

Inside this issue:

Efforts to solve 'mailbox bingo'
Motley June Fest, Fair photos
Local election filing
12U softball, tee ball photos
Shop Local page



Nice crowd at the fair Hundreds of people visited the Motley Fair June 11 - 14, enjoying a variety of contests, food, entertainment and events. Above, people of all ages strolled through the Midway area June 13. (Photo by Dawn Timbs)

July 4 celebration at Staples Veterans Park

Ceremony at 11 a.m., followed by BBQ lunch

The Fourth of July celebration at All Veterans Park in Staples will begin at 11 a.m. In case of rain, the celebration will be held at Faith Lutheran Church in Staples.

This year's guest speaker is Army Veteran Jerry Cleveland of Staples, who will talk about how "it is our duty to serve our nation and defend it."

In addition, Tristan Jenkins of Staples will talk about 'America 250' and what it means.

Huck Holst will emcee the event, Pastor Barry Klein will deliver the invocation, the woodwind quintet 'Looney Tunes,' made up from members of the Heartland Symphony, will perform the Star Spangled Banner and lead the sing-along of patriotic medleys. The Motley American Legion Color Guard will conduct a 21-gun salute, followed by 'Taps' played by the woodwind quintet. Twenty-five commemorative pavers will be dedicated on July 4, as well as the granite Giza family bench, the new pavilion, and the POW/MIA and Purple Heart Memorial.

Guests are reminded to



Speaker

Army veteran Jerry Cleveland of Staples is the guest speaker at this year's Fourth of July celebration in Staples.

bring lawn chairs to the event. Following the program, there will be a meal catered by Bubba's Grill & Catering, serving BBQ beef

brisket and pulled pork (free will donation).

Guest speaker

Cleveland is a 1967 Staples High School graduate. He enlisted in the U.S. Army in 1969, four days before his classmate Roger Jensen was killed in action in Vietnam.

Cleveland took basic training at Ft. Polk, La., then on to Ft. Campbell, Ky. for infantry training where he was assigned to Bravo Co. Subsequently, he was deployed to Vietnam where he spent 15 months before returning home.

After Cleveland was discharged, he coached wrestling, officiated and spent his career in high school administration. In 2010, Cleveland retired and returned to Staples.

Paver dedication

The ceremony will also include a dedication of 26 granite paving stones engraved with the names of area veterans, including:

- SGT Blair M Fahlander, USAF, 1370 Photo

See **CELEBRATION** on page 3a



Grand Marshal riding in style

Rodger Bremer of Motley served as Grand Marshal of the June Fest Parade in Motley June 13. The owner of the convertible, and driver, is Marge Tepley of Motley. (Staples World photo by Dawn Timbs)

Johnson building athletes Brick by Brick in Staples

By Mark Anderson
Publisher

Chase Johnson's only professional goal is to help athletes improve their performance. With that interest in mind, he opened Brick by Brick Performance in Staples at the end of May.

Working as a personal trainer for 10 years, Johnson has developed a training philosophy that is built into the name of his business and into the physical

business itself.

"It means you have to build a base first, then you can get better and better," said Johnson.

Growing up in Pillager, Johnson said he didn't have a lot of specialized training until he followed a weightlifting program his senior year.

"I found out it can do a lot," said Johnson.

From that point on, he made it his goal to help people get better training,

starting with student-athletes. He considered going into physical therapy but thought that would be too specialized, so his college classes were focused on athletic training.

He moved back to the area in 2021 and finished his degree at the University of North Dakota in Grand Forks, driving there from Staples for some classes.

He worked at Gold Standard Performance in Baxter;

See **JOHNSON** on page 12a



Learning to move for athletic performance

Chase Johnson demonstrates how to turn a quick corner by using the inside foot to pivot and push off during speed and agility drills. Johnson's Brick by Brick

Performance training center is at 1305 8th St. NE in Staples. (Staples World photo by Mark Anderson)

Weather

2026			
This Week's Forecast			
	High	Low	Cond.
June 24	70	51	Cloudy
June 25	75	53	M. Cloudy
June 26	76	58	M. Cloudy
June 27	74	62	M. Cloudy
June 28	76	64	Rain
June 29	78	59	P. Cloudy
June 30	81	53	M. Sunny

Last Year, 2025			
	High	Low	Cond.
June 24	75°	51	M. Sunny
June 25	62	60	Rain
June 26	58	55	Rain
June 27	70	56	Cloudy
June 28	82	60	M. Sunny
June 29	83	62	Sunny
June 30	74	59	Sunny

Average Temps:
H = 79° Low = 57°

Compiled by
Dale Hausmann,
WCCO's Staples area
Weatherwatcher

Public Notices

ISD #2170 9A
Becker Township 9A
May Township 9A
City of Staples 9A
Todd Commissioners 9-10A
City of Motley 8A
Region 5 8A

Obituary

Nancy Spilman



Parade winners at June Fest



Motley Free Methodist Church were first place winners at the June Fest parade in Motley June 13. Members of the church dressed in Roman attire in keeping with the theme of their upcoming Vacation Bible School, “Paul and the Underground Church.” (Staples World photos by Dawn timbs)



At the Average Joe Car Show

There was an impressive lineup of vintage vehicles at the Average Joe Car Show in Motley June 13. The event was held at Converse Park, one of many

events offered during June Fest. The annual event is sponsored by the Motley Community Events Organization (MCEO). (Submitted photo)

Hundreds attend June Fest in Motley

The Motley Community Events Organization (MCEO) reports that the annual June Fest, held in conjunction with the Motley Fair, was a success.

Held June 13, the festival started with the 4-mile and 1-mile run/walk, with over 150 people participating.

Lori Anderson of Perham was the winner of the female 4-mile run, with a time of 30:11. The male 4-mile winner was Jack Lewis of Plymouth with a time of 28:16.

“The parade was a huge hit again this year,” said MCEO member Amy Brichacek, adding that it was “so fun to see everyone line the streets.”

Parade winners included:

- 1st place, Motley Free Methodist Church
- 2nd place, Artesian Homes
- 3rd place, Little

Caboose Daycare

There were many free attractions held again at Converse Park in Motley. New events offered included a climbing rock wall and a bungee trampoline. There were also bounce houses, root beer floats, face painting, crazy hair, tattoos, balloon artist and a DJ, all offered free to June Fest attendees. Brichacek mentioned that the Average Joe Car Show was also a success, with many more cars on display at Converse Park than in previous years.



Winners

The winners of the 4-mile run at June Fest in Motley were Jack Lewis, left, and Lori Anderson. (Submitted photo)

Shop Local!

We have what you need right here

Check out these local businesses

Home, Hardware

Staples Ace Hardware	210 2nd Ave NE, Staples
Central Building Supply	820 2nd Ave. NW, Staples
Williams Floral & Nursery	1010 2nd Ave. NE, Staples
Motley Hardware	117 Highway 10 S., Motley



Groceries & food

Ernie's Food Market	1425 Highway 10 E, Staples
Jon's Family Foods	203 Warner Road NE, Staples

Automobiles & vehicle repair

Nyhus Chevrolet	120 2nd Ave NE, Staples
Ken's Collision & Glass/Southside Mini-Mart/Soutside Suds Car Wash	219 6th St SE, Staples



Retail, gift and thrift stores

Longbella Drug By Lakewood	1210 Highway 10, Staples
Old 10 Apparel	508 2nd Ave NE, Staples
STEP On In	116 5th Street NE, Staples
Like-Nu Gun & Pawn	214 2nd Ave. NE, Staples
Ray's Tobacco	215 2nd Ave. NE, Staples

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Why shop local?

We care about your service

Local businesses have a deep understanding of the products and services we provide. We take time to get to know your needs and strive to make your shopping experience worthwhile.

We support community groups

We donate 250% more per sale to local nonprofits, events and youth activities than national chains.

We keep our community unique

One-of-a-kind businesses create the character for our community. We don't want to be like everywhere else.

We invest in our community

For every \$100 spent at a locally owned business, at least \$50 recirculates and remains in the local economy, compared to \$15 for national chains.

We cut your taxes

Your local business tax base pays city, county and school taxes at a higher rate, which translates to lower taxes for you. This gives us better schools, transportation and emergency response services in our community.

Local businesses provide job growth

Up to 90 percent of net new jobs are created by locally owned businesses

We spur innovation

Entrepreneurs and skilled workers are more likely to invest and settle in communities that promote their one-of-a-kind businesses and distinctive character.

We reduce driving time

Residents of neighborhoods with more local businesses drive 26 percent fewer miles.

Restaurants and bars

Tower Pizza	414 2nd Ave NE, Staples
Frosty's Spirits & Social Club	5th Street & 2nd Ave. NE
Spot Cafe	116 2nd Ave NW, Staples
Beck's Burger Co.	119 3rd St NE, Staples
The Boxcar	102 4th St NE, Staples
Still Lefty's	423 2nd Ave NE, Staples
DQ Staples and DQ Motley	Highway 10 in Staples and Motley
B&B Sports Bar & Grill	115 2nd Ave. NE, Staples
Stomping Grounds	213 4th St NE, Staples
Bremer's Booze Bank	48 Main Street W, Motley

TOWER PIZZA

218-894-3299

414 2nd Ave NE, Staples

Monday-Thursday: 11:00-7:30

Friday-Saturday: 11:00-8:30

Sunday: 4:00-7:30

StaplesWorld

Your Community Newspaper Since 1890

Nothing says local like the Staples World

CELEBRATION continued from page 1a

Pavers to be dedicated on 4th of July

Mapping Wing, Nov. 1961 Oct. 1968

- SP4 Bruce E Hayenga, US Army Germany, Company B 82nd Engineer Battalion, Nov. 1960 - Nov. 1963
- Sergeant 1st Class, Benjamin F Schumm, US Army Korea, 25th Infantry Division, 1952 - 1954
- TEC SGT 4, Bertil P Swenson, 12th Armored, 134th Ordinance, US Army WWII, July 1942 - Jan. 1946
- SPEC 5, Jon B Blessing, US Army Fort Knox KY, Ireland Army Hospital, Nov. 1968 - Sept. 1970
- S/SGT Douglas Fahnlander, USAF VFW Vietnam, 13TFS - 388 TRW, Nov. 1961 - Nov. 1969
- Airman David M Johnson, US Navy, Cold War VF-213, 1982 - 1986
- Sergeant Clifford E Smith, US Army WWII, Supply Clerk, Sept. 1941 - Dec. 1945
- Pharmacy Mate 3rd Class, Edna “Dolly” Swenson, US Navy Waves WWII, Great Lakes Michigan, Dec. 1944 - June 1946
- SP4 James A Carlson, US Army, 1st Armored Division, 28 Dec. 1965 - 14 Dec. 1967
- Master Sergeant James L Fahnlander, US Air Force, WA AFROTC Detachment, 910 09/1962 - 1966, 09/1971-01/1990
- Sergeant Rock Lewandowski US Army, 82nd Airborne, 1982 - 1986
- PFC Craig D Spencer, US Army WWII, Rhineland Campaign, Sept. 1944 - Oct. 1945, Purple Heart
- Private Fred N Tracy, US Army, World War I France, 1916 - 1918
- PVT Charles E Asselin, US Army WWI, Company C

88th Infantry, 1917 - 1919

- CPL Paul E Carlson, USMC Desert Storm, 24th Marine Expeditionary Unit, 1988 - 1992
- Captain Jeffrey Fahnlander, USAF Iraq, 391st Fighter Squadron, F-15E, May 1989 - Oct. 1998
- SP5 Richard J Nichols, US Army Vietnam, Dec. 1960 - Dec. 1966
- Petty Officer Third Class, Ronald Spencer Miller, USN Vietnam, USS New Jersey, BB62, Oct. 1965 - Sept. 1969
- QMCS Lawrence B Weyet, USN Vietnam Conflict, USS Henry Clay, NUC SUB, Jan. 1957 - June 1975
- E5 Boiler Tech Wayne Berry, US Navy Vietnam, USS Ticonderoga, Jan. 1970 - Sept. 1973
- Surgical Tech Private 1st Class, Vernon H Carlson, US Army WWII, 107th General Hospital, Nov. 1945 - Nov. 1946
- S/SGT Leo Fahnlander, WWII Army - Air Force, 7th Photo, Reconnaissance Group, Apr. 1942 - Sept. 1945
- MSG Izaak P Schafer, Army National Guard, Iraq/Afghanistan, 34th Infantry Division, Jan. 2004 - June 2025, Bronze Star
- PFC James Henry Richmond, US Army World War II, POW Stalag 11B, Fallingbostel, Sept. 1942 - March 1944, POW Purple Heart
- Staff Sgt Donald I Gilbertson, US Army WWII, 1940 - 1947, Purple Heart
- SP4 Jay D Gilbertson, US Army Vietnam, 1970 - 1971
- Disabled American Veterans, Chapter 12 Little Falls, MN, Serving all American Veterans

75 YEARS Ago - 1951

• June 21, 1951 - A car belonging to Miss Delores Martin, who is employed at the Staples Coffee Shop, which was stolen from the curb in front of the Congregational church in Staples the night of May 30, was recovered near Brainerd the first part of this week by Sheriff Roy Wickland of Crow Wing county.

