

Inside this issue:

Staples-Motley wrestling best Class A team ever?





Wednesday, March 4, 2026

Staples, Minnesota

\$125

StaplesWorld

State wrestling champions
The Staples-Motley wrestling team repeated as state champions, winning the state final for the second year in a row. Pictured, Cardinal wrestlers and coaches backed by their fans. See story, page 9a. (Photo by Mark Anderson)

Car crashes into emergency room entrance

A vehicle crashed into the Lakewood Health System main campus building at the emergency room entrance, going through the building wall and coming to a rest inside the hospital area.

Staples Police were called to the scene at 8:25 p.m. on Feb. 26. Upon arrival, officers found that the driver of the vehicle had sustained injuries and was receiving medical treatment from hospital staff. No other injuries were reported.

Due to structural damage to the entryway, the Staples Fire Department assisted at the scene. The building was determined to be unstable

and unsafe in the immediate area of the crash, so fire personnel assisted with scene safety and securing the structure.

Preliminary investigation by the Staples Police Department indicates that alcohol is believed to have been a contributing factor in the crash. The incident remains under investigation and police are not releasing the name of the driver.

The Staples Police Department was assisted on the scene by the Staples Fire Department, Lakewood Health System and Todd County Sheriff's Office.



Submitted photo from the vehicle crash at the Lakewood Health system emergency room.

Weather

2026

This Week's Forecast

	High	Low	Cond.
Mar. 4	50	33	P. Cloudy
Mar. 5	45	37	M. Cloudy
Mar. 6	41	26	Showers
Mar. 7	44	34	Sunny
Mar. 8	51	29	P. Cloudy
Mar. 9	49	32	M. Cloudy
Mar. 10	40	15	Showers

Last Year, 2025

	High	Low	Cond.
Mar. 4	31°	25	Snow
Mar. 5	30	20	M. Sunny
Mar. 6	34	16	M. Sunny
Mar. 7	40	15	P. Sunny
Mar. 8	43	25	Sunny
Mar. 9	55	30	Sunny
Mar. 10	64	34	Sunny

Average Temps:
H = 34° Low = 15°
Enjoy the warmer weather

Compiled by
Dale Hausmann,
WCCO's Staples area
Weatherwatcher

Public Notices

Staples Township 9A

Motley Township 9A

Villard Township 9A

Bartlett Township 9A

May Township 9A

Moose Lake Township 9A

Meadowbrook Township 9A

Moran Township 9A

Obituary

June Winter



Ladder trucks used at fire in Staples

At least two ladder trucks were used by firefighters from area fire departments at the scene of a fire in downtown Staples the morning of Feb. 28. Above, Staples firefighters work to put out flames in the third-story apartment fire. According to a report from Staples Fire Chief Cole Yungbauer, all residents of the 14-unit apartment complex were displaced and are receiving assistance from the American Red Cross. The Staples

Fire Department was assisted on this incident by Staples Police Department, Todd and Wadena County Sheriff's Offices; Motley, Verndale, Wadena and Long Prairie Fire Department; Lakewood Health System Ambulance; and the Minnesota State Fire Marshal Division. Firefighters remained on scene for approximately five hours. See story, page 2a. (Staples World photo by Dawn Timbs)

Fire at Staples apartment complex leaves residents displaced

Fire on Saturday, Feb. 28, caused major damage to the Staples Theatre building on Fourth St. and 2nd Ave. NE in downtown Staples. According to a report from Staples Fire Chief Cole Yungbauer, the fire department was dispatched at 7:47 a.m. to an apartment complex on the 400 block of 2nd Ave. NE in the City of Staples for a report of smoke in the building. Upon the arrival of Staples Fire and Police Departments it was confirmed that there was an active fire in an apartment on the third floor of the 14-unit apartment

complex, triggering an evacuation of the building. The apartment complex is located above the theatre building. Firefighters quickly began an offensive fire attack within the structure. Simultaneously, exterior firefighters utilized ladder trucks to aid in the firefighting efforts. All of the residents of the apartment complex were displaced and are receiving assistance from the American Red Cross. Firefighters remained on scene for approximately five hours, with temperatures just above zero. The Staples Fire Department was

assisted on this incident by the Staples Police Department; the Todd and Wadena County Sheriff's Offices; the Motley, Verndale, Wadena and Long Prairie Fire Departments; Lakewood Health System Ambulance; and the Minnesota State Fire Marshal Division. In his report, Chief Yungbauer said, "The Staples Fire Department thanks our emergency response partners that aided in this incident." The cause of the fire is still under investigation and no further details will be released at this time, the report stated.

