

Inside this issue:

EconoLux Inn now open
4th St. NE Improvements Project begins
New Motley City Council member



Wednesday, April 29, 2026

StaplesWorld

Staples, Minnesota

\$1.25

Grass fire season Firefighters battled a grass fire south of Aldrich on April 22, just hours after putting out a house fire near Aldrich. Firefighters from Staples, Verndale, Hewitt, Bertha and Wadena helped with the fire, which was southwest of the Balsamlund Lutheran Church, south of Aldrich. Local crews were aided by DNR firefighters, four airplanes and a helicopter, above. (Photo by Mark Anderson)

University of Minnesota and Lakewood Health System expand rural physician pipeline with new residency program in Staples

The University of Minnesota Medical School and Lakewood Health System, Staples, are expanding rural physician training in the state with a new residency program. The Lakewood Rural Family Medicine Residency Program was recently approved by the Accreditation Council for Graduate Medical Education (ACGME).

Residents will start the three-year program with one year of training with the North Memorial Family Medicine Residency Program in North Minneapolis, followed by two years with Lakewood Health System in Staples. The program will train two new family medicine physicians per year.

“We are thrilled to have the opportunity to train excellent family physicians at Lakewood. Our mission is to equip our graduates with the broad skills and deep knowledge necessary to provide high-quality comprehensive care to patients and families in under- See **RESIDENCY** on page 3a

Lakewood financial outlook still strong

By Mark Anderson
Publisher

Lakewood Health System has refuted a recent press release that claims they are on a list of hospitals “at risk” due to Medicaid cuts. Lakewood President/CEO Lisa Bjerga said that

the health system is still financially strong. The report is based on the percentage of Medicare and Medicaid patients at state hospitals. Bjerga said that data uses a different methodology than audited financials. “As a result, it doesn’t

reflect our actual financial performance,” said Bjerga. Bjerga said the health care system is affected by the Medicaid cuts, but they are able to adapt the new regulations and adjust their operations accordingly. “Lakewood has not had a negative margin and remains financially strong, with an average positive margin of approximately three percent,” said Bjerga. The press release by a nonprofit named Public Citizen was reported on by several statewide news outlets. Bjerga said Lakewood was not contacted by the nonprofit or the news outlets before publishing the story.

Public Notices

City of Motley **9A**
Leader Board **9A**
Thomastown **9A**
Villard **9A**
Fawn Lake **9A**
ISD #2170 **9A**

Obituaries

Blake Baumgartner
Timothy Fread
Brian Wise

National Day of Prayer
Thurs., May 7, 2026, noon
Staples City Hall

School board learns how much students appreciate referendum passing

By Mark Anderson
Publisher

The Staples-Motley School Board canvassed the vote total for their building referendum at their April 20 meeting. The referendum was approved by voters 862 - 580, the first successful building referendum at the district after multiple failed attempts. Superintendent Shane Tappe told the board “This was successful because our community saw the value

Five Cardinals earn state speech medals

Johnson, Harvey, Rendon in top three

Five of the seven Staples-Motley entrants medaled at the Minneosta State Speech Tournament, held April 25 at Park Center High School. Walker Johnson was second in Creative Expression, Maddock Harvey was second in Storytelling, Tristan Rendon was third in Prose, Meredith Hoemberg was fifth in Extemporaneous Reading and Joshua Cushing was sixth in Creative Expression. The five medalists put Staples-Motley in fourth place overall as a team. The top 20 teams with their total score were Melrose 68, Mounds Park Academy 59, Fairmont 33, Staples-Motley 27, Sauk Centre 18, Russell-Tyler-Ruth-ton 17, Dassel-Cokato 16, Pequot

Lakes 12, Mountain Iron-Buhl 12, St. Clair 10, Hawley 10, Bell Plaine 10, River Valley 10, Loyola 9, Howard Lake-Waverly-Winsted 8, Perham 7, Laporte 7, New London-Spicer 7, Pillager 7 and Walker 7. Harvey was in first place after the first three preliminary rounds of Storytelling, with judges placing him second, first and first in his three draws. But in the finals, one person was rated higher. Of the five judges in the finals, two ranked Harvey first, one second and two third. For Johnson, this was her fifth state speech appearance and her fourth medal earned. After her preliminary rounds, she was in third place, but moved up to second with a

superb performance in the finals. Rendon also moved up in his finals performance. In the preliminary rounds, he ended up in eighth place overall, the last contestant to get a ticket to the finals. He made use of it by jumping over five competitors all the way to third. Hoemberg and Cushing also were seeded eighth after their preliminary rounds and moved up in the finals. Hoemberg placed fifth and Cushing was sixth. The other two state competitors did not make it to the finals. Brynn Bestland placed 10th in Drama, just two spots out of making the finals but still in the top half of the field. Lexi Ann was 16th in Prose.



State speech sendoff

Taking off for state speech, seated, Head Coach Kip Hines, standing from left, Maddock Harvey, Joshua Cushing, Tristan Rendon, Walker Johnson, Lexi

Ann, Meredith Hoemberg, Brynn Bestland and coach Selket Jewett. (Submitted photo)

Weather

2026				
This Week's Forecast				
	High	Low	Cond.	
Apr. 29	53	31	M. Sunny	
Apr. 30	52	30	Cloudy	
May 1	59	33	Sunny	
May 2	69	43	P. Cloudy	
May 3	67	40	P. Cloudy	
May 4	63	38	Showers	
May 5	58	36	P. Cloudy	

Last Year, 2025				
	High	Low	Cond.	
Apr. 29	53°	31	Cloudy	
Apr. 30	73	40	Sunny	
May 1	52	42	Showers	
May 2	56	40	Cloudy	
May 3	70	34		
May 4	77	47	Sunny	
May 5	80	48	Sunny	

Average Temps:
H = 63° Low = 40°

Compiled by
Dale Hausmann,
WCCO's Staples area
Weatherwatcher

EconoLux Inn in Staples now open



New hotel owner

Samuel (Sam) Beard is pictured outside the EconoLux Inn in Staples which he and his wife, Geniese, recently purchased. The Inn, located at 109 2nd Ave. NW, was formerly home to the Love Hotel, which had been shut down and closed for several months. The Beards have worked hard to get it cleaned up and in working order and are excited to offer the EconoLux Inn to the Staples community. For more information call 218-306-9851 or visit www.EconoLuxInn.com. (Staples World photo by Dawn Timbs)

By Dawn Timbs
Staples World reporter

Sam and Geniese Beard of Coon Rapids are excited to be first-time hotel owners and are hoping to make the new EconoLux Inn a 'staple' in the Staples Community. Formerly home to the Love Hotel on 2nd Ave. NW, the couple purchased the lodging establishment some months back, working diligently since that time to

bring it up to code and be acceptable for guests. They held a soft opening in late March. Their goal is to change the bad reputation of the hotel around, making it a positive, comfortable destination for travelers seeking overnight (or weekly/monthly) accommodations. Sam Beard said that when they purchased the hotel, "it was really in disrepair." He went on to note

that rooms and vending machines had been torn apart, boilers and signs didn't work, and the place was a filthy mess. They cleaned it thoroughly about six or seven times before going on to do a lot of cosmetic repairs. Prior to their coming on board, Beard said that the former Love Hotel had sat vacant from March of 2024 to July of 2025. It reopened in August of 2024, before closing again four months later. He learned that at one point before the final shut-down, none of the employees had been paid, the manager walked out on the job, and the customers were running the place. "It was very bizarre," Beard said. As daunting as the situation may have seemed to most, the Beards were up for the challenge. "We're used to taking things from scratch and putting them back into working order," Sam Beard said. And, it's been a dream of theirs to own a hotel, so they were excited to learn of this opportunity in Staples. It's good timing, too, as Sam and Geniese are empty-nesters. They have two grown daughters and "no grandkids yet," Sam said. In addition to opening the EconoLux Inn, Sam works as an insurance agent and Geniese keeps very busy as a flight attendant. The couple also own spas and a carpet cleaning business in the metro area. The Beards hope to make the motel more automated, with new AI vending machines, charging stations and deskless check-in so guests can check in anytime without waiting. "The business is certainly like opening a startup because there's no existing customer base," Sam shared, adding that any former customers out there have only shared negative experiences. "We're hoping to earn the local community's trust back."



Motley Council welcomes newest member

April Blackburn, second from right, took her seat at the Motley City Council's table April 20, after being voted in at a special meeting that day. Other council members, from left, April Skeesick-Larson, Dennis Erickson, Mayor Pat O'Regan, Blackburn, Steve Johnson. Blackburn replaces Nikki Bjerga, who resigned April 13, 2026. (Staples World photo by Dawn Timbs)

Elizabeth Blackburn will fill vacant council seat

By Dawn Timbs
Staples World reporter

At a special meeting April 20, the Motley City Council passed a resolution accepting the resignation of Nicole (Nikki) Bjerga and declaring a vacancy. Subsequently, they approved Elizabeth Blackburn filling the vacancy. As noted in the resolution, the council had received the written resignation of Bjerga, effective April 13. They had previously accepted her resignation at their regular meeting April 13, but it was noted at the special meeting that the above-mentioned resolution must also be voted on. Since Bjerga's resignation, two Motley residents had indicated their interest in filling the vacancy, including Elizabeth Blackburn who was in attendance at the special meeting April 20. City Clerk/Treasurer Tami Brotherton said she had contacted the League of Minnesota Cities, who advised filling the vacancy as soon as possible. Council member April Skeesick-Larson said she was impressed that Blackburn has been attending council meetings in the past. She went on to say she felt Blackburn would be the best fit to fill the vacancy,

describing her as being focused and down to earth. In a Roll Call vote, the council voted unanimously to approve Blackburn filling the vacant seat. Bjerga's term expires Dec. 31, 2026. In a later conversation. Blackburn said she is excited to be a part of the Motley City Council. She's lived in the city for 14 years and said she became interested in being a part of city government after attending a planning and zoning commission meeting regarding a rezoning application from a cannabis company. Blackburn, a mother of two, said she spoke her mind at the meeting, which is where she realized, "I have a voice." She went on to note the importance of being a part of hands-on work in your city. Prior to their move to Motley, Blackburn and her family lived in Brainerd. She shared that she owns her own bookkeeping agency, and her husband, Jared Harris, works for Virnig Manufacturing in Little Falls. They have two daughters, Emily, 15 and Maddalyn, 14. They're happy to call Motley 'home' Blackburn said. What does she like most about Motley? "The people are kind," Blackburn said.

Autism affects child development

From Todd County Health and Human Services

What is autism? Autism spectrum disorder (ASD) is a developmental disability characterized by differences in social interaction and communication as well as the presence of restricted and repetitive patterns of behavior, interest or activities. People on the spectrum may experience a range of abilities and characteristics. Some people may have very noticeable characteristics, others may not. Core characteristics of Autism include:

- Differences in social interaction and communication
- Restricted, repetitive patterns of behavior, interests or activities.

- These characteristics typically appear early on in development (18 to 24 months), often before children enter grade school, but may not become fully noticeable until social demands increase (24 months to 6 years).

Developmental milestones

Although every child is unique and will learn and grow at their own pace, children are expected to develop in similar ways. Skills such as taking a first step, smiling for the first time, and waving "bye bye" are called developmental milestones. Keeping track of developmental milestones will allow you to:

- Support your child as they grow
- Identify right away if

they may need extra help to learn

You can review development milestones by age here: https://www.cdc.gov/act-early/milestones/?CDC_AAref_Val=https://www.cdc.gov/ncbddd/actearly/milestones/index.html

If you have concerns that your child is not meeting important developmental milestones, make an appointment with your child's primary care doctor for an evaluation. You can also call your insurance company using the number on the back of your member ID card to receive a referral or find evaluation providers and other services in your network.

