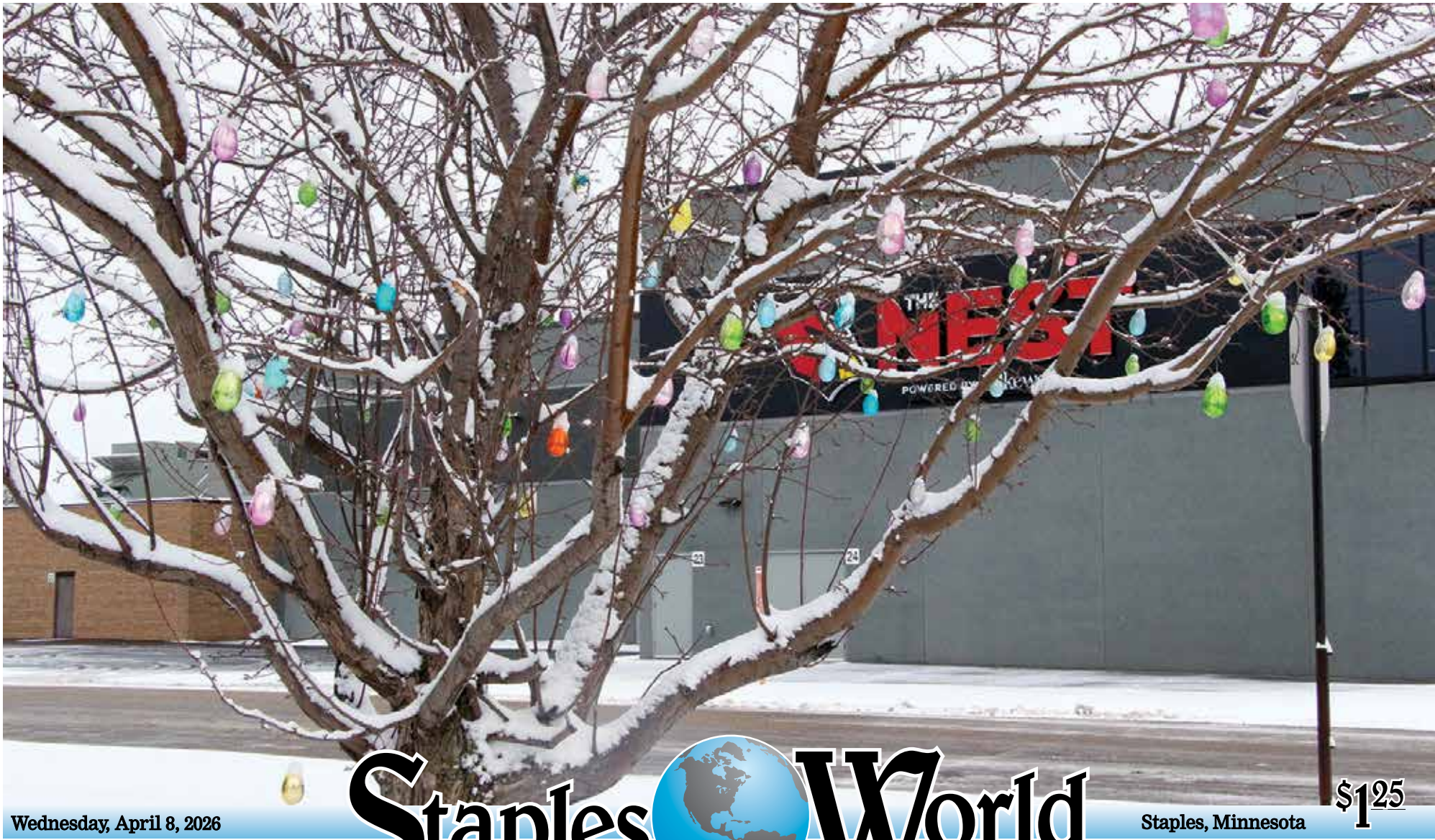


Inside this issue:

Men’s Chorus Peace on Earth concert
TaeKwondo Grand Champions
Candyland Ball
Softball walk-off, three baseball wins



Wednesday, April 8, 2026

Staples World

Staples, Minnesota

\$125

School starts Day of Caring

The Staples-Motley Middle/High School is planning the first annual Day of Caring for students in the Staples and Motley areas. The goal is to get all of the students at the school to volunteer in the community.

The Day of Caring is planned for Wednesday, May 13.

The event is being planned by the REACH program. Teachers Valerie Turner and Melissa Elfstrom are contacting local organizations, businesses and community members to line up volunteer opportunities such as window washing, yard raking, garden clean-up or other outdoor projects.

If someone has a possible volunteer project, contact Turner at vturner@isd2170.org.

More information can be found on the school web site, isd2170.org, including a registration form for project requests. Requests are asked to be completed by April 29.



Building an Easter snowman

What does one do if it snows during the Easter weekend? Get outside and enjoy it! Pictured above, building their Easter snowman near 7th St. NE in Staples, are Kiley Peterson and her grandma, Diane Peterson. Right, the completed figure. (Staples World photos by Dawn Timbs)

Snowy Easter A tree decorated with colorful eggs is across the street from The Nest at Staples-Motley High School, at the home of Dallas Huwe and his son Nathan. A snowfall on April 3 gave the scene a new look, as the community had a white Easter on April 5. Dallas said his mother Peggy Sirucek did the decoration with the help of a cousin, Brelyn Sirucek. (Photo by Mark Anderson)



Weather

2026			
This Week's Forecast			
	High	Low	Cond.
Apr. 8	48	31	Showers
Apr. 9	42	27	Cloudy
Apr. 10	54	32	Sunny
Apr. 11	56	46	M. Cloudy
Apr. 12	68	48	Rain
Apr. 13	65	36	Showers
Apr. 14	46	29	Showers

Average Temps:
H = 53 ° Low = 32 °

Last Year, 2025			
	High	Low	Cond.
Apr. 8	42°	18	Sunny
Apr. 9	64	34	M. Sunny
Apr. 10	50	38	Cloudy
Apr. 11	58	30	M. Sunny
Apr. 12	65	41	M. Sunny
Apr. 13	66	46	Sunny
Apr. 14	46	35	Sunny

Compiled by
Dale Hausmann,
WCCO's Staples area
Weatherwatcher

Public Notices

Staples Township	9A
City of Staples	9A
Evergreen Hill Cemetery	9A
ISD #2170	9A
Moran	9A
City of Motley	9A
Motley Township	9A
Todd BOA	10A

Obituaries

Kenneth Judd
Gail Magnuson
Carol Penfield



Ready to celebrate

Pictured, from left, sisters Tanzin and Isabel Sturm-Hughes of Staples, ages nine and 10 respectively, enjoyed the Easter Egg Hunt at Staples Alliance Church April 4. (Staples World photo by Dawn Timbs)



Excited for Easter

The Helton siblings of Staples attended the Easter Egg Hunt at Staples Alliance Church April 4, the day before the Easter Celebration. Pictured above, from left, are Israel, three; brother Nathan, one year and 10 months; and their dad, Nathan Helton, all of Staples. They call the younger Nathan, "Little Man," their dad said. (Staples World photo by Dawn Timbs)



Gathering Easter eggs at the Alliance Church

Approximately 70 children attended the annual Easter Egg Hunt at Staples Alliance Church April 4. The all-ages free event included crafts, treats, a program and a hunt for eggs. Over 4,000 eggs were hidden by church

volunteers. Although the plan was to hide them outside, due to the snow the egg hunt was held inside. (Staples World photo by Dawn Timbs)



Happy to serve

A number of adult volunteers helped at the annual Easter Egg Hunt at Staples Alliance Church April 4, including church members Bobbe Anderson (left) and Lisa Olson, who is married to Jonny Olson, the church's Associate Pastor. Anderson is holding the Olsons' baby Oaken, two mos.; and in front is their toddler, Cedric, two-and-a-half years. (Staples World photo by Dawn Timbs)



CLC sausage making sensations

The Central Lakes College Sausage Smoking & Curing class earned four awards at a recent Minnesota Association of Meat Processors competition in St. Cloud. The class entered four items in the MAMPS product show competition-open class. Students received the following awards:

- 2nd in Snack Stick
- 2nd in Crushed Pepper Garlic Summer Sausage
- 3rd in Jalapeño Popper Snack Stick
- 3rd in Summer Sausage

“Our students entered four products into the competition and placed in all four categories,” said CLC Meat Cutting & Butchery instructor Jess Feierabend. “I couldn’t be more proud of them. This kind of consis-

tency speaks volumes about the quality of our program, the hands-on experience our students receive and the dedication they bring to their craft.”

