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Paul Bunyan Band Festival at Pillager
Golf team has first competition



Wednesday, April 22, 2026

Staples World

Staples, Minnesota

\$1²⁵

SM Artistic Hall of Fame inductees

Inductees into the 2026 Staples-Motley Artistic Hall of Fame are pictured following the ceremony April 11. From left, Bambi (Noska) Neumann and Aubrey (Noska) Archer, daughters of the late Mary Noska; Lisa Kajer, who co-founded, along with Mary Noska, The Barn Quilts of Central Minnesota Trail; Matthew Olsen, a professional actor/director who's had a profound impact on many students at Staples-Motley High School, his alma mater; Leslie (Jones) Glassford, Motley native who went on to have a successful career in Christian music; John Wolak, former music teacher at Staples-Motley who formed the high school orchestra and bell choir and has been an artistic inspiration in the community; Kay Martin, former art teacher at Staples-Motley Elementary School for nearly 30 years, made a lasting impact on the many students she taught. See more photos from the event on pages 11a and 12a (Staples World photo by Dawn Timbs)

Discover Staples focuses on small town charm, visitors guide, local events

By Mark Anderson
Publisher

At the April 14 Staples City Council meeting, Renee Kroll of Discover Staples gave the council an update on the organization. Funding for Discover Staples comes from the tourism tax implemented by the City of Staples and it must go towards promoting the community to visitors. Kroll said Discover Staples has a five person board overseeing the organization. They have discovered that the largest draw to Staples typically comes from the St. Cloud area, and

within a two hour radius of the community. She said visitors like the small town charm of the community, the peace, and the fresh air. "They want to see a place where we know each other's names," said Kroll. That is the vision that Discover Staples is trying to promote, along with river recreation opportunities. Kroll said they will have a new visitors guide out soon and will print up to 12,000 copies. She said the publication is very popular at the St. Cloud visitors center. "They can't keep enough of them in stock," said Kroll. With thousands

of travelers getting them and thousands of people viewing them at the Lake-wood waiting rooms, Kroll said the publication gets a lot of readership. Discover Staples has also partnered with the local Lions Clubs to help for the Lights in the Pines event during the winter. Kroll said the state tourism organization Explore Minnesota will be listing Staples as one of the "places to go for small town light displays." Kroll said the group is working on another year of Railroad Days in Staples and will be hiring someone part time to work on social media for the organization.

School referendum approved 862-580

Mark Anderson
Publisher

The Staples-Motley School District has begun the design process after a \$42.5 million building referendum was approved by voters on April 14, 2026. After design and planning phases, construction will likely start in 2027. Official ballot count was 862 yes, 580 no, nearly 60 percent in favor. "The staff and the students are so thankful and excited for the passing of the referendum," said Staples-Motley Superintendent Shane Tappe. "We are thankful for the support from our community and the stakeholders to recognize what these improve-

ments will do for our school, our community and our future." The total of 1,442 district residents who voted was more than a thousand fewer than the 2,465 who voted down a referendum in 2021, when 910 votes were in favor and 1,555 against, equaling 63 percent who voted it down. "I think that the district put together a plan that was driven off of community feedback from the previous referendum," said Tappe. "The plan was tax neutral which was a very important attribute for the stakeholders. The plan also addressed the most critical needs in the district and is a very well rounded plan where it addresses many

important areas including: Safety and Security, Deferred Maintenance, CTE spaces, Auditorium, Activity Areas, and General education spaces that meet today's standards." The referendum question was favored by Todd County and Wadena County voters, but disapproved by Morrison County and Cass County voters. Todd had 410 yes and 267 no, Wadena was 303 yes and 85 no, Cass was 83 yes and 123 no, Morrison was 66 yes and 105 no. There were 546 absentee ballots, which made up 38 percent of all voters. The early voting period that was done at the District Office is See **REFERENDUM** on page 3a

Staples company awarded grant to add railroad tracks

The Minnesota Department of Transportation (MnDOT) has awarded nearly \$4.5 million to five freight rail projects to improve freight rail service that supports economic development in different regions of the state. Included in the grant is \$1 million to JMN Properties, connected to Ideal Construction of Staples to establish a new freight rail

service, including 13,500 feet of new track east of Staples. The new rail will be used to transport granite and potentially other commodities to their business. Following is the MnDOT press release and a description of the other projects. The Minnesota Rail Service Improvement Program, established in 1976, strengthens Minnesota's freight economy through

grants and loans for freight rail infrastructure projects that connect Minnesota goods and commodities to regional and international markets. Since 2017, \$28.6 million in competitive MRSI program grants have helped fund 21 completed freight rail infrastructure projects. "These projects See **TRACKS** on page 3a

Weather

2026

This Week's Forecast

	High	Low	Cond.
Apr. 22	85	62	P. Cloudy
Apr. 23	75	39	Cloudy
Apr. 24	55	31	P. Cloudy
Apr. 25	53	30	M. Cloudy
Apr. 26	54	33	M. Sunny
Apr. 27	54	34	M. Cloudy
Apr. 28	52	33	P. Cloudy

Last Year, 2025

	High	Low	Cond.
Apr. 22	62°	34	M. Sunny
Apr. 23	54	41	Sunny
Apr. 24	50	36	Cloudy
Apr. 25	60	40	M. Sunny
Apr. 26	63	35	P. Sunny
Apr. 27	61	46	Cloudy
Apr. 28	55	53	Rain

Average Temps:
H = 60° Low = 37°

Compiled by
Dale Hausmann,
WCCO's Staples area
Weatherwatcher

Public Notices

Bullard Township 9A

City of Motley 9A

Thomastown Township 9A

Moran Township 9A

Villard Township 10A

Obituaries

Jennifer Stickler

David Wickham

Fire Department procedure manual passes after questioning

By Mark Anderson
Publisher

On a split vote, the Staples City Council passed a brand new Standard Operating Procedures Manual for the Staples Fire Department, after two of the council members requested more time to learn about the new document. At the April 14, 2026 council meeting, City Administrator Jerel Nelsen said the League of Minnesota Cities and city lawyers recommended developing a procedures manual in order to avoid liability in case a problem occurs. The fire department had been operating under their bylaws. Council member Doug Case pointed out that the new procedures manual changes the way the fire chief is appointed. Under the old system, the local firefighters would vote for the chief, the new manual requires applicants to apply for the position and a hiring

committee of local firefighters would recommend a chief for the city council to approve. Case said that takes away freedom for firefighters to elect their own chief. Council member Mary Jo Goff agreed that it could be creating a permanent position until the fire chief decides to give it up. Current Fire Chief Cole Yungbauer was at the meeting and said the election process was one of the reasons that their insurance and labor attorneys said a procedures manual was necessary for liability reasons. Case said he was concerned that it would create a permanent fire chief position that could turn into a full time paid position rather than the current volunteer status. Nelsen said nobody has mentioned this being a permanent position. Yungbauer said that other cities are adopting

similar procedures manuals, including Wadena. Verndale is going through the process now. The council approved the procedures manual with Case and Goff opposed. Public Works Public Works Director Scott Grabe said the Public Works Commission had requests from property owners to not be assessed for utility connections associated with the upcoming 4th St NE construction project. He said both of them have had new utility connections so they don't think they should be charged the cost of another connection. Grabe said the commission board agreed that if the connections don't need to be replaced, they should not assess the homes for that portion of the project. The council agreed and approved it, contingent on the previous connections still being in good condition. The council also approved an amendment to

the electric service contract with Western Area Power Administration for renewal energy credits. In a third item before the board, Grabe said one business customer had a change in electrical usage so that their peak demand went above 50 kilowatts for a short time, which changes their status from commercial to industrial. He said the new status would increase the electric bill for that business from \$75 per month to \$1,200 per month. Grabe said the actual cost to the city would be somewhere in between those two charges and he asked the city to keep that customer at the commercial rate until they can figure out a policy that matches the actual cost for the city. Grabe said this customer doesn't use as many total kilowatt hours as some other commercial customers, but hits a high peak See **STAPLES** on page 3a

Bjerga resigns from city council; many presentations given at meeting

By Dawn Timbs
Staples World reporter

At their regular meeting April 13, the Motley City Council accepted the resignation of council member Nikki Bjerga, effective immediately.

An email from Bjerga regarding her resignation had been sent to the city's department heads and Mayor Pat O'Regan earlier that morning. The reason she gave was, "concerns about the overall professionalism and effectiveness of our working environment."

City Clerk/Treasurer Tami Brotherton forwarded the email to the council, and added it to the agenda at the beginning of their April 13 meeting.

A motion to approve the resignation of Bjerga from both the city council and the planning and zoning commission, effective immediately, passed unanimously. There was no discussion prior to the vote.

The council then proceeded to accept a motion to put council member April Skeesick-Larson back on the planning and zoning commission to fill Bjerga's vacated seat there.

A replacement will be needed to fill Bjerga's council term, which will expire Dec. 31, 2026. Brotherton asked about advertising for the open seat, which the council agreed she should do.

The council also heard from a variety of organizations at their meeting, some with donation requests, and some sharing information.

Lakewood Health System

A "snapshot" presentation about Lakewood Health System (LHS), Staples, was presented by LHS President/CEO Lisa Bjerga.

Lakewood's overall goals have remained solid, Lisa Bjerga said, going on to point out several highlights included in the annual report. As noted in her 2025 Year in Review message, Bjerga wrote, "Lakewood Health System stands as a premier example of a successful, independent rural healthcare provider. Guided by the strategic pillars of Finance, Growth and People-Powered Exceptional Care, the organization achieved nearly an eight percent year-over-year growth, effectively balancing rapid clinical expansion with a deeply rooted 'family taking care of family' culture."

In terms of growth, Lakewood added 18 providers in 2025 and has approximately 1,000 employees on board, which is "pretty impressive" for a town of about 3,000, Bjerga said.

Other highlights include the Lakewood Cancer Center in Staples which

opened last October. Also in 2025, construction began to build a dedicated integration space for Behavioral Health within the Staples Primary Care Clinic; and at Lakewood Plaza, expanding local eye care (ophthalmology and optometry services) to meet growing patient demand. The new Staples Eye Clinic is expected to open this summer. Specialized dermatology care 'close to home' is available at both the Staples and Pil-lager Clinics, with expansion that includes the provision of MOHS micro-graphic surgery in Staples.

There were 518 births at Lakewood in 2025 which was "a record," Lisa Bjerga said. During that year Lakewood was also the recipient of several regional, state and national awards, including being named a USA Today Top Workplace in 2025.

Lakewood's financial update notes a revenue growth of \$20.4 million, a net income of \$5.4 million and an operating margin of 1.66 percent. Once again, the levy income is \$0. "We do not tax the district," Bjerga said.

Following her presentation, Bjerga answered a few questions of the council and city staff. Brotherton asked how many of Lakewood's employees live in the area? Bjerga said that two-thirds live within a 30-40 mile radius.

Motley Police Chief wondered if there was a housing need for employees. Yes, that is always an issue, Bjerga said. She noted that there are apartments at the Lakewood Plaza which are always full. Three furnished apartments are designated for physicians.

Council member April Skeesick-Larson expressed appreciation for the Lakewood Clinic in Motley, going on to say it would be great to see the empty pharmacy at that location utilized.

Thriving Communities/arts council

Sherry Frisk of Motley was another presenter at the meeting, representing both the Thriving Communities Committee and the Staples Motley Area Arts Council. In regard to the first, Frisk said the committee (Motley in Motion) would like to put a lending library in Veterans Park, a project estimated to cost \$5,000. They plan to purchase a shed made by the high school shop class to be used as the lending library. The committee has the funds for the project but they're being held in an account the city oversees. After some discussion, the council approved allowing the funds to be used for this project, as well as for the library to be placed in Veterans Park.

Putting on her 'arts

council hat,' Frisk said that the organization is wanting to have one of their 'Music in the Park' concerts held at Veterans Park in Motley this summer. The artist slated to perform is Eric E. The council agreed to have the concert there.

Other presenters at the meeting were Fran Kokett, on behalf of the Sprinkle & Sprout Garden Club; and Dana Fischer on behalf of the Morrison County Agriculture Association (Motley Fair).

Sprinkle & Sprout

Kokett shared that they have nine members in their club, which takes care of a number of flower pots along city streets as well as at city parks. This year they purchased new pots, and requested funds from the city to purchase soil and flowers. Council member Steve Johnson made a motion to approve donating \$800 to the Sprinkle & Sprout Club, which was approved by the council.

Motley Fair

Fischer said the Motley Fair is scheduled to take place June 11 - 14. The fair volunteers have been actively applying for state grants, for improvements at the grandstand, and electrical updates for the small livestock barn. They also hope to contract again with Chaos Motorsports and hold a demo derby. Fischer said that this type of entertainment doesn't qualify for the current state grant, and were requesting a donation of \$6,000 from the city to help offset the cost. After some discussion, the council approved donating \$6,000 to the Motley Fair, with no contingency.

