled the Nov. 11 city council meeting due to Veterans Day.

75 YEARS Ago - 1950

- Nov. 16, 1950 - Weather predictions call for a heavy fall of snow, so people are warned to be prepared for what ever the weather man has in store for us.

Blizzard conditions have been prevalent in all of the surrounding states, with more than 11 inches reported to have fallen in parts of North and South Dakota, and six inches of snow in northern Minnesota, and in the Duluth area.

- Nov. 16, 1950 - Samuel Clemens' famous story "Huckleberry Finn" has been selected as the junior class play of the Staples high school class to be presented at the high school auditorium on Tuesday evening, Nov. 21, with the curtain at 8 o'clock.

Cast in the lead role is

- O -
Compiled by
Dawn Timbs
- O -

Robert Johnson; "Aunt Polly" will be played by Miss Doreen Conlin; Ruth Watson "Aunt Ruth" will be played by LuJean Batcher; and Fred Raymond will be taken by Jim Mohler.

Others in the cast include Eldon MacRunnels as John Finn; Kermit Severson as Tom Sawyer; Ruth Jackson as Melba White; Joan Malfeo as Mary Jane; Linda Riedel and Rose Kempe as Clara and Amy Woppinger, respectively.

The cast is under the direction of Norman Anderson, dramatic coach of the high school this year.

- Nov. 16, 1950 - Motley school will sponsor a benefit carnival to be given on next Tuesday evening, Nov. 21, at 8 o'clock, for Billy Berndt, who sustained serious injuries in the Motley-Pillager football game a couple of weeks ago. Billy expects to have a cast put on his leg this week. He is a Brainerd hospital patient.

- Nov. 16, 1950 - The Rust College Singers, of Holly Springs, Mississippi, appearing in a program of spirituals, semi-classical, and specialty numbers will appear at the Staples Methodist church Sunday morning, Nov. 19, during the regular worship hour.

Rev. Elmer Gebhard, pastor of the church, stated that he is very sorry that the singers could not be obtained for an evening concert, but they are booked up so far in advance.

- Nov. 16, 1950 - Staples canning center will close for the season on Tuesday, Nov. 21, announces J.V. Raine, supervisor of the center. All patrons are urged to have all of their season's canning done by that time.

50 YEARS Ago - 1975

- Nov. 13, 1975 - Thirty paintings by Jon Hassler, Brainerd Community College humanities instructor, will be on display at the BCC Galleries starting Sunday, Nov. 9, and continuing through Thursday, Nov. 20.

The exhibit has the theme, "Farm and Forest - '75". Hassler says the pictures are "rural landscapes from central and northern Minnesota plus some paintings I made during a tour of New England last September."

- Nov. 13, 1975 - The Staples Community Variety show, "Spirit of '76," will be presented to the public Saturday, Nov. 15, at 8 p.m. in the Staples Auditorium.

Stan Carlson, director of the performance, announced that the show will feature Staples area residents in a patriotic, historic panorama.

Acts which will be fea-

tured on the show include the following: John Wolak, pluckin' and strummin' some blue banjo; a song and dance routine by the Sweet Adalines, in conjunction with the Staples Lionelles; a medley of Stephen Foster songs sung by Barb Cline; selections by the Staples Men's Chorus; three elementary groups; and many other enjoyable acts.

- Nov. 13, 1975 - The Sixth Day, an exciting Christian singing group, will be appearing at the memorial Auditorium in Wadena at 8 p.m. Saturday evening, Nov. 15, sponsored by the Mid-State Youth for Christ.

Having just returned from a tour of the East Coast, the Sixth Day is quickly becoming a very well known Gospel singing group.

In the past months, The Sixth Day has appeared at civic clubs, college campuses, a Billy Graham crusade, as well as numerous appearances with Apollo 15 Astronaut Co. Jim Irwin.

25 YEARS Ago - 2000

- Nov. 16, 2000 - "Bring on the ice," says a sportsman whose last name fits the season he's counting on to help launch a dream come true- his invention.

Dwaine Winter, Sr., 69, of Staples is not an engineer. He never even finished high school.

He didn't let that stop him.

The retired peace officer/ restaurateur has invented an ice fishing alarm called "Dewey's De-Lite."

Winter designed it after years of winter angling on Gull and other lakes in north central Minnesota.

The alarm provides a red light and/or a siren akin to home security systems when a fish takes the bait.

He developed the unique alarm along with his son, Dwaine, Jr., wife, Carole, and their neighbor, Gordon Greenwaldt, Jr.

- Nov. 16, 2000 - Six Cardinal girls last weekend competed in the Section 3A swim meet, finishing in seventh place. Those swimming at Becker High school were Britta Binek, Bre Brown, Katie Palmer, Abby Palmer, Tara Snyder and Kendall Spar. Abby Palmer became the first Cardinal girl to qualify for the state swimming meet with her second place performance in the 100 yard breast stroke.

- Nov. 16, 2000 - The Pillager football season ended Friday night with a loss, but the community enjoyed their best year ever in high school football.

Playing in the state football tournament for the first



Mystery photo

Hello readers. This week's archive photo is from 1950. 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.

time, Pillager lost 28 - 8 to Warren-Alvarado-Oslo, the Section 8A team champs from north of Grand Forks.

- Nov. 16, 2000 - Cardinals Nikki Bender and Rachel Landecker were named to the Mid-State All Conference Volleyball team.

- Nov. 16, 2000 - The Staples Motley Cardinal girl's tennis tri-captains, Julia Nytes, Amy Peterson and Mary DiGiovanni, were recently named members of the 2000-2001 Minnesota State High School Tennis Coaches Association Academic All-State Tennis Team.

To qualify, the seniors maintained grade point averages of 3.8 or higher. Nytes plans to study at the University of Minnesota, Minneapolis campus and enroll in pre-law; Peterson is currently studying at Central lakes College, Brainerd campus under the post-secondary option program and DiGiovanni plans to study

at Northwestern College to become an elementary teacher.

10 YEARS Ago - 2015

- Nov. 12, 2015 - Over 18,000 students and educators, including 30 from Motley Staples Middle School (MSMS), attended WE Day Minnesota Nov. 3, at the Xcel Energy Center in St. Paul.

According to information at their website, WE Day is a celebration of youth making a difference in their local and global communities.

- Nov. 12, 2015 - Lamp-lighter Community Theatre, Staples, is performing the Christmas classic, "It's a Wonderful Life," as a 1940s live radio broadcast in front of a studio audience. Fifteen actors are bringing to life the 37 different characters as well as producing dozens of sound effects.

Todd Cty. court report Nov. 5

Long Prairie Police

Adrian Ambriz Montanez, Long Prairie. Speed 37/30. Fine \$40. Fee \$85.

Juan Carlos Garcia Covarrubias, Long Prairie. Driver must carry proof of insurance when operating vehicle. Fine \$200. Fee \$85.

Brandon Lee Kasper, Little Falls. Windshield tinted or glazed. Fine \$50. Fee \$85.

Jonathan Jr. Ulloa, Long Prairie. Driving after revocation. Fine \$200. Fee \$85.

Lizandro Vazquez, Long Prairie. Cannabis-use, possess, or transport cannabis or hemp products under 21 years of age. Fine \$50. Fee \$85. Driver must carry proof of insurance when operating vehicle. Fine \$200.

Brett Mathew Anderson, Little Falls. Enter WMA posted close to trespass, enter or use WMA during closed hours. Fine \$50. Fee \$85.

MN Dept. of Natural Resources

Lukas John Jackson, Alexandria. Take migratory waterfowl without Migratory Bird Hunting and Conservation Stamp. Fine \$40. Fee \$85.

Daniel Charles Pipek, Staples. WMA-destroy, disturb, or remove vegetation, property, threaten/endangered plants or animals. Fine \$50. Fee \$85.

MN State Patrol

Waldo Dias Agraz, Westley, CA. Speed 70/60. Fine \$40. Fee \$85.

Kobe Christopher Brightly, Sauk Rapids. Speed 75/65. Fine \$40. Fee \$85. Expired registration. Fine \$30.

Maria Aili Ervasti, Staples. Hands free law. Fine \$50. Fee \$85.

Eric John Wenz, Eagle Bend. Speed 70/60. Fine \$40. Fee \$75.

Ella Jo Christensen, Blaine. Speed 84/70. Fine \$50. Fee \$85.