Pictured from left, Tyler Ehrmantraut (Meat Cutting Lab Assistant), students Alexandra Entwistle, Menahga; Joe Fellman, Staples; Scott Dobbs, Motley; Ben Hagen-son, Sauk Rapids; Clayton Ylitalo, Menahga and Jess Feierabend (instructor). Students not pictured include Andrew Bartkowitz, Little Falls, Ryan Davey, Browerville, Keith Ferdon, Motley, Harrison Kennen, Lake Shore, Timothy Larson, Staples, Drew Peterson, Michael Pier-son, Merrifield, Dan Row, Browerville, and Matthew Sams, Staples. (Submitted photo)

CLC taking proposals for campus foods

Central Lakes College is inviting food businesses and operators to submit proposals to provide food service and catering operations on both its Brainerd and Staples campuses. Through two separate Requests for Proposals, the college is seeking partners to develop and operate dining services that meet the needs of students, employees and visitors. Businesses may submit proposals for one or both locations.

The ideal partner will be able to deliver affordable and high-quality food and refreshments in a way that is inviting and aligned with the needs of the college community. Services

are expected to include full menu offerings during the academic year, with more limited service during winter breaks and summer months. Central Lakes College is especially interested in working with a creative and community-minded food service provider who can bring fresh ideas to campus dining and develop a program that supports student success, enhances campus life, and contributes to student attraction and retention.

Key dates include a pre-award informational session and site tour on April 8 from 9 to 10 a.m., a deadline for questions on April 10 and a proposal submis-

sion deadline of April 15 at 2 p.m. All proposals must be submitted through Minnesota State’s e-procurement system; submissions via email or hard copy will not be accepted.

The selected vendor or vendors will enter into a contract beginning July 1, 2026, for an initial three-year term, with the option to extend for an additional two years.

Full RFP details, including vendor requirements, scope of services, and submission instructions can be accessed at: www.clcmn.edu/business-office-2/request-for-proposals/

March 27 - Motley Police issued a citation to a resident at the 400 block of 3rd Ave. S., for leaving garbage cans out on the street for two days. The subject had also received a warning regarding this issue on March 6.

March 30 - Morrison County deputies issued a citation to Derreck Lewis Soukup, 43, for driving after suspension.

March 29 - The MCSO paged out Motley Fire for a grass fire at the 12000 block of 65th Ave. SW, Motley, in Cass County.

Motley area law enforcement

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

March 31 - Motley Police received a report from a Motley resident that someone had fraudulently cashed one of his checks and deposited it into their account. The amount they took from him was \$1,617.22.

March 27 - Motley Police and Morrison County deputies were enroute to assist Todd County with a pursuit at Cty 18 in Staples. The call was later cancelled as the subject had been taken into custody.

Cass County sets drug disposal sites

The DEA (Drug Enforcement Administration) organizes the month of April and specific days as “Drug Take Back Day” promoting a safe and secure way to drop off unwanted prescription medications. Cass County has been a participant in the Take It To The Box program for almost 15 years and provides a FREE, safe disposal site for medications that are no longer needed or expired. Last year alone, these boxes collected over 1,057 pounds of unwanted prescription medication. Take It To The Box disposal sites are located at Law Enforcement Centers in Cass County. The Take It To The Box program promotes the safe use, safe storage, and safe disposal of unneeded prescription medication, over-the-counter medication, illegal drugs, drug paraphernalia, and pet medications. All disposal is done ANONYMOUSLY. The Cass County Sheriff’s Office and Cass County Health Human and Veteran Services Public Health Division is serious about preventing medication misuse/abuse and about environmentally safe disposal of unneeded medications. The program addresses two major public concerns,

preventing drug misuse and protecting the environment. Unused medications in homes can be misused by others, especially youth. Safe disposal reduces access and helps prevent accidental poisoning and drug abuse. Throwing medications in the trash or flushing them down the toilet can contaminate soil and water systems. Proper disposal ensures harmful substances don’t enter ecosystems. Medication expiration dates should be checked regularly and disposed of when expired. Remember to clean out your medicine cabinet routinely and dispose of any unneeded medications.

How do I dispose of unneeded medications at Take It To The Box sites?

- * Leave medicine in its original container.
- * Remove identifying information by blacking it out or peeling it off the label.
- * Leave name of medication on container.
- * Drop medication container into the disposal box opening.
- * What is allowed?
- * Over-the-counter medications
- * Prescription Medications
- * Narcotic Medications

arrival at the jail. In total, approximately 101 grams (over 3.5 ounces) of suspected methamphetamine was seized.

Wehmas was placed under arrest and is currently being held in the Morrison County Jail pending formal charges to include 1st Degree Possession of a Controlled Substance, Driving after Cancellation-Inimical to Public Safety and Introduction of Contraband into a jail.

Morrison County Sheriff Shawn Larsen stated, “This is another successful drug interdiction stop by our deputies. I commend our law enforcement personnel for remaining proactive and vigilant in helping keep our communities safe by removing illegal narcotics from our streets.”

What is NOT allowed?

- * Empty medication bottles
- * Syringes, needles or sharps
- * Mercury thermometers or other mercury containing medical devices
- * Household chemicals
- * Biohazardous waste
- * Chemotherapeutics or radioactive medications
- * Take It To The Box locations and hours
- * Monday – Friday during regular business hours
- * Cass County Sheriff’s Office, 303 Minnesota Avenue W, Walker MN
- * City of Lake Shore, 8583 Interlachen Rd, Lake Shore, MN
- * City of Cass Lake, 330 Second Street NW, Cass Lake, MN
- * City of Pine River, 200 Front St N, Pine River, MN
- * City of Lake Shore, 8583 Interlachen Road, Lake Shore, MN

If you have questions, call Cass County Public Health 218-547-1340.

Staples dropoff site

The Staples Police Department also has a secure drug drop-off box in the lobby of the police station on 2nd Ave. NE in Staples.

Search for Wengel has a Staples connection

By Mark Anderson
Managing Editor

An ongoing missing person and suspected murder case in Fargo, N.D., has a local connection.

The story of Isadora (Izzy) Wengel’s disappearance has reached national news. She went missing on New Year’s Eve and police have arrested her boyfriend, Joshua Hite, for her murder. The body of Wengel has not been found and police are searching areas of Minnesota and North Dakota.

Wengel’s mother, Heather Fones, lived in Staples when she was young.

Robin Watland of Staples said Fones was in her elementary school class and participated in the local Girl Scout troop.

“She was only here for about a year,” said Watland.

In recent years they have connected and had a few conversations, before Fones’

daughter went missing.

Watland said she has taken part in some of the searches organized online, through the “Bring Isadora Wengel Home” facebook page. She said anyone interested in helping with the search can look up the next meetup online.

“People might want to go if they know it is someone who used to live here,” said Watland.

Based on investigations, police suspect that Wengel was killed by her boyfriend and the body was put into a tote container that he transported away from the site. The tote may be located anywhere between the Fargo, Moorhead, West Fargo metro area and Otter Tail County, Minnesota, specifically near Fergus Falls, Elizabeth, Underwood or Battle Lake. Search organizers have been meeting in those areas and looking for signs of the tote, said Watland.

Todd Cty. court report

**APRIL 1
Long Prairie Police**

Juan Sevastian Ambriz Hernandez, Grey Eagle. Driving after revocation. Fine \$200. Fee \$85.

Alfred Crepel, Long Prairie. Windshield Regulation-windshield covered with frost or steam to prevent proper vision. Fine \$40. Fee \$85.

Omar Cruz, Long Prairie. Driving without a valid license for vehicle class or type. Fine \$100. Fee \$85.

Rodrigo Mateo Hernandez, Browerville. Driving after revocation. Fine \$200. Fee \$85.

Mitzi Ann Meizinger, Browerville. Driving after revocation. Fine \$200. Fee \$85. Driver must carry proof of insurance when operating vehicle. Fine \$200.

MN Dept. Natural Resources

Casondra Delores Ann Hauge, Fergus Falls. Hunting-deer without a license. Fine \$300. Fine \$85.

William Henry Loomis, Coon Rapids. Fail to display ATV registration/decals as required. Fine \$25. Fee \$85.

Chee Hmong You Vang, Fishing-extra line. Fine \$50. Fee \$85.

MN State Patrol

Santiago Jose Arandia Sulbaran, Long Prairie. Speed 74/60. Fine \$50. Fee \$85.

Kendra Jean Barfknecht, Underwood. Speed 82/70. Fine \$50. Fee \$85.

Jacob Joseph Dvorak, St. Augusta. Speed 82/70. Fine \$50. Fee \$85.

Justin Chaze Hayes, Moorhead. Speed 80/70. Fine \$40. Fee \$85.