Staples resident Tom Crawford, who lives on 5th St. NE, said that he first heard the sirens at around 8 a.m. and went to check on the scene. He noted that the Staples fire crews stationed their large extension ladder truck on Fourth St. NE in front of the former Brenny Dental office. From the dental office roof, crews were able to access the second and third floor apartments. The Long Prairie fire crews placed their large ladder truck around the corner on Second Avenue, where fire fighters could reach the upper floors of the theater building from the south side.



Close to the scene

Tom Crawford of Staples, former editor at the Staples World, was at the scene of the downtown fire in Staples the morning of Feb. 28, and captured some photos. (Submitted photos by Tom Crawford)



Jodi Reeck takes over as Motley Food Shelf Director



tion, Frisk wanted to make sure the right person was on board before she stepped down. That person was Jodi Reeck. Reeck said she first learned about the MAFS after hearing Frisk speak at their church, Motley United Methodist, during Food Share Month. She was wanting her boys, Jacob and Connor, to do some volunteer work with her during the summer months, and the food shelf seemed like a great opportunity. It proved to be a wonderful way to give back and something they enjoyed doing as a family. In fact, Jodi enjoyed it so much that

she kept on volunteering when the boys returned to school. When asked what inspired her to become a volunteer at the food shelf, Reeck said it was to help fill the need that was there. That was something Frisk had felt passionately about as well, when she first took on the role of director. She noted that when she came on board 10 years ago, a typical week would be serving eight to 12 families. Today, Frisk said, they've served as many as 33 families on a Thursday morning. In addition to an increased number of cli-

entele, they've been able to add upgraded appliances at the food shelf, including four full-size freezers and an upright refrigerator/freezer. Those purchases were possible, thanks to grants, Frisk said. The volunteer job of food shelf director takes anywhere from eight - 10 hours a week. It's a commitment, but one that both Frisk and Reeck have enjoyed and found to be very fulfilling. In addition to her work at the MAFS, Reeck is employed full-time at Central Building Supply (CBS) in Staples, owned and operated by her husband Jeremy Reeck. She also continues

to work casually at Lakewood Health System in Staples, her place of full-time employment for 23 years prior to her taking the job at CBS. Now ages 14 and 12 respectively, the Reecks' boys, Jacob and Connor, also continue to volunteer at the Motley food shelf on occasion. Jodi's glad that it's a rewarding experience for all of them. And, she's grateful to have a mentor like Frisk to guide her as she navigates her new leadership role.

New director on board

Jodi Reeck, seated, has been serving as the director of the Motley Area Food Shelf since July of 2025. She took over from Sherry Frisk, standing, who had served as director for the previous 10 years. Frisk has continued on as a volunteer at the food shelf. (Staples World photo by Dawn Timbs)

By Dawn Timbs
Staples World reporter

After 10 years serving as director of the Motley Area Food Shelf, Sherry Frisk has handed over the reins to Jodi Reeck.

She officially took over July 1, 2025, Frisk said of her successor, noting that the two have been working together since then to make sure the transition is seamless. Knowing all that is involved with the posi-



Faithful volunteers

Volunteers at the Motley Area Food Shelf were busy Feb. 19, stocking shelves and helping clientele with orders. Pictured, from left, Ken Swecker, Diana Miller, Florence Berndt, Pearl Dingman, Jodi Reeck, Deb

Greig, Bob Miller, Brenda Cleveland, Fran Kokett, Lorrie Brathol, Sherry Frisk, Sherry Mudgett. Each volunteer has their own assignment to assist with completing orders. (Staples World photo by Dawn Timbs)



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Public learns about school referendum at open house

From Staples-Motley School District

The Staples-Motley School District welcomed residents to a community open house on Monday, Feb. 23, 2026 to share details about a proposed \$42.5 million bond referendum and answer questions ahead of the April 14 special election. The proposed referendum would fund improvements to classrooms, strengthen safety and security measures, expand Career and Technical Education (CTE) spaces and complete needed building repairs across the district. If approved, the referendum would not raise the current school property tax rate.

“We truly appreciate everyone who attended the open house to learn more about the needs of our schools,” said Superintendent Shane Tappe. “We enjoyed the thoughtful questions and conversations. It’s very encouraging to see our community take such an active interest in our students’ future.”

If approved, the investment in our schools would refurbish aging classrooms, enhance campus safety features, add dedicated CTE space, and complete updates to the Centennial Auditorium, football

field and outdoor track - improvements shaped by community feedback and designed to support long-term educational needs.

Early voting began Friday, Feb. 27, 2026 and continues through Monday, April 13. District residents have three ways to cast their ballots:

- Early In-Person Voting: Vote at the Staples-Motley School District office (905 4th St. NE, Staples, on regular business days between 7:30 a.m. and 4:00 p.m. through Monday, April 13.
- Early Voting by Mail: Request a ballot from the Staples-Motley School District office and return it before Tuesday, Apr. 14.
- Election Day Voting: Polls will be open from 7:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. on Tuesday, April 14, at the Staples Community Center (425 4th St NE, Staples).

