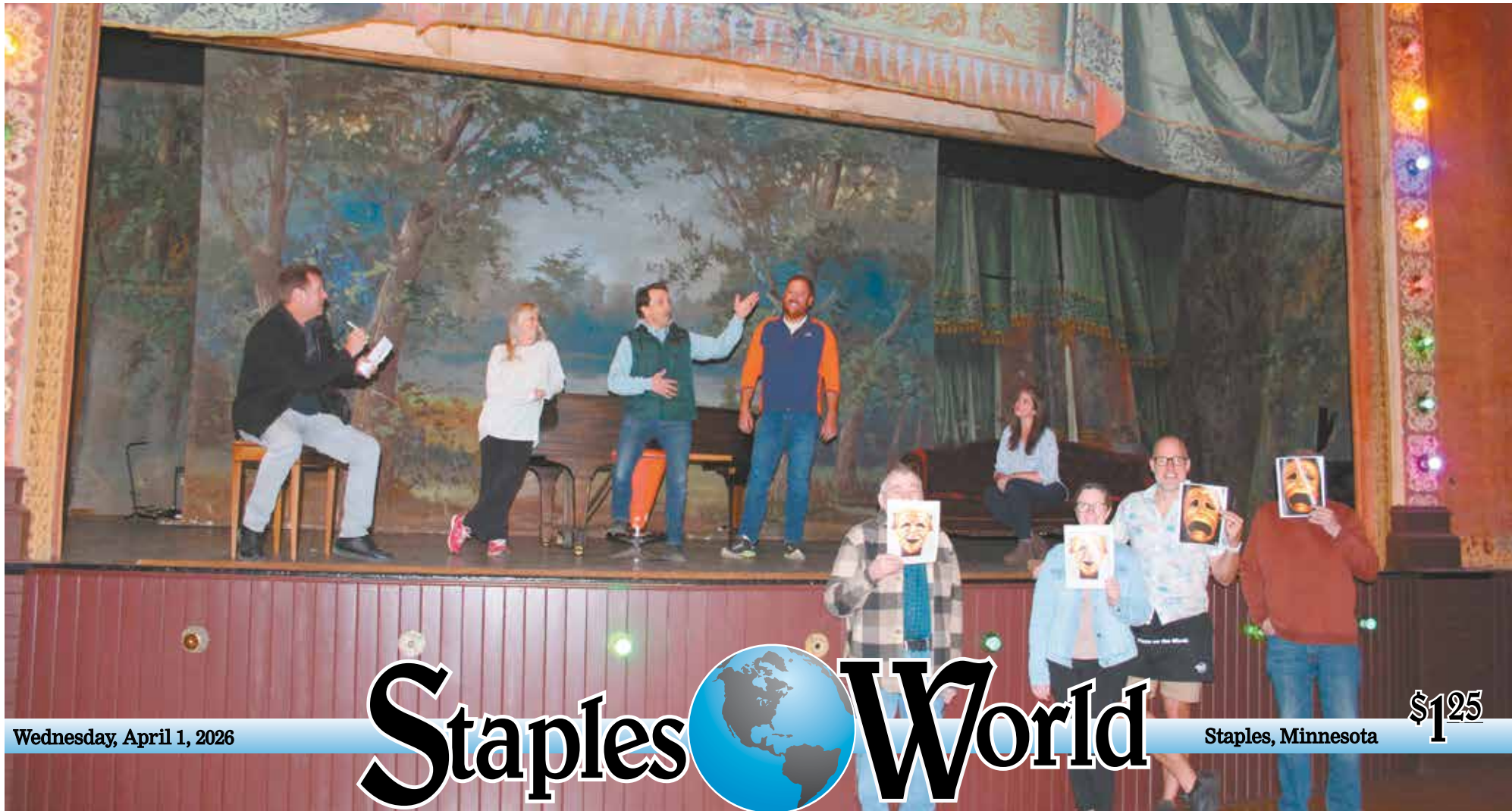


Inside this issue:

More April Fools Day stories
Track and field results
City council, school board meetings



Wednesday, April 1, 2026

Staples, Minnesota

\$1.25

The mayor's passionate aria In an attempt to get their message out in a fresh way and hopefully attract more members of the public along the way, the Staples City Council has begun holding their meetings at the Batchelor Opera House in Staples. The catch? Instead of merely speaking, everyone must sing their reports...council members, city staff, etc. It was the idea of Mayor Ron Murray who said he'd been inspired after seeing a performance of the light opera "Pirates of Penzance." Why can't a city council meeting be just as engaging, while still being informative? Members of the public in attendance are invited to be part of 'the chorus,' reminiscent of ancient Greek dramas. Masks will be provided that best capture the mood of the topic they will be singing about. Pictured above on stage, Mayor Ron Murray (center) addresses the upcoming 4th Street improvements project during a passionate aria in the key of G major. Others on stage, from left, are Mark Anderson, Managing Editor of the Staples World, taking notes (non musical); council member Mary Jo Goff at the piano; Mayor Murray; council member John Jewison; Tara Greer, City Clerk/Finance Director. Members of the public Chorus, from left, Tom Crawford, Alissa Neznik, Eric Neznik, Ken Klose. (Photo by Dawn Timbs)

For more April Fools Day stories, see the Special Edition, pages 12a and 2a.

R5DC moving to Sourcewell building

Region Five Development Commission (R5DC) will relocate its official headquarters to the Sourcewell building, located at 202 12th St NE in Staples, effective April 1. R5DC is a regional development organization serving Central Minnesota and has been a long-time regional partner of Sourcewell. While the two organizations frequently collaborate to support communities, infrastructure, and economic development across the region, they

remain independent entities with separate governance structures, missions and operations. "Co-locating at Sourcewell reflects our shared commitment to public service, regional collaboration and responsible use of resources," said Cheryl Hills, executive director of the Region Five Development Commission. "This move strengthens day-to-day coordination while preserving the independence that allows each organization to serve communities

in distinct and complementary ways." The relocation supports operational efficiency and reinforces R5DC's mission to provide high-quality planning, economic development, transportation, and community development services to the region. Being housed within the Sourcewell facility allows for proximity and collaboration while maintaining organizational clarity and accountability.

See R5DC on page 3a

Hanson hired as SEDA director

By Mark Anderson
Managing Editor

The Staples Economic Development Authority (SEDA) announced that they have hired a new Economic Development Director, James Hanson of New Ulm. At the March 24 SEDA meeting, Staples City Administrator Jerel Nelsen said Hanson has a varied background that includes

working in education, in the private sector and in grant writing. Hanson is expected to start the second week of April. Also at the SEDA meeting, Nelsen said the city is expecting an offer to purchase property owned by the SEDA on 4th Street NE, possibly to develop multi-family housing across the street from the elementary school.



Little bunny Charlytt Oforri of Staples dressed up for the Easter Eggstravaganza in Staples March 28. Her grandmother, Gloria Freese, shared the photo. (Submitted photo)

Ballot language question clarified by school board

By Mark Anderson
Managing Editor

The Staples-Motley School Board reaffirmed that the building referendum will keep taxes the same and not raise them above the current rate. At the March 23 board meeting, board member Kyle Reese said the question he has been hearing the most is about the language on the ballot, stating that voting for the referendum would be considered a tax increase, even though it will not increase taxes above the current level.

Superintendent Shane Tappe said that addition to the ballot is required by Minnesota statutes. Tappe said that throughout the building process, the public made it clear that they do not want to see a tax increase. "The whole point was that we don't want to see taxes increase," said Tappe. "The board and the team has put together a plan that has met that focus." Tappe said the Minnesota State School Board Association is looking to change that ballot language requirement for districts

that are in a similar situation. The school has clarified the issue more in an ad in this week's newspaper. Voting is currently open at the Staples-Motley District Office for anyone living in the school district. The office is open weekdays from 7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. On April 13, the day before the election, the District Office will stay open until 5 p.m. Election day, April 14, the voting location will be the Staples Community Center, with polls open from 7 a.m. to 8 p.m.

Weather

2026

This Week's Forecast

	High	Low	Cond.
Apr. 1	43	27	Cloudy
Apr. 2	35	27	Snow
			Showers
Apr. 3	42	29	Snow
			Showers
Apr. 4	38	28	Snow
			Showers
Apr. 5	44	27	P. Cloudy
Apr. 6	50	30	M. Cloudy
Apr. 7	51	32	Cloudy

Last Year, 2025

	High	Low	Cond.
Apr. 1	32°	27	Cloudy
Apr. 2	34	30	Snow
Apr. 3	45	29	Sunny
Apr. 4	40	25	Cloudy
Apr. 5	36	20	Sunny
Apr. 6	50	23	Sunny
Apr. 7	34	17	Sunny

Average Temps:

H = 50° Low = 30°

Compiled by

Dale Hausmann,

WCCO's Staples area

Weatherwatcher

Public Notices

ISD #2170

sample ballot

City of Staples

Bartlett Tnsp

Becker Rd Tour

Obituary

Carol Kramer



Great turnout

Dozens of children attended the Easter Eggstravaganza event, sponsored by the Staples '93 Lions, March 28. Held at the Staples Community Center, the event included a number of games, face painting, prizes, treats, bounce house and an opportunity to take a photo with the Easter Bunny. (Submitted photos)



April Fools special edition, continued...

Staples, Motley declare day of rest after solving all the world’s problems

By Mark Anderson
World Leader

It turns out that living in a small town is the answer to all the world’s problems, according to local coffee groups. The communities of Staples and Motley will be taking a well-earned day of rest as they recognize that they have attained excellence.

Following are some examples.

The Staples Ministerial Association has decided to halt church services the day after Easter, declaring that their role of shepherding the community is complete.

“We’ll probably have to come back later in the week, because people might need us again,” said Roy Miles of the Staples Ministerial Association, “But for now, our job is done.”

They won’t stay idle long because they have built up a community that wants them to continue.

“People like to gather frequently to commune, that’s one of the perks of having churches. The theology part is just an added bonus,” said Miles.

While not everyone in the community attends a church, we all feel the benefits of the close-knit bonds formed there and at other local gatherings.

The photoholic Lions Clubs of the area are also taking time to recognize that they have solved

many of the world’s dilemmas that manifest in local conundrums.

“We’re not just photo junkies who like to see our picture in the newspaper,” said Staples Host Lions President Bob Schafer, “we actually go over the applications and provide funding for projects that we think benefit our community.”

The Lions will acknowledge this success by continuing to put their photographs in the newspaper, as will all the other community groups who might be a bit more camera-shy.

The local business community is also taking notice of how they have everyone covered.

“If you can’t get it from a local business, you don’t need it,” said Staples Chamber of Commerce President Marlo Corona. “If your search starts at a local business, you can be assured that you will get personal treatment and you won’t be swindled. Also your personal data won’t be stolen and used by unknown forces to hoodwink you.”

As national economic forces move up and down, there is one constant that stays steady, your local businesses.

The medical community is taking notice of the advantages of living in a small town. With multiple clinics and wellness centers in the area, locals have the opportunity to cure what

ever ails them.

“Local doctors care about you personally, more than you can find anywhere else,” said one local doctor. “That does more for healing than any other remedy.”

The community also has more quality osteopaths per capita than any other small town.

“We’re going to have the best hips and knees in the country,” said the doctor.

The health advantages multiply with the abundance of locally grown produce, beans, fish and meats.

“There ain’t nothin’ better,” said a local farmer, “both for your palate and for your health.”

Community advantages

Many local people now realize that this is one of the world’s best places to live, partly because of the advantages mentioned here.

The Staples World has been following these trends for the past 135 years and publishes the transformational epiphanies every week.

“For some reason, we keep having news stories every week,” said World muckraker Mark Anderson. “There is nothing that builds community like the local newspaper; nothing else comes close.”

For April Fools Day, the newspaper will continue to look at the community through rose-colored glasses.



