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City of Motley receives funding
Fuhrman on WJJY
Bike Rodeo
State Champions sign updated



Wednesday, June 17, 2026

StaplesWorld

Staples, Minnesota

\$1²⁵

Over Size Load A giant tank with nine support vehicles passed through Staples on June 11, creating a traffic slowdown in Motley and Staples. Pictured, the over size load pass by the busy intersection at 12th Street NE in Staples, as a horse and buggy try to cross Highway 10. After dozens of vehicles passed through, the buggy was finally able to cross, below. (Photos by Mark Anderson)



Staples Police to start purchasing squad cars

By Mark Anderson
Publisher

The Staples Police Department will now purchase squad cars instead of leasing them, the Staples City Council learned at their June 9 meeting.

Staples Police Chief Melissa Larson told the council that they had been leasing cars for a number of years, but because of changes in lease agreements it is now better to purchase the cars. She said the city will need to purchase one car this year and another next year when the lease runs out.

Larson told the council that it costs around \$2,500 to set up the electronic equipment needed in a police car. Each vehicle has a mobile camera, radio, laptop computer, charging devices,

rader and gun mounts.

Larson said with that much electronic equipment, they are not able to turn the cars off for very long because it drains the battery.

“We have a toggle to switch some items off, but there is a constant drain,” said Larson. “We can’t find all the drains.”

The laptop and other equipment also require officers to log in with dual factor authentication, so turning everything off would only take more time out of their shift, to reboot and log in.

Capital Improvement Plan

The council reviewed the city’s five year Capital Improvement Plan, which maps out possible purchases for each department. City Administrator Jerel

Nelsen said not all of the items will necessarily make the final budget, but this is the long term plan for the city.

Besides purchasing squad cars, the police department is looking at getting new software and body cameras. The Staples Fire Department is looking at getting new mobile radios.

The street department has a big new item in place, extending Park Ave. NE from Airport Road to 3rd Street NE, near the high school football field. This would put a street north of the student parking lot and through the empty field that is used for snow removal and is currently used for temporary construction storage. Nelsen said the

See **STAPLES** on page 12a

Staples Police use taser during knife incident

On June 11, at 9:23 p.m., Staples Police officers observed Paul Deboer, 50, in the city. Officers were aware that Deboer had an active felony warrant for fifth degree controlled substance possession.

When officers attempted to make contact with Deboer, he produced a knife. Officers deployed less-lethal munitions and a taser in an effort to safely take him into custody. During the standoff with Deboer, he threw the knife at officers and fled on foot but was apprehended a short time later and taken into custody without further incident.

Following his arrest, Deboer made statements indicating that he wanted officers to

shoot him.

The following charges have been submitted to the Todd County Attorney’s Office for consideration:

- 2nd Degree Assault with a Dangerous Weapon
- 5th Degree Controlled Substance Possession
- Fleeing a Peace Officer on Foot
- Obstruction of Legal Process.

Charges are pending review by the Todd County Attorney’s Office. Staples Police were assisted by Todd County Sheriff’s Office, Minnesota State Patrol and Lakewood Health System.

Lakewood Eye Clinic now open following ownership transition

Lakewood Health System, Staples, announced the successful transition and opening of Lakewood Eye Clinic, formerly Staples Eye Clinic. The newly named clinic is now open and seeing patients at its new location at 1210 U.S. Hwy 10, Suite 2, Staples, following a transition of ownership and operations earlier this month.

The transition, which was effective May 2026, brings the long-standing community clinic under Lakewood Health System’s ownership, strengthening local access to comprehensive, high-quality eye care while further integrating services across the health system.

A ribbon-cutting ceremony was held June 11, celebrating the new clinic space

and marking the beginning of this next chapter in eye care for the Staples community.

Patients can expect the same trusted providers and much of the familiar care team, now supported by Lakewood’s broader resources and services. The clinic continues to offer a full range of eye care services, with additional space and capacity to grow and enhance the patient experience.

“All appointments are now taking place at our new location, and patients’ medical records transferred automatically and securely, ensuring there has been no disruption in care,” the organization noted.

Lakewood Health System leaders say the transition

reflects a shared commitment to coordinated, patient-centered care.

“Integrating eye care more deeply into our health system allows us to better coordinate services and support patients throughout their entire healthcare journey,” said Lisa Bjerga, president and CEO of Lakewood Health System.

Dr. Seth Dokken emphasized the importance of viewing eye care as part of overall health, and the value of collaboration across providers.

“Your eyes are not separate from the rest of your health,” he said. “This is the future of healthcare, where everything is connected and

See **LAKEWOOD** on page 12a

Weather

2026 This Week's Forecast				
	High	Low	Cond.	
June 17	62	50	Rain	
June 18	67	48	P. Cloudy	
June 19	71	49	M. Sunny	
June 20	75	53	M. Sunny	
June 21	72	52	Showers	
June 22	72	53	Cloudy	
June 23	72	53	M. Sunny	

Last Year, 2025				
	High	Low	Cond.	
June 17	73°	58	M. Sunny	
June 18	78	56	Sunny	
June 19	84	55	Sunny	
June 20	87	60	M. Sunny	
June 21	91	66		
June 22	90	76	Sunny	
June 23	71	62	Rain	

Average Temps:
H = 78 ° Low = 56°

Compiled by
Dale Hausmann,
WCCO's Staples area
Weatherwatcher

Public Notices

City of Motley **9A**
Freshwater **9A**
Todd Planning **9A**
Villard **9A**

Obituaries

Daniel Hirschey
Jeremy Trebesch



Lakewood Eye Clinic opens with ribbon-cutting

Photo: Members of the Lakewood Eye Clinic, along with Lakewood administration and board members were present for the official ribbon-cutting. From left: Lakewood Board members, Norm Krause, Dan Douts, Jef Cichos and Mary Theurer; Lakewood administration,

Brad Anderson and Lisa Bjerga; and Lakewood Eye Clinic providers and staff, Rhonda Cichos, Drs. Seth Dokken and Jesse Fenstermacher, Alison Larrimore, Melissa Jewison, Shannon Ostlund, Mickey Farber and Jackie Stave. (Staples World photo by Mark Anderson)

Motley receives funding from CEDA and Sourcewell

By Dawn Timbs
Staples World reporter

Thanks to their receiving funding from Sourcewell and CEDA (Community and Economic Development Associates) the City of Motley is set to see some improvements at its local parks, as well as experiencing a commercial boost through marketing.

At their regular meeting June 8, the Motley City Council heard from Maddi Clavin, a representative with CEDA's Rural Capacity Program (RCP).

As was noted in a memo, "The City of Motley was selected to participate in the RCP, a statewide initiative that provides technical assistance and seed funding to support local economic development projects. Through this program, Motley will receive approximately \$13,500 in funding along with technical assistance to advance priorities identified by a local planning team."

Clavin has been working for the past two months with a planning team from Motley which includes City Clerk/ Treasurer Tami Brotherton, Mayor Pat O'Regan, and council members April Skeesick-Larson and Elizabeth Blackburn.

The team reviewed community feedback. Local economic development needs and potential project opportunities.

Based on their discussions, the team brought forward a work plan and funding allocations for city council approval.

Clavin noted that the top priorities included a Commercial Exterior Improvement Program; and Industrial Land Marketing Initiative.

Regarding the first priority, the planning team recommended dedicating \$10,000 to create a grant pro-

gram which would require a 1:1 private match from the applicant, with the private funds reimbursed following project completion and submission of receipts.

Eligible applicants would be required to be in the city limits.

With the remaining \$3,500 from this funding, the planning team recommended putting it toward marketing and promotion of available industrial land within the community. Clavin said she suggested purchasing and installing a commercial sign at Industrial Park (approximately 15-16 acres), indicating this land is for sale.

After some discussion, the council approved the Rural Capacity Program work plan and authorization to proceed with implementation of the recommended initiatives.

At their June 8 meeting the council also accepted the Sourcewell Community Benefit Fund Award in the amount of \$29,730. As had been designated in their application, the funds will be used for improvements to Veterans Park and Converse Park. These include installing a free public lending library, ADA-compliant sidewalks, pavilion concrete repairs, lighting, a security camera and public Wi-Fi.

In other matters the council:

- HELD a public hearing regarding an amendment to Ordinance 213, Regulations for Licensed Hemp Business. No one from the public was present. Subsequently, the council,
- ADOPTED Ordinance 214, amending the section of Ordinance 213, clarifying the timing and due dates for annual registration renewals and provides that the initial registration fee includes the first annual renewal period.



Received Rural Capacity Program (RCP) funding

The City of Motley recently received funding in the amount of \$13,500 from the Rural Capacity Program (RCP). The RCP is sponsored by Community and Economic Development Associates (CEDA). Pictured, from left, are Motley's City Clerk/Treasurer Tami Brotherton, Mayor Pat O'Regan, Maddi Clavin, with CEDA;

and council members Elizabeth Blackburn and April Skeesick-Larson. All were part of the planning team which helped identify priorities for funding allocation. (Staples World photo by Dawn Timbs)

- HEARD a summary of a closed meeting held regarding the performance review for Tami Brotherton, City Clerk/Treasurer. Brotherton received 53 out of 56, which is highly satisfactory.
- APPROVED a fireworks permit for June Fest.
- APPROVED hiring Reid Judd as a firefighter. Asst. Fire Chief Nathan Thiede presented the motion to the council, as Fire Chief Todd Judd is Reid's father. Thiede shared that Reid Judd has been an Explorer for four years and would be a great asset to the department. Reid Judd will report to Thiede.
- APPROVED Chief Judd's request to purchase a used truck for the department. It is a repurposed military Osh Kosh truck with a listed fee of \$95,000. It is currently in Arizona and will be paid for when it is picked up. The motion passed in a unanimous Roll Call vote. Subsequently, the council,
- APPROVED a motion covering transportation, meals and other travel expenses for two members of the fire department.
- SET up a streets committee and approved the following members to be on it: Bruce Brotherton, Public Works Director;

- Tami Brotherton, City Clerk/Treasurer; April Skeesick-Larson, Elizabeth Blackburn, council members.
- APPROVED the purchase of skid steer tires, a set of four for \$954.
 - APPROVED the city clerk's request to attend the June 10 training in Osakis.
 - LEARNED that the city's Comprehensive Plan had been completed. Hard copies are available.
 - HEARD feedback about the Day of Caring from council member Steve Johnson. "It was fantastic," Johnson said, noting the volunteer work that Staples-Motley students

did, including raking and painting.

- APPROVED a motion to ratify the submission of the Initiative Foundation Economic and Community Workforce Grant application submitted by CEDA Rural Capacity Program on behalf of the city and direct staff to bring any award agreement or related actions back to the city council for approval. Tami Brotherton noted that the grant had been submitted by Maddi Clavin with CEDA on time.
- SET next regular council meeting for Monday, July 13, at 4:30 p.m.



