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School district estimates \$300,000 budget deficit

By Mark Anderson
Publisher

The Staples-Motley School Board learned that they may need to make cuts to balance next year’s budget. At the May 18 school board meeting, Business Manager Ellie Hill told the board that the general fund expenses are projected to exceed the budget by \$304,000.

Hill said they are moving cautiously and are looking at deficit spending from their reserve funds rather than making large cuts. The budget does include some one-time expenditures and the district could get more assistance from the state, depending on how this year’s legislative session plays out.

On the expense side, the projection shows larger expenses for health insurance plans and gas for the bus fleet. New curriculum is scheduled to be purchased next year, but that will be a one-time expense.

Budget savings will include having one less teacher in the school readiness program. Hill said they may have more savings by

attrition, for example not replacing a position when someone retires or changes jobs.

Even with the \$304,000 budget deficit projection, Hill said some other nearby districts are facing larger deficits.

The school’s other budgets are in good shape, Hill said. The food service had to deficit spend this year to purchase some large items, but they are taking in more revenue than expenditures so that fund will not be a concern.

Hill said the community education budget is also on track, because Activities Director Paige Ahrendt was able to “tidy up the budget,” said Hill.

“Paige is a fantastic partner,” said Hill.

For state funding from the legislative session, Superintendent Shane Tappe said the legislature spread their funding out over different parts of the state budget. “Nobody got a large piece of the pie,” said Tappe. He said there was a lot of one-time funding in the budget, for things such as supplemental education and mental health services.

Rule changes for referendum votes were approved, such as ballot language that the school had advocated for. Tappe said the state is also approving permanent school funds to be included in some ballot requests. Another change is more money coming in for land and trust funds.

Activities

Ahrendt gave an update to the board about student activities and community education. She said this school year, 74 percent of Staples-Motley students participated in at least one extra-curricular activity, with 365 out of 495 students taking part. “Students find things that match their personalities and their interests,” said Ahrendt.

She singled out the speech program as an example of increasing participation this year.

“They are doing successful things,” said Ahrendt.

Sports programs with increasing participation included volleyball, golf, wrestling and boys basketball. Some other schools in

See **SCHOOL** on page 12a

Splash pad started at Converse Park

Converse Park in Motley will soon be home to a new splash pad. Pictured above putting in the base work May 31, are employees with Posterick Renovations of Foley. From left, Derek Stewart, Chad Posterick, owner; and Mark Posterick. (Staples World photo by Dawn Timbs)

Meat processing plant now open in Staples Industrial Park

Farmers Union Processing + Meats officially opened for business June 2.

The more than 10,000-square-foot meat processing facility slaughters cattle and hogs. The facility is available for custom-exempt processing and is working toward gaining USDA certification in July.

“We are proud to be part of the Staples community and look forward to working with farmers to process their livestock locally and provide them with a high-quality product they can take home and enjoy,” said Robb Kasal, plant manager.

The plant grew from a need identified by livestock producers in the five-county region of Cass, Crow Wing, Morrison, Todd and Wadena counties.

See **MEAT** on page 12a



Staffing the new plant

Employees at the new Farmers Union Processing + Meats include, from left, Joe Fellman, Matt Sams, Amy Michel, Tay Faber, Valerie Ruegemer and Robb Kasal. (Submitted photo)

Weather

2026			
This Week’s Forecast			
	High	Low	Cond.
June 10	81	57	Showers
June 11	70	55	Showers
June 12	71	53	P. Cloudy
June 13	66	50	M. Sunny
June 14	69	49	P. Cloudy
June 15	68	49	M. Cloudy
June 16	67	49	M. Sunny

Last Year, 2025			
	High	Low	Cond.
June 10	50°	47	Sunny
June 11	72	59	Sunny
June 12	70	56	Rain
June 13	54	50	Rain
June 14	57	48	Cloudy
June 15	65	50	Showers
June 16	78	60	P. Sunny

Average Temps:
H = 77 ° Low = 55°

Compiled by
Dale Hausmann,
WCCO’s Staples area
Weatherwatcher

Public Notices

Moran Township 9A
Todd BOA 9A
Todd mail ballots, Swanville 9A

Obituaries

Lloyd Flansburg
Victor Flansburg
William Goff



New exercise equipment from Lakewood Foundation

The Lakewood Health System Foundation donated \$100,000 to the Staples Community Center for brand new exercise equipment that was installed on June 1. On June 2, representatives from Lakewood and the City of Staples gathered to celebrate the new equipment in the second floor of the community center. Pictured from left, Lakewood Foundation Development Officer David Jeremiason, Staples Mayor Ron Murray, Community Center Director Lacey Aguirre, Lakewood Director of Marketing and Foundation Matt Jensen, Staples City Administrator Jerel Nelsen, Lakewood CEO Lisa Bjerga and Staples City Council member Mary Theurer.

Murray talked about how this will be vital to the future of the community center and will help it continue to be a place for people to congregate for recreation and education. “This shows Lakewood’s commitment to our community,” said Murray.

Jensen said the Lakewood Foundation has been working on this project for the past year. “We are interested in the continued vitality for this building,” said Jensen, noting the swimming pool, gym space and gathering spaces as important for community health. (Staples World photo by Mark Anderson)



Hearing from Father Duncan

Students at Sacred Heart Area School heard a message from Father JC Duncan during Friday morning Mass May 22. He reminded the children that each of them has a calling in life, and encouraged them to keep following Jesus. School may have ended for the year, but responsibilities, such as obeying one's parents, don't. (Staples World photos by Dawn Timbs)



Reading scripture

Sixth grader Josh Uselman read scripture at the Friday morning Mass at Sacred Heart Area School in Staples, a service where students help serve during the school year. Uselman was the lone sixth grader at the school. At left is fifth grader Olive Doll, who also served that day.

'Children's Mass' at Sacred Heart



Singing, "On Eagle's Wings"

Students at Sacred Heart Area School sang, "On Eagle's Wings" while other students processed in during



Faithful pianist

Mike Blessing of Staples has served as the accompanist at Sacred Heart Church in Staples for 52 years, playing at countless Masses, weddings and funeral services. He's also led music for students at Sacred Heart Area School (SHAS) for decades, preparing them for the Friday morning Masses, at which they help serve. Pictured above, Blessing accompanies the congregation on the closing hymn, for the May 22 Mass, "Lord of the Dance."

It was the final 'Children's Mass' of the school year, and possibly the last one for SHAS in its present form. The pre-school will continue at Sacred Heart, and plans for a hybrid homeschool at that location are in the works. More information about that will be included in a future edition of the Staples World.

their final Children's Mass of the school year May 22. (Staples World photo by Dawn Timbs)



Splash pad prep work

At left, Motley's Public Works Director Bruce Brotherton (left) and Maintenance Assistant Bryan Stevens were at work May 13, installing the drainage pipe for the splash pad being built at Converse Park in Motley. (Staples World photo by Dawn Timbs)



Correction

In a photo from the Memorial Day Program in last week's paper, the late Garry Carpenter's great-grandson David Hanson (at left) was misidentified. The Staples World regrets the error. Ten-year-old Hanson was pointing to the paver that had been dedicated in his great-grandpa's honor at the May 25 program. Carpenter was a United States Marine Corps veteran who served during the Vietnam War from 1964 - 1968. He ultimately earned a Bronze Star and Purple Heart.



Orthopedics at Lakewood

Whether it's a sports injury, fracture, carpal tunnel, or joint pain, Lakewood Motion is here to help you move forward. Twin Cities Orthopedics surgeon Dr. Steven Meletiou specializes in treating hand, wrist, elbow, and shoulder conditions, including tendon repair, joint replacement, and fractures. He joins our growing team of orthopedic experts expanding access to advanced care close to home.



Steven Meletiou, MD
ORTHOPEDIC SURGEON



Staples Police report

Recent reports by the Staples Police Dept. include:

May 10, during a traffic stop, Staples Police cited driver/passenger for underage use of cannabis. A parent picked up the vehicle.

May 10, Staples Police received a call about a person who picked up a nursing home resident, left another person who's not a resident there.

May 10, Staples Police investigated a report of two juvenile runaways. Both juveniles were located.

May 12, Staples Police investigated a report of fireworks near 7th St SE. Caller stated that residents were scared.

May 12, Staples Police investigated reports of three vehicles in the 4th Street NE construction zone.

May 13, Staples Police investigated report of a coyote near 12th St NE and 3rd Ave. NE. Caller stated the coyote couldn't be scared away.

May 14, Staples Police investigated a report of K-9's finding something at Staples-Motley High School. Police issued a citation for a person possessing a vape.

May 15, Staples Police investigated a fox running around on Park Ave. NE.

May 15, Staples Police received a call from a person stating they are being followed and being threatened. Police located the vehicle, didn't see any vehicles following it. Subject was going to get a train ticket and was concerned about waiting in the depot after hours.

May 16, Staples Police investigated report of a financial scam of a 92-year-old resident. Police submitted a MAARC report for financial exploitation.

May 17, traffic stop, drug sniffing dog had a positive alert. Both individuals in the vehicle were placed under arrest for 1st degree possession of a firearm. Vehicle was towed.

May 19, Staples Police investigated report of 12 year old sending suicidal messages in a group text. Police made contact with parent. Will watch the child for the night.

May 20, Staples Police investigated elderly woman who stated she was separated from her group. Subject was confused and agreed to be transported to Lakewood Health System.

May 20, Staples Police investigated a report of a neighbor who installed a camera facing neighbor's kitchen window. Report states that the neighbor also sits and stares at them when they are in their yard. Police advised on obtaining a restraining order.

May 20, Staples Police investigated report of children running down the street on 7th St NE. Parent was advised to supervise the children when they're outside.

May 20, Staples Police conducted a welfare check on possible suicidal subject. Subject agreed to be transported to Lakewood Health System.

May 20, Staples Police observed flames in the area of 4th St NE. Officer observed that occupants had set a couch on fire producing flames that reached the top of the house and trees.

May 21, Staples Police responded to a report of a mental health crisis. Caller stated there are weapons in the house where children are living. Police determined there was no assault; subject said they had not been taking prescribed medications for depression and anxiety.

May 21, Staples Police investigated report of a person in a downtown business acting suspiciously. Police advised to get a restraining order.

May 21, Staples Police cited a juvenile for possession of a vape at Staples-Motley High School.