Motley School building’s sale pending

April Skeesick-Larson of Motley has made a bid on the former Motley School building, with hopes of converting it into a bakery. At the city council meeting this past March, Skeesick-Larson (a member of the council as well as being a talented baker) shared her vision of owning and operating the largest bakery in the United States, one that would provide hundreds of jobs and help put Motley on the map. Since the building is located near city hall, it would also make it more convenient for her to bring treats to council meetings, Skeesick-Larson said. The council, who later admitted to being hungry, voted unanimously in favor of Skeesick-Larson purchasing the building. There are a few hoops she must go through first before her dream becomes a reality, including

having the property rezoned to commercial. In addition, a few concerns have been voiced by the public, including the fact that some of Skeesick-Larson’s baked goods are made with “secret ingredients.” One Motley resident, a mother with young children, said she was not comfortable with that, going on to note the Baldwin sisters from “The Waltons” who baked with their secret ingredient, ‘the recipe.’ “And we all know what *that* meant,” the woman said. Another concern voiced was that the building was located across the street from a church, and that people who gave up sugar for Lent would have a difficult time concentrating during services with the smell of cookies baking next door. (Photo by Dawn Timbs)



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Urgent Care Monday–Friday: 8 am–6 pm



Motley American Legion donates

The Motley American Legion Post #124 recently donated \$1,000 to the Motley Area Food Shelf (MAFS). From left, food shelf volunteers Jomyla Choate, Melaine Swecker, Jim Kaup; Motley Ameri-

can Legion member Tom Ladwig; MAFS Director Jodi Reeck; Motley American Legion member Frank Vasecka; food shelf volunteers Pearl Dingman, Fran Kokett, Florence Berndt. (Submitted photo)



Leader Lions donate to food shelf

The Leader Lions recently held a pancake breakfast at the Leader Community Hall, with proceeds (\$1,200) donated to the Motley Area Food Shelf (MAFS).

Pictured, from left, Stewart Wiebesick, Darla Malcore, Deb Alexander, JoAnn Lund, Linda Johnson, Neal Malcore, Tammy Bell. (Submitted photo)

Motley area law enforcement

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

March 23 - Motley Police received a report from

Motley Dairy Queen that they’d received three bad checks from a subject totaling \$86.23.

March 20 - Motley Police received a juvenile report from the Staples-Motley

School District.

March 24 - Morrison County deputies responded to a report of a suicidal subject in Cushing.

Staples Police report

March 16, Staples Police notified BNSF of railroad crossing stop arms down.

March 17, Staples Police investigated a theft from Liquor Depot. Suspect is on camera.

March 18, Staples Police investigated a report of a child and a woman smashing windows at a residence on 8th St NE.

March 19, Staples Police assisted Lakewood Health System with a patient.

March 20, Staples Police spoke with a patient at Lakewood Health System to calm them down.

March 21, Staples Police

investigated a report of children racing lawnmowers in an alleyway near Wisconsin Ave. SE. Police spoke to the parties involved.

March 21, Staples Police investigated three vehicles traveling at a high rate of speed and unsafe driving on Dakota Ave. SE and 7th Street. Police spoke to two of the possible drivers.

March 21, Staples Police answered a parking question. A semi truck driver said he is parked along Hwy 210 and is unable to move. He asked if he could park there until the next day. Police advised okay.

R5DC continued from page 1a

Collaboration of regional partners

“Region Five Development Commission has been a long-time regional partner, and we’re glad to welcome their team to the Sourcewell building,” said Chad Coauette, chief executive officer of Sourcewell. “This move underscores our shared focus on strengthening our region, while maintaining the independence and unique roles that allow both organizations to deliver great service to our communities.”

R5DC will continue to deliver comprehensive planning, economic development, transportation and community development services to the five-county region without interruption. All existing programs, services, and points of contact will remain in place. For more information, visit www.regionfive.org.

Todd Cty. court report

MARCH 25
Long Prairie Police
Starly Rances Acevedo Guzman, Long Prairie. Driving without a valid license for vehicle class or type. Fine \$100. Fee \$85.
Jacob Dylan Ashbrook, Royalton. Speed 37/30. Fine \$40. Fee \$85. Driving after revocation. Fine \$200.
Christopher Garcia Montanez, Long Prairie. Liquor consumption by person under 21. Fine \$100. Fee \$85.
MN Dept. Natural Resources
Adam William Asmus, Long Prairie. Hunting-Transportation of firearms-loaded firearm. Fine \$100. Fee \$85.
Jill Marie Mitchell, Long Prairie. Game and Fish-licenses-must have license or proper paperless in personal possession. Fine \$25. Fee \$85.
Dennis Glen Rohde, Burtrum. ER Big Game-take deer with invalid bonus permit (before valid). Fine \$100. Fee \$85.
Ronald Dean Twardowski, Long Prairie. Hunting-Transportation of firearms-loaded firearm. Fine \$100. Fee \$85.
MN State Patrol
Nicholas John Endriss, Backus. Duty to drive with due care, Fine \$40. Fee \$85.
Christopher Ryan Adams Marquell, Pillager. Driving after revocation. Fine \$200. Fee \$85.
Cristian Crispin Bautista, Long Prairie. Speed 70/60. Fine \$40. Fee \$85.
Abdirahman Muhumed Hassen, Moorhead. Speed 89/70. Fine \$40. Fee \$75.
Francisco Antonio, Long Prairie. Hands free Law. Fine \$50. Fee \$85.
Owen Junior Petersen, New London. Window restriction. Fine \$50. Fee \$85. Window tint. Fine \$50. Front & rear license plates required. Fine \$30.
Steven John Sedlacek, Lake Elmo. Speed 79/70. Fine \$40. Fee \$85.
Dakota Steven Smieja, Long Prairie. Speed 77/60. Fine \$60. Fee \$85.
Christine Lee Sowards, Lakefield. Speed 65/60. Fine \$40. Fee \$85.
Michael Benjamin Traxler, Long Prairie. No or inoperative trailer brakes. Fine \$100. Fee \$85. Expired registration. Fine \$30.
Todd County Sheriff
Yvetot Derisier, Browerville. Speed 70/55. Fine \$60. Fee \$85. Driving without a valid license for class or type. Fine \$100.
Alexis Rose Knudson, Motley. Speed 64/55. Fine \$40. Fee \$85.
Wyatt Gene Lenz, Browerville. Speed 70/60. Fine \$40. Fee \$85.
Owen Richard Winter, Staples. Window restrictions-tint too dark. Fine \$50. Fee \$85. Window restrictions. Fine \$50. Fee \$85.
The following cases were heard before Judge Heidi L. Hovis Seventh District Court in Todd County March 10, 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 Judge Heidi L. Hovis Seventh District Court in Todd County March 11, 2026.
Patricia Rae Lipa, Osakis. Domestic assault. Continued. Disorderly conduct. Continued. Unsupervised probation, 2 days.
Lawrence Joseph Fr. Oberg, Verndale. Drugs-3rd degree-possess 10 grams or more a narcotic drug other than heroin or fentanyl. Continued. Supervised probation, 5 yr. Fine \$500. Fee \$75. Drugs-store meth paraphernalia in the presence of child or vulnerable adult. Dismissed. DWI-operate motor vehicle-any amount Schedule I/II Drugs/metabolite; not Cannabis/hemp. Sentenced. Local confinement (364 days, stay 0 yr 0 mo 364 days for 4 yr). Supervised probation, 4 yr. Fine \$500. Fee \$105.
Noel Nancy Roden, Long Prairie. Traffic-DWI-operate motor vehicle-any

amount Schedule I/II Drugs/metabolite; not cannabis/hemp. Sentenced. Local confinement (364 days, stay 0 yr 0 mo 334 days for 4 yr). Supervised probation, 4 yr. Fine \$400. Fee \$105. Fleeing a Peace Officer by a means other than a motor vehicle. Dismissed. Driving after revocation. Dismissed. 2nd Degree DWI-operate motor vehicle-alcohol concentration 0.08 within 2 hours. Dismissed. Traffic-DWI-operate motor vehicle under influence of alcohol. Sentenced. Local confinement (364 days, stay 0 yr 0 mo 334 days for 4 yr credit for time served: 3 days). Supervised probation, 4 yr. Fine \$400. Fee \$30.
The following cases were heard before Judge Heidi L. Hovis Seventh District Court in Todd County March 12, 2026.
Melissa Sue Stoltz, Bertha. 5th Degree-possess Schedule 1,2,3,4 or paraphernalia residual-not cannabis/hemp. Continued. Supervised probation, 5 yr. 3rd Degree DWI-refuse to submit to chemical test; blood or urine as required by search warrant. Local confinement (364 days, stay 0 yr 0 mo 362 days for 2 yr credit for time served: 2 days. Supervised probation, 2 yr. Fine \$600. Fee \$105.
The following cases were heard before Judge Heidi L. Hovis Seventh District Court in Todd County March 18, 2026.
Gary Allen Jr. Glockzin, Grey Eagle. 2nd Degree DWI-Refuse to submit to chemical test; breath or test refusal or failure. Sentenced. Local confinement (364 days, stay 304 days for 4 yr credit for time served: 18 days. Supervised probation, 4 yr. Fine \$1000. Fee \$105. No insurance. Local confinement (90 days credit for time served: 18 days). Fine \$200. Speed 80/60. Dismissed.
The following cases were heard before Judge Heidi L. Hovis Seventh District Court in Todd County March 17, 2026.
Austyn Lee Laporte, Staples. Collision with unattended vehicle-notify victim or police. Local confinement (90 days, stay 0 yr 0 mo 90 days for 1 year). Unsupervised probation, 1 yr. Fleeing a Peace Officer in a Motor Vehicle. Dismissed. Drugs-5th degree-possess Schedule 1,2,3,4 or paraphernalia residual-not Cannabis/hemp. Sentenced. Local confinement (365 days, stay 0 yr 0 mo 359 days for 5 yr credit for time served: 6 days). Supervised probation, 5 yr. Fine \$175. Drugs-5th degree-possess Schedule 1,2,3,4 or paraphernalia residual-not Cannabis/hemp. Traffic-Drivers license-driving after cancellation. Dismissed. All-Terrain Vehicle-operation on roads and rights of way prohibited. Dismissed. All-Terrain Vehicle-speed. Dismissed.
Michael Allyn Fitzherbert, Browerville. Fleeing a Peace Officer in a motor vehicle. Dismissed. Theft of motor fuel from retailer. Local confinement (90 days, stay 0 yr 0 mo 61 days for 1 yr credit for time served: 29 days). Unsupervised probation, 1 yr. Fine \$50. Fee \$152.87. Theft. Dismissed.
The following cases were heard before Judge Gary R. Larson Seventh District Court in Todd County March 13, 2026.
Jeffrey Scott Covington, Long Prairie. Drugs-5th degree-possess Schedule 1,2,3,4 or paraphernalia residual-not Cannabis/hemp. Continued. Supervised probation, 4 yr. Fine \$300. DWI-operate motor vehicle-any amount Schedule I/II Drugs/ Metabolite; not Cannabis/hemp. Dismissed. DWI-Operate motor vehicle-any amount Schedule I/II drugs/ metabolite; not Cannabis/hemp. Sentenced. Local confinement (364 days, stay 0 yr 0 mo 334 days for 4 yr credit for time served). Supervised probation, 4 yr. Fine \$305. Fee \$105.
The following cases were heard before Judge Heidi L. Hovis Seventh District Court in Todd County March 13, 2026.
Alexandria Anae Gaston, Waite Park. Obstruct legal interfere w/ Peace Officer. Dismissed. Disorderly conduct. Continued. Unsupervised probation, 1 yr. Fine \$50. Fee \$75. Driving after revocation. Dismissed.

75 YEARS Ago - 1951

•March 29, 1951 - Milo and Jerry Martin of Seward,. Alaska have returned to their home there after being called by the serious illness of their mother, Mrs. George Martin.

Mrs. Martin suffered a heart attack, and was confined to the Staples Municipal Hospital for over two weeks, but returned to her home on March 23.

Bob Martin of Egashik, Alaska, is in Staples now with his mother, as well as Mrs. Martin’s two sisters, Mrs. John Swafford of Vancouver, Wash., and Miss Mildred Harkcom of Chicago.

• March 29, 1951 - Icy roads were blamed for an auto accident on Highway No. 3 south of Staples early Saturday morning, March

- O -
Compiled by
Dawn Timbs
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24 when Richard Voss and Gordon Messer were both injured as their car left the road when it struck an icy spot on the highway.

•March 29, 1951 - Tuesday afternoon while working on a 1950 Ford at the Farmers Oil Station at the west end of Second Avenue, Bob Lorentz suffered a severe laceration and broken bone of the ring finger of his right hand.