Francisco Antonio Mejia Garcia, Long Prairie. Hands free Law. Fine \$50. Fee \$85.

Jace Asheim Rodacker, Billings, MT. Speed 79/70. Fine \$40. Fee \$85.

Dakota Steven Smieja, Long Prairie. Speed 77/60. Fine \$60. Fee \$85.

Mary Jane Steeves, Cotati, CA. Speed 76/70. Fine \$40. Fee \$75.

Mathew Sam Treno, Onamia. Speed 70/60. Fine \$40. Fee \$85.

Cameron Lee Wills, Browerville. Seat belt required. Fine \$25. Fee \$75.

Staples Police Dept.

Darick Victor Bartel, Staples. Duty to drive with due care-speed greater than reasonable. Fine \$40. Fee \$85.

Todd County Sheriff

Wuider Jose Arandia Mendez, Long Prairie. Speed 75/60. Fine \$60. Fee \$85.

Nathan Scott Brown, Speed 76/55. Fine \$70. Fee \$155. Driver must carry proof of insurance when operating vehicle. Fine \$200.

Cameron Lee Wills, Browerville. Speed 65/55. Fine \$40. Fee \$85.

The following cases were heard before Judge Heidi L. Hovis Seventh District Court in Todd County March 25, 2026.

Luis Manuel Espitia Cabrera, Long Prairie. Disorderly conduct. Local confinement (90 days, stay 0 yr 0 mo 85 days for 1 yr credit for time served: 5 days). Supervised probation, 1 yr. Fine \$350. Fee \$75.

Benjamin Silas Weeiley, Perham. 5th degree-possess Schedule 1,2,3,4 or paraphernalia residual-no

Cannabis/hemp. Sentenced. Local confinement (364 days, stay 290 days for 5 yr credit for time served: 74 days). Supervised probation, 5 yr. Fee total \$575. Driving after revocation. Dismissed. Receiving stolen property. Continued. Unsupervised monitoring without conviction, 90 days. Fine \$50. Traffic-DWI-Operate motor vehicle-any amount Schedule I/II Drugs/metabolite; not Cannabis/hemp. Local confinement (364 days, stay 0 yr 0 mo 304 days for 4 yr credit for time served: 57 days). Supervised probation, 4 yr. Fine \$800. Fee \$105.

Benjamin Silas Weekley, Perham. 3rd degree driving under influence of controlled substance. Dismissed. 3rd degree driving under influence-presence of Schedule I or II Controlled Substance. Local confinement (364 days, stay 0 yr 0 mo 344 days for 2 yr credit for time served: 20 days). Supervised probation, 2 yr. Fine \$400. Fee \$105. Driving after revocation. Dismissed. Fail to signal for turn. Dismissed.

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

Junior Mariano Garcia Hernandez, Long Prairie. Disorderly conduct. Local confinement (90 days, stay 0 yr 0 mo 88 days for 6 mo credit for time served: 2 days). Fine \$200. Fee \$75.

Brandon James Weady Reidreynosa, Sauk Centre. Possess ammo/firearm-conviction or adjudicated delinquent for crime of violence. Dismissed. Possess ammo/any firearm-previous felony conviction. Sentenced. Local confinement (364 days, stay 0 yr 0 mo 362 days for 2 yr credit for time served: 2 days). Unsupervised probation, 2 yr. Fine \$50. Fee \$75.

Dale Fillmore, III Stromquist, Long Prairie. DWI-4th Degree driving while impaired. Dismissed. Careless driving-operate any vehicle carelessly on street or highway. Local confinement (90 days, stay 89 days for 1 yr credit for time served: 1 day). Supervised probation, 1 yr. Fine \$325. Fee \$75.

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

Bryan Jesus Manuel Marrero Class, Long Prairie. Endanger child-situation could cause harm or death or Death-G. Dismissed. Carry/possess pistol w/out permit-public place. Dismissed. Speed/exceed posted speed in special zone set by commissioner 107/60. Sentenced. Local confinement (2 days, stay 0 yr 0 mo 0 days credit for time served: 2 days). Fine \$50. Fee \$150.

The following cases were heard before Judge Heidi L. Hovis Seventh District Court in Todd County March 19, 2026.

Kami Khristine Fritz, Wadena. Drugs-5th Degree-possess 1,2,3,4 or paraphernalia residual-not Cannabis/hemp. Continued. Local confinement (364 days, stay 319 days for 1 yr credit for time served: 4 days). Supervised probation, 1 yr. Fine \$50. Fee \$200.

75 YEARS Ago - 1951

• April 5, 1951 - From United Press announcement appearing in daily newspapers at the week-end American church membership is at an all-time high both in actual membership and in proportion to the population, the National Council of Churches has reported.

Church membership increased 51.5 percent between 1926 and 1949 while the nation’s overall population increased only an estimated 30 percent the council stated. Total membership in the 14-year period increased from 53,203,413 to 80,682,575, a council survey showed.

• April 5, 1951 - For the second time within a year, the Motley Co-operative Store in Motley has been robbed, this time to the amount of about \$600

- O -
*Compiled by
Dawn Timbs*
- O -

according to the report of the manager of the store.

The store was robbed of between \$800 and \$900 in cash, besides a like amount of merchandise last June.

Entrance to the building was gained through a small window in the rear of the basement, then up into the main portion of the building.

Sheriff Plettl of Little Falls was called to the scene, but so far no clues have been established to place the blame for the robbery upon anyone. The same is true of the robbery last year. No clues have yet developed so the thievery remains unsolved at the present time.

• April 5, 1951 - One of the most interesting Scout functions to be held in Staples this year was the Court of Honor conducted at the Congregational church Sunday evening when 38 Cubs, Scouts and Scout leaders were honored by receiving merit badges, advancement in rank and the God and Country church awards. More than 200 persons witnessed the ceremonies which went off without a hitch.

Following the call to colors and the singing of the National anthem, Rev. Raymond Ewing, chairman of the Scout committee of Staples extended greetings to the large audience.

Rev. James M. Amundson then presented pins to 19 new Cubs which were taken into the pack during the month of March.

Douglas Bates, son of Mr. and Mrs. Robert Bates of Staples was given special recognition at the service being presented with his Webelos badge in Cub work. He is now ready to join the regular Scout troop in Staples. He is the first Cub to obtain this rank.

Scoutmaster Francis Christianson, assisted by Wilbur Holst, Asst. Scoutmaster, invested four tenderfoot Scouts: Nickey Schafer, Richard Bryce, and Ronald and Robert Hanson. This investiture service was very impressive, being done in candlelight.

Dr. F. W. Bens, president of the Park Region district, presented the merit badges to Scouts and Explorer Scouts. Scouts who received merit badges included: John Carlson, William Cross, Edwin Perry, Donald Gold and Charles Reichelderfer, Jr.

Explorer Scouts who received merit badges were: Leon Cross, Don Edwards, Jack Giza, William Shelver, Jr., Douglas St. Pierre, and Robert Perry.

50 YEARS Ago - 1976

• April 1, 1976 - The Motley Elementary band,

Looking back



Mystery photo

Hello readers. This week’s archive photo is from 1978. 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.



Mystery solved

Last week’s mystery photo published in the March 29, 2001 edition of the Staples World featured the 2001 Staples Motley High School basketball cheerleaders. From left, Kristin Martin, Jessica Nytes, Kelsey Hjelmeland, Jenna Vogel, Kaesy Craft.

Kristin (Martin) Mathis, now of Kindred, N.D., wrote in to identify herself

and the other girls, sharing, “This was our team photo from the 2000-2001 school year that was in the yearbook. It was taken in the lobby of the Centennial Auditorium. I had so much fun with these girls my senior year!”

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

under the direction of Jeanne Rohr, traveled to Pillager March 25, for an elementary band festival and returned home with the first place trophy.

The band, consisting of 14 sixth graders and 7 fifth graders, competed against Pillager, Backus and Pequot Lakes for the highest honor.

• April 1, 1976 - Rudy Fellman son of Mrs. Audrey Fellman of Staples, recently enlisted in the U.S. Army, it was announced today by SFC Glen Wakefield, station Commander of the Brainerd Army Recruiting Service. He will be a 1976 graduate of Staples High school.

• April 1, 1976 - The Staples FFA General Livestock team captured first place at the District Four Judging contest held March 14 at Fargo.

Team members are Jim Johnson, Dave Sowers, Craig Neal and Gene Johnson. The Staples team outdistanced second place Eagle Bend 1250 points to 1214. All four of the Staples boys were in the top ten. The team will now compete at the State Contest to be held at the convention April 25-27 in St. Paul.