Community picnic in Motley enjoyed by all ages

Dozens of people gathered at Converse Park in Motley June 10, for the first community picnic of the summer. The free picnics are hosted by Motley Free Methodist Church and held on the second Wednesday of the month during the summer. The next picnic is scheduled for July 8, beginning at 5 p.m. In addition to the food and fellowship, there are a number of activities available to children of all ages, including a bounce house, skate park and volleyball. (Staples World photos by Dawn Timbs)



Catching up at the fair

AJ Nienow and Joe Zimmermann, both of Motley, caught up at the Motley Fair June 13. Nienow, a 2024 Staples-Motley High School grad, recently returned from Washington D.C. where he'd worked as an Editorial Intern at DC Witness. He's currently a student at Concordia College in Moorhead. Zimmermann, a 2025 Pillager High School grad, shared that he'd competed in the 4-mile run at June Fest that morning and took second place. More photos from the Motley Fair will be in next week's edition of the World. (Staples World photo by Dawn Timbs)

Level 3 sex offender located to rural Pillager

Sheriff Bryan Welk reports that the Cass County Sheriff's Office has been notified by the Minnesota Dept. of Corrections that a Risk Level 3 Offender relocated to the Northwest Sylvan Township, rural Pillager area on June 4, 2026. The offender has been identified as Dustin Gene Ayres, born May 3, 1982.

The release information and public fact sheet will be available on the Cass County Sheriff's Office website located at www.cass-sheriff.com and on Facebook at www.facebook.com/Cass.



Dustin Gene Ayres
County.Sheriffs.Office.

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Looking back

75 YEARS Ago - 1951

• June 14, 1951 - Demolished in the train wreck in Staples June sixth is Engine 1836 of the rock train coming from the south which plowed into a freight train from the Duluth-Superior line at the Seventh street crossing early that morning. Seven cars some of them loaded, were wrecked in the accident which, fortunately, did not take any lives. A photo from the accident was taken by Sam St, Pierre of Staples.

• June 14, 1951 - Funeral and burial services were held June 13, at the Philbrook Church of Christ for Corporal Edward M. Killian, son of Mrs. Wm. F Skeesick, who was killed in action in

Compiled by Dawn Timbs

Korea sometime last August. His body was returned to the United States late in May, and arrived in Staples Sunday evening, escorted by M/Sgt. Martin J. Kellenny of Oakland, Calif. Sgt. Kellenny returned to Oakland on the noon train Monday, being released by relatives of the deceased, so that he could return to his duty.

Rev. Manson Miller, pastor of the church, was in charge of the final rites, and members of the Ivan V. Sarff Post of the American Legion and Robert W. Hand Post of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of Staples were designated as pallbearers and the color guard and firing squad, respectively.

• June 14, 1951 - The Northwestern Bell Telephone company has sent out their 1951 telephone directories, the printing of which was completed at The World office last week-end.

There are more listings in the directory than last year with a total of 979 city telephones, and 143 rural phones connected at the local office.

Compared to 1940, the company's office has steadily grown here. In 1940 there were a total of 683 city connections, and 148 rural phones from the office.

• June 14, 1951 - A severe epidemic has broken out in Staples since the middle of May, and one for which there seems to be no cure, except for the victim's own self-made cure, according to reports.

The disease is very contagious and is apparently in adult males. Symptoms, as described in a placard are: Continual complaint as to need for fresh air, sunshine and relaxation.

Patient has blank expressions, sometimes deaf to wife and kids. He has no



Mystery photo

Hello readers. This week's archive photo is from 1987. 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.

taste for work of any kind. Frequent checking of tackle catalogues. He hangs out in sporting goods stores longer than usual. Secret night phone calls to fishing pals. Mumbles to himself, lies to everyone and there is no known cure.

Have you guessed what it is? It is Fishing Pox, a rare disease but one which spreads rapidly at this time of year. It is not fatal.

Medication is useless, and the victim should go fishing as often as possible in order to overcome the disease.

• June 14, 1951 - The following students at Motley School were neither absent nor tardy for this past school year ending June 1, 1951.

Robert Beitz, grade 4; James Corner, grade 3; Verna Gelhar, grade 12; Mary Holub, grade 8; Blanche Kastonek, grade 10; Arla Jean Peterson, grade 11; Florence Pribbenow, grade 10; Mary Ann Sullivan, grade 8; Agnes Thiede, grade 6; Marlys Thomson, grade 8; Virginia Thiede, grade 5; Byron Skeesick, grade 3.

50 YEARS Ago - 1976

• June 3, 1976 - Eight members of the Class of 1977 at Staples High School were given special recognition May 26, by their selection and initiation into membership of the National Honor Society.

Honored at the ceremonies were Natalie Wise, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Floyd Wise; Kathy Tomsich, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Robert Tomsich; Melissa Wallace, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. John Wallace; Jean Hassler, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Clair Hassler; Steven Grossman, son of Mr. and Mrs. Douglas Grossman; Mary Hegre, daughter of

Mr. and Mrs. Richard Hegre; Terry O'Keefe, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Gerald O'Keefe; and Lori Johnson, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Milton Johnson.

• June 3, 1976 - The Libertarian Party of Minnesota, at its weekend convention in St. Paul, endorsed Stanley Carlson of Staples to run for the Seventh District seat in the United States House of Representatives.

In an acceptance statement before the Libertarian convention delegates, Carlson emphasized that he would base his campaign on the positive sense of life that exists in rural communities.

• June 3, 1976 - Six seniors, four juniors and three sophomores earned varsity letters in baseball at Staples high school during the 1976 season, Coach Jerry Riewer announced today. They included Seniors Jeff Cizek, Tom Backberg, Larry Dumpprope, Robb Peterson, Jon Tevlin and Mike Mertens; Juniors Steve Grossman, Doug Shequen, Bob Nurnberger and Jim Marden; Sophomores Mark Redemske, Tim Miller and Paul Jenkins.

• June 3, 1976 - In the presence of Norman G. Schroeder, city clerk, and H. Michael Carr, chief of police, Darrell Staley took the oath of office as a new police officer in Staples last Saturday, May 22. Staley assumed his duties on the Staples Police Department Sunday, May 23. He is a May graduate of the Police Officers Course at the Alexandria Area Vocational-Technical Institute.

25 YEARS Ago - 2001

• June 14, 2001 - The Staples Motley girls did not come home with the team trophy, but the Cardinal golfers have a state champ in their group.

The girls finished in a tie

for fourth place last Friday at Izaty's Golf Club near Onamia, while Mary Hasselberg finished in a three way tie for the state individual championship.

Mary shot a 74 on the first 18 holes on Thursday to take the first day lead. She came back the second day with a 42 on her first nine and 37 on the back nine for a 79 and a two day total of 153.

Hasselberg's title is the first for Staples Motley since 1983, when Jodi Wilson of Staples High School won the state golf title with a score of 167. Mary's score of 153 is six strokes off the state tournament record of 147.

• June 14, 2001 - Faith Lutheran Church Women of Staples selected Mary Sperley as their delegate to attend the 14th annual Convention of the Northwest Minnesota Synodical women's Organization of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America. It will be held at the Augustana Lutheran Church in Fergus Falls June 14 and 15.

• June 14, 2001 - Steven Joseph Hoemberg, Jr., son of Steven and Margo Hoemberg of Staples graduated in commencement ceremonies held at St. John's University on Sunday, May 27 in the St. John's Abbey church. Hoemberg received a Bachelor of Arts degree in music.

10 YEARS Ago - 2016

• June 16, 2016 - The Staples Motley track and field team had a smashing state meet as Millie Klefsaas set the girls state meet pole vault record at 12 feet even and also won the 100 hurdles to come home with two state titles.

For the boys team, Max Giza cleared 13 feet, 9 inches in the pole vault, the best effort of his career to finish seventh.

Mystery solved

Last week's mystery photo published in the May 7, 1992 edition of the Staples World featured Fred Wohlert, left, who was retiring after 40 years as a meat processor, the last 12 at Ernie's Food Market in Staples. Pictured with him is Al Erbe, owner of Ernie's. Wohlert started his career at the National Tea in Wadena and transferred to the Staples National Tea. He was there for 25 years before going to Ernie's.

Mark Blessing of Staples correctly identified both Fred and Al, and shared that he had worked with Fred at National Tea from 1968 - 70 around the time of his high school graduation. Fred, whom they called 'Freddie Oyster' for some reason Mark couldn't remember, was in charge of the meats department. That was before Art Manning, Mark added. He also recalled that he was paid \$1.25 an hr., and that his brothers Bob and Mike also worked at National Tea.

Linda Bartylla of Motley correctly identified both. She shared that Al Erbe is a cousin by marriage. She went on to say that Fred's wife, Delores, was her second teacher when she attended country school near



Philbrook.

Mike Koppes of Staples correctly identified Al Erbe. Brad Farber, also of Staples, correctly identified both and said it had something to do with the grocery store. Farber recalled that Freddie was the meat cutter there and that Al was the manager/owner. He said he went to school with Al.

Maurice Erickson, rural Staples, correctly identified Al and Fred, noting that Fred (whose given name is LaVern) was his brother-in-law.

Deb Fink of Staples correctly identified both, adding that everyone knew LaVern as "Freddie." She assumed that he and Al were pictured at the old Ernie's Food Market, home now to NAPA Auto in Staples. She noted that Freddie worked with her dad, Art Manning, for many years in the meat department at Ernie's. She believed Al had worked at the grocery store as a teen and continued on to become the owner/manager of Ernie's.

Staples Police report

Recent reports from the Staples Police Dept.:

June 1, Staples Police assisted parents with a custody dispute.

June 2, Staples Police took a report of a truck that rolled in the Central Lakes College parking lot. Ambulance was called, all parties were out of the vehicle.

June 3, Staples Police assisted with an order for protection.

June 3, Staples Police took a report of a person taking prescription drugs and being with children. Police advised to contact the person's probation officer if the person is taking drugs that are not prescribed.

June 4, Staples Police assisted a person locked out of their house by a person with dementia who was inside.

June 4, Staples Police took a report of a person who found a bullet hole in their shed. Police took photographs of the hole.

June 5, Staples Police took a report saying a stray dog in his yard is eyeing up his chickens. Subject had tied up the dog. Police transported the dog to the veterinarian's office. it was a beagle with a collar but no tag

June 5, Staples Police assisted MN State Patrol

and Todd County Sheriff's Dept. with a report of animals near the highway near Motley.

June 6, Staples Police took a report from the Brainerd Police Dept. about a juvenile runaway who was believed to be in Staples.

June 6, Staples Police assisted a driver who ran out of gas. Subject said they didn't have money for gas to get back to Dower Lake Campground. Subject stated they have a child and are living in a tent at campsite that Todd County paid for. Police made sure the family had food and paid \$10 for gas. Police sent the gas receipt to Todd County. Todd County Child Protection was advised.

June 6, Staples Police responded to a report of two juveniles damaging property in front of Hubbard's Hardware and Jon's Family Foods. Police observed the greenhouse with plants thrown to the ground, holes punctured in the plastic and bags of potting soil that were punctured. A fishhouse at the hardware store was also discovered to have been entered and a fire extinguisher sprayed inside. Both juveniles were located by police and their parents were notified about the property damage.