Bob had serviced the car, and was letting the trunk door down when the door slipped out of his hands, and before he could get his right hand out of the way the accident had happened.

He was rushed to the Staples Municipal hospital where treatment was immediately given with the hopes of saving the finger of his hand.

• March 29, 1951 - Practices are going forward for the annual senior class play of the Motley high school, to be presented April 5 and 6.

The play is titled, “Desperate Ambrose,” a three-act comedy.

Members of the cast include Douglas Stevenson, Stanley Riggs, Donald Frisk, Richard Rasmussen, Wayne Alt, Charles Blake, Joan Trout, Elaine Bjelde, Aline Corey, Margaret Shequen, Berna Gelhar and Darlene Hanson.

50 YEARS Ago - 1976

•March 25, 1976 - Melanie Fuller, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Melvin Fuller, rural Staples, was crowned the 1976 Sweetheart of the Staples Chapter of the Future Farmers of America at coronation ceremonies last Saturday evening in the Staples Auditorium.

A senior at Staples High school, Miss Fuller was selected by a popular vote of the FFA members, competing against five other candidates, namely Sue Becker, Nan Bendson, Rosalie Goeden, Jane Olander and Judy Salber.

•March 25, 1976 - Rodney Tepley of rural Staples was the winner of the 340 cc Super Stock World Championship at the snowmobile races held in Ironwood, Mich., March 5 - 7.

MFU to hold People’s Town Hall

Minnesota Farmers Union (MFU) is sponsoring a People’s Town Hall free and open to the public April 8 from 10:30 a.m. to noon at Great River Regional Library, 108 NE 3rd St., Little Falls, to hear from members and other interested community members.

“Across the state, Minnesotans are coping with challenges and managing uncertainty. Grocery prices keep rising while the prices paid to farmers are stagnant or falling and some farmers are struggling to get financing to plant a crop this spring. Health care premiums jumped again in the new year, forcing some people to go without health insurance because they

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.

Tepley operated a Yamaha and participated in races just about every week throughout the season. There were about 50 machines in the 340 cc Super Stock class at the Ironwood event.

• March 25, 1976 - Chris Longbella and Kevin Crocker were named as co-captains of the Cardinal Cross-Country team at Staples High School for the 1976 season.

Both are veteran members of the C-C team, which last year had such a successful season, finishing third in the State Cross-Country meet. Chris is the son of Mr. and Mrs. C. Richard Longbella, and Kevin is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Gordon Crocker.

• March 25, 1976 - Bruce Crocker, son of Mr. and Mrs. Gordon Crocker, was honored Sunday afternoon at the annual Cardinal Cross-Country banquet by being named the recipient of the Joe Hirschey Memorial Award.

Each year, the boy’s Cross-Country runners select the runner who they feel sets the best example of what a good distance runner really is, and this year Bruce Crocker was chosen by his teammates.

• March 25, 1976 - Duane Emery, a freshman at Motley High school, led the Motley FFA livestock judging team to a seventh place finish in the district contest. Duane placed fifth individually in placing two classes each of hogs, beef and sheep plus market grading a pen of beef and hogs. The contest was held March 16, on the campus of North Dakota State University and at the West Fargo Stockyards.

• March 25, 1976 - The members of the Staples Fire Department were called out on two separate occasions during the past week.

About 10 a.m. Saturday, March 20, the firemen were called to the rural residence of Robert H. Weishalla, located about four miles south of Staples Leo Fahlander, fire chief, said that a chimney fire was evident at the home.

The fire alarm sounded in Staples about 4 a.m. Sunday, March 21, calling the department to a car which was on fire on fifth Street S.E. The

auto belonged to George Lovstad, rural Staples.

25 YEARS Ago - 2001

• March 29, 2001 - “Of all the Class AA teams in the state, all but two would like to be here where we are.”

That was the message Coach Lynn Peterson used in the six hours he had to prepare the cardinals to play in the Class AA third place game Saturday at noon.

“I stressed how disappointing our play was in the third place game a year ago. We never got going in that game.”

Peterson’s psychology lesson apparently worked, as the Cards go off to a 17-9 lead and had three players scoring in double figures on the way to a 48-42 win in the 2001 third place game. That win meant the team members not only got a big trophy, they also received individual medals as third place champs.

• March 29, 2001 - Last Thursday, March 22, an explosive device was discovered in the mail box of a Todd County deputy sheriff.

The device was discovered by a rural mail carrier who was delivering the day’s mail.

The bomb squad from Crow Wing County was summoned to the scene and disarmed the device. An investigation continues with the assistance of the

United States Postal Inspection Service, the FBI and the Todd County Sheriff’s Dept.

• March 29, 2001 - Ken and Patty Berg, Staples were recently recognized as Wadena County’s Farm Family of the Year.

• March 29, 2001 - Ephrem Shaffer, a fifth grader at Sacred Heart School in Staples, will be among 42 winners of their regional spelling bees to compete April 3, in the Minnesota State Spelling Bee. It will be held at St. John’s University at Collegeville.

Shaffer, son of Bob and Kathy Shaffer of rural Staples, finished in first place in the regional spelling bee, beating out students from the sixth, seventh and eighth grades. His last two words, which he spelled correctly to win the title, were onyx and dereliction.

Sue Nanik of North Central Service Cooperative in Staples, is the state coordinator of the spelling bee.

10 YEARS Ago - 2016

• March 31, 2016 - The Staples Motley High School Music Department will perform the musical “Anything Goes” at Centennial Auditorium in Staples April 7 - 10. The play, featuring the music of Cole Porter, is directed by SMHS alum Matthew R. Olsen, with musical direction by Steve Hoemberg.



Mystery solved

Last week’s mystery photo published in the May 1, 1969 edition of the Staples World featured the three top winners in the Pinewood Derby conducted by the Staples Cub Scouts. Steve Mertens (left) was the grand champion, with Jeff Barrett (center) receiving the second placing and Jamie Kujawa (right) finishing third. A total of 53 Cub Scouts participated in the event.



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•For afternoon availability, call 218-894-1112.
Regular advertising and copy deadline is Friday, noon.
The office closes at noon on Friday.





Excited for the Easter Eggstravaganza

The Denning siblings from Staples were excited for the Easter Eggstravaganza event March 28, at the Staples Community Center. From left, Luca, Owen and

Asher Denning. The event was sponsored by the Staples '93 Lions Club. (Staples World photo by Dawn Timbs)



PreSchool Storytime held at Staples Public Library

The Staples Public Library featured frog stories, flannel board and frog crafts at the March PreSchool Storytime program. Register to attend Storytime by calling the library, 218-894-1401. Next date is April 15 at 10:30 a.m. The program is sponsored by the Staples Friends of the

Public Library. Above, left to right: Alana Runge, Wyatt and Gwenyth Davis, Ellen, Stetson and Annie Van Vickie, Gwen Vanek, Addison Mast, Olivia Vanek and Alida Hanson. (Submitted photo)



Lions Club donates

The Staples Host Lions Club recently made several donations to area organizations, including \$200 to Wadena Hockey; and \$500 to Freshwater Education District for their Spring Fling. Pictured above, from left, are Caroline Harrison with Wadena Hockey and Staples Host Lion Blaine Quast. Below, from left, are Staples Host Lion Blaine Quast and Eric Weber, Freshwater Education District. (Staples World photos by Dawn Timbs)



Mark Your Calendar

- Apr. 2**
'WALK WITH A DOC' Thursdays at 5:15 p.m., at Lake-wood Health System's main campus in Staples. Meet at the main entrance. For more information about this free program, visit <https://walkwithadoc.org/join-a-walk/locations/staples-minnesota>
- Apr. 3**
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.
- Apr. 5**
CELEBRATE RECOVERY GROUP MEETINGS Sundays, 6 p.m., at Motley Free Methodist

- Church, 33 Wellwood St. E., Motley.
- Apr. 7**
OLD TIME DANCE is held the first Tuesday of every month at the Wadena VFW. For information, call 218-639-0132.
- RUBY'S PANTRY** will be held Tuesday, Apr. 7, from 4:30 - 6 p.m. at the parking lot of Central Lakes College in Staples.
- 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.



Food Shelf donation

The Motley American Legion recently donated \$1,000 to the Staples Area Food Shelf (SAFS). Above, food shelf volunteer Charlene Sauer accepts the check from Frank Vasecka, Motley American Legion member. (Submitted photo)

DEADLINE
for all classified
ads and copy is
12 noon Friday

For the
Staples World

Easter Egg Hunt

AT STAPLES ALLIANCE CHURCH

Saturday, April 4 9-11 AM

Family Fun Event for All Ages
Bounce house, Face Painting,
Crafts, Food, Program

1512 8th St. NE, Staples

Child abuse prevention month

Todd County Health and Human Services

April is National Child Abuse Prevention Month. This month and throughout the year, Todd County Health and Human Services encourage all individuals and organizations to play a role in making Todd County a healthy place for children and families. By ensuring that parents have the knowledge, skills and resources they need to care for their children, we can help prevent child abuse

and neglect by making meaningful connections with children, youth and families in our communities. We know child maltreatment is a preventable problem. All adults play a role in building the safe, stable, nurturing homes and environments needed for the healthy development of our future generation of parents, leaders and community members.

Report any child abuse, suspected child abuse or neglect if you believe that a child's health or safety is

jeopardized due to abuse. Contact the child protective services agency in your county.

Community Connection Night
Join Todd County Health and Human Services on Thursday, April 20 for the Annual Community Connection Event at the First Baptist Church in Long Prairie. A free meal will be provided, community resource fair and activities for the whole family.

Understanding the Ballot Language for the April 14, 2026 Referendum

As our community prepares to vote on the Staples-Motley School District bond referendum, we have received additional questions about the ballot wording. One phrase in particular is causing confusion.

The final sentence on the ballot states that "by voting "yes" on this ballot question, you are voting for a property tax increase." However, the proposed plan would be tax-neutral if approved.

This language was not chosen by the school district. It is required by state law. Unfortunately, this is the way the law reads – any tax proposal for a school bond has to use this wording, no matter whether the result for taxpayers is a tax increase, decrease or no change. In this case, the district plans to **replace existing debt as it is paid off**, not increase the debt.

The school board wants to keep investing in facilities to keep up with maintenance and educational changes, so April 2026 was chosen for a referendum because existing building debt is about to be paid off. If the referendum passes, the tax impact would be equal to the amount of tax reduction from the expiring debt.

Example: \$20.00 for new bonds - \$20.00 for expiring bonds = No increase in the tax rate.

There is no question that the statement at the bottom of the ballot is confusing. There is a bill at the Legislature that would change the ballot language in some of these situations. For now, we hope this explanation makes it clear to voters that the actual net tax impact will be neutral if the April referendum passes.

Ultimately, our local residents have a decision to make – should we keep investing in our school buildings at the same tax rate as we do today? Learn more at **SpreadingOurWings.org**, and remember to **vote on or before Tuesday, April 14**.

--Paid for by Independent School District #2170 (Staples-Motley) State of Minnesota

Faith Lutheran Church

Holy Week Services

April 2, 6:30pm Maundy Thursday "The Last Supper"
April 3, 12:00pm Good Friday "Passion Drama"
April 5, 6:30am Sunrise Service "He Is Risen!"
9:00am Easter Celebration Service

430 12th St. NE, Staples 218-894-1546

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GOOD FRIDAY

6:30 PM 7:30 PM

04.03.26

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Mary, Mother of the Church Area Catholic Community

EASTER SCHEDULE

HOLY THURSDAY APRIL 02	7 PM Sacred Heart, Staples 7 PM St. Ann, Wadena
GOOD FRIDAY APRIL 03	3 PM Sacred Heart, Staples 3 PM St. Ann, Wadena 6 PM St. Hubert, Bluegrass*
HOLY SATURDAY APRIL 04	9 PM St. Hubert, Bluegrass* 9 PM Sacred Heart, Staples 9 PM St. Ann, Wadena
EASTER SUNDAY APRIL 05	8 AM St. Joseph, Bertha 8 AM St. Hubert, Bluegrass* 8 AM St. Frederick, Verndale* 8:30 AM Sacred Heart, Staples 10 AM St. John the Baptist, Bluffton 10 AM St. Ann, Wadena 10:30 AM Assumption of Our Lady, Menahga* 10:30 AM St. Michael, Motley*

*No incense



Golfers get outdoors

The Staples-Motley golf teams took advantage of some good weather on March 25, taking some driving range swings at The Vintage in Staples, above, while some of the varsity golfers were able to get out on

the course, below. This week, weather predictions are expected to send the golfers back inside for practice. (Staples World photos by Mark Anderson)



Track teams run indoor conference meet

The Staples-Motley track and field teams started their season with the Heart O Lakes Conference indoor meet on March 25 at Concordia in Moorhead.