A St. Paul soldier, who was found lying on a highway near Brainerd, faces auto theft charges in Long Prairie, and also questioning by army authorities for being absent without leave, Sheriff Warren Galvin, of Long Prairie reported Monday.

The soldier had been identified first by Sheriff Wickland as Robert Walzelt

- O -
Compiled by
Dawn Timbs
- O -

of St. Paul, who stated he had been AWOL from Fort Lee, Va., since May 15.

• June 21, 1951 - Headline: ‘Motley Runner-Up in District 24 Baseball Tourney.’ June 13 and 15 at Little Falls was the setting of the District 24 High School baseball tourney. After Wednesday’s games, in which Crosby-Ironton beat Sebeka 4-2 and Little Falls beat Aitkin 7-3, but four school remained in the running, these being Brainerd, Little Falls, Crosby-Ironton, and Motley.

• June 21, 1951 - The Staples Railroaders were poor hosts last Sunday to the County Seaters of Long Prairie, as they ran wild in a comedy of errors to notch their fourth league win by a score of 21 to 9.

The game was marked by loose play from both teams. Errors were numerous and not all of the physical variety. The base running was erratic and the pitching, from the visitors, left much to be desired as a parade of four would-be hurlers made the track to the hill in an effort to halt the Rails’ onslaught.

• June 21, 1951 - A good neighborly deed was done last week in the Moran-Germania community when several neighbors went to the farm home of Frances Moris Sunday, June 17, and helped put in the remainder of his crop.

Mr. Moris was injured some time ago in a tractor accident, the details of which are lacking at this time. He is getting along nicely, but is still unable to do the work necessary around his farm.

Neighbors doing the work included Ben and Rudy Sklenicka, Raymond Heaser, Vincent and Charles Lenk. They took their tractors to the Moris farm and completed the work.

The women folks brought lunch with them which was served after the work had been completed.

50 YEARS Ago - 1976

• June 10, 1976 - The Poplar Ladies Birthday Club, which was organized March 18, 1926 had a Golden Anniversary Observance on Saturday May 29, at the Poplar School, where the present members and many of the past members enjoyed a day together.

A program was presented beginning with all singing the club song, “Help Somebody Today,” followed by a duet, “Precious Memories,”

∞
Looking back



Mystery photo

Hello readers. This week’s archive photo is from 1967. 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.

Todd County court report

JUNE 17, 2026
Long Prairie Police
Isaias Danauris De La Cruz Acevedo, Long Prairie. Stopping/standing/parking where signs prohibit stopping. Fine \$25. Fee \$22. Ruben Javier Gonzalez-Ortiz, Long Prairie. Driving after revocation. Fine \$200. Fee \$85.
Cesar Montiel-Gonzalez, St. Joseph. Driving after revocation. Fine \$200. Fee \$85. Expired registration. Fine \$30. Driver must carry proof of insurance when operating vehicle. Fine \$200.
Juan Jose Monrroy Chavez, Long Prairie. Smoking-chewing tobacco or E cigarettes prohibited in public or Charter School. Fine \$50
Joshua John Jr. Pfaff, Swanville. Window restrictions-windshield tinted or glazed. Fine \$50. Tint too dark. Fine \$50.
Roy Lobles Vega, Long Prairie. Stopping/standing/parking where signs prohibit stopping. Fine \$25. Fee \$22.
MN Dept. of Natural Resources
Robert James, Jr. Jespersen, Carlos. Watercraft-operate unlicensed watercraft. Fine \$50. Fee \$85.
Roger Michael Keck, Burtrum. Failure to obtain a burning permit. Fine \$50. Fee \$85.
MN State Patrol
Levi C. Christner, Hewitt. Speed 70/60. Fine \$40. Fee \$85.
Lyle Martin, Long Prairie. MN Annual inspection decal violation. Fine \$100. Fee \$85.
Christopher Dean Amundson, Long Prairie. Speed 65/60. Fine \$40. Fee \$85.
Enrique Troy Ballard, St. Paul. Driving after revocation. Fine \$200. Fee \$85.
Jerry Malcom Bullard, Long Prairie. Hands free law. Fine \$50. Fee \$85.
Colin Lee Cottingham, Evansville. Speed 85/70. Fine \$60. Fee \$85.
Marc Vernon Gruber, Glenwood. Hands free law. Fine \$50. Fee \$85.
Isabella Lynn Jacobs, Carlos. Speed 80/70. Fine \$40. Fee \$85.
Kimberly Kaye Kenyon-Brown. Driving after revocation. Fine \$200. Fee \$85.
Ayden Nicholas Kroll, Sauk Centre. Speed 65/60. Fine \$40. Fee \$85.
Tyron Vincent Langness, New Richmond. Speed 80/70. Fine \$40. Fee \$85.
Kleinner Morales Velasco, Shoreline, WA. Move over-passing parked authorized vehicle-2 lanes in same direction. Fine \$50. Fee \$85. No proof MV Insurance. Fine \$200.
Ironday Josefina Pichardo Rodriguez, Long Prairie Windshield restrictions. Fine \$50 Fee \$85.
Edan Lee Smith, Sartell. Speed 84/70. Fine \$50. Fee \$85.
Osakis Police Dept.
Steven Jason Wagner, Alexandria. Speed 70/60. Fine \$40. Fee \$85.
Todd County
Jonathan Ray Hart, Motley. Speed 65/55. Fine \$40 Fee \$85.
Timothy Charles Jasmer, Verdale. Forestry-open burning-prohibited materials. Fine \$200. Fee \$85.
Sebastian Molina, Long Prairie. Driving after suspension. Fine \$200. Fee \$85.

Yanzel Jose Taveras Perdomo, Brownerville. Speed 70/60. Fine \$40. Fee \$85.
The following cases were heard before Heidi L. Hovis, Seventh District Court in Todd County June 5, 2026.
Keegan Mathew Brumitt, Fargo, ND. Speed 87/70. Fine \$60. Fee \$75.
The following cases were heard before Heidi L. Hovis, Seventh District Court in Todd County June 8, 2026.
Marlin Lloyd Schmitz, Richmond. Driving after revocation. Continued. Unsupervised probation, 6 mo. Impl of husbandry-slow moving emblom required. Continued. Unsupervised probation, 6 mo. Impl of husbandry-lights required per 169.55 subd 2 & 3. Continued. Unsupervised probation, 6 mo.
Jenna Lyn Williams, Duluth. Driving restrictions. Continued. Unsupervised probation, 1 yr. Fine \$100. Fee \$75. Driving after cancellation. Dismissed.
The following cases were heard before Heidi L. Hovis, Seventh District Court in Todd County June 9, 2026.
Cody Stephen Nelson, Buffalo. Speed 70/55. Fine \$60. Fee \$75.
Curtis James Woodard, Staples. Traffic-DWI-operate motor vehicle-alcohol concentration 0.08 within 2 hours. Sentenced. Local confinement (90 days, stay 89 days for 1 yr credit for time served: 1 day). Supervised probation, 1 yr. Fine \$300. Fee \$175. DWI-fourth degree driving while impaired. Dismissed. Open bottle law, possession. Dismissed.
Tyler James Hoefs-Gesme, Bertha. Driving after revocation. Dismissed. Speed 67/55. Dismissed. Driver must carry proof of insurance when operating vehicle. Sentenced. Local confinement (1 day, stay 0 yr 0 mo 0 days for time served: 1 day). Fine \$50. Fee \$75.
The following cases were heard before Heidi L. Hovis, Seventh District Court in Todd County June 10, 2026.
Ronald Padilla Padilla Pena, Brownerville. All Terrain vehicle-operation on public right of way of highway. Fine \$100. Fee \$75. All Terrain vehicle-operate in careless/reckless manner. Dismissed. Driver must carry proof of insurance when operating vehicle. Dismissed. Operate unregistered vehicle without plates on public streets. Dismissed.
Kaylene Elizabeth Reger, Brownerville. Drugs-5th degree-possess Schedule 1, 2, 3, 4 or paraphernalia residual-not cannabis/hemp. Dismissed. Traffic-DWI-operate motor vehicle-any amount Schedule I/II drugs/metabolite-not cannabis/hemp. Sentenced. Local confinement (90 days, stay 0 yr 0 mo 90 days for 1 yr). Supervised probation, 1 yr. Fine \$50 Fee \$100.
The following cases were heard before Daniel A. Benson, Seventh District Court in Todd County June 5, 2026.
Steven Paul Ulrich, St. Paul. Duty to drive with due care-speed greater than reasonable. Unsupervised monitoring without conviction, 1 yr. Fine \$40. Fee \$75.
–Court reports forwarded from the Long Prairie Leader.

DEADLINE
for all classified
ads and copy is
12 noon Friday

For the
Staples World



Mystery unsolved

Last week’s mystery photo published in the Aug. 6, 1987 edition of the Staples World featured the crew from Batcher’s Department Store who were co-winners in the ‘theme contest’ during

Crazy Days in Staples.
No names were included in the 1987 paper, and no one called in to help identify the people.

Staples World

The Staples World office, moved to 207 4th St. NE open every weekday, 8 a.m. - noon.

•For afternoon availability, call 218-894-1112.

Regular advertising and copy deadline is Friday, noon.

The office closes at noon on Friday.

Across from the old Staples Theatre marquee

Mailbox bingo: Motley calls in the Pony Express

By Mark Anderson, Publisher

The Pony Express has arrived, thanks to the people of Motley and Verndale, who got frustrated with getting their newspaper a week after it was mailed from Staples.

We have mailed our newspapers out on Tuesdays for the past six years or so, but for the last five weeks, many newspapers have arrived at mailboxes on odd and unpredictable dates. We haven't changed anything from our end, the postal service cut down to one truck per day going in and out of rural post offices.

This meant that all newspapers that did not have a Staples address were sent to a transfer station in Waite Park. Things got nebulous from there, all we know is some papers were arriving in mailboxes a week or so later.

This immediately resulted in people calling our office because they didn't get their newspaper. We sometimes mailed out another newspaper in case the first one was lost, because the post office didn't have much of an idea where it was. It took a lot of our time, effort and postage stamps trying to track down those single missing papers.

This game of mailbox bingo started causing some major problems with the core mission of the newspaper. As a weekly newspaper, regular news is often a week later and people are used to that. But they started asking if they put in a garage sale ad for the weekend or a legal notice that had to be in by a certain date, was that even valid if people didn't get their newspaper until the following week?

I wrote an editorial titled "Bring back the Pony Express" where I pointed out that the newspapers would get to mailboxes faster if we sent them by Pony Express. I didn't want the actual Pony Express to re-

turn, but I wanted to see a similar attitude where the post office goes above and beyond to serve the people, instead of doing the bare minimum to complete their obligation.

My editorial didn't change anything, but the people of Motley did. Maybe there was a confab during Motley's June Fest where they decided to not put up with this any more, but the next week we took many more calls. The post office could no longer look at it case by case, they became responsive and helpful in finding a solution.

We came up with an idea. What if we dropped the bundles with Motley addresses and Verndale addresses at their respective post offices, instead of letting them sit at the Waite Park location until someone decided to send them out?

The post office thought that might work, so we are going to see what happens.

Like the Pony Express, this is kind of a stop-gap measure and I'm not sure it will be the right solution for the long term, but hopefully this week some newspapers will arrive in some mailboxes earlier. We will still have some gaps in our area subscriber list, so we are looking for more solutions.

Remember to thank your postal workers for doing their best to deal with decisions that are made at a higher level, out of local control. Two months before this mailbox bingo system was implemented, a news story stated "The US Postal Service is looking to adopt generative artificial intelligence (AI) tools in the coming months to improve customer experience and service delivery." Typical of institutions these days, they can blame their heartlessness on AI efficiency so nobody actually takes responsibility.

I guess the people of Motley didn't see it as an improved experience. They let us know and we are working with the local post offices to see if we can Pony Express our way back to normal.