• April 1, 1976 - The Staples High school senior high choirs have signed a contract to perform Rogers and Hammerstein’s all-time favorite, “The Sound of Music.”

According to information released by Stanley Carlson, director of the musical, performances are scheduled for April 22, 23, April 30 and May 1. All performances will be at 8 p.m.

in the Staples Auditorium.

Casting for the show has been completed, with the major character to include Maria Rainer, Cheryl Sauer; Mother Abbess, Lori Johnson; Captain Georg von Trapp, Chuck Gillespie; Max Detweiler, Dave Evans; Elsa Schroeder, Pam Quance; Rolf, Larry Dump-prope; Liesl, Vicki Ackerson; Fredrich, Jim Uhrich; Louisa, Kathy Tomsich; Kurt, John Uhrich; Brigitta, Colleen O’Keefe; Marta, Jade Lewis; Gretl, Monique Lewis.

• April 1, 1976 - On April 9, people in the Staples area will have the opportunity to hear a versatile singer and actor John Keston will present a varied program consisting of music from Broadway shows, dramatic readings and art songs. Keston was born and educated in England.

25 YEARS Ago - 2001

• April 5, 2001 - Youth in Staples, Motley and the surrounding area now have a resource to help them put their ideas into action.

The newly-formed Staples Youth As Resources Board is offering grants in the amounts of \$200 to \$500 for a variety of projects, including putting the ideas and energy of young people to work to address important community needs.

Tammi Walz has been hired as the director of the board. Youth members are Andrea Brichacek, Daphne Griffith, Jesse Thoele, Kurt Porter, Jordan Sams, David Brenna, Stacy Berg, Jenna Vogel, Sam Johnson, Emily Goff, Mary Shaffer, Rachel Walz, Emily Waldahl and

Tessa Reck.

• April 5, 2001 - A photo in the World featured Dean Nelsen and his father Bruce posing with their close friend, an Alaskan grizzly that Dean shot last fall. Shooting the bear was just the first step. After that, Dean, a former taxidermist, and Jack Shriver put this grizzly bear mount together in Bruce and Bev Nelsen’s garage in Staples. In a few days it will get its first public showing at the Rotary Art Show in Staples.

10 YEARS Ago - 2016

• April 7, 2016 - Todd Wadena Electric Cooperative announced that Ashley Smith, a junior at Staples Motley high School, has been selected as the cooperative’s 2016 Youth Tour representative. She will join approximately 40 Minnesota students and 1,600 other students from around the nation, for the 2016 Electric Cooperative Youth Tour to Washington, D.C., June 11 - 16.

• April 7, 2016 - Carnegie Hall in New York City - the Holy Grail for performance artists. And where our very own Staples Area Men’s Chorus (SAMC) will be performing Feb. 19, 2017.

Distinguished Concerts International New York invited the chorus at the recommendation of Dr. Lee Nelson of Wartburg College, Waverly, Iowa. Nelson and his college’s men’s chorus have participated in Real Men Sing!, an annual festival for young male singers, initiated and organized by the SAMC.



The Staples World office,
Located: 207 4th St. NE
open every weekday, 8 a.m. - noon.
•For afternoon availability,
call 218-894-1112.

*Regular advertising and copy
deadline is Friday, noon.*

The office closes at noon on Friday.





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Staples World

DEADLINES

Newspaper deadline for copy
and advertising: 12 noon Fridays

Letter to the Editor

Artistic HOF event is unifying

“Look for the helpers” is a famous quote from Mr. Rogers. It was advice from his mother to him when he was a boy. He shared it as advice meant to help children manage fear and understand that safety and kindness still exist even when disaster occurs.

In today’s climate we may want to consider that advice and add to it. With all of the divisive noise around us, we may do well to “Look

for unifying opportunities.”

When we gather in occasions of celebration, team spirit, support or worship, we are there with our opinions, ideals, beliefs and points of view. We may be seated next to someone whose opinions, ideals, beliefs and point of view are completely opposite. Nevertheless in those situation we are united in the fous of the event: a wrestling match, a basketball game, a concert, Railroad Days, holiday celebrations ... What a gift to gather and be unified.

A Google search of “art is unifying” generated this AI response which sums it

up: “Art acts as a powerful, unifying force by bridging cultural, social and emotional divides, fostering empathy, and creating shared experiences that bring people together.”

If you are “Looking for a unifying opportunity,” please consider attending the Staples-Motley Artistic Hall of Fame induction ceremony on April 11, 2026, at 1 p.m., as we gather in Centennial Auditorium to celebrate those who have created unifying artistic experiences.

Julie Mertens
Motley, Minn.

Money in government amounts to bribery

Letter from Arne Carlson, former Minnesota Governor, to Minnesota Attorney General Keith Ellison

Now that the conflicts with the Federal Government have subsided, we can resume our discussion relative to eliminating the power of “Big Money” in our state government. Your prompt response to our letter of December 18, 2025, appropriately sums up the problem: “I certainly agree that money in politics is corrupting, corrosive, and weakens the public’s confidence.”

The time to end that corrupting influence is now with your office launching a full and independent investigation into possible charges of bribery against the leadership of the Minnesota Legislature.

Yes, bribery.

For background purposes, we know the following:

1- The abundance of money raised by legislative caucuses - \$26.5 million or \$130,000 per incumbent legislator for one legislative election cycle alone - and the highly questionable legality of building massive partisan staffs numbering some 317 who are hired by caucus leaders and work at their direction with the tax-

payer compelled to assume the costs. This was a finding of a report prepared by the undersigned entitled “The Future Is Today” that was distributed in August, 2021.

2 - In May 2021, the Hubert H. Humphrey School of Public Policy at the University of Minnesota released a study of the Minnesota Legislature with the headline: “Money Matters At The Minnesota State Legislature”. That study noted the special favors being granted to wealthy campaign donors including the opportunity to “shape” legislation. This is clearly a quid pro quo arrangement in that it involves the key elements of bribery: money and its direct influence on public policy.

That is also the conclusion of Richard Painter, the S. Walter Richey Professor of Law at the University of Minnesota and former Chief White House ethics lawyer, who stated: “Legislative caucus fundraising is so closely connected with performance of official duties that it cannot be properly understood to be anything but bribery.”

Despite the seriousness of these very public allegations which have been contained in our commentaries published in various news-

papers throughout the state, not a single elected official has publicly refuted these findings. Not one. This silence in the face of credible evidence must not be rewarded.

Therefore, we are requesting that your office notify the Legislative leaders that you are launching an official and independent investigation into allegations of bribery as noted above. This will compel our state leaders to testify under oath about why and how they “shape” legislation for the benefit of wealthy donors. The public has a compelling right to know.

If permissible, we are willing to file a legal complaint. No one, most of all our elected officials, is above the law.

Arne H. Carlson, Retired Governor, Independent, Lake City, MN
Tom Berkelman, Retired DFL Legislator, Duluth
Janet Entzel, Retired DFL Legislator, Minneapolis
Dushan Skorich. President – Zenith Research Group, Duluth

Professor Richard Painter will join us in moving this action along.

Bill looks at suicide prevention resources

From the office of Senator Tina Smith

U.S. Senators Tina Smith (MN) and Jim Banks (IN) introduced the Raising Awareness for Youth Suicide Prevention (RAYS) Act, requiring middle and high schools to include mental health and suicide prevention information on student identification cards and school websites. The hotline and text line has been used nearly 20 million times since it was created in 2022.

“We can’t afford to leave holes in the safety net we’ve built to catch people when they’re going through hard times or struggling with their mental health. That’s why we created the 988 hotline in the first place. Now, we need to make sure everyone, especially young people, know that resources are available to them when they need it,” said Senator Smith. “This is a common-sense idea to help those facing mental health challenges. It tells them that they are not alone and help is out there.”

“It is unacceptable that suicide is the leading cause of death for Americans under 21. This legislation will

expand access to vital resources and help save lives,” said Senator Banks.

The RAYS Act would require secondary education institutions to provide contact information for the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration’s 988 Suicide and Crisis Lifeline, the Crisis Text Line, and a state or local suicide prevention hotline selected by the school, if available, on the back of all student ID cards. If a school cannot meet this requirement because it does not distribute physical student ID cards, cost is a barrier, or some other administrative burden, they will be required to publish the information on a publicly accessible website of the school.

Suicide is the second leading cause of death in the United States among young people (ages 12-18). Every day, there are an average of 3,703 suicide attempts made by middle and high school students in the United States. Increasing awareness of the 988 hotline and similar local resources will improve access to these low-barrier mental health supports for students.