May 21, Staples Police investigated criminal sexual conduct.

May 21, Staples Police assisted in looking for a missing person who had left their parent's car and walked into the woods. The parent located the missing person.

May 21, Staples Police received report of loud vehicles, cited driver on exhaust noise.

May 21, Staples Police received a call about a person who was informed a business was closed and the party drove to a nearby bar. Reporting party was concerned that they were too intoxicated to drive. Police spoke to driver and passenger who said they were enjoying the nice night as "single old men" who are just hyper to get some action. No signs of impairment on driver.

May 23, Staples Police were notified of a student who had three vapes.

May 22, Staples Police investigated a road rage. Reporting party said they were being tailgated and had cut off the vehicle. The person got out, was yelling and swearing. The party could be heard through the phone saying the next person she pisses off could have a gun. Police located the subject and explained that if there's a traffic infraction, they are to call police, do not take matters into their own hands. The subject stated he understood, would not continue that behavior.

May 22, Staples Police investigated report of people trying to break into an abandoned house.

May 22, Staples Police investigated report of a person chasing a car and kicking at the car. Police determined the person was not intoxicated, was just having fun.

May 22, Staples Police took report of person who went into restroom at Casey's in Staples, got locked in when employees closed the store. Police contacted a key holder who let the person out.

May 23, Staples Police responded to request from Staples Ambulance with a patient ready for transfer and is combative. Subject was loaded into transport vehicle before police arrived.

May 24, Staples Police stopped a vehicle for an object suspendedg from mirror and expired registration. After investigation, police arrested driver for DWI.

May 24, Staples Police investigated report of trucks with loud exhausts driving around the block on Roosevelt St and Dakota Ave. SW in Staples.

May 25, Staples Police investigated report of a vulnerable adult not being cared for by the caretaker.

May 25, Staples Police investigated report of suicide threats. Police spoke with the subject with a history of suicide attempts. The subject admitted writing goodbyes and didn't answer question about having a plan. Police arranged to meet with parents and the subject.

May 26, Staples Police assisted homeowner when a tree fell on the house. Property owner will be in contact with insurance company and tree service.

May 27, Staples Police assisted with a one vehicle rollover near Motley. Reports of driver running southbound on Spruce R with dark color clothes. Wadena drone operator headed to the scene to spot the driver.

May 27, Staples Police investigated report of loud truck with no pipes on 3rd St NE.

May 30, Staples Police investigated report of vehicles speeding on 5th Street NE.

May 30, Staples Police received information of a person sleeping in a tent and possibly providing alcohol to residents.

75 YEARS Ago - 1951

• June 7, 1951 - It is evident that the tourist season is on in the city of Staples from the number of foreign, or out-of-state cars which have been noticed on the city streets and avenues for the past week or more.

Car licenses from the following states have been noticed: California, Texas, North Dakota, New York, Tennessee, Idaho, Washington, Colorado, Wisconsin and Michigan. Provinces of Canada which have been represented here include Ontario, Saskatchewan, Manitoba and Alberta.

• June 7, 1951 - Staples city street department has been busy for the past week or more laying new water mains and sewage disposal

- O -
Compiled by
Dawn Timbs
- O -

mains along Fifth street North to take care of the many new dwellings which are being erected along this street.

Workmen experienced quite a good deal of difficulty in their digging due to the fact that surface water interfered with the digging progress a great deal.

Plumbers are busy also digging connecting ditches to these new homes with the ultimate result that about two of the north blocks of Fifth Street are in a terrible mess at the present time.

• June 7, 1951 - The "Master's Men" Quartet, representing the St. Paul Bible Institute of St. Paul, Minn., will present a special program at 8 p.m. Friday, June 8 in the Christian and Missionary Alliance Church, located in Staples.

This program will include singing and testimonies, with one of the quartet bringing the message. The quartet will be traveling through a number of states and will be presenting their program in various churches.

The personnel of their group is Dale Church, bass, from Fairbury, Neb.; Edward Horst, baritone, from Denver, Colo.; Fred Yearsley, tenor, from Turtle Creek, Penn.; and Vernon Voth, tenor, from St. Paul. Their pianist is Bob Gibson, from Onamia.

• June 7, 1951 - Kenneth A. Havlik, Evansville creamery operator, was notified last week that he was the winner of the district championship buttermaker title. Butter entered by Mr. Havlik scored 99 percent.

The state is divided into 25 districts with one championship picked for each district. Mr. Havlik's championship advances him one step closer toward the possible goal of being recognized as Minnesota's champion buttermaker for 1951.

Mr. Havlik was an employee of the Staples creamery for several years, and is a brother of Mrs. Ray Mudek of rural Staples.

50 YEARS Ago - 1976

• May 27, 1976 - One hundred and forty-four seniors will receive diplomas at the 72nd annual Commencement Exercises of Staples High school, which will be held at 8 p.m. Tuesday, June 1, in the Staples Auditorium.

Dr. William F. Hueg Jr., professor of agronomy, Deputy Vice-President for Agriculture, Forestry and Home Economics, and Dean of the Institute of Agriculture, Forestry and Home

Looking back

Economics at the University of Minnesota, will be the commencement speaker.

Led by the class valedictorian, Craig Williams, and the class salutatorian, Ann Drake, the 1976 graduating class at Staples High school will march into the auditorium Tuesday evening to the music of "Fanfare and Processional" played by the Concert Band under the direction of Larry Correll.

The Rev. Lewis Blanchard will give the invocation, followed by the Combined Senior Choirs, directed by Stan Carlson, singing "Time in a Bottle."

Dr. Duane R. Lund, superintendent of Schools, will extend greetings on behalf of the school and then will present the commencement speaker.

Following the playing of "Battle Hymn" by the Symphonic Band, William Uhrich, high school principal, will make the presentation of the 144 members of the Class of 1976 to Dr. Robert J. Mayhew, chairman of the Staples Board of Education for the awarding of diplomas.

The class of 1976 choir members will sing "Stairway to Heaven" and then the program will be brought to a close with the recessional and the benediction by Rev. Blanchard.

• May 27, 1976 - Construction is underway at Miller True Value of a repair shop and storage area. Derald Miller, owner, told The World that the new building will house facilities presently in the existing building. The space occupied now for repair and storage will be remodeled into additional store sales space. The new building is 30 by 52 feet, and is being put up by Odden Construction of Staples.

• May 27, 1976 - A class of six young people will be confirmed at the 10:30 a.m. service Sunday, May 30, at St. John Lutheran Church, Motley.

Confirmands are Grace Allen, Terri Allen, Debra Sampson, Sherry DeGeest, Sheri Sampson and Gail Score.

The Rev. Clarence Bremer will officiate at the Rite of Confirmation.

25 YEARS Ago - 2001

• June 7, 2001 - The world was at war.

They knew they would be drafted, as soon as they turned 18 years old, even if they hadn't finished high school.

Joe Steindel was turning 18 on June 23, 1943. Instead of preparing for his senior year at Staples High School, he enlisted on June 3, 1943, in the U.S. Navy and was assigned to the submarine service.

Roland Mohler turned 18 on Oct. 27, 1943. He started his senior year at Staples High School, but enlisted early in December in the U.S. Air Force. He was inducted in Jan. 1944 and became a bombardier gunner.

Their story was a common one for the time.

Ida Kirk of Staples was a member of that class of 1944. Of what was originally a class of about 85, 30 men left to enter the military and did not graduate with the others.

On May 30, Joe Steindel and Roland Mohler stepped on the stage at the Staples Motley High School Auditorium and receive their belated diplomas. Members of their class of 1944 were in the audience cheering for them.



Mystery photo

Hello readers. This week's archive photo is from 1992. Do you know who these people are and perhaps the context of the photo? Do you have a memory to share? Email your answers and where you're from to dtimbs@staplesworld.com by Friday, or call 218-894-1112. The answers will be published in next week's paper, as well as a new mystery photo.



Mystery solved

Last week's mystery photo published in the June 9, 1988 edition of the Staples World featured Motley High School seniors Mark Posner and Annie Jenkins, chuckling over past school photos and other items in a school file on each of the 25 graduates of MHS. The time of sharing memories was moments before they joined their classmates in marching into the MHS gymnasium to receive their high school diplomas.

"These men earned their diplomas the hard way," said Ken LeVasseur who reprerented the Staples VFW Post 1910 at the ceremony.

"Operation Recognition" was organized by the B.O.S.S. group at Staples Motley High School. B.O.S.S. stands for "Better Our School System."

Megan Klose and Michelle Honek headed this "operation" and located six veterans to get them the applications for this relatively new program which awards high school diplomas to war veterans.

The four who couldn't

attend the ceremony were Albert Bacon, Robert Case, Clifford Clossen and Floyd Johnson.

10 YEARS Ago - 2016

• June 9, 2016 - Andrew Israelson was the Section 6AA champion for boys golf, Olivia Klefsaas place second for the girls and Hailey Koenig also advanced to girls state with a seventh place finish at Blackberry Golf Course in Sartell on June 6 and 7. All three will compete in the state meet at Sand Creek in Jordan, June 14-15.



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Staples World
DEADLINES
Newspaper deadline for copy and advertising: 12 noon Fridays

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Staples World
The Staples World office, moved to 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.

Across from the old Staples Theatre marquee



A local insect that is as stunning as its life is brief

Like so many youngsters, I went through an insect collecting phase. Equipped with an inexpensive net, a glass jar with holes punched through its lid with a nail and a hammer, and some fine gauge mounting pins from the local hobby shop, I was in business. Considering the poisonous nature of the chemical recommended for euthanizing your captures—carbon tetrachloride—I opted for an alternative that I hoped might do the job: common rubbing alcohol.

It seemed to work. After being exposed to it for some time in the container that we in the hobby unapologetically called a “kill jar,” the June bugs, beetles, and grasshoppers were immobilized, and looked dead as could be. Next step was to impale the specimens on mounting pins, and place an identifying label next to them in a display box. Some are fancy and designed for the purpose, or—like mine—as simple as a corrugated cardboard box.

What I soon discovered, in an Edgar Allen Poe sort of way, was that alcohol might be an intoxicant, but it was not an effective killer of insects. Not long after they were mounted, the dozen or so six-legged creatures had revived, and were slowly paddling the air with their six extremities, as if those efforts might somehow free them!