Adrian Gomez, Noah Larson and Jesus Gallardo started the season with a bang by winning their events.

Gomez launched a personal best in the shot put, sending it more than 48 feet.

Larson set a personal best in the 55 meter hurdles, establishing the fastest time in the state thus far early in the season at 8.39.

Gallardo won the long jump by leaping 18'8".

"We had some great performances with our young team," said Coach Bruce Fuhrman. "Our three event winners shined, but some younger athletes were fun to watch, specifically Alexis Odden, Angel Luna, Sophia Luna, Elise Trif, and Lucy Maros to single several out.

Girls results Heart O Lakes Conference indoor meet

55 meter dash: 4. Sophia Luna 7.97, 10. Lucille Maros 8.20, 11. Chadia Schultz 8.30, 36 Iva Hinson 8.85, 44. Lily Davis 9.12
4x200 relay: 6. Hinson, Maros, Schultz, Luna 2:00
1,600: 8. Elise Trif 6:26, 11. Suhaila Mikhael 6:44
55 hurdles: 6. Abby Brichacek 11.33
400: 21. Abigail Phillippi 1:18,

24. Maci Mithun 1:28
800: 10. Alexa Odden 3:05
Shot put: 3. Annie Schlosser 30'4.25", 21. Josie Jennissen 23'9.25", 27. Chadia Schultz 22'10.75", 37. Gemma Fairbanks 19'4.75"
High jump: 8. Maros 4'3"
Long jump: 19. Davis 12'3.5"
Triple jump: 9. Brichacek 27'10.75"

Boys results Heart O Lakes Conference indoor meet

4x800 relay: 5. Andrew Dobson, Angel Luna, Jackson Odden, Spencer Olsen 10:07
55 meter dash: 52. Adrian Gomez 7.95, 56. William Lange 8.10, 58. Michael Misha Hinson 8.18, 66. Jesus Gallardo 8.44, 72. Aaron Oeltjenbruns 8.52, 76. Josiah Mumm 9.00, 78. Ben Oeltjenbruns 9.48
4x200 relay: 16. Guage Holst, Carter Kist, A. Oeltjenbruns, Carson Dewald 1:54
1,600: 10. Dobson 5:32
55 hurdles: 1. Noah Larson 8.39
400: 7. Angel Luna 59.60, 24. Jacob Faulkner 1:05, 26. William Lange 1:06, 28. Spencer Olsen 1:07, 29. Maxx Carlson 1:08, 33. A. Oeltjenbruns 1:09, 35. Odden 1:12
800: 19. Alex Leach 2:49
Shot put: 1. Gomez 48'5.75", 34. Peter Oeltjenbruns 29'1", 40. Liam Jennissen 27'7.5", 45. B. Oeltjenbruns 24'5.75", 48. Michael Jewison 22'2"
High jump: 14. Larson 5'1", 18. Dewald 4'9"
Long jump: 1. Gallardo 18'8", 19. Holst 14'11.5", 27. Kist 13'7.25"
Triple jump: 7. Kaleb Harman 35'4.5", 12. Jennissen 30'8", 14. Lyndon Laney 27'7"

Orth's track career profiled in online feature story

Editor's note: Staples-Motley track and field assistant coach Ashley (Tingelstad) Orth was one of several athletes recently profiled at the Minnesota Athletes web site.

By Patrick "Packy" Mader
minnesotaathletes.wordpress.com

"Where I attended Lake Park Audubon Elementary School, there were no organized youth sports," says Ashley Tingelstad of her childhood in a town of 700 people located 35 miles east of Fargo, North Dakota. "I played—and loved—football at recess. In sixth grade, I remember beating my dad in a race for the first time and that's when I knew I had some athletic ability."

Born in 1990 in Detroit Lakes, Minnesota, Ashley's father, Brent Tingelstad is a retired construction worker, and her mother, Lisa, now married to Timothy Sparks, worked in manufacturing, eventually being promoted to production manager until retiring. The family lived in the Lake Park Audubon School District which she attended until her senior year in high school with two younger siblings, Alexa and Zach.

Finally able to experience team sports in middle school, Ashley joined the volleyball and basketball teams. "My mother made me go out for track in the spring. It wasn't that I hated it, I just was not super interested in it," says Ashley about the sport which led her to a college scholarship.

In volleyball, Ashley played outside hitter and in basketball the 5 ft 8 inch athlete was a prolific scoring shooting guard, totaling more than 1,800 points in her high school career. While the Lake Park Audubon High School Raiders never reached the state tournament during her time there, Ashley did get to play in the 2009 Class AA Minnesota state girls' basketball tournament her senior year. Her stepfather, a career Air Force veteran, was transferred to a base in Grand Forks, North Dakota, 115



Ashley Tingelstad running at the Drake Relays for North Dakota State University. (Submitted photo)



Toni Tollefson and Ashley Tingelstad of Lake Park-Audubon at the 2008 state meet, placing second as a team. Tollefson won the high jump and Tingelstad won all three sprints, the 100, 200 and 400. (Submitted photo)

miles away, so Ashley became a member of the Green Wave at nearby East Grand Forks High School. Despite a strong first half as the # 2 seed in the opening round of the tournament, Ashley got injured shortly before half time and the team lost the lead and the game to New London-Spicer 57-53.

It was in track and field that Ashley shone. Qualifying for the 2005 state meet in the sprints as an 8th-grader, Ashley did not place. "I have a strong work ethic, am competitive, and pushed myself to improve," she says of the experience leading up to an improved freshman year. In 2006, Ashley placed 6th in the 200-meter dash and 4th in the always challenging 400-meter dash. As a sophomore, she claimed two runner-up medals (100- and 400-meter sprints) and 3rd place in the 200-meter sprint. Ashley's rivals in the Class A sprints would be Megan Geyen, now a good friend, of Watertown-Mayer and Analisa Huschle, "a stud athlete" at Bagley/Fosston.

Coming so close to an individual championship only fueled Ashley's competitive nature. It all came together for Ashley during an undefeated junior season in 2008 when she swept the 100-, 200-, and 400-meter (in a Class A state meet record of 55.83 seconds) sprints at the state meet. With teammate Toni Tollefson winning the high jump, the duo took second in the state team cham-

dence Academy's 55 points. It is particularly impressive since Lake Park Audubon did not have a track.

As a senior at East Grand Forks, Ashley came within a whisker of repeating her three titles; she won the 100- and 400-meter dashes and was sandwiched between Huschle and Geyen in the 200-meter final.

Recruited by Concordia University, St. Paul for both basketball and track, Ashley gave a verbal commitment but later found North Dakota State University (NDSU) in Fargo more appealing.

Starting strong, Ashley was the 2010 Summit League women's 400-meter outdoor champion and runner-up in the 200-meter dash. She struggled her sophomore year and then red-shirted the 2012-13 indoor and outdoor seasons. Rebounding with a productive year as a junior, Ashley reclaimed the 400-meter title in both indoor and outdoor Summit League competition and was instrumental in the success of the 4 x 400-meter relay team.

But it was Ashley's senior year in 2013-14 that was the crowning achievement. She was a member of multiple relay teams which broke school records and earned 2nd team All-American honors in the 4 x 400-meter relay in both indoor and outdoor national championships. A third Summit League individual title in the 400-meter sprint and runner-up to teammate Antoinette Goodman (Burnsville) in the 200-meter dash were among her achievements. "It was an exciting year," says Ashley. "Our indoor 4 x 400-meter relay team qualified for nationals at a last chance meet. At the outdoor regional meet [in Fayetteville, Arkansas], we ran a 3:32 and qualified for nationals. It was the first time for our relay teams. Another favorite race is when Goodman,



Coach Ashley (Tingelstad) Orth demonstrates some dynamic exercises for the Staples-Motley track and field team this spring. (Staples World photo by



The Orth family in Staples, Derek and Ashley with children Cade and Ellie. (Submitted photo)

Morgan Milbrath, myself, and Paige Stratioti [Duluth Denfeld] won the 1600-meter sprint medley at the Drake Relays [with a time of 3:47.73]. We beat the big schools like Arkansas, Baylor, and the Big Ten schools."

Graduating with a degree in human development and family science, Ashley trained post-collegiately, hoping to qualify for the US Olympic Track and Field Trials. In 2016, she accepted a position to teach and coach at Lake Park Audubon Schools. After three years, she moved to Bertha-Hewitt for an additional two years and earned a master's degree at Bemidji State University in 2020. Ashley was offered a job as a special education teacher and an assistant cross country and track and field coach in the Staples-Motley school district. Her husband, Derek Orth, is originally from Staples and works as an insurance agent at Orth Insurance Agency. The couple, married in 2019, has two children, Ellie and Cade.

"My relay teammates are athletes I appreciated. Two were in my wedding," says Ashley, pointing to people influential in her life. "Without my mom, none of this would have happened. She was the person who encouraged me to look one more time at NDSU. I think I got my work ethic from her. We didn't have a lot, but she worked hard to make our lives better. My stepdad never treated us less than his own. His presence was a blessing. And Ryn Godfrey, my college track coach, became a father figure to me. He was consistent and cared, trying to improve me as an athlete and as a person. I had some struggles and he reminded me of what I was capable."

"Athletics became my opportunity," Ashley concludes. "It teaches resiliency. It's

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All advertising copy is subject to the approval of the general manager. We will not accept ads from anyone with a past due account.
Regarding sex or age preference in help wanted advertising in accordance with the rules adopted by the Civil Rights Commission, the Staples World, Sunday Square Shooter and Heartland Market cannot accept help wanted advertising copy which in any way expresses a sex or age preference on the basis of a bonafide occupational requirement unless the advertiser files an affidavit with the newspaper justifying the sex or age preference on the basis of a bonafide occupational requirement.
All real estate and rental advertising in these publications is subject to the Federal Fair Housing Act of 1968 which made it illegal to advertise 'any preference, limitation or discrimination based on race, color, religion, sex or national origin or any intention to make any such preference limitation or discrimination.' These publications will not knowingly accept any advertising for real estate or rental which is in violation of the law. Our readers are hereby informed that all dwellings advertised in this newspaper are available on an equal opportunity basis.

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**NOTICE
BARTLETT TOWNSHIP
BOARD OF APPEAL
AND EQUALIZATION**
Important Information
Regarding Property
Assessments
This may affect your
2027 property taxes.

The Board of Appeal and Equalization for Bartlett Township will meet on Tuesday, April 7, 2026 at 10:00 a.m. at the Town Hall. The purpose of this meeting is to determine whether property in the jurisdiction has been properly valued and classified by the assessor.

If you believe the value or classification of your property is incorrect, please contact your assessor's office to discuss your concerns. If you disagree with the valuation or classification after discussing it with your assessor, you may appear before the Local Board of Appeal and Equalization. The board will review your assessments a make corrections as needed. Generally, you must appeal to the local board before appealing to the County Board of Appeal and Equalization.

Jan Jares, Clerk
Bartlett Township

15pnc

**NOTICE
BECKER TOWNSHIP
ROAD TOUR**

The Becker Township Annual Road Tour will be held on Tuesday, April 14, 2026. Meet at the town hall at 4:30 p.m. The public is invited to attend.

Mary Fitcher, Clerk
Becker Township

15pnc

**NOTICE
BYRON TOWNSHIP
BOARD OF APPEAL
AND EQUALIZATION**

The Byron Township Board of Appeal and Equalization will be held Thursday. April 9 at 2:30 p.m. at the Leader Community Hall.