Todd Cty. court

JUNE 10, 2026

Long Prairie Police
Stephanie Ann Kern, Staples. Wireless Communication device. Fine \$50. Fee \$85.
Antoinio J. Terrero Medina, Long Prairie. Driving after revocation. Fine \$200. Fee \$85. Driver must carry proof of insurance when operating vehicle. Fine \$200. Expired registration. Fine \$30.
Bryce Alan Watercott, Long Prairie. Speed 40/30. Fine \$40. Fee \$85.
Kirby Adam Johnson, Plymouth. Water safety-fail to have legal life-saving device on board watercraft or waterfowl boat. Fine \$25. Fee \$85.
MN State Patrol
Kudzai Chikovao, Mankato. Speed 80/70. Fine \$40. Fee \$85.
Reyna Andreina De La Cruz Madrigal, Long Prairie. Speed 70/60. Fine \$40. Fee \$85.
Steven James Deitering, Long Prairie. Seat Belt required. Fine \$25. Fee \$75.
Eithen Harvey Hiebel, Nelson. Tires extending beyond fenders. Fine \$50. Fee \$85.
Carter Travon Holman, Long Prairie. Window restrictions-windshield tinted or glazed. Fine \$50. Fee \$85.
Casandra Constance Janssen, East Grand Forks. Hands free law. Fine \$50. Fee \$85.
Melissa Ann Kirk, St. Michael. Speed 80/70. Fine \$50. Fee \$85.
Maxwell Dillon Mauch, Delano. Speed 80/70. Fine \$40. Fee \$85.
Todd John Michels, Osakis. Seat Belt Required. Fine \$25. Fee \$85.
Yesliany Paola Rivera Robles, Sauk Centre. Speed 84/70. Fine \$50. Fee \$85.
Sydney Rae Shiek, New Hope. Speed 80/70. Fine \$40. Fee \$85.
Layne Jonathan Sieve, Alexandria. Hands free law. Fine \$50. Fee \$85.
Sean Edward Stepnik, Beaumont, TX. Speed 80/70. Fine \$40. Fee \$85.
Tanner Justin Young, Pierz. Speed 65/55. Fine \$40. Fee \$85.
Rosa Hilda Zamora, Long Prairie. Driving after suspension. Fine \$200. Fee \$85.
Osakis Police Dept.
Chaz Charles Johnson, Long Prairie. Traffic regulation-auto fenders. Fine \$50. Fee \$85.
Steven Jason Wagner, Alexandria. Speed 70/60. Fine \$40. Fee \$85.
Staples Police Dept.
Brody Jaradon Shaw, Staples. Cannabis-use, possess, or transport cannabis or hemp products under 21 years of age. Fine \$50. Fee \$85.
Kyra Mae Stangle, Staples. Cannabis-use, possess, or transport

cannabis or hemp products under 21 years of age. Fine \$50. Fee \$85.
Todd County
Marcderoson Eliacin, Browerville. Driving after suspension. Fine \$200. Fee \$85.
Mia Rae Harren, Melrose. Liquor consumption by person under 21. Fine \$100. Fee \$85.
Jonathan Ray Hart, Motley. Speed 65/55. Fine \$40. Fee \$85.
Blaine Trinity Plattner, Bertha. Speed 65/55. Fine \$40. Fee \$85.
Omar Alexander Reyes, Long Prairie. Driving after suspension. Fine \$200. Fee \$85.
Alvaro Yohaxel Rodriguez, Cushing. Driving without a valid license for vehicle class or type. Fine \$100. Fee \$85.
Arelis Judith Rugama Cruz, Alexandria. Driving without a valid license for vehicle class or type. Fine \$100. Fee \$85.
Emry David Stewart, Carlos. Speed 64/55. Fine \$40. Fee \$85.
Laurel Michelle Wysocki, Clarissa. Driving after cancellation. Fine \$200. Fee \$85.
Shirley Mae Ziebarth Le Sueur. Expired registration. Fine \$30. Fee \$85.
The following cases were heard before Heidi L. Hovis, Seventh District Court in Todd County June 3, 2026.
David Olguin Corona, Long Prairie. Fleeing a Peace Officer in a motor vehicle. Dismissed. DWI-refuse to submit to chemical test; breath or test refusal or failure. Sentenced. Local confinement (364 days, stay 0 yr 0 mo 360 days for 2 yr credit for time served: 4 days). Supervised probation, 2 yr. Fine \$300. Fee \$105.
The following cases were heard before Heidi L. Hovis, Seventh District Court in Todd County June 2, 2026.
Jacqueline Ann Horwath, Wadena. Driving after revocation. Local confinement (90 days, stay 0 yr 0 mo 0 days credit for time served: 90 days). Fine \$50. Fee \$75. Driver fails to Stop at STOP Sign. Dismissed.
Aaron Michael Miller, Long Prairie. Underage drinking & driving. Local confinement (90 days, stay 90 days for 1 yr). Community service, 16 hours for indeterminate. Supervised probation, 1 yr. Fine \$50. Fee \$75.
Paytn Lynn Nash-Demo, St. Cloud. DWI-4-operate motor vehicle under influence: cannabis/hemp product. Dismissed. Cannabis Open Package-possess in motor vehicle. Local confinement (30 days, stay 0 yr 0 mo 30 days for 1 yr. Unsupervised probation, 1 yr.

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Letter to the Editor

Minnesota flag follows good design principles

I followed with interest when our legislature, after many tries, decided to commission a new Minnesota Flag. Students from Mahtomedi High School convinced their legislator that it was time for a new flag as they communicated that our old flag was overly complex and featured imagery seen by some as offensive to Native Americans.

The old MN flag didn't follow good design principles synthesized by the North American Vexillological Association (NAVA). NAVA had ranked the old MN Flag 67 out of 70 flags in the US and Canada. In a nutshell, the NAVA principles of good flag design are:

- 1). Keep It Simple: so simple that a child can draw it from memory
- 2). Use Meaningful Symbolism: The flag's images, colors, or patterns should relate directly to what it represents
- 3). Use 2 or 3 Basic contrasting colors and,
- 4) No Lettering or Seals because they are un-

readable at a distance and impossible to draw accurately.

The MN legislature established a 13-member commission, the State Emblem Redesign Commission, to choose a new flag and seal and send the recommendation to the legislature. Minnesota law didn't allow for the citizens of Minnesota to vote on the flag, however, the commission was required to get public input so it published the agendas, streamed their meetings, and people could also attend in person. That is how I was able to watch the last session where they voted on the flag. They had 2600 submissions and over 20,000 public comments. Finally they chose a flag designed by a 24-year-old man from Luverne, Minnesota.

You may not like the new flag but it is no longer offensive to any group, does follow good flag design principles and reflects Minnesota.

The Shape: The dark blue wedge on the left is an abstract stylized outline of the state of Minnesota.

The North Star: serves as a nod to Minnesota's nickname as the "North Star State".

The star mirrors the iconic marble inlaid brass

star on the rotunda floor of the Minnesota State Capitol.

The Light Blue Field: The rest of the flag is a solid light blue that represents Minnesota's abundant water resources our "Sky Blue Waters"—honoring its famous nickname, the "Land of 10,000 Lakes," as well as the Mississippi River and Lake Superior.

I was not happy with the Staples City Council decision not to use the new flag but I'm very grateful that there are people in Staples who are willing to serve our community on the city council. I could have told the city council members how I felt about the new flag and I didn't, that responsibility falls on me.

I bet those students from Mahtomedi High School are pleased. Ted Kaye with NAVA said the new MN Flag is going to be in the top 10 in the country. "When NAVA polls the public and its members on state flags, the best, simplest designs popped to the top: South Carolina, New Mexico, Texas, Arizona, Colorado, Alaska, and Washington D.C. That's the club the Minnesota flag will be joining."

Lisa Kajer
Staples, Minn.

Quote of the week

“How the hell can a person go to work in the morning and come home in the evening and have nothing to say?”
— John Prine, “Angel From Montgomery,”

Apply yard chemicals safely

By Denton Bruening
Minnesota Department of Agriculture

Every spring, Minnesotans step outside to perform the same ritual: rake the lawn, plan the garden and grab a bag of fertilizer to help the yard wake up from winter. What most people don't realize is how much this last step can affect the water around us.

A University of Minnesota study from a few years back delivered a clear wake-up: backyard chemicals, especially lawn fertilizers, are a significant source of nutrient pollution in our lakes, rivers and wetlands.

The problem is bigger than many people may realize. Every year, the Minnesota Department of Agriculture (MDA) tracks off-farm fertilizer and pesticide purchases. In 2024, the last year purchase data was published, Minnesotans bought 178 million pounds of fertilizer for residential use. Pesticide purchases were smaller - about 870,000 pounds at last count - but they also contribute to contamination risks.

So, no matter what you apply - fertilizer, weed-and-

feed, pesticide - the same rules apply: Chemical products used at the wrong time or in the wrong place can move off your property and into our waters.

But here's the good news: You don't have to overhaul your yard or give up a healthy lawn. Just use these products the right way. Here are simple steps that help keep chemicals out of our water resources.

1. Use only what you need. Conduct a soil test before you buy or apply any fertilizer to ensure it's needed. Test kits are available at most garden centers. Spot-treat weeds and other problem areas, whenever possible. Mow at 3-4 inches to shade out weeds and use mulch in gardens to prevent others from establishing. When using any backyard chemical, always follow label instructions.

2. Keep products where they belong. If a powder or granular chemical lands on the sidewalk or driveway, sweep or blow it back into its intended area. Pavement is the fastest route to a storm drain.

3. Check the weather before applying anything. Avoid windy days, heavy rain in the forecast, extreme

heat and drought conditions. Weather determines whether products stay put or end up downstream.

Even if you hire a lawn care crew, you still have a say over what happens in your yard. Professional applicators are licensed by the MDA and are required to provide a clear breakdown of what they apply to your yard. You can - and should - ask how they determine what products are used, how they prevent runoff, and whether their practices align with your goals for protecting water quality. A reputable company will welcome these questions.

Minnesotans fish, sail, swim and brag about our lakes for good reason. And protecting these waters isn't just the job of farmers, cities, and regulators. It's on all of us.

This spring, as you step into your yard with a fertilizer spreader or a bag of weed control, please remember: Small changes in how we use backyard chemicals can make a meaningful difference. And when thousands of households make those changes together, Minnesota's waters stay cleaner, clearer, and healthier for everyone.

Find Treasure Within

Be smarter than the hamburger

By Frank Odell

I have a simple philosophy for modern living. Be smarter than the hamburger. That's it. That's the sermon. We could close in prayer right now. But since you're here, let's unpack it.

"Friends, you must be smarter than the hamburger. Because if your lunch is making your choices, your willpower is on vacation."

Now let me be clear — I have nothing against hamburgers. I respect a well-built burger. It's honest. It doesn't pretend to be something else. It doesn't claim to cleanse your aura. It just says, "I am beef. I am cheese. I will make you sleepy at 2:30." There's integrity in that. But here's the problem: the hamburger has no brain. And yet... it keeps winning arguments. If a round piece of meat between two buns can override your long-term goals, your budget, your cholesterol numbers, and the promise you made to yourself at 8 a.m. — we don't have a food problem. We have a character problem.