Quote of the week

“Tell me, did the wind sweep you off your feet?
And did you finally get the chance to dance
along the light of day and
head back to the Milky Way?”
— Train, “Drops of Jupiter,”

From wetland to woodland, life is new

This is an eventful time if your interests include the wild neighbors with which we share the Minnesota landscape. Eventful, because for the vast majority of these creatures, this is the time most critical to the survival of their kind. With few exception, most lead relatively short lives, which makes each breeding, nesting, and rearing season all the more important. And each has its own schedule.

The first week of June saw the first brood of trumpeter swans on the 10-acre wetland just a mile down the road from us. In a patchy mosaic of open water and cattail clumps, I counted four round, white balls in the company of the pen and cob, as female and male swans are known. Plainly visible through binoculars was their fuzzy plumage, a sharp contrast to the sleekness of their parents, who are among the most protective of waterfowl, and have the size and aggressiveness to back it up.

The eggs out of which these cygnets hatched were probably laid as April transitioned into May, since the period of incubation can be five weeks or lightly more. Usually a trumpeter clutch of eggs will be four to six, sometimes more, occasionally less. The young will be fully fledged and ready to fly at 16 weeks. That's a long time to acquire a bird's best defense, the power of flight. It's common for only half the hatchlings in a trumpeter brood to survive to that milestone. Owls, eagles, mink, foxes, and snapping turtles are commonly the vectors of cygnet mortality. This particular wetland is connected via a drainage channel to a 3,000 acre lake, and northern pike are known to follow it to reach this wetland to spawn. A large northern is more than capable of being one of the causes of that mortality.

With the coming of the summer solstice in June's third week, we've now seen our first brood of young common mergansers. Hunters disparagingly call them "fish ducks," for their second-tier palatability, a consequence of a diet that consists mostly of small fish, which're adept at catching

with their peculiar bill that has tiny tooth-like projections ideal for capturing prey. The two mergansers that are common in Minnesota are the common merganser, and the smaller hooded merganser.

Unlike most waterfowl, which nest on the ground in marshes or in adjacent grassy uplands, all three mergansers found in North America nest in tree cavities. These cavities are typically excavated by woodpeckers, but may also be in hollow "rot-out" areas of large trees. Sometimes, to the chagrin of humans trying to attract wood ducks, mergansers will claim man-made nesting boxes.

For weeks we've watched a hen merganser fly a circular pattern over the lake, then disappear among the branches near the top of a large red pine, presumably where her nest cavity was located. Now we've seen her offspring, of which we counted only a half dozen. Broods we've seen in past years have numbered as many as 10 or 12, which suggests that either fewer eggs were laid, or hatched, or this brood has already lost some of its original members.

Mergansers have evolved a communal foraging strategy, already evident in this gaggle of young ducklings. A group of mergansers will swim in a herding maneuver in shallow water, making minnows and other small fish more easily captured. I've seen this not just here on the lake, but also while fishing trout streams, like those on Lake Superior's North Shore.

For songbirds, the "when" of nest building, egg laying, brood hatching, and fledging of their young vary by kind, and sometimes by individual. We've been seeing sleek, black adult common grackles feeding their offspring insects they've captured, the young already almost indistinguishable in size and appearance from their parents. Still, as with all juveniles, there is a learning curve for acquiring the skills to fend for themselves.

Robins, too, continue to feed offspring that have left the nest, but are still earning their wings. This past weekend I flushed one from beneath my parked utility trailer, and watched as it got airborne and beat its way awkwardly toward an eventual collision with a neighbor's garage window. Luckily, the window had an exterior screen that helped cushion the impact, or this young robin could have become one more window-col-

lision statistic. Seemingly unfazed, the young robin hopped up onto a stack of firewood below the window, there to await the return of its parent.

Less fortunate was a fledgling robin I found a fortnight ago. Its feather emergence had barely begun; it lay in the grass beneath one of our tall maples, where it had fallen—or been blown by wind—from a nest high above to its death. Accidents—in addition to predation, and the sometimes-fatal effects of weather—are an ever-present hazard.

Others are still feeding offspring in the nest. A pair of tiny chipping sparrows has been bringing insects by the "bill-full" to a nest hidden in the interior of a large arbor vitae near our home's entrance. Perhaps it's my imagination, but they seem to pause on the sidewalk, or on a branch in an adjacent arb, before darting into the shrub where their nest is located. Whether this is a tactic to avoid giving away the nest's location, or I'm giving them too much credit for stealth, is hard to say.

These parents had a close call recently, when a red squirrel found its way into the interior branches of the nest-bearing shrub, triggering a burst of frantic calling, and panicked flitting from branch to branch near the nest. Red squirrels have a reputation for raiding nests, not just to consume eggs, but sometimes the young nestlings as well. In principle, I favor letting Nature take its course. But in this case I couldn't force myself to remain neutral, and did what I could to scare off the intruder before damage was done. So much for not putting my thumb on the scales of survival.

Ruffed grouse and wild turkeys are also our woodland neighbors, and both can be found within little more than the range of a light clay target load from our doorstep. But both of these upland game birds—especially grouse—are more secretive, and usually found in more hidden, out-of-the-way places than the more visible waterfowl, or songbirds. By now there are fledglings of both species able to make short flights to roost in trees, or to escape danger from pursuers other than persistent avian predators. With each passing week they'll become even stronger fliers, increasing the odds of their surviving to maturity.

Each creature is unique. But all have in common an annual drama of survival.

Quote of the week

“Do not wait to strike
till the iron is hot;
but make it hot by
striking.”
— William Butler
Yeats

Quote of the week

“The future belongs
to those who can tell
the difference between
signal
and noise.”
— Clay Shirky

Postal Service damaging rural news, communities

By Amy Klobuchar
U.S. Senator

To Mr. David Steiner
Postmaster General

I write to express concern about the impacts of the United States Postal Service's (USPS) recent policy changes on local newspapers and their subscribers.

The Postal Service's Regional Transportation Optimization (RTO) plan lowers service standards and eliminates end-of-day mail collection at most of the nation's post offices, particularly in rural areas. In January 2025, the Postal Regulatory Commission issued an advisory opinion raising serious concerns about the plan's negative impacts on rural communities while slowing mail delivery and failing to

save costs.

Despite the advisory opinion and opposition from postal workers and customers, USPS has continued to implement the policy which has resulted in disrupted service for local newspapers in Minnesota, especially those serving rural communities.

Local newspapers are already facing an existential crisis with ad revenues plummeting, newspapers closing and many rural communities becoming "news deserts" without access to local reporting. Minnesotans depend on local newspapers not only to find out the weather forecast or who won the big high school sports game, but also to keep them well-informed about local issues and hold local government officials accountable.

The Postal Service's Regional Transportation Optimization plan - on top of its policy changes and rate hikes in recent years - has real impacts on local newspapers delivery, and local journalism and their subscribers are already paying the price. The United States Postal Service should be helping these local newspapers reach their communities, not making it more difficult for them to do their critical work.

I urge you to address these burdens on local newspapers and ensure that the United States Postal Service is a viable, affordable delivery service for independent newspaper distribution so that the local newspapers that rely on the postal service can continue to serve their communities.

StaplesWorld

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MINNESOTA NEWSPAPER ASSOCIATION

1897

FREE PRESS

FREE PEOPLE

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Website: \$50 per year
Minnesota: \$58 per year - Out of State: \$63 per year
Foreign: on-line only - Student Rate: (Sept. through Apr./in-state) \$43
There is a \$5 charge for address change from local to out-of-state.

Fairness: The Staples World tries conscientiously to report fairly and accurately. If you feel we fall short of this objective at any time, please direct your complaint to the manager whose name appears on this page.
Note to Advertisers: Advertisers should check their ad following first publication. This newspaper shall not be liable for failure to publish an ad or for the typographic error or errors in publication except to the extent of the cost of the ad for the first day's insertion. Adjustment for errors is limited to the cost of that portion of the ad wherein the error occurred. The publisher reserves the right to cancel any advertisement at any time.

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

By Heather Close
The Rural Blog

Beginning in the 1980s all the way through the early 2000s, Americans who chose to work in the skilled trades were portrayed as individuals who weren't suited for a college education and would agree to end up in a lesser paying and less-respected profession. That's no longer the case.

"Big employers such as Ford and philanthropies are ramping up programs to persuade more Americans to don tool belts," reports Te-Ping Chen of The Wall Street Journal. "New efforts announced just this year already total around \$400 million."

Bloomberg Philanthropies recently announced a \$90 million campaign aimed at recruiting graduating

high school seniors to seek a career in the trades. Chen writes, "The effort includes a partnership with Ford in Detroit, where Bloomberg and the automaker are kicking in \$2.5 million each, partly to fund new auto-repair bays for high-schoolers."

The CEO of Ford, Jim Farley, told the Journal, "Most of our technicians are older — it is a real dilemma. This year alone, the automaker says it is spending \$300 million on efforts aimed at filling vital jobs."

Gen Z has consistently shown interest in "blue-collar jobs," Chen explains, "to the point where districts are revitalizing shop classes in some areas, and there is a rising tide of philanthropic spending aimed at aggressively accelerating that trend."



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 29 - June 30
MONDAY - BBQ chicken breast, scalloped potatoes, peas, wheat bread, brownie, marg., 1% milk.
TUESDAY - Diced turkey/gravy, mashed potatoes, stuffing, whole kernel corn, diced peach cup, dinner roll, marg., 1% milk.
(Weds.-Fri. menu not available at press time)
wk27

Mark Your Calendar

June 25

'WALK WITH A Doc' Thursdays at 5:15 p.m., at Lake-wood Health System's main campus in Staples. Meet at the main entrance. For more information about this free program, visit <https://walkwithadoc.org/join-a-walk/locations/staples-minnesota>
WADENA WHIRLWAYS SQUARE DANCE GROUP DANCING Thursday, June 25, 7 - 9:30 p.m., at St. Michael's Church, 280 1st Ave. S., Motley. Bob Maiden, caller. For info., 612-743-3480.

June 26

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 28

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

June 30

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.



Enjoying the parade

Lynnea (Iverson) and Josh Schmitz of Grand Rapids, along with their children Aaland, three years and Sullivan, 14 months, enjoyed the June Fest parade.

Lynnea, a Staples native, said they were in the area, visiting her parents, Jeff and Kathy Iverson, now of rural Motley. (Staples World photo by Dawn Timbs)

Staples-Motley High School honor roll

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

A Honor Roll

Grade 12
Mason Albertson, Sadye Anderson, Summer Anderson, Brynn Bestland, Ava Birkholtz, Elliot Borgenaes, Audrey Brownell, Isabel Cole, Charles Dabbs, Emmalee Dobson, McKenzie Fletcher, Parker Hammer, Alexander Holmberg, Noah Larson, Pamela Lawrence, Mason Michael, Raina Mikhaeil, Cecily Moe, Xander Moench, Alexis Opelia, Riley Reese, Torence Rodrigues, Eli Rutten, Colbe Tappe, Adelaide Toepper, Teegan Vogel, Alaina White.

Grade 11
Brooke Bendson, Emersen Bettis, Leighton Bettis, Ayden Blue, Natasha Dause, Savanna Davis, Allison Dukowitz, Bella Hines, Thomas Johnson, Madelyn Kist, Ronnie Noska, Samuel Olsen, Justin Olson, Madison Perius, Mia Pesta, Bryant Peterson, Tyler Pruitt, Tristan Rendon, Kyleena Rudlang, Carter Sarbaum, Katelyn Schotzko, Evan Schultz, Chloe Trantina, Tyson Turner, Kylie Wilson, Cloey Wingert, Daniel Zimmerman.

Grade 10
Gage Bjerga, Andrew Black, Adalyne Brenny, Beau Carlson, Charlotte Daniels, Alexa Dolezal, Lauren Dolezal, Jada Ellingsen, Kain Erickson, Lexi Fishman, Leah Greenwaldt, Sarah Kroll, Lyndon Laney, Chloe Larson, Clara Maros, Jadalynn McKenna, Ally Pesola, Addison Potter, Brooke Reisenauer, Lydia Roelofs, Alyce Scheler, Scarlett Stracek, Brooklyn Winter, Kalee Winter.