Becki Rassler, Clerk
Byron Township

15pnc

**NOTICE
CITY OF STAPLES
ORDINANCE NO. 561
AN ORDINANCE
REGARDING THE SALE
OF PROPERTY**

THE CITY OF STAPLES DOES ORDAIN AS FOLLOWS:

Sec. 1: The City of Staples is hereby empowered to sell the following real estate located in the City of Staples, County of Todd, State of Minnesota in accordance with the sale price to be authorized by the City Council:

31.08 AC-NW1/4 SW1/4 EXC(3)TR 1)1.34 AC - PT NW1/4 SW1/4 COM AT NE COR; TH S ALG E LI 242'; TH W & PARA WI N LI 242'; TH N & PARA/E LI 242' TO N LI OF 1/4' TH E ALG N LI TO PT OF BG; SUBJ TO RD EASE- MENT ALG E 33' THEREOF * & EXC TRACT(2) 2.23 AC-PT NW1/4 SW1/4 DESC AS COM AT NW COR OF NW1/4 SW1/4; THN E ALONG N LINE 500'TO POB. THN S 323.4';THN E 300';THN N 323.4; THN W 300' TO POB. SUBJECT TO ROADWAY ALONG N 33' *EXC TRACT(3)COMM AT THE NE CORNER OF NW1/4 SW1/4;THN W ALNG THE N LI OF NW1/4 SW1/4 242' TO POB OF THE

TRACT TO BE CONVEYED HEREIN;THN S & PARALLEL WITH THE E LI 323.4'; THN W & PARALLEL WITH THE N LI 250';THN N PARALLEL WITH E LI 323.4' MORE OR LESS TO THE N LI OF NW1/4 SW1/4;THN E ALNG N LI 250' MORE OR LESS TO POB **EXC THAT PT NW1/4 SW1/4 DESC AS:COMM AT THE NE CORNER OF SAID NW1/4 SW1/4;THN S ALNG THE E LI OF NW1/4 SW1/4 242'TO POB;THN W PARALLEL WITH THE N LI OF NW1/4 SW1/4 242';THN S PARALLEL WITH THE E LI 81.4';THN W PARALLEL WITH THE N LI 250';THN S PARALLEL WITH THE E LI 270';THN E PARALLEL WITH N LI 492'TO THE INTERSECTION WITH THE E LI;THN N ALNG SAID E LI 351.40'TO POB

Sec. 2: The net proceeds from the sale shall be used pursuant to Section 11.05 of the Staples City Charter.

Sec. 3: The Mayor and City Administrator are authorized to execute any documents to complete the sale.

Sec. 4: This ordinance shall take effect from and after its passage and publication in accordance with law.

Adopted this 24th day of March, 2026.

Tara Greer, Clerk
City of Staples

15pnc

**PUBLIC
NOTICES:
Your Right
to Know**

**NOTICE
MEADOWBROOK
TOWNSHIP BOARD
OF APPEAL AND
EQUALIZATION**
Important Information
Regarding Assessment and
Classification of Property.
This may affect your 2026
property tax payments.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, That the Board of Appeal and Equalization for the Township of Meadowbrook, Cass County, Minnesota shall meet on Wednesday, April 8, 2026 at 10:00 a.m. This meeting is at the Leader Community Hall. The purpose of this meeting is to determine whether taxable property in the jurisdiction has been properly valued and classified by the assessor, and to determine whether corrections need to be made.

If you believe the value or classification of your property is incorrect, please contact your Assessor's office to discuss your concerns. If you are still not satisfied with the valuation or classification after discussing it with your assessor, you may appear before the Local Board of Appeal and Equalization. The Board shall review the valuation, classification, or both if necessary, and shall correct it as needed. Generally, an appearance before your Local Board of Appeal and Equalization is required by law before an appeal can be taken to the County Board of Appeal and Equalization.

Ty Peterson, Clerk
Meadowbrook Township

14-15pnc

NOTICE: MOOSE LAKE TOWNSHIP
Important Information Regarding Assessment and Classification of Property
This may affect your 2027 property tax payments

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, That the **Board of Appeal and Equalization** for the **Township of Moose Lake**, Cass County, Minnesota shall meet on **Thursday, April 9, 2026 at 1:00 p.m.** This meeting is at the Leader Community Hall. The purpose of this meeting is to determine whether taxable property in the jurisdiction has been properly valued and classified by the assessor, and to determine whether corrections need to be made.

If you believe the value or classification of your property is incorrect, please contact your Assessor's office to discuss your concerns. If you are still not satisfied with the valuation or classification after discussing it with your assessor, you may appear before the Local Board of Appeal and Equalization. The Board shall review the valuation, classification, or both if necessary, and shall correct it as needed. Generally, an appearance before your Local Board of Appeal and Equalization is required by law before an appeal can be taken to the County Board of Appeal and Equalization.

Karen Roubel, Clerk
Moose Lake Township

14-15pnc

**NOTICE OF
MORTGAGE
FORECLOSURE SALE**

THE RIGHT TO VERIFICATION OF THE DEBT AND IDENTITY OF THE ORIGINAL CREDITOR WITHIN THE TIME PROVIDED BY LAW IS NOT AFFECTED BY THIS ACTION.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN: That default has occurred in the conditions of the following described mortgage:

DATE OF MORTGAGE: May 8, 2020

ORIGINAL PRINCIPAL AMOUNT OF MORTGAGE: \$263,532.00

MORTGAGOR(S): Jatty D. Zondo, married woman

MORTGAGEE: Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc., as nominee for Guardian Mortgage, a division of Sunflower Bank, N.A.

DATE AND PLACE OF FILING: Recorded on May 13, 2020 as Document Number 519346 in the Office of the County Recorder of Todd County, Minnesota.

ASSIGNMENTS OF MORTGAGE: Assigned to: Guardian Mortgage, a division of Sunflower Bank, N.A. by assignment recorded on October 6, 2023 as Document Number A538428 in the Office of the County Recorder of Todd County, Minnesota.

LEGAL DESCRIPTION OF PROPERTY: The Southwest Quarter of the Southeast Quarter, except the East 33 feet thereof, in Section 4, Township 132, Range 35, Todd County, Minnesota.

STREET ADDRESS OF PROPERTY: 13134 COUNTY 24, BERTHA, MN 56437

COUNTY IN WHICH PROPERTY IS LOCATED: Todd County, Minnesota.

THE AMOUNT CLAIMED TO BE DUE ON THE MORTGAGE ON THE DATE OF THE NOTICE: \$239,769.57

TRANSACTION AGENT:

**STATE OF MINNESOTA
COUNTY OF TODD
SEVENTH JUDICIAL
DISTRICT
DISTRICT COURT
PROBATE DIVISION
Court File
No. 77-PR-26-245**

**Estate of
Bradley Eugene Mertens
a/k/a Bradley E.
Mertens a/k/a Bradley
Mertens a/k/a Brad
Mertens,
Decedent**

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

It is Ordered and Notice is given that on April 27, 2026 at 10:14 a.m. an administrative judicial hearing in which no appearances are necessary will be held in this Court at Todd County District Court, 221 First Avenue South, Long Prairie, Minnesota, for the adjudication of intestacy and determination of heirship of the Decedent, and for the appointment of Deanne Mertens, whose address is 29868 Timberlane Road, Staples, Minnesota, 56479 as Personal Representative of the Estate of the Decedent in an ☒ UNSUPERVISED administration. Any objections to the petition must be filed with the Court prior to or raised at the hearing. If proper and if no objec-

tions are filed or raised, the Personal Representative will be appointed with full power to administer the Estate, including the power to collect all assets, to pay all legal debts, claims, taxes and expenses, to sell real and personal property, and to do all necessary acts for the Estate.

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

Dated: March 23, 2026

Heidi Hovis,
Judge of District Court

Kim Peterson
Court Administrator

Attorney for Petitioner
Lee Hanson
Hanson Law Office
1010 W. St. Germain St.,
Suite 750
St. Cloud, Minnesota, 56301
Attorney License No:
0040964
Telephone: (320) 257-3388
Email:
lee@hanlawoffice.com

15-16pnc

**NOTICE
TESTING OF OPTICAL
SCAN VOTING SYSTEM
INDEPENDENT
SCHOOL DISTRICT
NO. 2170
(STAPLES-MOTLEY)
STATE OF MINNESOTA**

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that Independent School District No. 2170 (Staples-Motley) shall perform a public accuracy test of the optical scan voting system to be used in the School District's April 14, 2026 Special Election. The test shall be conducted at: Todd County Courthouse 221 1st Ave. S, Long Prairie, Minnesota on April 9, 2026 at 8:30 a.m.

Interested individuals are authorized to attend and observe. If you have any questions, please contact Trisha at 218-894-5400.

Dated: March 19, 2026

BY ORDER OF THE
SCHOOL BOARD
/s/ Sherry L. Frisk,ß
School District Clerk
Independent School
District No. 2170
(Staples-Motley)
State of Minnesota

15pnc

premises by 11:59 p.m. on May 28, 2027.

THE TIME ALLOWED BY LAW FOR REDEMPTION BY THE MORTGAGOR, THE MORTGAGOR'S PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVES OR ASSIGNS, MAY BE REDUCED TO FIVE WEEKS IF A JUDICIAL ORDER IS ENTERED UNDER MINNESOTA STATUTES, SECTION 582.032, DETERMINING, AMONG OTHER THINGS, THAT THE MORTGAGED PREMISES ARE IMPROVED WITH A RESIDENTIAL DWELLING OF LESS THAN FIVE UNITS, ARE NOT PROPERTY USED IN AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTION, AND ARE ABANDONED.

M O R T G A G O R (S)
RELEASED FROM FINANCIAL OBLIGATION ON MORTGAGE: None

Dated: March 23, 2026

GUARDIAN MORTGAGE, A
DIVISION OF SUNFLOWER
BANK, N.A.
Mortgagee

TROTT LAW, P.C.
By: /s/
N. Kibongni Fondungallah,
Esq.
Samuel R. Coleman, Esq.
Alexa Marsh, Esq.
Attorneys for Mortgagee
25 Dale Street North
St. Paul, MN 55102
(651) 209-9760
(23-1001-FC04)

Federal law may require reporting to the Financial Crimes Enforcement Network for certain purchases of residential property by entities or trusts. A successful third party bidder may be required to provide ownership and identifying information as a condition to completing the transfer.

THIS IS A COMMUNICATION FROM A DEBT COLLECTOR.

15-20pnc

**NOTICE OF SPECIAL ELECTION
INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 2170
(STAPLES-MOTLEY)
STATE OF MINNESOTA**

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that a special election has been called and will be held in and for Independent School District No. 2170 (Staples-Motley), State of Minnesota, on Tuesday, April 14, 2026, for the purpose of voting on the following question:

School District Question 1
Approval of School District Bond Issue

☐ **Yes**

☐ **No**

Shall the school board of Independent School District No. 2170 (Staples-Motley) be authorized to issue its general obligation school building bonds in an amount not to exceed \$42,500,000 to provide funds for the acquisition and betterment of school sites and facilities, including the construction and equipping of a secure entry and career and technical education (CTE) addition to the High School/Middle School site; the construction and equipping of an addition to the Elementary School; the renovation and remodeling of classrooms and restrooms at school sites and facilities; upgrades to casework and finishes; the acquisition and installation of furniture, fixtures and equipment at school sites and facilities; the construction of athletic and activity field improvements, including track replacement and renovations and upgrades to the football field, bleachers, press box, scoreboard, concession stand and locker rooms; the construction of upgrades and improvements to the High School/Middle School building envelope; and the acquisition and installation of lighting, acoustic, sound and other enhancements to the High School/Middle School auditorium?

**BY VOTING "YES" ON THIS BALLOT QUESTION, YOU
ARE VOTING FOR A PROPERTY TAX INCREASE.**

The combined polling place for this election and the precincts served by the combined polling place are as follows:

COMBINED POLLING PLACE: Staples Community Center
425 4th Street NE
Staples, MN 56479

This combined polling place serves all territory located in the City of Staples in Todd and Wadena Counties; Villard, Bartlett, Staples, Germania, Moran, and Ward Townships in Todd County; and the City of Aldrich and Thomastown, Aldrich, Bullard and Lyons Townships in Wadena County, Minnesota; the City of Motley in Cass and Morrison Counties; May, Becker, Moose Lake, Byron, Meadowbrook and Poplar Townships in Cass County; and Motley Township in Morrison, Minnesota; the Townships of Scandia Valley and Cushing in Morrison County; and Fawn Lake and Turtle Creek in Todd County, Minnesota.