In other matters the council:

- HEARD monthly reports from all department heads, including Fire Chief Todd Judd, Police Chief Al Yoder, Public Works Director Bruce Brotherton, and City Clerk/Treasurer Tami Brotherton.
- LEARNED Fire Chief Judd is still hoping to purchase a new 4,000 gallon tank truck for the department. Judd said this would be beneficial for fighting fires in rural areas, as they would have more water readily available and not have to go back to refill the tank as often. Judd provided two quotes he'd received from State Bid and said he is still waiting for a quote from another place. He noted that the truck in Oregon they'd been interested in had been sold.
- LEARNED Police Chief Yoder will be helping with the 'Hooked on Fishing, Not Drugs' event at Lake Sham-inau May 15.
- APPROVED a request from Public Works Director Brotherton to purchase a new flat bed truck to replace the old one which



Presenters at meeting



A number of individuals gave presentations at the Motley City Council's regular meeting April 13. Top photo, Lisa Bjerga, Lakewood Health System President/CEO (standing); seated in back, from left, council members April Skeesick-Larson, Dennis Erickson; Mayor Pat O'Regan. In front, backs to camera, City Clerk/Treasurer Tami Brotherton; Fire Chief Todd Judd.

Top center photo, Sherry Frisk, left; Tami Brotherton.

At left, Fran Kokett (standing), Tami Brotherton, Fire Chief Judd, Public Works Director Bruce Brotherton, council member Skeesick-Larson.

Bottom photo, from right, Motley Fair volunteer Dana Fischer (standing). Seated: Police Chief Al Yoder, Bruce Brotherton, Kokett. (Staples World photos by Dawn Timbs)

More good people of Morrison County by Anthony Marchetti

The Morrison County Historical Society, Little Falls, invites all to enjoy its current temporary exhibit, More Good People: A Photographic Exploration of Morrison County, which displays the beauty of the people and places of the county many call home.

First displayed in 2022, Photographer Anthony Marchetti returns to present even more of his project that looks on both sides of the political divide to bring greater understanding to the diverse communities of Minnesota.

Marchetti began his exploration of Morrison County in 2018, frequently vis-

iting, making connections within the community, and learning about the lifestyles, values, passions and fears of local residents. His work consists of portraits of neighbors and pictures of places residents will recognize.

These vibrant and striking photos will be on display at the Charles A. Weyerhaeuser Memorial Museum through Labor Day weekend.

For more information, call the Weyerhaeuser Museum at 320-632-4007 or email mocohistory@gmail.com. More information on Anthony Marchetti can be found on his website.

Motley area law enforcement

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

April 10 - Motley Police and a Morrison County deputy responded to a report of suspicious activity at the 300 block of Beau-lieu St. W., Motley.

April 10 - Motley Police and Morrison County deputies assisted state patrol at a two-vehicle crash at Hwy 10 and Atlantic Rd.,

Motley. According to the state patrol, a red Chevy Silverado was on 330th St. crossing Hwy 10 when it was struck by a white Chevy Silverado traveling eastbound on Hwy 10. Both drivers sustained non-life threatening injuries and were transported to Lakewood Health System Hospital in Staples. Road conditions were dry and alcohol was not suspected.

April 10 - Motley Police responded to a report of harassment at Riverfront Ln., Motley.

April 9 - Motley Police received a report from a resident at the 500 block of Hwy 10 S., Motley, that his neighbor's children were cutting down trees on his property.

April 8 - Motley Police and Morrison County deputies responded to a report of a domestic dispute at the Motley Motel. The victim requested no charges be made.

April 13 - Morrison County deputies received a report of a vehicle roll over at Dove Rd. and Lake Camille Dr., Cushing. The vehicle was unoccupied and it was learned that a deputy had handled the crash the night before.

April 11 - A Morrison County deputy issued a speeding citation to Tyler Patrick Zehrer, 32.

April 9 -During a traffic stop at Hwy 10 S., Motley, Morrison County deputies issued a verbal warning to the driver for speeding and a cracked windshield. The passenger, Danielle Joy Harper, 52, was arrested on new charges.

April 8 - A Morrison County deputy issued a citation to Mason Rain Nielson, 19, for speeding and expired registration; and to Chelcee Lyn Franzen, 29, for speeding.



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Bear hit on Hwy 10 near Staples

A bear was struck on Hwy 10 near Staples around 10:30 p.m. April 17, 2026 at milepost 106, Staples Township, Todd County.

According to the Minnesota State Patrol (MSP) a 2006 Toyota Corolla driven by Mary Roggenkamp, 36, of Deer Creek was traveling westbound on Hwy 10 when the vehicle collided with a bear in the roadway.

Both Roggenkamp and her passenger, Corey Rog-

genkamp, 34, Deer Creek, were wearing their seatbelts at the time of the crash. Roggenkamp's airbag deployed and she was transported to Lakewood Health System Hospital, Staples with non-life threatening injuries.

The status of the bear was unknown following the crash.

MSP was assisted by the Staples Police Dept. and Lakewood Health System Ambulance.

Fourth Street project starting April 27

Road construction on 4th St NE will soon begin, from 3rd Ave. NE to Warner Rd, the main corridor from Sacred Heart Catholic Church to the corner of Mid Minnesota Federal Credit Union.

This complete reconstruction will include new water and sewer lines, sidewalks and street lighting.

Construction will begin April 27, with working hours of 7 a.m. to 7 p.m.

The first phase of the project will be the southern portion, from 3rd St to Park Ave. The second phase, likely beginning after school is out in late

May, will be the northern end, from Dower Ave. to Warner Rd. The third phase, starting in July, will be the middle portion. Main construction is expected to be finished this fall with finishing items installed in 2027.

This project is being undertaken by the City of Staples and Todd County, with Blombeck Construction of Eagle Bend as the head contractor.

Throughout the project, road signs will indicate when roads are closed and when local traffic can drive on the streets.

REFERENDUM continued from page 1a

Main construction to start in 2027

considered absentee ballots. April 14 live voting saw 896 people at the polls.

The district had 7,078 registered voters to start, 30 new voters registered on election day, meaning around 20 percent of registered voters participated in this election.

The election asked voters to approve funding for classroom updates, safety and security improvements, Career and Technical Education (CTE) expansions and priority building repairs across the district. The plan will also direct funds to updates to the Centennial Auditorium, football field and outdoor track.

The planning phase includes finalizing project timelines, coordinating with architects and construction partners and communicating next steps with staff, parents and residents. Construction is anticipated to be phased over multiple years to minimize disruption to students and school operations.

Auditorium updates planned for this summer are not related to the referendum, but stem from work by the Auditorium Committee. They are planning on putting in an extended "thrust stage." They have fundraised and received grant dollars to make the thrust stage project happen this summer.

When construction starts, possibly in May of 2027, the first portions will likely be the building additions: 5th grade, CTE space, and a new front entrance for the middle/high school adjacent to the school cafeteria.

For more information about the bond referendum and upcoming construction, visit SpreadingOurWings.org, the school's web site that will keep people updated on the building process.

"The staff and students have shared on numerous occasions how appreciative they are that this passed and we can get our spaces aligned with today's standards," said Tappe. "We can't say enough how important these changes are for our kids, staff and our programs. There is a lot of excitement and appreciation in Cardinal Country."

STAPLES continued from page 1a

Hot air balloon ride approved

that pushes the business into the industrial rate.

The council agreed to keep that customer at the commercial rate while they work on a rate change to make the rate fit the costs to the city. Grabe said he could have something for them at the next meeting.

In other news, the council

- Approved facilities use agreement with Minnesota State and Central Lakes College to allow college to use 57 acres of tillable farm land owned by the city. The college pays a fee of \$2,052

TRACKS continued from page 1a

Railroad track will be east of Staples

strengthen Minnesota's freight rail network and provide critical connections which help move Minnesota goods and products to markets more efficiently," said MnDOT Commissioner Nancy Daubenberger. "Investing in freight rail infrastructure supports economic growth in communities across the state."

The five projects selected and their funding amounts are: **Cloquet Terminal Railroad Co, Inc. (Cloquet)** - \$840,000 to upgrade 2,500 feet of aging track on the Cloquet Terminal Railroad's mainline connection.

Minnesota Northern Railroad (Crookston) - \$750,000 to extend the Minnesota Northern Rail Terminal into the Crookston Industrial Park.

Lake Agassiz Bean, LLC (Euclid) - \$900,000 to install a mainline turnout, 2,487 feet of new track, new safety equipment and a concrete loading area.

JMJ Properties (Staples) - \$1 million to establish new freight rail service at an industrial facility to transport granite and potentially other commodities in central Minnesota. The project includes 13,500 feet of new track.

Denco II LLC (Morris) - \$1 million to construct new rail siding that connects the Denco II facility to the mainline BNSF connection. The project will enable on-site loading and rail shipment of ethanol.

Looking back



Mystery photo

Hello readers. This week's archive photo is from 1992. Do you know who these people are and perhaps the context of the photo? Do you have a memory to share? Email your answers and where

you're from to dtimbs@staplesworld.com by Friday, or call 218-894-1112. The answers will be published in next week's paper, as well as a new mystery photo.

75 YEARS Ago - 1951

- April 19, 1951 - Jerry Trout sold his garage, The South Side Garage building to Ed Morey to be used as a warehouse for the Fish company.

Jerry has no definite plans, but intends to make a trip west to look around for a business location. He has been in this garage for about three years.

- April 19, 1951 - The first grass fire of the spring season called out the members of the Staples fire department, April 17 at 2:45 p.m. when fire was apparently threatening to burn the Piper hay barn at the east end of First Avenue, and the Cecil Stevens home near the barn.

- April 19, 1951 - Mr. and Mrs. Roy Jensen received word this week that their

- O -
Compiled by
Dawn Timbs
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son, Pvt. Bill Jensen would sail this morning (Thursday) for Japan and Korea. He has been stationed at Fort Lawton, Washington, since spending a weeks furlough with his parents the last of March. Other Staples soldiers sailing with Pvt. Jensen are Pvt. Myrle Kupitz and Pvt. LeRoy Anglin.

- April 19, 1951 - At the meeting of the Staples Educational Association Monday, April 9, the nomination of officers for the coming year took place, with the following results: President - Erling Lian; vice president - Dewey Nelson; secretary-treasurer - Bonnie Camp; delegate to county meeting - Ruth Bergein. The entertainment part of the meeting included a splendid address by Mrs. Mable Robinson, MEA field representative.

50 YEARS Ago - 1976

- April 15, 1976 - Caroline Swecker, Motley F.F.A. sweetheart, was elected District IV sweetheart at the spring meeting held in Staples April 9. Caroline is the first girl from Motley so honored. Matt Swecker, Caroline's younger brother, was elected assistant district sentinel. Both are children of Mr. and Mrs. "Bud" Swecker of Star Route, Motley.

- April 15, 1976 - 'Miss Staples' contestants have been announced: They include Peggy Finn, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. William Finn, a senior at Staples High school (SHS); Nancy Kern, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Albert Winkels, a junior at SHS; Jody Mueller, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Robert Mueller, a junior at SHS; Pam

Quance, daughter of Mrs. Edith Quance, a junior at SHS; Natalie Wise, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Floyd Wise, a junior at SHS; and Denise Young, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Pat Young, a senior at SHS.

- April 15, 1976 - The Cardinal Tennis Team of Coach Stu Lade started off their 1976 season in fine form as they chalked up five consecutive victories for a perfect season to date.

Falling victim to the attack of the Cardinal netmen were Breckenridge 5-0, Brainerd 5-0, Wadena 5-0, Detroit Lakes 4-1 and Thief River Falls 3-2.

- April 15, 1976 - Mrs. Lex Willis, piano teacher in Staples, has returned from attending the 100th anniversary convention of the Music Teachers National Association held in Dallas, Texas.

With 333 students participating from 46 schools, the Staples Speech team captured the championship of the Region Six Speech Tournament April 10, in Morris.

Staples emerged with four individual Region Six champions: John Uhrich, Natalie Wise, Virginia Hoemberg and Sandy Denning, with Kellie Dahl and Melissa Wallace being named as second alternates to the State Festival.

- April 15, 1976 - Elaine Johnson, a member of the Motley speech team, was awarded the number two position for serious prose in the Regional Competition at U of M, Morris, April 10. Elaine, an eighth grader, will compete in the State Competition April 24.

Brett Bacon was awarded

third place in discussion and is first alternate to state.

The Motley team sent four other members to Morris: Julie Ackerson in storytelling; Gary Blake in creative expression; Jean Moon in non-original oratory and Nola Bacon observed. The team is coached by June E. Doty.

- April 15, 1976 - Penny DeMars celebrated her ninth birthday Friday, April 9, at the home of her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Reg DeMars. Overnight guests to help Penny celebrate were: Darla Mertens, Karen Scott and Lisa Sadusky.

25 YEARS Ago - 2001

- April 19, 2001 - One hundred eighteen Staples Motley High School music students, joined by 124 community members traveled to England March 30 - April 6. Student participants were members of SMHS a cappella choir, orchestra and symphonic band. Among the community group were most of the members of the Staples Area Men's and Women's Choruses.