Character is what shows up when desire starts negotiating. And desire is a slick salesman. Desire doesn't shout. It whispers. "You've had a long day." "You deserve this." "It's just one." "Tomorrow is a great day to start being disciplined." Tomorrow is the busiest day in America. Nothing ever gets done tomorrow. Here's what concerns me: if we can't outthink a pickle, what exactly are we prepared to resist? Because life offers more than cheeseburgers. It offers shortcuts. It offers comfort over courage.

It offers applause instead of integrity.

We like to imagine that character is forged in dramatic moments — standing firm under pressure, heroic decisions, moral crossroads. No. Character is forged in small, boring moments when no one is watching and nothing dramatic is happening except you and your appetite having a committee meeting. If you lose the vote to mayonnaise, how will you stand up to manipulation? If your discipline collapses at the sight of fries, what happens when temptation comes dressed in ambition? The hamburger is just practice. That's all it is. It's a daily pop quiz in self-governance. And self-governance is the foundation of character.

You know what character really is? It's the ability to say, "Just because I want it doesn't mean I get it." We live in a culture that says, "If you feel it, follow it." That's adorable. If I followed every feeling I had, I'd own twelve guitars, three motorcycles, and I'd have responded to half my emails in ways that would require legal representation.

Feelings are wonderful servants and terrible leaders. So are cravings. The question is not whether the burger is good. The question is: who's in charge? Is your life directed by principle or by impulse? Because here's the uncomfortable truth: the habits we laugh about are the habits that shape us.

Every time you surrender to a small impulse, you strengthen the muscle of surrender. Every time you practice restraint, you strengthen the muscle of resolve. And muscles grow with repetition. Nobody wakes up one morning and

says, "You know what? I think I'll ruin my integrity today." It starts small. It starts with "just this once." It starts with letting something trivial outrank something important. And eventually, you don't have a hamburger problem. Your wants are outranking your values.

Now I can already hear someone thinking, "Are we really giving a moral lecture about lunch?" Yes. Because lunch is safe to talk about. If I start naming the other appetites, it gets uncomfortable quickly. Power. Approval. Revenge. Comfort. Being right. Looking good. Winning the argument. Those are much heavier burgers. And if we have trained ourselves to obey every small craving, we will not magically develop backbone when the larger ones arrive.

Backbone doesn't appear on demand. It is built daily. In tiny, unremarkable decisions. Like saying, "No, I don't need that." Like closing your mouth instead of offering the sarcastic remark. Like admitting you were wrong. Like choosing long-term growth over short-term gratification. That's character. It builds something sturdy inside you. Win one argument today — even if it's with a sandwich. Because the person you are becoming is shaped in those small victories. And if you can master something as simple as lunch... You just might be ready to master something far more important. Be smarter than the hamburger. After all — It's just beef. You're supposed to be the brains.

Oobleck spurs community

By Deb Brown, SaveYour.Town

What's oobleck? I had to ask too. It's made of cornstarch and water, but it's weird. At rest, it behaves like a liquid. Apply pressure, and it behaves like a solid. So if you hit it, it's hard and your hand bounces off. Rest your hand on top, and you can sink in slowly. Obviously once you've seen it, you want to touch it.

I told you all that so I could tell you this other story, but remember that feeling of curiosity.

I was working with an Oklahoma State University Rural Scholar, an undergraduate student placed in a rural community for the summer to work on university research projects and to help the community. This scholar's assignment was to get oobleck kits into the hands of parents. The goal behind that goal was to get more kids interested in science-y subjects and build toward a future rural workforce with those skills.

The assigned approach was classic old way: make a list of local organizations and the contact people, then reach out, and ask them to let the scholar try to convince parents to accept a kit for their kids to play with.

I said to the scholar, forget all that convincing of adults. Entice kids instead.

Go to events in the community. Set up a big table of oobleck. Let kids play with

it. Then say hi to the parents who are now standing there watching their child not wanting to leave. Now offer them a kit of their own. Zero convincing required.

The parents are not the goal. The organizations are not the goal. Even the kits aren't the goal. The kid who can't stop thinking about why that stuff acts so weird? That's the goal.

Entice, rather than convince.

Why do we default to trying to convince people?

Because it feels like real work. Lists, contacts, outreach, follow-ups, number of kits: that's a process you can document and report on. It follows lines of authority. It treats organizations as the key to reaching people.

The convincing approach puts the burden on the scholar to overcome resistance. The enticing approach puts the experience in front of people and lets curiosity do the work.

That's the Idea Friendly Way. You're not pushing. You're creating the conditions for people to pull themselves in.

Try it at your next event.

Whatever you're trying to get people interested in, ask yourself: is there a version of this I can just put in front of them? A taste, a demo, a five-minute experience that does the convincing for me?

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 de-

crease 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.

Staples World

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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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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.

Member: Minnesota Newspaper Association, MCAN Advertising

Fuhrman to host WJYY midday show

WJYY 106.7 (Hubbard) in Brainerd announced the addition of veteran broadcaster Zeke Fuhrman to its on-air lineup. Fuhrman will host middays weekdays from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m., bringing more than 15 years of radio experience to listeners across the Brainerd Lakes Area.

A 2005 graduate of Staples-Motley High School, Fuhrman has built his broadcasting career in markets throughout Minnesota, including Minneapolis, Winona, St. Cloud, Detroit Lakes, Bemidji and Wadena. He now joins WJYY, one of Minnesota’s most recognized radio stations.

“It’s a dream come true to be on WJYY,” said Fuhrman. “I grew up listening to this station. It’s a Minnesota icon. I remember listening to WJYY on the bus on the way to elementary school.

Getting to work with some of the on-air personalities I grew up listening to is surreal.”

Fuhrman said WJYY’s strong commitment to local communities made the opportunity especially appealing.

“I’m excited to be at WJYY because of their local focus and community involvement,” he said. “They’ve won multiple National Association of Broadcasters Crystal Awards for their commitment to community service. Hubbard in Brainerd does local radio the right way. That’s what makes WJYY so special.”

WJYY has been a fixture in the Brainerd Lakes Area for decades. The station’s community-centered approach has earned national recognition and helped make it one of the region’s most recognizable media

brands.

Fuhrman, who has built a reputation for engaging listeners and strengthening local connections through broadcasting, joins the station as a new addition to the on-air staff and will connect listeners with music, entertainment and community information throughout the workday.

In addition to his role on WJYY, he will also remain on the air on The Superstation K106 in Wadena, as well as continuing to be a part of the broadcast team that covers Staples-Motley Football on KNSP The Fan.

Listeners can tune in to hear Fuhrman weekdays from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. on 106.7 WJYY. The station can also be streamed online at 1067WJYY.com and through the free WJYY mobile app.



1,000 Books Before Kindergarten

Malakhi Doss recently completed the 1,000 Books Before Kindergarten reading program at the Staples Public Library, receiving his certificate and hardcover book. To register children for the program, stop at the Staples Public Li-

brary, 122 6th St. NE Staples, or call 218-894-1401. The program is sponsored by the Staples Friends of the Library. Above, left to right: Adaniya, Malakhi, Ariella and Analaya Doss. (Submitted photo)

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 22 - June 26
MONDAY - Chef’s choice, veggie of the day, fruit of choice, dessert of the day, wheat bread, marg., 1% milk.

TUESDAY Swedish meatballs, mashed potatoes brown gravy, mixed veggies, dinner roll, chocolate chip cookie, marg., 1% milk.

WEDNESDAY - Pork roast/ gravy, candied yams, green beans, wheat bread, vanilla pudding/topping, marg., 1% milk.

THURSDAY - Chicken Alfredo, peas/carrots, hot spiced apples, dinner roll, marg., 1% milk.

FRIDAY - Blueberry pancakes, egg patty, red diced potatoes, diced peach cup, marg., syrup, 1% milk.

wk26

Mark Your Calendar

June 17

STAPLES ALL VETERANS AND COMMUNITY PARK ASSOCIATION MEETING Wednesday, June 17, 5:30 p.m., in the lower level of Lakewood Health System’s main campus in Staples. The meeting is open to the public. To attend via Zoom, call Bob Hamann at 218-894-3139.

June 18

‘WALK WITH A Doc’ Thursdays at 5:15 p.m., at Lakewood 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>

STAPLES CAREGIVER SUPPORT GROUP, FOR THOSE CARING FOR SOMEONE LIVING WITH DEMENTIA meets the third Thursday of each month, 1:30 - 2:30 p.m., at Faith Lutheran Church, 430 12th St. NE, Staples. For info., contact Cristina: Cristina.Rodriguez@vivie.org or 320-460-7226.

June 19

WOMEN’S OPEN AA RECOVERY MEETING Fridays in person, 10:30 a.m., Motley Free Methodist Church (lower level), 33 Wellwood St. E. Motley. All women welcome.

June 21

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

June 23

WADENA COUNTY REPUBLICANS MEETING Tuesday, June 23, 7 p.m. at the Wadena VFW. Guest speakers, Milo Scott, candidate for Wadena County Sheriff; Sue Ek, candidate for House District 14B (St. Cloud area). Come early to eat and visit with like-minded people.

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



Preschool Storytime held at Staples Library

The Preschool Storytime recently held at the Staples Library featured gardening and summer fun. Children colored pots and planted a pumpkin seed to take home and grow. Storytime is sponsored by the Staples Friends of the Library. Pictured above: Gwen and Olivia Vanek, Caspian and Alora Martin, Stetson and Annie VanVickle, Jane Martin, Ellen VanVickle,

Alida Hanson. (Submitted photo)

The Summer Reading Challenge recently began at the Staples Library and continues through August 8. To register children for the program, stop at the Staples Public Library, 122 6th St. NE Staples, or call 218-894-1401. The program is sponsored by the Staples Friends of the Library.

AUCTION

The following personal property will be sold at public auction, located at the **Motley Fairgrounds, Motley, MN 56466. Indoors in case of rain. Watch for signs on:**

Saturday, June 27, 2026

SALE TIME: 10 A.M.

RESTROOMS

LUNCH AVAILABLE



WD 45 Allis welder 6V 2 ph hydraulic



2001 Sportman 400 Polaris 4X4 wheeler



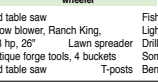
Many, many antiques, collectibles, Red Wing items



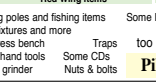
Cub Cadet rider, LTX 1046



Stanley chopper, 15 hp, Model CH5, elec. start, commercial, like new



Old table saw, Snow blower, Ranch King, 8 hp, 26"



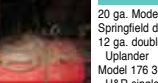
Fishing poles and fishing items



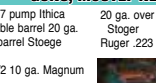
Some long handle tools



Cub Cadet tiller, 208cc RT65, near time



Log chains



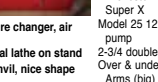
Old table saw



Many more items



Large meat band saw (V)



Atlas metal lathe on stand



Large anvil, nice shape



Pillager Resident



20 ga. Model 37 pump



Winchester Model 12 ga. pump



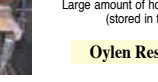
Model 25 12 ga. 2-3/4 Winchester pump



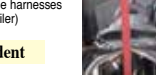
2-3/4 double barrel 12 ga. CRA Over & under 10 ga. Richardson Arms (big)



Guns, mostly new



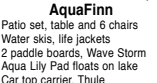
20 ga. over & under shotgun, Stogier



Ruger 223 auto ranch rifle



Uplander



Model 176 3-1/2 10 ga. Magnum H&R single



Winchester Model 12 ga. pump



Super X



Model 25 12 ga. 2-3/4 Winchester pump



2-3/4 double barrel 12 ga. CRA Over & under 10 ga. Richardson Arms (big)



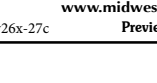
Guns self approx. 10000. Guns stored in a secure place until day of sale.