Grade 9
Charlotte Aldrich, Chloe Badger, Garrett Bjerga, Jessica Dukowitz, Elaina Elfstrum, Brock Graton, Lexa Graves, Preston Hange, Alea Holst, Liam Jennissen, Kennedy Judd, Caleb Kopp, Aubrey Lang, Alex Leach, Olivia Lynch, Roxy Mertens, Hudsyn Nanik, Jackson Odden, Kaylee Perius, Taylee Reese, Owen Roline, Na-

B Honor Roll

Grade 12
Elliot Allen, Ashton Anderson, Katriane Beach, Hunter Beedle, Luke Bjerga, Avandre Brandt, Trayce Buckmaster, Owen Carlson, Kody Dause, Geoffrey DeCamp, Henry Dorothy, Enola Feela, Adrian Gomez, Jameson Harvey, Peyton Jares, Josie Jennissen, Wyatt Jennissen, Conner Kuhns, Dravyn Smith, Ruby Thoe, Kyra Wolpert.

Grade 11
Isabelle Becker, Corben Berg, Savannah Bulger, Josiah Burton, Hannah Cole, Emmit Djuren, Atreyu Eagle Tail, Owen Frisk, Kaleb Harman, Maddock Harvey, Reece Headley, Aubrie Houchin, Jasmine Isley, Caden Kramer, Jocelyn Lenk, Bali Minolletti, Caden Paulson, Logan Serich, Blake Smith, Gavin Stevens, Auron Unverdorben, Paige Warren, Gracie Wolpert.

Grade 10
Jacob Brandsma, Kylee Chenoweth, Andrew Dobson, Bryson Dumpprope, Jesus Gallardo, Natalie Hanson, Ryan Heifort, Gauge Holst, Jaida Holst, Carolyn Hoppe, Jasmyne Hove, Ayden Hovland, Kole Judd, Grace Lamke, Karter Lynch, Nathaniel Macheel, Keira Mevissen, Maci Mithun, Josiah Mumm, River Munger, Logan Nelson, Kana Reese, Paxton Sharpe, Elliot Stracek, Anika Tureson, Pharrell Williams.

Grade 9
Jackson Alexander, Jayla Allen, Waylen Anderson, Logan Bendson, Eli Bounds, Jia Dai, Millinda DeWald, Elliott DiGiovanni, Brayden Granby, Hannah Holker, Michael Jewison, Ella Judd, Raylan Laney, William Lange, Levi Larsen, Hunter Lind, Julia Liinehan, Jack Lundquist, Abby Miller, Tristan Moore, Cayden Neisen, Cameron Niemann, Jacob Reeck, Daniel Reese, Micah Ritter, Jayden Rogers, Alexis Schwegel, Isabella Schwegel, Evritt Smith, Cooper Tappe, Karsyn Wingert.

Staples-Motley Middle School honor roll

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

A Honor Roll

Grade 8
Tenley Bartylla, Caleb Bestland, Jackson Bitzer, Emma Borash, Lily Brichacek, Quinn Brichacek, Maxx Carlson, Naudia Djuren, Layla Dumpprope, Natalie Dumpprope, Mari'vel Duran, Kelsey Elfstrum, Katelyn Erickson, Maggie Grunewald, Danielle Hanson, Piper Hanson, Meredith Hoemberg, Addyson Holst, Aubree Hove, Annabella Hurtig, Aubrey Lund, Ryan Macheel, Lucille Maros, Levi Mumm, Berkley Nelson, Nathan Nelson, Payton Nelson, Charlie Noska, Benjamin Rutten, Leiten Rychner, Chadia Schultz, Elise Trif, Jocelyn Vogt, Joshua Winter, Jr., Madisyn Zetah, Abiri Ziegler.

Grade 7
Everett Allen, Phaedra Arndt, Paislee Boozell, Ashlynn Borntrager, Kamryn Brenna, Kalliemae Corey, Brooke Georges, Talia

Graves, Mavis Haehnel, Katherine Hoppe, Nathan Huwe, Ryleigh Johnson, Mia Kriesel, Reed Leach, Zane Leach, Timothy Lind, Isaac Norring, Alexis Odden, Rita Oeljenbruns, Te-koa Pruitt, Ali Sue Reese, Parker Sharpe, Brynn Stevens, Camrik Tappe, Corey Wojciechowski.

Grade 6
Emily Beard, Kaiya Brenna, Isaiah Detloff, Adalynn Dewald, Claire Dolezal, Charlee Dukowitz, Hugo Ellingsen, Eva Greenwaldt, Willow Hines, Dakota Karjala, Andrew Larsen, Gustavo Lozano, El-liana Mumm, Leah Nelson, Robert Owen, Jr., Ava Roline, Roman Ross-Sullivan, Tristan Samborski, Benjamin Santos, Bennett Sonenstahl, Dominic Thiede, Reese Thompson, Zara Vogel, Anna Warner.

Grade 5
Sophia Blaisdell, Andrea Borntrager, Emily Bounds, Aubry Bunn, Arlo Capistrant, Shelby Cavegn, Lilah Dottenwhy, Lacey Elfstrum, Cullen Fraunderfer, Fin-negan Hanson, Lilly Holm-

berg, Allison Hoppe, Ava Kroll, Aiden Kuechle, Makenna Lang, Corvyn Mudek, Piper Noska, Mara Pesat, Elizabeth Potter, Frances Reese, Kolton Reese, Rose Roberts, Jacob Roelofs, Violet Thoe, Edward Trout, Jackson Vangness, Em-mitt Winter.

B Honor Roll

Grade 8
Tucker Baumgartner, Alivia Bingham, Easton Bitzer, Kiera Chenoweth, Braxton Cherry, Odin Davis, Mya Dobson, Gemma Fairbanks, Logan Hoggatt, Matthew Jewison, Ryker Karjala, Arthur Keplin, Zeva Kriesel, Cydney McGree-Schmitbauer, Brielle Mevissen, Christopher Mikhaeil, Blake Mongan, Kianirose Nobles, Lydia Tkalcich, Tayden Weite, Lucas Ziegler.

Grade 7
Emily Becker, Malakai Bestland, Kaitlynn Dahlvang, Shyloh Dahlvang, Tyler Daly, Logan Dukowitz, Joseph Faulkner, Har-rison Grunewald, Rachel Kern, Savannah Kirby,

Rylan Kuhns, Lane Laney, Porter Lehner, Taylin Lind, Yarethzy Lopez Montanez, Abbie Lucas, Charlie Maros, Lylianne Nurnberger, Brey-di Orozco, William Rassler, Serenity Scharen, Jayden Wilson.

Grade 6

Danni Borash, Mayzelle Hanson, Amelia Hoemberg, Brekken Kuhns, Evan Lehner, Aidan Lovsness, Bryson McCalla, Jace Odden, Camden Sirucek, Shay Sturm-Hughes, Carson Vargas, Ryker Weite, Derek Zimmerman.

Grade 5

Preslee Boozell, Emma Brand, Asher Carry, Riley Carter, Bentley Cusey, Delano Grulke, Jameson Hansen, Eldin Haehnel, Lyn-coln Laney, Tia Mertens, Skylar Patterson, Woodroe Rassler, Blake Robinson, Edwin Rodriguez-Reyes, Caleb Schmidt, Easton Seely, Chloe Siltman, Isabel Sturm-Hughes, Jaxsen Suomi, Corlynn Tappe, Emma Tauring, Jaclyn Toepper, Kara Vajtasa, Cygnus Walz.

Day Camp for Kindergarten to 6th Graders
At Staples Alliance Church
Join us for games, art, drama skills, music and more.

Staples Alliance.org
or call
218-894-2891

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

Registration Open! Max 75 kids
StaplesAlliance.org or Call 218.894.2891

STAPLES

JUNE 28 - 7PM
FARMERS DAUGHTER'S

JULY 12 - 7PM
RIVER RATS BAND

JULY 19 - 7PM
HOLY ROCKA ROLLAZ

JULY 26 - 7PM
KEVIN KLIMEK & THE SIDELINERS

AUG 2 - 7PM
ERIC NEZNIK & JASON FRANZEN

AUG 9-MOTLEY 7PM
MOTLEY VETERANS PARK
ERIC E.

AUG 16 - 7PM
UNCLE MUSKRAT

AUG 23-2PM
RED LETTER BAND

Arts Council

MUSIC IN THE PARK

NORTHERN PACIFIC PARK, 625 6TH ST. NE, STAPLES, MN

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 Atlas welder 6V
2 pt hydraulic

2001 Sportsman 400 Polaris 4X4
wheeler

Many, many antiques, collectibles,
Red Wing items

Cub Cadet rider, LTX 1046

Stanley chipper, 15 hp, Model CH5, elec. start, commercial, like new
Cub Cadet tiller, 208cc RT65, rear tire

Log chains

Old table saw
Snow blower, Ranch King, 8 hp, 26"
Antique large tools, 4 buckets
Old table saw

Fishing poles and fishing items
Light fixtures and more
Drill press bench
Some hand tools
Bench grinder
Nuts & bolts

Some long handle tools
Many more items
too numerous to mention

Pillar Resident

GUNS, MOSTLY NEW

20 ga. Model 37 pump Ithaca
Springfield double barrel 20 ga.
12 ga. double barrel Stoeger
Uplander
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)

20 ga. over & under shotgun,
Stoeger
Ruger, 223 auto ranch rifle

Guns self approx. \$2000. Guns stored in a secure place until day of sale.

Large metal band saw (V)

Large tire changer, air

Atlas metal lathe on stand

Large anvil, nice shape

Motley Resident

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 Lily Pad floats on lake
Car top carrier, Thule
2 prs. chest waders
Water skis, children's
Aluminum extension ladder
Carpet cleaner

Exercise machine treadmill
2 trundle beds
BBQ smoker
Entertainment center
Lamps
Wooden file cabinets
2 trunks
Coffee table set
2 lg. shelves
Curio cabinet
Bench grinder
Hand tools
Packer
Gas cans
Dog kennel
Garden items
Craftsman band saw, 12"
Old truck

Lake Alexander Resident

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Future firefighters?

Two boys rode in one of the Motley Fire trucks, throwing candy to parade-goers during June Fest. (Staples World photo by Dawn Timbs)

Obituary

Nancy Spilman

Nancy Spilman, 70, of Motley passed away June 14, 2026.

Memorial services will be held at 11 a.m. on Friday, June 26 at the Motley Free Methodist Church. Visitation will be held one hour prior to services at the church

Nancy was born October 19, 1955.

Arrangements are by the Brenny Family Funeral Chapel, Staples.

w27c A00006B2026JU24

Hello World

ONLINE BIRTHS REMOVED AT THE REQUEST OF LAKEWOOD HEALTH SYSTEM.

Staples Police report

Recent reports from the Staples Police included:

June 7, Staples Police took a report of resident who thinks there are people after him. He's set booby traps at the front door and one of them went off. Police drove by and did not see anything or anyone outside the residence.

June 7, Staples Police took a report of a Segway scooter stolen off a porch. The scooter was tracked to a garage in a nearby apartment. Police contacted the owner of the garage and returned the scooter to the owner. The owner of the garage said a different person had been at the residence. The scooter owner declined to pursue criminal charges.

June 8, Staples Police assisted a person in a vehicle who stated they were waiting for a person they met online and had been talking to for six or seven years. Driver stated he had been sending a lot of gift cards to the person worth thousands of dollars. Police advised this was a scam. Respondent said they like sending the money because the person sends photos.

June 9, Staples Police warned a driver for no seat belt. Driver admitted to having methamphetamine paraphanalia in vehicle. Police located pipes, no other items.

June 9, Staples Police responded to a report of neighbors fighting and a female party yelling for help at a residence on 5th St SE. Police responded and were attacked by a dog. The dog was tased.

June 10, Staples Police responded to a residence on Wisconsin Ave. SW, where a trampoline flew away in a storm, hit a vehicle and landed in a tree.

June 10, Staples Police assisted with a large tree downed and blocking the road on 8th St NE. Police contacted the street department to remove the tree.

June 10, Staples Police assisted with a vehicle that ran out of gas. The driver requested a push off the roadway.

June 10, Staples Police took a report of two stray dogs near the Lakewood Health System (LHS) emergency room entrance. Staff had one dog on a leash.

June 11, Staples Police were on standby at LHS hospital for a mental health patient being transferred.

June 11, Staples Police assisted LHS with an emergency room patient who was getting aggressive and trying to leave.

June 11, Staples Police spoke to a person who said they made a report of child abuse and now are getting harassed for it.

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.

Leader

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

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

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

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

St. Michael Catholic Church
280 1st Ave S, Motley.....218-631-1593
Rev. JC Duncan, 218-632-7314
Rev. Rick Aubol, 218-632-7310
Rev. Greg Sauer, 218-632-7319
Mass: Sunday.....10:30 a.m.