For more information visit the Autism Resource Portal: <https://mn.gov/autism/>



Faith Lutheran Church donates

Faith Lutheran Church in Staples recently made donations to area non-profit organizations, including \$3,340 to the Staples Area Food Shelf (SAFS) during March Food Share Month and \$1,836 to CARE Ministries, with monies the church raised during Lent. Top photo, from left, Pastor Carl Larson; and food shelf volunteers Frank Leidenfrost and Lisa Kajer. Lower photo, Pastor Larson and CARE Ministry volunteer Amanda Mithun. (Staples World photos by Dawn Timbs)



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RESIDENCY continued from page 1a

Lakewood only the third outstate hospital with a rural residency training program

served rural communities in Minnesota and beyond... and we cannot wait to get started,' said Alex Harsha Bangura, MD, residency program director and Lakewood Health System family medicine physician.

"This new residency program is a critical investment in the future of healthcare in Minnesota. By training physicians in rural communities, we're not only expanding access to care where it's needed most, but also increasing the likelihood that these doctors will build their careers and lives in Greater Minnesota communities like Staples," said Shailey

Prasad, MD, MPH, associate vice president for global and rural health at the University of Minnesota Medical School.

Students can start applying to the program in September 2026, with the first cohort set to begin in the summer of 2027.

This new program joins the Willmar Rural Family Medicine Residency Program and the Grand Itasca Rural Family Medicine Residency Program as the only rural family medicine training programs in Minnesota, creating new opportunities for medical students seeking specialized training in rural healthcare.



Looking north from Highway 210, a firefighting airplane drops water on the fire.

Todd Cty. court report

APRIL 22 Long Prairie Police
Jesus Geronimo Gonzalez, Long Prairie. Driving after revocation. Fine \$200. Fee \$85.
Devon Rein Ryan Long Prairie. Expired registration. Fine \$30. Fee \$85.
Luz Virginia Valdez Cedano, Long Prairie. Driving without a valid license for vehicle class or type. Fine \$100. Fee \$85. Driver must carry proof of insurance when operating vehicle. Fine \$200.
MN State Patrol
Yohelly Noemy Botello Rodriguez, Melrose. Speed 65/55. Fine \$40. Fee \$85.
Tessa Marie Braun Dilworth. Speed 79/70. Fine \$40. Fee \$85.
Catherine Elizabeth Cavalier, Minneapolis. Speed 80/70. Fine \$40. Fee \$85.
Grace Rebecca Dallmann, Minnetonka. Speed 80/70. Fine \$40. Fee \$85.
Kalvin Charles Danzl, Minneapolis. Speed 85/70. Fine \$60. Fee \$85.
Lora Lynn Grossmeyer, Sussex, WI. Speed 82/70. Fine \$50. Fee \$85.
Brayden Scott Johnson, Sauk Centre. Speed 70/60. Fine \$40. Fee \$85.
Nathan John Lamont, Melrose. Speed 79/70. Fine \$40. Fee \$85.
Seth J. Magnusen, Poplar Grove, IL. Speed 65/55. Fine \$40. Fee \$85.
Ryan Matthew Marquardt, Parkers Prairie. Speed 65/55. Fine \$40. Fee \$85.
Joseph Kurt Ngiratreked, Long Prairie. Window tint. Fine \$50. Fee \$85.
Gabriel Christian P Kiel, Fargo, ND. Speed 95/70. Fine \$70. Fee \$155.
John Richard Seviola, Blaine. Speed 80/70. Fine \$40. Fee \$85.
Mariah Mae Sturm, Fargo, ND. Fine \$60. Fee \$85.
Todd County Sheriffs Dept.
Juan Javier Chavez-Ramirez, Long Prairie. Driving after suspension. Fine \$200. Fee \$85.
Quashieka Nicole Cook, Baxter. Speed 80/55. Fine \$70. Fee \$155.
John Jonas Hershberger, Bertha. Failure to obtain burning permit. Fine \$50. Fee \$85.
Junior Noel Joseph, Long Prairie. Speed 65/55. Fine \$40. Fee \$85.
Damion Daniel Majerus, Long Prairie. Driver must carry proof of insurance when operating vehicle. Fine \$200. Fee \$85. Expired registration. Fine \$30.
Courtney Kayla Ost, Sauk Rapids. Unlawful passing. Fine \$50. Fee

\$85. Careless driving. Fine \$100.
Carsten Christopher Wessel, Alexandria. Driving after suspension. Fine \$200. Fee \$85. Expired registration. Fine \$30.
The following cases were heard before Judge Heidi L. Hovis Seventh District Court in Todd County April 13, 2026.
Rodney George Weiby, Eagle Bend. DWI 3-operate motor vehicle-alcohol concentration 0.08 within 2 hours. Local confinement (364 days, stay 0 yr 0 mo 362 days for 4 yr credit for time served: 2 days). Supervised probation, 4 yr. Fine \$50. Fee \$680. Open bottle-possession. Dismissed.
The following cases were heard before Judge Heidi L. Hovis Seventh District Court in Todd County April 14, 2026.
Charity Morisang Etipson, Staples. DWI-operate motor vehicle under influence of alcohol. Dismissed. DWI-operate motor vehicle-alcohol consumption 0.08 within 2 hours. Sentenced. Local confinement (90 days, stay 0 yr 0 mo 89 days for 1 yr credit for time served: 1 day). Supervised probation, 1 yr. Fine \$400. Fee \$115.
Kyalee Marie Fritz-Ashwood, Brainerd. Threatened crime of violence. Dismissed. Assault-4th degree-Peace Officer-physically assaults. Sentenced. Local confinement (364 days, stay 313 days for 2 yr credit for times served: 51 days). Supervised probation, 2 yr. Fine \$50. Fee \$75. Obstruct legal process-interfere w/Peace Officer. Dismissed. Liquor consumption by person under 21. Dismissed.
Cody Michael Johnson, Long Prairie. Assault-5th degree-inflict or attempt bodily harm. Dismissed. Disorderly conduct. Local confinement (90 days, stay 0 mo 90 days for 1 yr). Unsupervised probation, 1 yr. Fine \$50. Restitution \$175.98 Fee \$75.
Yaritza Melis Serrano, Browerville. Obstruct legal process-interfere w/Peace Officer. Local confinement (3 days, stay 0 yr 0 mo 0 days credit for time served: 3 days). Fine \$50. Fee \$75. Reckless driving. Dismissed. Criminal damage to property in the 4th degree. Dismissed.
The following cases were heard before Judge Heidi L. Hovis Seventh District Court in Todd County April 15, 2026.
Tyler Jordan Spanswick, Long Prairie. DWI-4th degree driving while impaired. Dismissed. DWI-operate motor vehicle-alcohol consumption 0.08 within 2 hours. Sentenced. Local confinement 90 days, stay 90 days for 2 yr). Supervised probation, 2 yr. Fine \$400. Fee \$100.

75 YEARS Ago - 1951
• April 26, 1951 - Mrs. Guy Irwin, news reporter for the world from the Motley village, submitted to an appendectomy at the Staples Municipal Hospital Thursday of last week. She is apparently progressing satisfactorily.
Mrs. G. F. Hildebrandt wrote the Motley news this week.
• April 26, 1951 - M. G. Huff and Robert Belling of Staples are in Minneapolis this week, where they are attending the Minnesota state funeral directors convention.
Mr. Huff represents the M. G. Huff & Son, and Mr. Belling the Carlson-Belling Funeral homes in Staples.
• April 26, 1951 - Final practices are being held for the annual senior class play

- o -
Compiled by
Dawn Timbs
- o -

of the staples high school which is to be presented in the auditorium on Tuesday evening, May 1, with the first curtain at 8:15 o'clock.
The mystery-comedy, "Stranger in the Night" is the play to be presented this year.

Under the direction of Mr. Norman Anderson of the dramatic department, the cast is now at final rehearsals on the play which promises to be one of the most outstanding productions put on by the school in a number of years past.
• April 26, 1951 - Six women, members of the Women's Thursday Bowling League of Hi-Way Lanes in Staples, participated in the annual bowling classic at Park Rapids April 22, all of them placing in the tournament in both singles and doubles events.

Those making the trip included Twylla Hand, Alice Thorn, Myrtle Thorn, Grace Brollard, Jessie Barrett and Louis Kinneberg. Jessie Barrett placed second in the singles event, and Twylla Hand took the fifth place honors in the singles.
• April 26, 1951 - Rans Barrus, Don Jacobson, Bob Ousley, John Thorn, Len Clewett and Charley Page leave for the National American Bowling Congress tournament at St. Paul auditorium to bowl in the event at 9:30 p.m. Sunday evening, April 29.
• April 26, 1951 - On sale at Ernie's Food Market: Oranges, Sunkist, 2 doz. for 59 cents; Nash's Coffee, 2 lbs., \$1.69; Pillsbury's Best Flour, 50-lb. bag, \$3.89.
• April 26, 1951 - The Davenport Cafe in Motley will open sometime next week. It has been rented to Mrs. Emma Sandstrom of Brainerd. She has a great deal of experience in cafe and restaurant work and comes here highly recommended.

50 YEARS Ago - 1976
• April 22, 1976 - "Cowboy on the Moon" (Rodeo in Town) is the name of the spring operetta which will be presented next week by the Sacred Heart school. Melissa Hobson is directing the operetta and Jeanne Lyons is the accompanist.
The cast of characters includes the following: Miss Cornell, Ellen Weyer; Happy Hopagog, Joseph Meyer; Three-gun Luke, Joel Rengel; Mr. Blair, Jim Lelwica; Samantha Blair, Michele DeMars; Kristi and Tony (two school children who know of Happy's arrival), Darla Mertens and Doug Peterson.
• April 22, 1976 - Because most Todd County residents are earning more than they did in other years, and



Mystery photo

Hello readers. This week's archive photo is from 1990. 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.

because more women are working and bringing home paychecks these days, many local families have moved into higher income brackets.
Some local families, whose earnings had previously been below \$8,000, have graduated to the \$10,000 and over level.
• April 22, 1976 - The staples Area Vocational Technical Institute will host an Open House at the three campuses of the Institute April 25 and 26. The Open House will feature the AVTI's annual Skill Fair, which is a contest of student projects demonstrating many vocational skills.
• April 22, 1976 - Steve Gardner and Peggy Finn represented the Staples Rotary Club at the recent 19th Rotary Model United National Assembly in Winnipeg, Canada.

The country assigned to the Staples delegation was New Zealand, so during the two-day assembly, they deliberated and acted on matters in accordance with the country's beliefs, based on in depth studies prior to departing for Winnipeg. Delegates were housed in homes of various Rotarians of Winnipeg. Mr. and Mrs. Richard Donat accompanied Gardner and Finn to the event.
• April 22, 1976 - The Staples Lionelles elected new officers for the coming year at their regular meeting April 19, at Ted and Gen's Aldrich.
Selected to head the

organization for 1976-77 is president Twy Japke. Other officers are 1st vice president, Lois Moe; 2nd vice president, Joan Doll; secretary, LaVonne Seipkes; treasurer, Hilma Peet.
• April 22, 1976 - For sale at Stern's Fair Lady in Staples: Super-Slicker, \$6. Super-Slick All-Weather Protection you can zip right up to the neck. Stern's Fair Lady - 'Fashion with a Flair.'
• April 22, 1976 - For sale at Ernie's Food Market in Staples: Occident Flour, 50 lb. bag, \$5.99; Maxwell House Coffee, 3 lb. can, \$3.69; Grade AA Large Eggs, dozen, 69 cents.
• April 22, 1976 - "We Must be Doing Something Right" is the theme of the 17th annual Spring Conference of the Minnesota Council of Teachers of English to be held April. 30 and May 1 in Willmar.
Jon Hassler of Staples, humanities instructor at Brainerd Community College, will present "A Photo Journal Through New England" at one of the sessions. Hassler spent the past year on a sabbatical leave and spent some of the time studying and painting in New England.
Guy Doud, also of Staples, Brainerd High school speech and English teacher, will make a dramatic presentation: "Clarence Darrow" at the Saturday noon luncheon.
25 YEARS Ago - 2001
• April 26, 2001 - Staples Motley High School speech team members who com-

peted in the Minnesota State High School League Class A Speech Tournament April 21 included Jacob Swenson, Peter Swenson, Julia Nytes, Martin Brenny, Matt Olsen and Erin Belanger.
• April 26, 2001 - Adam Barnett claimed first place in both the 100 and 300 meter hurdles events in two track meets last week to pace the Staples Motley boys to a first and second place showing.
The boys won the Pioneer Invitational Friday at Pierz with 154.5 points to 103.5 for Crosby-Ironton. Three days earlier the boys had finished second to Pequot Lakes at their invitational.
At the Pierz meet, Barnett ran the 100 hurdles in 15.7 seconds and the 300 in 41.5. At Pequot Lakes, Barnett won the two hurdles events with times of 15.4 and 42.6 seconds.