Quote of the week

“Be the type of girl that climbs the ladder wrong by wrong.”
— Mae West

From the Women’s Foundation of Minnesota

The Women’s Foundation of Minnesota and the Center on Women, Gender, and Public Policy at the University of Minnesota’s Humphrey School of Public Affairs recently released new research on the status of women, girls, and gender-expansive people in Minnesota in economics, safety, health, and leadership. A noon press conference at the Minnesota State Capitol shared highlights of the research. The report is available at: bit.ly/2026SOWG.

The report details persistent inequities facing women, girls, and gender-expansive people in Minnesota, with greater disparities faced by Black, Indigenous, and women and girls of color, rural women and girls, LGBTQ+ people, and older women.

According to Gloria Perez, President & CEO of the Women’s Foundation of Minnesota, the disparities shown in the report limit women’s potential, compromise their safety, hinder access to healthcare, and limit leadership opportunities. “We must close the gaps in earnings, safety, health, and leadership – especially for Black, Indigenous, and women of color. All women and girls deserve equal access to opportunities. When

we invest in women and girls, families and communities thrive,” said Perez.

“There is no one-size-fits-all approach to addressing gender inequalities. Understanding how gender, race, place, sexuality, and disability shape life chances and outcomes is key to crafting responses that address the unique disparities faced by different groups,” said Christina Ewig, Director of the Center on Women, Gender, and Public Policy, who leads the research project.

The report focuses on four distinct issue areas:

Economics

Minnesota continues to economically shortchange all groups of women, with Latina, Black, and Indigenous women impacted the most. Minnesota is second in the nation in women’s workforce participation, at 79 percent. Minnesota women also earn the most post-secondary degrees. Despite high rates of workforce participation, including among mothers, and education, Minnesota women face persistent wage and wealth inequalities.

Minnesota women remain segregated in lower-paying industries, and race and gender have an outsized impact on earnings. Unpaid care work – disproportionately performed by Minnesota women – results in a loss of lifetime earnings and economic oppor-

tunities. Minnesota women also struggle to access child care and afford housing.

The wage gap facing all women in Minnesota has barely budged over the past decade. On average, Minnesota women who work full-time all year make 81 cents for every dollar that men make, with important differences when it comes to race and ethnicity. Latina women, for instance, make 63 cents for every dollar and Black women make 61 cents for every dollar. The gender wage gap has lifetime impacts for women of color: Asian women in Minnesota lose an estimated \$745,640, while Black, Latina, and Native American women lose more than \$1 million over a lifetime.

For women to achieve economic security, we need to raise pay in occupations dominated by women, ensure all workers have access to a living wage, expand educational opportunities and access to high-paying trades, address the affordable housing crisis, and subsidize high-quality child care as infrastructure for families.

Safety

Women and girls in Minnesota are harmed by gender-based violence across their lifetimes – in their homes, on the streets, and in schools, workplaces, and the criminal justice system. We could fill Target Field over 28 times with the number of Minnesota women who have experienced rape, physical violence and/or stalking. One in three Minnesota women report sexual violence, and one in five report physical violence from a partner in her lifetime. Rates are higher for Native American and Black women, in particular.

Minnesota nonprofits provide important support for survivors, including legal assistance, housing, and advocacy, but are unable to meet the demand for service due to resource limitations. A loss in federal and state funding has hurt Minnesota agencies who rely upon the federal infrastructure established by laws such as the Violence Against Women Act to cover the cost of services, staff, and overhead.

Consequences of violence, whether witnessed or experienced directly, ripple over a lifetime and affect both physical and mental health, unwanted pregnancy, substance abuse, housing security, economic productivity, and a lack of personal freedom.

Health

Health inequities for Black, Indigenous, and women and girls+ of color, LGBTQ+ people, and rural women and girls lead to significant differences in health care access, quality, and outcomes in Minnesota. Improving positive health outcomes and access to care requires a living wage, freedom from violence, access to affordable and healthy foods, safe housing, physical activity, and time for rest.

Nearly 2 in 3 participants in Minnesota’s Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) are women. Healthcare costs in Minnesota are a greater barrier for women of color and access has only worsened.

Rural Minnesota has a shortage of healthcare providers in general, particularly in primary and mental health care. Rural hospitals have fewer services available, and a disproportionate number of rural medical facilities have closed.

Leadership

Women in Minnesota are leading in schools, at home, in health care, nonprofits, as activists, and in elected office – caring for families and our communities. Yet Minnesota has a long way to go to achieve gender parity in leadership at nearly every level.

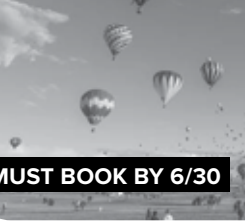
Corporate leadership in Minnesota remains dominated by white men. In the C-suite, women’s leadership has not grown since 2022. In 2024, women held 23.7 percent of these offices in the state’s largest publicly traded companies. Only 2.4 percent of executive positions are held by a woman of color, compared to a national average of 7 percent.

Women hold a greater share of nonprofit and government leadership positions, but men still outnumber women two to one. In politics, the proportion of women in the Minnesota Legislature has fallen slightly to 37 percent from its historic high of 39 percent in 2022. On the local level, men continue to dominate county governments, and women are underrepresented in municipal offices and top school leadership positions.

On average, girls have higher levels of participation in student government and other leadership activities. Overall, eight percent of teenage boys and 11 percent of teenage girls participate in these activities.

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Hello World

BIRTHS REPORTED AT LAKEWOOD HEALTH SYSTEM HOSPITAL IN STAPLES INCLUDED:

Born to Samantha and Tony Ramirez of Menahga, a baby boy, Gino Robert weighing six pounds, eight ounces on March 27, 2026.
Born to Riley and Jake Weishair of Eagle Bend,

a baby girl, Blakely Wren weighing six pounds on March 30, 2026.

Born to Morgan and Wyatt Bean of Baxter, a baby boy, Wayde Richard Allan weighing seven pounds, seven ounces on April 1, 2026.

Obituaries

Carol Penfield

Carol Jean Penfield, 85, passed away at her home in Staples on April 2, 2026. She leaves behind a legacy of kindness, quiet service and a life beautifully and faithfully lived.

Funeral Services will be held Friday, April 10, at 1:00 p.m. at Faith Lutheran Church in Staples.

Visitation will be held Thursday, April 9, from 5:00 to 7:00 p.m. at Brenny Funeral Home in Staples and one hour prior to services Friday at the church.

Carol was born March 14, 1941, to Milton and Therese Leetun in Steele, North Dakota and was raised with the enduring values of the Dakotas - quiet strength, humility and a deep love for family. She graduated high school from Hettinger in 1959 and from Valley City State Teachers College in 1964. In 1963, she married the love of her life, Roland David Penfield, in Hettinger, ND. Together, they shared 62 years of marriage, building a life grounded in devotion, partnership and simple joys.

A woman of deep and unwavering Christian faith, Carol lived as a reflection of her beliefs. She lived out the value of “God’s work, our hands.” Carol didn’t just hear the word on Sundays; she spent her younger years putting it into practice through small, intentional acts of love. Her trust in the Lord guided her through every season of life, sustaining her with grace and resilience.

For nearly 30 years, she dedicated herself to the children of the Staples-Motley School District through the Title I reading program. Carol’s gentle patience and encouragement helped students discover confidence and a love of learning. She viewed her work as a quiet ministry, touching countless lives in meaningful ways.

Carol’s generous heart was evident in all she did. She found joy in caring for others, especially in her kitchen, where her warm hospitality made everyone



feel welcome and loved. She cherished time spent outdoors tending her beautiful gardens and flowers, visiting with dear friends and enjoying the peaceful surroundings of the family cabin on Rush Lake. She also had a deep love for her dogs, who were faithful companions throughout her life. Carol and Rollie treasured their winters in Texas as “snowbirds,” creating many happy memories together.

Carol’s memory will be lovingly carried on by her husband, Roland; two sons, Timothy (Jennifer) Penfield and Jeffrey Penfield; one daughter, Sarah (Darren) Larson; two beloved grandchildren, Drew and Abigail, whose lives she followed with great pride and joy; one sister, Janelle Christmann and one brother, Tracy (Mary) Leetun.

She was preceded in death by her parents; one brother, Lt. Col. Darel Leetun, a pilot who was killed in service during the Vietnam War. In accordance with her faith, her family finds comfort in knowing she has been joyfully reunited with them.

Carol might be remembered as something like a pecan - steady and resilient on the outside, yet gentle, warm and tender at heart. Those who truly knew her were blessed to experience the quiet sweetness within, a kindness that will continue to live on in all who loved her.

Arrangements are by Brenny Family Funeral Chapel, Staples.

w16c A00006B2026AP08

Gail Magnuson

Gail Magnuson, 88, passed away March 29, 2026 at Lakewood Pines in Staples.