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

Oylen

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

Pillager

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

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

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

Hewitt

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

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

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

Verndale

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

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

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

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

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

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

St. Frederick Catholic Church
20 Mason Avenue NW
Verndale.....218-631-1593
parishsecretary@marysacc.org
Rev. JC Duncan, 218-632-7314
Rev. Rick Aubol, 218-632-7310
Rev. Greg Sauer, 218-632-7319
MASS: Saturday.....6:00 p.m.

St. Hubert Catholic Church
Bluegrass.....218-631-1593
Rev. JC Duncan, 218-632-7314
Rev. Rick Aubol, 218-632-7310
Father Greg Sauer, 218-632-7319
parishsecretary@marysacc.org
Mass: Saturday.....4:00 p.m.

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

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

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

"Which is Greater...Race or Grace?"

Pastor Barry Klein, Staples Church of Christ

Prejudice: it comes in many forms. Three dangers lurk behind the demeaning labeling of people. The first danger is denial when we're in it. The second danger is trying to justify it when we want it. The third danger is a reverse prejudice when there is something legitimately right and good or is truly destructive and bad, but either or both are labeled hate.

Let's talk about the third one first...a reverse prejudice. The only reference we can have for this discussion is an absolute God Who has revealed Himself through His Son Jesus and the Bible. Once we lose this reference point, discussion loses all civil and life giving dialogue, let alone bearings. When, as in the Old Testament description, people cast off restraints and do as they please, chaos results. My wishes will collide with your wishes very soon.

In Isaiah 5:20 (NIV) in about 760 B.C., we are warned, "Woe to those who call evil good and good evil, who put darkness for light and light for darkness, who put bitter for sweet and sweet for bitter."

It's true that "my opinions" can quickly be exposed as being fluff in the big pictures of things. As mentioned above, drifting opinions inevitably will be at cross purposes in a collision.

We absolutely need "a word from outside" of us. God has given us both the Word, in His Son Jesus, and the word of the Bible. We need to point people to God and what He has said and not to our own human whims about anything.

Now, back to our first two dangers that we either deny is

happening or we attempt to justify our nearsighted labeling of people. Many illustrations could be given, but let's take prejudice against any race or color of skin. Unless we are an albino, we all have pigmentation in our skin. Too often, we start with ourselves (which is a very small package) to compare ourselves with others. We selfishly make ourselves the standard. I remember reading a book from Dr. Paul Brand entitled "The Forever Feast" where he calls out race and color prejudice by observing, in light of all of us having pigmentation, that "the blackest skin pigmentation anywhere, if lifted off and weighed, will come to a measly quarter of an ounces. Are we going to be prejudiced against another person on the basis of a quarter of an ounce?!"

Folks, Genesis 1:27 says, "So God created man in His own image, in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them." That's our first humanity equalizer. We're ALL created in the image of God and that equally establishes EVERYONE'S value.

But, here's the second giant ground leveler. Romans 3:22-24 says, "This righteousness from God comes through faith in Jesus Christ to all who believe. There's no differences, for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God and are justified freely by His grace through the redemption that came by devotion. We all have equal need for Jesus' death on the cross in our place. Being all created in His image and all being died for on the cross for each of us, removes all grounds for any prejudice.

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

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Staples, MN 218-894-1775

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

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

Staples World
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207 4th St. NE., Staples, MN
218-894-1112

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***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

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

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**CALL NOW! 855.634.3517**

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12U girls softball

The Staples-Motley 12-U summer recreation softball team has been playing games Tuesdays and Thursdays in June at the varsity field and traveling to other towns. Pictured, the team competes against Pine River-Backus on June 9. (Photos by Mark Anderson)



T-Ball

Staples-Motley Tee Ball league played Tuesdays and Thursdays in June this summer. (Photos by Mark Anderson)





NOTICE
BECKER TOWNSHIP
SPRAYING

Becker Township will be spraying the ditches for noxious weeds and brush after the 8th of July, 2026.

Mary Fitcher, Clerk
Becker Township

27pnc

BECKER TOWNSHIP
NOTICE OF
CANDIDATE
FILING DATES

The following township offices will be voted for at the State General Election to be held Tuesday, November 3, 2026. Candidates may begin filing for these offices on Tuesday, July 14, 2026, through 5:00 p.m. on Tuesday, July 28, 2026. You may call Mary Fitcher at 218-352-6498 for an appointment or the office of the clerk will be open Tuesday, July 28, 2026, from 1:00 to 5:00 p.m. located at 10999 75th Ave SW, Motley, MN 56466. Candidates must complete an Affidavit of Candidacy and pay a \$2.00 filing fee at the time of filing.

Candidates who will be absent from the state during the filing period may arrange to file in person with the clerk within seven days prior to departure by giving a written affidavit of reasons of absence and completing all other filing requirements.

Filings will be accepted during the filing period for the following offices to be elected on November 3, 2026:

Township Treasurer - (four- (4) year regular term)

Township Supervisor seat 1 - (four- (4) year regular term)

Township supervisor seat 3 - (four- (4) year regular term)

Mary Fitcher, Clerk
Becker Township

27pnc

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

MAY TOWNSHIP
NOTICE
OF CANDIDATE FILING
DATES

The following township offices will be voted for at the state general election to be held Tuesday, November 3, 2026. Candidates may begin filing for these offices on Tuesday, July 14 2026 until Tuesday, July 28 2026. Please call the Clerk, Bianca Wyffels, at 218/820-6430, for an appointment. Or the office of the clerk will be open from 1:00 - 5:00 p.m. on July 28 2026 for candidates

to file: May Township Hall Building, 5834 112th Street SW, Pillager, MN.

Candidates must file at the office of the township Clerk, May Township Hall Building, 5834 112th Street SW, Pillager, MN. Candidates must complete an affidavit of candidacy and pay a \$2 filing fee at time of filing, PROVIDE PHYSICAL ADDRESS AND MAILING ADDRESS IF DIFFERENT.

Candidates who will be absent from the state during the filing period may arrange to file in person with the Clerk within seven days prior to departure by giving written affidavit of reasons for absence and completing all other filing requirements.

Filings will be accepted during the filing period for the following offices to be elected on November 3, 2026:

Township Supervisor Seat 2 - Four- (4) year regular term

Township Supervisor Seat 3 - Four- (4) year regular term.

Bianca Wyffels, Clerk
May Township

27pnc

CITY OF STAPLES
FILING NOTICE
MAYOR AND CITY
COUNCIL

Notice is hereby given that filings for the biennial election for the City of Staples will open at 8:00 a.m. on Tuesday, July 14, 2026, and will close at 5:00 p.m. on Tuesday, July 28, 2026.

Offices to be filled are the Mayor and three City Council Members. The Mayor shall serve for a term of two (2) years. The three (3) City Council Members shall serve for terms of four years.

File with the City Clerk at Staples City Hall, 122 6th St NE. A filing fee of \$2.00 is required.

The biennial election for the City of Staples will be held Tuesday, November 3, 2026.

Tara Greer, City Clerk
City of Staples

27pnc

NOTICE OF
MORTGAGE
FORECLOSURE SALE

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

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

DATE OF MORTGAGE: January 6, 2006

ORIGINAL PRINCIPAL AMOUNT OF MORTGAGE: \$195,000.00

MORTGAGOR(S): Kevin J. Bednar, and Penny K. Bednar, husband and wife

MORTGAGEE: Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc., as nominee for MILA, Inc.

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

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

LEGAL DESCRIPTION OF PROPERTY: The North 436.14 feet of the South 1183.43 Feet of the West 547 feet thereof of the Southwest

Quarter of the Southwest Quarter of Section 17, Township 133, Range 33 West of the Fifth Principal Meridian, Todd County, Minnesota.

STREET ADDRESS OF PROPERTY: 48218 COUNTY 9, STAPLES, MN 56479

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

THE AMOUNT CLAIMED TO BE DUE ON THE MORTGAGE ON THE DATE OF THE NOTICE: \$288,207.71

TRANSACTION AGENT: Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc.

NAME OF MORTGAGE ORIGINATOR: MILA, Inc.

RESIDENTIAL 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 redemp-

tion 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

See **PUBLIC NOTICES** on page 8a

Todd County Board of Commissioners

MINUTES OF THE
MEETING OF THE TODD
COUNTY BOARD OF
COMMISSIONERS HELD
MAY 19, 2026

Public Comment

Mr. Kevin Winkler addressed the County Board regarding concerns of legislation and actions in respect to the United States Constitution.

Tina Monson, US Solar provided information in support the passage of the proposed CUP agenda item on this meeting.

Jean Greenwaldt provided statement in support for the passage of the US Solar CUP agenda item located on her property.

Call to Order

The Todd County Board of Commissioners met in the Commissioner's Board Room in the City of Long Prairie, MN on the 19th day of May, 2026 at 9:00 a.m. The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Byers. The meeting was opened with the Pledge of Allegiance. All Commissioners were present with Commissioner Noska absent.

Approval of Agenda

On motion by Becker and second by Denny, the following motion was introduced and adopted by unanimous vote: To adopt the agenda as presented with removal of item 4.1 Meeting Minutes Approval - May 5, 2026.

Consent Agenda

On motion by Denny and second by Neumann, the following motions were introduced and adopted by unanimous vote:

To approve the hire of Nicole Vigil to fill one open Social Worker Intern position. Start date 5/20/2026.

To approve the hire of Tina Chock to fill one open Social Worker Intern position. Start date: May 20, 2026.

Approve the resignation of Public Health Nurse Abigail Skiba, effective May 26, 2026.

Approve the retirement of Social Worker Nancy Grabowski, effective August 3rd, 2026.

To approve the hiring of Elizabeth Perish, Solid Waste Seasonal Hire for \$19.50 / Hour.

Hire Eric Dahl for the Seasonal Recreational Assistant position start date TBD at a wage of \$21.57.

Hire Brayden Leners for the Seasonal Recreational Assistant position start date TBD at a wage of \$20.93 Grade 3/C step A.

Approve hire of Eli Johnson as Clerical/Records Intern at \$19 per hour for up to 640 hours not to exceed 16 weeks, which is funded through Sourcewell Grant and Todd County Attorney's Office.

Auditor-Treasurer

On motion by Becker and second by Denny, the following motion was introduced and adopted by unanimous Roll Call vote: To approve the

Commissioner Warrants number (ACH) 404502 through 404524 in the amount of \$17,212.79 and (Regular) 59807 through 59845 in the amount of \$108,707.91 for a total of \$125,920.70.

On motion by Neumann and second by Denny, the following motion was introduced and adopted by unanimous rollcall vote: To approve the Health & Human Services Commissioner Warrants number (ACH) 807524 through 807568 and (Regular) 714102 through 714149 for a total of \$244,825.28.

On motion by Becker and second by Denny, the following motion was introduced and adopted by unanimous rollcall vote: To approve the Health & Human Services SSIS Warrants number (ACH) 601995 through 602010 and (Regular) 518948 through 518964 for a total amount of \$152,581.89.

On motion by Neumann and second by Denny, the following motion was introduced and adopted by unanimous vote: To approve the appointment of Chris Lawin to the Todd County Parks and Trails Board as At-Large Member effective immediately.

Planning & Zoning

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

RESOLUTION

ABATEMENT ORDER FOR
REPAIR OR REMOVAL OF
HAZARDOUS STRUCTURE

WHEREAS, Laurie Lee Reed ("the Landowner" herein) owns real property located at 30957 County Road 104, Burtrum, Todd County, Minnesota, 56318; and

WHEREAS, the Todd County Board of Commissioners ("the Board" herein) considered the motion to authorize the Chairman to sign this resolution ("Order" herein); and

WHEREAS, the Board considered the information presented by Adam Ossefort, Division Director of Planning and Zoning; and

WHEREAS, the Board finds that, pursuant to Minn. Stat. §463.15, there is substantial evidence that the home located at 30957 County Road 104, Burtrum, Todd County, Minnesota is hazardous and in a dilapidated state due to the following facts:

-The home had a fire in 2022, burning away its roof;

-The roof has not been replaced, and continues to have a reduced framing capacity;

-The home is resting on temporary cribbing which is settling, causing the structure to lean;

-The wood beams and concrete blocks on which the home is resting are breaking or deteriorating;

-The home has no utilities connected, including a functioning septic system.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT

RESOLVED, the Landowner shall have 45 days from the receipt or lawful service of this Order to complete the following: (1) to have the home placed on a permanent frost-protected foundation sized and detailed to support the two-story structure and resist frost heave; (2) to remove and replace the fire-damaged roof framing and coverings and all charred or compromised members per engineered details to restore the required strength and continuity of the roof diaphragm; (3) to complete an engineered assessment of the structure once it is placed on a permanent foundation to ensure stability and that the building is supported by the foundation; (4) to connect utilities to the home and install a septic system; (5) that the work ordered herein be performed by licensed professionals and the appropriate permits be issued to complete the work. To show that the work ordered herein is completed, a written statement must be provided to the Todd County Planning and Zoning office by the appropriate tradesman or contractor who completed the work.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Todd County Attorney's Office is hereby authorized to seek enforcement of this Order in Todd County District Court by way of a motion for summary enforcement of this Order unless corrective action is taken or an Answer is filed within 20 days of the date of service of this Order; at which time the proceeding will be handled by the District Court in accordance with Minnesota Statute §463.20 for contested cases.