Timothy Ervin Culp, Apple Valley. Speed 88/70. Fine \$60. Fee \$75.

Emmanuel Datilus, Alexandria. Speed 69/60. Fine \$40. Fee \$115.

Ashley Kay Gebhardt, Osakis. Speed 80/70. Fine \$40. Fee \$85.

Luis Alfredo Hidalgo Bonilla, Brownsville. Speed 70/60. Fine \$40. Fee \$85.

Eurius G. Karr, Fargo, ND. Speed 80/70. Fine \$40. Fee \$75.

Luke David Maers, Blaine. Speed 86/70. Fine \$60. Fee \$85.

John Randall Moran, Detroit Lakes. Speed 75/70. Fine \$40. Fee \$85.

Ashten Lee Pastian, Osakis. Speed 65/60. Fine \$40. Fee \$85.

Billie Lea Perkins, Victoria. Speed 80/70. Fine \$40. Fee \$85.

Elizabeth Marie Rice, Hayward, WI. Driving after suspension. Fine \$200. Fee \$85.

Jordan Lee Truxton, Muskegon, MI. Speed 75/70. Fine \$40. Fee \$85.

Jill Casey Tveit, Rogers. Speed 80/70. Fine \$40. Fee \$85.

Lawrence Michael Wilhelmy,

Spooner, WI. Speed 65/55. Fine \$40. Fee \$85.

Staples Police

Stephanie Ann Neely, Bemidji. Driving after revocation. Fine \$200. Fee \$85.

Todd County Sheriff's Office

Sarah Christine Ahrens, Sauk Centre. Speed 65/55. Fine \$40. Fee \$85.

Mohamed Abdullahi Alibary, St. Cloud. Vehicle signals-maintenance-good working condition. Fine \$40. Fee \$85.

Marcderson Eliacin, Browerville. Speed 69/60. Fine \$40. Fee \$85.

James Ruben Hatter, Aldrich. Driving without a valid license for vehicle class or type. Fine \$100. Fee \$85. Driver must carry proof of insurance when operating vehicle. Fine \$200.

Yanilda Del Socorro Herrera Chavarria, Long Prairie. Driving without a valid license for vehicle class or type. Fine \$100. Fee \$85.

Miranda Marie Looker, Eagle Bend. Speed 64/55. Fine \$40. Fee \$85.

The following cases were heard before Judge Daniel A. Benson in Seventh District Court in Todd County October 29, 2025.

Nicholas Robert Schutz, Maple Grove. 3rd degree DWI-operate motor vehicle under influence of alcohol. Dismissed. 3rd degree DWI-operate motor vehicle-alcohol concentration 0.08 within 2 hours. Sentenced. Local confinement (364 days, stay 0 yr mo 360 days for 2 yr credit for time served: 4 days). Supervised probation, 2 yr. Fine \$300. Fee \$105. Open bottle law; drinking and consumption. Dismissed. Cannabis open package-cannabis use in motor vehicle on street or highway prohibited. Fine \$50. Wireless communication device-hold wireless communication device with one or both hands. Dismissed.

The following cases were heard before Judge Daniel A. Benson in Seventh District Court in Todd County October 28, 2025.

Jakob Reilly Knosalla, Staples. Reckless driving, racing on street or highway. Dismissed. Speed 99/65. Fine \$150. Fee \$225.

The following cases were heard before Judge Daniel A. Benson in Seventh District Court in Todd County October 27, 2025.

Nicole Dawn Wiedewitsch, Staples. 3rd degree DWI-operate motor vehicle-alcohol concentration 0.08 within 2 hours. Sentenced. Local confinement (364 days, stay 0 yr 0 mo 362 for 2 yr credit for time served: 2 days). Supervised probation, 2 yr. Fine \$200. Fee \$105. 4th degree DWI-operate motor vehicle under influence of alcohol. Dismissed.



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DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

Minnesota winter gets its foot in the door

Perhaps it should have come as no surprise. After all, last Saturday, November 8th, was the start of Minnesota’s firearms deer hunting season, a time when—as tradition has it—hunters are supposed to be wishing for tracking snow. Then too, Monday, November 10th, was the 50th anniversary of the sinking of the ore carrier Edmund Fitzgerald during a fierce “gales of November” storm on Lake Superior. Tuesday, November 11th, was the 85th anniversary of the 1940 Armistice Day blizzard,

which killed 49 Minnesotans—many of them duck hunters—on a day that turned rapidly from balmy to deadly. Perhaps wintry weather was actually overdue.



Mike Rahn

We’ve been lulled by a balmy autumn, one that has brought few early frosts, and—until now—snow showers limited to the far north. That changed last weekend, with around-the-clock sub-freezing temperatures and snow showers over much of the state.

If the past predicts the future, there’ll be at least a spell or two of warm weather in the days ahead. That’s even in the forecast as this is being written. The takeaway here is that we’ve received the first serious warning that winter 2025-26 is waiting in the wings, is in the on-deck circle, or on standby; whatever metaphor suits you.! Any way we look at it, wintry weather will soon be the rule, rather than the exception.

Migratory waterfowl are impacted by weather changes like this. Shallow wetlands are the first bodies of water to freeze. One such

body of water near us froze over most of its surface last weekend, with only a few slivers of open water on Saturday, in one of which were about 20 mallards loafing and feeding. On Sunday those slivers had narrowed significantly, the rest of the wetland remained locked in ice, and the mallards were gone. They may remain longer and feed in picked corn and soybean fields nearby, resting in safety on the open waters of several large lakes. But their options are diminishing. Ditto for the Canada geese and trumpeter swans that have been using this wetland.

Obviously, freeze-overs like this one are of consequence to duck hunters, too. For most species of ducks, it’s the shallow wetlands and the rice bed lakes that are the “feeding stations” that may hold them here if they’re not exposed to too much hunting pressure and move on. But when these shallow, food rich bodies of water freeze over for even a few days, ducks that are primed for migration are likely to climb aboard a favorable wind and head south.

Several duck species that migrate through Minnesota are more lake-oriented, finding favored foods like crustaceans, mollusks, and small fish in deeper water; ducks like the goldeneye, bufflehead, and the merganser species. These may hang on longer on our large, deep lakes after the ringnecks, mallards, and other species more oriented to small wetlands depart.

My longtime duck hunting partner and I have been unpleasantly surprised after traveling a significant distance in late October to a large wildlife refuge with numerous shallow, rice-filled lakes. One year a cold snap had hit several days preceding our trip, and we arrived to find only the largest lakes—“fish lakes”—with open water, and our resort hosts nervous that their septic systems might freeze

before the next weekend’s deer hunting opener!

At such times we’ve resorted to hunting the big lakes that are still open, often having to break ice at the landing to launch our boat. We’ve been on the water—in younger days, perhaps foolishly—when the thermometer read in the upper single digits, and the water’s gently rolling surface seemed to have the consistency of oil, and within a matter of hours would be ice.

Of course, there are some ducks whose migratory timetable is not as much influenced by the weather as it is by diminishing daylight. “Calendar ducks,” we call them. These include—certainly with exceptions—such species a blue-winged teal, wood ducks, gadwall, and widgeon. Most are long gone now.

Gone now, too, are the woodcock, which need earth soft enough to probe for their diet that consists chiefly of earthworms. Once the soil begins to stiffen and probing becomes difficult, the last of them—generally believed to be the locals, rather than migrants—will depart.

The local songbird population is now largely made up of species that will be with us throughout the winter. Among them are the chickadees, nuthatches, blue jays, cardinals, juncos, and several woodpecker and finch species. Waxwings and other nomadic winter birds will also visit our feeders from time to time. Like our hardy fellow Minnesotans, they’re with us for the long haul.

It’s a waiting game now; waiting for a steady regimen of sub-freezing overnight and daily average temperatures to cool our lakes enough for them to freeze solid and safe. Waiting, too, for snow in sufficient abundance to add that other important dimension to a recreational menu that makes many of us unwilling to become migratory snowbirds.

Quote of the week

“It is sometimes an appropriate response to reality to go insane.”
— Philip K. Dick

Concerns about farmer mental health

From University of Minnesota Extension

Income for Minnesota farmers continues to decline, an added challenge on top of unpredictable weather events, tariffs and labor shortages. These stressors can take a toll on people working in the agricultural sector.