What I learned soon after this creepy first attempt, was that a chemical as ordinary and available as your mother’s nail polish remover will do the necessary job very well!

The memory of that flawed first attempt at insect collecting came back to me one early morning this past weekend, when I opened the garage door and found there on the driveway

a cecropia moth, its wings spread flat to the concrete, almost imperceptibly trembling. A cecropia (“se-crow-P-uh”) moth is one of the prized specimens of the insect collecting world. Its wingspread can equal the length of an adult’s hand, as much as seven inches. As such, it’s the largest native moth in North America.

The one I measured had a wingspread of just over five inches. Still, that is immense for any moth or butterfly, both of which are insects of the order lepidoptera, which means “scaly winged,” for the microscopic scales with which the surface of their wings and body is covered. The cecropia’s abdomen is as fat as a finger, while the bodies of most butterflies and moths can be measured in a few millimeters.

But the cecropia moth’s great size is overshadowed by its striking coloration, which is difficult to do justice to in words. Tones of crimson, black, white, and gray, are arranged in crescent, comma, ellipse, and bunting shapes on its four wings. Its red head and thorax are separated by a white “collar,” its abdomen typically striped red, black, and white.

It may seem ironic that a creature as stunning as an adult cecropia is among the moths with the shortest life spans. Some adult moths that feed on the nectar of flowers may live for three to eight weeks. But the adult cecropia emerges from its cocoon lacking either mouth parts or a functioning digestive system. As such, it lives on the fat reserves accumulated in the caterpillar stage, for a mere one to two weeks. The cecropia moth’s role as an adult is only to find a mate, after which the female will lay eggs on leaf or stem of hardwood trees or shrubs.

Within two weeks these eggs will hatch, and the tiny caterpillars begin feeding on the host’s leaves. As they grow they will molt five or six times, eventually reaching four to five inches in length. In late summer or fall the cecropia caterpillar will spin a cocoon—it’s among the group known as

“silk moths”—and therein will spend the winter. An adult cecropia will emerge from that cocoon in spring, and the process will repeat itself.

But this scenario will play out only if a predator of one kind or another does not interrupt the cycle. Only a small minority of caterpillars will actually survive to spin a cocoon. Birds are perhaps its primary predator, but the list includes small mammals—like squirrels—as well as other insects, especially when the caterpillars are in their smaller stages.

I clicked a photo of the cecropia on my driveway and sent it to both of my children, for them in turn to share with my grandchildren. It then occurred to me that I could preserve this one to show them the next time they visit. After all, moths, butterflies, and many other insects can be preserved for many years. I found a small zip-lock plastic bag, and carefully scooped the moth—still feebly vibrating—into it. The cecropia clearly was on borrowed time. This would merely hasten the inevitable, and there would be a specimen for my grandchildren to marvel at.

I set the little bag on my garage workbench, and as I watched, the moth made one strong push against the enclosing plastic envelope, and closed its wings. Sometimes instinct has a way of nudging logic aside. I took the plastic envelope back up to where I had found the moth, opened it, and slid the moth out onto the concrete, where it immediately reopened its wings.

As I walked away to begin one of the day’s chores, I guessed that it would not be long before a passing bird, or a scampering chipmunk or squirrel, would find it there so conspicuously laid out on the driveway, and make a meal of it. In a half hour, perhaps less, I was back where I had left it. Not at all a surprise, the cecropia was gone; as I saw it, to serve a purpose probably as important as becoming a specimen.

Minnesota physicians urge sun protection

Minnesota Medical Association

Now that summer weather has arrived, Minnesota physicians are urging their fellow Minnesotans to take the summer sun seriously and take precautions to prevent skin cancer.

“Skin cancer is one of the most common forms of cancer in the United States,” said MMA President Lisa Mattson, MD. “Ultraviolet (UV) radiation is a proven human carcinogen, and we must all take the steps necessary to limit our exposure and decrease the risk of skin cancer.”

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) report that each year, about 6.1 million adults are treated for basal cell

and squamous cell carcinomas, the two most common types of skin cancer, at a cost of about \$8.9 billion. According to CDC data in 2021, 90,365 people were diagnosed with melanoma and 8,224 died from that form of cancer.

The CDC recommends taking the following steps to prevent skin cancer:

- Stay out of the sun as much as possible between 10 a.m. and 4 p.m.
- Wear clothing that covers arms and legs
- Wear a hat with a wide brim to shade face, head, ears and neck
- Wear sunglasses that wrap around and block both UVA and UVB rays
- Use sunscreen with SPF 15 or higher
- Avoid indoor tanning machines

Quote of the week

“Just ’cause you can’t beat ’em, don’t mean you should join ’em.” — Kasey Musgraves

Results from 2026 legislative sessions

By Mike Wiener, State Representative

The 2026 legislative session came to a close Sunday night and House Republicans are proud to have secured major wins for Minnesota taxpayers by delivering meaningful tax relief, protecting constitutional rights, and stopping harmful proposals that would have increased costs on families across our state.

From day one of session my focus was on lowering costs, fighting fraud, protecting taxpayers, and defending the rights of Minnesotans. Despite continued pushes from House Democrats for more spending, higher taxes, and additional gun control measures, we stood firm and delivered results.

Tax Relief

At a time when inflation and rising costs continue to strain family budgets, House Republicans fought hard to make Minnesota more affordable. We were able to pass a tax bill that includes nearly \$400 million in tax relief for Minnesotans, including:

- \$125 million in property tax cuts
- \$250 million in car tab fee reductions
- Ended the ballpark tax

These measures will help hardworking Minnesotans keep more of their own money instead of sending more to government. We also stopped some extreme tax proposals we saw from House Democrats including

- A proposal to quintuple your already-unaffordable car tab fees.
- The creation of a fifth income tax bracket, which would drive away more high earners by installing the fourth-highest income tax in the nation.
- A one percent wealth tax on all assets exceeding \$10 million. Includes businesses, investments, homes, land, vehicles, art, etc. In effect, would allow the state to gradually seize farmland from working families. Would also lead to mass legal disputes over the proper valuation of unsold property and plummeting long-term business investment.

We also secured important wins for Minnesota businesses and job creators by extending the Pass Through Entity tax provision, supporting “One Big Beautiful Bill”

Native grasses stop buckthorn

University of Minnesota Extension

Throughout Minnesota’s forests, the invasive shrub common buckthorn poses serious threats to forest health and ecosystem function. This fast-spreading invader crowds out native plants and can quickly take over woodland spaces, making it a top target for land managers and restoration crews across the state.

Cutting down buckthorn often fails to provide a permanent solution. When given sufficient sunlight and space, it can rapidly recover and re-establish itself in the same location within just a few years.

However, researchers at the University of Minnesota have found a clever way to tip the odds against this woody invader. Their findings were recently published in Restoration Ecology.

Funding for this research was provided by the University of Minnesota’s Minnesota Invasive Terrestrial

Plants and Pests Center, supported by the Minnesota Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund as recommended by the Legislative-Citizen Commission on Minnesota Resources.

Past studies show that scattering seeds of native grasses and wildflowers right after buckthorn is removed can help keep buckthorn from coming back. The native plants compete for sunlight and nutrients alongside buckthorn seedlings, making it harder for young buckthorn to gain a foothold. This management strategy, called revegetation seeding, has shown promising results in small experimental plots.

To see whether revegetation could help forests across the state, University of Minnesota researchers teamed up with science volunteers to try the technique in woodlands throughout Minnesota.

The study found: Buckthorn seedlings were about 45% smaller in places where volunteers seeded native grasses and wildflowers compared to buckthorn seedlings in plots that weren’t seeded.

Revegetation seeding provided a significant increase in native vegetative cover compared to plots that weren’t seeded.

Cover by grasses and sedges, rather than forbs, contributed most to buckthorn suppression within revegetation seeded plots, suggesting that grasses like Canada Wildrye are well-suited to suppress buckthorn throughout much of the state.

Buckthorn removal and revegetation of native species can be successfully carried out by stakeholders throughout the state without specialized training to equipment.

“This study helps us to better understand the role that everyday people can play in on-the-ground forest restoration regardless of skill level or formal ecological knowledge,” said Mark Fuka, co-author of the study and a plant community ecologist in the in the Univer-

sity of Minnesota College of Food, Agricultural and Natural Resource Sciences.

“We’ve shown how native plants like Canada Wildrye can help suppress buckthorn in our earlier works, but this study takes a big leap forward,” said Mike Schuster, co-author of the study and a researcher in the University of Minnesota College of Food, Agricultural and Natural Resource Sciences. “Not only did we find that seeding native grasses and wildflowers helped keep buckthorn out of Minnesota woodlands, we found that that was true across a huge diversity of site conditions and more than 100 different practitioners. This is a winning strategy that almost anyone can use.”

According to the study’s authors, the results suggest that revegetation seeding can work at a large scale to help keep buckthorn in check. For land managers hoping to try the approach, the most effective seed mixes appear to be those rich in native grasses and sedges, which quickly fill in the space and compete with young buckthorn seedlings.

As for next steps, the research team is now looking ahead to what these restored forests might become over time. Important questions remain regarding the many other impacts revegetation might have on forests, ranging from improving habitat for pollinators to helping woodlands recover from fungal pathogens. The researchers are optimistic that this approach will provide many diverse benefits to the forests of Minnesota and beyond.

“Although we often focus on the largest buckthorn during removal efforts, it’s generally the little buckthorn that trip up restoration efforts,” said Schuster. “Without further intervention, those little plants grow up fast and easily replace their felled relatives; this work shows that we can reliably shut those little plants out by reseeding native species in many of Minnesota’s broadleaf forests.”

StaplesWorld

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MINNESOTA NEWSPAPER ASSOCIATION

1897

FREE PRESS

FREE PEOPLE

MINNESOTA NEWSPAPER ASSOCIATION

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Fairness: The Staples World tries conscientiously to report fairly and accurately. If you feel we fall short of this objective at any time, please direct your complaint to the manager whose name appears on this page.

Note to Advertisers: Advertisers should check their ad following first publication. This newspaper shall not be liable for failure to publish an ad or for the typographic error or errors in publication except to the extent of the cost of the ad for the first day's insertion. Adjustment for errors is limited to the cost of that portion of the ad wherein the error occurred. The publisher reserves the right to cancel any advertisement at any time.