10 YEARS Ago - 2016
• April 28, 2016 - People gathered to watch as the eagle sculpture was lifted onto the rock at the Staples All Veterans Park April 22. The Staples All Veterans and Community Park Association contracted with artist Jeff Kreitz to create the sculpture.
The eagle is made of stainless steel and connected to the rock with steel rods drilled into the top. The rock was donated by Francis and MaryAnn Zetah of Motley. Part of the funding for the statue came from a grant from the Five Wings Arts Council.



Mystery solved

Last week's mystery photo published in the March 26, 1992 edition of the Staples World featured members of the 1991-92 Cardinal girls basketball team who were honored at the annual potluck banquet. From left are Amy Winkels, Most Valuable Player; Sheri Brever, Miss Hustle and Sparkplug awards; Kerry Berg, Most Improved underclassman;

Carrie Adams, Heart award; Steph Heier, Most Improved upperclassman; Gretta Swecker, Best Sixth Player and True Grit awards; LaVonne Holmberg, Most Blocks award.

Judy Wolak of Staples correctly identified all except Kerry Berg. Thanks for participating in our mystery photo.

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Regular advertising and copy
deadline is Friday, noon.

The office closes at noon on Friday.

Across from the old Staples Theatre marquee

How do fish breathe, really?

As a person who came close to “meeting his maker” in an Atlantic Ocean undertow off a Florida beach many years ago, I had a firsthand demonstration of the impassable biological barrier that separates creatures that live underwater from those that live above it. In brief desperate moments that could have been my last, as I timed my breaths between wave crests that were breaking over me, I might have wished for gills instead of lungs. But luck or providence was with me, and I didn’t have to learn as life’s final lesson just how ill-equipped land creatures are to survive under water!

Inside the Outdoors



Mike Rahn

Anglers know as well as anyone about the intersection between life on land and life under water. From our boats, or while wading moving waters, or perhaps from shore, or a fishing pier, we tempt fish with bait or with artificial lures that we hope will trigger a feeding urge, or a strike response. At the conclusion of these dramas we lift a fish out of their world and into ours. Many fish that are caught are released in the hope that they will survive, perhaps to be caught again, while some are destined for a place on the menu.

Even fish that are released face an element of risk that can take several forms. One of these risks is the amount of time a fish spends out of water. If we can imagine ourselves being held under water and

having to hold our breath until we are allowed to resurface, a fish experiences the same thing in reverse. While out of water it is essentially unable to breathe.

Other mortality causes, like hook wounds, and barotrauma from being brought up from too great a depth, may be more predictably deadly. But too much time handling a fish, perhaps shooting trophy photos or videos to memorialize a great catch, can affect a released fish’s chances of survival, too. In a perfect world, fish that are to be released would be unhooked and sent on their way while still in the water.

This train of thought got me to pondering just how a fish can extract the life-giving oxygen all creatures need from the water in which it swims. “With its gills,” is the simple—but incomplete—answer. A curious person might follow with the question “But how does it actually work?”

Those who paid attention in high school chemistry class know that water is made up of molecules that are a combination of atoms of oxygen and hydrogen. Two atoms of hydrogen joined to one atom of oxygen make one molecule of water, good old H2O. Do fish extract the oxygen that all living creatures need from the water in which they swim?

Wouldn’t that be ideal, swimming around in all those water molecules that contain oxygen?! Unfortunately, all that oxygen in the water in which fish swim is unavailable to them. The bond between hydrogen and oxygen in a water molecule is a strong one. It’s a bond too strong to allow the oxygen to be separated as water passes over a fish’s gills. Fish obtain their oxygen from

what is called “dissolved oxygen,” which in varying amounts is mixed in with all of that water.

Creatures of the land and air that breathe through lungs have a ready supply of oxygen, which makes up almost 21 percent of earth’s atmosphere. The oxygen that fish can use, dissolved oxygen, is such a small amount of water’s total volume that it is measured in parts-per-million. Seven or eight parts per million is considered an optimal concentration of dissolved oxygen for many bodies of water.

But where does dissolved oxygen in water come from? Some is produced right where fish live, by underwater plants. Just as trees and green plants on land produce oxygen with sunlight by the process of photosynthesis, it happens under water too, with submerged vegetation, including algae. Dissolved oxygen is also captured from the air and introduced into lakes and streams by wind and wave action, and by turbulence caused by water flowing over boulders and other stream bottom irregularities.

Colder water holds more oxygen than warmer water, and—all else being equal—deeper waters tend to hold less oxygen than shallow water. Even time of day can make a difference. Sunlight absorbed by underwater plant life releases oxygen through the photosynthetic process in daytime only. Waters with a high nutrient load, often caused by fertilizers or organic farm runoff, also are likely to hold less oxygen.

So now we know how the essential dissolved oxygen gets into our lakes, rivers, and streams. But how do fish extract it from the water with their gills? Any-

one who has caught a fresh water fish knows that its gills are bright red. That gill structure is made up of many tiny filaments, arranged in a comb-like structure that maximizes their surface area. These filaments appear red thanks to a concentration of blood-carrying capillaries. These capillaries are just beneath a thin membrane, a membrane so thin that oxygen molecules can easily pass through it.

As a fish forces water over these filaments by the coordinated pumping action of its mouth and gill covers, the blood in these filaments—moving in a direction opposite to the water flow—absorbs dissolved oxygen molecules from the water as that water passes over the gill filaments and out the gill covers. Carbon dioxide, a waste product of a fish’s respiration, is at the same time passed out of the blood and into the water flowing through its gills.

The gill structure is a marvelous adaptation that allows a fish to extract life-giving oxygen from its underwater environment. It is so important that anglers are justifiably cautioned against harming the gills of any fish that is to be released. Old time photos of fish being held up for the camera with an angler’s fingers in the gills should send a shudder through anyone who knows just how vital and sensitive this organ is.

Only in the world of comic book super heroes do we find a creature—Aquaman—who could bridge the biological barrier that separates life in the worlds above and under the water. Though we consider the fishes as several rungs below us on the ladder of life, their adaptation to live in subaquatic environments is a truly remarkable one.

Quote of the week

“Journalism allows its readers to witness history; fiction gives its readers an opportunity to live it.”

— John Hersey

Fischbach working on Farm Bill

By Michelle Fischbach
U.S. Representative

I sat down with the Minnesota Pork Producers to discuss the path forward for the 2026 Farm Bill and the critical need for a federal solution to Proposition 12. We discussed my bill, the Investing in Rural America Act, which is included in the Farm Bill, to help community banks finance essential facilities like rural healthcare and childcare.

I also met with members of Growth Energy to advocate for year-round E15 sales and expanded biofuel opportunities. Standardizing E15 year-round will save Minnesota families at the pump and boost demand for our corn farmers. We discussed implementation of the 45Z Clean Fuel Production Tax Credit, and I will continue to push the administration to provide clear guidance that recognizes the sustainable on-farm conservation practices our producers already use.

Quote of the week

“Baseball is ninety percent mental and the other half is physical”

— Yogi Berra

Minnesota legislature update on active bills

By Cora Hoffer
Senior Policy Associate
Center For Rural Affairs

The legislature passed its third committee deadline on April 17, marking the finalization of omnibus finance bills. Bills can still move after the third committee deadline, though it becomes significantly harder. Session is scheduled to conclude on May 18.

The Senate Energy, Utilities, Environment, and Climate Committee has moved a package of bills and appropriations forward (Senate File [SF] 4504). Included in this package is SF 3873, a bill for plug-in solar, and SF 1710, a bill appropriating funds from the Renewable Development Account to invest in the study of and establishment of local fertilizer production. The bill passed out of committee, and was referred to the Finance Committee.

- Contact your Senate representative to support SF 4504, an omnibus policy and appropriations bill from the Energy, Utilities, Environment, and Climate.
- Contact your representatives on the House Energy Finance and Policy Committee asking for their support on House File (HF) 3555, a bill that would allow for the installation and operation of household plug-in solar panels.
- Contact your legislators to oppose HF 4290 / SF 4479, companion bills that would allow counties to designate certain agricultural lands as unsuitable for electric power facilities.
- Track legislation affecting rural communities by following priority bills and staying informed throughout the session at cfra.org/policy/bill-tracker.

What we’re following

OPPOSE - HF 4290 (Rep. Schultz) / SF 4479 (Sen. Kupec): These companion bills allow counties to designate certain agricultural lands as unsuitable for electric power facilities. The bill proposes limiting development on land with a crop productivity index rating of more than 75, or alternatively, land designated as prime farmland.

The Center believes that renewable energy and agriculture does not require an either/or approach. Incorporation of low-impact management or dual-use practices at a solar site can offer opportunities to combine solar and agriculture. This bill could restrict landowners from taking advantage of the economic benefits of solar development and limit their right to decide what is best for their land.

In the Senate, the bill received an informal hearing in the Agriculture, Veterans, Broadband, and Rural Development Committee. During an informal hearing, testimony is heard, but no decisions are made on the bill. It is laid over in the committee for possible inclusion in an omnibus bill. In the House, the bill was introduced and assigned to the Agriculture Finance and Policy Committee, but has not received a hearing.

SUPPORT - HF 2103 (Rep. Anderson P. H.) / SF 1710 (Sen. Putnam): These companion bills appropriate \$8 million to encourage local investment in fertilizer production and reduce costs for farm businesses. In addition, they prioritize using energy that would otherwise be curtailed, which can limit renewable energy output and reduce production tax revenue that can be used by counties to support local schools, emergency services, and local infrastructure. These bills were highlighted in our last update.

In the Senate, the bill language was amended onto the energy omnibus bill (SF 4504), which passed out of the Energy, Utilities, Environment and Climate committee on April 13 and was referred to the Finance Committee.

SUPPORT - HF 3555 (Rep. Kraft) / SF 3873 (Sens. Kupec and McEwen): These companion bills establish regulations for the installation and operation of household plug-in solar photovoltaic panels or devices that meet strict safety codes. These bills were highlighted in our last update.

In the Senate, the bill language was amended onto the energy omnibus bill (SF 4504), which passed out of the Energy, Utilities, Environment and Climate committee on April 13 and was referred to the Finance Committee.

Book looks at effects of big ag on rural Minnesota communities

By Brad Trom
Blooming Prairie, MN

Living in rural Minnesota, you see the landscape change. You see the groves disappear, the farmhouses sit empty, and the “For Sale” signs on Main Street stay up just a little too long. But rarely do you see the mechanics of that change laid bare as clearly as they are in a new book, Dodge County Incorporated, by Sonja Trom Eayrs.

This isn’t just a book about farming; it’s a forensic accounting of how a community’s soul is traded for industrial efficiency.