As part of their spring tour (a biennial event for the SMHS music department), the ensembles were privileged to perform at Yorkminster, Peterborough Cathedral and Sheredes Secondary School just outside London.

- April 19, 2001 - The Staples Motley High School track teams started off the track season April 10 with their annual Ice-Breaker Track Meet.

The Cardinal girls finished third with 83 points behind Detroit Lakes and Fergus Falls in a 8-team meet for the girls.

Jacque Peterson took

second place for the Cardinals in the 200 meter dash, with a time of 28.08 seconds. Her sister, Amy, claimed another second in the discus, tossing the disc 96 feet, 9-1/2 inches.

The boys team finished with 71 points, good for fourth place behind Fergus Falls, Detroit Lakes and Pequot Lakes.

The boys claimed three first place finishes. Tony Johnson won the 400 meter race in 53.8 seconds while Mike Brenna claimed the top spot among the shot putters, with a toss of 42 feet, 9-1/2 inches.

The boys 4 by 200 relay team claimed their first win of the season with a time of 1:37.56. Speedsters included Adam Barnett, Tyler Frisk, Landon Thompson and Johnson.

- April 19, 2001 - The Staples Motley High School team is one of four teams from the area that qualified for the state Knowledge Bowl competition May 7 and 8 at Cragun's Conference Center in Brainerd.

The Staples Motley team members, known as the Duct Tape Disciples, include Jason Reck, Tom Craft, Tessa Reck, Dan Bounds and Mary Shaffer.

10 YEARS Ago - 2016

- April 21, 2016 - The Staples Motley Speech team competed in the Class A state meet April 15-16 held at Lakeville North. Lucas Jimenez and Coleman Klimek won the state speech championship in Duo for their performance "The Producers" based on scenes from the movie. Other Cardinals who took home state speech awards were Jenessa Iverson, 5th - Great Speeches; Alex Erickson, 8th - Humor; Olivia Klefsaas, 8th - Prose; Zach Strickland, 6th - Discussion.

- April 21, 2016 - Millie Klefsaas cleared 10 feet, 8 inches in the pole vault to set a Staples Motley school record at a meet at Wadena-Deer Creek April 14. Klefsaas broke Kelsey Griffith's 10'7", set in 2003.

"I saw some great things in the pole vault, hurdles and distance events," said coach Marly Simmons. "Klefsaas, Ryan Trout and max Giza all took advantage of the great weather to clear personal bests in the pole vault.

Correction

Last week's Looking Back column mentioned that Eric Neznik and Rachel Domier of Staples recorded a compact disc recording "Escape from Today" in April of 1976. The date was actually April of 2001. As noted by some readers, Neznik had not even been born yet. The Staples World apologizes for the error.



Mystery solved

Last week's mystery photo published in the March 2, 1978 edition of the Staples World featured Members of the Staples Men's Chorus performing at their 'Fun Follies' Variety Show. The group, called "Polka Haunt Us," included, seated from left, Gary Ward, John Wolak. Standing, Don Vogt, Dave Anderson,

Winton Melby, Lars Nelson, Mark Evans.

Tom Crawford and Ken Klose, both of Staples, recognized about half of the guys in the photo. Judy Wolak, Staples, correctly identified all except Winton Melby. Thanks for participating in our mystery photo.

Hewitt man killed in fatal crash near Bertha

A Hewitt man was killed in a crash April 16, 2026 occurring at Hwy 71 and Palomino Rd in Bertha Township, Todd Cty. The incident was reported at 10:49 p.m. according to the Minnesota State Patrol (MSP)

Blake Baumgartner, 26, of Hewitt

was killed in the crash.

Baumgartner, driving a 2000 Chevy Silverado and Johnathan Freyholtz, 20, of Hewitt driving a 2008 Toyota Camry were both northbound on Hwy 71 when they collided at Palomino Rd.

Freyholtz was transported to

Astera Hospital, Wadena, with non-life threatening injuries.

Alcohol was not suspected.

Assisting at the scene were the Todd County Sheriff's Office and Bertha Fire and Ambulance.

Menu

Senior Nutrition Program, Staples

Call mornings (218-979-4118) the Thursdays before to reserve next week's meal(s) and current suggested donation info. LSS Meals - traditional older adult menu (subject to change).

LOCATED AT: Staples Hi-Rise, 615 4th St. NE, Staples. Seniors welcome to dine-in at 11:00 a.m., with meal reservations.

Staples 218-979-4118 April 27 - May 1

MONDAY - Lasagna roll-up, meat sauce, green beans, hot spiced apples, dinner roll, marg., vanilla wafers, 1% milk.

TUESDAY - Chicken baked herb, rice pilaf, peas/carrots, dinner roll, marg., chocolate pudding, topping, 1% milk.

WEDNESDAY - Smothered chopped steak, baked potato, sliced carrots, apple-sauce cup, wheat bread, marg., sour cream, 1% milk.

THURSDAY - Scalloped potatoes w/ham, whole kernel corn, tropical fruit cup, wheat bread, peanut butter cookie, marg., 1% milk.

FRIDAY - Cheese egg bake, herb diced potatoes, peas/carrots, dinner roll, marg., chocolate chip cookie, 1% milk.

CLC hosting Paul Bunyan Band Festival at Pillager

The Central Lakes College Music Department is proud to present the 5th annual Paul Bunyan Band Festival at 7 p.m. on Friday, April 24 at the CTC Center, located in the Pillager school. The event is free and open to the public.

Five high school bands will spend the day in clinics and tours at CLC. The bands include: Braham High School, Janesville-Waldorf-Pemberton High School, Staples-Motley High School, Osakis High School and Pillager High School.

The 7 p.m. musical event will feature each of the high school bands, as well as CLC's Raider Jazz Collective and Central Lakes Wind Symphony. Finally, the night will be capped off with a giant, 400-piece massed band performing a Sousa march.

Kveton is newest Emergency Medicine Provider at LHS

Lakewood Health System, Staples, welcomes Magaen Kveton, family nurse practitioner, as the newest provider to the emergency medicine team.

Originally from Lee's Summit, Mo., Kveton earned a Bachelor of Science degree and a degree in public health nursing from North Dakota State University. She later completed a Master of Science in Nursing with a specialization as a Family and Emergency Nurse Practitioner at the University of South Alabama. Kveton maintains professional membership with the American Nurses Credentialing Center and the American Association of Nurse Practitioners.

Kveton specializes in emergency medicine and will provide care to Lakewood patients in the emergency and urgent care settings. She also has special interests in geriatric care, family medicine and wound care, with a strong focus on patient safety, education and partnering with individuals and families to support informed, compassionate care.

"Having experienced Lakewood as both a patient and a family member, I've always appreciated the wel-



Magaen Kveton

coming culture you feel the moment you walk through the door. I'm honored to join Lakewood and become part of this phenomenal team. It's a privilege to care for patients during stressful moments, and provide compassionate, patient-centered care."

Kveton lives in the area with her husband and their four children. She and her husband enjoy cheering on the Minnesota Wild. Outside of work, Kveton enjoys baking, crocheting and listening to audiobooks. She loves spending time with family, taking short get-aways together to unplug and reconnect—especially hiking, camping and enjoying Minnesota's lakes and seasons.



PreSchool Storytime held at Staples Public Library

April PreSchool Storytime, recently held at the Staples Public Library, found the children listening to stories, flannel board and creating April kite art. Register to attend the May 20 Storytime by calling the library, 218-894-1401. This program is provided by the Staples Friends of the

Library.

Above, left to right: Olivia and Gwen Vanek, Stetson and Annie VanVickle, Addison Mast, Ellen VanVickle, Alida Hanson, Emmett Arnston and Arthur Butler. (Submitted photo)

Mark Your Calendar

Apr. 23

WADENA WHIRLWAYS SQUARE DANCE GROUP DANCING Thursday, Apr. 23, 7 - 9:30 p.m., at St. Michael's Church, 280 1st Ave. S., Motley. John Bittner, caller. For info., 612-743-3480.

Apr. 24

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. 25

CARE MINISTRY FREE MEAL (BREAKFAST) Saturday, April 25, 9 - 10:30 a.m., at Motley United Methodist Church, 847 3rd Ave. S., Motley. The free meals are held on a monthly basis to promote fellowship, connection and nourishment.

Apr. 26

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

Apr. 28

WADENA COUNTY REPUBLICANS MEETING Tuesday, April 28, 7 p.m., at the Wadena VFW. Guest speakers. Come early to eat and visit with like-minded people.

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

Staples Area Church Directory

Staples

Staples Alliance 1512 8th St. NE, Staples.....218-894-2891 Janet Olson, Associate Pastor Sunday Worship.....9:30 a.m. Sunday School.....11:00 a.m. WEDNESDAY AWANA.....6:00 p.m. Assembly of God 914 3rd Ave. NE, Staples.....218-894-1081 Pastor Roy Miles Small Groups (Bible classes for all ages).....9:30 a.m. Morning Worship Service.....10:30 a.m. Children's Church (Kids start in main worship service).....11 a.m. Prayer Meeting.....5 p.m. WEDNESDAY Sonlight (Kids ages 4 yrs.-6th grade).....After school to 5:30 p.m. Youth Group (Teens, 7th-12th grade).....After school to 5:30 p.m.

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

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

Sacred Heart Catholic Church 310 4th St. NE, Staples Church.....218-631-1598 info@marysacc.org Rev. JC Duncan, 218-632-7314 Rev. Rick Aubol, 218-632-7310 Rev. Greg Sauer, 218-632-7319 Mass: Sunday.....8:30 a.m.

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

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

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

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

Aldrich

Balsamlund Lutheran 19550 490th Street, Aldrich Janet Eckman SMA.....218-837-5831 jre227@yahoo.com Sunday Worship.....8:30 a.m.

Cushing

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

Lincoln Evangelical Free 1354 320th Street, Cushing, MN 56443 Phone: 218- 575-2449 www.lincolnefree.org Facebook Lincoln E Free Office Hours: Tues. - Thurs., 9 a.m. - 12 p.m. Senior Pastor: Don Reigstad SUNDAY Church Worship Gathering.....10:00 a.m. YouTube Channel.....10:00 a.m. Cushing Baptist 26298 Bear Rd., Cushing Pastor Don Holmes.....320-749-2583 Sunday School.....9:30 a.m. Worship.....10:30 a.m. WEDNESDAY Bible study.....7:30 p.m.

Leader

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

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

Motley

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

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

Free CARE Community

--BREAKFAST--

Saturday, April 25

9 a.m.-11:00 a.m.

Motley United Methodist Church 847 3rd Ave. S, Motley

Donation basket to support CARE Ministries



MOTLEY UMC



NOTICE Water Main Flushing

The City of Staples Water Department will be flushing water mains throughout the City April 27 - May 8, 2026. You may experience cloudy water during this time. If this occurs, allow the cold water to run until it clears.

St. Michael Catholic Church

280 1st Ave S, Motley.....218-631-1598 Rev. JC Duncan, 218-632-7314 Rev. Rick Aubol, 218-632-7310 Rev. Greg Sauer, 218-632-7319 Saturday.....4:00 p.m. (Dec - April)

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

Oylen

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

Pillager

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

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

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

Hewitt

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

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

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

Verndale

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

Family Life Church

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

Hope Chapel Alliance

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

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

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

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

St. Frederick Catholic Church 20 Mason Avenue NW Verndale.....218-631-1598 info@marysacc.org

Rev. JC Duncan, 218-632-7314 Rev. Rick Aubol, 218-632-7310 Rev. Greg Sauer, 218-632-7319 MASS: Saturday.....6:00 p.m

St. Hubert Catholic Church Bluegrass.....218-631-1598 info@marysacc.org Rev. JC Duncan, 218-632-7314 Rev. Rick Aubol, 218-632-7310 Father Greg Sauer, 218-632-7319 Sunday Service.....10:30 a.m. (Dec - April) Saturday.....4:00 p.m. (May - Nov.)

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

Wadena

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

St. Ann's Catholic Church 514 1st Street SE, Wadena(218)631-1593 Rev. JC Duncan, 218-632-7314 Rev. Rick Aubol, 218-632-7310 Father Greg Sauer, 218-632-7319 Mass: Sunday.....10 a.m.

"How Do We Handle God's Word"

Pastor Barry Klein, Staples Church of Christ

It seems obvious that there's a general agreement of common things that we recognize as being valuable.

Now that the penny is history at the U.S. Mint, it isn't the coin that we would always pick up on the street that it once was. But I think we're still picking up at least a quarter because of its value. Rings with gems (and/or memories connected to them) are something we value as we wear them. Photographs of inter generational family are put in special places and pulled out to reminisce and savor. The point is, treasured people and things are valued in ways that reflect their worth. We don't just flippantly handle them.