A private family ceremony will be held at a later date.

Gail was born August 6, 1937 to Russell and Arlyss (Quern) Larson in Gonvick. She graduated from McIntosh High School and received her bachelor’s and master’s degrees from Bemidji State University.

After teaching in Bagley for two years, Gail and her children moved to Staples in 1968, where she taught first grade for many years. She was an active member of Faith Lutheran Church and several community organizations and served as an election judge after retiring. She enjoyed shopping, knitting, needlework, shopping embracing her Norwegian heritage and more shopping.

Gail is survived by one son, Dan (Mary) Magnuson; one daughter, Kathy (George) Brancato; four grandchildren, Jack (Alex) Magnuson, Maggie Magnu-



son, Aaron Brancato and Brett Brancato and one sister, Sharon Michael.

She was preceded in death by her parents.

The family would like to thank the staff of Lakewood Pines and Lakewood Hospice for their care and kindness.

Arrangements are by Brenny Family Funeral Chapel, Staples.

In lieu of memorials and flowers, donations are preferred to Faith Lutheran Church in Staples or the Alzheimer’s Association.

w16c A00006B2026AP08

Kenneth Judd

Kenneth Lee Judd, 68, of Sturgeon Lake, formerly of Lino Lakes and Circle Pines, passed away peacefully surrounded by family on March 22, 2026 after a courageous battle with cancer.

Ken’s life will be celebrated with a service at 2 p.m. Sunday, April 12 with visitation beginning at 1 p.m. at Roberts Family Funeral Home, Forest Lake. A light luncheon will follow the service.

Interment will be held at Moran-Riverside Cemetery, Moran Township at a

later date, to be followed by a small Celebration of Life.

Ken is survived by his loving wife of 41 years, Gail; one sister, Phyllis (Greg) Anderson; two brothers, Jerry Judd and Robert Judd; sister-in-law, Carol Judd; four-legged friend, Hogan; many nieces, nephews, other relatives and friends.

In lieu of flowers, memorials are preferred to Shriners Hospital.

Arrangements by Roberts Family Funeral Home, RobertsFamilyFH.com.

w16p A00006B2026AP08

Staples Area Church Directory

Staples

Staples Alliance

1512 8th St. NE, Staples 218-894-2891
Jonny Olson, Associate Pastor
Sunday Worship.....9:30 a.m.
Sunday School.....11:00 a.m.
WEDNESDAY
AWANA.....6:00 p.m.

Assembly of God

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

Church of Christ

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

Faith Lutheran

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

Sacred Heart Catholic Church

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

Seventh Day Adventist

421 Dakota Ave. SE, Staples
Pastor Joshua Jeresek
218-894-0033

Saturday Worship.....9:30 a.m.
Sabbath School.....10:45 a.m.

Thomastown Covenant

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

Trinity Lutheran

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

United Methodist

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

Aldrich

Balsamlund Lutheran

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

Cushing

Bethany Lutheran

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

Lincoln Evangelical Free

1354 320th Street, Cushing, MN 56443
Phone: 218- 575-2449
www.lincolnefree.org
Facebook Lincoln E Free
Office Hours: Tues. - Thurs., 9 a.m. - 12 p.m.
Senior Pastor: Don Reigstad
SUNDAY
Church Worship Gathering.....10:00 a.m.
You Tube 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
Saturday.....4:00 p.m. (Dec - April)

United Methodist

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

Oylen

Oylen Alliance

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

Pillager

First Lutheran Church of Bartlett Township (LCMS)

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

St. Hubert Catholic Church

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

Leaf River Township

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

Wadena

St. Helen’s Episcopal Church

22 Dayton Ave. SW, Wadena, MN
218-631-3928
Sunday Worship.....10:00 a.m.

St. Ann’s Catholic Church

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

“Does God Sanction War?”

Pastor Robert Drake, Faith Lutheran Church, Staples/ Bethany Lutheran, Cushing

Let’s get some things out of the way before we jump in. First, war is sometimes unfortunately necessary. Second, we should always pray for the safety of our soldiers (and the safety of other nation’s soldiers). Third, Iran and its theocratic, authoritarian leaders are dangerous and allowing them to build a nuclear weapon is disastrous for global peace and safety. Personally, I support this war because I believe Iran poses a danger to all of us.

With that out of the way, let’s focus on the question: Does God sanction war?

I ask this because Pete Hegseth, our nation’s Secretary of War, has invoked God’s blessings on this war. It’s one thing to invoke God’s blessings for the safety of soldiers or for a quick end to war or even to ask God that our nation prevail in war (as long as we do so humbly, of course). But it’s something entirely different to suggest that God endorses a particular nation in war.

I am not saying that the Bible - especially the Old Testament - isn’t chock full of examples of God doing just that, because there are a lot of examples: God chose Israel over Pharaoh’s army at the Red Sea; God chose Israel over Jericho; God chose Gideon and the Israelites over the Midianites; God chose Saul and the Israelites over the Amalekites; God chose David over Goliath.

God not only sanctions war in these examples, but God also commands the Israelites in some situations to annihilate everyone and everything, including children (1 Samuel 15:3).

I guess God does sanction war and even chooses one nation over another. But two things bother me about our

current situation with Iran.

First is the bombastic and violently graphic nature of Hegseth’s comments about America’s engagement in this war. Here are a few quotes: American air power will bring “death and destruction from the sky,” “we will hunt you down... and kill you,” “death from America and death from Israel,” “We are warriors, trained to kill the enemy and break their will.”

War should not be glorified. We should be disappointed that we are at war, not boasting that we are superior.

The second thing that bothers me is how to view our engagement in this war through our faith in Jesus Christ. As Christians, we don’t simply read the Old Testament and follow it word for word. Instead, we interpret the Jewish scriptures through the life, death and resurrection of Jesus Christ. We look first at what Jesus said and did, and then we interpret the behavior and actions of the Israelites through his life.

Perhaps a better question is: Does Jesus sanction war? Did Jesus ever command his followers to reign death and destruction? Did Jesus ever promise to hunt people down and kill them?

From the many quotes of Jesus I could offer, let me share just this one: Jesus and his disciples were going through a village in Samaria, but the villagers did not react kindly to Jesus. One of his disciples asked Jesus, “Do you want us to command fire to come down from heaven and consume them?”

What did Jesus do? He rebuked his disciples.

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Trantina hits walk-off

The Staples-Motley softball team won their season opener 7-6 on a walk-off hit by Chloe Trantina in the seventh inning.

The Cardinals traveled to Northwestern University in St. Paul to play against Paynesville on March 30, with their home field still under snow.

Aleea Holst started the game on the mound and pitched four innings with seven strikeouts.

In a close game, the team

switched pitchers to keep their opponents off balance. Addison Potter pitched the fifth and sixth inning.

Going into the 7th inning behind by one run, Potter asked to be pulled and put Holst back in to finish the game.

“That’s what we are working on, to have players step up and make decisions to help the team,” said Coach Darren Holst.

Holst struck out the first two batters, gave up one

hit, then ended the top of the 7th by getting the next batter.

In the Staples half of the inning, they worked to get two runners in scoring position. Trantina came through with the game winning hit, scoring two runs to win the game.

“We had every player contributing throughout the game,” said Coach Holst, “I’m proud of the girls for keeping their heads up and never giving up.”



Natalie Hanson



Aleea Holst

Cardinals start baseball season with three straight wins

The Staples-Motley baseball team had multiple players excel to carry them to three straight wins to open the season. Cooper Tappe shone on the mound, Colbe Tappe and Silas Clausen starred at the plate and the mound, and many players had multiple hits, including Isaac Halverson and John Schotzko.

With snow still on the local field, the Cardinals drove to Minnetonka on March 30, winning a double-header against Frazee. They came back the next day to beat Osakis 13-3.

Staples-Motley 10, Frazee 0

Cooper Tappe struck out 10 batters in the 10-0 win against Frazee, pitching five hitless innings.

Silas Clausen hit an RBI double in the first inning and Isaac Halverson had a two run single. In the second inning, Elijah Kossan singled and scored on a home

run by Colbe Tappe.

Halverson was 2-3 at the plate and Colbe Tappe also had two hits. On defense, the Cardinals did not commit an error.

Staples-Motley 5, Frazee 2

The second game of the double-header started out the same but got closer as the scoring slowed down. In the first inning, Colbe Tappe hit a two run single and Schotzko hit an RBI fielder’s choice. They took a 4-1 lead in the third inning with a hit by Clausen, one of his three hits in the game.

Colbe Tappe pitched the first four innings, giving up three hits and one run, with six strikeouts. Tristin Moore pitched the final innings to earn the save.

On defense, the team turned one double-play.