For detailed information about the proposed referendum, including project plans, a property tax calculator, frequently asked questions, voting details, and a contact form, visit SpreadingOurWings.org.

“This is an important community decision about the future of our schools,” Tappe said. “I encourage everyone to take time to visit our website to learn more about the plan and reach out to me if you have questions.”

75 YEARS Ago - 1951

- March 1, 1951 - The first Army medal for Korean action to be presented in Minnesota was awarded posthumously Feb. 28, at Memorial Auditorium in the Congregational church of Staples.

The silver star medal was presented to Mr. and Mrs. Herman J. Rosevink, parents of Pfc. Rosevink, killed in action near Saga, Korea on Sept. 13, 1950.

- March 1, 1951 - Joe Mertens, living west of Staples, was very surprised one day last week when he found that one of his sows had given birth to 16 little pigs.

Upon investigation Mr. Mertens found one of the

- O -
Compiled by Dawn Timbs
- O -

baby pigs to be a freak pig. It lived but a few moments.

The little animal had two snouts, two mouths, three eyes and two ears. The remainder of the body was normal in every respect.

Mr. Mertens gave the little pig to his nephew Robert who took it to school for his science class. The pig was preserved in formaldehyde, and will be on display at Schmitt’s Produce Friday of this week.

- March 1, 1951 - Casting has been completed for the Motley High school Senior Class play, “Desperate Ambrose” and is scheduled to be presented March 27 and 28.

The play is a western farcial comedy which takes place in Dead Man’s Gulch. The cast includes Doug Stevenson, Stanley Riggs, Donald Frisk, Richard Rasmussen, Wayne Alt, Charles Blake, Joan Trout, Elayne Bjelde, Aline Carey, Margaret Shequen, Verna Gehlhar, Darlene Hanson.

- March 1, 1951 - The Motley Study Club meets on Saturday, March 3, in the home of Mrs. C. J. Corner. Mrs. Rudy Topp will give a topic on “Argentina” not Arizona as was reported in last week’s items.

50 YEARS Ago - 1976

- Feb. 26, 1976 - The return of guard Dave Blanchard from an ankle injury played an important role for the Staples Cardinal basketball team last Friday evening on the home court as the men of Coach Tom Wolhowe swept past the Aitkin Gobblers to the tune of 69-54.

It was the Cards fourth victory in Mid-state Conference play this campaign and gave them a season record of 11 wins as compared to 8 losses.

In the game, Blanchard was the leading scorer as he connected on 9 field goals and added six free throws for a total of 24. Another contributing factor to the Cardinal’s victory was the play of Mark Redemske and Tom Backberg.

- Feb. 26, 1976 - Jim Johnson (138), Tony Van Buren (180) and Dave Sowers (98) of Coach Don Dravis’ Cardinal Wrestling team earned berths in the Minnesota State High school Class “A” tournament this weekend at the St. Paul Civic Center.

Johnson and Van Buren were Region Six champions in their respective weight classes, whereas Dave Sowers went down to his first defeat and took a second place.

- Feb. 26, 1976 - The Staples Cardinal Swimming Team of Coach Jerry Deming captured the championship of the Fergus Falls Jr. High Invitational Swim meet Feb. 14. This was the first trophy in the ninth grade division for the young Staples tankers.

- Feb. 26, 1976 - Susan Manning of Staples was among the 15 Brainerd Community College sophomores named in “Who’s Who in American Junior Colleges” for the 1975-76 school year.

Miss Manning is majoring in art education. She is sophomore class president and a member of the Student Senate. She is active in Intersarsity Christian Fellowship and took part in the community college art festival. A 1974 graduate of Staples High school, Susan is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Arthur Manning.

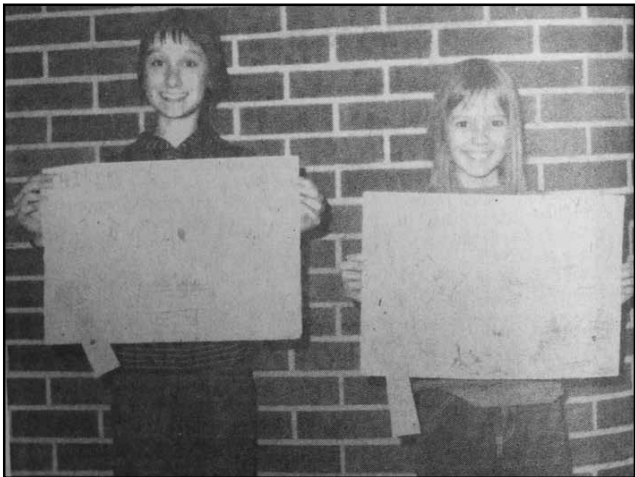
- Feb. 26, 1976 - After 44 years of being in business in Staples, Phillip W. Anderson has sold his store, the Anderson Our Own Hardware, and will retire effective March 1.