Of what value is God's Word, the Bible? Individuals, groups and movements have tried to rid the earth of it for centuries. Even enemies of the Bible, by their vehement antagonism against the Bible, are declaring there is much at stake in it. Of course, no one wants to rid the earth of the Bible more than Satan. It was the

jugular vein that he went after in questioning God's Word with Adam and Eve when he said/asked "did God really say...?" (Genesis 3:1)

So, what are some things we can learn about the truth of the Bible? Psalm 119:105 (NIV) says, "your word is a lamp for my feet, a light on my path." Jesus Himself uses God's Word three times to thwart Satan in Matthew 4:4-10. II Timothy 3:16-17 (NIV) says, "All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, so that the servant of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work." II Peter 1:20-21 (NIV) says, "Above all, you must understand that no prophecy of Scripture came about by the prophet's own interpretation of things. For prophecy never had its origin in the human will, but prophets, though human, spoke from God as they were carried along by the Holy Spirit."

Let's each one ask our devotion title question again and value God's Word.

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

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

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

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

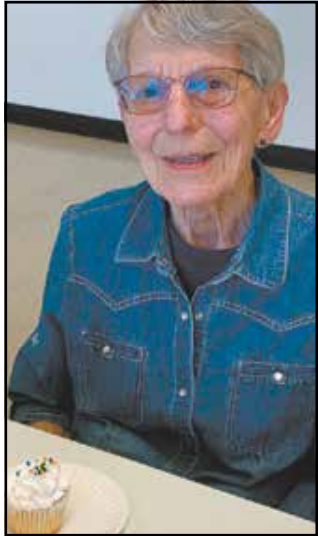
Tower Pizza Pizza, Pasta, Salads, Sandwiches Staples, MN 218-894-3299

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

Staples World Your community newspaper since 1890 207 4th St. NE., Staples, MN 218-894-1112

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

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



Staples Seniors at Staples Community Center

Staples Seniors pictured April 15, at the Staples Community Center for their monthly luncheon gathering, hosted by Luann and Bobbe Braford. Gloria Marden provided the treats.

Above, right (around the table): Amy Lindstrom, Gloria Marden, Bobbe Braford, Maryann Riewer, Doro-

thy Moris, Luann Braford, Joyce Mohler, Jeannie Huebner.

Above left: Joyce Mohler will be observing her 91st birthday on April 25.

(Staples World photos by Janice Winter)

Obituaries

Jennifer Stickler



Jennifer (Carpenter) Stickler, 55, of Rogers, formerly of Staples, passed away peacefully on March 26, 2026, in St. Paul.

Funeral services were held April 8, at Mary Queen of Peace Church in Rogers.

Jennifer was born October 15, 1970, in Hutchinson and spent her early childhood there before moving to Staples, where her father's family roots run deep. She attended Staples-Motley Schools from grade school through high school, graduating in 1989, forming lifelong friendships and a strong sense of community.

Jennifer went on to attend the University of Minnesota-Morris, where she graduated with degrees in mathematics and economics, fields that reflected both her intelligence and her thoughtful, analytical nature.

Jennifer lived a life defined by love, kindness and unwavering devotion to her family and friends. Beloved wife of Timothy Stickler (29 years) and a deeply devoted mother to her daughters, Samantha and Elizabeth, who were the greatest joys of her life. She was the cherished daughter of Karen (Webster) Carpenter and the late Garry Carpenter.

She is also survived by her brother, Garry (Debbie) Carpenter, II; parents-in-law Frank and Jean Stickler; brothers- and sisters-in-law Tony (Kathy) Stickler, Amy Stickler and Gary (Amy) Stickler; as well as many aunts and uncles. Jennifer was a beloved aunt to numerous nieces and nephews: Lacey (Chris) and Nathan; Chris (Stacy), Ben (Alaina), and Austin; Marisa; Olivia, Jillian and Hayden. Jennifer treasured time with her extended family and friends and found immense happiness in creating memories

together. Family was truly the cornerstone of her life.

Jennifer had a dedicated and successful career with Prudential, where she worked for 30 years. She was known for her strong work ethic, integrity and commitment, building lasting relationships with her colleagues. Jennifer took great pride in her work, bringing the same thoughtfulness and care to her career as she did to every part of her life.

An active and joyful spirit, Jennifer had a deep love for the outdoors and for staying active. She especially enjoyed tennis, pickleball, fishing, kayaking, walking and spending time at the lake up north. Jennifer discovered her love for tennis in third grade and carried that passion with her throughout her life. In high school, she rose to the top of the varsity team and, alongside her doubles partner, earned second place at the MSHSL State Tennis Tournament her senior year. She continued to play competitively throughout college and remained devoted to the game. Fishing was another favorite pastime, often turning into friendly competition as she delighted in trying to catch both the biggest and the most fish. These moments on the court, on the water or up north brought her great joy and strengthened her connections with those around her.

Jennifer was known for her remarkable kindness, thoughtfulness and quiet selflessness. She had an extraordinary ability to make others feel seen, valued and supported, and she was always ready to step in when someone needed help or comfort. Her generosity of spirit left a lasting impression on everyone fortunate enough to know her.

Jennifer's legacy is one of compassion, warmth, resilience and love. She will be remembered for her gentle strength, her dedication to those she loved and the joy she found in life's simple moments. Her memory will live on in the hearts of her family and friends forever.

May Jennifer's memory bring comfort and peace to all who knew and loved her.

w18p A00006B2026AP22



Anne Converse, Mark Hanson, Bonnie Hanson, Reggie Petrich



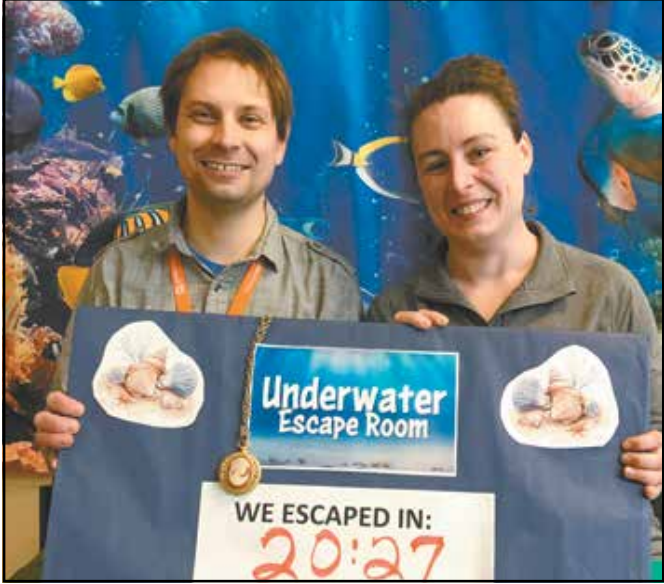
Tessa Willette, Elizabeth Borntrager, Abigail DiGiovanni, Andrea DiGiovanni

The last of the Escape Room groups

Many teams attempted to the Escape Room Challenge held at the Staples Public Library. Two teams successfully escaped before time ran out. The team of Benjamin and Stacy Underhill were the winners escaping in the least amount of time. The Escape Room is sponsored by the Staples Friends of the Library. (Submitted photos)



Team Incredibles, Angie, Deb, Brenden, Brian



Benjamin and Stacy Underhill



Team Incredibles, Kasey, Megan, Brian

Hello World

BIRTHS REPORTED AT LAKEWOOD HEALTH SYSTEM HOSPITAL IN STAPLES INCLUDED:

Born to Kirsten and Alexander Walsvik of Staples, a baby girl, Elizabeth Rose weighing seven pounds, 15 ounces on April 15, 2026.



Looking for a gift idea?

Consider a Gift Subscription to the Staples World newspaper.

*Gift cards available.

207 4th St NE

Staples, MN

Staples World



Staples Rotary donates to food shelves

The Staples Rotary Club held a special collection during March as a fund raiser for food shelves in the area. A total of \$621 was raised with \$310.50 going to the Staples Area Food Shelf, \$155.25 for the Motley Area Food Shelf and \$155.25

for the Central Lakes College Food Shelf. Kurt Wilson, left, president of the Staples Rotary Club, is pictured with Lisa Kajer, a member of the Staples Area Food Shelf board and a Rotary member. (Submitted photo)

David Wickham

David (Wally) Allen Wickham, 61, died April 9, 2026.

All who knew and loved him may honor his memory and celebrate his life at the funeral service, Tuesday, April 28, at 1:00 p.m. at the Motley Free Methodist Church, located at 33 Wellwood St, Motley, MN. Visitation will be held Monday, April 27 at the Brenny Funeral Home in Staples, from 4:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.

David was born August 22, 1964, to Milford and Lila (Fuhrman) Wickham in Brainerd. From an early age, Dave's love for the outdoors was evident - family and friends often joked he was born with a fishing rod in one hand and a hunting rifle in the other. In 1976, the Wickham family relocated to Staples, where Dave began making new memories and friendships.

During his high school years, Dave was actively involved in many activities, but he truly excelled in track and football. After graduating in 1983, Dave explored a variety of paths in life before joining Trident Seafoods, where he devoted the next 39 years of his life.

Dave married Patricia (Patty) Jo Dailey August 21, 2004. Their union was a perfect match and together they built the life they had always dreamed of. In 2006, they began constructing their dream home, where Dave nurtured his love for nature and woodworking. He continued to spend time fishing and hunting, sharing these moments with



friends and family at every opportunity.

Dave's sense of humor and warmth lit up every room he entered. Whether wearing one of his self-created gag hats or sharing a corny joke, he brought joy and laughter to those around him. He was known for his kindness and empathy, always making those he met feel genuinely cared for. Dave's big heart and passion touched everyone who knew him. Dave was a simple man whose infectious spark and genuine heart will be remembered fondly.

He is survived by his significant other, Catherine Holker; two step-children, Shawn (Bonnie) White and Josi Longbottom; three brothers, Erv (Joan) Wickham, Ron (Rhonda) Wickham and Paul (Terri) Wickham; one sister, Linda (Mike) Sullivan; grandchildren and numerous nieces and nephews.

He is preceded in death by his parents and his wife, Patricia Wickham.

w18c A00006B2026AP22



Track teams compete at Perham meet

The Staples-Motley girls and boys track and field teams competed in a meet at Perham on April 14. The Cardinals had emerging performances from some of their young athletes, while some of the top athletes are pushing through some nagging injuries.

For the girls, the 4x100 relay team had a good result, placing fourth with Sophia Luna, Lucille Maros, Mari'vel Duran and Chadia Schultz completing the lap in 55 seconds. Annie Schlosser was fifth in the discus and ninth in the shot put, while Maros was ninth in the high jump.

The boys: the 4x200 meter relay team was eighth, with Kaleb Harman, Guage Holst, Charlie Maros and Jacob Faulkner running two laps in 1:49.

Avandre Brandt dropped down to run the 100, winning in his fastest time of 11.59. Noah Larson won the 110 hurdles.

Turner Beachy won the pole vault, while Adrian Zomez was second in the shot put and Harman was second in the triple jump.

Team results

Perham Invitational

Girls results

100 - 9. Sophia Luna 13.73, 15. Lucille Maros 14.05, 19. Chadia Schultz 14.31, 32. Iva Hinson 15.21.

1,600 - 12. Suhaila Mikhaeil 6:23, 17. Alexis Odden 6:43, 21. Elizabeth Kroll 7:02

400 - 13. Piper Hanson 1:10, 29. Belle Mevissen 1:23, 30. Maci Mithun 1:28

800 - 21. Mikhaeil 2:55
200 - 9. Luna 28.16, 15. Maros 28.90, 40. Abigail Phillippi 32.22, 46. Hinson 32.60

4x100 - 4. SM S. Luna, L. Maros, M. Duran, C. Schultz 55.05

4x200 - 11. SM M. Duran, P.



Annie Schlosser

Hanson, B. Mevissen, A. Phillippi 2:05
Shot put - 9. Annie Schlosser 29'7", 31. Josie Jennissen 22'9", 38. Jocelyn Vogt 21'1", 41. Schultz 20'6"

Discus - 5. Schlosser 94'9", 23. Jennissen 61'3", 42. Vogt 49'2"
High jump - 9. Maros 4'4"
Long jump - 17. Lily Davis 13'1.5", 29. Phillippi 11'8.5", 40. Maci Mithun 9'11.75"
Triple jump - 11. Davis 24'7.5"

Boys results

110 hurdles - 1. Noah Larson 16.42, 7. Kaleb Harman 20.59

100 - 1. Avandre Brandt 11.59, 41. Charlie Maros 13.37, 47. Guage Holst 13.85, 58. Josiah Mumm 14.56, 60. Peter Oeltjenbruns 15.62

1,600 - 23. Spencer Olsen 5:39, 27. Jacob Faulkner 5:52, 28. Jackson Odden 5:57, 29. Reed Leach 6:01

400 - 34. Aaron Oeltjenbruns 1:09, 36. William Lange 1:09, 40. Ben Oeltjenbruns 1:25

800 - 20. Andrew Dobson 2:26, 25. Angel Luna 2:31, 28. Easton Larson 2:33, 30. Spencer Olsen 2:36, 32. Alex Leach 2:38, 33.