The Industrial Shift

The author captures the creeping transition from family-owned husbandry to industrial extraction. For those of us who grew up with the sounds of a diverse farmstead, the silence described in these pages—re-

placed only by the hum of industrial ventilation fans—is hauntingly accurate.

The book highlights several key “undoings”:

- The Loss of Local Logic: Decisions about the land are no longer made at the kitchen table by people who drink the well water; they are made in glass towers by people who see the county as a cell on a spreadsheet.
- The Environmental Debt: It tackles the heavy reality of nitrate loading and air quality. We aren’t just growing corn and hogs; we are exporting our topsoil and our health.
- The Hollowed-Out Economy: The “Incorporated” in the title is the kicker: While the profits flow out to shareholders, the costs—road wear, water treatment, and social services—are stayed firmly on the local taxpayer.

Why This Matters Now

What I appreciated most was the

refusal to lean into simple nostalgia. The book doesn’t just say, “the old days were better.” It argues that the current trajectory is unsustainable. It challenges the “get big or get out” mantra that has been forced down our throats for forty years, showing that when we “get big,” the community is usually what gets “out.”

Dodge County Incorporated is a tough read, not because the writing is difficult—it’s actually quite gripping—but because it asks us to look at the cracks in our own foundation. It’s a call to action for anyone who believes that a farm should be more than a factory and a county should be more than a subsidiary.

If you care about the future of the Midwest, or if you’ve ever wondered why your small town feels a little thinner than it used to, you need to read this.

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Aiden Roline, grades 1-2 contest winner; right, Himalaya Reese is the winner of the age five/kindergarten contest. (Submitted photos)



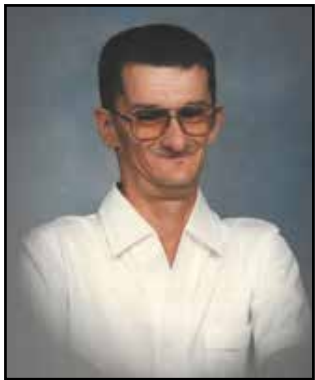
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Obituaries

Timothy Fread



Timothy Paul Fread, 79, of Long Prairie, passed away peacefully on April 1, 2026, with his loving brother by his side. A celebration of life will be held on May 2, 2026, from

11:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. at Majestic Oaks Golf Club, located at 701 Bunker Lake Blvd NE, Ham Lake, 55304. Tim was born October 19, 1946, to Martin and Dorothy Fread in Tacoma, Washington. At the time of Tim's birth, complications caused his hearing loss and cerebral palsy. The family moved many times until his father's death in 1955, after which Dorothy settled the family in her hometown of Staples. Tim attended Faribault school for the deaf. In September of 1975, he began working for STEP, in Browerville. After retirement, he continued to be involved with STEP's Senior Program.

Tim lived at home with his mother until his early 50's, when he chose to move to a group home where he thrived. He enjoyed fishing, bowling, forming many friendships and watching the Twins and Vikings on TV. He is survived by one brother, Martin Donald Fread, Jr. and sister-in-law, Barbara Fread; nieces and nephews, Kimberly Fread, Doug (Rozanne) Fread, Cathy (Mike) Bengtson, Rick (Boom) Nelson, Rob (Susan) Nelson, Colleen (Duane) Fletcher, Jodie (Tom) Wendt, Suzanne Brown and Mark (Katherine) Nelson; many great- and great-great nieces,

nephews and cousins. Tim was preceded in death by his parents; one sister, Dodie Nelson; one brother-in-law, John Nelson and one nephew, Michael Fread. The family wishes to thank Tim's Oakridge Homes family for their many years of loving care, as well as the wonderful staff and hospice providers at Cerenity Senior Care in White Bear Lake for their compassionate care during Tim's final days. Arrangements are by the Brenny Family Funeral Chapel, Staples.

w19c A00006B2026AP29

Brian Wise



Brian Leslie Wise, 72, died April 14, 2026, at his home in Staples. Brian donated his body to science at the U of M as he died of a rare small cell bladder and small cell bone cancer. A Celebration of Life Service will be held Friday, May 8, at 11 a.m. at the Motley Free Methodist Church, 33 Wellwood St East, Motley, with Pastor Jim Johnson officiating. Visitation will be held one hour prior to services at the church. Brian liked to fish; following the service, the luncheon may have some fish on the dining table. Fishing opener is May 9. Brian is going to miss it this year, but he wanted to make sure others did not.

Brian was born May 20, 1953 to Floyd and Clarice (Schrupp) Wise in Little Falls. He attended school in Staples graduating from Staples High School in 1971. He married Diana Lane in Anchorage, Alaska Sept. 28, 1974. They had two children, Joshua in 1976 and Jessica in 1977.

Brian loved hunting, fishing and his dogs. He owned Temple Press in Staples along with his dad. While living in Staples Brian was active in the Staples Sportsmans Club.

Brian was born again, accepting Jesus as his Lord and Savior on Sept. 3, 1988. He attended Rhema Bible Training College in Broken Arrow, OK from 1989 to 1991, graduating from the Pastor's Group. After Bible College the family moved to Milaca where he worked at Sentenial Printing in St. Cloud, retiring in 2019. The couple retired to Mazatlan, Mexico, where they had never been and didn't speak Spanish. They packed the truck with 12 totes, two old dogs, two old people and

drove until they said, "This looks good." They returned to the states to be with family following Brian's diagnosis of prostate cancer. He is survived by his wife, Diana; one son, Joshua; one daughter, Jessica (Eric) Betzler; five grandchildren, Karley, Kristen, Trevor, Gavin and Bronte; one great-grandson, Micah; mother, Clarice; one brother, Tim; two sisters, Linda Gathrite and Natalie (Steve) Olsen and other relatives. He was preceded in death by his father, Floyd and one brother, Rick Wise.

In lieu of flowers, invest the funds into your favorite Missionary so they may better spread the gospel of Jesus Christ throughout the world. If you don't know any missionaries, contact Pastor Jim Johnson, Motley Free Methodist Church, PO Box A, Motley, MN 56466. To send condolences mail to Diana at her temporary address: 613 4th St. SW, Staples, MN 56479.

Brian's in heaven, waiting for you to join him when it's your time. Going to heaven or going to hell is your choice - choose wisely. John 3:16

Brian loved the Lord; he was a good, kind, funny guy.

w19c A00006B2026AP29
-Paid obituary-

Blake Baumgartner



Blake Jason Baumgartner, 26, passed away April 16, 2026, leaving behind a lifetime of memories cherished by those who knew and loved him. A Memorial Service will be held Saturday May 2, at 11:00 a.m. at the Motley Free Methodist Church in Motley. Visitation will be held beginning at 9:00 a.m. until the time of the service. Lunch will be served following.

Blake was born April 6, 2000, to Brett and Tina Baumgartner in Brainerd. Growing up, he had a love for trains, dinosaurs, Star Wars and anything involving spending time with family. Blake graduated from Bertha-Hewitt High School in May, 2018. He attended MState in Wadena and graduated in May of 2022 with a diploma in Electrical Technology. He began his working career at Bergstrom Electric in Sebeka. He later obtained his CNA license and began working at Central Todd County Care Center. It was here he found his passion in caring for others. He touched the hearts of many residents and enjoyed talking and listening to their stories. Blake had a deep love for the outdoors and found joy in fishing and hunting, especially alongside his older brother, Brady. He enjoyed golfing and spending time with his family, which meant the most to him. He will be remembered for his loyalty, patience and the way he cared for those closest

to him. He was always up for a good time around the fire, frying fish and joking around. Blake is survived by his parents, Brett (Becky) Baumgartner and Tina (Cory Bacon) Baumgartner; one brother, Brady (Kirstan) Baumgartner; half-sister, Kinley Baumgartner; step-siblings, Brookelyn, Berkley, and Trevor Frolek; grandparents, Kevin Raddohl and Bonnie (John) Ruby; uncle, Chad (Sarah) Baumgartner; aunts, Kami (Mike) Kavanaugh, Mandy Raddohl and April Johnson; cousins, CJ (Marissa, Hudson and Lucas) Baumgartner, Christian and Zachary Baumgartner, Austyn, Masen and Saige Walker, Gannon Kavanaugh and Teigan Raddohl and many other relatives. He was preceded in death by his grandparents, Peter Baumgartner, Lowell Hulett, and Sandra Raddohl, as well as all of his great-grandparents. Arrangements are by the Brenny Family Funeral Chapel, Staples.

w19c A00006B2026AP29

Staples Area Church Directory

Staples

Staples Alliance
1512 8th St. NE, Staples.....218-894-2891
Jonny Olson, Associate Pastor
Sunday Worship.....9:30 a.m.
Sunday School.....11:00 a.m.
WEDNESDAY
AWANA.....6:00 p.m.
Assembly of God
914 3rd Ave. NE, Staples.....218-894-1081
Pastor Roy Miles
Small Groups (Bible classes for all ages).....9:30 a.m.
Morning Worship Service.....10:30 a.m.
Children's Church (Kids start in main worship service).....11 a.m.
Prayer Meeting.....5 p.m.
WEDNESDAY
Sunlight (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
parishsecretary@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 Jersek
218-894-0033
Saturday Worship.....9:30 am.
Sabbath School.....10:45 a.m.
Thomastown Covenant
15940 251st Ave., Staples.....218-894-3923
Pastor Scott Jorgenson
Sunday Worship.....10:30 a.m.
WEDNESDAY NIGHT YOUTH.....6:30 p.m.
Trinity Lutheran
1000 4th St., NE, Staples.....218-894-2372
Pastor Vicar Paul Koehler
Sunday Divine Service.....9:00 a.m.
Sunday School and Bible Class.....10:30 a.m.
United Methodist
310 5th St. NE, Staples.....218-894-2248
Sunday Worship.....10:30 a.m.
(Nursery Available for Sunday Worship)

Aldrich

Balsamlund Lutheran
19550 490th Street, Aldrich
Janet Eckman SMA.....218-837-5831
jre227@yahoo.com
Sunday Worship.....8:30 a.m.
Cushing
Bethany Lutheran
25430 Bison Rd.Cushing, MN
320-749-2140
Pastor Carl Larson
www.bethanylutherancushing.org
Office Hours: Tues. - Thurs., 9 a.m. - 12 p.m.
Sunday Worship.....9:00 a.m.
Communion.....1st and 2nd Sunday of each month
Lincoln Evangelical Free
1354 320th Street, Cushing, MN 56443
Phone: 218- 575-2449
www.lincolnefree.org
Facebook Lincoln E Free
Office Hours: Tues. - Thurs., 9 a.m. - 12 p.m.
Senior Pastor: Don Reigstad
SUNDAY
Church Worship Gathering.....10:00 a.m.
YouTube Channel.....10:00 a.m.
Cushing Baptist
26298 Bear Rd., Cushing
Pastor Dan Holmes.....320-749-2583
Sunday School.....9:30 a.m.
Worship.....10:30 a.m.
WEDNESDAY
Bible study.....7:30 p.m.

Leader

Swan Valley Lutheran
Leader.....218-397-2470
Sandy Knight, Synodically Authorized Minister of Word and Sacrament
Sunday Worship
January - July.....9 a.m.
July - January.....11 a.m.
Maple Hill Lutheran
Sandy Knight, Synodically Authorized Minister of Word and Sacrament
Leader.....218-397-2470 (Rural Pine River)
Worship and Sunday School.....9:00 a.m.
Motley
Motley Free Methodist
33 Wellwood St. E
Motley 56466.....218-352-6888
Jim Johnson, Senior Pastor
Casey Reynolds, Assistant Pastor
Sunday Worship.....9:00 and 10:30 a.m.
facebook live.....9 a.m.
WEDNESDAY
AWANA.....4:00-5:30 p.m.
Youth Group.....6:00-8:00 p.m.
St. John's Lutheran
497 3rd Ave. S, Motley.....218-352-6399
Pastor Vicar Paul Koehler
Sunday School and Bible Class.....8:30 a.m.
Sunday Worship.....9:30 a.m.