Extension Educator Emily Krekelberg and Jeff Bender, director of the Upper Midwest Agricultural Safety and Health Center (UMASH), share what you need to know about farmer mental health.

Q: What are the most common mental health concerns among farmers?

Bender: There are many uncertainties in farming, including finances, weather, fatigue and commodities markets. These factors are often compounded over time and become long-term stressors that wear on farmers, their families and people in their communities. Cultural stoicism also keeps many folks from talking about these stressors. And on top of that, many farmers experience social isolation, and may lack convenient access to mental health services.

Q: What factors influence farmer mental health?

Krekelberg: Mental health is shaped by the interaction between personal, occupational and environmental factors. Unpredictable elements like weather events, market volatility and animal disease outbreaks can cause significant psychological strain. At the same time, a strong social network, access to support services and engagement in health-promoting behaviors — like adequate rest, nutrition and physical activity — can play a direct role in improving mental health.

Q: What are warning signs that someone in your life might be struggling?

Krekelberg: Changes in behavior are key indicators — withdrawal from the community, increased irritability or anger, lack of interest in daily tasks and neglect of personal or farm responsibilities. Other warning signs could include sudden uncontrollable emotions, emotional numbness, poor eating or sleeping habits, and an increase in physical illness. It’s important to remember that

all of us have bad days, so also consider how long you’ve been observing these warning signs. If someone seems “off” for more than a few days or weeks, it’s worth checking in. Having someone notice and reach out can be a critical step toward getting support.

Q: What challenges do rural farmers face in accessing the care they need?

Bender: Farmers face a number of challenges, including inadequate availability of services, limited accessibility of those services, and the low social acceptability for those seeking mental health services. It’s estimated that 62% of rural communities face a shortage of mental health professionals and that half of U.S. counties have no mental health practitioner. The good news is that the situation has improved over the past decade, as additional services have become available.

Q: How does your work at the University of Minnesota support farmer mental health?

Bender: At UMASH, we’ve learned that addressing farmer mental health requires bringing people together. We’ve gotten involved several times around key events, especially during outbreaks like Porcine Epidemic Diarrhea Virus and Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza, which had a major impact on farmers, their families and rural communities. Supporting mental health in these situations takes a team effort that involves healthcare providers, University of Minnesota Extension, industry partners, veterinarians and others — all of whom have a role to play. By building these networks, we create opportunities for collaboration, engagement and stronger support systems for farmers, their families and rural communities.

Krekelberg: I work on a variety of programs that support farmer mental health. These programs include Farm Couple Retreats to help strengthen relationships and communication, Ambiguous Loss and Farming programs to educate farm families on dealing with ongoing grief and monthly suicide prevention trainings in partnership with NAMI Minnesota.

Ideas to spruce up your town

By Becky McCray
saveyour.town

Too often, placemaking sounds expensive. That’s just because people talk about expensive consultants, fancy masterplans and big projects like they do in big cities.

In tiny towns, placemaking doesn’t have to cost much at all. My local economic developer Jeremy Zeller says placemaking simply means making the kind of place you want to live. And most of that happens when you bring people together. You can do a lot of this cheap. Really cheap. Like, under \$100 cheap.

Make it look vibrant

Empty storefronts don’t have to look empty. Fill those windows with anything that shows your town is alive and active.

In Hollis, Oklahoma,

they filled windows with giant paper snowflakes. You remember how to cut those, right? Add some fabric drapes behind them, and you’ve got a winter display. I bet you can think of a dozen ways to get some cheap drapes. (yard sales, thrift stores...)

Or grab some paint markers and get some artsy person to hand-draw designs right on the glass. I’ve seen this in Waynoka, Oklahoma and Kelso, Washington. How many windows could you fill with \$100 worth of paint markers? Or raid your closet (or your parents’ closet) for shoe polish and start there.

If you can get a hold of some deep display windows in a retail building, use them to showcase work by local artists or students from the school. East Brady, Pennsylvania did this. Or create a mini museum in those deep windows. I know you’ve got cool old stuff sitting in storage at the museum. Bring it out where people can see it. I’ve seen this used in Caldwell, Kansas, and Castle Rock, Washington.

Make it look welcoming

You can paint almost anything, and it makes a huge difference. And you don’t have to spend \$100 to do it.

In Webster City, Iowa, the town ran a cleanup day, and the mayor collected all the old leftover paint people dropped off. OK, some of it was no longer usable, so they disposed of it properly. Then they used the decent stuff to paint the streets. They had to get creative with the colors they ended up with, but it worked.

You can paint sidewalks (Warren County, Iowa did this), utility poles (Waynoka, Oklahoma), boarded up windows (Caldwell, Kansas), and even parking bollards (Woodland, Washington). A little paint goes a long way toward making a place feel cared for. Bonus

points when you get it cheap or free.

Make hangout spaces

Borrow some used tables and chairs, like Kendrick, Idaho, to make your own hangout space. Or picnic tables right downtown, like Uniontown, Washington. Even rocking chairs like Limon, Colorado. Hang some string lights. Provide a trash can so people can help keep it clean, then empty that can often.

Add outdoor games. Cornhole or bags. Giant checkers. Yard-sized Jenga. Enid, Oklahoma has done this. You know you can scrounge those from yard sales and thrift stores, too. Give people a reason to stop, play, and talk to each other.

Fill empty spaces

You’ve got empty buildings or vacant lots? Of course you do. Turn them into temporary gathering spots.

Create a pop-up gallery in an empty storefront (Goffstown, New Hampshire). Host an arts and crafts sale (Sayre, Pennsylvania). Set up markets in parking lots or any open space you can get permission to use. I’ve seen examples from Guyton, Oklahoma, and McKee, Kentucky.

These don’t have to be permanent. Best to start temporary and learn as you go.

You can start now

None of these ideas require a year of planning, or a big budget. You might not even need permission, or not very much permission. You definitely need people willing to show up and do something, even if it’s just you.

That’s placemaking. Not expensive consultants or elaborate plans. Just making your town the kind of place you want to live.

What could you do this week with what you already have?

Keep shaping the future of your community,

State focused on feeding families amid sudden SNAP reversal

From the Minnesota Department of Children, Youth and Families

On Nov. 7, the Minnesota Department of Children, Youth, and Families (DCYF) issued full November SNAP benefits. Those payments were issued based on clear guidance we received from the USDA at approximately noon on Friday. Late night on Saturday, Nov. 8, we received a memo from the USDA stating that states “must immediately undo any steps taken to issue full SNAP benefits for November 2025.”

We are appalled by Saturday night’s memo. Not only because it requires that Minnesota “undo” actions to provide food to 440,000 people, but also because it threatens severe financial penalties that would harm Minnesotans.

Minnesota does not have any mechanism for taking money back from SNAP recipients. We also believe it would be unjust to yank back these funds that are needed to feed families. Our teams are working to evaluate the Nov. 8 memo.

All Minnesotans deserve access to food. DCYF is committed to ensuring food ac-

cess remains in place. We will continue to work with partners in Minnesota and across the country to determine a path forward. We look forward to a quick resolution from the courts to ease the uncertainty these issues are causing for SNAP recipients, grocers, and partners across Minnesota.

More than 440,000 Minnesotans each month, including 180,000 children and 67,000 seniors, access SNAP or MFIP and rely on these vital benefits.

Learn about the impact of the federal shutdown on SNAP, MFIP and other DCYF programs.

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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.

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The deadline is 12 noon, Friday. Opinions expressed on this page do not necessarily represent the views of this newspaper.