Jackson Odden 2:47
200 - 9. Jesus Gallardo 25.08, 61. Maxx Carlson 29.23, 68. Mumm 30.59

4x100 - 13. SM M. Carlson, G. Holst, C. Maros, K. Harman 53.19

4x200 - 8. SM K. Harman, G. Holst, C. Maros, J. Faulkner 1:49

4x400 - 12. SM E. Larson, A. Luna, A. Dobson, J. Gallardo 4:11

Shot put - 2. Adrian Gomez 46'7", 28. Larson 32'1", 30. Michael Jewison 31'10", 41. Liam Jennissen 29'8", 42. Peter Oeltjenbruns 29'5", 52. Ben Oeltjenbruns 23'9"

Discus - 3. Gomez 131'4", 23. Jennissen 81'6", 29. Larson 75'7", 37. Jewison 67'0", 47. Lange 55'3", 48. P. Oeltjenbruns 54'9", 51. B. Oeltjenbruns 46'0"

High jump - 16. Larson 5'0"
Pole vault - 1. Turner Beachy 13'0", 10. A. Oeltjenbruns 8'0", 11. Odden 8'0"

Long jump - 9. Gallardo 17'2.5", 28. Holst 15'0"

Triple jump - 2. Harman 38'3", 13. Jennissen 32'8.5"



Lucille Maros, left, gets the relay baton from Sophia Luna.



Spencer Olsen



Jesus Gallardo

Schotzko leads Cardinal girls in golf opener

The Staples-Motley girls golf team started their season at the Pequot Lakes Invite on April 13, competing well against some top teams in the area.

Katelyn Schotzko had one birdie and three pars on the front nine, but had all bogeys or over on the back nine to finish in sixth place with a score of 90.

Mara Uselman scored an eagle 3 on the par 5, 16th hole and had three pars on the round to place 13th.

Team results

Pequot Lakes Invite

Moorhead 351, Pequot Lakes 376, Bemidji 380, Park Rapids

403, Staples-Motley 409, Wadena-Deer Creek inc., Pillager inc. 6th. Katelyn Schotzko 90, 13. Mara Uselman 95, 26. Molly Hoemberg 111, 30. Brooklyn Winter 113, 37. Meredith Hoemberg 127.

Johnson shoots low score for Cardinal golfers

The Staples-Motley boys golf team found themselves in the center of the conference during their first meet of the season at Wadena-Deer Creek.

Thomas Johnson scored five pars and a birdie over his 18 holes to finish in 11th place overall. His birdie was on the 17th hole, a 385 yard par four.

Oskar Doll shot six pars in his round, Jackson White had five pars and a birdie, but had a few on the back

nine.

Team results

HOL at Wadena-Deer Creek

Hawley 312, Dilworth-Glyndon-Felton 341, Perham 345, Frazee 348, Staples-Motley 372, Barnesville 375, Wadena-Deer Creek 382, Breckenridge 384, Park Rapids 386, Pelican Rapids 411

11. Thomas Johnson 87, 23. Oskar Doll 91, 30. Jackson White 95, 35. Zachary Tabatt 99, 41. Tyson Turner 101, 50. Evan Schultz 106



Kaleb Harman

Claussen singles in game-winning run

Silas Claussen got the game-winning hit in the bottom of the 7th inning for the Staples-Motley baseball team, scoring Cooper Tappe for a 9-8 win against Sauk Centre on April 16.

The Cardinals also won against Park Rapids 7-1 and 13-8 in a doubleheader on April 13. The baseball team has started the season with an 8-0 record.

Against Sauk Centre, Staples-Motley fell behind early but kept coming back. Sauk Center scored the first three runs, then the Cardinals countered with two in the second inning when Isaac Halverson, Tristin Moore and Camrik Tappe all walked and were knocked in by Elijah Kossan and Cooper Tappe.

The Cardinals tied the game at 4-4 in the third inning when Kossan and Cooper Tappe both had RBIs. They took the lead in the fourth inning on a hit by Colbe Tappe, an RBI by Claussen, hits by John Schotzko and Isaac Halverson.

Sauk Centre tied the game in the sixth inning and went up 8-6 in the seventh.

In the bottom of the seventh, Gabe Decker reached second base on an error. Kossan had an RBI, stole second and scored on Cooper Tappe's single. Colbe Tappe drew an intentional walk to put runners on first and second with Claussen coming up to the plate. He delivered with a



Colbe Tappe

winning run.

Kossan pitched the first five innings and Claussen pitched the sixth and seventh innings.

Against Park Rapids, the Cardinals broke open a 1-1 game with four runs in the fifth inning. Tristin Moore brought home two of the runs with a triple. Colbe Tappe pitched a complete game for the victory.

Cardinals scored five runs in the first inning and the teams traded runs after that.

Moore and Kossan each had two RBIs, while Cooper Tappe and Colbe Tappe both had RBI doubles in the five-run fifth inning.

Cooper Tappe pitched the first five innings and Claussen finished the game on the mound.

Two more wins for softball team

The Staples-Motley softball team continued their unbeaten season with two more close games at Frazee, winning by the scores on 9-8 and 9-7. In their first four games this season, the Cardinals have three one-run wins and a two-run win.

Coach Darren Holst said this is the best start the team has had in years. He accounts the wins to "teamwork an unselfish play," said Holst. "All the girls are stepping up when needed."

In the first game against Frazee, Addy Potter pitched the full seven innings with four strikeouts. Clara Maros continued with a hot bat, going 4-4.

In the second game, Aleea Holst pitched all seven innings with seven strikeouts. Jaida Holst went 4-4 at the plate for another solid hitting game. The Cardinals are averaging 10 runs a game.



107

SERVICES & EMPLOYMENT

205

Help Wanted

BOOKKEEPER/CIRCULATION MANAGER/RECEPTIONIST: Computer and literary skills required. Part-time, flexible hours. Submit resumé to: Staples World, PO Box 100, Staples, MN 56479 or email editor@staplesworld.com.

NEWSPAPER PRODUCTION: Computer and literary skills required. Typesetting, designing/scheduling ads, job work, legal copy, classifieds, submitting online newspaper copy. Submit resumé to Staples World, PO Box 100, Staples, MN 56479 or email editor@staplesworld.com.

WANTED TO BUY

501

Miscellaneous

FARMERS

Buying Fieldstone Boulders

cl18-20p

Contact Chris At 320-630-4570

REAL ESTATE

602

Apartments for Rent

FRONTIER TOWNHOMES

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We are accepting applications for 2 and 3 bedroom townhomes in Staples, a community you can get attached to. Rent based on income. Now professionally managed by

BRUTGER EQUITIES, INC.

Income guidelines apply.

GARAGE SALES

701

ANNUAL THOMAS-TOWN COVENANT CHURCH YOUTH GROUP FUNDRAISER, RUMMAGE SALE/ BAKE SALE: Thurs., April 23, Fri., April 24, 9 a.m.-5 p.m. At the church, 15940 251st Ave., north of Staples. Additional items will be at the parsonage, across the road from the church. Watch for signs. cl18p

HELP WANTED

Seasonal Public Works - Parks Employees

The City of Staples is hiring seasonal Public Works - Parks employees. This is a great job for anyone who wants to spend their workday outdoors during the summer months. Most of the time spent will be mowing grass and trimming weeds on all City of Staples parks and properties. This position will be asked to do routine maintenance on the mowing equipment, and to assist with other Public Works and Park duties as needed. This position will work 40 hours most weeks, but that may be altered due to weather. Employment will begin after Memorial Day and end before Labor Day. Starting pay is \$15.45/hour.

Applications accepted until May 14, 2026

Apply at the City of Staples City Hall, 122 6th St. NE, Staples, MN 56479. You may also find an application on our website at: www.staples.govoffice.com. For questions, call Public Works Director - Scott Grabe, 218-894-2550, Ext. 6.

EOE



cl18-20c

208

Storage

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investor or silent partner for a business opportunity. Call 218/457-0976. Just call no text

HELP WANTED

ANNANDALE PUBLIC SCHOOLS

is looking for Three Cooks Helpers. Assist with all functions in the kitchen including preparing food, serving meals, dishwashing and cleaning food service areas. M-F position/ 171 Days/Year. 6.5 Hrs./Day Elementary School, 5.5 Hrs./Day Elementary School, 4 Hrs./Day High School. Salary Range \$12.33 - \$18.63. Apply at www.applitrack.com/isd876/onlineapp/

SAVE MONEY!

Call your local newspaper or MNA 612/332-8844 to find out how you can save money by placing your advertisement here!

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Long Prairie, MN

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NOTICE
CITY OF MOTLEY,
MINNESOTA
NOTICE OF
PUBLIC HEARING
ON PROPOSED
ORDINANCE
AMENDMENT AND
CONDITIONAL USE
PERMIT

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Planning Commission of the City of Motley, Minnesota, will hold a public hearing pursuant to Minnesota Statutes, Section 462.357, to consider proposed amendments to the City's Land Use and Subdivision Ordinance, as well as a request for a Conditional Use Permit (CUP).

The proposed ordinance amendments relate to Sections 9.2 (Board of Adjustment) and 9.3 (Planning Commission) and address the composition, authority, duties, and procedures of those bodies in connection with land use and subdivision matters.

The Planning Commission will also consider a request submitted by the City of Motley for a Conditional Use Permit to allow for the construction and operation of a splash pad on property zoned Public, located at 281 Beaulieu St W, Motley, Minnesota (PID: 410298000).

Date: Monday, May 4, 2026

Time: 5:00 p.m.
Place: Motley City Hall, 316 Hwy 10 S, Motley, Minnesota

The purpose of the public hearing is to receive public comment before the City Council considers and possibly adopts the ordinance amendments and approves or denies the Conditional Use Permit.

The proposed ordinance amendments and CUP application materials are available for public inspection at Motley City Hall during regular business hours approximately 1 week prior to the Public Hearing.

All interested persons may appear and be heard.

Tami Brotherton, Clerk
City of Motley

18pnc

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:

NOTICE
MEADOWBROOK
TOWNSHIP 2026
ANNUAL ROAD
REVIEW

Meadowbrook Township will hold its Annual Road Review on Thursday, April 23, 2026. The board will meet at 11:00 a.m. at the Leader Community Hall and proceed to drive and review all township roads from there, making note of road maintenance issues that must be corrected.

Ty W. Peterson, Clerk
Meadowbrook Township
17-18pnc

NOTICE
CITY OF MOTLEY
ADOPTS HEMP
BUSINESS
ORDINANCE

This is a summary of Ordinance No. 213, repealing Ordinance No. 205 and establishing new regulations for lower-potency hemp edible retailers in compliance with state law. The ordinance requires city registration, annual compliance checks, and restricts sales to individuals age 21 or older between the hours of 10 a.m. and 9 p.m.

Motley has delegated cannabis retail registration authority to Morrison and Cass counties but retains oversight of lower-potency hemp edible retailers within city limits.

The ordinance takes effect following its passage and publication on April 13, 2026. A full text of the ordinance is available for review and inspection at the Motley City offices during regular business hours.

Tami Brotherton, Clerk
City of Motley

18pnc

NOTICE
BULLARD TOWNSHIP
ASSESSMENT
Important Information
Regarding
Assessment and
Classification of
Property
This may affect your
2027 property tax
payments.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, That the Board of Review - *Equalization of the Township of Bullard of Wadena County, Minnesota,

Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc.

NAME OF MORTGAGE ORIGINATOR: Guardian Mortgage, a division of Sunflower Bank, N.A.

RESIDENTIAL SERVICER: Sunflower Bank, N.A.

TAX PARCEL IDENTIFICATION NUMBER: 02-0003900

TRANSACTIONAGENT'S MORTGAGE IDENTIFICATION NUMBER: 1005554-1200011864-0

THAT no action or proceeding has been instituted at law to recover the debt then remaining secured by such mortgage, or any part thereof, or, if the action or proceeding has been instituted, that the same has been discontinued, or that an execution upon the judgment rendered therein has been returned unsatisfied, in whole or in part.

PURSUANT, to the power of sale contained in said mortgage, the above described property will be sold by the Sheriff of said county as follows:

DATE AND TIME OF SALE: May 28, 2026 at 10:00 AM.

PLACE OF SALE: Todd County Sheriff's Office, County Detention Center, 115 Third Street South, Long Prairie, MN 56347.

to pay the debt then secured by said mortgage and taxes, if any actually paid by the mortgagee, on the premises and the costs and disbursements allowed by law. The time allowed by law for redemption by said mortgagor(s), their personal representatives or assigns is twelve (12) months from the date of sale.

TIME AND DATE TO VACATE PROPERTY: Unless said mortgage is reinstated or the property redeemed, or unless the time for redemption is reduced by judicial order, you must vacate the

will meet at the Bullard Township Hall in Section 27 of Bullard Township; at 9:00 a.m. on **Thursday, April 23, 2026**. 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, 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 and may make corrections as needed. Generally, you must appeal to the local board before appealing to the county board of appeal and equalization.