Anderson sold his hardware store to James McFadden, a businessman in Britton, S.D. Robert Jensen, who is presently manager of a hardware store in Grand Forks, N.D., will be coming to Staples to be the manager of the local store for McFadden, and will assume his duties here Monday.

Anderson, who was born and raised in Staples (he graduated from Staples High school in 1927), has always served his community throughout the years in addition to his years in the hardware business.

25 YEARS Ago - 2001

- March 1, 2001 - The Cardinals this season will have one representative at the state high school wrestling tournament which opens Thursday morning in St. Paul’s new Xcel Center



Mystery photo

Hello readers. This week’s archive photo is from 1976. 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.

Auditorium.

Senior Tylor Bendson won the runner-up honors at 125 pounds last Friday and Saturday at the Section 7AA individual wrestling tournament at Perham. He will be wrestling starting at 8 a.m. Thursday in Class AA preliminaries.

- March 1, 2001 - The Staples Motley Cardinals downed Bemidji’s Lumberjacks 61 - 41 Tuesday Feb. 20 to begin a stretch of three games in five days. Two nights later, the fifth rated Cardinals delivered a similar fate to the Wolverines from down Highway 10.

- March 1, 2001 - State Sen. Dallas Sams of Staples, met with mark Turner, executive director of the Five Wings Arts Council, during Arts Advocacy Day at the Capitol Feb. 7. Turner and other arts advocates from the five-county area thanked legislators such as Sams for their support for rural arts and urged others to do the same in the coming biennium.

- March 1, 2001 - Matie Nicol of Motley, the oldest active square dancer in Minnesota according to her club, was recently honored by area square dancers. Nicol celebrated her 94th birthday with her square dance friends at the Wadena Elementary School Cafeteria on Thursday, Feb. 15. Dancers from Staples, Park

Rapids, Brainerd, Alexandria and her home club, the “Wadena Whirlaways,” attended. Nicol has square danced for 54 years, 30 years with the Wadena Whirlaways.

- March 1, 2001 - Crews that began snow removal operations about 1 a.m. Tuesday were still at it five hours later picking up snow on downtown Staples streets. Up to 15 inches of snow fell in the area over the week, bringing to a total of about 57 inches of snowfall for the area this winter. City street crews normally remove snow in one night’s operation, but they took two nights to remove all of the snow from the weekend storm.

10 YEARS Ago - 2016

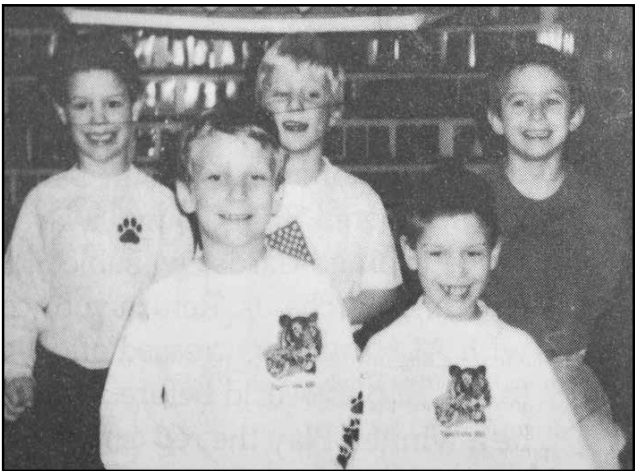
- March 3, 2016 - Roach Properties is working with the City of Staples to build 32 townhome units on the area north of the Freshwater Education building, between 5th St. and 8th St.

- March 3, 2016 - Seniors at SMHS, Haley Christoffersen and Hailey Koenig have sang the National Anthem at many home events throughout the year. They applied for and were selected to sing the anthem for the opening ceremonies of the MN State Wrestling Tourney this past weekend in St. Paul.



Braving the cold

Firefighters and other responders worked for five hours in frigid conditions at the scene of a fire at an apartment complex in downtown Staples the morning of Feb. 28. (Staples World photos by Dawn Timbs)



Mystery solved

Last week’s mystery photo published in the Feb. 3, 1994 edition of the Staples World featured members of the Staples Tiger Cub group who had recently toured Wendy’s Corner Pocket. From left are Brian Beard, Andrew Nanik, Brandon Weber, Nathan Beard and Rory Self.