On motion by Becker and second by Denny, the following motion was introduced and adopted by unanimous vote: Approval of the attached Pheasants Forever Local Cooperative Agreement expiring on June 30, 2027.

On motion by Denny and second by Becker, the following motion was introduced and adopted by unanimous vote: Adopt the findings of the Planning Commission and grant the CUP to establish a cellular communications tower on parcel 13-0025100 with the following conditions:

1. Applicant must abide by all standards of Section 9.21 of the Todd County Planning and Zoning Ordinance.

2. Applicant must abide by all applicable federal, state, and local standards.

On motion by Neumann and second by Denny, the following motion was introduced and adopted by unanimous vote: Adopt the findings of the Planning Commission and

grant the CUP to expand an existing feedlot from 122 animal units to 499 animal units on parcel 14-0030900 with the conditions identified below:

1. Applicant must notify Todd County Feedlot Program at least 90 days prior to construction to update and review permit application.

2. Prior to construction, applicant shall obtain the Feedlot Program Interim permit.

3. Proposed facility must meet all MDH and MPCA Feedlot setback requirements.

4. Applicant shall increase setback distance of pasture fencing to the lake to create no less than a 50' vegetated buffer in the identified area of concern.

5. Air quality exemption notices shall be provided to Todd County prior to all future manure application events.

6. Liquid manure storage structure shall have capacity for no less than 12 months storage.

7. In the event of a manure spill or other discharge, applicant must notify the County and the Minnesota Duty Officer immediately upon discovery of said discharge.

8. Applicant must abide by all other applicable federal, state, and local standards.

9. Applicant must obtain permitting and/or licensing from additional governmental agencies as necessary.

10. The facility owners must maintain registration every four years and remain compliant with the Todd County ordinance and MN 7020 rules.

11. Any future livestock lot or barn construction will be required to be reviewed for compliance by the Feedlot Program prior to construction or install.

12. The conditions of the CUP must be disclosed to any future landowners or real estate transaction.

13. Applicant shall maintain and adhere to updated Manure Management Plans, setback maps, soil sampling, and manure analysis, as required by MPCA Feedlot Rules.

14. Clean water diversions for roof water will be installed by applicant and approved by Todd SWCD.

Chair Byers opened for discussion the proposed US Solar Request for CUP with discussion provided by the PZ Director and US Solar Representatives.

On motion by Denny and second by Becker, the following motion was introduced and adopted by unanimous vote: To table the US Solar Request for CUP to the June 2, 2026 board agenda.

Facilities

On motion by Becker and second by Neumann, the following motion was introduced and adopted by unanimous vote: Approve all concrete improvement options for the Entertainment Pavilion from Busker Concrete for the low bid of \$26,000.00.

County Assessor

On motion by Denny and second by Becker, the following motion was introduced and adopted by unanimous vote: Approve abatement as presented for parcel 30-0002000 to remedy the non-homestead classification and reduce the 2026 property tax in the amount of \$194.00.

On motion by Denny and second by Becker, the following motion was introduced and adopted by unanimous vote: Approve abatement of the 2026 property tax on parcels 30-4006600, 30-4006700, and 36-4023000; totaling \$28,853.

County Ditch/Ag Inspector

On motion by Neumann and second by Denny, the following motion was introduced and adopted by unanimous vote: Acting as the Todd County Ditch Authority acknowledge receipt of a Hold Harmless Agreement application from Lyon Family Farm, Steve Berscheit and Dale Lyon to clean a portion of County Ditch 44 in section 34 Round Prairie Twp and section 3 Birchdale Twp.

Discussion regarding a proposed brush spraying project on County Ditch 19 was held with a final decision at a future board meeting.

Discussion regarding a proposed brush spraying project on County Ditch 18 was held with a final decision at a future board meeting.

Solid Waste

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

FINAL PAYMENT

AUTHORIZATION TRANSFER
STATION - CAP PROJECT

WHEREAS, the contract with Hy-Tec Construction of Brainerd, Inc. for construction of the Todd County Transfer Station located at 30433 U.S. Highway 71, Browerville, Minnesota, has in all things been completed; and,

WHEREAS, construction work on this contract was completed in 2025 with the value of the total work certified being \$8,076,725.67; and,

WHEREAS, partial payments amounting to \$7,874,807.53 have been previously made to the contractor as work progressed; and,

WHEREAS, it has been determined that \$201,198.14 still remains to be paid to Hy-Tec Construction of Brainerd, Inc.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Commissioners does here accept said completed project for and on behalf of the County of Todd and authorize final payment as specified.

On motion by Denny and second by Becker, the following motion was introduced and adopted by unanimous vote: Authorize award of project to Doucette's for \$9,962.50 for landfill seeding.

Administration

On motion by Denny and second

by Becker, the following motion was introduced and adopted by unanimous vote: To authorize the adoption of the LELS-Deputies Collective Bargaining Agreement for 2025-2027.

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

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING TODD COUNTY TO ENTER INTO A FULL-VOTING MEMBERSHIP AGREEMENT WITH SOURCEWELL

WHEREAS, Sourcewell is a statutory service cooperative and local unit of government established pursuant to Minnesota Statutes Section 123A.21 for the purpose of serving local governments, school districts, and nonprofit organizations within Region 5; and

WHEREAS, Todd County is eligible to become a Full-Voting Member of Sourcewell pursuant to Minnesota Statutes Section 123A.21 and the Sourcewell Bylaws; and

WHEREAS, Full-Voting Membership provides Todd County with the opportunity to participate in Sourcewell programs and services, including but not limited to cooperative purchasing, professional development opportunities, Region 5 rebate programs, and other services offered by Sourcewell; and

WHEREAS, Full-Voting Membership provides Todd County with the right to nominate and vote for members of the Sourcewell Board of Directors in accordance with Minnesota Statutes and Sourcewell Bylaws; and

WHEREAS, the Todd County Board of Commissioners has reviewed the proposed Full-Voting Membership Agreement and finds participation to be in the best interests of Todd County and the residents it serves.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Todd County Board of Commissioners hereby approves entering into the Sourcewell Full-Voting Membership Agreement; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Chairperson of the Todd County Board of Commissioners and the Todd County Coordinator and/or appropriate County officials are hereby authorized to execute the Full-Voting Membership Agreement and any related documents necessary to effectuate this membership on behalf of Todd County.

On motion by Becker and second by Neumann, the following motion was introduced and failed by tie vote with Becker and Neumann for and Byers and Denny against: To deny the LPHA Lease Agreement Addendum with the presented terms and conditions.

County Auditor-Treasurer's
Report

The County Auditor

See **TCC** on page 10



Five file for Wadena County Sheriff position

Five candidates have filed for the position of Wadena County Sheriff, which will require a primary election to narrow the field down to two for the Nov. 3 election.

The candidates are Cory Carr, Bryan Savaloja, Aaron Schiller, Milo Scott and Troy Wangsness. Current Sheriff Mike Carr has announced that he will not run this year.

This will be the only contested election in Wadena County, with one filer for each of the offices up for election. This includes commissioner candidates Ron Noon in Dist. 1, Bill Stearns in Dist. 3 and Jon Kangas in Dist. 5.

County offices with one filer per position include Heather Olson for auditor/treasurer, Tracy Myers for county recorder and Kyra Ladd for county attorney.

Three soil and water supervisor positions have one filer each, Kenneth Berg in Dist. 1, Brett Dailey in Dist. 2 and Jeremiah Kern in Dist. 3.

Todd County

Todd County has one contested election, for county auditor/treasurer. Current office holder Denise Gaida has filed and is challenged by Brittney Jordan.

County commissioner seats have one filer for each seat, Tim Denny for Dist. 2 and Lew Noska for Dist. 4.

Other offices with one filer are Kimberly Bosl for county recorder, Mike Allen for sheriff and John Eric Lindemann for county attorney. Three soil and water supervisors are Barbara James in Dist. 1, Dale Katterhagen in Dist. 3. and Jason Kreemer in Dist. 5.

Morrison County

One contested seat for Morrison County Commissioner is in Dist. 4, the Pierz area and eastern portion of the county. Deb Gruber and Robert Kasper are running there. Dist. 5 has one filer, Greg Blaine.

One person filed for each of the other elected positions, Shannon Coyle for auditor/treasurer, Jennifer Sanders for county recorder, Shawn Larsen for sheriff, Brian Middendorf for county attorney, Scott Saehr for Dist. 3 soil and water supervisor and Dale Scholl for Dist. 4.

Cass County

Cass County has several contested elections, including for county sheriff. Current Sheriff Bryan Welk has filed, and is being challenged by Aaron Ammerman. With just two con-

stants, this race will not need a primary election and will be decided Nov. 3.

A local county commissioner race has two contestants, Neal Gaalswyk and Patrick Rafferty are running for Dist. 1, which is the Pillager area with the townships of Sylvan and Fairview, plus the cities of Lake Shore and East Gull Lake.

A primary election will be needed for County Commissioner Dist. 3, which includes the townships of Poplar, Moose Lake, Ansel and Bungo, plus many townships near Backus, Hackensack and east of Pine River. Leslie Bouchonville, Fred Hage, Jim Lundgren and Aaron Young have all filed for that position.

Another contested primary race is in Dist. 4, with Scott Bruns, Tyler Seifert and Scott Thompson run-

ning for this district, which spans from Walker to Remer.

Other Cass County offices have one filer for one position, including Benjamin Lindstrom for county attorney, Tom Kuschel for soil and water Dist. 1 and Jennifer O'Neill for soil and water Dist. 5

State legislature

Two Republican candidates have filed for the District 5 State Senator position, current Senator Paul Utke and current 5B Representative Mike Wiener. Those two will run in the Aug. 11 primary election to get a spot on the Nov. 3 ballot.

The lone Democratic candidate in that race is Skylar Fynboh.

Two people have filed for the state representative seat for Dist. 5B, Jonathan

Claussen for the Republican Party and Maggie Evers for the Democratic Party. Dist. 5B is all of Todd County and the southern portion of Wadena County, plus some of the townships in Cass and Morrison County. Dist. 5A is the northern portion of Wadena County, southern Hubbard County, southeastern Becker County and southwestern Cass County.

Election calendar

Primary election vote by mail begins June 26, with the primary election day on Aug. 11.

The general election day is Tuesday, Nov. 3, with vote by mail and early voting starting Sept. 18. The Minnesota Secretary of State suggests general election voters register in advance by Oct. 13 to save time on election day.

Filing for local offices July 14-28

Three school board positions, two mayor races and five city council positions will be on the local ballots for elections this year.

Candidate filing for those local offices begins July 14 and closes Tuesday, July 28. Filing can be done at the main office of each government entity. Local township offices also have the same filing period.

The Staples-Motley School Board will have three positions on the ballot, for seats currently held by Kyle Reese, Chandler Trout and Ryan Wright.

The Staples City Council will elect three council seats and the mayor's seat. Council seats to be elected are currently held by Roy Miles, Blake Gerard and Mary Jo Goff. The current

mayor is Ron Murray.

The Motley City Council also has the mayor seat up for election. Pat O'Regan is the current mayor. Two council seats up for election are currently held by April Skeesick-Larson and Elizabeth Blackburn, who was appointed to finish this term.

Staples Police make arrest for burglary

Staples Police responded to a report of an unwanted subject inside a residence. Police arrested Jacob Blomberg, 28, of Staples, for burglary and other charges.

At 747 p.m. on June 18, police learned that a homeowner on the 88 block of 5th Street NE returned home and observed an unfamiliar male standing ner her front

door. The homeowner believed the male had entered the residence.

Police detained the subject while officers conducted an investigation. Police discovered property belonging to the homeowner was in the possession of the subject. Police observed damage to property and found several items had been

moved. Police determined that the subject had tampered with a motor vehicle.

Blomberg was arrested for first-degree burglary, damage to property, tampering with a motor vehicle theft and trespassing. The case was sent to the Todd County Attorney for consideration of formal charges.