Janelle VanAlst, Clerk
Bullard Township

18-19pnc

NOTICE
MORAN TOWNSHIP
ANNUAL ROAD TOUR

Moran Township will conduct the Annual Road Tour on Saturday, April 25, 2026. The supervisors will begin the tour at 7:00 a.m. from the town hall.

Diane Mack, Clerk
Moran Township

17-18pnc

NOTICE
THOMASTOWN
TOWNSHIP
CLASS #1 BIDS

Thomastown Township is seeking bids for four (4) to five (5) miles Class #1, spread and packed with a wheel packer, 1,000 yards per mile. Also include cost for spot graveling of some areas in the township. Must meet Wadena County test specifications for Class #1. Deadline for completion: August 14, 2026. Watering of roadbed required in event of drought. Bids must be received before **7:00 p.m., May 4 2026**. A representative from the company must be present at the meeting Tuesday, May 4 2026. Mail bids to: Thomastown Township, Jon Hamberg, 14380 241st Ave., Staples, MN 56479. Contact Lance Perius, 218-402-0133.

Jon Hamberg, Clerk
Thomastown Township

17-19pnc

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: July 31, 2015

ORIGINAL PRINCIPAL AMOUNT OF MORTGAGE: \$92,857.00

MORTGAGOR(S): Joel Ambriz Carrillo, a single person

MORTGAGEE: Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc., as nominee for Wintrust Mortgage, a division of Barrington Bank and Trust Co., N.A.

DATE AND PLACE OF FILING: Recorded on August 3, 2015 as Document Number 495310 in the Office of the County Recorder of Todd County, Minnesota.

ASSIGNMENTS OF MORTGAGE: Assigned to: Wells Fargo Bank, N.A. by assignment recorded on September 10, 2019 as Document Number A515937 in the Office of the County Recorder of Todd County, Minnesota.

LEGAL DESCRIPTION OF PROPERTY: The East One hundred sixty-five (165) feet of the South Seventy-six (76) feet of the North Eighty (80) feet of Lot Three (3), Block One (1), Budgett's First Addition to the Village of Long Prairie, Todd County, Minnesota.

STREET ADDRESS OF PROPERTY: 215 6TH ST SE, LONG PRAIRIE, MN 56347

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

THE AMOUNT CLAIMED TO BE DUE ON THE MORT-

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: September 28, 2006

ORIGINAL PRINCIPAL AMOUNT OF MORTGAGE: \$44,481.94

MORTGAGOR(S): Gary W. Mertens, Jr. and Dayna S. Mertens f/k/a Dayna S. Case, husband and wife

MORTGAGEE: CitiFinancial Services, Inc.

DATE AND PLACE OF FILING: Recorded on October 3, 2006 as Document Number 444789 in the Office of the County Recorder of Todd County, Minnesota.

ASSIGNMENTS OF MORTGAGE: Assigned to: Bayview Loan Servicing, LLC by assignment recorded on August 12, 2016 as Document Number A500326 in the Office of the County Recorder of Todd County, Minnesota;

thereafter assigned to Bayview Dispositions IVB, LLC by assignment recorded on February 26, 2019 as Document Number A513288 in the Office of the County Recorder of Todd County, Minnesota;

thereafter assigned to Bayview Revolving Trust by assignment recorded on February 26, 2019 as Document Number A513289 in the Office of the County Recorder of Todd County, Minnesota;

thereafter assigned to U.S. Bank National Association, not in its individual capacity but solely in its capacity as Indenture Trustee of CIM Trust 2019-R5 by assignment recorded on March 18, 2026 as Document Number A550468 in the Office of the County Recorder of Todd County, Minnesota.

LEGAL DESCRIPTION OF PROPERTY: Lots 7 and 8, Block 1, Donovans Addition to Staples, according to the plat thereof on file and of record in the office of the Todd County Recorder. And

GAGE ON THE DATE OF THE NOTICE: \$77,622.88

TRANSACTION AGENT: Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc.

NAME OF MORTGAGE ORIGINATOR: Wintrust Mortgage, a division of Barrington Bank and Trust Co., N.A.

RESIDENTIAL SERVICER: Wells Fargo Bank, N.A.

TAX PARCEL IDENTIFICATION NUMBER: 36-0077000

TRANSACTION AGENT'S MORTGAGE IDENTIFICATION NUMBER: 1000312-0001250034-1

THAT no action or proceeding has been instituted at law to recover the debt then remaining secured by such mortgage, or any part thereof, or, if the action or proceeding has been instituted, that the same has been discontinued, or that an execution upon the judgment rendered therein has been returned unsatisfied, in whole or in part.

PURSUANT, to the power of sale contained in said mortgage, the above described property will be sold by the Sheriff of said county as follows:

DATE AND TIME OF SALE: June 25, 2026 at 10:00 AM.

PLACE OF SALE: Todd County Sheriff's Office, County Detention Center, 115 Third Street South, Long Prairie, MN 56347.

to pay the debt then secured by said mortgage and taxes, if any actually paid by the mortgagee, on the premises and the costs and disbursements allowed by law. The time allowed by law for redemption by said mortgagor(s), their personal representatives or assigns is six (6) months from the date of sale.

TIME AND DATE TO VACATE PROPERTY: Unless said mortgage is reinstated or the property redeemed, or

Lots 7,8,9, and 10, Block 1, Donovans Addition to Staples, according to the plat thereof on file and of record in the office of the Todd County Recorder. Being an abstract property. Todd County, Minnesota.

STREET ADDRESS OF PROPERTY: 423 MINNESOTA AVE SW, STAPLES, MN 56479

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

THE AMOUNT CLAIMED TO BE DUE ON THE MORTGAGE ON THE DATE OF THE NOTICE: \$28,279.16

TRANSACTION AGENT: None

NAME OF MORTGAGE ORIGINATOR: CitiFinancial Services, Inc.

RESIDENTIAL SERVICER: Fay Servicing, LLC

TAX PARCEL IDENTIFICATION NUMBER: 38-0077300 and 38-0077400

TRANSACTION AGENT'S MORTGAGE IDENTIFICATION NUMBER: None

THAT no action or proceeding has been instituted at law to recover the debt then remaining secured by such mortgage, or any part thereof, or, if the action or proceeding has been instituted, that the same has been discontinued, or that an execution upon the judgment rendered therein has been returned unsatisfied, in whole or in part.

PURSUANT, to the power of sale contained in said mortgage, the above described property will be sold by the Sheriff of said county as follows:

DATE AND TIME OF SALE: June 25, 2026 at 10:00 AM.

PLACE OF SALE: Todd County Sheriff's Office, County Detention Center, 115 Third Street South, Long Prairie, MN 56347.

to pay the debt then secured by said mortgage and taxes, if any actually paid by the mortgagee, on the premises and the costs and disbursements allowed by law. The time allowed by law for redemption by said mortgagor(s), their personal representatives or assigns is twelve (12) months from the date of sale.

TIME AND DATE TO VACATE PROPERTY: Unless

unless the time for redemption is reduced by judicial order, you must vacate the premises by 11:59 p.m. on December 28, 2026.

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.

MORTGAGOR(S) RELEASED FROM FINANCIAL OBLIGATION ON MORTGAGE: None

Dated: April 02, 2026

WELLS FARGO 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
(25-0371-FC02)

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.

15-21pnc

said mortgage is reinstated or the property redeemed, or unless the time for redemption is reduced by judicial order, you must vacate the premises by 11:59 p.m. on June 25, 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.

MORTGAGOR(S) RELEASED FROM FINANCIAL OBLIGATION ON MORTGAGE: None

Dated: April 16, 2026

U.S. BANK NATIONAL ASSOCIATION, NOT IN ITS INDIVIDUAL CAPACITY BUT SOLELY IN ITS CAPACITY AS INDENTURE TRUSTEE OF CIM TRUST 2019-R5
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
(26-0067-FC01)

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.

18-23pnc



Public Notices

PUBLIC NOTICES continued from page 9A

NOTICE TOWNSHIP OF VILLARD COUNTY OF TODD STATE OF MINNESOTA

BID FOR DITCH MOWING

TO WHOM IT MAY
CONCERN:

The Villard Township,
Todd County, MN is now
accepting quotes for ditch
mowing. The ditch mowing
will take place once before
July 1, 2026, and once be-
fore August 31, 2026. Any
other time will be as need-
ed and instructed by the
Town Board.

This contract will be for
one season of 2026 and is
to mow approximately 38
miles of Township ditches
in Villard Township. One
swath of six (6) feet on both
sides of the road is recom-
mended.

If you are selected for
the job, you will need to
provide a copy of your in-
surance and sign the con-
tract before starting.

Please mail or email
your quote to the clerk at
the address shown below.

Description:

Quote to mow on town-
ship roads per time

Quote Amount:

Your quote will need to
be received by the Clerk no
later than 5 p.m. on Tues-
day, May 12, 2026. Quotes
can be emailed to the ad-
dress listed below.

If you should have any
questions, contact the Vil-
lard Township Chairman
at 218-270-0137. Thank you
for your time.

Your Name:

Company Name:

Signature:

Mary Trantina-Koenig,
Clerk
Villard Township
31836 Timberlane Road
Staples, MN 56479
marykoenig169@gmail.
com

18-19pnc

NOTICE THOMASTOWN TOWNSHIP ROAD WORK

Thomastown Township
will be working on town-
ship roads this year. Work
will include reclaiming
shoulders, adding gravel,
and brushing ditches.

Jon Hamberg, Clerk
Thomastown Township
17-18pnc

STATE OF MINNESOTA COUNTY OF TODD DISTRICT COURT JUDICIAL DISTRICT: SEVENTH

Court File Number:
77-PR-26-332
Case Type: Probate

In Re the Estate of
Mary Lou Lipke a/k/a
Marilyn Lou Lipke
Decedent

Notice and Order for Hearing on Petition for Descent of Property

A Petition for Determi-
nation of Descent has been
filed with this court. The
Petition states that the
Decedent died more than
three years ago leaving
property in Minnesota.
It requests the probate of
Decedent's last Will, if any,
and for the descent of such
property to be determined
and assigned by this court
to the persons entitled to
the property.

It is ordered and notice
is given that on May 18, 2026
at 10:14 A.M. an adminis-
trative hearing in which no
appearances are necessary
will be held by this court at
221 1st Ave S, Long Prairie,
Minnesota.

Any objections to the
petition must be filed with
the court prior to or raised
at the hearing. Any objec-
tions filed will result in an
appearance hearing to be
set at a future date. If prop-
er and if no objections are
filed or raised, the petition
may be granted.

Notice shall be given
to all interested persons
(Minn. Stat. § 524.1-401) and
persons who have filed a
demand for notice (Minn.
Stat. § 524.3-204).

Notice shall be given
by publishing this Notice
and Order as provided by
law and by mailing a copy
of this Notice and Order
at least 14 days prior to the
hearing date.

BY THE COURT:

Heidi Hovis,
Judge of District Court
Date: 2026.04.03
14:50:26-05'00'

Attorney for Petitioner:
Maria Brekke
Brekke, Clyborne & Rib-
ich, L.L.C.
287 Marschall Road, STE
201
Shakopee, Minnesota,
55379
Attorney License No:
0399946
Telephone: (952) 402-9410
FAX: (952) 402-9417
Email:
mbrekke@bcrlawyers.com
18-19pnc

Staples-Motley High School honor roll

Staples-Motley High
School recently announced
their third quarter honor
roll.

A Honor Roll

Grade 12

Mason Albertson, Sadye
Anderson, Summer An-
derson, Katriane Beach,
Brynn Bestland, Ava Birk-
holtz, Elliot Borgenaes, Au-
drey Brownell, Isabel Cole,
Charles Dabbs, Geoffrey
DeCamp, Emmalee Dob-
son, Enola Feela, Mckenzie
Fletcher, Parker Hammer,
Jameson Harvey, Alexander
Holmberg, Josie Jennis-
sen, Wyatt Lahr, Noah Lar-
son, Mason Michael, Raina
Mikhaeil, Cecily Moe, Xan-
der Moench, Alexis Opelia,
Kiya Pope, Riley Reese, To-
rence Rodrigues, Eli Rutten,
Skyla Tepley, Ruby Thoe,
Adelaide Toepper, Teegan
Vogel, Alaina White.

Grade 11

Isabelle Becker, Brooke
Bendson, Emersen Bet-
tis, Leighton Bettis, Ayden
Blue, Josiah Burton, Nata-
sha Dause, Lily Davis, Sa-
vanna Davis, Allison Du-
kowitz, Atreyu Eagle Tail,
Bella Hines, Thomas John-

son, Madelyn Kist, Bali Mi-
noletti, Ronnie Noska, Jus-
tin Olson, Madison Perius,
Mia Pesta, Bryant Peterson,
Tyler Pruitt, Philip Rapp,
Tristan Rendon, Carter
Sarbaum, Katelyn Schot-
zko, Evan Schultz, Blake
Smith, Chloe Trantina, Ty-
son Turner, Auron Unver-
dorben, Paige Warren, Ky-
lie Wilson, Cloey Wingert,
Daniel Zimmerman.