Staples-Motley 13, Osakis 3

Clausen shut down Osakis on the mound with

10 strikeouts. He allowed five hits and three runs over five innings while walking none.

Schotzko collected four hits in four at bats in the win. He doubled in the first inning, singled in the second, singled in the fourth, and singled in the fifth.

As in their first two games, the Cardinals jumped ahead right away. Schotzko’s double scored two runs, Gabe Decker was hit by a pitch, driving in a run, and Camrik Tappe drew an RBI walk.

The Cardinals had 12 hits in the game. Colbe Tappe and Halverson also collected multiple hits. Colbe Tappe and Kossan also stole multiple bases as the team had five stolen bases in the game.

Martial arts team earns grand champion at tournament

Students from Elevate Martial Arts in Staples competed strongly at the NTI Taekwondo Tournament held March 7 in Owatonna, bringing home numerous medals and Grand Champion honors.

Gold medals in forms were earned by Eliya Statema, Enoch Statema, Ariella Statema, Eleanor Statema, Jase P., and Wyat Connell in their respective divisions, while Rachel Connell was named Grand Champion in beginner forms. Gold medals in breaking were earned by Seth Connell, Rachel Connell, Wyat Connell, and Elizabeth Statema. Randy Suess earned silver medals in forms, breaking, and sparring, while Seth Connell took silver in forms and Elijah Statema earned silver in sparring. Bronze medal in forms went to Elizabeth Statema, with Wyat Connell earning bronze in

breaking.

Elevate students also competed together as a team and earned Grand Champion honors in the group forms division.

Rachel Connell reflected on her experience: “It was an incredible feeling to win grand champion in forms. This was my first tournament and I worked really hard for it. I went knowing I may not win anything but was really excited for the experience. Turns out, I came home with a lot more than I expected.”

Elevate Martial Arts provides Taekwondo training for all ages over 6 years old, promoting discipline, confidence, and character development.

“Our passion is supporting lifelong, total health and raising up individuals and families who bring positive impact wherever they go,” said Penny Statema.



Team form Grand Champions

Elevate students competed together as a team and earned Grand Champion honors in the group forms division. Team members included Penny Statema (instructor), Randy Suess (assistant instructor), Elijah Statema (instructor), Enoch Statema (assistant instructor), Ariella

Statema (assistant instructor), Jase P., Eleanor Statema, Seth Connell, Eliya Statema, Elizabeth Statema, Wyat Connell, Rachel Connell, and Maya Ferris. Pictured is the team with their trophies and medals from the tournament. (Submitted photos)



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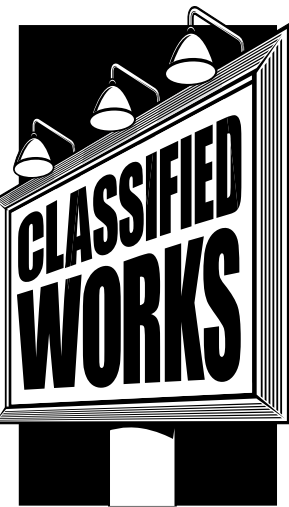
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NOTICE OF MORTGAGE FORECLOSURE SALE

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.

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. Lots 7,8,9, and 10, Block 1, Donovans Addition to Staples, accord-

ing 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: 124 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: \$28,081.47

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 04, 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 redemp-

tion is reduced by judicial order, you must vacate the premises by 11:59 p.m. on June 4, 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 26, 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.

16-21pnc

December 28, 2026.

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

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

Dated: April 02, 2026

WELLS FARGO BANK, N.A. Mortgagee

TROTT LAW, P.C.

By: /s/

N. Kibongni

Fondungallah, Esq.

Samuel R. Coleman, Esq.

Alexa Marsh, Esq.

Attorneys for Mortgagee

25 Dale Street North

St. Paul, MN 55102

(651) 209-9760

(25-0371-FC02)

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

THIS IS A COMMUNICATION FROM A DEBT COLLECTOR.

15-21pnc



Spring shoveling

Kerry Lindgren of Staples was busy shoveling the sidewalk along 4th St. NE in Staples April 3, after a few inches of snow fell throughout the area the day before. Snow showers were expected to fall again

the evening of April 3 (Good Friday) with another round on April 4. By Easter Sunday, April 5, at least five more inches had fallen in the Staples area. (Staples World photo by Dawn Timbs)

Staples Police report

Recent incidents on the Staples Police report included:

March 22, truck driver was stopped at railroad crossing waiting for the crossing arms to go up. Arms went up and four or five vehicles in front of him crossed the tracks. The driver stopped at the crossing as he is carrying gasoline. As he started to move forward, the crossing arms started to come down. The crossing arm slid across his trailer and caught the ladder at the end of the trailer and broke the crossing arm. Police determined driver not at fault.

March 22, Staples Police investigated a truck heading eastbound in westbound lane. Police vehicles turned the driver around into town. Police determined the driver was an elderly male who was confused. Police spoke to the son and daughter, who said the man would not be driving again.

March 23, at 12:17 a.m., Staples Police assisted with a vehicle was driving down the path at McGovern Park. People are working to try to get the vehicle out and are hearing noises from the woods that they think might be a bear. They are requesting that police provide lights and security while they remove the vehicle.

March 23, at 12:43 a.m., Staples Police investigated report of a man having mental health issues, is

suicidal and abusive to his spouse. Other family members are also in the house. Police met with the family and the man agreed to leave because he needed to get to work. The reporting party was advised on obtaining an order for protection.

March 24, Staples Police investigated suspicious and threatening messages sent by a male to his daughter's phone. Police made contact with the subjects and scheduled a meeting to talk about it.

March 24, Staples Police investigated a credit card scam. Police determined that accounts are currently being opened in the person's name.

March 24, Staples Police investigated a domestic assault report on County Road 21.

March 24, Staples Police investigated a report of car ruts in a yard on 3rd Street NE, with vehicle parts in the yard and a utility box that had been damaged.

March 25, Staples Police assisted Wadena County Human Services with a welfare check. Police took possession of a firearm in the residence.

March 25, Staples Police assisted Staples Fire Department with a kitchen fire at a residence on 2nd Ave. NE.

March 25, Staples Police investigated a report of a 23 year old female sending in-

appropriate photos to a 15 year old student. Police are checking for criminal sexual conduct.

March 26, Staples Police investigated the theft of a side by side vehicle.

March 27, Staples Police were involved with the pursuit of a vehicle headed towards Staples. The driver of the vehicle was arrested.

March 28, Staples Police received information that a truck that was stolen in February had been spotted near Warner Road. Cass County Sheriff's Office checked the vehicle but it did not match the stolen vehicle. Later in the day, Cass County called back and said they found the stolen vehicle at another residence.

March 28, Staples Police investigated a female threatening to her herself and staff at a residence in rural Motley. Police learned that the subject assaulted staff and was trying to strangle herself with cords. The subject agreed to ride with police to Lakewood Health System for an evaluation. The subject was transported and turned over to staff without incident.

March 28, Staples Police received a report of a male destroying a house on 2nd Ave. NE. Subjects came outside residence and denied any altercation.

March 28, Staples Police stopped a vehicle and arrested driver for DWI.



Public Notices



NOTICE CALL FOR BIDS TODD COUNTY SOLID WASTE MOWING

Todd County Solid Waste is accepting sealed bids for lawn mowing at its new Transfer Station Facility at 30433 US 71, Browerville, MN. Bids should be based on a lump sum rate per time mowed. Interested parties can submit their bid in a sealed envelope, along with proof of insurance and three references, by April 16, 2026. Sealed bids can be dropped off or mailed to Todd County Transfer Station 30433 US 71, Browerville, MN 56438.

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

15-16pnc

TODD COUNTY BOARD OF ADJUSTMENT
215 First Ave. South
Long Prairie,
Minnesota 56347
320-732-4420
toddplan.zone@co.todd.mn.us

PUBLIC NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that on **Thursday, April 23, 2026 at 6:00 p.m.** the Todd County Board of Adjustment will hold a public hearing in the Commissioner's board room, 215 1st Ave South, Suite 301, Long Prairie, Minnesota.

NOTE: This meeting is

Site Address: 11377 Admiral Lane, Sauk Centre, MN 56378

PID: 14-0037400

1. Request to reduce the lake setback from 150' to 106' for the replacement of cabin and to expand/convert from three season to four season in Natural Environment Shoreland Zoning District.

3. Tom Evans and Coleen Taylor: Section 22, Kandota Township, Sauk Lake

Site Address: 20598 Alabama Drive, Sauk Centre, MN 56378

PID: 14-0034600

1. Request to reduce the lake setback from 100' to 94' for proposed replacement of deck in Recreational Development Shoreland Zoning District.