TODD COUNTY COMMISSIONERS continued from page 9a

reported that the office is steady with tax payments and subsequent reporting.

County Coordinator's Report

The County Coordinator reminded that an environmental monitoring meeting at Long Prairie City Hall on May 28 from 6-7p.m. regarding the Central BiProducts impact.

County Commissioner's Report

The Commissioners reported on meetings and events attended.

Commissioner Becker attended meetings including the Policies, RT-CCC, MTWCHB, Rainbow Rider and MRS.

Commissioner Denny has attended meetings as usual.

Commissioner Noska has attended meetings as usual including HRA.

Commissioner Byers attended meetings including LP City & RWay, Finance, Personnel, Dept Head, MTWCHB, Park Board, SWCD and Solar workgroup.

Commissioner Neumann attended meetings including CMCOA, Public Health, Policies, Solid Waste, and Rainbow Rider.

Closed Session

On motion by Denny and second by Neumann, the following motion was introduced and adopted by unanimous vote: Enter into closed session pursuant to MN Statute 13D.05 Subd. 3(a) at 10:53 a.m.

On motion by Becker and second by Denny, the following motion was introduced and adopted by unanimous vote: To reopen the session at 2:03 p.m with successful review of the department head evaluations.

Adjourn

On motion by Becker and second by Becker, the meeting was adjourned.

COMMISSIONER WARRANTS	
VENDOR NAME	\$ AMOUNT
BROWERVILLE TRUCKWASH/	
BIG BOYZ	\$10,042.50
CARGILL SALT	
DIVISION	9,472.64
FARM-RITE EQUIPMENT,	
INC	15,838.77
H & R CONSTRUCTION	
COMPANY	2,809.56
JOHNSON CONTROLS BUILDING	
SOLUTIONS	2,943.53
LONG PRAIRIE	
LEADER	8,060.00
LONG PRAIRIE OIL	
COMPANY	4,051.49
MINNESOTA POLLUTION	
CONTROL AGENCY	25,942.25
MORRISON CO DEPT	
OF PUB WORKS	16,080.63
NORTHERN STAR	
COOP	3,755.78
PICKED AND	
PRESERVED	3,750.00
SWANSTON EQUIPMENT	
CORPORATION	4,268.88
ZIEGLER INC	2,002.87
49 PAYMENTS LESS	
THAN \$2,000	16,901.80
Total:	\$125,920.70

HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES	
WARRANTS	
VENDOR NAME	\$ AMOUNT
VENDOR #10456	\$3,385.64
DHS-SWIFT	183,202.92
VENDOR#17406	2,257.65
RONALD McDONALD HOUSE	
UPPER MIDWEST	2,160.00
RURAL MN CEP INC	17,728.56
TODD COUNTY ATTORNEYS	
OFFICE	2,386.80
81 PAYMENTS LESS	
THAN \$2,000	29,069.60
MORRISON COUNTY HEALTH	
& HUMAN SERVICES	2,100.61
5 PAYMENTS LESS	
THAN \$2,000	2,533.50
Total:	\$244,825.28

VENDOR NAME	\$ AMOUNT
COMMUNITY AND FAMILY	
SRVS LLC	\$2,930.00
HEARTLAND GIRLS	
RANCH	12,597.00
MINNESOTA MONITORING	
INC	2,093.75
NEXUS - MILLE LACS	
FAMILY HEALING	11,685.60
PORT GROUP HOMES	2,910.74
PRAIRIE LAKES YOUTH	
PROGRAMS	9,183.07
VALLEY LAKE BOYS	
HOME INC	24,410.00
VILLAGE RANCH INC	36,167.40

VOLUNTEERS OF	
AMERICA	16,971.88
WEST CENTRAL REG JUVENILE	
CTR	17,056.00
# 9819	2,035.44
22 PAYMENTS LESS	
THAN \$2,000	14,541.01
Total:	\$152,581.89

On a motion by Noska and second by Becker, the preceding minutes of the County Board meeting held May 19, 2026 were duly approved by unanimous vote at the Todd County Board of Commissioners at the Regular Board Meeting held on June 2, 2026.

Witness my hand and seal:
/s/ on file: Bob Byers,
County Board Chairperson
/s/ on file: Denise Gaida,
Todd County Auditor-Treasurer

27pnc

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE TODD COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS HELD MAY 5, 2026

Adjourn

The Todd County Board of Commissioners met in the Commissioner's Board Room in the City of Long Prairie, MN on the 5th day of May, 2026 at 9:00 a.m. The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Byers. The meeting was opened with the Pledge of Allegiance. All Commissioners were present.

Approval of Agenda

On motion by Becker and second by Denny, the following motion was introduced and adopted by unanimous vote: To adopt the agenda as presented with addition of item 4.4 Hire Administrative Assistant I - Marisol Garcia Rodriguez and removal of item 12.3 Approve Addendum To Lease for Long Prairie Hockey Association.

Consent Agenda

On motion by Noska and second by Neumann, the following motions were introduced and adopted by unanimous vote:

To approve the Todd County Board of Commissioner's Meeting Minutes for April 21, 2026 as presented.

Approve the hire of Pam Samuelson to fill the open PT Administrative Specialist position, Grade 5/E, Step C (\$25.80/hr.) Start date TBD.

Approve the hire of Jessica Doubek to fill the open Administrative Assistant II position, Grade 4/D Step A Start date: TBD

To approve the hire of Marisol Garcia Rodriguez to fill the open Administrative Assistant I position. Grade C/3, Step 2, \$21.52. Start date: TBD.

Commissioners

The Todd County Board of Commissioners recognized the County employees for their years of service. 1st Quarter 2026 Service Awards were being presented.

Auditor-Treasurer

On motion by Denny and second by Noska, the following motion was introduced and adopted by unanimous rollcall vote: To approve the April 2026 Auditor Warrants number (ACH) 905949 through 906004 in the amount of \$335,736.15 (Manual) 1277 through 1326 in the amount of \$2,785,039.49 and (Regular) 246197 through 246330 in the amount of \$403,497.96 for a total of \$3,524,273.60.

On motion by Becker and second by Neumann, the following motion was introduced and adopted by unanimous rollcall vote: To approve the Commissioner Warrants number (ACH) 404479 through 404501 in the amount of \$44,382.10 and (Regular) 59780 through 59806 in the amount of \$25,623.85 for a total of \$70,005.95.

On motion by Noska and second by Becker, the following motion was introduced and adopted by unanimous rollcall vote: To approve the Health & Human Services Commissioner Warrants number (ACH) 807485 through 807523 and (Regular) 714074 through 714101 for a total of \$23,847.84.

On motion by Neumann and second by Denny, the following motion was introduced and adopted by

unanimous rollcall vote: To approve the Health & Human Services SSIS Warrants number (ACH) 601989 through 601994 and (Regular) 518927 through 518947 for a total amount of \$97,902.47.

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

2026 MEMORIAL DAY APPROPRIATIONS

WHEREAS, Todd County has budgeted in 2026 for an appropriation to support the expenses for conducting Memorial Day Services and aid in the observance of Memorial Day by organizations within Todd County defined by Minnesota Statutes 375.34 and 375.35;

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Todd County Board of Commissioners hereby approve the 2026 payment of \$200 to the Evergreen Cemetery Association of Long Prairie for the care of County lots in said Evergreen Cemetery; and;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, to approve the payment of \$50 to each regular organization of Veterans of Foreign Wars, American Legion Posts and Auxiliaries in Todd County to support the payment of expenses in connection with the proper observance of Memorial Day Services conducted within Todd County and the amount to be paid by warrant to each organization provided that in cases where any of the above mentioned do not have an organization, the amount will be paid to the organization conducting the Memorial Day Service per the attached list.

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

2026 SENIOR CITIZEN CENTER APPROPRIATIONS

WHEREAS, Todd County has budgeted for 2026 an appropriation of \$200 per Senior Citizen Center in Todd County;

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Todd County Board of Commissioners hereby approve the 2026 payment of \$200 for each Senior Citizen Center located in Todd County per the attached list.

The County Board reviewed applicants Wayne Cymbaluk and Paul Hartmann (incumbent) for the SRWD Board of Managers position. Mr. Cymbaluk was present to introduce himself and answer questions.

On motion by Neumann and second by Becker, the following motion was introduced and adopted by majority vote with Noska against: To appoint Paul Hartmann to the Sauk River Watershed District Board of Managers for the 3-year term set to begin on July 1, 2026.

Public Works

On motion by Becker and second by Noska, the following motion was introduced and adopted by unanimous vote: Approve the attached Co-operative Construction Agreement for the Staples Depot Project.

On motion by Denny and second by Noska, the following motion was introduced and adopted by unanimous vote: Approve the attached State Bid quote from Saxon Fleet Services of Oakdale, Minnesota for the purchase of a 2026 Dodge Ram 3500 Truck for \$44,243.00.

Facilities

On motion by Becker and second by Neumann, the following motion was introduced and adopted by unanimous vote: Approve the low bid from RJ Contracting LLC for a total cost \$9,980.49 to install steel wainscot on the exterior of the livestock building.

County Sheriff

On motion by Denny and second by Noska, the following motion was introduced and adopted by unanimous vote: Accept the \$2,000 Sourcewell grant for a new computer workstation system.

On motion by Neumann and second by Denny, the following motion was introduced and adopted by unanimous vote: Purchase the TALINO Intel workstation from SUMURI for the price of \$10,589 with \$2,000 being paid with the Sourcewell Boost Grant.

County Attorney

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

RESOLUTION APPROVING STATE OF MINNESOTA JOINT POWERS AGREEMENTS WITH THE COUNTY OF TODD ON BEHALF OF ITS COUNTY ATTORNEY

WHEREAS, the County of Todd on behalf of its County Attorney and Sheriff desires to enter into Joint Powers Agreements with the State of Minnesota, Department of Public Safety, Bureau of Criminal Apprehension to use systems and tools available over the State's criminal justice data communications network for which the County is eligible. The Joint Powers Agreements further provide the County with the ability to add, modify and delete connectivity, systems and tools over the five-year life of the agreement and obligates the County to pay the costs for the network connection.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the County Board of Todd, Minnesota as follows:

1. That the State of Minnesota Joint Powers Agreements by and between the State of Minnesota acting through its Department of Public Safety, Bureau of Criminal Apprehension and the County of Todd on behalf of its County Attorney and Sheriff are hereby approved.

2. That the Todd County Sheriff, Michael Allen, or his or her successor, is designated the Authorized Representative for the Sheriff. The Authorized Representative is also authorized to sign any subsequent amendment or agreement that may be required by the State of Minnesota to maintain the County's connection to the systems and tools offered by the State.

3. That the Todd County Attorney, John E. Lindemann, or his or her successor, is designated the Authorized Representative for the County Attorney. The Authorized Representative is also authorized to sign any subsequent amendment or agreement that may be required by the State of Minnesota to maintain the County's connection to the systems and tools offered by the State.

4. That Bob Byers, the Chair of the County of Todd, and Denise Gaida, the County Board Clerk, are authorized to sign the State of Minnesota Joint Powers Agreements.

Health & Human Services

On motion by Becker and second by Denny, the following motion was introduced and adopted by unanimous vote: To approve the contract with Dawn Espe to conduct community engagement services.

Administration

On motion by Becker and second by Denny, the following motion was introduced and adopted by unanimous vote: To approve the Safe Assure agreement as presented.

On motion by Denny and second by Noska, the following motion was introduced and adopted by unanimous vote: Approve expanding the Part-Time Emergency Management Director position to Full-Time and to post position internally for 5 days with an option to post externally if needed at a Pay Grade 10/J and to eliminate the Part-Time Emergency Management Director Position.

County Auditor-Treasurer's Report

The County Auditor-Treasurer reported attending the State Election Conference event. The first installment of property taxes are coming due on May 15. The 2027 budget building processes will be beginning this month and continue similar to previous years.

County Coordinator's Report

The County Coordinator reported attending interviews, personnel, lunch n learn, Fairview Mobile Home Park and Admin/Coordinator meetings.

County Commissioner's Report

The Commissioners reported on meetings and events attended.

Commissioner Becker attended meetings including the Weed, Facilities, Region V & MRC.

Commissioner Denny has attended meetings including Hands of

Hope and recognized that there are many pending state legislation bills proposed to keep attuned to.

Commissioner Noska has attended meetings as usual including HRA. Commissioner Byers attended meetings including Trip Cap, Facilities, Personnel, Fairview Mobile Home Park workgroup.

Commissioner Neumann attended meetings including SRWD and CPT.