Grade 10

Gage Bjerga, Andrew
Black, Adalyne Brenny,
Beau Carlson, Charlotte
Daniels, Alexa Dolezal, Lau-
ren Dolezal, Jada Ellingsen,
Kain Erickson, Lexi Fish-
man, Leah Greenwaldt, Na-
talie Hanson, Sarah Kroll,
Lyndon Laney, Chloe Lar-
son, Nathaniel Macheel,
Clara Maros, Jadalynn
McKenna, Maci Mithun,
Ally Pesola, Addison Potter,
Lydia Roelofs, Alyce Schel-
er, Scarlett Stracek, Anika
Tureson, Brooklyn Winter,
Kalee Winter.

Grade 9

Charlotte Aldrich, Chloe
Badger, Garrett Bjerga,
Millinda DeWald, Elliott
DiGiovanni, Jessica Du-
kowitz, Elaina Elfstrum,

Brock Graton, Lexa Graves,
Preston Hangge, Aleea
Holst, Ella Judd, Kennedy
Judd, Caleb Kopp, Aubrey
Lang, Levi Larsen, Alex
Leach, Jack Lundquist, Ol-
ivia Lynch, Roxy Mertens,
Abby Miller, Hudsyn Nan-
ik, Jackson Odden, Kaylee
Perius, Taylee Reese, Nadia
Santos, John Schotzko, Dan-
iel Sturm-Hughes, Cooper
Tappe, Ryder Thompson.

B Honor Roll

Grade 12

Ashton Anderson, Turn-
er Beachy, Mason Birk-
holtz, Luke Bjerga, Avan-
dre Brandt, Gage Foss,
Elijah Greenwaldt, Alex-
ander Harren, Zachory
Harvey, Peyton Jares, Reid
Judd, Gabriel Kroll, Pamela
Lawrence, Andrew Paklon-
sky, Kyra Wolpert.

Grade 11

Emmit Djuren, Jonathan
Faulkner, Jacob Hansen,
Maddock Harvey, Aubrie
Houchin, Gabriel Hove, Jas-
mine Isley, Caden Kramer,
Suhaila Mikhaeil, Samu-
el Olsen, Caden Paulson,
Hailey Richardt, Kyleena
Rudlang, Logan Serich,
Charles Simkins, Gavin

Stevens, Jack Tetlie, Gracie
Wolpert.

Grade 10

Mikayla Bitzer, Jacob
Brandsma, Connor Buss,
Kylee Chenoweth, Ruben
Dahlvang, Andrew Dobson,
Bryson Dumpprope, Jesus
Gallardo, Ryan Heifort,
Gauge Holst, Jaida Holst,
Carolyn Hoppe, Jasmyne
Hove, Kole Judd, Karter
Lynch, Keira Mevissen,
Landon Moench, Josiah
Mumm, River Munger, Zan-
der Plattner, Kana Reese,
Brooke Reisenauer, Paxton
Sharpe, Elliot Stracek.

Grade 9

Jackson Alexander,
Waylen Anderson, Logan
Bendson, Molly Carry,
Noah Czechowicz, Brayden
Granby, Michael Hinson,
Hannah Holker, Raylan
Laney, Hunter Lind, Julia
Linehan, Rylee Mevissen,
Cayden Neisen, Vanessa
Nelson, Cameron Niemann,
Mikaela Pesta, Daniel Re-
ese, Owen Roline, Alexis
Schwegel, Isabella Schwe-
gel, Karsyn Wingert, Henry
Zimmerman.

Staples-Motley Middle School honor roll

Staples-Motley Middle
School recently announced
their third quarter honor
roll.

A Honor Roll

Grade 8

Tenley Bartylla, Caleb
Bestland, Emma Borash,
Lily Brichacek, Quinn
Brichacek, Maxx Carl-
son, Naudia Djuren, Layla
Dumpprope, Natalie Dump-
prope, Mari'el Duran,
Kelsey Elfstrum, Katelyn
Erickson, Gemma Fair-
banks, Maggie Grunewald,
Danielle Hanson, Piper
Hanson, Meredith Hoem-
berg, Addyson Holst, Anna-
bella Hurtig, Aubrey Lund,
Ryan Macheel, Lucille Ma-
ros, Levi Mumm, Berkley
Nelson, Nathan Nelson,
Payton Nelson, Charlie
Noska, Angelina Paklonsky,
Benjamin Rutten, Leiten
Rychner, Chadia Schultz,
Elise Trif, Jocelyn Vogt,
Joshua K. Winter, Jr., Mad-
isyn Zetah.

Grade 7

Everett Allen, Phaedra
Arndt, Paislee Boozell, Ash-

lynn Borntrager, Kamryn
Brenna, Brooke Georges,
Talia Graves, Mavis Haeh-
nel, Katherine Hoppe, Na-
than Huwe, Ryleigh John-
son, Savannah Kirby, Mia
Kriesel, Reed Leach, Zane
Leach, Timothy Lind, Ly-
lianne Nurnberger, Alex-
is Odden, Rita Oeltjen-
bruns, Ali Sue Reese, Taija
Shequen, Brynn Stevens,
Camrik Tappe, Jayden Wil-
son, Corey Wojciechowski.

Grade 6

Emily Beard, Kaiya
Brenna, Isaiah Detloff, Ada-
lynn DeWald, Charlee Du-
kowitz, Hugo Ellingsen, Eva
Greenwaldt, Willow Hines,
Dakota Karjala, Brekken
Kuhns, Andrew Larsen,
Aidan Lovsness, Jace Odd-
en, Robert N. Owen, Ava Ro-
line, Roman Ross-Sullivan,
Tristan Samborski, Benja-
min Santos, Bennett Sonen-
stahl, Dominic Thiede, Re-
ese Thompson, Zara Vogel,
Anna Warner.

Grade 5

Andrea Borntrager, Em-
ily Bounds, Aubry Bunn,

Arlo Capistrant, Lacey Elf-
strum, Finnegan Hanson,
Ava Kroll, Makenna Lang,
Corvyn Mudek, Piper Nos-
ka, Rose Roberts, Joseph
Scharen, Edward Trout,
Jackson Vangsness.

B Honor Roll

Grade 8

Tucker Baumgartner,
Easton Bitzer, Jackson
Bitzer, Kiera Chenoweth,
Odin Davis, Mya Dobson,
Patrick Eckert, Logan Hog-
gatt, Aubree Hove, Lalonie
Kenyon, Zeva Kriesel, Cyd-
ney McGree-Schmitbauer,
Brielle Mevissen, Llana Mi-
chel, Christopher Mikhaeil,
Blake Mongan, Brennen
Sonenstahl, Tayden Weite.

Grade 7

Emily Becker, Malakai
Bestland, Kalliemae Corey,
Kaitlynn Dahlvang, Tyler
Daly, Joseph Faulkner, Har-
rison Grunewald, Rachel
Kern, Lane Laney, Mollie
Larrimore, Porter Lehner,
Taylin Lind, Yarethzy Lo-
pez Montanez, Abbie Lucas,
Maddy Michael, Isaac Nor-

ring, Breydi Orozco, Seren-
ity Scharen, Andromeda
Smith, Anna Zolotoryova.

Grade 6

Danni Borash, Mayzelle
Hanson, Amelia Hoem-
berg, Evan Lehner, Gus-
tavo Lozano, John Mendoza
Hernandez, Elliana Mumm,
Leah Nelson, Shay Sturm-
Hughes, Carson Vargas,
Ryker Weite, Derek Zim-
merman.

Grade 5

Riley Carter, Shelby
Cavegn, Bentley Cusey,
Graham Davis, Lilah Dot-
tenwhy, Cullen Fraundorf-
er, Jameson Hansen, Aiden
Kuechle, Adrian Luna San-
tiago, Tia Mertens, Sophia
Noska, Elizabeth Potter,
Woodroe Rassler, Frances
Reese, Kolton Reese, Edwin
Rodriguez-Reyes, Jacob
Roelofs, Easton Seely, Isa-
bel Sturm-Hughes, Jaxsen
Suomi, Corlynn Tappe, Ja-
clyn Toepper, Kara Vejtasa,
Cygnus Walz, Emmitt Win-
ter.

Beiswenger retiring from Astera Health

The Astera Health Board
of Directors announced on
April 6 that Joel Beisw-
enger will be retiring from
his role as Chief Executive
Officer as of July 1, 2026.
Beiswenger has had some

lingering health issues and
will focus on his wellbeing
and self-care.

Astera is the health care
system based in Wadena.

Beiswenger said "I am
honored to have had the

privilege over the past
years to lead this great or-
ganization for the wonder-
ful people and communities
in the region. I am so grate-
ful for the Astera Health
Team and the outstanding
care and support they give
every day."

The Board has appoint-
ed Kim Aagard, current
Chief Financial Officer,
to serve as Interim CEO
while a search is conduct-
ed for the organization's
next leader.

Beiswenger has led As-
tera Health since 1998, first
in the CFO role and then as
CEO since 2008. Over his
career, he led transitions
like a partnership with
Wadena Medical Center,
creating Astera Health
from Tri-County Health
Care and building a new
hospital and cancer center

to keep care local for thou-
sands of residents in Wade-
na, Todd, and Otter Tail
counties.

"We are grateful to Joel
and his many years of ded-
icated service to Astera
Health and our communi-
ty, as well as his many ac-
complishments. We will
honor him at a community
celebration later this year.
The board's priority is
searching for the next lead-
er to guide Astera Health
through the future demands
of rural healthcare and en-
suring continued access
to high-quality healthcare
for our communities," said
Jackie Och, Board Chair.

Astera Health remains
focused on delivering excel-
lent care and supporting its
staff, patients, and partners
during this transition.

The
Staples World
thanks you for your
continued support

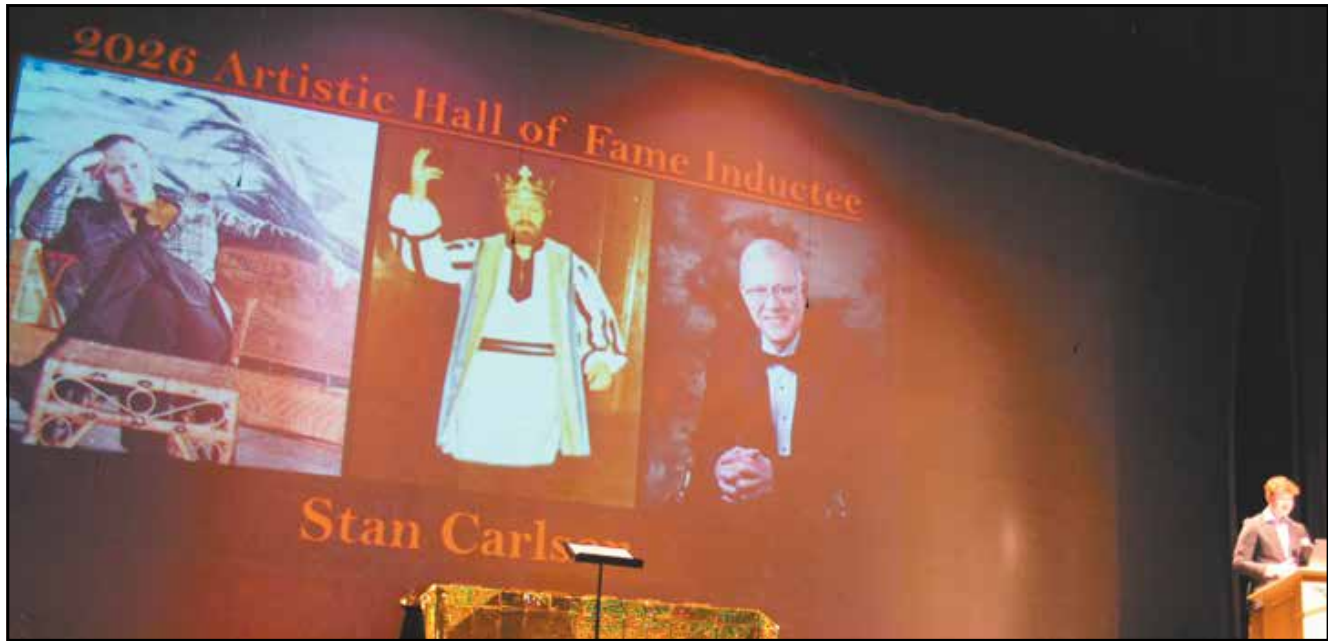
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Hahn**
*32 years serving
our area!*
Rep. for Fergus Falls Monument Co.
**Call 218-445-5685
or 218-640-2341**

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

STEVENS COUNTY
**Stevens County Deputy
Sheriff Vacancy**
Stevens County is looking to hire a full-time Deputy Sheriff. Our schedule will be 5 on/5 off; 2 on/2 off, which provides every other weekend off as a 5-day weekend. Group health insurance w/ 100% single Employer paid and up to \$1600 per month toward family. There is also dental, vision, life, disability, 457(b), H.S.A., Flex Accounts, critical illness, accident, hospital insurance and PERA.; two-week's vacation, one personal day, two-week sick leave, and 12 paid public holidays annually. Stevens County also offers tuition reimbursement for credits earned beyond an associate degree. Starting Salary: Successful candidates will be placed on to the pay scale based upon the number of years of law enforcement experience. 2026: \$28.53 - \$41.30 per hour based upon years of experience. 2% COLA added on July 1st. To apply visit www.co.stevens.mn.us under Employment Opportunities or scan the QR Code. Upload a legible photocopy of your Minnesota P.O.S.T. License or eligibility letter from Minnesota P.O.S.T. Board and a resume and cover Letter by 4:00 p.m., Monday, April 22nd, 2026. Stevens County is an Equal Opportunity Employer. ADA accommodations available.