St. Michael Catholic Church
280 1st Ave S, Motley.....218-631-1598
Rev. JC Duncan, 218-632-7314
Rev. Rick Aubol, 218-632-7310
Rev. Greg Sauer, 218-632-7319
Mass: Sunday.....10:30 a.m.
United Methodist
847 3rd Ave. S. Lane, Motley.....218-352-6466
Pastor Greg Leslie
www.motleyumc.net
Sunday Worship Service.....10:00 a.m.
Monday AA meeting.....8:00 p.m.

Oylen

Oylen Alliance
Cty. Rds; 7 and 9, Oylen
218-472-3440 or 218-472-3316
Pastor Neal Malcore
Sunday School.....10:00 a.m.
Sunday Worship.....11:00 a.m.
Pillager
First Lutheran Church
Pastor Mathew Sundquist
717 River Street S, Pillager, MN
218-746-3775
Sunday Worship.....9:30 a.m.
Sunday School, 2nd and 4th Sundays.....8:30 a.m.
Casino Assembly of God
Pastor Dan Johnson
N. of Motley, Hwy. 64, E. on Cty 34 to Cty. 104.
Phone.....218-746-3839
Sunday School.....9:30 a.m.
Worship.....10:30 a.m.
Sunday Worship.....7:00 p.m.
WEDNESDAY.....7:00 p.m.
First Baptist
903 River Street South, Pillager
Pastor Jake Anderson
218-746-3768
curious@fbcpillager.com
Worship Gathering.....10:00 a.m.
Connection Point.....9:30 a.m.

Hewitt

Church of the Nazarene
114 Front Street, P.O. Box 146 Hewitt, MN
218-924-2028
Jim and Linda McGaffey, Pastor
Sunday School.....9:30 a.m.
Sunday Worship.....10:45 a.m.
WEDNESDAY PRAYER.....7:00 p.m.
Trinity Lutheran Church (LCMS)
524 Front Street, PO Box 116, Hewitt, MN
Pastor Robin Fish
Sunday Worship.....10:30 a.m.
Hewitt Community Church
Hwy. 210, Hewitt, MN
Pastor Kenneth Uhren
Sunday Worship.....10:30 a.m.

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

Family Life Church
402 NE Clark Drive, Verndale 218-445-5568
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
parishsecretary@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
Rev. JC Duncan, 218-632-7314
Rev. Rick Aubol, 218-632-7310
Father Greg Sauer, 218-632-7319
parishsecretary@marysacc.org
Mass: Saturday.....4:00 p.m.

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

Wadena
St. Helen's Episcopal Church
22 Dayton Ave. SW, Wadena, MN
218-631-3928
Sunday Worship.....10:00 a.m.
St. Ann's Catholic Church
514 1st Street SE, Wadena(218) 631-1593
Rev. JC Duncan, 218-632-7314
Rev. Rick Aubol, 218-632-7310
Father Greg Sauer, 218-632-7319
parishsecretary@marysacc.org
Mass: Sunday (livestream).....10 a.m.

"Encamped Angels"

"God's Word For Today"

In 1875, as popular Christian singer-songwriter Ira Sankey sang, he noticed a sad man in his small audience. As they talked later, Sankey discovered they had a unique connection from the recent Civil War. The sad man, a Confederate soldier, had been on guard duty when he saw a Union soldier walking along unaware he was being observed. The Confederate soldier raised his rifle to shoot, then realized the Union soldier was singing a hymn his mother once sang to him. Remembering his mother's Christian influence, he lowered his gun. The unsuspecting Union man ceased singing

and walked on. Sankey had been the singer. God had protected him. "For the Angel of the Lord is a guard; he surrounds and defends all who fear him." - (Psalm 34:7) Indeed, God's protection comes in many forms, sometimes in surprisingly unexpected ways. While we may not always know how He does it, we know He protects us for our benefit and His glory. *Thought for the Day:* Our assurance of God's protection means we need not fear the future.

--Submitted by Pastor Roy Miles, Staples Assembly Of God

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Staples, MN 218-894-3299

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218-894-3794

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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: jwinter@staplesworld.com

Life Currents Policy
To request that an obituary, anniversary or other event (including benefit events) be placed word for word, personalized, contain more than one photo, or to run for more than one week, it may be placed as a display advertisement at the regular advertising rates (\$10.75 /col. inch). The item will be placed in our newspaper with a border around it and must be paid for at the time of placement. Deadline for advertising copy is noon on Friday. **Obituaries** received from private parties, funeral homes, will be edited to our format and paid for prior to running at our obituary rate (\$10.25 pci) plus \$5 per photo. Minimum is \$60. Deadline for copy is noon on Friday, however, every effort is made to include those with timely services. Death notices are available and are free if followed in the next publication by the entire obituary. Obituaries printed in Staples World will be posted on our website. All obituaries are paid advertisements. Obituaries requested to be printed word for word will be charged regular advertising rates and marked as a -Paid Advertisement- with a box around it. Please be sure to include the name of the deceased, date of birth, age, city of residence, when and where he or she died and the name and city of the funeral home handling the arrangements.



Thomas Johnson



Oskar Doll

Boys golfers improving every outing

The Staples-Motley boys golf team moved up in the Heart O Lakes Conference standings, placing fourth in two conference meets after placing fifth by a wide margin in their first conference meet. The team shot 348 at Hawley on April 20, then lowered their score to 341 for a home meet April 23. They hosted another invitational on April 25, dropping three more strokes lower, which they needed to do because it put them ahead of Crosby-Ironton/Aitkin and Pillager, who were one and two strokes back.

At Hawley, Jackson White led the team with seven pars and a birdie, while Thomas Johnson shot nine pars in 18 holes. Oskar Doll shot five pars and had a birdie on the 496 yard par 5 14th hole. Evan Schultz birdied the same hole as he moved into the fourth varsity scoring position with his best round of the year.

At the home HOL meet, White parred eight holes on the back nine, his only bogey was on a putt that rimmed the hole and went out. He finished five over par over 18 holes to place fourth. Johnson had two birdies in his round, on the 492 yard par five 18th hole and on the 497 yard par five sixth hole. Zachary Tabatt shot seven pars at the home HOL meet to finish as the team's number three golfer.

Team results

HOL meet at Hawley

Hawley 318, Perham 338, Frazee 344, Staples-Motley 348, Breckenridge 349, Dilworth-Glyndon-Felton 351, Barnesville 362, Park Rapids 375, Wadena-Deer Creek 379, Pelican Rapids 384

6. Jackson White 85, 12 Thomas Johnson 86, 19. Oskar Doll 88, 21. Evan Schultz 89, 36.



Zachary Tabatt watches a birdie putt approach the hole. (Staples World photos by Mark Anderson)

Zachary Tabatt 95, 57. Tyson Turner 109

HOL at The Vintage, Staples

Hawley 316, Perham 321, Frazee 336, Staples-Motley 341, Dilworth-Glyndon-Felton 343, Breckenridge 343, Barnesville 360, Park Rapids 378, Pelican Rapids 382, Wadena-Deer Creek inc.

4. White 77, 7. Johnson 79, 26. Tabatt 92, 28. Doll 93, 43. Kaleb Harman 99, 53. Schultz 114

Cardinal Invite at The Vintage in Staples

Princeton 319, Bemidji 323, Staples-Motley 345, Crosby-Ironton/Aitkin 346, Pillager 347, Pine River-Backus 378, Staples-Motley 2 438, Milaca inc.

Varsity: 5. Johnson 80, 6. White 81, 26. Doll 91, 28 Schultz 93, 38. Tabatt 104, 40. Turner 113 Staples-Motley 2: 31. Asshton Anderson 96, 37. Harman 103, 40. Owen Carlson 113, 43. Waylen Anderson 126



Catcher Elijah Kossan reaches out to grab a pop fly as pitcher Colbe Tappe watches. (Staples World photos by Mark Anderson)

Tappe wins pitchers duel against Perham

In a battle of two of the hardest throwing pitchers you are likely to see in a high school game, Colbe Tappe emerged as the winning pitcher as the Staples-Motley baseball team beat Perham 6-1 on April 21. The Cardinals lost the second game of the double-header 12-1. Also during the week, the Cardinals lost at Dilworth-Glyndon-Felton 9-7 on a super windy day April 23. They finished the week with another come from behind win, beating Detroit Lakes 5-2 at home on April 24

The first Perham game saw Tappe pitching against another player who plans to play baseball in college. Perham strung a couple of hits together early to take a 1-0 lead. They almost made it 2-0 on an attempted double steal, but Cooper Tappe cut off the throw and fired it to Elijah Kossan at the plate for the final out of the inning.

After flailing for the first

two times through the batting order, the Cardinals offense got it going in the fourth inning. Colbe Tappe walked, stole second then ran to third when Silas Claussen reached base. Tristan Moore knocked in both players to give the team a 2-1 lead.

Perham got a runner to third base to start the fifth, but Tappe shut them down by striking out the next batter, getting a ground out to first base, then striking out the last batter to preserve the 2-1 lead.

Staples-Motley put the game away in the bottom of the sixth. Cooper Tappe reached on an error, Colbe Tappe walked, then Claussen struck a single past a diving second baseman to load the bases. Moore walked to force in a run and Isaac Halverson got hit by a pitch to push in another. That was enough to chase the Perham starting pitcher and they put in a reliever. Gabe Decker took

advantage with a single and Camrik Tappe hit a sacrifice bunt to score Moore and make the score 6-1.

Colbe Tappe took the mound again for the seventh inning and still had good zip on his pitches. He struck out two batters and got the third to ground out, finishing the game with 10 strikeouts and a 6-1 win.

In the second game, the Cardinals fell behind early and lost 12-1 in five innings. Moore, Camrik Tappe and Eli Bounds all pitched in this game.

At Dilworth, a strong wind blowing into the pitcher's face made it an unusual game to play and the Cardinals ended up two runs short.

Against Detroit Lakes, Kossan pitched the first six innings and the team fell behind 1-0, but they came back to take the lead and Moore finished the game by getting the final out.



Tristan Moore

Golf team stays competitive with many contributors

The Staples-Motley girls golf team played in three meets with Katelyn Schotzko and Mara Uselman leading the team, while several other golfers stepped up in the other two scoring positions to keep the team competitive.

The Cardinals were fifth at the Heart O Lakes Conference meet at Frazee on April 21, they were 13th out of 17 teams at the Bemidji Invite on April 24, and they played another big school meet at the Geneva Golf Club in Alexandria on April 25.

In the Frazee meet, Schotzko shot a par on the 120

yard par 3 17th hole, then followed that with a birdie on 18th hole, a 357 yard par five.

At the Bemidji Invite, on April 23, the Cardinals were 13th out of 17 teams. Molly Hoemberg had three pars to finish as the number three golfer on the team.

At the Geneva Invitational, Uselman hit a birdie on the 299 yard par 4 sixth hole. Brooklyn Winter shot her best round as the third scorer on the team.

Team results

HOL meet at Frazee

Dilworth-Glyndon-Felton 400, Park Rapids 426, Perham

435, Hawley 437, Breckenridge 445, Staples-Motley 446, Barnesville 467, Frazee 473, Wadena-Deer Creek inc., Pelican Rapids inc.

8. Katelyn Schotzko 98, 12. Mara Uselman 102, 35. Brooklyn Winter 124, 32. Meredith Hoemberg 122

Bemidji Invite

49. Schotzko 98, 62. Uselman 103, 62. Molly Hoemberg 103, 81 Winter 112

Geneva Invitational, Alexandria

Alexandria 317, Eden Prairie 386, Rogers 396, Staples-Motley 414, Alexandria 2 416, Sauk Rapids-Rice 469

7. Schotzko 89, 13. Uselman 99, 17. Winter 103, 31 Hoemberg 123

Softball team hits tough competition

The Staples-Motley softball team ran into some high-level teams with four games in five days.