Letters: Readers are encouraged to express their views by writing letters to the editor. Letters are verified for authenticity, so please include a name, address and phone number. Only the author's name and city will be published. Letters may be edited for spelling and grammar errors, libel, length and other factors. Private thanks, solicitations and libelous letters will not be published. Letters are printed on a space available basis. The editor reserves the right to reject letters.
The deadline is 12 noon, Friday. Opinions expressed on this page do not necessarily represent the views of this newspaper.
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Todd Cty. court report

JUNE 3, 2026
Long Prairie Police
Daniel Almanzar Arias, Long Prairie. Driving without a valid license for vehicle class or type. Fine \$100. Fee \$85.
Hageo Jimenez Gomez, Long Prairie. Driving without a valid license for vehicle class or type. Fine \$100. Fee \$85.
Stephanie Ann Kern, Staples. Wireless communication. Fine \$50. Fee \$85.
Kendri Reyita Reyes Lemos, Browerville. Expired Registration. Fine \$30. Fee \$85.
Jennifer Rae Swenson Hove, Staples. Wireless Communication. Fine \$50. Fee \$85.
MN Dept. Natural Resources
Douglas John Schoenberg, Maple Grove. ATV-prohibitions on Youthful operators/passengers-under 18-helmet required. Fine \$50. Fee \$85.
MN State Patrol
Michaela Ann Johnson, Stacy. Speed 65/55. Fine \$40. Fee \$85.
Eli Michael Anderson, Alexandria. Speed 82/70. Fine \$50. Fee \$85.
Natacha Maria Arias De Leon, Sauk Centre. No MN Drivers license. Fine \$100. Fee \$85.
Paula Kathryn Bergstrand, Alexandria. Speed 80/70. Fine \$40. Fee \$85.
Chad Kenneth Boser, Fort Ripley. Speed 65/60. Fine \$40. Fee \$85
Savannah Ivy Carter-Dixon, Des Moines, IA. Speed 89/70. Fine \$60. Fee \$85.
Keith Gerald Edmond, Nelson. Window tint. Fine \$50. Fee \$85.
Deneen Arlene Gregerson, Browerville. Seat belt required. Fine \$25. Fee \$85.
Shiv Bagchi Khare, Madison, NJ. Speed 79/70. Fine \$40 Fee \$75.
Ruben Jr. Mendoza, Long Prairie. Speed 70/60. Fine \$40. Fee \$85.
David L. Reidelberger, Carlyle, IL. Speed 70/60. Fine \$40. Fee \$85.
Rachel Lee Spychalla, Alexandria. Speed 80/70. Fine \$40. Fee \$85.
Linda Kay Tanner, Alexandria. Seat belt required. Fine \$25. Fee \$85.
Nicholas Richard Splash Johnson, Staples. Uninsured vehicle-driver violation. Fine \$200. Fee \$85. Driving after revocation. Fine \$200
Wyatt Gean McClain, Staples. Driving after revocation. Fine \$200. Fee \$85.

Todd County
Lisa Marie Berglund, Alexandria. Expired registration. Fine \$30. Fee \$85.
Calliegh Noel Duffney, Brainerd. Driving without a valid license for vehicle class or type. Fine \$100. Fee \$85.
Marcderoson Eliacin, Browerville. Driving after suspension. Fine \$200. Fee \$85.
Justin Lee Mitchell, Onamia. Li- quor-purchase by person under 21. Fine \$215. Fee \$85.
Hailey Ann Posch, Royalton. Li- quor-consumption by person under 21. Fine \$100. Fee \$85.
Alexis Lynn Taft, Grey Eagle. Driving without a valid license for vehicle class or type. Fine \$100 Fee \$85. Careless driving. Fine \$100.
The following cases were heard before Heidi L. Hovis, Seventh District Court in Todd County May 26, 2026.
Stacy Norene Blaske, Long Prairie. DWI-operate motor vehicle-alcohol concentration 0.08 within 2 hours. Local confinement (90 days, stay 0 yr 0 mo 89 days for 2 yr credit for time served: 1 day). Supervised probation, 2 yr. Fine \$200. Fee \$300. DWI-operate motor vehicle under influence of alcohol. Dis- missed.
Tyler Erik Giese, Donnelly. School bus-fail to stop-pass bus. Community work service, 16 hours for indeterminate. Supervised proba- tion. Fine \$300.
Kristin Zoe Knutson Mechels, Long Prairie. DWI. Local confine- ment (1 day credit for time served: 1 day). Fine \$50. Fee \$85.

The following cases were heard before Kris Davick-Halfen, Seventh District Court in Todd County May 21, 2026.
Monty Austin Thornberg, Eagle Bend. Dangerous discharge-reck- less discharge of firearm within a municipality. Local confinement (0 yr 0 mo 4 days, stay 0 yr 0 mo 0 days credit for time served: 4 days). Su- pervised probation, 5 yr. Fine \$300. Damage to property-1st degree. Dismissed. Theft-Dismissed. Carry/ possess pistol w/out permit-public place. Dismissed.

DEADLINE
for all classified ads and copy is 12 noon Friday

For the Staples World



Old photos found

These photos were recently found in Staples. The school photo is the front of a postcard, with no date. The below photo appears to be a ladies aid group, church group, or? One person identified is Frances Goff, kneel-

ing by the table on the far right. Any information on the photos, call 218-894-1112, mornings. (Submitted pho- tos)



Menu

Senior Nutrition Program, Staples
Call mornings (218-979-4118) the Thursday before to reserve next week's meal(s) and current suggested donation info. LSS Meals - traditional older adult menu (subject to change).
LOCATED AT: Staples Hi-Rise, 615 4th St. NE, Staples. Seniors welcome to dine-in at 11:00 a.m., with meal reservations.

• Staples Site: 218-979-4118.
• Motley Site: 218-824-3820.
June 15 - June 19
MONDAY - Tuna noodle casserole, green beans, hot spiced peaches, dinner roll, vanilla pudding/topping, marg., 1% milk.
TUESDAY - Cheese ravioli, marinara sauce, country veggie blend, fruit crumble, dinner roll, marg., 1% milk.
WEDNESDAY - Salisbury steak, mashed potatoes, brown gravy, green beans, dinner roll, vanilla wafers, marg., 1% milk.
THURSDAY - Tater tot hot-dish, whole kernel corn, apple crisp, wheat bread, marg., 1% milk.
FRIDAY - Holiday (CLOSED)
wk25

Mark Your Calendar

June 11
'WALK WITH A Doc' Thurs- days at 5:15 p.m., at Lake- wood Health System's main campus in Staples. Meet at the main entrance. For more information about this free program, visit <https://walkwithadoc.org/join-a-walk/locations/staples-minnesota>

HISTORIC STAPLES
ELECTION JUDGES NEEDED
The City of Staples seeks Election Judges for the upcoming Primary (Aug. 11, 2026) and General Election (Nov. 3, 2026). Help ensure fair, accurate elections and protect every eligible voter's right to participate.
Pay is \$15.00 per hour. Judges receive training and are entitled to take time off work to serve without a reduction in pay. Applicants must be eligible to vote in Minnesota and be able to read, write and speak English. The time commitment is 2 hours training and 2 half day shifts at the Primary (Aug. 11) and General Election (Nov. 3).
To apply, contact Tara Greer, City Clerk 218-541-5004 or tgreer@ci.staples.mn.us.

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FISCHBACH DELIVERS FOR RURAL MINNESOTA



When Congresswoman Michelle Fischbach came to Congress, she was told year-round E-15 would never pass the House, but the tough Midwesterner refused to back down. Determined to reduce America's reliance on foreign oil and prioritize American-made energy, Fischbach built a coalition of lawmakers and helped lead the House to approve the year-round sale of this ethanol product after multiple rounds of negotiations and votes.

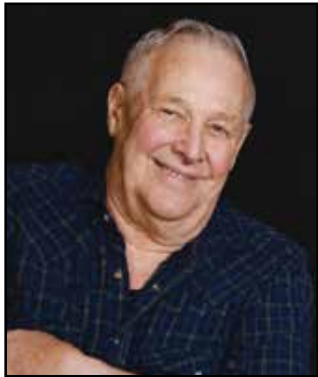
Fischbach also helped break eight years of gridlock by leading efforts to pass a five-year Farm Bill through the House. It includes legislation she authored to increase investments in rural hospitals, child care centers, and senior care facilities.

In addition to the Farm Bill, Fischbach used her position on the Majority Ways and Means Committee to secure new tax cuts for farmers and permanently expand the Death Tax Exemption. From E-15 to the Farm Bill and tax reform, Fischbach is focused on policies that keep rural Minnesota strong, competitive, and growing.

oo
Hello World
oo

ONLINE BIRTHS REMOVED
AT THE REQUEST OF LAKEWOOD
HEALTH SYSTEM.

Lloyd Flansburg



Lloyd Edward Flansburg, 89, of Motley, died May 20, 2026, at Lakewood Health System in Staples.

A memorial service will be held at 11:00 a.m. on July 25, 2026, at Motley Free Methodist Church, with Pastor Jim Johnson officiating.

Lloyd was born April 19, 1937, to Dale and Inga (Hanson) Flansburg in Nimrod. He attended the 55 South country school near Oylen, Minnesota and later attended Sebekka High School.

In February 1958, Lloyd enlisted in the United States Army and traveled to Fort Carson, Colorado, for basic training. He later spent time at Fort Benning, Georgia and Fort Gordon, Georgia, where he attended Military Police training. He was also stationed at Fort Jackson, South Carolina and Fort Sheridan, Illinois, where he worked as a mechanic.

Lloyd's military service was cut short over Labor Day weekend in 1959, when

he was involved in a head-on collision between a truck and car while returning from leave to Fort Sheridan. As a result of the accident, he was discharged from the Army.

Lloyd married Carol Draves on May 20, 1961, in Wadena. He worked for Sorenson's Plumbing & Heating in Staples until the mid-1960s. He later married Jacqueline "Jackie" LaValle on November 5, 1966, in Sisseton, South Dakota.

In January 1968, Lloyd enrolled in the Staples Area Technical and Vocational School to become a machinist. After completing his schooling, he worked for the Twin City Army Ammunition Plant in New Brighton

then began work with Food Machine Company, known as FMC.