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1,000 Books Before Kindergarten

The Staples Public Library recently celebrated the newest 1,000 Books Before Kindergarten reader, Will Moon. Children receive a free backpack when they are signed up for the program. Parents/guardians can log in the books read or by scanning in the APP. When children reach the 1,000 books read, they receive a hard cover book with a matching stuffed animal. The program is sponsored by the Staples Friends of the Library. Above: Library Assistant Angie Johnson, Will, with his mom, Alysia and his sister, Lucy. (Submitted photo)

Lincoln Scandia Valley Lions
Thanksgiving Dinner
THURSDAY, November 20, 2025
11:30 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.
Scandia Valley Town Hall
3518 320th St., Cushing, MN 56443
Free Will Offering for Motley Food Shelf

Wreath Class
Tues., Nov. 18
arrive 2 - 7:00 p.m.
CENTRAL LAKES COLLEGE,
Staples Campus Assembly Rm.
\$25 Pay at door with cash or check
Tammy Rick,
218-296-2795 for info.
Bring gloves and pruners if you have them. Plan for about an hour to complete your wreath.
CLC CENTRAL LAKES COLLEGE
CLC | Ag and Energy Center
Living Legacy Gardens

DEADLINE
for all classified ads and copy is 12 noon Friday
For the Staples World

WREATH SALE
STAPLES LIONS/FFA NEW DESIGN \$25
Contact: Staples Host Lions
Blaine 218-296-1163
Henry 218-820-0125
FFA
Becky 218-397-2562 (land line)
Or any Staples Host Lions, Staples 93' Lions or FFA member

Mark Your Calendar

Nov. 13
‘WALK WITH A DOC’ Thursdays at 5:15 p.m., at Lakewood Health System’s main campus in Staples. Meet at the main entrance. For more information about this free program, visit https://walkwithadoc.org/join-a-walk/locations/staples-minnesota
WADENA WHIRLWAYS SQUARE DANCE GROUP DANCING Thursday, Nov. 13, 7 - 9:30 p.m., at St. Michael’s Church, 280 1st Ave. S., Motley. John Bittner, caller. For info., 612-743-3480.

Nov. 14
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.

Nov. 16
CELEBRATE RECOVERY GROUP MEETINGS Sundays, 6 p.m., at Motley Free Methodist

Church, 33 Wellwood St. E., Motley.

Nov. 18
WADENA COUNTY REPUBLICANS invite you to their monthly meeting Tuesday, Nov. 18, 7 p.m., at the Wadena VFW (meeting one week earlier due to Thanksgiving). Come early to eat and visit with like-minded people.
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.

Nov. 19
STAPLES ALL VETERANS AND COMMUNITY PARK ASSOCIATION MEETING Wednesday, Nov. 19, 5:30 p.m., in the lower level board room at Lakewood health System’s main campus, Staples. Public welcome. To attend via Zoom, call Bob Hamann at 218-894-3139.

Menu

Senior Nutrition Program
Call mornings (218-979-4118) the Friday before to reserve next week’s meal(s) and for current suggested donation info. LSS Meals - traditional older adult menu. Menu is subject to change.
LOCATED AT: Staples Hi-Rise Apartments, 615 4th St. NE, Staples. Seniors welcome to dine-in at 11:00 a.m., if meal is reserved.
Staples 218-979-4118
LSS meals include bread (various kinds), marg. and 1% milk.
Nov. 17 - Nov. 21
MONDAY - Baked pork chop, pork gravy, scalloped potatoes, mixed veggie, oatmeal raisin cookie.
TUESDAY - Chicken Cordon Bleu, sliced carrots, rice pilaf, applesauce cup.
WEDNESDAY Salisbury steak, mashed potatoes, brown gravy, green beans, vanilla wafers.
THURSDAY - Chicken alfre-

do, peas/carrots, hot spiced apples.
FRIDAY - Beef lasagna, peas/carrots, diced pear cup.

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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
Rev. JC Duncan, 218-632-7314
Rev. Rick Aubol, 218-632-7310
Rev. Greg Sauer, 218-632-7319
Mass: Sunday 8:30 a.m.
Seventh Day Adventist
421 Dakota Ave. SE, Staples
Pastor Joshua Jerešek
218-894-0033
Saturday Worship 9:30 a.m.
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
Balsamund Lutheran
19550 490th Street, Aldrich
Janet Edman SMA 218-837-5831
ire227@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
MASS:
Saturday 4:00 p.m.
St. Michael
280 1st Ave S, Motley 218-894-2296
Rev. JC Duncan, 218-632-7314
Rev. Rick Aubol, 218-632-7310
Rev. Greg Sauer, 218-632-7319
Sunday 10:30 a.m. (May - Nov.)
Saturday 10:30 a.m. (Dec - April)
United Methodist
847 3rd Ave. S. Lane, Motley..... 218-352-6466
Pastor Greg Leslie
www.motleyumc.net
Sunday Worship Service..... 10:00 a.m.
Monday AA meeting..... 8:00 p.m.
Oylen
Oylen Alliance
Cty. Rds, 7 and 9, Oylen
218-472-3440 or 218-472-3316
Pastor Neal Malcore
Sunday School 10:00 a.m.
Sunday Worship 11:00 a.m.
Pillager
First Lutheran Church
Pastor Mathew Sundquist
717 River Street S, Pillager, MN
218-746-3775
Sunday Worship 9:30 a.m.
Sunday School, 2nd and 4th Sundays 8:30 a.m.
Casino Assembly of God
Pastor Dan Johnson
N. of Motley, Hwy. 64, E. on Cty 34 to Cty. 104.
Phone 218-746-3839
Sunday School 9:30 a.m.
Worship..... 10:30 a.m.
Sunday Worship 7:00 p.m.
WEDNESDAY 7:00 p.m.
First Baptist
903 River Street South, Pillager
Pastor Jake Anderson
218-746-3768
curious@fbcpillager.com
Worship Gathering 10:00 a.m.
Connection Point 9:30 a.m.
Hewitt
Church of the Nazarene
114 Front Street, P.O. Box 146 Hewitt, MN
218-924-2028
Jim and Linda McGaffey, Pastor
Sunday School 9:30 a.m.
Sunday Worship 10:45 a.m.
WEDNESDAY PRAYER 7:00 p.m.
Trinity Lutheran Church (LCMS)
524 Front Street, PO Box 116, Hewitt, MN
Pastor Robin Fish
Sunday Worship 10:30 a.m.
Hewitt Community Church
Hwy. 210, Hewitt, MN
Pastor Kenneth Uhren
Sunday Worship 10:30 a.m.
Verndale
Verndale Alliance
109 NW Brown Street, Verndale, MN 56481
218-445-5619
Senior Pastor Tony Stanley
Youth Pastor Joe Ward
Sunday Worship 9:30 a.m.
Sunday Bible Fellowship Classes 11-11:45 a.m.
Family Life Church
402 NE Clark Drive, Verndale 218-445-5568
VerndaleFLC@gmail.com
Pastor Amos Self 218-371-7189
Tahna Rurup, Connections & Media Pastor
Tillman Phagan, Kid’s & Food Shelf Pastor
Ryan Wolfenden, Youth Pastor
SUNDAY
Youth Prayer 9:20 a.m.
Worship Service 10:00 a.m.
Prayer Meeting 5 p.m.
WEDNESDAY
Life Groups 6:30 p.m.
Hope Chapel Alliance
18126 County Road 7, Verndale
218-445-5643 or 218-472-3316
Pastor Neal Malcore
Sunday Worship 9:00 a.m.
Sunday School 10:30 a.m.
WEDNESDAY
Family Night 5:30 p.m.
Immanuel Lutheran Church of Bartlett Township (LCMS)
17097 460th St., PO Box 37, Verndale
Pastor Robin Fish
Sunday Worship 9:00 a.m.
WEDNESDAY
Bible Study..... 6:30 p.m.
Verndale United Methodist
10 3rd Ave. SW, Verndale
218-445-5108
Pastor Jill Pawlowski
Sunday Worship 9:00 a.m.
Central Community Church
5 miles N on Cty Rd 26 (Nimrod tar)
Pastor James Middendorf, 320-260-4952
Sunday Service 9:00 a.m.
Bible Study 10:30 a.m.
St. Frederick Catholic Church
20 Mason Avenue NW
Verndale 218-894-2296
info@marysacc.org
Rev. JC Duncan, 218-632-7314
Rev. Rick Aubol, 218-632-7310
Rev. Greg Sauer, 218-632-7319
MASS: Saturday 6:00 p.m.
St. Hubert Catholic Church
Bluegrass 218-894-2296
info@marysacc.org
Rev. JC Duncan, 218-632-7314
Rev. Rick Aubol, 218-632-7310
Father Greg Sauer, 218-632-7319
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
Rev. JC Duncan, 218-632-7314
Rev. Rick Aubol, 218-632-7310
Father Greg Sauer, 218-632-7319
Mass: Sunday 10 a.m.