Fancy saddles and bridles



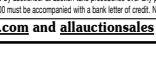
Saddle racks



Horse cart, single with shocks



2x4 snow sled



Large amount of horse harnesses (stored in trailer)



Oylen Resident



Sail boat with trailer, AquaFinn



Patio set, table and 6 chairs



Water skis, life jackets



2 paddle boards, Wave Storm



Aqua Lilly Pad floats on lake



Car top carrier, Thule



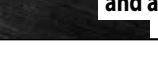
2 prs. chest waders



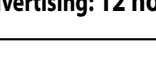
Water skis, children's



Some fishing poles



Aluminum extension ladder



Carpet cleaner



Auction hose



Exercise machine treadmill



2 trundle beds



BBQ smoker



Entertainment center

Lamps

Wooden file cabinets

2 trunks

Coffee table set

2 lg. shelves

Curio cabinet

Shelving

Bench grinder

Hand tools

Packer

Long handle tools

Gas cans

Nuts & bolts

Dog kennel

Garden items

Craftsman band saw, 12"

Water tubs

Old trike

Lake Alexander Resident

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Sail boat with trailer, AquaFinn

Patio set, table and 6 chairs

Water skis, life jackets

2 paddle boards, Wave Storm

Aqua Lilly Pad floats on lake

Car top carrier, Thule

2 prs. chest waders

Water skis, children's

Some fishing poles

Aluminum extension ladder

Carpet cleaner

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At Staples Alliance Church
Join us for games, art, drama skills, music and more.

JUNE 23RD
7am-9am Breakfast
9am-5pm Program
5pm Family Dinner

JULY 14TH
7am-9am Breakfast
9am-5pm Program
5pm Family Dinner

StaplesAlliance.org or call 218-894-2891

Registration Open! Max 75 kids

StaplesAlliance.org or Call 218.894.2891



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GARY TIMBS



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THE SCHIMPPS**

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UPSTAIRS DOORS OPEN AT 1:30. SHOW STARTS AT 2:00.
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COCKTAILS/WINE AVAILABLE



Online Tickets
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or Call 218.640.9393

SUNDAY
JUNE 28TH

TIME
2:00PM

Batcher Block Opera House
Staples, MN

"Music gives a soul to the universe, wings to the mind, flight to the imagination and life to everything."
— Plato

525 • Adults • Students 15 • \$15 • Tax • Includes Dessert & Lemonade Cocktails/Wine Available



DEADLINES
Newspaper deadline for copy and advertising: 12 noon Fridays



Phone and Internet Discounts Available to CenturyLink Customers

The Minnesota Public Utilities Commission designated CenturyLink as an Eligible Telecommunications Carrier within its service area for universal service purposes. CenturyLink’s basic local service rates for residential voice lines are \$16.32-\$29.00 per month and business services are \$35.48-\$39.86 per month. Specific rates will be provided upon request.

CenturyLink participates in the Lifeline program, which makes residential telephone or qualifying broadband service more affordable to eligible low-income individuals and families. Eligible customers may qualify for Lifeline discounts of \$5.25/month for voice or bundled voice service or \$9.25/month for qualifying broadband or broadband bundles. Residents who live on federally recognized Tribal Lands may qualify for additional Tribal benefits if they participate in certain additional federal eligibility programs. The Lifeline discount is available for only one telephone or qualifying broadband service per household, which can be either a wireline or wireless service. Broadband speeds must be at least 25 Mbps download and 3 Mbps upload to qualify.

A household is defined as any individual or group of individuals who live together at the same address and share income and expenses. Services are not transferable, and only eligible consumers may enroll in these programs. Consumers who willfully make false statements to obtain these discounts can be punished by fine or imprisonment and can be barred from these programs.

If you live in a CenturyLink service area, visit <https://www.centurylink.com/aboutus/community/community-development/lifeline.html> for additional information about applying for these programs or call 1-800-201-4099 with questions.



w26c



HAPPY 60th Anniversary
Bill and Linda Bates



HAPPY 70th Birthday, Tim!
JUNE 22
YOUR FAMILY

You will notice the delivery of your newspaper will be one to two days later due to new postal delivery regulations implemented by the federal government April 25, 2026 and made effective through the post office with the April 29, 2026 issue of the Staples World. You will receive your Staples World newspaper one to two days later than usual due to the fact that only one postal truck will be available in Staples (mornings). The Staples World regular publication date remains Wednesday. We recommend that dated advertising (concerts, garage sales, auctions, birthdayss,etc.) be placed two weeks prior to the event.

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
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.

Maple Hill Lutheran
Sandy Knight, Synodically Authorized Minister of Word and Sacrament
Sunday Worship
January - July.....9 a.m.
July - January.....11 a.m.

Motley
Motley Free Methodist
33 Wellwood St. E
Motley 56466.....218-352-6888
Jim Johnson, Senior Pastor
Casey Reynolds, Assistant Pastor
Sunday School.....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@verndaleffc.org
Pastor Amos Self.....218-371-7189
Tahna Rurup, Connections & Media Pastor
Tillman Phagan, Kid's & Food Shelf Pastor
Ryan Woffenden, 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.

Obituaries

Daniel Hirschey

Daniel (Dan) Hirschey, 82, of Staples, passed away June 7, 2026 in Staples.

Memorial services will be held Wednesday, June 17, at 11:00 a.m. at Faith Lutheran Church in Staples. Visitation will be held one hour prior to services at the church. Lunch will be served following the service.

Burial will be at the Germania Cemetery in Moran Township, Staples.

Arrangements are by the Brenny Family Funeral Chapel, Staples.

w26c A00006B2026JU17



Jeremy Trebesch

Jeremy Lee Trebesch, 47, of Pillager, died June 5, 2026 after a short battle with pancreatic cancer.

Funeral services will be held Sta., June 20, 2026 at 11 a.m. at the Brenny Family Funeral Chapel in Baxter. Visitation will be held from 5 to 7 p.m. Friday, June 19 and one hour prior to the service.

Burial will be held at Bridgeman Cemetery.

Jeremy was born September 12, 1978 to Gary and Donna (Warren) Trebesch in Robbinsdale. He grew up in Minneapolis where he was baptized, confirmed, began his journey with faith and making lifelong friends. The family later moved to Albertville where he graduated from STMA High School in 1997. Jeremy married in 2001 and was blessed with two children, Benjamin and Tori.

Throughout his career, he showed love for family and community by working for Country Pizza Parlor and Metro Mobility. He was especially proud of owning and operating his own tile company where he built a reputation for quality craftsmanship. Working for Truss Manufacturing, Manions and Simonson Lumber, he utilized his knowledge of carpentry skills and acquired many lasting friendships.

Jeremy had a passion for preparing creative meals for those he loved. He treasured time spent exploring the outdoors, hunting, fishing, was an avid baseball fan and found great joy in coaching his children's baseball teams. His passion



for music was undeniable. He could easily lose track of time reminiscing about his favorite albums and concerts. Throughout his life, he creatively shared family theatrical presentations and treasured handmade gifts. His sense of humor was second-to-none, often leaving family and friends rolling with laughter or shaking their heads in amusement.

Jeremy is survived by two children, Benjamin Trebesch of Brainerd and Tori Trebesch of Gold Canyon, AZ; one brother, Mike Trebesch and children, Connor and Devin; one uncle, Darrell; two aunts, Mona and Lois; two cousins, Matt (Mia) Trebesch and children, Zach and Xavier and Sarah (Chris) Nelson.

He was preceded in death by his parents; one sister-in-law, Desirée; special Uncle Doug and many more loving relatives.

With Jeremy's passing, the world has lost a generous, tender-hearted, loving helper, who was the life of the party. He will be deeply missed by his children and heaven has gained another angel.

w26c A00006B2026JU17

Central Lakes College Spring Honors List

Central Lakes College, Brainerd and Staples, has announced its 2026 Spring Semester Honors List. The President's List includes students who earned a grade point average of 3.75 or higher while enrolled in at least 12 credits. The Dean's List includes students who earned a grade point average of 3.25 - 3.74 while enrolled in at least 12 credits.

The released honors list does not include students who have requested no release of information. Local students named includes:

Motley
President's List: Keith Ferdon, Cameron Ganyo, Shae Macheel, Amanda Rossetti, Kyleena Rudlang, Aiden Whetson. **Dean's List:** Kyler Batton, Scott Dobbs, Taylor Henry, Brendan Macheel, Rose Zimmermann.

Pillager
President's List: Ryan

Fordahl, Ryan Larson, Gracie Mudgett, Rylee Rochel, Allie Tryggseth, Steven VonDali, London Zapzalka. **Dean's List:** Nash Ausland, Kristy Blomlie, Jacob Dixon, Tessa Eastman, Isaac Lindberg, Gus Lund, Hannah Cole.

Staples
President's List: Abbie Bodicoat, Carol Eblen, Bella Hines, Amber Johnson, Thomas Johnson, Cecily Moe, Brett Nelson, Madison Perius, Dalas Rogers, Annie Schlosser, Caitlyn Stevens. **Dean's List:** Brooke Bendson, Jasmine Braith, Joshua Claseman, Lily Davis, Joseph Fellman, Kyle Finch, Kieran Groetsch, Avery Japke, Madelyn Kist, Huntington Kleinschmidt, Derek Kramer, Luke LaMotte, Skye Larson, Pamela Lawrence, Ben Lewandowski, Jessica Lundquist, Cassandra McGree, Mia Pesta, Nicholas Peterson, Katelyn Schotzko, Savannah Tilden, Tyler Turpin.

Student Achievements

HUNTER WOIDYLA, Pillager, has been named to the 2026 Spring Semester Chancellor's List at the University of Minnesota Rochester. To qualify, students must have earned a 3.666 grade point average or higher and completed a minimum of 12 graded credits.

"Have You Considered a Roof Lately?"

Pastor Barry Klein, Staples Church of Christ

God's generosity comes in a million (or more) packages. It's easy to either not see them or to take them for granted. Please be encouraged to write down what you experience of God's incredible generosity. It will be an ongoing and living tool of discovery of which we can be reminded of in order to continually thank Him for His gifts and not just to do it one time.

So, I am wondering, have you considered a roof lately? We depend on them constantly for protection, privacy and memory making as an essential part of the whole house. Thousands of dollars over a lifetime are spent to keep a roof maintained. And then there are those essential trusses underneath the roof that hold up the roof.

Honestly, like most things, we hardly take notice of what is regularly there until something goes wrong with it. God gives us regular breathing but until it's interrupted (like getting the wind knocked out of you), we just expect the respiratory system to be there for us. Yet, truth be known, it comes as a regular gift until our last one.