Lloyd and Jackie returned to Motley in February 1971 and Lloyd continued working for FMC. In 1973, Lloyd and his brother, Richard, started their own business as mechanics. They worked together and managed the Southside Garage in Motley. In 1977, they built their own shop south of Motley, where they continued their automotive repair and wrecker service.

Also in 1977, Lloyd began working as a police officer for the City of Motley and was given badge number 402-800. He worked with Police Chief Larry Converse until resigning in April 1988.

In 1989, Lloyd began working as the maintenance man at Woodland Containers in Staples. During his time there, he invented a de-duster for the company, which was later patented. Lloyd retired from Woodland Containers in 1998.

In retirement, Lloyd enjoyed woodworking and often used his skills to make gifts for his grandchildren. He enjoyed hunting, fishing, playing cards and sharing a good story. In his younger years, he was an avid pool player and played in many leagues and tournaments.

Above all, Lloyd loved his family. He was a devoted husband, father, grandfather and great-grandfather whose children and grandchildren brought him great joy. Almost every family photo shows Lloyd holding one of his grandchildren or great-grandchildren; when they came to visit, he was rarely without one of them in his arms. His love was steady, quiet and deeply felt

and his family will always remember the warmth and comfort of being close to him.

Lloyd is survived by his wife, Jackie Flansburg of Motley; three sons, Mark (Sabine) Flansburg of Balatonújlak, Hungary, Darin (Lisa) Flansburg of Motley and Gordon "Dean" (Holly) Flansburg of Bemidji; one daughter-in-law, Anita Flansburg of Pine City; 13 grandchildren, Savanna (Jeremy) Albedyll of St. Cloud, Christopher Flansburg of New Hope, Michael (Sandra) Flansburg of Hinckley, Tyler Flansburg, Alex Flansburg of Pine City, Tom (Jenny) Flansburg of Willsbach, Germany, Nick (Nathalie) Flansburg of Heinsheim, Germany, Alaura Hagele of St. Cloud, Anja (Riley) Nelsen of Brainerd, Elizabeth Flansburg of Brainerd, Kjerstin Flansburg of Bemidji, Alyssa (Beck) Hinkley of Bemidji and Bethany Flansburg of Bemidji; 11 great-grandchildren, Stephen Spencer of Brainerd, Kailynne and Zoe Albedyll of St. Cloud, Fern Flansburg, Ruby Flansburg and Aroura Carlson of Hinckley, Ben Flansburg of Willsbach, Germany, Luka and Lia Flansburg of Heinsheim, Germany and Bjorn and Trygve Nelsen of Brainerd; two brothers, Robert Flansburg of Arizona and Richard Flansburg of Oylen and many nieces and nephews.

He was preceded in death by his parents; one son, Michael Flansburg; one brother, Victor Flansburg; one sister, Vivian Dickman and one great-grandson, Leif Nelsen.

Lloyd will be deeply missed by all who knew and loved him.

w25p A00006B2026JU10

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..... 218-631-1593
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 Jeresek
218-894-0033
Saturday Worship 9:30 am.
Sabbath School..... 10:45 a.m.

Thomastown Covenant
15940 251st Ave., Staples..... 218-894-3923
Sunday School..... 9:15 a.m.
Sunday Worship..... 10:30 a.m.
WEDNESDAY NIGHT YOUTH..... 6:30 p.m.

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

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

Aldrich

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

Cushing

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

Lincoln Evangelical Free
1354 320th Street, Cushing, MN 56443
Phone: 218- 575-2449
www.lincolnefree.org
Facebook Lincoln E Free
Office Hours: Tues. - Thurs., 9 a.m. - 12 p.m.
Senior Pastor: Don Reigstad
SUNDAY
Church Worship Gathering..... 10:00 a.m.
YouTube Channel 10:00 a.m.

Cushing Baptist
26298 Bear Rd., Cushing
Pastor 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..... 218-631-1593
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
City. Rds. 7 and 9, Oylen
218-472-3440 or 218-472-3316
Pastor Neal Malcore
Sunday School..... 10:00 a.m.
Sunday Worship..... 11:00 a.m.

Pillager

First Lutheran Church
Pastor 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
office@verndaleflc.org
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..... 218-631-1593
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..... 218-631-1593
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.

"Elaborately Designed"

-God's Word For Today

The honeycomb is an elaborate series of hexagonal cells made from a natural wax secreted by female worker bees. These worker bees must digest more than eight pounds of honey to create one pound of wax. A conservative estimate states that bees must fly 150,000 miles to process one pound of beeswax.

"They are more desirable than gold, even the finest gold. They are sweeter than honey, even honey dripping from the comb." (Psalm 19:10).

A miraculous amount of time and energy goes into the making of honey and the honeycomb. When God's Word is compared to honey, honey falls short. When we stop to grasp the richness and complexity of God's Word, it should leave us wanting more. Studying Scripture can be much more satisfying when we take the time to truly study and digest what it says. When we are saturated in God's Word, it not only nourishes our spirits, but it also fuels our efforts as we minister to a lost world.

Prayer suggestion: God help me to carve out more time to study Your Word.

Submitted by Pastor Roy Miles, Staples Assembly Of God

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Victor Flansburg

Friends and family are warmly welcome to attend the memorial service and burial with honors of Victor (Vic) Flansburg.

The service will be held June 27, 2026 with visitation starting at 9:30 a.m. and service at 10:30 a.m. The service will be officiated by Pastor Jim Johnson at the Motley Free Methodist Church.

A luncheon will follow the service.

Burial immediately after lunch at Wing River Union Cemetery, Verndale.

Vic went into the open arms of his Lord and Savior on November 3, 2025. Vic sailed on peacefully in his sleep at the Veterans home in Fergus Falls, the place he called home since April, 2022. Vic enjoyed the camaraderie there with his fellow Veterans, playing bingo, going on outings and keeping staff on "his schedule."

Vic lived an adventurous life leaving this earth at 97 years old. At age 15-1/2, he left home, worked his way across the North Dakota wheat fields making his way to Everett, WA. While there he worked for Boeing Aircraft, then joined the Merchant Marines and later the U.S. Navy. Vic served with honor, participating in the Pacific Theater during WWII and the Korean War. He traveled the world, kept the boiler room running and earned the nickname "Honest Abe" from his shipmates. Vic was truly a man who loved his country and was willing to lay down his life for it. Vic's benevolence was evident in the many organizations he belonged to locally and nationally.

While home on leave he married Delores Jane Mohler on May 18, 1948 in Wadena. It was a small ceremony and he returned to



duty after their honeymoon to complete his service. Vic and Delores raised their family mostly in Stillwater, then San Diego, CA. Later in retirement Vic returned home to Motley. While in Minnesota, he enjoyed hunting, fishing, tinkering and building things.

Vic is survived by two daughters, Linda Winters and Jill Flansburg; one son, Gary Flansburg; six grandchildren, Keli (Andrew) Romine, Kurtis Flansburg, Cameron (Rachael) Winters, Gavin Mencil, Brock Mencil and Chase Mencil; six great-grandchildren, Hunter, Jayce, Rylan, Adelyn, Bethany and Cody; three brothers, Robert (Bob) Flansburg, Lloyd Flansburg (Jackie) and Richard (Pat) Flansburg, many nieces, nephews and great-nieces, and great-nephews.

He was preceded in death by his parents; one sister, Vivian (Sis) Dickman and his wife of 43 years, Delores Flansburg.

Vic was a Son, Brother, Husband, Uncle, Dad, Grandfather and Great-Grandfather. He is gone from our sight but never forgotten in our hearts.

Additional arrangements provided by Brenny Family Funeral Chapel of Baxter.

w25p A00006B2026JU10

William Goff

William Edward Goff, "Bill," 92, of Staples passed away May 1, 2026.

Mass of Christian Burial will be held at 11 a.m., Friday, June 19, at Sacred Heart Catholic Church in Staples. Visitation will be held one hour prior to services at the church.

Interment will be at Evergreen Hill Cemetery, Staples.

w25x A00006B2026JU10



Beachy fifth in state pole vault

Turner Beachy cleared 13'6" in the pole vault at the state track and field meet to place fifth. Dealing with injuries this season, Beachy was frustrated that he wasn't able to get to the level he was last year when he cleared 15 feet and won

the state title. Above, Beachy clears the 13'6" bar. Below, he races to the vault pit as his father Arden Beachy films his approach. (Staples World photots by Mark Anderson)



Big effort at state

Adrian Gomez placed 15th out of 20 competitors in the shot put at the state track and field meet on June 4. Gomez tossed his farthest outdoor throw of the season but only by an inch and a quarter. He threw 47'3.5" on his first throw and was one inch short of that on his second.

His third throw nearly hit the 50 foot line but he was off balance and stepped over the line so it did not count. He ends his career with a personal best of 48'5.75", which puts him fourth on the Cardinal all-time list.



High hurdles at state

Noah Larson finished 17th in the 110 meter high hurdles at the state track and field meet on June 4. In his prelims race, Larson was even with most of the field heading into the third hurdle, but started to tie up and fell to the back of

the pack for the next few hurdles. He got his legs back for the last few hurdles but was out of contention and was unable to advance to the finals, where he finished ninth last year.



Raising the bar at state track and field

Conner Kuhns placed 18th out of 27 competitors in the pole vault at the state track and field meet on June 4. He cleared 12'6". The large number of competitors was due to many vaulters clearing

the state qualifying standard during section meets. Kuhns cleared three heights before missing three tries at 13 feet, an inch below his personal best.

Cardinals come close to top section golfers

The Staples-Motley boys and girls golf teams competed strongly in a very competitive Section 6AA tournament, held June 1-2 at Blackberry Ridge in Sartell.

In this two day tournaments, teams have to finish in the top four to advance to day two, with the top individuals also advancing.

In the boys meet, the Cardinals were just seven shots away from fourth place and 18 shots out of first place in a very tight match among the top seven teams.

In the girls meet, Staples-Motley was just four strokes from the top five and 13 away from advancing to day two as a team.

Both teams had two golfers advance as individuals, Thomas Johnson and Jackson White for the boys and Katelyn Schotzko and Mara Uselman for the girls.

Boys tournament

Johnson and White were tied for sixth place after day one and finished in the top ten on day two. Johnson was one shot away from making a playoff to go to state and White was three strokes away from the play-off.