“Why Repent?”
From “God’s Word For Today”
Is God being harsh by asking people to repent? No. It breaks the Heavenly Father’s heart because sinners can’t come near Him or they’ll be destroyed by His purity. The apostle John wrote “God is light and there is no darkness in Him at all.” (I John 1:5).
If light enters darkness, the darkness ceases to exist. So, no one walking in the darkness of sin can approach God without dying. This is why the Father pleads:
“Put all your rebellion behind you, and find yourselves a new heart and a new spirit. For why should you die, O people of Israel? I don’t want you to die, says the Sovereign Lord. Turn back and live!” (Ezekiel 18:31-32)
God is a loving Father who wants to be near His children. He would like to comfort them in their pain and help them through their struggles. It isn’t His desire to see anyone spend eternity in darkness and torment. He desires to wrap them in the warmth of His love.
Challenge: When witnessing to unbelievers about Christ, remember to emphasize the love God shows by inviting all to repent.
--Submitted by Pastor Roy Miles, Staples Assembly Of God

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Obituaries

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Garry Carpenter

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Garry Carpenter, 79, of Staples, passed away October 26, 2025, at the Little Falls Care Center.

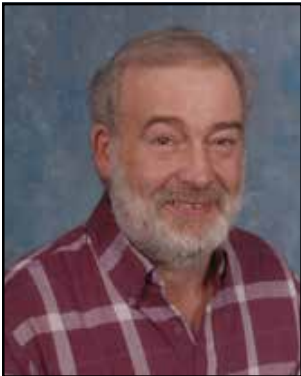
Memorial Services were held November 4, at the Motley Free Methodist Church.

Burial will be at the Minnesota State Veterans Cemetery, Little Falls at a later date.

Garry Lynn Carpenter was born January 29, 1946, the fifth of ten children born to Henry and Una Carpenter of Staples.

In 1964, at the age of 17, he enlisted in the U.S. Marine Corps after graduating from Staples High School. He went to basic training in California and was later stationed in Hawaii. He went into battle in Vietnam, where he was burned while saving fellow soldiers when their amphibious tank struck a landmine. For his bravery and the injuries that he sustained in battle, Garry earned a Bronze Star along with a Purple Heart. He spent the rest of his military career stationed at Camp Lejeune, North Carolina.

Despite how the war and repeated exposure to Agent Orange affected him, Garry was very proud to have served his country. He loved attending Veterans Day programs and had the opportunity to fly to Washington, D.C. with his wife, Karen.



Garry married Karen Webster of Philbrook, on June 3, 1966. Karen truly was the love of his life and she meant the world to him. They lived at Camp Lejeune while he was enlisted in the Marine Corps. There, they welcomed their son, Garry II, into the world. The family then moved to Hutchinson where Garry worked at 3M for six years. There, they welcomed their daughter, Jennifer. The family later returned home to Staples, where Garry built their house next to his parents. He attended the Machine Trades program at Staples Technical College and began working as a machinist at Stern Rubber Company, later transitioning to machine maintenance until his retirement in 2002.

Garry enjoyed fishing, deer hunting and gardening. His biggest passion was spending time in his

shop, creating and building machines. He also found great joy in helping others.

For the past 25 years, Garry battled many health issues. Those who knew him believe that his love for family gave him the strength to fight his battles for so many years.

Garry is survived by his loving wife, Karen; one son, Garry (Debbie) Carpenter, II of Staples; one daughter, Jennifer (Tim) Stickler of Rogers; four grandchildren, Lacey (Chris), Nathan, Samantha and Elizabeth; three great-grandchildren, Natalie, Danielle and David; seven siblings, Roland Carpenter, Margaret Montgomery, Henry Carpenter, Jerald Carpenter, Connie Wells, Barbara Morehouse and Shelly Carpenter. He is also survived by many brothers and sisters-in-law, whom he loved like siblings and numerous nieces and nephews. Garry was part of a huge, loving family and they all meant the world to him.

He was preceded in death by his parents; one sister, Alva Kettlehut; one brother, Mervin Carpenter and many well-loved brothers and sisters-in-law.

Garry will be greatly missed by those who knew him. He made an impact on all our lives with his love, generosity and humor.

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Caroline Statema

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It is with great sorrow we announce the death of Caroline Statema, 88, of Long Prairie, on October 31, 2025.

A memorial service will be held Thursday, November 13, at 2:00 p.m. at the Iten Funeral Home Chapel in Browerville. Visitation will be one hour prior to the services at the Iten Funeral Home.

Burial will follow the service at the Evergreen Cemetery in Browerville.

Caroline Annabell was born October 4, 1937, to Hank and Anna Chakel of Turtle Creek Township on Rice Lake. Caroline attended county school and graduated from Staples High School in 1956. She married Calvin Statema on June 15, 1957, at the Randall Presbyterian Church. The couple had three children, Constance Marie (Kenneth) Zetah of Motley, Carrie Eve Statema of Little Falls and Carol Jean (Jody) Peterson of Swanville.

Caroline enjoyed working for many years on the family farm. She was an Avon Consultant, owned and operated "Pine Grove Ceramics" out of her home, worked at Land O' Lakes in Browerville, McCourtney Plastics in Staples and Herbies Catering with her Bestie, Joyce (and John) Gorka. Caroline was an avid cookbook collector and was known for her love of cooking and baking.

Left to cherish her memory are her three daughters; grandchildren; great-grandchildren; nieces; nephews; one sister-in-law, Connie Statema; cousin, Jane Motzko and many other cousins.

Arrangements are by the Iten Funeral Home of Browerville.

w47c A00006B2025NV12

∞

Hello World

∞

ONLINE BIRTHS REMOVED
AT THE REQUEST OF LAKEWOOD
HEALTH SYSTEM

∞

Kenneth Johnson

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Kenneth L. Johnson, 91, of Poplar, passed away October 29, 2025, at his home, surrounded by his family.

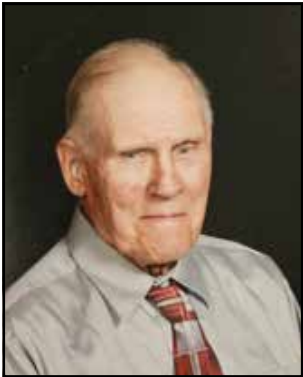
Funeral services were held Nov. 7 at the Motley Free Methodist Church, with his son, Pastor Jim Johnson, officiating.

Burial was at the Poplar Cemetery.

Ken was born August 11, 1934, to Larue and Clara (Opheim) Johnson on his grandparents' farm in Byron Township. He attended Poplar country school through eighth grade and high school in Motley, graduating in 1951. He enjoyed working on the grain and potato harvests for several years in the Red River Valley.

On July 28, 1956, he married Hope Hulett at the Poplar Community Church. Their marriage was blessed with eight children. They eventually settled on their farm in Poplar Township, raising beef and sheep. Ken served on the Poplar Township board for 13 years and as a Cass County Commissioner for 10 years. From his father-in-law, he learned how to shear sheep, a trade he continued until he was 80-years-old.

A gifted and prolific storyteller, Ken delighted his children and grandchildren with stories, both from his own life and from his creative and imaginative mind. He had a quick and wonderful sense of humor and enjoyed making



others laugh. Ken was also a man of deep faith and attended the Leader Menonite Church for 40 years and later was a member of the Motley Free Methodist Church for 20 years.

Ken is survived by his wife, Hope, of 69 years; eight children, KaAnn (Jesse) Drone, Jim (Sheri) Johnson, Gene (Becky) Johnson, Susie (Alex) Griffith, Janet (Tim) Michlitsch, Kate Johnson, Bill (Kathleen) Johnson and Karen (Ethan) Seaberg; 18 grandchildren; 27 great-grandchildren; one sister, Mary Lee (Dave) Young and two sisters-in-law, Mary Nell Johnson and Ramona Van Wey.

He was preceded in death by his parents; one brother, Russell Johnson; two infant sisters and one infant brother.

In lieu of flowers, memorials may be directed to the Salvation Army, Voice of the Martyrs or a charity of the donor's choice.

w47p A00006B2025NV12

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Steven Dille

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Steven Roger Dille, 75, of Motley, passed away November 1, 2025.

Services were held Nov. 10, at the Motley Free Methodist Church.

Steve was born October 25, 1950, to Roger and Judith (Lorenz) Dille in Bloomington. Following graduation from high school, Steve proudly entered the United States Air Force, continuing his service with both the National Guard and the Army National Guard. He dedicated over two decades to military service, retiring after 21 years of honorable duty. Steve's dedication to the U.S. Armed Services never wavered.