So, back to the gift of roofs. (Thank you carpenters, architects, engineers, electricians and plumbers for

small to large buildings). I wonder how many trillions of roofs have been made over human history. It's staggering to try to take it in). All of God's gifts lean that way!

It's only appropriate for perspective that we bring in the hard reality of those who have no roof over their heads: the homeless. Our family had a two-week period in the 1980's when we were homeless. We were dependent upon family in that in-between time. It was heartbreaking during that time to hear our four-year-old daughter explaining that to our fiends in a restaurant when she said, since all our belongings were all in storage, "We don't live anywhere."

Thank you to our local CARE ministry and other similar ministries that have intervened to help many homeless people. It's the heart of Jesus in Matthew 25 when, "as we do it for the least of these, we do it unto Jesus."

So, the next time you read Mark 2:1-12 when friends dig through a roof to let their friends down to Jesus, take some time to thank God for the secure roof that you have over your head day in and day out. A roof over our head really is a deep gift from God. He provided all the materials in which He deserves our continual gratitude.

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Staples, MN 218-894-1775

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Staples, MN 218-894-3299

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

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

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

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



Double-eagle hole in one

Peyton Mithun of Staples shot a hole in one on the 315 yard 11th hole of the Pine Beach East course at Madden's on Gull Lake, near Brainerd. Mithun used a driver to reach the green on the par four hole. He's working at the course this summer as part of the maintenance crew. A hole in one on a par four hole is called an albatross or a double-eagle. The odds of hitting a double-eagle are about about six million to one, according to Vessel Golf. (Submitted photo)

Lakewood Health System and Twin Cities Orthopedics to offer free sports physicals

Lakewood Health System, Staples and Twin Cities Orthopedics are once again partnering to offer free sports physicals to students on Tuesday, June 23. Appointments are available from 5 - 7 p.m. and will take approximately 10 minutes each. Appointments will take place at TCO Staples - Therapy, located at The Plaza (1210 US Hwy 10 E - Staples).

Any student needing a provider-signed Minnesota State High School League form in order to participate in school sports is welcome to schedule an appointment. Slots are limited.

To register, visit www.lakewoodhealthsystem.com and click the sports physicals banner, visit <https://qrto.org/dol7a8>, or scan the QR code to be directed to the registration page.



State champions take their place on sign

The Cardinal Pride sign on Highway 10 in Staples has been changed to 33 state team champions and 78 individual championships achieved by Staples-Motley High School athletes. Pictured above, is this year's three wrestling state champions showing their spot on the sign, with Garrett Bjerga, right, earning the 76th individual champion, Gage Bjerga, cen-

ter, number 77 and Colbe Tappe, left, with number 78. (Staples World photo by Mark Anderson)

Below, in an artwork constructed by the Staples Motley Athletic Hall of Fame committee, the team photo from the state wrestling tournament is superimposed over the sign to show the 33rd state team title at SM. (Submitted artwork)



Johnson sponsored for pro pickleball tournaments

Dave Johnson was sponsored by Paddletek in his first pro pickleball tournament on May 24 at Chips Pickleball Club in Eagan. Johnson and his partner Greg Emerson, left, played against some of the top pickleball players in the state, often playing against younger opponents. They have several tournaments lined up for this summer. (Submitted photo)

Johnson plays in the weekly pickleball games in Staples, at the new courts near the overpass and at the Staples Community Center in the winter and when the weather sends the group indoors. Also pictured, photos from the Staples Community Center players this spring. (Staples World photos by Mark Anderson)



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Please mail completed form and check payment to:

Staples World, Box 100, Staples, MN 56479

SERVICES & EMPLOYMENT

205 Help Wanted

If you enjoy working in a community atmosphere with variety consider working at the Staples World newspaper. Receptionist/ front desk person, 10 a.m.-2 p.m., Mon.-Thurs. Submit resumé to Staples World, PO Box 100, Staples, MN 56479 or email editor@staplesworld.com.

208 Storage

FOR RENT

Japke's North 8th Street Mini Storage, 894-1551 6x20, 10x12, 10x20, 10x24

209 Business Services

PAUL DRAKE TREE SERVICE, SINCE 1978: General, lot clearing, storm damage clean-up, stump grinding, brushing, 55 ft. bucket truck. 218-894-2871, Staples. 20tfc

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GARAGE SALES

701

ANOTHER BIG SALE: Weds., June 17, Thurs., June 18, Fri, June 19, 10 a.m.-7 p.m. all three days. 66612 State #210, 1 mi. E of Motley. Watch for signs. Marge Tepley. 25x-26p

GARAGE SALE: Thurs., June 25, Fri., June 26, Sat., June 27, 9 a.m.-6 p.m. all 3 days. DVD's, shoes, hutch, clothing, a lot of misc. Hwy 10 west storage containers, Frontage Rd., 2nd Ave. NW, Staples, Unit #67. Watch for signs. 26x-27p

GARAGE SALE: Weds., June 17, 4 - 7 p.m., Thurs., June 18, 9 a.m.-5 p.m. 701 5th St NE, Staples. Kid's toys, rechargeable girl's Tahoe, clothing, a lot of misc. 26p

VETERANS PARK STORE

STAPLES, former downtown Longbella's store, across from Tower Pizza

Every Thursday, 1-4 p.m.

Antiques, clothing, household, books, toys, dishes, glassware, artwork, shoes, tools, sporting goods, much more.

If you wish to donate, call Penny @ 218-820-1919

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Call Rosie Talberg, Manager at: 320-468-2303

MOTLEY, MINN.

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**NOTICE
FILING DATES FOR
ELECTION TO THE
SCHOOL BOARD
INDEPENDENT
SCHOOL DISTRICT NO.
2170
STAPLES-MOTLEY
STATE OF MINNESOTA**

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the period for filing affidavits of candidacy for the office of School Board Member of Independent School District No. 2170 shall begin on **July 14, 2026** and shall close at 5:00 o'clock p.m. on **July 28, 2026**.

The general election shall be held on Tuesday, November 3, 2026. At that election, three (3) members will be elected to the School Board for terms of four (4) years each.

Affidavits of Candidacy are available at the School District Office; 905 4th St NE Staples MN 56479; between the hours of 7:30 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. (5:00 p.m. on July 28)

The filing fee for this office is two (2) dollars. A candidate for this office must be an eligible voter, must be 21 years of age or more on assuming office, must have been a resident of the school district from which the candidate seeks election for thirty (30) days before the general election, and must have no other affidavit on file for any other office at the same (primary or next ensuing) general election.

The affidavits of candidacy must be filed in the District Office, and the filing fee paid, prior to 5:00 o'clock p.m. on Tuesday, July 28, 2026.

Sherry Frisk, Clerk
Staples-Motley School District, ISD #2170

26-27pnc

**FRESHWATER
EDUCATION
DISTRICT #6004
Special Board Meeting
May 20, 2026
Wadena, MN**

MINUTES

The Freshwater Education District (FED) Governing Board held a special meeting on May 20, 2026, at the district office located at 2222 Industrial Drive in Wadena. Board Chair Rod Huttunen called the meeting to order at 2:30 p.m.

Board members present included Rod Huttunen (Sebek), Scott Veronen (Verndale), Russ VanDenheuvel (Bertha-Hewitt), Katie Howard (Menahga), Chuck Wolf (Long Prairie-Grey Eagle), Rodney Thalmann (Henning) and Ryan Wright (Staples-Motley). Absent were Barb Tumberg (Wadena-Deer Creek) and Jodi Hillmer (Browerville).

Superintendents present included Lee Westrum (Wadena-Deer Creek) and Scott Vedbraaten (Browerville). FED administration in attendance included Eric Weber, Jamie Wothe, Jordan Anderson and Sharon Thiel. Additional attendees included Bryan Tollefson, Jesse Ashbaugh, Jena Osberg, Lisa Wick, Mike Kaluza, Shawn McAllister and Leah Bloemendaal.

The board approved the meeting agenda unanimously following a motion by VanDenheuvel and a second by Wright.

Supervising Superintendents Westrum and Vedbraaten provided an overview of the Executive Director interview process and procedures. Two interview committees were established, consisting of the FED Governing Board and Supervising Superintendents and the FED Leadership Team and Staff.

Candidates considered included Paul Brownlow of West Central School District and a proposal from Verndale School District for shared superintendent services utilizing 0.5 FTE of Superintendent Mayers' time.

Following the interview process, both committees

**CITY OF MOTLEY
NOTICE OF FILING
FOR CITY OFFICE**

Notice is hereby given to voters of the City of Motley, Morrison and Cass Counties, State of Minnesota, that filing for City Office will be held for the two week period of:

July 14, 2026 through July 28, 2026

Affidavits of Candidacy shall be filed with the City Clerk between the hours of 8:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m. from July 14, 2026 through July 28, 2026.

Filing will close on July 28, 2026 at 5 p.m. The clerk's office will be open for filing from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. on July 28, 2026.

The filing fee is \$2.00 and must be paid at the time of filing.

Offices to be filled at the November 3, 2026 Election are:

- Mayor - Two- (2) year term
- Council Member(s) - Two (2) positions, four- (4) year terms

Dated: June 17, 2026

Tami Brotherton,
City Clerk-Treasurer
City of Motley

26pnc

**TODD COUNTY
PLANNING
COMMISSION**

**215 First Ave. South
Suite 103
Long Prairie,
Minnesota 56347
320-732-4420
toddplan.zone@co.todd.
mn.us**

PUBLIC NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that the Todd County Planning Commission will hold a public hearing on **Thursday, July 2, 2026 at 6:00 p.m.** in the Commissioners meeting room, Historic Courthouse, 215 First Ave. South, Long Prairie, MN to consider the following applications.

NOTE: This meeting is again being held in-person and the public is encour-

reconvened with the governing board to present their recommendations regarding the candidate to whom the position should be offered. Following discussion and deliberation, Chair Huttunen called for board action.

On a motion by VanDenheuvel and seconded by Wolf, the board approved moving to a full-time Executive Director model and offering the Executive Director position to Paul Brownlow, directing the Personnel Committee to begin contract negotiations.

Voting in favor were Wolf, Veronen, VanDenheuvel, Howard, Wright and Huttunen. Thalmann voted against the motion. There were no abstentions. Hillmer and Tumberg were absent. The motion carried by a majority vote.

The board unanimously approved the consent agenda following a motion by Thalmann and a second by Wolf. Items included approval of the April 29, 2026, governing board minutes, acceptance of the resignation of S. McKeever, Behavior Specialist and permission to advertise and hire for several positions, including a full-time Behavioral Specialist, full-time ALC Online Instructor, temporary Business Manager Assistant, SPED Academies Paraprofessional, part-time ALC Teacher, part-time MARSS Program Assistant and part-time School Cleaner.

The board also accepted several donations by unanimous vote following a motion by Wright and a second by VanDenheuvel. Donations included \$225 from the Freshwater Education Foundation and in-kind contributions from B&D's Foods, Abby's Bakery/Mason Bros., Casey's of New York Mills and the City of New York Mills to support Mobility Meet Up activities, along with a \$200 donation from the Frazee Lions Club for Spring Fling.