They opened the week with a 17-1 loss at Pierz on April 20. The split a double-

the first game 13-2, the falling 12-8 in the second game. They faced eighth-ranked Dilworth-Glyndon-Felton at home on April 23. They hit the ball well but often right at outfielders and ended up falling 12-9

Discus throwers set personal bests

The Staples-Motley track and field teams competed at the Heartland Invitational at Park Rapids on April 21.

Annie Schlosser set a personal best in both the shot put and discus, placing second and third in the two events. Adrian Gomez won both throwing events for the boys, including his personal best in the discus. Noah Larson also had his best ever discus throw to place fourth.

Other standout performances included the boys 4x200 meter relay placing fourth, with Maxx Carlson, Carson Dewald, Carter Kist and Jacob Faulkner running 1:46.

Girls 100 meter runners had their best ever times, with Sophia Luna placing fifth and Chadia Schultz eighth.

Boys results

Heartland Invitational

100 - 8. Jesus Gallardo 11.94, 31. Carson Dewald 13.08, 38. Charlie Maros 13.23, 46. Michael

15.75, 200 - 26. Jacob Faulkner 26.81, 27. Carter Kist 26.92, 35. Holst 28.58

400 - 5. Angel Luna 56.75, 22. Maxx Carlson 1:04, 26. William Lange 1:05, 30. Josiah Mumm 1:14

800 - 10. Andrew Dobson 2:24, 14. Alex Leach 2:29, 15. Easton Larson 2:31, 17. Jackson Odden 2:38, 19. Spencer Olsen 2:44, 29. Ben Oeltjenbruns 3:21

1,600 - 14. Olsen 5:40, 15. Faulkner 5:43

3,200 - 2. Dobson 11:21, 110 hurdles - 1. Noah Larson 16.05, 9. Kaleb Harman 19.68

300 hurdles - 6. Harman 48.43 4x100 relay - 8. (Holst, Kist, Hinson, Adrian Gomez) 51.21; 11. (Larson, Harman, Maros, Gallardo) 57.60

4x200 - 4. (Carlson, Dewald, Kist, Faulkner) 1:46

4x400 - 5. (Luna, Larson, Dewald, Gallardo) 3:59

Shot put - 1. Gomez 45'9.25", 9. Larson 37'0", 18. Liam Jennissen 32'8", 19. Michael Jewison 31'10.25", 20. P. Oeltjenbruns 31'7", 36. B. Oeltjenbruns 23'10"

Discus - 1. Gomez 135'1", 4. Larson 116'10", 20. Jennissen 30'9.5", 28. Lange 68'8", 31. Jewison 66'4", 35. P. Oeltjenbruns

Pole vault - 1. Turner Beachy 14'0", 3. Conner Kuhns 11'0", 7. Aaron Oeltjenbruns 9'6", 11. Odden 7'6"

Long jump - 3. Gallardo 18'7", 9. Dewald 17'4", 17. Holst 15'9", 34. Kist 13'0.5"

Triple jump - 3. Harman 38'0.5", 14. Jennissen 32'1"

Girls results

Heartland Invitational

100 - 5. Sophia Luna 13.52, 8. Chadia Schultz 13.81, 20. Abigail Phillippi 14.56, 23. Belle Mevissen 14.70, 34. Iva Hinson 15.38, 50. Maci Mithun 17.15

200 - 6. Lucille Maros 28.59, 17. Phillippi 31.13, 18. Mari'vel Duran 31.18, 22. Piper Hanson 31.53, 32. Lily Davis 32.96

400 - 7. Hanson 1:10, 16. Mevissen 1:18

800 - 12. Elise Trif 2:58, 13. Alexis Odden 3:00

1,600 - 7. Trif 6:27, 8. Suhaila Mikhaeil 6:33, 10. Odden 6:45

4x100 relay - 2. (Luna, Duran, Maros, Schultz) 53.84

4x200 - (Abby Brichacek, Phillippi, Davis, Duran) 2:02

Shot put - 3. Annie Schlosser 30'5"

Discus - 2. Schlosser 97'8"

High jump - 5. Maros 4'5"

Long jump - 11. Davis 13'1", 20. Mithun 12'4"



OFFICE OF THE MINNESOTA SECRETARY OF STATE
CERTIFICATE OF ASSUMED NAME
Minnesota Statutes Chapter 333

The filing of an assumed name does not provide a user with exclusive rights to that name. The filing is required for consumer protection in order to enable customers to be able to identify the true owner of a business..

ASSUMED NAME:
Cardinal Pines Apartments
PRINCIPAL PLACE OF BUSINESS: 1720 AIRPORT RD STAPLES MN 56479 USA
APPLICANT(S):
Name: Cardinal Pines Apartments Staples LLC
ADDRESS: 175 7TH AVE S WAITE PARK MN 56387 USA

If you submit an attachment, it will be incorporated into this document. If the attachment conflicts with the information specifically set forth in this document, this document supersedes the data referenced in the attachment.

By typing my name, I, the undersigned, certify that I am signing this document as the person whose signature is required, or as agent of the person(s) whose signature would be required who has authorized me to sign this document on his/her behalf, or in both capacities. I further certify that I have completed all required fields, and that the information in this document is true and correct and in compliance with the applicable chapter of Minnesota Statutes. I understand that by signing this document I am subject to the penalties of perjury as set forth in Section 609.48 as if I had signed this document under oath.

SIGNED BY:
Jaci Schindler

MAILING ADDRESS:
175 7th Ave South
Waite Park Minnesota 56387

EMAIL FOR OFFICIAL NOTICES:
jaci@inhproperties.com

Work Item
1644893000021
Original File Number
1644893000021

STATE OF MINNESOTA
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY OF STATE
FILED
04/23/2026 11:59 PM

Steve Simon
Secretary of State
24-25pnc

NOTICE
LEADER COMMUNITY HALL BOARD

The Leader Community Hall Board will meet Thursday, May 14, 2026 at the hall at 7:00 p.m.

Mark Strom, Secretary
19-20pnc

NOTICE
FAWN LAKE TOWNSHIP
ANNUAL ROAD TOUR

Fawn Lake Township will hold its Annual Road Tour on Friday, May 1, 2026 Interested parties should meet at the Town Hall at 9:00 a.m.

Any questions call the clerk at 218-531-0287.

Kelly Miller, Clerk
Fawn Lake Township
19pnc

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 road-bed required in event of drought. Bids must be received before 7:00 p.m., Monday, May 4 2026. A representative from the company must be present at the meeting Monday, 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

19pnc
NOTICE
CITY OF MOTLEY SUMMARY
PUBLICATION OF ORDINANCE NO. 2026-03

AN ORDINANCE
AMENDING SECTION 5.11 (LAND USE MATRIX) OF THE MOTLEY LAND USE AND SUBDIVISION ORDINANCE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that on April 20th, 2026, the City Council of the City of Motley adopted Ordinance No. 2026-03.

This publication is a summary of the ordinance. The ordinance amends Section 5.11 (Land Use Matrix) of the Motley Land Use and Subdivision Ordinance to change the classification of Solar Energy Systems and Structures, Individual in the Public Use (PU) zoning district from Excluded (E) to Permitted (P).

The purpose of this amendment is to allow the installation of individual solar energy systems on public property and to support sustainable energy use within the City.

A printed copy of the full ordinance is available for inspection by

any person during regular office hours at Motley City Hall. A copy of the ordinance may also be provided upon request.

BY ORDER OF THE
CITY COUNCIL
City of Motley, Minnesota

Tami Brotherton, Clerk
City of Motley

19pnc

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 Determination 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

administrative 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 objections filed will result in an appearance hearing to be set at a future date. If proper 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 &
Ribich, 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 School Board
Minutes

MEETING #15
ISD #2170
SCHOOL BOARD
March 23, 2026
6:00 p.m.
District Office

MINUTES

Call to Order

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

Roll Call was taken, members Wright, Frisk, Freeman, Trout and Reese were present, comprising a quorum. Member Reeck was absent. Also present were Superintendent Tappe, Business Manager Hill, Principal Ferdon, Principal Koenigs, Recording Clerk Larson, Staples World Publisher Anderson, staff and community members. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Motion by Frisk, seconded by Reese, to approve the addition of item 3a to the agenda. MC

Motion by Freeman, seconded by Reese, to adopt the agenda. MC

Chair Wright recognized those in attendance.

School/Community Forum

John Dottenwhy spoke
Consent Agenda

Approve minutes from the March 2, 2026 Board Meeting/Work Session

Approve the fund raiser request from SMHS Music Department

Approve the hire of:
Aaron Carter, Middle School Musical Director
Avaya Brandt, Elementary Paraprofessional
Keri Bendson, MS/HS Food Service
Brian Sams, Assistant Speech Coach
Heather Sams, Assistant Speech Coach
Selket Jewett, Assistant Speech Coach
Kip Hines, Head Speech Coach
Krista Heldman, School District Nurse

Approve the Independent Contractor Agreement with Lake Wishuknew LLC

Motion by Trout, seconded by Frisk, to approve the consent agenda. MC

Donations and In-Kind Contributions

Motion by Freeman, seconded by Wright, to approve the Resolution to accept Grants and Donations in the amount of \$7,667.41. MC

Thank you to Staples-Motley Music Boosters, Staples-Motley Wrestling Boosters, Staples-Motley PTC, Ethan Ellingsen, Staples Lions Club, Special Olympics MN, Central Building Supply, Lakewood Health System, Wadena Dairy Queen, Hospitality MN Education Foundation for your generous donations.

Finance Items
(Finance Committee Meeting Minutes)

Financial Report by Business Manager Hill

Motion by Trout, seconded by Freeman, to approve the February disbursements. MC

General Fund:

\$715,765.27
Food Service: \$49,833.47
Community Service: \$22,965.15

Construction Fund: \$0.00

Debt Service: \$0.00

Fund 21 Student Activities: \$7,964.42

Fund 45: \$0.00

Motion by Frisk, seconded by Wright, to approve the February receipts. MC

General Fund:

\$1,233,941.11
Food Service: \$82,504.67
Community Service: \$19,382.19

Construction Fund: \$0.00

Debt Service: \$547.14

Fund 21 Student Activities: \$1,138.20

Fund 45: \$0.00

Cabinet Presentation
by Middle/High School Principal

Policy

(Policy Committee Minutes)

Motion by Reese, seconded by Wright, to approve the review of ISD #2170 412.1 Credit Card Policy with no changes. MC

Motion by Reese, seconded by Wright, to approve the review of MSBA policies with minimal or no changes. MC

- 203.6 Consent Agenda
- 531 Pledge of Allegiance
- 533 Wellness Policy
- 705 Investments
- 211 Criminal or Civil Action Against SMS SB Member, Employee or Student

Other

Motion by Freeman, seconded by Frisk, to approve the sealed bids for miscellaneous items. MC

Reports

School Board:
Freshwater
Sourcewell - 1/20/26 Minutes

Elementary Principal- Report by Principal Koenigs

Middle/High School Principal - Report by Principal Ferdon

Activities/Community Ed Director

SMEA - Report by Representative Evans

Superintendent - Report by Superintendent Tappe

Other

Motion by Reese, seconded by Freeman, to adjourn the meeting at 6:58 p.m. MC

Trisha Larson, Clerk

ISD #2170

19pnc

Mon., May 4: School Board Meeting/Work Session, District Office, 905 4th St. NE, Staples, 6 p.m.