Enjoying the community meal at Staples Assembly of God Church

Dozens of people attended the free Care Ministry Community Meal Feb. 24, at Staples Assembly of God Church. The delicious meal, prepared and served by church volunteers, included sliced ham, scalloped potatoes, green beans, salad, bread and a variety of desserts. Pictured above left, are Central Lakes College students

Jack Coenen, Hudson, Wisc.; Mikkel Steinert, Osakis; Alden Knudson, Virginia; Jayden Schaefer, Brownton. They are all enrolled in the Heavy Equipment program at CLC’s Staples campus. Above right, area residents enjoy a time of fellowship along with the meal. (Staples World photos by Dawn Timbs)

Staples-Motley wrestling 2026 was an all-time top team

By Mark Anderson
Managing Editor

This year we witnessed what could be the best small school wrestling team in Minnesota history, Staples-Motley 2025-26.

Coach Shane Tappe brought that possibility up at the welcome home on March 1.

That is an opinion that people can argue about, but someone needs to start the conversation, because this team was special. They defeated gigantic rivals, got national attention, and promoted the Staples-Motley community to every sports fan in the entire state.

Two year run

The story started last year. I realized how special this team was when I attended a practice last year to interview coaches and wrestlers. They were close to the end of their practice and I was amazed at their intensity level. I have never seen such a focused and energized group, with that look in their eyes that they could do anything. The state meet was still two weeks away, but at that moment I knew that they would become state champions, because they knew it too.

For the rest of the world, the first sign that Staples-Motley had climbed to the highest echelon was the incredible 64-0 win over Jackson County Central in last year's state semifinal, the only shutout in state semifinal history. During that match, I kept looking over at top-ranked Chatfield wrestling on the adjacent mat and they were trying not to look, but there were some wide eyes whenever they peeked up at what Staples-Motley was doing.

What followed was the dismantling of the Chatfield juggernaut that had run the Cardinals out of the gym the previous year. That year, 2024, Chatfield was one of the best small school teams ever to show up at state, with nine wrestlers ranked in the top ten by theguillotine.com, including two at number one. Chatfield was arguably even better in 2025, with three top ranked wrestlers, but Staples-Motley simply leapfrogged that level and set a new standard for how good a wrestling team can be. It wasn't easy, but they beat Chatfield handily, 33-16.

This year, Staples-Motley started out on top and were never challenged among

the small schools of Class A. Chatfield lost an early match and the Cardinals rolled past their other rival, Holdingford, in the first meet of the season. After the very first weekend, Staples-Motley didn't have any more small school rivals in the state.

The Cardinals could have coasted during the year, but they wrestled an extremely tough schedule with three losses to nationally ranked teams. They kept working on improving because they knew the other teams would be coming for them, they were raising the level for the entire state.

Once at state this year, there were a couple of Class A teams that could challenge for a state title in a normal year, but Staples-Motley shed them all away. Chatfield wrestled well in the final, but they fell far short.

Injuries and illnesses were the one thing holding Staples-Motley back from from completely fulfilling their vision for this season. At the first meet, they had their entire team healthy and down to their final weights, but that was also the last time they had everyone in the lineup until the end of the season. It didn't matter much, they still dominated every match against teams that were not in the national rankings, and they came within one point of a nationally ranked Stillwater team.

It is rare for a team to go a season without wrestlers missing a few matches, so we can't hold it against them, but they would have been ranked in the national polls if they had everyone healthy at the right times.

Ranking teams

I don't believe in bestowing GOAT (Greatest Of All Time) status in sports, because each era and each year is different. But I do like giving credit to excellence, and showing where athletic achievement has reached beyond a normal state champion.

We can put some numbers to it. For the modern era, The Guillotine has individual rankings going back to 2008. I looked at the last ranking of each season to see what teams had accomplished by the end of the year.

One top team was Kerkhoven-Murdock-Sunberg 2009, with eight ranked wrestlers, four of them at number one and two more in the top four. They won their state title 32-25, so they may

have also had some weak spots, but I wasn't there for that team tournament.

Another notable team was Jackson County Central in 2022, with nine ranked wrestlers and two at number one. They won 52-9 in their championship match.

The Chatfield team of 2025 had nine ranked wrestlers, three at number one and three more in the top five. But they lost in the state final to Staples-Motley.

Staples-Motley 2026 beats them all. Out of 13 weights, the Cardinals had 11 ranked wrestlers, four at number one and five others in the top five. Of the two weights not ranked, one dropped down due to injury and illness and the other is probably a top 20 wrestler.

In the modern era, Staples-Motley easily ranks above the rest.

The fact that all 10 wrestlers earned a medal in the individual tournament, and they likely would have had an eleventh except for an injury, shows that those rankings were spot on and even under-ranked at a couple of spots.

And this is not a weak era for wrestling. With the addition of girls wrestling, modern training methods and technique videos available at the touch of a button, the sport is flourishing.