On the first day, Johnson started three over par after two holes then birdied three of the next four holes, two of them on finish 1 over at the turn. His second nine was steady with five pars and four bogeys. On day two, Johnson scored two birdies in his first nine holes and finished one under par for that front nine, putting him in position to be in the top five. His back nine had four pars but one double bogey hurt his chances to advance.

On day one, White had eight pars in his front nine,

with four bogeys on the back nine. On day two, he shot five pars on the front nine and closed his round with straight pars.

The other Cardinals golfed well at times but also had some trouble holes.

Evan Schultz was dialed in on the par threes on the front nine, with birdies on both. that left him at 39 at the turn. On the back nine he had two trouble holes that bumped his score up a little but he still finished as the third team scorer.

Kaleb Harman was very steady except for two holes on the front nine and one on the back. He ended with 46 and 41 for 87 total.

Oskar Doll started out with a bad hole, then spent the rest of the front nine making up for it, finishing with a 42. The back nine was similar, although he didn't come bask as strong and had a 48.

Girls tournament

Schotzko and Uselman both shot 95 to make the cut and advance to the second day of play. On the second day, they both moved up and were a few strokes away from getting to state.

With four pars on the front nine and three more on the back on day one, Uselman was in the top 20 but dropped down a few strokes on her last two holes of the day.

Schotzko was steady for most of the round with three pars in 18 holes.

Sarah Kroll came within two strokes of advancing. She had a birdie and two pars on her back nine but she struggled on her last three holes.

Meredith Hoemberg shot four pars to become the team's fourth scorer.

In the second round, both Schotzko and Uselman moved up on the leaderbord, with Schotzko parring nine of her 18 holes to finish with an 87, the ninth best round that day that put her at 15th overall.

Uselman improved on the back nine with four pars, but slipped a little on the front nine to finish with a 93, placing 17th overall.

Boys results

Section 6AA tournament

Team scores after day 1:
St. Cloud Cathedral 308, Albany 314, Rocori 315, Pequot Lakes 319, Little Falls 321, Pillager 325, Staples-Motley 326, Pierz 337, Foley 341, Milaca 343, Sauk Centre 345, Melrose 352, Royalton 353, Osakis 354, Long Prairie-Grey Eagle/Browerville 370, Wadena-Deer Creek 409

6. Jackson White 77, 6. Thomas Johnson 77, 36. Evan Schultz 85, 46. Kaleb Harman 87, 61. Oskar Doll 90, 71. Ashton Anderson 92
Day two: 9. Johnson 77, 10. White 79

Girls results

Section 6AA tournament

Team scores after day 1:
Albany 333, Pequot Lakes 355, Melrose 374, Pierz 377, St. Cloud Cathedral 386, Milaca 387, Staples-Motley 390, Foley 410, Pillager 424, Sauk Centre 448, Osakis 504, Little Falls inc., Wadena-Deer Creek inc., Royalton inc.

23. Katelyn Schotzko 95, 23. Mara Uselman 95, 26. Sarah Kroll 97, 37. Meredith Hoemberg 103, 47. Brooklyn Winter 108, 48. Molly Hoemberg 109

Day two: 15. Schotzko 87, 17. Uselman 93

S-M boys track and field all-time lists

Pole Vault

Turner Beachy	15'0"	'25
Arden Beachy	14'9"	'89
Max Giza	14'6"	'18
Beau Pilgrim	14'6"	'06
Ryan Beachy	14'6"	'91
Tony Spandl	14'5"	'77

Matt Heier

Dennis Bacon	13'6"	'79
Chris Longbella	13'5"	'77
Jeff Marden	13'3"	'82
Conner Kuhns	13'1"	'26
Brandon Sterriker	12'6"	'11
Bryan Reese	12'6"	'05

110M Hurdles

Tony Spandl	14.02	'79
Arden Beachy	14.72	'89
David Howard	14.78	'84
Max Giza	14.83	'18
Adam Barnett	14.89	'01
Steve Grove	15.12	'83
Loren Goligowski	15.20	'78
Erik Kelly	15.40	'96
Doug Heldman	15.40	'76
Matt Heier	15.44	'99
Noah Larson	15.57	'25

Shot Put

Jose Alba	53'6"	'08
Allen Haugen	49'8.5"	'57
LeRoy Peterson	49'8.5"	'80
Adrian Gomez	48'5.75"	'26
Kelly Nash	47'11"	'88
Jerel Nelson	47'9.25	'83
George Hankey	47'5	'70
Mike Thelen	46'3"	'74
Ryan Beachy	46'0"	'91
Jake Wagner	45'9.5"	'05
Brian Johannes	44'10.5"	'96



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: January 6, 2006
ORIGINAL PRINCIPAL AMOUNT OF MORTGAGE: \$195,000.00
MORTGAGOR(S): Kevin J. Bednar, and Penny K. Bednar, husband and wife
MORTGAGEE: Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc., as nominee for MILA, Inc.

DATE AND PLACE OF FILING: Recorded on August 9, 2006 as Document Number 443619 in the Office of the County Recorder of Todd County, Minnesota.

ASSIGNMENTS OF MORTGAGE: Assigned to: U.S. Bank National Association, as Trustee for the Specialty Underwriting and Residential Finance Trust Mortgage Loan Asset-Backed Certificates Series 2006-BC2 by assignment recorded on January 6, 2010 as Document Number 466298 in the Office of the County Recorder of Todd County, Minnesota; thereafter assigned to Bank of America, N.A. by assignment recorded on September 5, 2023 as Document Number A537950 in the Office of the County Recorder of Todd County, Minnesota; thereafter assigned to Nationstar Mortgage, LLC by assignment recorded on November 12, 2013 as Document Number 487120 in the Office of the County Recorder of Todd County, Minnesota; thereafter assigned to U.S. Bank, National Association, as Trustee for the Holders of the Specialty Underwriting and Residential Finance Trust, Mortgage Loan Asset-Backed Certificates, Series 2006-BC2 by assignment recorded on October 29, 2014 as Document Number A491803 in the Office of the County Recorder of Todd County, Minnesota.

LEGAL DESCRIPTION OF PROPERTY: The North 436.14 feet of the South 1183.43 Feet of the West 547 feet thereof of the Southwest Quarter of the Southwest Quarter of Section 17, Township 133, Range 33 West of

the Fifth Principal Meridian, Todd County, Minnesota.
STREET ADDRESS OF PROPERTY: 48218 COUNTY 9, 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: \$288,207.71

TRANSACTION AGENT: Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc.

NAME OF MORTGAGE ORIGINATOR: MILA, Inc.

RESIDENTIAL SERVICE: Nationstar Mortgage LLC, n/k/a Rocket Mortgage, LLC successor by merger to Nationstar Mortgage LLC
TAX PARCEL IDENTIFICATION NUMBER: 22-0017500

TRANSACTION AGENT'S MORTGAGE IDENTIFICATION NUMBER: 1001752-0000289060-9

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: July 16, 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 January 19, 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: Kevin J. Bednar and Penny K. Bednar

Dated: May 11, 2026

U.S. BANK, NATIONAL ASSOCIATION, AS TRUSTEE FOR THE HOLDERS OF THE SPECIALTY UNDERWRITING AND RESIDENTIAL FINANCE TRUST, MORTGAGE LOAN ASSET-BACKED CERTIFICATES, SERIES 2006-BC2 Mortgagee

TROTT LAW, P.C.

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
(24-0766-FC08)

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.

NOTICE OF STATE PRIMARY ELECTION MAIL BALLOT PROCEDURES TO THE VOTERS OF SWANVILLE CITY IN TODD COUNTY, MINNESOTA

1. This notice is given to all residents of mail ballot precincts in the State of Minnesota.

2. On August 11, 2026, the State of Minnesota is holding a State Primary Election.

3. Eligible voters not pre-registered by July 21, 2026, or pre-registered voters wishing to receive their ballot at a temporary address may contact the Todd County Auditor-Treasurer's Office by phone, mail or in person for an absentee ballot application.

4. A voter who is not registered to vote in the district on the 21st day before the election may submit, by mail or in person, an application for absentee ballot to the County Auditor of Todd County and receive voter registration forms and an absentee ballot for the election.

5. The County Auditor of Todd County no earlier than forty-six (46) days and no later than fourteen (14) days before the date of the election will mail the ballots. The ballot will be addressed to the voter at the voter's residence as shown on the registration file unless the voter requests, in writing, an absentee ballot that will be mailed to the voter at a different address.

6. The voted official ballot may be returned by mail (a postage prepaid return envelope is included when the ballots are mailed), or may be delivered in person, or delivered by designated agent to: Todd County Auditor-Treasurer 215 1st Avenue S, Suite 201, Long Prairie, MN 56347. The voter and the voter's witness must complete the mail voter's certificate on the return envelope. The voter may bring his/her blank ballot and envelopes to the Auditor's Office to have a staff member serve as a witness if they do not have a witness.

7. In addition to the normal business hours, extended hours for absentee and mail ballot voting are: Saturday, August 8, 2026 from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.; Monday August 10, 2026, 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

8. The polling place for this election will be at the Todd County Auditor-Treasurer's Office 215 1st Ave S, Suite 201, Long Prairie, MN 56347. The polls will be open from 7:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. At least one assistive voting device will be available at the polling place;

allowing for persons with disabilities to vote privately and independently.

9. All mail ballots will be counted at the Todd County Main Street Government Center at 347 Central Avenue, Long Prairie, MN 56347 after 8:00 p.m. on August 11, 2026.

Additional information is available by contacting the Todd County Auditor-Treasurer's Office by phone 320-732-4414, by e-mail elections@co.todd.mn.us, or in person..

Dated this 2nd day of June, 2026

/s/ on file
Denise Gaida,
Todd County Auditor-Treasurer

NOTICE MORAN TOWNSHIP WEED SPRAYING

Weed spraying by Carr's Tree Service will be completed the week of June 15 in Moran Township.

Diane Mack, Clerk
Moran Township

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, June 25, 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 again being held in-person and the public is encouraged to attend. Those who do attend in person can find parking atop the hill on the west side of the Historic Courthouse and enter through the north doors, near the American Flag and monument.