In addition to his military career, Steve worked for Trident Seafoods and served with the Motley Fire Dept. He was united in marriage to Margaret Spilman on October 30, 1989, in Staples. Their marriage blended seven children into an often chaotic and loud family. Steve could be found teaching his kids how to work hard and when a hug was the right medicine.

Steve was known for his love of the outdoors and his passion for riding motorcycle, hunting and tinkering with anything he could get his hands on outside. Above all, he cherished time spent with his grandchildren. Steve never met a sweet



treat he didn't like, his addiction to cookies and ice cream was often joked about by his entire family.

He is survived by his loving wife, Margaret; six children, Melissa Lorenz, Christina (Donald) Rokes, John (Natalie) Tkalcich, Lori (Zacarias Gonzalez) Tkalcich, Kevin Tkalcich and Nicholas (Lonna) Dille; 16 grandchildren; two great-grandchildren; mother, Judy Dille; two sisters, Barbara (Mark) Dille and Lynn Myer; one brother, Scott (Sue) Dille and many nieces, nephews and cousins.

He was preceded in death by his father, Roger; one daughter, Jaime Hanson and one granddaughter, Danika Tkalcich.

Arrangements were by the Brenny Family Funeral Chapel, Staples.

w47cA00006B2025NV12

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Carl Trager

∞

Carl Trager, 85, of Staples, passed away peacefully on November 1, 2025.

Mass of Christian Burial was held November 10, 2025, at Sacred Heart Catholic Church in Staples.

A private family burial will be held at the Motley Public Cemetery.

Carl was born in Hazen, North Dakota on October 24, 1940. He moved to Minnesota in 1952. He graduated from Motley High School in 1958 and soon after married Janice Daniels on November 19, 1960, in Litchfield. They had three beautiful girls, Donna, Julie and Susan.

He worked in printing ink and chemical business in the Twin Cities for 40 years. Carl was a member of England Prairie Pioneer Club, Knights of Columbus, Sacred Heart Catholic Church and St. Bridget's Church in Minneapolis for 35 years.

He enjoyed fishing, baseball, camping and traveling and saw much of the United States.

Carl will be deeply missed by his wife of 65 years, Janice; two daughters, Julie



and Susan; six grandchildren; two great-grandchildren and three sons-in-law.

He is preceded in death by his parents; one daughter, Donna; one brother and sisters-in-law.

Carl's wife would like to extend a special thank you to the nursing staff at Lakewood Health System, Staples, Mille Lacs Health Systems and Harmony House in Motley.

In lieu of flowers, Carl's family requests donations in his memory to the Sacred Heart Catholic School.

Arrangements were by the Brenny Family Funeral Chapel, Staples.

w47cA00006B2025NV12

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DEADLINE

for all classified ads and copy is 12 noon Friday



Breaking boards

Elijah Statema shows his technique by breaking boards with his hands, above, and feet, right. (Submitted photos)



Elijah Statema receives his black belt recommendation

By Elijah Statema

I joined taekwondo in January of 2021 alongside my mom, Penny Statema. I had always been interested in martial arts training, and I am so glad I decided to try it out. It has been such a fun way to grow physically, mentally, and even relationally as all of my family has done it together at some point.

Martial arts isn't just a short term investment that occupies childhood or teen years; it is a lifelong journey with a lifetime of benefits. There is always more to learn and further ways to grow and higher things to achieve. It isn't about being better than anyone else, but bettering oneself and discovering even more potential within yourself, which allows you to make an even greater positive impact in the world around you as well.

I have gained so much confidence and strength through taekwondo and had so much fun in the process. It feels so good to know that I have some basic skills that could help me defend myself or my loved ones if that need ever presented itself. Plus, it has been such a great way for my



Penny and Elijah Statema with Elijah's black belt certificate of rank. (Submitted photo)

family to connect and have shared experiences together, making our relationships even stronger and healthier. Taekwondo has had a major impact on my life and helped shape me into the person I am today. I'd like to say thank you to my former

instructor, Francisco Jimenez, for all the years he invested into the Staples taekwondo program and into my life, along with my current instructor, Penny Statema, for her dedication to me and all of the students of Elevate Martial Arts.



Cheer team performances

Staples-Motley cheerleaders kept the crowds lively during the football season this year. Below, the youth cheer-

leaders perform at a halftime show this season. (Staples World photos by Mark Anderson)



SEDA considers selling industrial park building

By Mark Anderson
Managing Editor

The Staples Economic Development Authority (SEDA) looked into a proposal to purchase a building owned by the SEDA in the Staples Industrial Park.

Staples Economic Development Director Lucas Wakefield said a local company, Olander Tooling, is looking to expand but their timeline wouldn't work with building a new space, so they asked if the SEDA building could be purchased.

Wakefield said the SEDA building currently rents space to Accura Tooling and Lakewood Health System uses part of it for storage. He said one portion of the building is open for rent, but that wouldn't work for the proposed expansion.

The SEDA Board had many questions but were open to exploring the possibility of a sale. They agreed that they would not want to push out the current tenants unless they found a situation that would work for all of them.

Wakefield said advantages for selling it would be putting the full building, including unused space, back on the tax rolls. Currently the building is only taxed according to how much space is rented by a private business, with empty space and the surrounding lot not taxed because it is owned by a government entity.

Wakefield said if the SEDA wanted to sell the building, they could also consider building a smaller building to accommodate needs of modern businesses, such as an internet-based business.

City Administrator Jerel Nelsen said the SEDA industrial building has been operated for 32 years. During that time, he said it has fluctuated from being about half full to mostly full and has allowed several busi-

nesses to start and move to another space, although it is not always keeping them locally.

"It has served a purpose," said Nelsen.

SEDA Board member Shane Tappe estimated that the building has generated more than a million dollars over its lifetime, so it has paid for itself.

The SEDA Board did not make a recommendation but was open to learning more about the proposal and what the current tenants could do if the building was sold.

One other business using the industrial park building is the Stacker 3D company, which was sold and moved but they are still reserving space for a possible spin-off business. Wakefield said they are not up to date on their rent for reserving that space, so the board recommended allowing them until Jan. 1 to pay the rent owed.

Building option

The SEDA still feels that the cost of purchasing and fixing up the Taylor Funeral Home building would not be worth the possible use the city could have for the building. This building was previously the Nordell building and before that the old Staples City Hall. Taylor Funeral Home has been purchased by Brenny Funeral Services, which does not need two buildings in Staples, so they offered to sell the building to the city because the only vehicle access is through city parking lots.

Nelsen said they walked through with city building inspector Scott Sadusky. He determined that the building is structurally sound, but they would need to do some major refurbishing of the roof and windows.

SEDA Board member Doug Case said he would like to see the city demolish the building so another business could purchase

the lot and use it for a drive-through business, using the city's parking lot on 7th Street NE near Highway 10.

Tappe said the city could come out about even if they purchased it, tore it down and sold it, then it could remain on the tax rolls. He said the city could flip the lots and allow a business to build on the city-owned portion of the block.

SEDA Board member Lisa Bjerga said that would allow the city to have a say in what business goes in that spot.

The board did not make a decision but they were not interested in learning more about the cost of purchasing and fixing up the building, unless they had an idea of what the building would be used for.

Hometown Careers Collective

Tappe, the Staples-Motley Schools Superintendent, told the SEDA board about the upcoming Hometown Careers Collective on Nov. 19, where more than 30 local businesses will come to the high school and show students the jobs available locally and give them ideas of the skills needed to apply for those jobs.

Tappe said the idea came from a conversation with Sam Gustafson at Gustafson Diesel in Staples.

Tappe said in the past five years, the number of students going into the workforce has risen from 19 percent to 41 percent, both locally and around the state.

"We're having conversations with people in industries, students have to understand how to use today's equipment. Technology has changed so much, students have to understand how it has evolved," said Tappe.

He said if schools and communities don't partner together, the consumer will suffer because it will cost more to produce products.