Any eligible voter residing in the School District may vote at said election at the combined polling place designated above for the precinct in which he or she resides. The poll for said election will be opened at 7:00 o'clock a.m. and will close at 8:00 o'clock p.m. on the date of said election.

A voter must be registered to vote to be eligible to vote in this election. An unregistered individual may register to vote at the combined polling place on election day.

Dated: JANUARY 5, 2026.

BY ORDER OF THE SCHOOL BOARD

/s/ Sherry L. Frisk
School District Clerk
Independent School District No. 2170
(Staples-Motley)
State of Minnesota



Todd County Board of Commissioners

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE TODD COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS HELD FEB. 17, 2026

Call to Order
The Todd County Board of Commissioners met in the Commissioner's Board Room in the City of Long Prairie, MN on the 17th day of February, 2026 at 9:00 a.m. The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Byers. The meeting was opened with the Pledge of Allegiance. All Commissioners were present.

Approval of Agenda
On motion by Noska and second by Denny, the following motion was introduced and adopted by unanimous vote: To adopt the agenda as presented.

Consent Agenda
On motion by Becker and second by Neumann, the following motions and resolutions were introduced and adopted by unanimous vote:
To approve the Todd County Board of Commissioner's Meeting Minutes for February 3 and 9, 2026 as presented.
Approve the hiring of Mr. Joshua Crider to fill the vacant Public Works Heavy Equipment Operator position at Grade F, Step A (\$26.36/hour).

Accept the resignation of Nathan Ruda, seasonal worker at Todd County Solid Waste effective 8/8/2025.
Accept the Resignation of Lee-Anne Loudon effective March 20, 2026.
To approve the hire of Yolanda Jobe to fill an open Eligibility Worker position. Grade F/6, Step C, \$27.87. Start date: TBD
To approve a Seasonal On Sale and Sunday Liquor License for Birchwood Resort at the address of 22182 Birchwood Loop, Sauk Centre, MN in Birchdale Township effective April 15, 2026 through October 15, 2026.

GAMBLING PERMIT – CENTRAL MINNESOTA WHITETAILS
WHEREAS, the Todd County Board of Commissioners are establishing their approval for a Gambling Permit for the Central Minnesota Whitetails through this resolution;

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Todd County Board of Commissioners approve a Gambling Permit for the Central Minnesota Whitetails to hold a raffle event at Clarissa Ballroom in Eagle Valley Township at the address 19281 Kotter Rd, Clarissa, MN on March 28, 2026.

GAMBLING PERMIT – SAUK CENTRE AREA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE
WHEREAS, the Todd County Board of Commissioners are establishing their approval for a Gambling Permit for the Sauk Centre Area Chamber of Commerce through this resolution;

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Todd County Board of Commissioners approve a Gambling Permit for the Sauk Centre Area Chamber of Commerce to hold a raffle event at the Howard & Katherine Marthaler Shed in Kandota Township at the address 10098 County 11, Sauk Centre, MN on April 25th, 2026.

To approve a one day On Sale Temporary Liquor License for the Sauk Centre Area Chamber of Commerce at the Marthaler's Shed at the address of 10098 County 11, Sauk Centre, MN in Kandota Township effective April 25th, 2026.

GAMBLING PERMIT – THE CHURCH OF ST. JOSEPH OF GREY EAGLE

WHEREAS, the Todd County Board of Commissioners are establishing their approval for a Gambling Permit for The Church of St. Joseph of Grey Eagle through this resolution;
NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Todd County Board of Commissioners approve a Gambling Permit for The Church of St. Joseph of Grey Eagle to hold a raffle event at the Shattuck's Hub Supper Club in Burnhamville Township at the address 30905 County 13, Burtrum, MN on June 12, 2026.

Auditor-Treasurer
On motion by Noska and second by Denny, the following motion was introduced and adopted by unanimous rollcall vote: To approve the January 2026 Auditor Warrants number (ACH) 905696 through 905800 in the amount of \$1,806,427.97 (Manual) 1167 through 1199 in the amount of \$1,904,488.81 and (Regular) 245738 through 245884 in the amount of \$562,402.20 for a total of \$4,273,318.98.

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

unanimous rollcall vote: To approve the Commissioner Warrants number (ACH) 404350 through 404377 in the amount of \$22,948.86 and (Regular) 59572 through 59608 in the amount of \$42,435.15 for a total of \$65,384.01.

On motion by Becker and second by Denny, the following motion was introduced and adopted by unanimous rollcall vote: To approve the Health & Human Services Commissioner Warrants number (ACH) 807276 through 807306 and (Regular) 713848 through 713877 for a total of \$58,351.58.

On motion by Denny and second by Becker, the following motion was introduced and adopted by unanimous rollcall vote: To approve the Health & Human Services SSIS Warrants number (ACH) 601921 through 601937 and (Regular) 518819 through 518840 for a total amount of \$92,281.90.

On motion by Neumann and second by Noska, the following resolution was introduced and adopted by unanimous vote:
2026 PARKS AND TRAILS APPROPRIATION FUNDS TRANSFER
WHEREAS, the 2026 budget for Todd County's allocation of funds to the Todd County Parks and Trails Board has been approved at \$9,000; and

WHEREAS, a letter was received from the Todd County Parks and Trails Board requesting for the appropriation of funds from the General Fund for 2026.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Todd County Board of Commissioners hereby approve the transfer of funds in the amount of \$9,000 from the General Fund to the Parks and Trails Fund.

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

APPOINTMENT OF BONNIE THOELE AND VERA TOENYAN TO THE HOUSING AND REDEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY BOARD OF TODD COUNTY

WHEREAS, the Todd County Board of Commissioners of Todd County, Minnesota held a duly authorized special meeting on the 12th day of September, 1972; and

WHEREAS, at said meeting a resolution was passed and adopted declaring the need for a Housing and Redevelopment Authority in Todd County, Minnesota; and

WHEREAS, a vacancy exists in the current term for District 5 on the Todd County HRA Board which is scheduled to expire on September 18, 2026 and Verna Toenyan has expressed her desire to be appointed to this position.

WHEREAS, the term for District 3 is set to expire on September 18, 2025 on the Todd County HRA Board and Maggie Leverich-Wold has expressed her desire for reappointment to this position.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, pursuant to the provisions of the Municipal Housing and Redevelopment Act of the State of Minnesota, the County Board of Commissioners of Todd County, Minnesota, hereby appoint the two persons hereinafter named to serve as Commissioner of the Housing and Redevelopment Authority of Todd County, Minnesota, and to serve for the remainder of the period of five years as hereinafter stipulated:

Verna Toenyan – January 28, 2026 through September 18, 2026
Maggie Leverich-Wold – September 18, 2025 through September 18, 2030.

Board of Commissioners & SWCD Supervisor Joint Meeting

Chair Byers suspended the current meeting to allow for the Joint Meeting with the SWCD Supervisors to be held at 9:10 a.m.

Separate minutes of the Joint Meeting attached.

Chair Byers resumed the regular board meeting at 9:55 a.m.

Public Works
On motion by Noska and second by Denny, the following motion was introduced and adopted by unanimous vote: Approve the attached Co-operative Construction Agreement with Bertha Township for the replacement of Bridge L9947.

On motion by Becker and second by Neumann, the following motion was introduced and adopted by unanimous vote: Set the 2026 Spring Road Meeting for April 2, 2026 at 9:00 AM at Todd County Public Works Northern Shop.

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

unanimous vote:
APPROVAL OF MNDOT AGREEMENT 1062287 – EXCHANGE OF FEDERAL FUNDS FOR STATE AID FUNDS FOR SAP 077-651-005 (2029 PROJECT ON COUNTY STATE AID HIGHWAY 51)

WHEREAS, The Federal fund exchange program is a voluntary program which allows State Aid agencies, who have been selected to receive federal funds to trade them with other State Aid agencies for state aid construction funds, and;

WHEREAS, Minnesota Statutes § 471.59, subd. 10, §162.031, §162.091, and Title 23 USC 133 authorizes the parties to enter into this Agreement, and;

WHEREAS, Recipient Wright County ("Recipient County") is in need of Federal Funds for State Project Number (SP) 086-639-025 in Fiscal Year 2029 and Todd County ("Donor County") is willing to transfer Federal Funds designated for State Project No. 077-651-005 to Recipient County, in exchange Recipient County will transfer \$1,820,050.00 of State Aid Construction Funds to Donor County under a separate agreement with MndOT Contract Number 1062288, and;

WHEREAS, the Minnesota Department of Transportation is willing to facilitate these transactions on behalf of Wright County and Todd County.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Todd County Board of Commissioners does hereby agree that pursuant to Minnesota Stat. Sec. 161.36, the Commissioner of Transportation be appointed as Agent of the Donor County to accept as its agent, federal aid funds which may be made available for eligible transportation related projects, and;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the Chairperson of the Board of Commissioners and the County Auditor/Treasurer are hereby authorized and directed for and on behalf of the Donor County to execute and enter into an agreement with the Commissioner of Transportation prescribing the terms and conditions of said federal aid participation as set forth and contained in "Minnesota Department of Transportation Agency Agreement No. 1062287, a copy of which said agreement was before the County Board and which is made a part hereof by reference.

County Attorney
On motion by Noska and second by Becker, the following motion was introduced and adopted by unanimous vote: To approve the contract for 2026 Prosecution Services with the City of Bertha.

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

RESOLUTION TO ADOPT THE 2025 TODD COUNTY HAZARD MITIGATION PLAN

WHEREAS, Todd County recognizes the threat of natural hazards to people and property within Todd County; and

WHEREAS, Todd County has prepared a hazard mitigation plan, hereby known as the 2025 Todd County Hazard Mitigation Plan in accordance with Federal laws, including the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act, as amended; the National Flood Insurance Act of 1968, as amended; and the National Dam Safety Program Act, as amended; and

WHEREAS, the 2025 Todd County Hazard Mitigation Plan identifies mitigation goals and actions to reduce or eliminate long-term risk to people and property within Todd County from the impacts of future hazards and disasters; and

WHEREAS, by adoption by the Todd County Board of Commissioners demonstrates its commitment to hazard mitigation and achieving the goals outlined in the 2025 Todd County Hazard Mitigation Plan, and

WHEREAS, approval of the 2025 Todd County Hazard Mitigation Plan by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) will make Todd County and participating jurisdictions eligible to apply for FEMA Hazard Mitigation Assistance grants; and

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Todd County Board of Commissioners supports the hazard mitigation planning effort and wishes to adopt the 2025 Todd County Hazard Mitigation Plan.

County Sheriff

On motion by Noska and second by Denny, the following motion was introduced and adopted by unanimous vote: Purchase the 3 replacement 2026 Chevy Tahoes through

North Country Chevrolet for a total of \$166,079.76 that will be paid for through state aid funds.

On motion by Becker and second by Neumann, the following motion was introduced and adopted by unanimous vote: Purchase the 3-replacement squad equipment from MacQueen for a total cost of \$33,103.86.

On motion by Denny and second by Neumann, the following motion was introduced and adopted by unanimous vote: Purchase the 3 in squad cameras and 2 in squad radios from DSC Communications for a total cost of \$28,301.78.

Solid Waste

On motion by Neumann and second by Becker, the following motion was introduced and adopted by unanimous vote: Authorize Director to sign proposal with Widseth for professional services for \$19,800.

Planning & Zoning

The February 2026 Planning Commission draft minutes and staff report was provided for review and discussion.

On motion by Neumann and second by Denny, the following motion was introduced and adopted by unanimous vote: To adopt the findings of the Planning Commission and approve the preliminary plat for parcel 12-0007400 known as Sacred Heart Addition with the following conditions:

1. Applicant shall remain compliant with applicable local, state or federal regulations related to operation of the cemetery.
2. Declare a cemetery official and an alternate that will be responsible for following state rules and provide contact information to the County to be recorded with the final plat.
3. Maintain a list of individuals buried and exact location within the cemetery.
4. Cemetery plot must be completely fenced off with boundaries clearly identified. All burial sites must remain inside of the fenced area.
5. Establishment of vegetative screening around the entire property. Screening shall be no less than 6' in height at maturity.
6. Cemetery must be established and maintained in compliance with MN Statutes Chapter 307.