Questions? Call or email 320-732-4420 or toddplan.zone@co.todd.mn.us

Agenda
•Call to Order
•Pledge of Allegiance
•Introduction of Board of Adjustment Members

and process review

- Approval of agenda
- Approval of April 30, 2026 Board of Adjustment's meeting minutes
- The applicant is introduced
- Staff report
- Applicant confirms if staff report accurately represents the request
- Site Visit Review
- Public comment
- Board review with applicant, staff, and public

1. James and Tracy Marsolek: Section 06, Turtle Creek Township, Turtle Lake

Site Address: 38613 Oxford Trail, Browerville, MN 56438

PID: 24-0052200

1. Request to reduce the lake setback from 150' to 113' for construction of manufactured home in Natural Environment Shoreland Zoning District.

2. Request to reduce the lake setback from 150' to 112' for construction of detached garage for vehicle & personal storage in Natural Environment Shoreland Zoning District.

2. David and Ladonna Hillmer: Section 20, Ward Township

Site Address: 35299 County 21, Browerville, MN 56438

PID: 26-0019200

1. Request to reduce the rear property line setback from 50' to 26' for potential boundary adjustment in AF-2 Zoning District.

3. Joan Matuke and Larry Hotvedt: Sections 18, Little Sauk Township

Site Address: TBD Echo Drive, Long Prairie, MN 56347

PID: 17-0016802

1. Request to create a new substandard lot in Recreational Development Shoreland Zoning District.

Adjournment. Next meeting: July 23rd, 2026 Adjournment.

Next meeting: July 23, 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
Russell VanDenheuvel, Chair

25pnc



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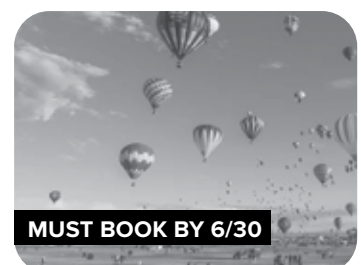
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Students earn college credits in school

In addition to the top students below, the May 22 Staples-Motley Cords and Awards Ceremony honored 16 students who achieved 12 or more college credits from Staples-Motley staff.



Distinctive Honors

Staples-Motley seniors received a gold cord at Cords and Awards for achieving a grade point average of 3.75 to 4.0, front row from left, Sadye Anderson, Brynn Bestland, Cecily Moe and Raina Mikhaeil; row two, Livia Trif, Summer Anderson, Abby Brichacek, Audrey

Brownell, Pamela Lawrence, Isabel Cole, Emmalee Dobson, Avery Japke and Annie Schlosser; back row, Colbe Tappe, Riley Reese, Eli Rutten, Geoffrey DeCamp, Skye Larson and Jameson Harvey. (Staples World photo by Mark Anderson)



Highest Honors

Staples-Motley seniors received a silver cord at Cords and Awards for achieving a grade point average of 3.5 to 3.74, from left, Alexis Opelia, Noah

Larson, Huntington Kleinschmidt, Isabelle Dobson, Owen Carlson, Elijah Greenwaldt and Alexander Harren. (Staples World photo by Mark Anderson)



Honors Students

Staples-Motley Honors Students were presented with a red cord at Cords and Awards for achieving a GPA of 3.25 to 3.49. From left, Conner Kuhns, Gabriel Kroll, Parker Hammer, Addison Fon-

teyn,, McKenzie Fletcher, Luke Bjerga, Ava Birkholtz, Mason Albertson and Torrence Rodriques. (Staples World photo by Mark Anderson)

Summer food service program offered at SMM/HS

Staples-Motley School District #2170 will be operating a summer foods program at Staples-Motley Middle/High School (401 Centennial Drive, Staples, MN 56479).

Service will run Monday through Friday until August 21, 2026. Exception days are June 19 and July 6-10, when there will be no meal service.

Breakfast runs from 8:00 to 9:00 a.m. and lunch is served from 10:30 a.m. to noon. Any youth ages 18 and under are eligible to receive one meal for breakfast and one meal for lunch per day. Meals must be consumed on-site.

Any questions related to the program can be sent to: foodservice@isd2170.org or call 218-894-5400.

In accordance with federal civil rights law and U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) civil rights regulations and policies, this institution is prohibited from discriminating on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex (including gender identity and sexual orientation), disability, age or reprisal or retaliation for prior civil rights activity.

Program information may be made available in languages other than English. Persons with disabilities who require alternative means of communication to obtain program information (e.g., Braille, large print, audiotape, American

Sign Language), should contact the responsible state or local agency that administers the program or USDA's TARGET Center at 202-720-2600 (voice and TTY) or contact USDA through the Federal Relay Service at 800-877-8339.

To file a program discrimination complaint, a Complainant should complete a Form AD-3027, USDA Program Discrimination Complaint Form which can be obtained online at: <https://www.usda.gov/sites/default/files/documents/ad-3027.pdf>, from any USDA office, by calling 866-632-9992, or by writing a letter addressed to USDA. The letter must contain the complainant's name, address, telephone number, and a written description of the alleged discriminatory action in sufficient detail to inform the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights (ASCR) about the nature and date of an alleged civil rights violation. The completed AD-3027 form or letter must be submitted to USDA by mail: U.S. Department of Agriculture, Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, D.C. 20250-9410; or fax 833-256-1665 or 202-690-7442; or email Program.Intake@usda.gov.

This institution is an equal opportunity provider.



New weight room at community center

The Staples Community Center is now equipped with brand new fitness equipment, including treadmills, stationary bicycles and elliptical machines, plus

many different weight resistance machines. (Staples World photo by Mark Anderson)

Motley June Fest is June 13

Morrison County Motley Fair runs June 11 - 14

The City of Motley's annual June Fest will be held Saturday, June 13, from dawn 'til dusk. It's being held in conjunction with the Morrison County Motley Fair, which runs June 11 - 14.

Music, food, entertainment, midway/carnival, competitions and a parade are just a few of the items on this year's agenda, which includes something for all ages. Events take place downtown, on the west side of Hwy 10, and at the Motley Fairgrounds.

June Fest

June Fest, sponsored by Motley Community Events Organization (MCEO) kicks off at 8 a.m. with registration (at Converse Park) for those wanting to participate in the running events. The four-mile run begins at 8:30 a.m. and the one-mile at 9:15 a.m.

The parade, which begins at the Motley Water

Tower at 11 a.m., will take place along 3rd Ave. South.

The all-day festival will conclude with fireworks at dusk. Below is a list of activities, times and locations.

Food

- Food/Beer Gardens will be available at the fairgrounds beginning at noon.
- Root beer floats will be available at Converse Park beginning at 12:30 p.m. Free, sponsored by Motley Free Methodist Church.

Kids events

- A bounce house will be available for children, 8 a.m. - 2 p.m. at Converse Park. Free.
- Pedal pull begins at 12:30 p.m. at Converse Park (register at noon)
- Crazy Hair/Face Painting, 10 a.m. - 2 p.m. at Converse Park. Free.

Fun and games

- Bean bag tournament will take place at the fairgrounds, 1:30 p.m.

- Average Joe Car Show will be held at Converse Park, 10 a.m. - 2 p.m.

- Power Bungee Jump and Rock Climbing Wall at Converse Park, 11 a.m. - 2 p.m.

- Sand Volleyball begins at 1 p.m. at the fairgrounds.

- MCEO Raffle winners will be announced at 6 p.m., at the Ten Hi.

- Live music at the Fair Pavilion with Shirts & Skins, from 7:30 - 11 p.m.

Fairgrounds events

Saturday evening

- Demo derby, 5 p.m.
- Music at the fairgrounds, 8:30 - 11:30 p.m.
- Fireworks will take place at dusk.

Motley Fair

- **Thursday, June 11:** The Horse Show begins at 9 a.m.

- **Friday, June 12:** Vendors open at 9 a.m.; The Hatching Chicks 4-H building opens at noon. The day's agenda includes a Petting

Zoo, the judging of poultry and rabbits, plus food vendors and games. The carnival/midway runs from 5 - 10 p.m. The Lion's eatery building open from 4 - 9 p.m. New this year is a Singing Contest which begins at 6 p.m. At 7 p.m., Autocross race at the grandstand.

- **Saturday, June 15:** Cattle judging begins at 9 a.m.; the Petting Zoo will be held from 1 - 9 p.m.; the carnival/midway from noon - 10 p.m. The Lion's Eatery building is open from 10 a.m. - 9 p.m. The day's festivities also includes a balloon artist, comedy act and bean bag tournament.

- **Sunday, June 16:** Vendors open at 9 a.m.; the carnival/midway runs from noon - 5 p.m.; and gates open at 1 p.m. for the demo derby which starts at 2 p.m. The Dangerous Feats of Comedy show will be held at 1 p.m., 3 p.m. and 5 p.m.

Lakewood Health System invests in future healthcare workforce with 2026 scholarships

Each year, Lakewood Health System, Staples, awards scholarships to local high school students who plan to pursue careers in healthcare. These scholarships support the next generation of healthcare professionals and help strengthen the local workforce.

The 2026 recipients of the Lakewood Health System, Lakewood Provider, and Rural Health Scholarships are:

LAKESWOOD HEALTH SYSTEM SCHOLARSHIPS - (\$1,000 EACH):

- Browerville High School: Jaiden Lemke
- Pillager High School: Alaina Dobson, Violette Metz
- Staples-Motley High School: Brynn Bestland, Av-

ery Japke, Josie Jennissen

LAKESWOOD PROVIDER SCHOLARSHIPS (\$1,000 EACH):

- Bertha-Hewitt High School: Mikayla Allen
- Browerville High School: Mya Blommel
- Pillager High School: Haleigh Awalt, Makenna Camacho, Kimberly Keefe
- Staples-Motley High School: Ava Birkholtz, Isabel Cole, Raina Mikhaeil, Colbe Tappe

RURAL HEALTH SCHOLARSHIP (\$500 EACH):

- Staples-Motley High School: Emmalee Dobson

Lakewood Health System provides these scholarships to encourage students to enter the healthcare field and help meet the growing need for skilled professionals in the region.

Passport to explore Minnesota nature centers

Minnesota is home to a diversity of wildlife and iconic species. Now, a group of the state's iconic wildlife centers are joining together to promote wildlife education and ecotourism across the state to Minnesota residents and out of state visitors with a program called Minnesota Wildlife Passport to Adventure.

Set to launch on June 1, the Minnesota Wildlife Passport to Adventure is a collaboration of the International Owl Center, International Wolf Center, National Eagle Center, National Loon Center, and North American Bear Center. The purpose is to raise awareness of the other centers at each location and encourage visitors to make plans to visit all of them through a special passport program.