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Former longtime music teacher recognized

Stan Carlson, the inaugural inductee to the Staples-Motley Artistic Hall of Fame, was recognized at the induction ceremony April 11, at Centennial Auditorium in Staples. Luke Bates, right, emcee, spoke of the indelible mark Stan Carlson made on Staples-Motley High School and on generations of students during his many years as choral director, which included directing musicals and the Madrigal dinner. He was also a longtime director of the Staples Area Men’s Chorus, and even after re-

tirement remained devoted to teaching and mentorship. As noted in the program, “Stan Carlson will forever be known not only for what he accomplished, but for what he made possible. His legacy lives on in every note sung, every rehearsal led, and every student, and educator, inspired to choose excellence over ease. The measure of Stan’s greatness lives on in the thousands of lives he made better through music.” (Staples World photo by Dawn Timbs)



Looking at the displays

Paraphernalia of each of the 2026 Staples-Motley Artistic Hall of Fame inductees were on display in the lobby of Centennial Auditorium in Staples April 11. Above, Jerry Reck of Staples looks at photos and articles at the display featuring Matthew Olsen’s theatre career. Below is the display of Kay Martin, who taught art at Staples-Motley schools for 28 years. (Staples World photos by Dawn Timbs)



Standing ovation for beloved choir director

Former Staples-Motley Choir Director Stan Carlson, seated at right, received a standing ovation at the recent Staples-Motley Artistic Hall of Fame Ceremony at Centennial Auditorium, Staples. Seated next to him is his

wife, Diane. Carlson was the Inaugural inductee of the SM Artistic Hall of Fame, recognized at a ceremony in August of 2025. (Staples World photo by Dawn Timbs)



Refreshments
Refreshments were served at the ceremony. At right is Dick Haugen of Burnsville, brother of the late Mary Noska.

Remembering Mary

The late Mary Noska’s family helped celebrate her induction into the Staples-Motley Arts Hall of Fame April 11, for her work in co-founding The Barn Quilts of Central Minnesota Trail, along with Lisa Kajer. Back, from left, are Mary’s daughter, Bambi Neumann; her husband, Dave Noska; and daughter, Aubrey Archer. In front is her grandson, Carson Archer. (Staples World photo by Dawn Timbs)

Motley School connections

Alumni from Motley High School connected at the recent Staples-Motley Artistic Hall of Fame Ceremony at Centennial Auditorium in Staples. From left, Lori (Nacey) Carry, Cushing, 1981 MHS grad; Ken Jones, Twin Cities, 1981 MHS grad; Leslie (Jones) Glassford, Nashville,

Tenn., 1978 MHS grad; Julie (Ackerson) Mertens, 1978 MHS grad; Bernadette (Vasecka) Carry, 1980 MHS grad; Jackie (Vasecka) Carry, 1981 MHS grad. In front, Lori Carry’s granddaughter, Averie Carry. (Staples World photo by Dawn Timbs)

Medeck is new Economic Alliance director

The Economic Alliance, the economic development organization that serves Wadena County, has named Alison Medeck as Executive Director. Medeck assumed the role on April 8 and will lead day-to-day operations and strategic initiatives focused on supporting businesses and strengthening community capacity across Wadena County. “We’re excited to welcome Alison Medeck as Executive Director,” said Raye Ludovissie, President of the Economic Alliance Board of Directors. “Her ability to bring people, businesses, and resources together will

be a tremendous asset as we continue strengthening our communities in Wadena County.” Medeck previously served as Associate Director at the Brainerd Lakes Area Economic Development Corporation (BLAEDC), where she led initiatives focused on supporting businesses and strengthening partnerships. Her background spans economic development, education, and leadership development across rural Minnesota communities, including her work as a business consultant with the North Central Small Business Development Center.

She holds a Master of Science in Counseling Psychology from St. Cloud State University. “I’m honored to step into this role and build on the strong foundation already in place,” said Medeck. “I look forward to working alongside businesses, community leaders, and partners to support what’s already working well and help move new opportunities forward across Wadena County.” For more information about The Economic Alliance, visit thealliancemn.org or contact Medeck at wceda@wcta.net.



After the ceremony

Members of the 2026 Staples-Motley Artistic Hall of Fame posed for a photo with Stan Carlson (seated at right), the first to be inducted to the Hall of Fame at a ceremony last August. Recent inductees, from left, include John Wolak, a music instructor and community visionary; Kay Martin, an art instructor; Matthew Olsen,

theatre director/actor; Aubrey (Noska) Archer and Bambi (Noska) Neumann, on behalf of their late mother, Mary Noska, who helped develop the barn quilts trail; Leslie (Jones) Glassford, music/theatre; and Lisa Kajer who worked with Mary Noska to develop the barn quilts trail. (Staples World photo by Dawn Timbs)

Staples-Motley Artistic Hall of Fame



Community inspiration

John Wolak was recognized at the Staples-Motley Artistic Hall of Fame Ceremony April 11, inducted for his visionary work in Staples-Motley schools and community programs, including starting the school's orchestra and bell choir. John's wife, Judy, presented him with his award. Former Staples-Motley band director Jeff Iverson introduced John, going on to express his appreciation and admiration for his colleague's work. He shared that John's answer to his question of how he was able to start these programs from scratch was always, "Well, Jeff, you just start." John Wolak expressed his appreciation for Judy, who supported his work which often entailed 16-hour days. He went on to note the strong team he was privileged to collaborate with over the years and closed by reading Jeremiah 29:11, which speaks of God's plans to prosper people and give them a future and a hope...all things John hopes for the Staples-Motley community. (Staples World photos by Dawn Timbs)

Induction ceremony April 11 at Centennial Auditorium, Staples-Motley High School



Theatre professor remembers his roots

Matthew Olsen, 2002 Staples-Motley High School grad, now an acting/directing professor at the University of Minnesota-Duluth, was recently inducted into the Staples-Motley Artistic Hall of Fame. Olsen praised his hometown community, noting that it was where he learned to find his success and that it was the Centennial Auditorium stage where he started his theatre journey in sixth grade and never looked back. Olsen also thanked his parents, Kevin and Penny Olsen (at left) for their support along the way...his dad, longtime director of plays at Staples-Motley, for teaching him about theatre and how to be a good team player, and his mom for her empathetic heart and support of his work. Staples native Jenessa Iverson (center) gave the introduction for Matthew Olsen, sharing that he first directed her when she was in sixth grade and would continue to serve as the inspiration for her own theatre career. Iverson noted that Matthew always took time to come home and give back to the community that gave to him.



Emcee

Luke Bates, Staples-Motley Artistic Hall of Fame committee member, served as emcee at the induction ceremony April 11. (Staples World photo by Dawn Timbs)



Musical inspiration

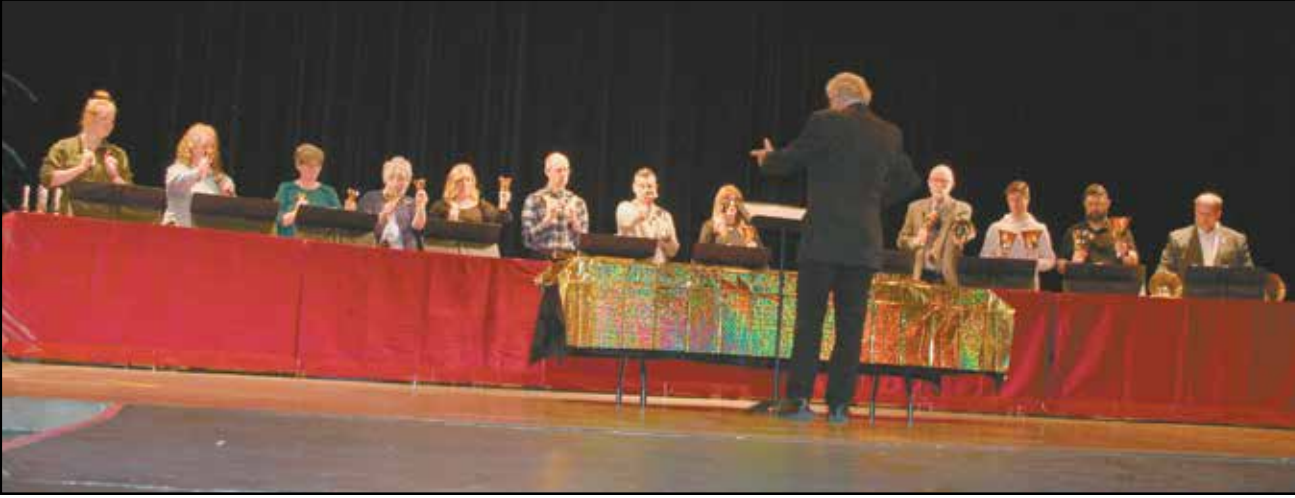
Leslie (Jones) Glassford, 1978 Motley High School grad, was one of the inductees into the 2026 Staples-Motley Artistic Hall of Fame. Glassford went on to have a successful career as a singer/songwriter, actress and recording artist "whose voice and creative work have touched audiences across the United States," as was noted in the program. Glassford sang two songs at the program, including, "Pilgrims," which she wrote, and "God Bless America." In her acceptance speech, Glassford expressed appreciation for her parents, the late Lyle and Ellen Jones, who provided her a strong faith foundation and were supportive of her dreams. Glassford also praised Stan Carlson for being her first voice teacher and the late Lex Willis of Staples, with whom she studied piano. Lower photo, Leslie gives a hug to her husband, Brian Glassford, who introduced her. In the background is Brenda (Frisk) Collins, childhood friend. (Staples World photos by Dawn Timbs)



Bell choir returns to perform at event

Staples-Motley Artistic Hall Fame inductee John Wolak, far left, recognized the 'alumni bell choir' following their performance at the hall of fame ceremony April 11. Bell choir members (and a few former SM music teachers), from left, included Jenessa Iverson, Cindy Koopmann, Debbie Sterriker, Jeanne Rohr, Anna (Duberowski) Dahlvang, John Koopmann, Brian Sterriker, Amelia Crossen, Alicia (Toews) Cebulla, Jeff Iverson,

Nathan Beard, Justin Edin, Steve Hoemberg. A former longtime music instructor at Staples-Motley, Wolak formed both the bell choir and the high school orchestra at the school. Lower photo, Wolak directs the bell choir, who performed two selections at the event, including, "America the Beautiful" and an arrangement of the theme from Beethoven's Symphony No. 9. (Staples World photo by Dawn Timbs)



Created a barn quilts trail legacy

Mary Noska and Lisa Kajer, pictured on screen, co-founders of The Barn Quilts of Central Minnesota Trail, were inducted to the Staples-Motley Artistic Hall of Fame April 11, at Centennial Auditorium in Staples. At far right is Nicole Stracek, Wadena Pioneer Journal Editor, who gave an introduction, noting the creative duo's passion and tenacity in seeking grants to make their vision a reality. As noted in the program notes, their project "grew from friendship, creativity and a

shared passion for heritage. The trail began with a simple goal: to celebrate local art while boosting tourism and preserving community stories." Noska passed away in 2024, "leaving behind a legacy that is memorialized with a barn quilt made in her honor called "Mary's Vision," full of bold, bright colors. In background, from left, are presenters Julie Mertens, hall of fame committee member; and Noska's daughters Aubrey Archer and Bambi Neumann. (Staples World photo by Dawn Timbs)



Passionate about teaching art

Kay Martin, longtime art instructor at Staples-Motley Elementary School, spoke during the recent Artistic Hall of Fame Ceremony, at which she was inducted. During her 28 years at Staples-Motley, Martin "taught thousands of students, encouraging each one to explore their imagination and express themselves through art," as noted in the event program. After retiring, Martin returned to her hometown of New Ulm, where she found new ways to continue sharing her passion, including teaching art classes in assisted liv-

ing facilities. "Kay Martin's legacy is one of dedication, compassion and creativity. Through her years in the classroom and beyond, she has touched countless lives. Her influence continues to be seen in the students she taught, the community she serves, and the enduring belief that art has the power to connect and inspire people of all ages." In background, from left, are committee member Brian Sterriker, and presenter Mary Moen. (Staples World photo by Dawn Timbs)