The donation resolution passed unanimously with affirmative votes from Huttunen, Veronen, VanDenheuvel, Howard, Wolf, Thalmann and Wright.

aged to attend, and 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? Phone 320-732-4420 or Email toddplan.zone@co.todd.mn.us

Agenda

- Call to Order
- Pledge of Allegiance
- Introduction of Planning Committee Members and process review
- Approval of agenda
- Approval of January 8, 2026 Planning Commission meeting minutes
- The applicant is introduced
- Staff report
- Applicant confirms if staff report accurately represents the request
- Correspondence
- Site Visit Review
- Public Comment
- Board review with applicant, staff and public

1. John U. Gingerich: Section 04, Iona Township
Site Address: 32404 185th Ave., Clarissa, MN 56440

PID: 13-0003502

1. Request to operate a Sawmill for the construction of pallet lumber in AF-1 Zoning District.

2. John U. Gingerich: Section 04, Iona Township
Site Address: 32404 185th Ave., Clarissa, MN 56440

PID: 13-0003502

1. Request for Temporary Family Housing in AF-1 Zoning District.

3. Jacob C. Miller: Section 29, Eagle Valley Township
Site Address: 17913 344th Street, Clarissa, MN 56440

PID: 07-0035800

1. Request for the Assembly and Export of delivered wood products in AF-1 Zoning District.

4. New Heights Dairy LLC: Section 10, Eagle Valley Township
Site Address: 37674 Co. Hwy 11, Clarissa, MN 56440
PID: 07-0008801

Hillmer and Tumberg were absent.

The meeting adjourned at 6:00 p.m. following a motion by Veronen and a second by Howard.

Respectfully submitted,
Barb Tumberg,
Board Clerk

26pnc

**FRESHWATER
EDUCATION
DISTRICT #6004
Special Board Meeting
May 27, 2026
Wadena, MN**

MINUTES

The Freshwater Education District (FED) Governing Board held a special meeting on May 27, 2026, at the district office located at 2222 Industrial Drive in Wadena. Board Chair Rod Huttunen called the meeting to order at 5:07 p.m.

Board members present included Rod Huttunen (Sebek), Russ VanDenheuvel (Bertha-Hewitt), Katie Howard (Menahga), Chuck Wolf (Long Prairie-Grey Eagle) and Ryan Wright (Staples-Motley). Absent were Vice Chair Barb Tumberg (Wadena-Deer Creek), Clerk Scott Veronen (Verndale), Treasurer Jodi Hillmer (Browerville) and Rodney Thalmann (Henning).

Superintendents present included Lee Westrum (Wadena-Deer Creek) and Scott Vedbraaten (Browerville). FED administration in attendance included Eric Weber and Sharon Thiel.

The board unanimously approved the meeting agenda following a motion by VanDenheuvel and a second by Wright.

The board also unanimously approved the hiring of Paul Brownlow as Executive Director of Freshwater Education District, effective July 1, 2026, following a motion by Wright and seconded by Howard.

The meeting adjourned at 5:09 p.m. following a motion by Wolf and a second by VanDenheuvel.

Respectfully submitted,
Barb Tumberg,
Board Clerk

26pnc

1. Request for an increase in animal units from 1997.4 to 2744 animal units in AF-1 Zoning District.

5. Andy and Ella Raber: Section 10, Iona Township
Site Address: 31570 County 11, Clarissa, MN 56440

PID: 13-0009800

1. Request for Manufacturing and Retail of Outdoor Poly Furniture and Accessories in AF-2 Zoning District.

6. Eli Bontrager: Section 13, Eagle Valley Township

Site Address: 36167 County 89, Browerville, MN 56438

PID: 07-0012600

1. Request to Remanufacture Lumber in AF-1 Zoning District.

7. "Plat of Halves" Jeffrey A. Halverson: Section 18, Villard Township

Site Address: 281st Ave., Staples, MN 56479
PID: 25-0018601

1. Request to Create a two-lot Plat in R-2 and Natural Environment Shoreland Zoning Districts.

8. Public Hearing on Comprehensive Plan.

9. Public Hearing to Establish a Moratorium on DATA Centers.

Adjournment.

**Next meeting:
August 6, 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 Planning Commission
Jim Pratt, Chair

26pnc

**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 MLA, 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

**NOTICE
VILLARD TOWNSHIP**

**REQUEST FOR
QUOTES FOR
BLADING AND
SNOW PLOWING**

Villard Township is requesting quotes for blading and snow plowing approximately 38 miles of township roads for one (1) year beginning November 1, 2026, continuing through October 31, 2027. Snow plowing shall be done when there is two plus (2+) inches of snow accumulation. Salt/sanding shall be done as needed. Villard Township should receive first service.

Blading shall be done every two to three weeks (2-3 weeks) or as recommended by the board.

Contractors must carry commercial liability insurance of at least one mil-

lion dollars (\$1,000,000.00) per occurrence, general aggregate of two million dollars (\$2,000,000.00) and Worker's Compensation Insurance. A Certificate of Liability Insurance must be provided to the Township before any services are provided.

Contact the clerk at 218-640-6115 to receive a complete copy of the request.

Sealed quotes must be received by the Clerk at Villard Township, 31836 Timberlane Road, Staples, MN 56479 no later than 5:00 p.m. on Monday July 13, 2026. QUOTE FOR BLADING AND SNOW PLOWING MUST BE WRITTEN ON THE OUTSIDE OF THE ENVELOPE.

Mary Trantina-Koenig,
Clerk
Villard Township

26pnc

Who's watching out for you?

NEWSPAPERS! Naturally.

Eighty percent of people polled believe that governments should be required to publish public notices in newspapers. But for years, government has tried to "hide" public notices by either posting them on government websites only, or by not publishing them at all.

Newspapers across the country are fighting for YOUR right to that information. *That's our job.*

Keep public notices public. Keep them in newspapers. Support your local newspaper.

Staples World

• SOURCE: 2011 Readership Survey by National Newspaper Association.

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 SERVICER: 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.

M O R T G A G O R (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.

23-28pnc



Bike rodeo

The Staples Parks and Recreation department sponsored the Bike Rodeo on May 28, with kids enjoying the day starting with registration, above. Participants could win a free bike in a drawing, had a free meal and bike tune-ups and were able to ride an obstacle course for bicycles. (Staples World photo by Mark Anderson)



Bike repair

Participants at the Bike Rodeo on May 28 were able to get bicycle tune-ups from Jake Capistrant, above, of Jake's Bikes in Alexandria, and Bob Hamann, below. They were then able to ride the obstacle course behind the community center.



Free bike helmet, fitting

Essentia Health provided free bicycle helmets for children attending the Bike Rodeo on May 28, and assisted some of them with getting the helmet to fit correctly. (Staples World photo by Mark Anderson)



Summer vacation's begun

Children had fun at the Sacred Heart Area School playground June 10. With school out, they didn't have to listen for a bell to tell them to come back inside. (Staples World photo by Dawn Timbs)



June Fest in Motley was June 13



June Fest fun in Motley

June Fest in Motley offered a number of activities for people of all ages, including a power bungee jump and rock climbing wall at Converse Park. The annual festival is sponsored by the Motley Community Events Organization (MCEO). (Staples World photo by Dawn Timbs)



Average Joe Car Show at Converse Park

A variety of vintage cars and trucks were on display at Converse Park in Motley June 13, one of several things on the lineup of June Fest. The annual event is sponsored by the Motley Community Events Organization (MCEO).

Pictures from the June Fest Parade will be in next week's paper. (Staples World photo by Dawn Timbs)



Lamp Camp rehearsals underway

Participants at Lamp Camp rehearsed a dance routine June 9. The 2026 Lamp Camp is sponsored by Lamplighter Community Theatre, Five Wings Arts Council and the Staples Motley Area Community Foundation. During the nine-day camp, students learned about improv, singing, dance and a variety of theatre fixtures including costumes, make up and set design. The campers will present, "This is Our Show," a free musical showcase

at Centennial Auditorium in Staples Thursday, June 18, at 6 p.m. Pictured above, from left, Jackson Alexander, Joshua Cushing, Meredith Hoemberg, Kai Bestland, Brynn Bestland, Molly Hoemberg, Juliet Touchette, Maci Mithun. Below, students rehearse a song with music director Brian Sterriker. (Staples World photos by Dawn Timbs)



Lamp Camp directors

Artistic Director Justin Edin (center) has helped lead Lamp Camp since it started 15 years ago. Brian Sterriker (left) is back on board as the music director and Nikki (Edin) Paskewitz returns as the camp's choreographer. Both Sterriker and Paskewitz were campers when Lamp Camp began in 2012. (Staples World photo by Dawn Timbs)



Todd County court report, June 10

JUNE 10, 2026
Long Prairie Police
Stephanie Ann Kern, Staples. Wireless Communication device. Fine \$50. Fee \$85.
Antoinio J. Terrero Medina, Long Prairie. Driving after revocation. Fine \$200. Fee \$85. Driver must carry proof of insurance when operating vehicle. Fine \$200. Expired registration. Fine \$30.
Bryce Alan Watercott, Long Prairie. Speed 40/30. Fine \$40. Fee \$85.
Kirby Adam Johnson, Plymouth. Water safety-fail to have legal life-saving device on board watercraft or waterfowl boat. Fine \$25. Fee \$85.
MN State Patrol
Kudzai Chikovao, Mankato. Speed 80/70. Fine \$40. Fee \$85.
Reyna Andreina De La Cruz Mardigal, Long Prairie. Speed 70/60. Fine \$40. Fee \$85.
Steven James Deitering, Long Prairie. Seat Belt required. Fine \$25. Fee \$75.
Eithen Harvey Hiebel, Nelson. Tires extending beyond fenders. Fine \$50. Fee \$85.
Carter Travon Holman, Long Prairie. Window restrictions-windshield tinted or glazed. Fine \$50. Fee \$85.
Casandra Constance Janssen, East Grand Forks. Hands free law. Fine \$50. Fee \$85.