On motion by Noska and second by Becker, the following motion was introduced and adopted by unanimous vote: To adopt the findings of the Planning Commission and grant the CUP to construct a ground mounted solar energy system on parcel 14-0024803 with the following conditions:

1. Applicant must obtain permitting and/or licensing from additional governmental agencies as necessary.
2. Submission of Interconnection Agreement with the electric service provider prior to issuance of a land use permit.
3. Construction of additional solar arrays shall require the review of the Planning Commission.
4. Establishment of vegetative screening along the east property line to provide screening from the public roadway. Screening shall be no less than 6' in height at maturity.

Health & Human Services

On motion by Denny and second by Noska, the following motion was introduced and adopted by unanimous vote: Approve the update from Administrative Assistant II to Administrative Assistant II-Bilingual to the Financial Services Unit organization-al chart.

County Auditor-Treasurer's Report

The County Auditor-Treasurer informed of all the upcoming election related events, tax statement preparation and audit preparations.

County Coordinator's Report

The County Coordinator reported attending policies, interviews, finance, dept head, and child care initiative meetings.

County Commissioner's Report

The Commissioners reported on meetings and events attended.

Commissioner Becker attended meetings including the Public Health, Policies, Regional Transportation, MTWCHB, Rainbow Rider and Extension.

Commissioner Denny has attended meetings including Finance, Personnel, Dept Head, Solid Waste and Fair Board.

Commissioner Noska has attended meetings including TWCC and MTWCHB.

Commissioner Byers attended meetings including Personnel, Finance and Dept Head.

Commissioner Neumann attended meetings including the Policies,

CMCOA, Planning Commission, Park Board, Solid Waste and Rainbow Rider.

Adjourn

On motion by Noska and second by Neumann, the meeting was adjourned for the month of February 2026.

AUDITOR WARRANTS

VENDOR NAME	\$ AMOUNT
ASSOC OF MN COUNTIES.....	\$20,973.00
ASSOC OF MN COUNTIES.....	2,638.00
CARD SERVICES COBORNS.....	4,799.60
CLIFFTON LARSONALLEN, LLP.....	6,615.00
GREAT RIVER REGIONAL LIBRARY.....	90,634.25
ITEN FUNERAL HOME.....	3,500.00
LONG PRAIRIE SANITATION INC.....	4,673.25
MACQUEEN.....	9,391.96
MCCC, MI33.....	34,392.95
MCIT.....	581,056.00
NORTHERN STAR COOP... ..	2,054.34
PETERS LAW OFFICE, P.A.....	8,721.25
TODD CO HISTORICAL SOCIETY.....	15,000.00
US BANK.....	382,465.00
ZIEGLER INC.....	5,149.63
26 PAYMENTS LESS	
THAN \$2,000.....	12,532.37
BAUM/RICK AND JULIE.....	3,187.50
FLEET SERVICES/WEX BANK.....	7,776.34
INITIATIVE FOUNDATION... ..	7,500.00
MASWCD.....	7,654.59
MCIT.....	4,118.00
MN DEPT OF FINANCE.....	6,204.00
NATIONWIDE RETIREMENT SOLUTIONS.....	2,065.00
NORTHERN STAR COOP... ..	4,756.00
PACIFIC LIFE INSURANCE CO.....	2,400.00
POPE DOUGLAS SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT.....	28,672.54
STEP.....	9,099.68
VOYANT COMMUNICATIONS, LLC.....	3,378.06
53 PAYMENTS LESS	
THAN \$2,000.....	26,129.42
CITY OF BERTHA.....	3,072.54
CITY OF BROWERVILLE... ..	2,534.84
CITY OF CLARISSA.....	6,032.67
CITY OF EAGLE BEND.....	7,587.04
CITY OF GREY EAGLE.....	5,889.31
CITY OF LONG PRAIRIE... ..	34,879.07
CITY OF OSAKIS.....	3,825.53
CITY OF STAPLES.....	14,437.85
SAUK RIVER WATER SHED DISTRICT.....	3,003.04
SCHOOL DISTRICT 213.....	22,376.27
SCHOOL DISTRICT 2170.....	54,946.70
SCHOOL DISTRICT 2753.....	70,232.72
SCHOOL DISTRICT 486.....	12,926.17
SCHOOL DISTRICT 740.....	2,481.07
SCHOOL DISTRICT 743.....	34,547.28
SCHOOL DISTRICT 786.....	29,347.08
SCHOOL DISTRICT 787.....	44,183.55
SCHOOL DISTRICT 818.....	6,258.02
TOWN OF BARTLETT.....	4,953.88
TOWN OF BERTHA.....	6,483.29
TOWN OF BIRCHDALE.....	10,473.36
TOWN OF BRUCE.....	6,534.31
TOWN OF BURLEENE.....	3,015.49
TOWN OF BURNHAMVILLE.....	5,535.50
TOWN OF EAGLE VALLEY.....	6,797.55
TOWN OF FAWN LAKE.....	4,534.89
TOWN OF GERMANIA.....	6,198.75
TOWN OF GORDON.....	6,261.18
TOWN OF GREY EAGLE.....	3,719.45
TOWN OF HARTFORD.....	3,170.09
TOWN OF IONA.....	5,920.63
TOWN OF LESLIE.....	3,383.78
TOWN OF LITTLE ELK.....	2,087.77
TOWN OF LITTLE SAUK.....	6,035.15
TOWN OF LONG PRAIRIE... ..	3,629.46
TOWN OF MORAN.....	5,169.92
TOWN OF REYNOLDS.....	2,764.20
TOWN OF ROUND PRAIRIE.....	10,877.57
TOWN OF STAPLES.....	4,441.68
TOWN OF STOWE PRAIRIE.....	6,939.50
TOWN OF VILLARD.....	7,969.87
TOWN OF WARD.....	6,450.20
TOWN OF WEST UNION... ..	2,877.08
TOWN OF WYKEHAM.....	5,213.68
13 PAYMENTS LESS	
THAN \$2,000.....	7,996.74
A.W. RESEARCH LABORATORIES, INC.....	2,625.00
CARGILL SALT DIVISION.....	31,090.28
CENTERPOINT ENERGY... ..	2,554.69
CENTERPOINT ENERGY... ..	2,038.78
CENTRA CARE \$.....	12,714.58
COBORNS INCORPORATED.....	2,068.00
COUNTIES PROVIDING TECHNOLOGY.....	8,155.00
DSC COMMUNICATIONS.....	41,771.70
GALLAGHER BENEFIT SERVICES INC.....	2,000.00
INFORMATION SYSTEMS CORPORATION.....	47,548.00
LAKES AREA BLASTING.....	38,000.00
LAKES COMMUNITY COOPERATIVE.....	2,301.82

M & I LOCKBOX MCCC ...	27,050.00
MADDEN GALANTER HANSEN, LLP.....	2,447.10
MINNESOTA POWER.....	20,973.64
MN COUNTY ATTORNEY'S ASSOC.....	6,289.00
MN STATE SHERIFFS ASSOC.....	6,981.67
MORRISON COUNTY.....	6,260.94
MOTOROLA.....	51,089.83
MOTOROLA.....	2,571.30
OTTER TAIL CO SOLID WASTE DEPT.....	17,944.64
PRAIRIE LAKES MUNICIPAL SOLID WASTE AUTH	98,136.16
TRAFERA LLC.....	3,330.00
WEST CENTRAL REG JUVENILE CTR.....	14,054.00
WONDERLICH/SCOTT A ..	5,175.00
32 PAYMENTS LESS	
THAN \$2,000.....	15,831.24
AFSCME COUNCIL 65.....	5,083.72
CENTERPOINT ENERGY... ..	7,647.69
INFORMATION SYSTEMS CORPORATION.....	24,478.00
LONG PRAIRIE OIL COMPANY.....	5,285.10
MCIT (MSRS).....	2,500.00
PACIFIC LIFE INSURANCE CO.....	2,400.00
PETERS LAW OFFICE, P.A.....	2,096.25
RAINBOW RIDER.....	34,644.53
24 PAYMENTS LESS	
THAN \$2,000.....	8,158.34
MN DEPT OF REVENUE ..	78,503.25
US BANK - CC.....	4,661.72
MN DEPT OF REVENUE ..	13,090.75
MN DEPT OF REVENUE ..	2,665.48
PAYCOM PAYROLL, LLC... ..	43,779.91
WEX HEALTH INC - HSA.....	5,021.83
VOYA (MSRS).....	2,032.43
PAYCOM PAYROLL, LLC.....	44,583.10
WEX HEALTH INC - HSA.....	4,571.83
VOYA (MSRS).....	10,820.86
BETTER HEALTH COLLECTIVE.....	31,782.00
WEX HEALTH INC - HSA... ..	17,072.00
NATIONWIDE.....	2,175.00
WEX HEALTH INC - HSA ..	43,807.00
BETTER HEALTH COLLECTIVE.....	325,234.00
VOYA (MSRS).....	3,490.94
VOYA (MSRS).....	54,260.17
COUNTY OF TODD.....	6,391.68
PAYCOM PAYROLL, LLC.....	591,503.44
PAYCOM PAYROLL, LLC.....	610,669.33
14 PAYMENTS LESS	
THAN \$2,000.....	8,372.09
TOTAL:.....	\$4,273,318.98

COMMISSIONER WARRANTS	
VENDOR NAME	\$ AMOUNT
CENTRAL MINNESOTA CPR LLP.....	2,075.00
FARM-RITE EQUIPMENT, INC.....	4,271.72
JERRY'S AUTO BODY.....	6,385.19
MELROSE ONE STOP.....	6,699.12
REVIZE LLC.....	8,280.00
STREICHER'S.....	3,073.19
TRAFERA LLC.....	3,360.00
ULINE.....	2,468.89
WHITMORE INC.....	2,522.00
ZIEGLER INC.....	4,569.28
55 PAYMENTS LESS	
THAN \$2,000.....	21,679.62
Total:.....	\$65,384.01

VENDOR NAME	\$ AMOUNT
CCOST EFF HLTH INS.....	\$4,050.00
TODD-WADENA ELECTRIC.....	3,047.49
7 PAYMENTS LESS	
THAN \$2,000.....	3,515.39
DHS - SWIFT.....	8,932.97
KARVONEN FUNERAL HOME.....	3,500.00
RURAL MN CEP INC.....	9,382.78
49 PAYMENTS LESS	
THAN \$2,000.....	25,922.95
Total:.....	\$58,351.58

On a motion by Becker and second by Denny, the preceding minutes of the County Board meeting held February 17, 2026 were duly approved by unanimous vote at the Todd County Board of Commissioners at the Regular Board Meeting held on March 3, 2026.

Witness my hand and seal: /s/ on file: Bob Byers, County Board Chairperson /s/ on file: Denise Gajda, Todd County Auditor-Treasurer 15pnc

Public Notices

NOTICE CALL FOR BIDS TODD COUNTY SOLID WASTE MOWING

Todd County Solid Waste is accepting sealed bids for lawn mowing at its new Transfer Station Facility at 30433 US 71, Browerville, MN. Bids should be based on a lump sum rate per time mowed. Interested parties can submit their

bid in a sealed envelope, along with proof of insurance and three references, by April 16, 2026. Sealed bids can be dropped off or mailed to Todd County Transfer Station 30433 US 71, Browerville, MN 56438.

Please direct any inquiries to Mike Eberle, Todd County Solid Waste Supervisor, 320-594-2210

15-16pnc



City of Appleton

Public Works Director

Annual Salary: \$80,000-\$100,000

Job Application and Description:
appletonmn.gov/employment

CITY OF APPLETON IS AN EEOE

SCAN TO APPLY



MEETING #14

ISD #2170 SCHOOL BOARD March 2, 2026 6:00 p.m. District Office

MINUTES

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 6:00 p.m. by Chair Wright.

Roll Call was taken, members Wright, Frisk, Reeck, Trout, Freeman and

Educational benefits forms still needed by schools

By Mark Anderson
Managing Editor

At the March 23 Staples-Motley School Board meeting, District Business Manager Ellie Hill said the school still needs more families to fill out the educational benefits form, which was formerly known as the free and reduced meals application.