Adjournment.

Next meeting: May28, 2026

All persons interested are invited to attend said hearing or submit a letter to be heard on these matters. **All correspondence must include name, mailing address and be received 48 hours before the date and time of the hearing.**

Todd County Board of Adjustment
Jim Pratt, Chair

16pnc

NOTICE OF MORTGAGE FORECLOSURE SALE

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

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

DATE OF MORTGAGE: July 31, 2015

ORIGINAL PRINCIPAL AMOUNT OF MORTGAGE: \$92,857.00

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

THE AMOUNT CLAIMED TO BE DUE ON THE 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 De-



Concert featured songs of peace

The Staples Area Men’s Chorus, under the direction of Teresa Hamp, performed a number of songs at their “Let There Be Peace on Earth” concert March 21, held at Timbers Event Center in Staples. Above, the chorus performs “What Will We Promise,” written by SAMC member

Dave Bengtson. The cello soloist was Seth Freunds Schuh, and piano accompanist was Sandy Paskewitz. Chorus member Kevin Olsen, front row far left, served as emcee for the evening. (Staples World photo by Dawn Timbs)



Channeling Bob Dylan

Nathan Beard, seated, was one of the featured soloists at the Staples Area Men’s Chorus concert at Timbers in Staples March 21. Beard, who accompanied himself on guitar and harmonica, sang the Bob Dylan classic, “The Times They are a-Changin’.” (Staples World photo by Dawn Timbs)



Women’s Chorus, special guests at concert

The Staples Area Women’s Chorus were invited to perform a few numbers at the recent ‘Let There Be Peace On Earth’ concert in Staples, special guests of the Men’s Chorus. Above, the vocalists perform “Will

the Circle Be Unbroken.” They were directed by Rob Freelove, with accompaniment provided by Mary Beth Brockpahler. (Staples World photo by Dawn Timbs)



Jewison, Grabe go to state capitol for electricity issues

Staples City Council member John Jewison and Staples Public Works Director Scott Grabe spent a day in March visiting state legislators to talk about energy issues.

Jewison said they had three main topics they brought to local legislators, Senator Paul Utke and Representative Mike Wiener. They were joined by representatives from Missouri River Energy, a company that supplies Staples with much of the city’s electrical power:

The three main topics and what the local contingent asked representatives to consider are:

PFAS challenges
Background: PFAS identification and treatment is an ongoing and expensive challenge. Municipal utilities do NOT generate PFAS but may unintentionally spread it through water and wastewater operations. While MMUA recognizes the challenges posed by PFAS and the need for more research. It opposes

any unfunded/underfunded-mandate that would create potential liability for a utility as if the utility were the cause of the problem.

Ask: Municipal Utilities should be treated as the conduit of, and not the source of, PFAS chemicals and their ongoing spread. Any proposed new study or treatment mandate needs to identify adequate funding sources such that no utility should be forced to unduly raise their rates.

Repealing nuclear moratorium

Background: In 1994 the Minnesota legislature adopted a moratorium on the siting of new nuclear reactors. MMUA has historically supported an “all-of-the-above” position when discussing the best ways to produce and provide cleaner, renewable sources of energy. This means that the option to have meaningful dialogue on the issue of nuclear power should be included along with conversations about the pros and

cons of wind, solar, hydro, hydrogen and other possible clean and renewable sources of energy.

Ask: Repeal any legislative and/or administrative ban on the possible siting and the use of new nuclear power in Minnesota.

Bonding Bill

Background: The even-numbered year of legislative biennium is traditionally known as a bonding year. The proceeds of State issued bonds are used in part to fund important projects and programs that assist municipal utilities, particularly water and wastewater utilities, make necessary improvements to ensure clean drinking water and safe wastewater.

Ask: The legislature needs to identify the number of projects and programs that need financial assistance and pass a bonding bill sufficient to provide the necessary financial support, particularly for municipal water and wastewater treatment facilities.



Singing “Some Enchanted Evening”

Soloist Steve Larson, member of the Staples Area Men’s Chorus, performed “Some Enchanted Evening” at the chorus’s concert March 21, at Timbers Event Center in Staples. Larson was accompanied by his sister, pianist Betty Butcher of Alexandria. In top photo, Steve’s wife, Sandi Larson, takes a video recording as her husband sings, smiling at the last line of the song, “...once you have found her, never let her go.” (Staples World photos by Dawn Timbs)



Talking about electric issues

At the Minnesota State Capitol, from left, Ben Gentz of Missouri River Energy, Staples City Council member John Jewison, State Sen. Paul Utke and Staples Public Works Director Scott Grabe. (Submitted photo)

BearWise: have a safe spring

The Minnesota Department of Natural Resources is encouraging homeowners to remove birdfeeders now and check their property for food sources that could attract bears. While most female bears with cubs and yearlings are still near their denning areas, some full-grown bears are starting to emerge from their dens in search of easy food sources.

As bears emerge from hibernation in the coming weeks, their metabolism gradually ramps up. They

transition from nibbling on plants to eating more substantial meals. Food and food odors can attract bears, so it’s important to remember that they can pick up a scent from more than a mile away. Home and cabin owners can prevent bears from searching for food in their yard or buildings now by using the BearWise checklist (PDF) and following these BearWise basics:

- Remove bird feeders when bears are active
- Secure food, garbage

- and recycling
- Never feed or approach a bear
- Never leave pet food outdoors
- Clean and store grills and smokers
- If human-bear conflicts persist after food sources have been removed, contact a Minnesota DNR area wildlife office for advice. To find a local wildlife manager, contact the DNR Information Center at 651-296-6157 or 888-646-6367, or visit the Minnesota DNR website.



The ‘Candy Crew’ organizers

The third annual Candyland Ball was held March 27, at the Staples-Motley Elementary School gym. Just under 300 were in attendance at this fundraising event for the Staples-Motley Music

Department. Pictured above are members of the ‘Candy Crew’ who organized the event. From left, Katie Pant-Santos, Amanda Mithun, Trisha Larson, Connie Moe. (Submitted photo)



All dressed up for the Ball

Students in grades K - 4th grade had a fun time at the third annual Candyland Ball at Staples-Motley Elementary School March 27. The event was a fundraiser for the Staples-Motley Music Department. Pictured, from left, are fourth graders Sydney Eckert and Kate Vogel. (Submitted photo)



Event DJ

Noah Larson, a senior at Staples-Motley High School, was the DJ at the recent Candyland Ball at Staples-Motley Elementary School. (Submitted photo)

Cardinals win seven categories at speech meet

On Saturday, March 28th, the Staples-Motley Speech team competed in the Parkers Prairie High School Petite Meet. The Staples-Motley team won first place, with a lot of individual successes contributing to the team win, including seven first place finishes: Walker Johnson in Creative Expression and Extemporaneous Reading, Bella

Hines in Discussion, Caleb Bestland in Humor, Addie Brenny in Poetry, Tristan Rendon in Prose, and Maddock Harvey in Storytelling. Beyond first place finishes, Maddock Harvey placed third and Joshua Cushing placed fourth in Creative Expression. In Discussion, Charlotte Aldrich placed third. In Drama, Raina Mikhaeil

placed third. Christopher Mikhaeil and Matthew Jewison placed third in Duo. Ava Davis placed third in Extemporaneous Reading. In Great Speeches, Tristan Rendon placed third and Raina Mikhaeil placed fifth. Annabella Hurtig placed third in Original Oratory, and Lexi Ann placed second in Prose.



Speech medal winners

Medal winners at the Parkers Prairie speech tournament, from left: Front: Annabella Hurtig, Raina Mikhaeil, Walker Johnson, Tristan Rendon Middle: Bella Hines, Caleb Bestland, Lexi Ann, Addie Brenny, Maddock Harvey Back: Ava Davis, Charlotte Aldrich, Christopher Mikhaeil, Matthew Jewison



Snowy mail route

Postal worker Amanda Denniston trudged through snow along 7th St. NE in Staples April 4, delivering mail along her substitute route. Denniston said she doesn't mind the snow and except for a

few frigid below-zero days, prefers delivering mail during the cold months over those hot and humid days of summer. (Staples World photo by Dawn Timbs)

Podiatry Care at Lakewood

Podiatry care at Lakewood starts from the ground up. Dr. Taylor Heck and Dr. Travis Johnson focus on diagnosing and treating conditions that affect the feet and ankles, supporting balance, comfort, and how you move every day. Whether you're dealing with pain, injury, or chronic foot concerns, our approach is designed to help you move forward with greater ease and confidence.



Travis Johnson, DPM
PODIATRIST



Taylor Heck, DPM
PODIATRIST