NOTICE OF FILING FOR THE 2026 STATE GENERAL ELECTION

Notice is hereby given that a General Election will be held in Todd County on Tuesday, November 3, 2026 for the purpose of electing candidates for the Federal, State, Judicial, and County offices listed below. The filing period for the offices of United States Senator, United States Representative, State Senator, State Representative, Governor and Lieutenant Governor, Secretary of State, State Auditor, Attorney General, Associate Justice of the Minnesota Supreme Court, Judge of the Minnesota Court of Appeals, Judge of the District Court and County Offices begins at 8:00 a.m., Tuesday, May 19, 2026, and ends at 5:00 p.m., Tuesday, June 2, 2026.

Note: Filing offices will be closed Monday, May 25, 2026, in observance of Memorial Day.

The place of filing for Federal Offices is the Office of the Secretary of State, Veterans Services Building, 20 West 12th Street, St. Paul, MN 55155.

The place of filing for State Offices is with the Office of the Secretary of State or with the County Auditor of the County in which the candidate resides.

Candidates for judicial office may file either with the Office of the Minnesota Secretary of State or with the county auditor in the county where the candidate resides. A candidate filing for one of the Minnesota Court of Appeals seats that has been designated for one of the congressional districts must be a resident of that congressional district.

The filing place for County Offices is with the County Auditor.

Candidates may file in person or by mail, if the filing is received during the filing period. Candidates who will be absent from the state during the filing period and meet the requirements of Minnesota Statutes section 204B.09, subdivision 1a, may arrange to file during the seven days immediately preceding the candidate's absence from the state.

This notice is provided pursuant to Minnesota Statutes section 204B.33 and is based on current law.

FEDERAL OFFICES

United States Senator
United States Representative for District 7

STATE LEGISLATIVE OFFICES

State Senator for District 5
State Representative for District 05B

STATE EXECUTIVE OFFICES

Governor and Lieutenant Governor
Secretary of State
State Auditor
Attorney General

JUDICIAL OFFICES

Supreme Court Associate Justice

- Seat 1
- Seat 2
- Seat 4

Judges of the Court of Appeals

- Seat 1
- Seat 7 (5th Congressional District)
- Seat 13
- Seat 15 (3rd Congressional District)
- Seat 18

Seventh Judicial District Judges

- Seat 2
- Seat 8
- Seat 9
- Seat 11
- Seat 12
- Seat 13
- Seat 14
- Seat 15
- Seat 21
- Seat 22
- Seat 24
- Seat 26
- Seat 27
- Seat 28
- Seat 30

COUNTY OFFICES

Todd County Attorney
Todd County Auditor-Treasurer
Todd County Recorder
Todd County Sheriff
Todd County Commissioner for District 2
Todd County Commissioner for District 4
Todd Soil & Water Conservation District I Supervisor
Todd Soil & Water Conservation District III Supervisor
Todd Soil & Water Conservation District V Supervisor

Witness my hand and official seal this 20th day of April, 2026.

Denise Gaida, Todd County Auditor/Treasurer

**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 Greenwich 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 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 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 PROPERLY 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

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), Budget'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 MORTGAGE 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 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 PROPERLY 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

Todd County Board of Commissioners

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE TODD COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS HELD MARCH 3, 2026**Call to Order**

The Todd County Board of Commissioners met in the Commissioner's Board Room in the City of Long Prairie, MN on the 3rd day of March, 2026 at 9:00 a.m. The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Byers. The meeting was opened with the Pledge of Allegiance. All Commissioners were present.

Approval of Agenda

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

Consent Agenda

On motion by Becker and second by Denny, the following motions and resolutions were introduced and adopted by unanimous vote: To approve the Todd County Board of Commissioner's Meeting Minutes for February 17, 2026 and Joint County/SWCD Meeting Minutes for February 17, 2026 as presented.

Hire Caleb Yapunchich for the part time Correctional Officer position start date TBD at a pay rate of \$25.46 per hour Grade 6/F step A

Approve the resignation of Resource Navigator/Interpreter Juan Vasquez Garcia, effective March 20, 2026.

To approve a one day Dance License for the American Legion #417 Oscar Jacobson Post (Little Sauk Legion) at the address of 16268 County 50 (parking lot and street area), Long Prairie, MN in Little Sauk Township effective July 11, 2026.

To approve a one day On Sale Temporary Liquor License for the American Legion #417 Oscar Jacobson Post (Little Sauk Legion) at the address of 16268 County 50 (parking lot and street area), Long Prairie, MN in Little Sauk Township effective July 11, 2026.

To approve a one year Club On Sale and Sunday Liquor License for the American Legion #417 Oscar Jacobson Post (Little Sauk Legion) at the address of 16268 County 50, Long Prairie, MN in Little Sauk Township effective April 1, 2026 through March 31, 2027.

To approve an On Sale and Sunday Liquor License for Charlotte Tavern Inc at the address of 22056 US 71, Long Prairie, MN in Long Prairie Township effective April 1, 2026 through March 31, 2027.

To approve a one year Dance License for Rebecca L. Pratt dba Clarissa Ballroom at the address of 19281 Kottler Road, Clarissa, MN in Eagle Valley Township effective April 1, 2026 through March 31, 2027.

To approve a one year On Sale and Off Sale 3.2 Malt Liquor License for Rebecca L. Pratt dba Clarissa Ballroom at the address of 19281 Kottler Road, Clarissa, MN in Eagle Valley Township effective April 1, 2026 through March 31, 2027.

To approve a one year Setup License for Rebecca L. Pratt dba Clarissa Ballroom at the address of

19281 Kottler Road, Clarissa, MN in Eagle Valley Township effective April 1, 2026 through March 31, 2027.

To approve a one year Wine License (including Strong Beer) for Rebecca L. Pratt dba Clarissa Ballroom at the address of 19281 Kottler Road, Clarissa, MN in Eagle Valley Township effective April 1, 2026 through March 31, 2027.

To approve an Off Sale, On Sale and Sunday Liquor License for T.J.'s Diamond Point Inc dba Diamond Point Supper Club/Lounge at the address of 12867 Bayview Dr, Sauk Centre, MN in Birchdale Township effective April 1, 2026 through March 31, 2027.

To approve a Seasonal On Sale, Off Sale and Sunday Liquor License for DT Lissson Inc dba Double Eagle Golf & Grille at the address of 31886 County 3, Eagle Bend, MN in Buleene Township effective April 1st, 2026 through October 31st, 2026.

To approve a one year On Sale and Sunday Liquor License for Sauk Centre Country Club dba Greystone Golf Club at the address of 10548 Andrews Drive, Sauk Centre, MN in Kandota Township effective April 1, 2026 through March 31, 2027.

To approve a one year On Sale and Sunday Liquor License for the Long Prairie Country Club at the address of 406 6th St SE, Long Prairie, MN in Long Prairie Township effective April 1, 2026 through March 31, 2027.

To approve a Seasonal Off Sale and On Sale 3.2 Malt Liquor License for Rainbow Lodge at the address of 20576 Banks Trail, Sauk Centre, MN in Kandota Township effective April 15, 2026 through October 15, 2026.

To approve a Setup License for Rainbow Lodge at the address of 20576 Banks Trail, Sauk Centre, MN in Kandota Township effective April 1, 2026 through March 31, 2027.

To approve a Seasonal On Sale Wine License including strong beer for Donald Panitzke dba Rainbow Lodge at the address of 20576 Banks Trail, Sauk Centre, MN in Kandota Township effective April 15, 2026 through October 15, 2026.

To approve an Off Sale, On Sale and Sunday Liquor License for Full O Fun LLC dba Saukinac Campground at the address of 21914 Bay Loop, Sauk Centre, MN in Kandota Township effective April 1, 2026 through March 31, 2027.

To approve a one year On Sale and Sunday Liquor License for Shady's Golden Eagle at the address of 13218 County 103, Burtrum, MN in Grey Eagle Township effective April 1, 2026 through March 31, 2027.

To approve a one year Off Sale, On Sale and Sunday Liquor License for the Shadys Midway Inc at the address of 17908 US 71, Long Prairie, MN in Round Prairie Township effective April 1, 2026 through March 31, 2027.

To approve an On Sale, Off Sale and Sunday Liquor License for Michael Shattuck dba Shattuck's Hub Supper Club at the address of 30905 County 13, Burtrum, MN in Burnhamville Township effective April 1, 2026 through March 31, 2027.

To approve an Off Sale, On Sale and Sunday Liquor License for The Rock Tavern LLC at the address of

11977 County 47, Grey Eagle, MN in Grey Eagle Township effective April 1, 2026 through March 31, 2027.

GAMBLING PERMIT - SAUK CENTRE CONSERVATION CLUB

WHEREAS, the Todd County Board of Commissioners are establishing their approval for a Gambling Permit for the Sauk Centre Conservation Club through this resolution;

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Todd County Board of Commissioners approve a Gambling Permit for the Sauk Centre Conservation Club to hold gambling activities at Birchwood Resort in Birchdale Township at the address 22182 Birchwood Loop, Sauk Centre, MN 56347 effective March 3rd, 2026 until revoked or otherwise cancelled as provided by law.

GAMBLING PERMIT - SOCIETY OF SAINT PIUS X

WHEREAS, the Todd County Board of Commissioners are establishing their approval for a Gambling Permit for the Society of Saint Pius X; Long Prairie, MN Inc through this resolution;

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Todd County Board of Commissioners approve a Gambling Permit for the Society of Saint Pius X; Long Prairie, MN Inc to hold a raffle event at the St John Vianney Church and Academy in Round Prairie Township at the address 18910 Ellipse Loop, Long Prairie, MN on August 9th, 2026.

Auditor-Treasurer

On motion by Neumann and second by Becker, the following motion was introduced and adopted by unanimous rollcall vote: To approve the Commissioner Warrants number (ACH) 404378 through 404397 in the amount of \$35,354.53 and (Regular) 59609 through 59646 in the amount of \$45,762.52 for a total of \$81,117.05.

On motion by Denny and second by Noska, the following motion was introduced and adopted by unanimous rollcall vote: To approve the Health & Human Services Commissioner Warrants number (ACH) 807307 through 807349 and (Regular) 713878 through 713917 for a total of \$57,774.18.

On motion by Becker and second by Neumann, the following motion was introduced and adopted by unanimous Roll Call vote: To approve the Health & Human Services SSIS Warrants number (ACH) 601938 through 601945 and (Regular) 518841 through 518855 for a total amount of \$143,981.28.

On motion by Neumann and second by Noska, the following motion was introduced and adopted by unanimous vote: To approve the 2025 Elections Budget Carryover per the attached Budget Request Form details in the amount of \$30,000.

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

TODD COUNTY TRAVEL POLICIES

The full resolution is on file for public inspection at the Todd County Auditor-Treasurer's Office.

Solid Waste

On motion by Neumann and second by Denny, the following motion

was introduced and adopted by unanimous vote with Noska abstaining: To award the bid to Noska Construction for \$33,204.

Health & Human Services

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

A RESOLUTION ESTABLISHING SUPPORT TO SEEK FUNDING FROM SOURCEWELL FOR CASEWORKS ELECTRONIC DOCUMENT MANAGEMENT SYSTEM FOR TODD COUNTY HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES DEPARTMENT

WHEREAS, Sourcewell, is providing community impact funding for the Counties in Region V that address mental health needs, and;

WHEREAS, Todd County Health and Human Services serve all populations within the County across the full continuum of care, and;

WHEREAS, funding for Caseworks software will create interoperable solutions that streamline business processes and automate document management across all program areas, thereby increasing caseload capacity, reducing costs, and minimizing errors, and;

WHEREAS, implementation of Caseworks will enhance client outcomes by supporting a cohesive continuum of care in which integrated data allows for faster identification of high-need households and more proactive intervention, and;

WHEREAS, the community will benefit from a higher standard of data protection and centralized digital storage, eliminating the risks associated with lost, misplaced, or mislabeled files while ensuring the secure handling and protection of sensitive and confidential information, and;

WHEREAS, by standardizing processes across the agency, Todd County ensures that all residents receive consistent, high-quality services that are transparent, accountable, and responsive to their individual needs.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Todd County Board of Commissioners hereby approves the Sourcewell Community Impact Funding application submitted by Todd County Health and Human Services for the purpose of securing Impact Funding for the subscription and services agreement with Next Chapter Technology (NCT) to implement Caseworks, thereby enhancing service delivery and operational efficiency for the residents of Todd County.