Changing Highway 10 landscape

Two houses were torn down last week to make room for the new facility to be constructed by Mid Minnesota Federal Credit Union, which is currently on 4th Street NE and Warner Road in Sta-

ples. The photos show the new location to be next to Casey's convenience store and across the highway from the Staples Veterans Park. (Staples World photos by Mark Anderson)



NOTICES
104
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WHITE GERMAN SHEPHERD PUPPIES to good homes: 2 mos. old. Leader. 1-218-821-8169. 46-48p

SERVICES & EMPLOYMENT
205
Help Wanted
PART TIME EQUIPMENT OPERATOR/ SNOW REMOVAL, USING GRADER OR DUMP TRUCK. May Township (Cass County) is seeking a part-time heavy equipment operator for snow removal November 1, 2025 - April 30, 2026. Wages: \$27 per hour with a guarantee of 32 hours

a MONTH. Hours vary according to weather. Minimum Requirements: CDL to drive dump truck or willing to obtain a CDL. Preferred two years' experience heavy equipment operation or education. Call Jason Barg with inquiries. 218-851-7502. Send resume to: May Township, 5834 112th Street SW, Pillager, MN 56473 or drop off at the township hall, same address. Can email: clerk@maytwp.com 45-46c

208
Storage
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311
Firewood
SEASONED FIREWOOD: 18"/21" medium/lge. split. Pine \$120, Oak \$150 /cord. Motley-Lincoln area. Leave message by calling Tex, 218-839-1955. 46-48p

610
Parcel for Sale
FOR SALE BY OWNER: Luann McGrane for \$85,225. Tenants in common with 3 other siblings. 1/4 parcel 01-0035600. Contact daughter, Christine, POA, 218-639-3173. 44-46p



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602
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LAKE LOT ON TURTLE LAKE. Over Half an Acre Suitable for a Walkout and a great spot for a year round home or cabin getaway. \$46,000. MLS #6743203 Smart Choice Realty, 320-428-9448. 46-47p

610
Land for Sale
HALF ACRE LOT ON THE LONG PRAIRIE RIVER. Driveway has been put into property. \$37,500. MLS #6743201 Smart Choice Realty, 320-428-9448. 46-47p

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*Thomas Sellnow is a Real Property Law Specialist certified by Real Property Section of Minnesota State Bar Association.
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Public Notices

NOTICE
CITY OF STAPLES
Notice of Public
Hearing on Proposed
Assessments

Notice is hereby given that the Staples City Council will meet at 7 p.m. on November 25, 2025, at 122 6th St NE to consider and possibly adopt assessments for non-payment of

charges against property. The proposed assessment roll is on file for public inspection at the city clerk's office. Written or oral objections will be considered at the meeting.

Tara Greer, Clerk
City of Staples
Published 11-12-25

47pnc

DEADLINES

Newspaper deadline for copy and advertising: 12 noon Fridays

Terry Brisk's murder still unsolved since 2016

Nov. 7, 2025, marked nine years since the tragic homicide that claimed the life of Terrence (Terry) Brisk. The Morrison County Sheriff's Office continues to ask for the public's assistance in solving this case. Terry Brisk was murdered while hunting on his parent's property on Nov. 7, 2016.

Terry Brisk was an avid outdoorsman, who was well respected. He was fatally shot with his own rifle while deer hunting. Based on evidence at the scene, it was determined that the suspect was in close proximity to Terry, and it is

believed that Terry and the suspect would have interacted prior to the homicide taking place.

Sheriff Shawn Larsen states that his office continues their commitment to bring closure to Terry's family by holding the person responsible accountable for his death. Sheriff Larsen states, "Nine years have passed since this tragic incident, but time has not lessened our determination to find justice. Our investigators, along with our state and federal partners, continue to actively pursue every



Terry Brisk

lead and explore new forensic opportunities. We owe it to Terry, his family, and his friends to keep pushing forward."

This case remains open and active. There is still a \$30,000 reward for any information that leads to an arrest and conviction of

the person responsible for Terry Brisk's murder.

Contact the Morrison County Sheriff's Office with any information you may have at 320-632-9233. Another option is to report this case anonymously to Crime Stoppers of Minnesota at their website www.crimestoppersMN.org, by calling the toll free number 1-800-233-TIPS (8477) from anywhere in Minnesota or by installing a Submit a Tip app on any smart phone, or by sending a text message beginning with TIP674 to CRIMES (274637). All contact with Crime Stoppers is anonymous and you may qualify for a reward from them if your information leads to an arrest.

Justice delayed is not justice denied, we're still pursuing it.

Drivers urged to yield at Wadena roundabout

The Minnesota Department of Transportation (MnDOT) reminds motorists to slow down, yield to traffic already in the roundabout at the west end of Wadena on Highway 10, following reports of unsafe driving behavior.

The new three-leg roundabout at Otter Tail/Wadena County Rd 92 opened to all travelers in late October. Although the roundabout is designed to improve safety and traffic flow, some drivers are not adjusting to the new traffic pattern.

The roundabout is somewhat unique, its north half is finished with permanent concrete, while the south half is temporary asphalt that will be rebuilt in 2026. Despite the temporary section, the roundabout is fully operational and all traffic laws apply.

"Drivers on Highway 10 are used to just cruising straight into town without stopping," said one Wadena resident. "It's a big change, but people are going way too fast. Someone's going to get hurt if they don't slow

down and yield to others already in the roundabout."

MnDOT reminds motorists of the following roundabout rules:

- Slow down as you approach.
- Yield to vehicles inside the roundabout; they have the right of way.
- Do not stop inside the roundabout.
- Use your turn signal when exiting.

The roundabout is part of a three-year, \$52 million project to improve safety, traffic flow and underground infrastructure in Wadena. Construction will resume in spring 2026.

For more Wadena construction information, detour maps and to sign up for email updates, visit the project webpage: www.mndot.gov/d3/projects/wadena.

For real-time travel information on Minnesota highways, including road conditions, visit 511mn.org or get the free smartphone app at Google Play or the App Store.

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
info@marysacc.org
Rev. JC Duncan, 218-632-7314
Rev. Rick Aubol, 218-632-7310
Rev. Greg Sauer, 218-632-7319
Mass: Sunday.....8:30 a.m.

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

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

Trinity Lutheran
1000 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.

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
Rev. JC Duncan, 218-632-7314 Rev. Rick Aubol, 218-632-7310 Rev. Greg Sauer, 218-632-7319
Sunday.....10:30 a.m. (May - Nov.)
Saturday.....4:00 p.m. (Dec - April)

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

Oylen

Oylen Alliance
City. 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 Matthew Sundquist
717 River Street S, Pillager, MN
218-746-3775
Sunday Worship.....9:30 a.m.
Sunday School, 2nd and 4th Sundays.....8:30 a.m.

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

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

Hewitt

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

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

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

Verndale

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

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

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

Immanuel Lutheran Church of Bartlett Township (LCMS)
17097 460th St., PO Box 37, Verndale
Pastor Robin Fish
Sunday Worship.....9:00 a.m.
WEDNESDAY
Bible Study.....6:30 p.m.

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

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

St. Frederick Catholic Church
20 Mason Avenue NW
Verndale.....218-894-2296
info@marysacc.org
Rev. JC Duncan, 218-632-7314 Rev. Rick Aubol, 218-632-7310 Rev. Greg Sauer, 218-632-7319
MASS: Saturday.....6:00 p.m.

St. Hubert Catholic Church
Bluegrass.....218-894-2296
info@marysacc.org
Rev. JC Duncan, 218-632-7314 Rev. Rick Aubol, 218-632-7310 Father Greg Sauer, 218-632-7319
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
Rev. JC Duncan, 218-632-7314 Rev. Rick Aubol, 218-632-7310 Father Greg Sauer, 218-632-7319
Mass: Sunday.....10 a.m.

Pastor Carl Larson, Faith Lutheran Church, Staples

¹Make a joyful noise to the Lord, all the earth.

²Serve the Lord with gladness; come into His presence with singing.

³Know that the Lord is God. It is He that made us, and we are His; we are His people, and the sheep of His pasture.

⁴Enter His gates with thanksgiving, and His courts with praise. Give thanks to Him, bless His name.

⁵For the Lord is good; His steadfast love endures forever, and His faithfulness to all generations. Psalm 100

Psalms 100 is one of the great expressions of thanksgiving in the Bible. It calls us to realize that we belong to God and need to praise Him for His goodness, mercy and truth. It was in the summer of 2008, that I wrote a chapter for a book, Paradigms for Ministry, on Psalm 100, and in that chapter I shared how I was struck by a phrase that speaks of expressing thanks in a tangible, willing way: "Serve the Lord with gladness". But there have been times in my life that my service to God has been more grudging than gladness. And it's during those times that I do what I consider my duty, but I'm not always happy about it.