Legacy era

The two class system started in 1976. Before that, Blue Earth, Caledonia and St. James all won state titles as small schools against the entire state. They could all make claims of having an all-time small school team, especially Blue Earth, who won three in a row from 1956-58. Also the 1953 Blue Earth state title team had a tenth grader named Don Dravis, who later went on to coach Staples-Motley to prominence.

Speaking of Don Dravis, his 1982 Staples team has a claim to be an all-time great for small schools. They won the Class A title and beat the Class AA state champion during the regular season, showing they were the top team in the entire state. That team was in the middle of a run of seven state championships in eight years. That long of a run gives each of those teams elite status among Class A schools, as Staples-Motley dominated the 1980s.

There may be some other teams in the 1990s and 2000s to make a claim as all-time greats, with Canby, Pierz and Foley winning multi-

ple titles in those years. But I would have to hear what puts them a level above before comparing them to Staples-Motley 2025.

Outstanding factors

Six seniors on this year's team were nearly unbeatable. Turner Beachy, Elijah Greenwaldt, Colbe Tappe, Riley Reese, Luke Bjerga and Adrian Gomez. Unless your team had a top ranked wrestler at that weight, you weren't going to beat them.

The underclassmen were also stout, starting with Garrett and Gage Bjerga, who beat some of the top wrestlers in the nation and were getting votes in the national rankings. Caden Kramer and Cayden Neisen were top wrestlers in their weight class throughout the season. Zach Tabatt and Beau Carlson moved into the state rankings by beating some top level competition and Justin Olson was near that level by the end of the season.

There is also the coaching factor: While Jim Jackson was coach at Apple Valley, he had some of the top wrestling teams in state history. In four years coaching at Staples-Motley, he has two state titles and one second place finish. Jackson gives all the credit to his assistant coaches and to this special group of athletes, but he is still a motivator for the sport. It sn't just on the mat or even at practices, it is all year long, he implants the notion that Staples-Motley wrestlers will improve tremendously every year, and that helps them go out and put in the work to do it.

Staples-Motley assistants include Dan Bjerga, Eric Kramer, Mark Carlson, Shane Tappe, Chris Dobson, Steve Jennissen and Holt Truax. Several wrestling fans have stated that Staples-Motley has the best coaching staff in the state. I wouldn't argue with that, after watching them at the state tournament this year. The Cardinals had the calmest coaches in the stadium because they trusted their wrestlers to follow the game plan. By the time they got to the mat, their coaching was done. They gave suggestions during the bouts, but they weren't yelling instructions at their wrestlers like some coaches.

If there are other teams who can make a case to rival Staples-Motley 2026, I would love to hear it. The one thing I do know is that this team made history.

Quote of the week

“Dear March, come in!
How glad I am!
I looked for you before.
Put down your hat —
You must have walked.
How out of breath you are!”
— Emily Dickinson

A parable - ‘Poking a Skunk’

By Frank Odell



Frank Odell was an English Teacher 30 years, MN State Fair Food vender 27 yrs, and P.B. Toastmaster of Year 2020 - 2021

There are many complicated philosophies in life. Volumes have been written about cause and effect, human behavior, consequences, and unintended outcomes.

But I have found that most of life can be summed up in one simple country parable:

If you poke a skunk... odorific abounds.

Now that is not in Aristotle.

It's not in Harvard Business Review.

But it is solid theology, psychology, and common sense.

Because here's the truth: We live in a cause-and-effect universe.

Gravity works. Fire burns. And skunks spray.

And yet—somehow—we are shocked every time.

1. The Shock of Predictable Results

Nobody pokes a skunk hoping for a hug.

You don't lean over and say,

“Excuse me, Mr. Skunk, I'd just like to test your temperament.”

No. Deep down, you know the outcome.

But in life? We poke anyway. We poke our health with neglect.

We poke our finances with impulse spending.

We poke our relationships with sarcasm, screams, swearing.

And then stand back in the cloud of consequences and say,

“I cannot believe this happened! I cannot believe the skunk would do that.”! Just cannot believe.

Really?

If you plant corn, you get corn.

If you plant thistles, you don't get strawberries.

If you poke a skunk... you get perfume—just not the kind you were hoping for.

2. Humor with a Lesson

Let me paint a picture. Imagine a man walking through the woods. He sees a skunk.

He thinks,

“It probably won't spray me. It looks calm...”

He reaches out.

Five seconds later, he smells like regret.

Now here's the funny part:

He doesn't blame himself.

He blames the skunk.

“That skunk had a bad attitude.”

“That skunk overreacted.”

“That skunk is toxic.”

No.

That skunk is a skunk. And sometimes what we call “bad luck” is simply predictable biology.

3. Logic and Life Realism

Life runs on laws.

- If you stay up until 2 a.m., tomorrow will not be energetic.
- If you ignore small problems, they grow teeth.
- If you speak harshly long enough, someone eventually walks away.