Melissa Ann Kirk, St. Michael. Speed 80/70. Fine \$50. Fee \$85.
Maxwell Dillon Mauch, Delano. Speed 80/70. Fine \$40. Fee \$85.
Todd John Michels, Osakis. Seat Belt Required. Fine \$25. Fee \$85.
Yesliany Paola Rivera Robles, Sauk Centre. Speed 84/70. Fine \$50. Fee \$85.
Sydney Rae Shiek, New Hope. Speed 80/70. Fine \$40. Fee \$85.
Layne Jonathan Sieve, Alexandria. Hands free law. Fine \$50. Fee \$85.
Sean Edward Stepnik, Beaumont, TX. Speed 80/70. Fine \$40. Fee \$85.
Tanner Justin Young, Pierz. Speed 65/55. Fine \$40. Fee \$85.
Rosa Hilda Zamora, Long Prairie. Driving after suspension. Fine \$200. Fee \$85.
Osakis Police Dept.
Chaz Charles Johnson, Long Prairie. Traffic regulation-auto fenders. Fine \$50. Fee \$85.
Steven Jason Wagner, Alexandria. Speed 70/60. Fine \$40. Fee \$85.
Staples Police Dept.
Brody Jaradon Shaw, Staples. Cannabis-use, possess, or transport cannabis or hemp products under 21 years of age. Fine \$50. Fee \$85.
Kyra Mae Stangle, Staples. Cannabis-use, possess, or transport

cannabis or hemp products under 21 years of age. Fine \$50. Fee \$85.
Todd County
Marcderson Eliacin, Browerville. Driving after suspension. Fine \$200. Fee \$85.
Mia Rae Harren, Melrose. Liquor consumption by person under 21. Fine \$100. Fee \$85.
Jonathan Ray Hart, Motley. Speed 65/55. Fine \$40. Fee \$85.
Blaine Trinity Plattner, Bertha. Speed 65/55. Fine \$40. Fee \$85.
Omar Alexander Reyes, Long Prairie. Driving after suspension. Fine \$200. Fee \$85.
Alvaro Yohaxel Rodriguez, Cushing. Driving without a valid license for vehicle class or type. Fine \$100. Fee \$85.
Arelis Judith Rugama Cruz, Alexandria. Driving without a valid license for vehicle class or type. Fine \$100. Fee \$85.
Emry David Stewart, Carlos. Speed 64/55. Fine \$40. Fee \$85.
Laurel Michelle Wysocki, Clarissa. Driving after cancellation. Fine \$200. Fee \$85.
Shirley Mae Ziebarth Le Sueur. Expired registration. Fine \$30. Fee \$85.
The following cases were heard before Heidi L. Hovis, Seventh District Court in Todd County June 3, 2026.

David Olguin Corona, Long Prairie. Fleeing a Peace Officer in a motor vehicle. Dismissed. DWI-refuse to submit to chemical test; breath or test refusal or failure. Sentenced. Local confinement (364 days, stay 0 yr 0 mo 360 days for 2 yr credit for time served: 4 days). Supervised probation, 2 yr. Fine \$300. Fee \$105.
The following cases were heard before Heidi L. Hovis, Seventh District Court in Todd County June 2, 2026.
Jacqueline Ann Horwath, Wadena. Driving after revocation. Local confinement (90 days, stay 0 yr 0 mo 0 days credit for time served: 90 days). Fine \$50. Fee \$75. Driver fails to Stop at STOP Sign. Dismissed.
Aaron Michael Miller, Long Prairie. Underage drinking & driving. Local confinement (90 days, stay 90 days for 1 yr). Community service, 16 hours for indeterminate. Supervised probation, 1 yr. Fine \$50. Fee \$75.
Paytn Lynn Nash-Demo, St. Cloud. DWI-4-operate motor vehicle under influence: cannabis/hemp product. Dismissed. Cannabis Open Package-posess in motor vehicle. Local confinement (30 days, stay 0 yr 0 mo 30 days for 1 yr. Unsupervised probation, 1 yr.



Eye clinic celebration

Lakewood Health System CEO Lisa Bjerga and optometrist Dr. Seth Dokken celebrate the ribbon cutting for the Lakewood Eye Clinic, formerly Staples Eye Clinic. Bjerga said that Brad Anderson, left, was instrumental in working out the deal between the two entities. Below, Rhonda Cichos shows some of the eye technology at the new clinic during a tour. (Staples World photos by Mark Anderson)



Infrastructure going in

Construction crews put a large concrete infrastructure base into the ground at the north end of the 4th St. NE road construction project in Staples. (Submitted photo)



Putting in sanitary sewer

Construction crews from J & J Excavating in Staples were at work June 10 putting in sanitary sewer pipes along 4th St. NE, part of the Street Improvement Project. Pictured, from right, Jerel Nelsen, City of Staples Administrator; and Brandon DeWolf, Project Manager from Bolton & Menk, check in on the project. DeWolf said that

the first part of the project, putting in water main from Park to 3rd Ave. NE had been completed. Following the sanitary sewer portion, they will begin working on the storm sewer along 4th St. NE. (Staples World photo by Dawn Timbs)



Tubing the river

Tubers enjoyed the sunshine June 9, while floating the Crow Wing River near The Vintage Golf Course. (Staples World photo by Janice Winter)

STAPLES continued from page 1a

school is in favor of this project because it will help with traffic flow in the area.

The light department is planning on building a new shop building and have budgeted \$225,000 in 2027 for design and engineering. The light department also has scheduled converting some overhead electrical wires to underground wires. The plan is to start with 8th Street NE in 2027 and replace more wires in subsequent years.

The street department is making plans for major road reconstruction of Long Prairie Road and 2nd Street SW in 2028.

Fire department mutual aid

The council approved a resolution authorizing mutual aid for other nearby governments in emergency situations, even if there is not a specific agreement with that entity. The resolution authorizes the city administrator to approve sending mutual aid if there is a request.

Fire Chief Cole Yungbauer said the requests first

go to the state, then they start contacting regional departments and move outwards from there.

Council member Doug Case was concerned about the fire department getting too extended by going to other cities. He wanted more council involvement instead of leaving it up to the city administrator.

Council member Mary Theurer said she thought the city administrator would be able to make those decisions.

Nelsen said when a request is made, the city doesn't send their whole fire crew. They also have the right to recall anyone sent out if a need arises at home.

Yungbauer said the department gets paid well for mutual aid. Two years ago they were sent to Bemidji and this year helped with the Cross Lake fires.

Council member Blake Gerard, also a firefighter, said one request per year is not enough to be concerned. "The frequency is not there," said Gerard.

Council member John Jewison agreed and said

he liked the way the resolution is written, then made a motion to approve the resolution, which was approved with Case voting against it.

In other news, the council

- Approved raising water rates five percent in 2027 and two percent the following year. Public Works Director Scott Grabe said the increase is due to debt from the 4th Street reconstruction project.

Grabe said Staples water and sewer rates are still lower than the median cost for similar Minnesota cities.

- Approved gambling permit for Staples Fire Department Relief Association to conduct lawful gambling at Beck's Burger Co. The council learned that the Staples Lions are discontinuing their gambling operations at Beck's.

- Learned that the city wide cleanup brought in 8.7 tons of materials.

- Learned that new warning sirens were installed in several locations in the city, including at Dower Lake Recreation Area.

LAKEWOOD continued from page 1a

Eye clinic has been operating in Staples for 50 years

working together for the patient."

Staples Eye Clinic has served the community for nearly 50 years, with the past 15 years under Dokken

family ownership. The transition preserves that legacy while positioning the clinic for continued growth within Lakewood Health System.

Patients with questions or those looking to schedule an appointment at Lakewood Eye Clinic can call 218-894-1331.

Clinic transfer allows eye doctors to focus on patients

By Mark Anderson, Publisher

At the May 11 ribbon cutting to celebrate the transfer of Staples Eye Clinic to the Lakewood Plaza and become the Lakewood Eye Clinic, staff said the new building gives them much more space.

"We're getting our steps in every day, there is a lot more to walk," said Mickey Farber.

Dr. Seth Dokken said the biggest change for him is that he now doesn't have to deal with administrative work such as patient insurance companies and office staffing.

"It allows me to focus only on patient care, which is what I want to do," said Dokken.

Pairing the eye clinic with Lakewood has helped both entities by offering greater integration of health care into the eye clinic operation.

"This is the future of eye care," said Dokken.

He gave two examples. He said an oncologist (cancer doctor) referred a patient who needed eye care before they could complete

the next step of their treatment, and the eye clinic had all the information right there, including what medicines the patient was taking. Another example was getting a call from the emergency department at Lakewood about an eye injury. Working together, they were able to get the patient a retina specialist the very next day.

Eye clinic employee Rhonda Cichos gave another example while giving tours of the new building. She said the clinic has a high resolution eye camera that can photograph the inside of the eye. She said one patient did not have any symptoms, but they were able to detect a tumor on the back their eye and were able to get them medical treatment right away. This one turned out to be benign, but it did save the patient from it becoming a problem.

The eye clinic reported they are very busy and are expecting to hire another optometrist to help handle the patient load.

Another benefit mentioned is that Lakewood IT helped them get the machines operating correctly on the first day.



Dr. Seth Dokken, left, speaks to visitors at the ribbon cutting for the Lakewood Eye Clinic. (Staples World photo by Mark Anderson)

To get your business featured as a Hometown Highlight, contact stapleschambermarketing@gmail.com



Hometown Highlights: The Boxcar Brings Fresh Flavor and New Energy to Staples

"When we found The Boxcar, we immediately saw the potential," they said. "We fell in love with the idea of bringing new energy to a place that already had history and character." Located at 102 4th Street NE, owners Nicole Erickson and Shawn Sorlie have brought a unique dining experience to the community—one built around high-quality ingredients, fresh-made food, and a commitment to doing things differently.

The Boxcar stands out as a seed oil-free eating and drinking establishment, offering customers a customizable "build your own" menu where guests choose what they want to order. Their personal commitment to a seed oil-free lifestyle has also played a major role in shaping the restaurant's mission and menu. That dedication is evident throughout the menu. Customer favorites include their handcrafted pizzas, crispy tallow fries, and house-made ranch dressing. Most sauces are made from scratch in-house, and every menu item is created with quality and flavor in mind. Open Monday through Saturday from 11 a.m. to 11 p.m., many customers may not realize that the entire menu is available to-go, and the kitchen remains open until 10:45 p.m. each night.

For Nicole and Shawn, opening The Boxcar was about much more than starting a business. It was the result of a shared passion for great food, hospitality, and creating memorable experiences for others. After years of traveling, exploring unique restaurants, and learning what makes a dining experience special, they knew they wanted to bring something distinctive to the Staples area. Both owners bring extensive experience to the business. Shawn has spent 24 years in the food service industry, while Nicole's background includes property management and marketing. "We wanted to build something that reflected who we are and what we love," they shared. "The Boxcar is more than a business—it's a place where people can gather, relax, and enjoy themselves."

"What we love most about Staples is how welcoming people have been," they said.

Hometown Highlights is a collaborative feature brought to you by the Staples Area Chamber of Commerce and the Staples World, dedicated to showcasing the businesses, people, and organizations that make our community thrive. Through this ongoing series, we celebrate Chamber member businesses, share their stories, highlight their impact, and help residents connect with the local entrepreneurs who invest in our hometown every day.

"From those who have stopped in for a meal to those who have shared kind words and helped spread the word, we've felt encouraged every step of the way."

Giving back is equally important to the owners. The Boxcar proudly offers happy hour pricing all day, every day for active military members, veterans, and first responders. As members of the Staples Area Chamber of Commerce, Nicole and Shawn are also looking forward to becoming even more involved in community events and activities.

Looking ahead, there is plenty of excitement on the horizon. The Boxcar is currently planning a Grand Opening Celebration in August and is developing a new sports lounge speakeasy in the building's basement. The space will provide another unique gathering spot where guests can enjoy games, entertainment, and community connection.

The future doesn't stop there. Nicole and Shawn have also purchased the building next door and envision additional opportunities to continue investing in downtown Staples and expanding what The Boxcar can offer the community. For now, their focus remains simple: serving great food, creating memorable experiences, and building a place where people feel welcome.



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