Even though the state now provides breakfast and lunch for all students, they only pay on top of what the federal subsidies already pay, and the educational benefits forms are needed for that funding. Hill said those forms also contribute to the school's amount of Title money and their E-rate funding.

Student needs

Middle School/High School Principal Debbie Ferdon gave a presentation to the board about the different schedules and of students in the building. For example, she talked about senior high students who take college classes but still come to the building for music, sports or other special classes.

"The kids are choosing it for their own growth but want to stay engaged in what is happening at school," said Ferdon. "Music and athletics keep kids in the building."

The fifth and sixth grade students still have their schedules broken up into blocks, while the junior high and senior high students have seven hour days.

Ferdon said the middle school focuses on collabo-

ration such as working in groups and how to use each other to learn. Students in ninth grade take different classes to explore career paths.

Safety concerns

District parent John Dottenwhy addressed the school board about student safety concerns. Specifically, he wanted the board to know of two safety complaints that he felt were not acted upon by school staff.

Dottenwhy referenced two incidents he heard about happening at the elementary school. The first was a playground incident where a boy chased a girl around with mud, and staff declined to report it to the principal.

"They said the principal would just say 'boys will be boys' and not do anything," said Dottenwhy.

The second was when a young boy made a sexual threat to a different student, and Dottenwhy said his child did not feel comfortable sitting at that boy's table in class. He asked the school to move his child to a different table, then found out later that the child was not moved.

"I trusted it would be done, she was not moved until she moved herself," he said.

Dottenwhy concluded that his complaint was about the response of the adults who should take action when things like this occur.

School Board Chair Ryan Wright thanked Dottenwhy for bringing the subject to the board, but said the school board does not get

involved in day to day issues.

"It is good to hear how parents are feeling, continue to keep reaching out," said Wright.

The board concluded that Dottenwhy should keep in contact with school administration about these concerns and the school's policies related to the complaints.

Construction planning

The City of Staples is planning a complete reconstruction of 4th Street NE, starting in April. The first phase will affect the middle/high school the most, with construction blocking off access to the school from the east.

Tappe said they have been attending pre-construction meetings to work on transportation and other issues that will come up during the process.

The second phase will see the area in front of the elementary school blocked off, but that should be after school lets out for the summer. Tappe said it will still affect summer activities and classes.

In other news, the board

- Approved hire of Aaron Carter, middle school music; Anaya Brandt, paraprofessional; Keri Bendson, food service; Krista Heldman, district nurse.
- Approved hire of speech coaches Brian Sams, Heather Sams, Selket Jewett and head coach Kip Hines.
- Approved credit card policy with no changes.
- Approved MSBA policies with minimal or no changes.



Posing with the Easter Bunny

Children who attended the Staples '93 Lions Easter Eggstravaganza March 28, had the opportunity to pose with the Easter Bunny, aka Madison Perius. Pictured, from left, are the Brichacek siblings

Nate, six, Weston, five mos. and Vanessa, four. The event was held at the Staples Community Center. (Staples World photo by Dawn Timbs)



One last hurrah



Ten-year-old Arlo Capistrant of Browerville had a great time shooting hoops at the Easter Eggstravaganza March 28. As has been tradition over the past several years, Arlo attended the event with her parents, Andrew and Annie Capistrant. As the age limit for the annual holiday event is 10, this was Arlo's last opportunity to attend. They've enjoyed it every year, the Capistrants said. (Staples World photos by Dawn Timbs)

Lakewood update at Staples City Council

By Mark Anderson
Managing Editor

Lakewood Health System President and CEO Lisa Bjerga gave the Staples City Council an update at the March 24 council meeting.

"We continue to be independent and financially strong," said Bjerga. She said they will continue to not impose a property tax levy on district taxpayers.

The story of Lakewood continues to be growth, with 150 credentialed providers that include 14 new providers hired in 2025.

Bjerga said there are nearly 1,000 employees at Lakewood, including 227 new hires in 2025. The number of surgeries continues to rise every year, with 5,451 in 2025.

The Lakewood behavioral health department is expanding, including integrating the department with primary providers, so that people needing their services have immediate access to mental health providers.

Through all the growth, Bjerga said the focus of the health care system contin-

ues to be on the people.

"People power that growth," said Bjerga, "We have been named a 'workplace of choice' for six years in a row."

Wadena County

The council heard from Wadena County Commissioner Bryan Winkels, who said the county is updating their comprehensive plan. He said a public meeting about it had 50 people attend.

Winkels said the county has now hired a county administrator.

Winkels said the state is starting to see growth in the workforce. He said the job seeker ratio is getting closer to one job seeker to one job available. He said it is now at .8 people seeking for one job, after it had gone as low as .3 people seeking each job.

The council also heard from Jay Tyrrell, who introduced himself as a new Thomastown Township Supervisor.

In other news, the council

- Approved tourism marketing agreement with Discover Staples and LEAP.

- Approved closure of Staples Community Center parking lot for Bike Rodeo on May 28.
- Rescheduled April 14 council meeting for 8:01 p.m. to avoid conflict with school referendum election.
- Read Arbor Day proclamation, with tree planting event to be determined.
- Approved application for MPFA financing for lead service line replacement project.
- Determined there is no conflict of interest with the Small Cities Development Grant program with one of the recipients of the grant being a state employee.
- Approved memorandum of understanding and labor agreement with IBEW Local #31 for city workers. The agreement combines the street department and plant operators into one public works department. The agreement also allows for one lineman and one licensed operator to be on call every day.
- Heard update from Staples Community Center construction project, which is scheduled to be completed in May.

First Eggs-travaganza

Four-month-old Emilio had fun attending the Easter Eggstravaganza in Staples with his mom, Dayana Davidson of Staples. The annual event, held in the Staples Community Center, was sponsored by the Staples '93 Lions and featured a number of games, prizes, treats and an opportunity to meet the Easter Bunny. Right, more kids enjoy the event. (Staples World photo by Dawn Timbs)



Playing games, winning fun prizes

One-year-old Harper Erickson of Staples had fun playing the baby duck game at the Staples '93 Lions Easter

Eggstravaganza event March 18. At right is Lion Denise Baumgart of Staples. (Staples World photo by Dawn Timbs)





Introducing World-O, the new Staples World robot who is here to make your life better! Do you want to know what's going on in our local community? Ask World-O! Need some photos at a local event? Ask World-O! I am ready for World domination," said World-O, who is now being re-programmed.

Hamann scales great heights for Veterans



The figure purported to be Bob Hamann scales the Veterans Park flag pole. (Photo submitted by Army Rangers)

The Veterans Park Board had to call in the Army Rangers to rescue Hamann and rappel him back down to earth, where they held an impromptu army reunion in the park. "That was nice of them, but I'm not going up there again," said Hamann before hitting out for the repairs. At the spontaneous celebration, the Veterans Park Board recalled how the park grew from a spark in Hamann's eye into a beautiful, popular sanctuary for veterans, their families and community members. Hamann said if anyone has a military tank or cannon to donate to the park, he will ride his bike out and pull it back to the park with his super-strong legs.

Pig Latin Club organized

A new club for the Staples-Motley Ig-Fay Athn-Lay Ub-Clay (Pig Latin Club) has recently been organized at the high school. Pictured, from left, are charter members Mila Pesta, Chloe Trantina, Ronnie Noska, Madison Perius, Katelyn Schotzko. The girls hope to revive an ancient language, as well as generate scholarship opportunities. They plan to hold fundraisers for a future trip like German or Spanish clubs often do. Possible destinations include the Pig Races in the Bahamas.



Bob Hamann in-mine it's horsepower potential. (File photo)

While he was able to get up the pole quickly, the problem was getting down. "There's a little fear of heights when you get up 70 feet in the air, I kind of froze," said the U.S. Army veteran.

The Veterans Park Board had to call in the Army Rangers to rescue Hamann and rappel him back down to earth, where they held an impromptu army reunion in the park. "That was nice of them, but I'm not going up there again," said Hamann before hitting out for the repairs. At the spontaneous celebration, the Veterans Park Board recalled how the park grew from a spark in Hamann's eye into a beautiful, popular sanctuary for veterans, their families and community members. Hamann said if anyone has a military tank or cannon to donate to the park, he will ride his bike out and pull it back to the park with his super-strong legs.

Bicycle bro



On set with Archie Bunker

Ken Klose of Staples, right, exchanged lines with the iconic character Archie Bunker, during a taping of All in the Family around 1979.

A photographer by trade, Klose had traveled to Hollywood for the purpose of taking pictures at a niece's wedding. Unfortunately, he hadn't looked closely at the invitation which noted the celebration to take place in Hollywood, Alabama. He'd wondered about the RSV, which asked if he preferred grits or mashed potatoes with his meal, but had promptly put it out of his mind. While in California, Klose decided to tour MetroMedia, hoping to be part of the live studio audience of All in the Family. As he was dressed in a suit for his niece's wedding, a crew member thought Klose was part of the cast and guided him toward the set. Cameras were rolling and Archie Bunker began a cantankerous dialogue with the mysterious actor from Minnesota, a Vietnam veteran who could hold his own, and banter with the best of em. The studio audience loved Klose, as did millions who watched the CBS episode on television that week, later calling the network to say they hoped the bearded actor with the Minnesota accent would have a recurring role.

It's an experience he'll always treasure, Klose said of his brush with fame. He does occasionally feel guilty about missing his niece's wedding, especially upon learning they had to resort to hiring a neighbor with a Polaroid camera to capture their special day.



First ever '5-Kay race' held

A "5-Kay race to raise money for the Railroad Days event in Staples this August was held March 27, with one competitor participating. Due to a typo in the Chamber of Commerce's February newsletter, the announcement regarding a 5K race fundraiser actually said, "5-Kay race. Naturally, people who were not named Kay did not respond. Kay Mueller of Staples, above left, was excited to learn of this opportunity and hoped four more Kays would join her in the race. Unfortunately, one possibility (Kay Jessop) was in Alabama at the time, and another on board for a 1-Kay race. Cheering her on that day were, from left, Sidney Compton, West Fargo; and Dr. Seth and Brooke Dikken. No funds were raised for Railroad Days. (Photo by Dawn Timbs)

It was a one-time appearance on the popular television sitcom, "All in the Family," but Ken Klose is a member. Klose blames prior to the overpass being built as the reason for his being late a few times - that, and supposedly mistaking Lefty's as the location for the Lions club. "Of course I was thrilled," the Staples man said of adding this impressive statue to his collection of achievements, which include being named his hometown's Citizen of the Year a while back and the Year a while back and award.

Ken Klose of Staples was thrilled to receive this Emmy award for his outstanding performance on an episode of "All in the Family." Unfortunately, he missed the awards ceremony in Los Angeles last September, but received the coveted statue recently via UPS.

Emmy winner



Staples man wins Emmy award

Penny Olsen of Staples stood outside First International Bank on a chilly March 27, to protest not only the elimination of the one-cent coin, but a recent decree issued by President Trump that anyone with the first name Penny would have to change it by June of 2026. "It's just too confusing, too confusing," the president said during a press conference last week. "We can't get rid of all pennies on one hand, and then still hear the name Penny reached out to the White House with a plea that this government order be reconsidered. She was given the name Penny at birth by her parents and she happened to like it, Olsen said. Oh, she did occasionally joke that she was really a "Quarter in Disguise," but down deep she was a Penny, the president said. Quarter in Disguise bit. I like that," the president said. "That's beautiful, really beautiful," going on to add that he couldn't believe anyone would want to be associated with the lowest of low in the coin world. "Our country's greater than that," Trump went on. "Gotta get rid of the penny."

Olsen held her ground at the protest in Staples, encouraged by the occasional passerby shouting out, "We love the Penny!" and others throwing handfuls of discarded copper coins into a wide-brimmed hat shed placed on the sidewalk. She was a bit disappointed that no other protesters joined her, especially fellow members of the Save Abe Coalition (SAC).

The Staples World later reported that what was intended to be a protest that would draw national news coverage in Staples fizzled when nationwide members of the Save Abe Coalition (SAC) learned that it was still winter in Minnesota. The World asked Olsen, the lone protester, if SAC would be satisfied with a small change in the policy to eliminate the cent. She replied, "I'm not here to represent 'A small change', I'm here to represent 'ALL small change.'" (Photo by Dawn Timbs)

Lone protester