We don't get to violate principles without paying invoices.

The farmer who refuses to plant in spring cannot pray for harvest in October and act shocked when nothing grows.

The employee who shows up late every day cannot call termination “unexpected.”

The person who feeds resentment daily cannot be stunned when bitterness matures.

These aren't punishments.

They're outcomes.

Skunks don't spray out of malice.

They spray because that's what skunks do.

And consequences don't arrive out of cruelty.

They arrive because that's how reality works.

4. But Here's the Hope

The good news is this: The same law works in our favor.

If you sow kindness, something grows.

If you practice discipline, strength appears.

If you tell the truth, trust accumulates.

If you forgive, peace slowly moves in.

You don't accidentally build character.

You build it the same way you build odor—one choice at a time.

And here's the encouraging part:

You don't have to poke every skunk to learn the lesson.

Sometimes wisdom is simply watching someone else come out of the woods holding tomato juice.

5. The Personal Application

Let's get honest. Where are we poking? Are we poking our health?

Our temper?

Our marriage?

Our integrity?

Our faith?

Are we flirting with habits that will absolutely spray us?

Because life is patient—but it is not fooled.

You can ignore the skunk for a while.

You can pretend it isn't there.

You can convince yourself you're different.

But eventually, reality releases its fragrance.

6. Final Thought

There is humor in this, yes.

Because we have all walked out of the woods at some point wondering why everyone else is backing away slowly. But there is also wisdom. Before you poke—pause.

Ask:

“What is this likely to produce?”

Because the results are rarely mysterious.

If you want roses, plant roses.

If you want peace, practice peace.

If you want respect, live respect.

And if you insist on poking a skunk... Well.

At least buy tomato juice in advance.

Quote of the week

“When anyone tells me I can't do anything ... I'm just not listening any more.”
— Florence Griffith Joyner

Quote of the week

“The five S's of sports training are: stamina, speed, strength, skill, and spirit; but the greatest of these is spirit.” — Ken Doherty

Staples World

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Letters: Readers are encouraged to express their views by writing letters to the editor. Letters are verified for authenticity, so please include a name, address and phone number. Only the author's name and city will be published. Letters may be edited for spelling and grammar errors, libel, length and other factors. Private thanks, solicitations and libelous letters will not be published. Letters are printed on a space available basis. The editor reserves the right to reject letters.

The deadline is 12 noon, Friday. Opinions expressed on this page do not necessarily represent the views of this newspaper.

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

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

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End of an era



First customer at the new location

Mike Blessing of Staples, left, was the first person to stop by the Staples World's new location Feb. 27, there to re-new his subscription. Longtime employee Kathy Odden, often the first person to

greet people at the door, is happy to continue helping customers at the newspaper's new location. Other familiar faces at the Staples World are employees Janice Winter, Mark Anderson and Dawn Timbs.

For 75-plus years, the Staples World newspaper was located at 224 4th St. NE in Staples. The brick building, the work space for 11 employees at one time, was built in 1950. As of Feb. 27, the newspaper has re-located down the block, across from the Staples Theatre. The World's four employees are still on staff, and its phone number remains 218-894-1112. Below, Managing Editor and owner Mark Anderson moves a shelf to the new work space. (Staples World photos by Dawn Timbs)

The Staples World thanks you for your continued support



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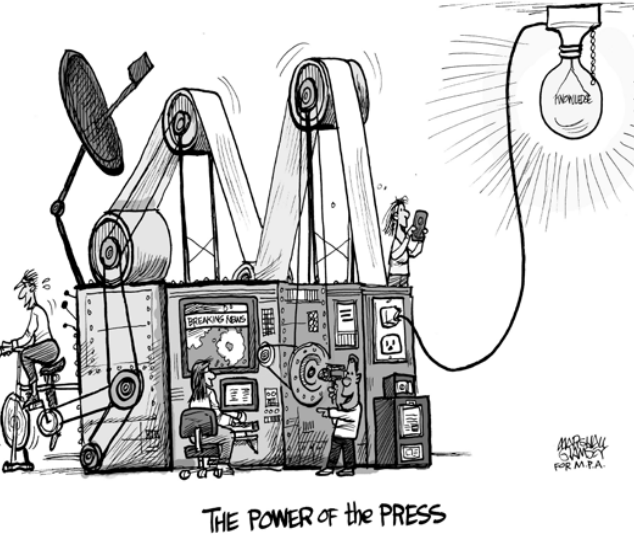
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Mark Your Calendar

Senior Nutrition Program
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. Menu is 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 218-979-4118
March 9 - 13

MONDAY - Chef's choice, veggie of the day, fruit of choice, dessert of the day, wheat bread, marg., 1% milk.
TUESDAY - Swedish meatballs, mashed potatoes, brown gravy, mixed veggies, dinner roll, marg., chocolate chip cookie, 1% milk.
WEDNESDAY - Pork roast/gravy, candied yams, green beans, wheat bread, marg., vanilla pudding/topping, 1% milk.
THURSDAY - Chicken Alfredo, peas/carrots, hot spiced apples, dinner roll, marg., 1% milk.
FRIDAY - Cheese omelet, turkey sausage, red diced potatoes, diced peach cup, blueberry muffin, marg., ketchup, 1% milk.