On motion by Becker and second by Neumann, the following motion was introduced and adopted by unanimous vote: Approve the Case Works contract expending the implementation costs over a 1-year period of time.

Administration

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

A RESOLUTION ESTABLISHING WAGE RATES FOR TEMPORARY AND SEASONAL EMPLOYEES

WHEREAS, the Todd County Board of Commissioners has the authority to establish compensation for county employees; and

WHEREAS, Todd County main-

tains a Compensation Plan establishing grade and step classifications for county positions; and

WHEREAS, it is necessary to establish wage rates for Temporary/Seasonal employees for payroll and budgeting purposes;

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the wage rate for Todd County Temporary/Seasonal employees shall be set at Grade 3/C, Step A, in accordance with the Todd County Compensation Plan; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that Temporary/Seasonal employees hired specifically for the Energy Assistance Program shall be set at Grade 4/D, Step A, in accordance with the Todd County Compensation Plan; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that no current or returning Temporary/Seasonal employee shall have their hourly wage reduced as a result of this resolution, and any such employee who is currently earning a wage higher than the established rate shall remain at their current hourly rate; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that these wage designations shall remain in effect until modified by subsequent resolution of the Todd County Board of Commissioners.

On motion by Noska and Neumann, the following motion was introduced and adopted by unanimous vote: Approve participation for the year 2026 in Sourcewell's Internship Program for the departments requesting to participate (Health and Human Services, Solid Waste, Public Works and Sheriff's Department)

On motion by Noska and second by Denny, the following motion was introduced and adopted by unanimous vote: To enter into a lease agreement with Northern Pines Mental Health Center for the use of the Todd County Staples Building for the 2026 year along with the presented terms and conditions.

County Auditor-Treasurer's Report

The County Auditor-Treasurer informed that tax statements are nearing completion and audit preparations are nearing completion. March township officer elections to be held in 21 of the county's townships on March 10th along with all townships holding their annual meetings on this date.

County Coordinator's Report

The County Coordinator reported attending personnel, paycom, TWCC director introduction and childcare appreciation dinner. Preparations are underway for the planned move of the Veterans Service department location.

County Commissioner's Report

The Commissioners reported on meetings and events attended.

Commissioner Becker attended meetings including the Extension, Comp Plan, Facilities, and Region V. Commissioner Denny has attended meetings including GRRL, Hands of Hope, Personnel and Prairie Lakes meetings.

Commissioner Noska has attended meetings including HRA and Tri-County Community Action.

Commissioner Byers attended

meetings including Bruce Township P&Z.

Commissioner Neumann attended meetings including SRWD, 1W1P, Comp Plan, and Personnel.

Recess

On motion by Denny and second by Becker, the meeting was recessed until March 17, 2026.

COMMISSIONER WARRANTS	
VENDOR NAME	\$ AMOUNT
DAUERS HEATING, COOLING AND HOME IMPROV	 \$5,980.00
EASTERN TWP	 2,358.00
INTRADYN	 2,765.00
LONG PRAIRIE LEADER	 2,815.00
MCCC, MI33	 12,765.00
NUSS TRUCK & EQUIPMENT	 15,119.12
ROLLIES SALES & SERVICE INC	 2,273.55
SEARCHANGE PRINT INNOVATIONS	 2,021.60
SIGN SOLUTIONS USA	 4,455.08
TRIMIN SYSTEMS INC	 2,400.00
TWARDOWSKI EXCAVATING INC	 8,700.00
VERTONE, INC	 2,400.00
46 PAYMENTS LESS	
THAN \$2,000	 17,064.70
Total:	\$81,117.05

HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES WARRANTS	
VENDOR NAME	\$ AMOUNT
FRESHWATER EDUCATION DISTRICT 6004	 \$18,642.00
WASHBURN-MCREAVY FUNERAL CHAPEL INC	 3,382.00
71 PAYMENTS LESS	
THAN \$2,000	28,093.81
REICHTER PLACE APARTMENT OF LONG PRAIRIE	 2,670.00
9 PAYMENTS LESS	
THAN \$2,000	4,986.37
Total:	\$57,774.18

VENDOR NAME	\$ AMOUNT
GREATER MN FAMILY SRVS INC	 \$2,954.95
HEARTLAND GIRLS RANCH	 39,050.70
LUTHERAN SOCIAL SERVICE OF MN - ST PAUL	 3,779.21
NEXUS - MILLE LACS FAMILY HEALING	 4,502.88
NORTH HOMES CHILDREN & FAMILY SRVS	 13,650.85
PRAIRIE LAKES YOUTH PROGRAMS	17,123.07
STEP	 5,461.20
VILLAGE RANCH INC	24,341.51
VOLUNTEERS OF AMERICA	 28,781.48
14 PAYMENTS LESS	
THAN \$2,000	 4,335.43
Total:	\$143,981.28

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

Witness my hand and seal

CLC student Spieker named to National Student Voter Honor Roll

The ALL IN Campus Democracy Challenge (ALL IN) recognized 168 students across the country for their contributions to creating a more civically engaged culture within their campus communities. From civic learning to voter participation, these students lead by example and empower their peers to become lifelong participants in democracy. ALL IN honored Central Lakes College Staples Student Senate President Morgan Spieker on the National Student Voting Honor Roll as a leader in nonpartisan campus civic engagement.

“At Central Lakes College, we pride ourselves on creating civically engaged students who are full participants in our country’s democracy,” said CLC Director of Student Life Erich Heppner. “This important work does not happen without students leading the way and working with their peers to encourage their involvement. One of these students is Morgan Spieker, who is, without a doubt, one of the best student leaders to ever walk our hallways. Morgan has led our voting efforts with authenticity and professionalism beyond her years. She has helped establish CLC as a leader in the voter engagement space through her advocacy to ensure all of our eligible students are aware of their duty and opportunity to vote.”

Jen Domagal-Goldman, Executive Director of the ALL IN Campus Democracy Challenge, added “From hosting registration drives to initiating conversations with classmates in the hall-



way, our 2026 Student Voting Honor Roll is filled with students who exemplify what it means to be a leader in civic engagement. As college students face increasing barriers to voting while on campus, these students are making nonpartisan voter participation a lifelong habit for themselves, their peers and their campuses. We are thrilled to celebrate their accomplishments and excited to see their continued impact as we approach this year’s midterm elections.”

ALL IN supports more than 1,000 campuses and 10 million students nationally to make nonpartisan civic engagement an ongoing part of campus life. Members of the 2026 Student Voting Honor Roll were nominated by campus leaders for their dedication and excellence in voter education, registration and turnout in 2025. The full list of 2026 Student Voting Honor Roll award winners can be viewed at allinchallenge.org.



Replacing existing pipeline

The 4th St. NE improvements project has begun in Staples. Above, Tyler Moenkedick and other employees with Northern Pipeline were at work replacing the existing

pipeline. Dozens of trees along that street, marked with pink ribbons, are slated to be cut down during the project. (Staples World photo by Dawn Timbs)



Trees slated to be removed

At least 76 trees along 4th St. NE in Staples have been marked with pink, indicating they must be removed during the improvements project that involves this street. The project began recently at the

north end of 4th St. NE, as crews from Northern Pipeline worked to replace the existing pipeline. (Staples World photos by Dawn Timbs)



Public Notices

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: 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

TRANSACTION AGENT'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 premises by 11:59 p.m. on

May 28, 2027.

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

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

Dated: March 23, 2026

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

TROTT LAW, P.C.

By: /s/ N. Kibongni Fondungallah, Esq.

Samuel R. Coleman, Esq. *Alexa Marsh, Esq.* Attorneys for Mortgagee 25 Dale Street North St. Paul, MN 55102 (651) 209-9760 (23-1001-FC04)

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

THIS IS A COMMUNICATION FROM A DEBT COLLECTOR.

15-20pnc



A DNR forestry airplane drops water on the grass fire near Aldrich on April 22. Below, mobile fire units make sure the fire doesn't spread to another grassy area. (Staples World photos by Mark Anderson)



Fires in Aldrich area

On April 22, area firefighters were called to a house fire in the Aldrich area and were called again for a grass fire a few miles south of Aldrich. The Wadena County Sheriff's Office received a 911 call reporting a house fire in Section 34 of Aldrich Township, shortly before 12:30 p.m. Upon the arrival of law enforcement, the house was found to be completely engulfed and all occupants were reported to be

out safely. Fire departments from Verndale, Staples, and Wadena worked for several hours to extinguish the fire. Due to the high winds, the fire spread into the grass but firefighters were able to quickly contain that portion before it spread any further. The cause of the fire is under investigation by the Minnesota State Fire Marshal's Office and the Verndale Fire Department. Also

assisting on scene was the Minnesota State Patrol, Astera Health EMS, and Minnesota DNR-Forestry. A short time later, fire trucks went out again to a section south of Aldrich, near Balsamlund Lutheran Church. A large grass, wetland and wooded area was burning. With the help of the DNR forestry airplanes and helicopter, the fire was contained and put out.

SCHOOL continued from page 1a

Freshwater merge put on hold after executive director resigns

rates were down during the time of the Covid pandemic. The full plan is expected to be created this year, with construction starting in the spring of 2027.

Freshwater merge on pause

School Board Chair Ryan Wright told the board that Freshwater Education District Executive Director Eric Weber is resigning, which effectively puts a halt to the process of merging with some other nearby schools who had requested they be able to join. Wright said late in the school year is not the best time to find a new executive director because of the different licensing requirements of the position. He said the consensus of the Freshwater Board is that the project is slowed down significantly. Tappe said the merger would have been difficult with a director, and will not be happening with the director leaving. "We would need to find a strong leader to move forward with it," said Tappe. Freshwater has agreed to share some services with the other school districts if they have a need.

Elementary culture

Elementary Principal Ryan Koenigs told the board that the elementary school is seeing more kids getting into reading. He noted that they have new curriculum through the Online Language and Literacy Academy (OL&LA). "We are increasing reading scores and the teachers are saying 'my kids are excited about reading,'" said Koenigs. Koenigs said that the climate and culture of the school are improving

according to the Continuous Improvement Plan and administration going to workshops for "high reliability schools." He said they are following the Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports (PBIS) system and now have less than one behavioral referral per day. The school has implemented playground leaders called "chief fun officers," said Koenigs, which is helping with recess behaviors. The elementary school has formed collaborative teams that meet weekly to do a deep dive into academic performance of individual students.

In other news, the board

- Accepted resignation of Jim Jackson, Head Wrestling Coach.
- Accepted resignation of Kari Sarych, Dean of Students and approved hire of Sarych as special education teacher
- Accepted resignation of Bobbyjo Johnson, special education, and approved Johnson as American Indian Liaison.
- Approved hire of Tina Mitts, FACS; Caroline Gadacz, math; Angela Jares, special ed; Bren Salo, PE/DAPE; Melisa Wright, ECSE; Jeff Sterriker, CTE industrial tech; Holton Truax, PE; Trisha Brown, assistant softball coach; Jocelyn Anderson, special education; Kim Prestridge, behavior interventionist; Kris Mumm, CTE machine trades, and Jill Kneisl, head gardener.
- Accepted retirement of Jim Rollins, transportation, after 40 plus years of service at the district; accepted retirement of Jennifer Sapp, elementary teacher.

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