Recess

On motion by Denny and second by Becker, the meeting was recessed until May 19, 2026.

AUDITOR WARRANTS

VENDOR NAME	\$ AMOUNT
CLIFTON LARSON ALLEN,	
LLP	\$17,850.00
FLEET SERVICES/WEX	
BANK	9,406.87
FORUM COMMUNICATIONS	
PRINTING	9,334.87
GREAT RIVER REGIONAL	
LIBRARY	90,634.25
HOST CONSTRUCTION	
CO LLC	7,900.00
LONG PRAIRIE OIL	
COMPANY	28,650.00
LONG PRAIRIE SANITATION	
INC	6,427.94
NORTHERN STAR	
COOP	3,772.33
OTTER TAIL COUNTY	
PROBATION	13,334.00
PACIFIC LIFE INSURANCE	
CO	2,325.00
PETERS LAW OFFICE,	
P.A.	6,025.00
RAHN'S OIL &	
PROPANE	27,562.21
REGENTS OF THE UNIV	
OF MN	45,362.50
SCHOMMER/	
MICHAEL	3,244.56
TODD CO AUDITOR-	
TREASURER	3,423.60
VERIZON	6,253.31
28 PAYMENTS LESS	
THAN \$2,000	18,666.73
BROWERVILLE TRUCKWASH/	
BIG BOYZ	10,930.61
CENTRA CARE	13,350.31
COUNTIES PROVIDING	
TECHNOLOGY	7,448.00
DHS - SWIFT	2,398.00
GALLAGHER BENEFIT	
SERVICES INC	2,000.00
LARSON ABSTRACT	
COMPANY	2,308.50
LONG PRAIRIE	
LEADER	3,870.00
MADDEN GALANTER	
HANSEN, LLP	26,518.30
MINNESOTA POWER	18,549.81
MN DEPT OF FINANCE	6,416.50
MORRISON COUNTY	6,625.36
POPE DOUGLAS SOLID WASTE	
MANAGEMENT	53,367.23
PRAIRIE LAKES MUNICIPAL	
WASTE AUTH	98,136.20
STEP	13,713.75
STOECKEL JAHNER	
INC	14,950.00
VOYANT COMMUNICATIONS,	
LLC	3,357.62
WEST CENTRAL REG	
JUVENILE CTR	8,074.00
WIDESTH SMITH NOLTING	
INC	13,451.25
47 PAYMENTS LESS	
THAN \$2,000	19,145.25
AFSCME COUNCIL 65	5,010.24
CARDMEMBER SERVICE	
.....	2,794.92
JOHN DEERE	
FINANCIAL	2,540.15
KITZMANN LAW	
OFFICE	3,420.00
LAW ENFORCEMENT	
LABOR SERV INC	2,323.16
LINCOLN FINANCIAL	
GROUP	6,893.03
MCIT	2,500.00
MN TEAMSTERS	
NO 320	2,700.24
MOTOROLA	25,823.55
OFFICE OF MNIT	
SERVICES	2,162.66
PACIFIC LIFE INSURANCE	
CO	2,325.00
28 PAYMENTS LESS	
THAN \$2,000	11,097.43
AMERICAN SOLUTIONS FOR	
BUSINESS	7,890.78
ANOKA CO GOVERNMENT	
CENTER	8,375.00
CENTERPOINT	
ENERGY	4,278.68
EAST OTTER TAIL SOIL & WATER	
CONS DIST	3,694.31
PETERS LAW OFFICE,	

P.A.	2,096.25
STAPLES ADVANTAGE	3,059.62
36 PAYMENTS LESS	
THAN \$2,000	15,465.23
PAYCOM PAYROLL,	
LLC	41,929.30
WEX HEALTH INC -	
HSA	4,493.70
PAYCOM PAYROLL,	
LLC	584,619.32
PERA	99,016.75
COUNTY OF TODD	2,999.13
WEX HEALTH INC -	
HSA	16,235.76
BETTER HEALTH	
COLLECTIVE	30,860.00
WEX - CIRCLE K	2,216.60
PAYCOM PAYROLL,	
LLC	3,484.97
VOYA (MSRS)	6,032.51
BETTER HEALTH COLLECTIVE	
.....	325,364.00
WEX HEALTH INC - HSA	26,845.00
BETTER HEALTH COLLECTIVE	
.....	24,076.00
MN DEPT OF	
REVENUE	48,816.89
US BANK-CC	10,484.98
PAYCOM PAYROLL,	
LLC	580,518.55
PAYCOM PAYROLL,	
LLC	41,919.22
PAYCOM PAYROLL,	
LLC	3,484.96
HUMANA INSURANCE	
COMPANY	8,112.21
VOYA (MSRS)	4,890.71
PERA	98,475.92
WEX HEALTH INC - HSA	16,325.76
COUNTY OF TODD	2,806.63
MN DEPT OF REVENUE	2,418.00
PAYCOM PAYROLL, LLC	47,373.02
PAYCOM PAYROLL, LLC	3,467.11
PAYCOM PAYROLL, LLC	623,578.62
VOYA (MSRS)	8,187.44
PERA	96,606.14
21 PAYMENTS LESS	
THAN \$2,000	19,400.29
Total:	\$3,524,273.60

COMMISSIONER WARRANTS	
VENDOR NAME	\$ AMOUNT
AMAZON CAPITAL	
SERVICES	3,344.59
AMERICAN SOLUTIONS FOR	
BUSINESS	5,436.24
CARGILL SALT DIVISION ..	19,453.63
CHAMBERLAIN OIL CO	2,871.07
EAGLE BEND WELDING	8,251.50
FAILOR/GREGORY	2,083.92
LONG PRAIRIE LEADER	3,353.00
ONSOLVE, LLC	6,942.48
42 PAYMENTS LESS	
THAN \$2,000	18,269.52
Total:	\$70,005.95

HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES	
WARRANTS	
VENDOR NAME	\$ AMOUNT
57 PAYMENTS LESS	
THAN \$2,000	22



Birthday club members

Two members of the Poplar Ladies Birthday Club greeted attendees at the club's 100 year celebration, held May 25, Memorial Day, at Leader Community Hall. From left, Susie Bartels and Bernice Thomson. Bartels was responsible for putting together a book about the club's history and helped organize the celebration.



Reuniting with friends

Dozens of people stopped by the Leader Community Hall on Memorial Day to help celebrate the 100 year anniversary of the Poplar Ladies Birthday Club. Attendees enjoyed lunch, as well as an opportunity to visit with

friends and neighbors. The event was sponsored by the birthday club, whose motto is "Help One Another." (Staples World photos by Dawn Timbs)



Serving lunch on Memorial Day

As has been tradition for decades, members of the Poplar Ladies Birthday Club served lunch at Leader Community Hall following the Memorial Day Program at Poplar Cemetery. Above left, club member Deb Shake helps serve people going through the meal line. (Staples World photo by Dawn Timbs)



Swapping stories

Pictured, from left, Leader natives Gene Johnson, Allen (Al) Sowers and Dick Sowers reminisced during lunch at the Leader Community Hall on Memorial Day, May 25. (Staples World photo by Dawn Timbs)



Looking at memorabilia

Leader native Lynda (Sowers) Gavlovsky of Bemidi (above left, and lower photo) and her sister-in-law Barb Sowers looked through old photos and newspaper clippings pertaining to the Poplar Ladies Birthday Club at the club's 100 year celebration on Memorial Day. The event, sponsored by the Poplar Ladies Birthday Club was held at the Leader Community Hall. Lynda's mother, the late Lucille (Johnson) Sowers, had been a longtime member of the birthday club, as was her great-grandma Imogene Johnson and grandmothers Rosa Johnson and Pearl Sowers. Barb and her husband, Leader native Allen (Al) Sowers, recently moved back to the family farm from Florida. (Staples World photos by Dawn Timbs)



Searching for family names

A list of all Poplar Ladies Birthday Club members since 1926 was on display at Leader Community Hall May 25, during the club's 100 year celebration. At left, Julie (Beckmann) Granby, a current member of the club, points to the name of her husband Bruce's mother, Alice Granby. At right, Joyce (Shake) Sowers (left) and her husband, Dick Sowers, search for names of their relatives who were members of the Poplar Ladies Birthday Club, including Pearl and Lucille Sowers. (Staples World photos by Dawn Timbs)



Poplar Ladies Birthday Club turns 100 years - Celebration held Memorial Day at Leader Community Hall



Pink and white slippers...

Prime time for the Minnesota State Flower, the pink and white showy (or queen's) lady slipper to bloom. The flower (Cypripedium reginae) was adopted as the state flower in 1902. Showy lady's slippers are the tallest native northern orchid. (Staples World photo by Janice Winter)



...or yellow slippers

The greater yellow lady's slipper (Cypripedium parviflorum v. pubescens) is also a native, perennial orchid that grows up to 30 inches tall. Each plant has three to six alternate leaves that grow up to seven inches long and have parallel veins. They produce one to two flowers that consist of a yellow pouch-like structure as well as lateral petals that are yellow with purple stripes.



Fun at the Midway

Colton Rondeau of Motley enjoyed a ride in the red convertible, one of the rides offered at the Midway during the recent Motley Fair. In the car behind him are Maddi and Mary Ismil, Verndale, and Aurora Schwanke, Cushing. (Staples World photo by Dawn Timbs)



Love that fair food

The Langer family of Deer Creek enjoyed lunch outside the Lions building at the Motley Fair June 13. From left, Jen, six-year-old William, and Jeff Langer. (Staples World photo by Dawn Timbs)



Repainting the caboose

The caboose at Caboose Park, located on the east end of Staples has been repainted to its original color of red. Above on June 16, an employee from Overhaul Mobile Sandblasting of Nisswa, owned by Seth Srock, works on applying the first of two coats of paint (photo by Dawn Timbs) . Srock said the process includes masking, sandblasting, priming and painting. Below is a submitted photo of the caboose prior to being repainted.



JOHNSON continued from page 1a

Brick By Brick also helps adult clients get in better shape

doing many of the things he intends to do in Staples. "I learned how to help athletes and teach them to grow as they train," said Johnson

When his wife Bobby Jo had their first baby, Johnson started looking closer to Staples. He had been working with a few area athletes and wondered if he could open a training center here. He started with an empty warehouse on 8th St. NE in Staples and got to work, brick by brick.

"I had two and a half months to plan the whole thing," said Johnson, because he wanted to have it ready to go for summer training as school was letting out.

He now has it equipped with weight sets and training equipment, and he installed a turf carpet that is used for speed and mobility drills.

"It was a quick transition and it is still a work in progress," said Johnson, "the support from the community has been awesome."

He is now training ten student-athletes and several adults, with room for more. "I can help young athletes improve from bench players to varsity athletes, and the top athletes in their goal to reach the next level, like playing in college," said Johnson. "I want them all to be the best they can be and I would like to have a hand in it."

Sport-specific training is dependent on where the athlete is in their ability. Johnson said they need build a foundation first.

"They have to develop strength and know how to move, then we can be more specific," he said. "They have to be able to do what they ask of their body."

Staples-Motley graduate Colbe Tappe said he has been doing this type of training for almost two years and it has helped his speed and ability to change directions. He said it is a type of training that you don't get during regular team drills.

Johnson said the adults in his classes are not necessarily training for a sport, but are looking for general fitness, to lose weight and get in shape.

"As you get older, the first thing to go are your fast-twitch muscles," said Johnson. "Those muscles are your armor, your safety net for training."

He teaches exercises and drills to strengthen that safety net and he helps show how weights fit into overall fitness.

"The best way to be able to move later in life is to lift weights," he said.

Building momentum

Johnson said he can do one on one training but he likes group settings because of the way groups can act as a catalyst to build momentum.

Training isn't just about going through the motions, Johnson said people should also focus on building relationships. Many times, the people in the classes teach each other and feed off of each other.

"It's not just me," said Johnson. "When they start to build a rapport and start working together, good things happen."

Even in groups with varying skill levels, Johnson said "everyone has things to work on to improve."

The camaraderie helps athletes build confidence. "The biggest boost you can get in training is to have that buy-in," said Johnson. "If they build trust in me and in their training partners, then their progress starts to show results and they are really excited to show up."

Even with high hopes and expectations, Johnson sticks to his philosophy of building a base and growing Brick by Brick.

"I want what's best for people, I want them to have great success, and I truly appreciate the relationships," he said.



Technique for strength and power

Chase Johnson, left, keeps a watchful eye on how athletes perform their exercise movements at Brick by Brick Performance in Staples. (Staples World photo by Mark Anderson)