"This is an idea that has been in discussion for several years among our organizations," said Grant Spickelmier, Executive Director at the International Wolf Center. "We decided that 2026 was the right time to hammer out the details and make it a reality."

Though Minnesota is home to these iconic wildlife centers, they are spread widely across the state, from Houston, MN in the far southeast corner to nearly 400 miles north to Ely, MN up in the Arrowhead Region. This results in lower levels of shared visitorship and awareness among tourists passing through the state.

"There is a central interest in nature and wildlife that is shared among all of our audiences," said Ed Hahn, Director of Advancement and Marketing Communications at the National Eagle Center. "We know that our guests often have never visited the other centers or even heard of them and vice versa. The idea behind this passport program is for us to pool some of our efforts and resources and reach those audiences with a single voice to encourage them to plan to enjoy the full Minnesota wildlife experience."

Central to the Minnesota Wildlife Passport to Adventure program is a passport that guests will be able to purchase and activate at any of the participating centers. Passports will include information on each center, a map showing each location, and journal pages for each center. While visiting each center, individuals will collect a stamp just like a real passport. Upon collecting their final stamp, they will have the option to enter for a grand prize drawing that will include swag from each organization. There will be a drawing annually in November at the end of tourist season. Passports will never expire and visitors will be entered for the drawing in the year they collect their final stamp. The passports will be theirs to keep as a memory of their travels.

"We think people, and especially kids and families, will have a lot of fun with this program," said Jon Mobeck, Executive Director of the National Loon Center. "It's a fun keepsake and collectible, and, hopefully, it will encourage people to not only visit all of our centers but really make the effort to explore more of our state."

National Loon Center

The National Loon Center in Crosslake, Minnesota, is a national leader in loon conservation, research, and education. With a commitment to protecting loon habitats, the Center fosters innovative scientific studies and community outreach programs that inspire public engagement in conservation. Its world-class, interactive educational facility and research center will open to the public in 2027. Through immersive exhibits and educational initiatives, the National Loon Center connects visitors with the natural world, promoting stewardship and sustainable practices to ensure a thriving future for loons across North America. Visit www.nationallooncenter.org

National Eagle Center

The National Eagle Center is a nature center and museum located in Wabasha, MN. It is open daily and offers up-close eagle experiences, daily programs, wild eagle viewing, and the Preston Cook American Eagle Collection. For more information about the National Eagle Center, visit nationaleaglecenter.org or call 651.565.4989. The National Eagle Center is an equal opportunity provider. Visit www.nationaleaglecenter.org.

About the International Wolf Center

The International Wolf Center (IWC) is an internationally respected nonprofit whose mission is to use science-based education to teach and inspire the world about wolves, their ecology, and the wolf-human relationship. With a Visitor Center in Ely, Minnesota and a membership spread across every U.S. state and 38 countries, the International Wolf Center supports informed dialogue about the vital role that wolves play in ecosystems around the world. For more information visit www.wolf.org.

International Owl Center

The International Owl Center in Houston, Minnesota is the only all-owl education center in the United States. By bringing the latest research to the public, engaging programs with live owl ambassadors and highly trained staff, children's owl art from around the world, and involving community scientists in research, the Owl Center works to engage and empower people to make the world a better place for owls. Visit www.InternationalOwlCenter.org for more information.

North American Bear Center

The North American Bear Center (NABC) is a one-of-a-kind, non-profit, education center where myths are replaced by facts. Step into the heart of the Northwoods for an experience like no other. We move beyond fear by sharing the true story of bear behavior and their complex relationship with humanity. Here, you learn directly from the bears themselves about their behavior, ecology, and the vital role they play in our world. As wild habitats shrink, your understanding becomes the key to a future where bears and humans thrive together. Visit www.bear.org for more info.



MMFCU celebrates groundbreaking

Mid-Minnesota Federal Credit Union held a groundbreaking ceremony for their new building on Highway 10 in Staples on May 18. Pictured, MMFCU employees shared in the ceremonial dirt tossing, from left, Joe Reed, Terri Kobliska, Shellie Hobson, Bob Gerads, Shelby Barrett, Chris Tangen, Jenny Hanes, Mary Greenwaldt, Mark Meyer, Angie Ziegler, Missy

Borg, Danielle Addison, Matt Ratchenski and Cody Einerson. The building is expected to be completed by this winter. HyTec Construction is the general contractor for the project. Below, City of Staples and Staples Chamber of Commerce representatives participate in the dirt throwing ceremony. (Staples World photos by Mark Anderson)



Credit union leader

MMFCU President and CEO Bob Gerads talks about the new building project during the groundbreaking ceremony on May 18.



Chamber approval

Staples Chamber of Commerce President Marlo Corona welcomes the new credit union building project at the groundbreaking ceremony.

MnCHOICES helps find disability services

Todd County Health and Human Services

MnCHOICES is a single, comprehensive assessment and support planning web-based application for long-term services. It supports people with disabilities and the elderly that may be eligible for services related to Developmental Disabilities, Community Alternatives for Disabled Individuals, Community Alternative Care, Brain Injury, Elderly Waiver, Alternative Care, and Community First Services and Supports (formally known as Personal Care Assistance). Services provided through one of these waivers and/or programs are designed to help people to live safely in their home and community and decrease nursing home placements. MnCHOICES uses a person-centered approach that tailors services to an individual's strengths, preferences and needs. It allows the individual to have an important and active role in the planning of their long-term services and supports. An individual can request a screening or have a screening and decide not to access waived services. An individual who has a screening may not be eligible for waived services and/or may be referred for other appropriate services as determined by the MnCHOICES assessment. To request a MnCHOICES assessment for long-term services and supports, call Todd County Health and Human Services at 320-732-4500.



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Locker room project completed

The Staples Community Center opened their brand new locker rooms on June 2, with an open house for the public to view the new facilities. The project

included brand new lockers, bathrooms and four individual showers in both the men's and women's locker rooms. (Staples World photo by Mark Anderson)

MEAT continued from page 1a

ties. The region lacks USDA-inspected meat processing capacity and custom-exempt processors, causing bottlenecks for producers to harvest their livestock and limiting their marketing opportunities. The plant took several years to come to fruition and brought together several partners, including:

- Minnesota State Agricultural Centers of Excellence
- Region 5 Development Commission.
- United States Economic Development Administration
- United States Department of Agriculture Agricultural Marketing Service
- Agricultural Utilization Research Institute
- Happy Dancing Turtle
- Minnesota Department of Agriculture
- Central Telephone Company
- The Small Business Development Center

Ground was broken for the facility in June 2025. Hy-Tec Construction of Brainerd was the lead contractor on the \$8 million



Where the sausage is made

One of the modules of the Farmers Union Processing + Meats is a modern facility equipped with modern tools to fully process livestock. (Submitted photo)

project and Widseth was the project architect.

"This project started when members in several counties identified a lack of meat processing capacity," said Minnesota Farmers Union (MFU) President Gary Wertish. "A meat processing facility is a critical

asset for farmers who want to add value to their farm by adding livestock. The opening of Farmers Union Processing + Meats is a celebration of persistence and working together to create a more resilient local food system."

SCHOOL continued from page 1a

Staples-Motley students participate in sports, arts; Day of Caring results in positive community involvement

the area have been seeing a drop in softball numbers, but Staples-Motley had strong growth this year.

At the varsity level, Ahrendt said the school has lower numbers in girls basketball, which is a common issue with a lot of schools around the state.

The success of several sports programs was also noted, with wrestling state champions this year and state participants in cross country, tennis and track and field.

The sports programs are not just about success, said Ahrendt. "It is an educational-based athletic department, academics comes first," said Ahrendt.

The first goal of the department is to "Help students be better people, not just excel in their activity." As an example, Ahrendt said they have a lot of volunteers for the Special Olympics teams. "That is a great thing to be a part of," she said.

Youth programs are also increasing in numbers, especially in baseball and softball. Ahrendt gave the total number of participants in youth sports: baseball 95, softball 59, wrestling 67, football 89, tumbling 87, basketball 128, tennis 25 and volleyball 108.

Ahrendt noted that three new youth programs also had more participants than expected, with 78 students playing soccer, 23 in track and field and 20 in cross country.

"That is really successful for a new program," said Ahrendt.

The arts programs were also strong and successful this year. Ahrendt noted that the music programs received superior ratings in their contests and the speech team sent seven participants to state.

"The kids are doing great things," said Ahrendt.

For community education, Ahrendt said they have more adult classes and more registration this year. Cooking and pottery classes have been popular, along with photography classes coming back this summer.

The Nest saw a total of 365 memberships to the walking track and fitness area, including 96 from Lakewood and 95 from Staples-Motley staff.

The school board noted that Ahrendt is resigning to take a different job. Board Chair Ryan Wright said "People are sad to see you go, we are thankful for what you have done."

"I'm sad to go," said Ahrendt, "I appreciate all you have done for me."

Day of caring

Middle/High School Principal Debbie Ferdon said the Day of Caring was a very positive event for the school. Some of the volunteer work done by the students included washing windows of businesses, planting trees, cleaning up community spaces and working on athletic spaces such as scrubbing the bleachers and vacuuming the track.

"There were a lot of comments, some kids said it was the 'best day ever,'" said Ferdon. "They really felt the

impact of this."

Superintendent Shane Tappe said in half a day, the school volunteered over 1,500 hours of community service.

"There was an outpouring of positive comments," said Tappe. "The community gets to see our kids in action and they get to interact with our staff and our kids. It is very impactful."

Tappe said the action is reciprocal because "The community continues to give to us."

In other news, the board

- Approved resignations of Paige Arendt, Activities/Community Ed Director; and Justine Janecek, SLP
- Accepted retirement of LaRae Bjorge, middle school teacher, effective Nov. 6
- Approved reinstatement from ULA for Lisa Koenig, Middle School ADSIS Interventionist
- Approved contract with Interquest Detection Canines.
- Approved 2026-2029 contract with ParentSquare.
- Approved resolution for membership in the MSHSL
- Approved Health Occupation Services agreement with Browerville Schools.
- Approved hire of Samantha Roden, assistant gardener.
- Approved resolution of intention to enter into professional services contracts with ICS Consulting
- Approved negotiation settlement with transportation, including a pay increase of \$3 per route per year.

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