The 20th Century Scottish theologian Oswald Chambers put his finger on that kind of unthankful attitude when he wrote: "The will of God is the gladdest, brightest, most bountiful thing possible to conceive, and yet some of us talk of the will of God with a terrific sigh - 'Oh well, I suppose it is the will of God,' as if His will were the most dreadful thing that could befall us . . ."

Chambers continued, "We become spiritual whiners and talk pathetically about 'suffering the will of the Lord. Where is the majestic ability and might of the Son of God?'"

We are now beginning the month of November, a time of year often characterized by multi-colored falling leaves, the final days of a bountiful harvest and a noticeable change in daily temperatures. But, at this time of the year, let us also

remember that true thankfulness is more than being grateful for what we possess. Let's remember that thankfulness is an attitude that permeates our relationship with the Lord, so that we may "Serve the Lord with gladness".

"Gracious God, we give You thanks for the love we have received from You and from those who love You. We give thanks for those who love and care for us, who give us a place of belonging, value us for who we are. We give thanks for the valued people that surround us here today, and for the many gifts that are shown in our churches, in our schools and in our communities. We give thanks for those who speak and those who do, for those who dream and those who find ways of bringing the dreams to life, for those who make and those who clean up, for those who are always before us and those we all too often forget. We give You thanks that we're part of this group of people and are able to offer our abilities and insight. Dear God, we ask that You guide and direct us, showing us new ways that we can serve You and Your creation. For the gifts we have received and the opportunity to give in return we thank You. We pray this in the name of Jesus, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen."

(Prayer from the 2014 Presbyterian Church of Aotearoa New Zealand)



Voice of Democracy winners

Winners of the 2025 VFW Voice of Democracy winners from Staples-Motley are, from left, Kennedy Judd, Quilt winner; Kaylee Perius, 1st place; Jackson Odden, 2nd place; John Schotzko, 3rd place. (Submitted photo)



Cheer formation

Staples-Motley youth cheerleaders assemble into a fancy formation during their halftime performance at a game this year. (Staples World photo by Mark Anderson)

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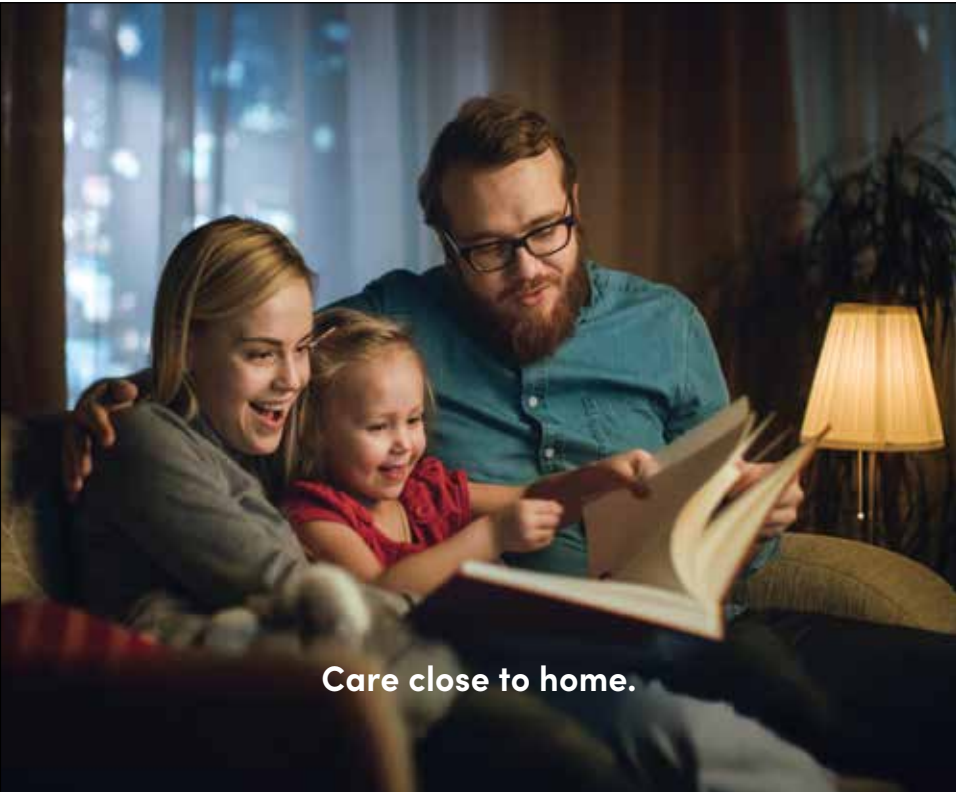
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WALSH continued from page 1a

Free event for anyone who cares about youth

children and the role of technology. “I hope people leave with a greater understanding of what goes on inside children, and also some ‘aha’ moments that you will recognize in the children you work with,” said Walsh. “This is for anyone who cares about youth.”



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REFERENDUM continued from page 1a

New shop spaces to be modern, open to view

room space and security, technology, equipment, furniture, parking and storage. Outdoor spaces that need work include the outdoor track and football stadium.

The auditorium is another area that is in need of updates, with a committee currently working on raising funds for future upgrades.

Input from a Career and Technical Education Committee indicated a need for more space, classes and community partnerships, including internships and apprenticeships.

The building proposal will add three new large shop areas that will be visible from the hallway.

“We will open it up, we want kids to walk down the hallways and see what is going on in the classrooms,” said Splett.

The proposal includes general educational space modernization at the high school and some flow changes such as a shared locker area, getting rid of the lunchroom stage and connecting that space with the Legacy Gymnasium. It will add breakout spaces, and small group areas, plus open the hallway so there’s a straight line through the building from one end to the other.

The original proposal calls for most high school classes to be in the north-west wing, with middle school classes in the center of the school.

The proposal also moves the fifth grade classes to the elementary school. Bergstrom said this was a strong preference that came through in the community survey.

To move the fifth grade, the study proposes building new classrooms around the recently constructed gymnasium area at the elementary school.

The community survey found that people believe



Elementary school proposal

Elementary school construction includes new classrooms for fifth grade students, in blue, and bathroom updates, light blue.

the school has good education but the facilities are not up to date, with 52 percent of respondents rating facilities as fair or poor.

Stakeholder input indicated that the district has done a good job of improving the perception of the school overall.

The study found that 65 percent of the community trusts the school board for financial decisions and that their decisions are for the best interest of students.

Tax impact

Jodie Zesbaugh and Aaron Bushberger of Ehlers, a public finance company, gave the board the details on the building referendum that will need to be passed by voters in order to do this project. Their proposal is to ask voters to approve a \$42.5 million referendum.

Using capitalized interest and “wrap around” of existing debt, their chart showed

school taxes to remain at the current level for the next 20 years, with a small decrease in 2035.

They said the board will need to submit their review and comment to the Minnesota Department of Education by Nov. 25 and adopt a resolution calling the election by Jan. 20, with a special election for the building referendum on April 14, 2026.

In other news, the board

- Approved resignation of Lynn Vanderweyst, custodian.
- Approved support for girls team dual wrestling in the Minnesota State High School League.
- Approved supporting Minnesota State High School League Foundation.
- Talked about having a local person apply for the Sourcewell Board of Directors positions that are open.

You’re Invited.

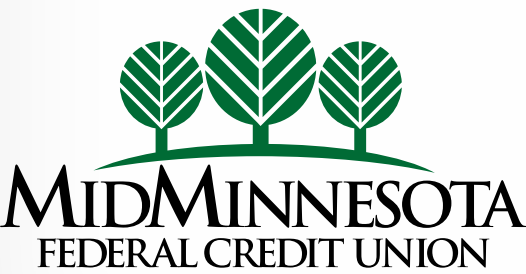
MMFCU Staples Vision
for the Future Breakfast
November 19 | 7:30am-8:30am

Central Lakes College
1830 Airport Road • Staples

- Learn more about our new location being built in 2026
- Hear from MMFCU Staples staff and specialists
- Provide input on services at our new location

This new office represents our long-term investment in the Staples community and surrounding areas. We’re proud to be your financial partner.

Please RSVP at mmfcu.org/staples, call or text (218) 894-2463, or visit the Staples branch in person.



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