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

Mar. 6
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.

Mar. 8
CELEBRATE RECOVERY GROUP MEETINGS Sundays, 6 p.m., at Motley Free Methodist Church, 33 Wellwood St. E., Motley.

Mar. 10
THE MOTLEY HISTORICAL SOCIETY will hold its first meeting of 2026 on Tuesday, March 10, 1 p.m., at the Motley City Hall. All are welcome to attend. Will be discussing upcoming events for the year.

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.

STAPLES AREA MEN'S CHORUS

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MARCH 21, 2026

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Gordon Martin's
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Birthday!
Friday, March 6
4 to 7 p.m.
**Casino Assembly
of God Church**
(No gifts, please)

W10-11p

Hello World

ONLINE BIRTHS REMOVED
AT THE REQUEST OF LAKEWOOD
HEALTH SYSTEM.

Obituary

June Winter

June Kaye (Underhill) Winter, 68, of Pillager, passed away February 16, 2026, at Essentia Health-St. Mary's Medical Center in Duluth, following a cancer diagnosis, surgery and a short hospitalization.

A Celebration of Life will be held at a later date.

June was born May 6, 1957 to Chester Underhill, Jr. and Rena E. (Orvis) Underhill in Wadena. She was a graduate of Motley High School, Class of 1976. She completed secretarial training and earned her LPN Degree from Central Lakes College - Brainerd. She worked for many years in home health and group homes.

June enjoyed reading, hand embroidery, gardening and sitting outdoors enjoying nature. She loved her cats, Charlie and Baxter, as well as her parakeets and goldfish.



June is survived by two sons, Ryan Winter, Pillager, and Michael Winter, Staples; two sisters, Lori (Don) Keating, Bellevue, WA and Susan (Neil) Eckes, Big Lake.

June was preceded in death by her parents, Chester Underhill, Jr. and Rena E. (Orvis) Underhill; grandparents, Chester and Roxie Underhill, Sr. and John (Jack) and Lillie Orvis.

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Student Achievements

ST. CLOUD TECHNICAL & COMMUNITY COLLEGE has announced its 2025 Fall Semester Academic Achievement List. Those recognized for the President's List earned a grade

point average of 4.0; and those on the Dean's List earned a grade point average of 3.5 to 3.99. Local students include:

- Robb Odden, Dean's List



Taylor England, Alyssa Moon, Rachael Biggar, Julie Kolodji.

Escape Room held at Staples Library

The Underwater Escape Room at the Staples Public Library was completed Feb. 28; sharing more of the participants photos. The Escape Room was sponsored by the Staples Friends of the Library. (Submitted photos)



Max Strickland, Amber Houselog, Jen Strickland, Julie Benson.

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**For the
Staples World**

Life Currents Policy

To request that an obituary, anniversary or other event (including benefit events) be placed word for word, personalized, contain more than one photo, or to run for more than one week, it may be placed as a display advertisement at the regular advertising rates (\$10.75 /col. inch). The item will be placed in our newspaper with a border around it and must be paid for at the time of placement. Deadline for advertising copy is noon on Friday.

Obituaries received from private parties, funeral homes, will be edited to our format and paid for prior to running at our obituary rate (\$10.25 pci) plus \$5 per photo. Minimum is \$60. Deadline for copy is noon on Friday, however, every effort is made to include those with timely services. Death notices are available and are free if followed in the next publication by the entire obituary. Obituaries printed in the Staples World will be posted on our website.

All obituaries are paid advertisements. Obituaries requested to be printed word for word will be charged regular advertising rates and marked as a -Paid Advertisement- with a box around it.

Please be sure to include the name of the deceased, date of birth, age, city of residence, when and where he or she died and the name and city of the funeral home handling the arrangements.

Staples Area Church Directory

Staples

Staples Alliance

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

Assembly of God

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

Church of Christ

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

Faith Lutheran

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

Sacred Heart Catholic Church

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

Seventh Day Adventist

421 Dakota Ave. SE, Staples
Pastor Joshua Jeresek
218-894-0033
Saturday Worship 9:30 a.m.
Sabbath School 10:45 a.m.

Thomastown Covenant

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

Trinity Lutheran

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

United Methodist

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

Aldrich

Balsamlund Lutheran

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

Cushing

Bethany Lutheran

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

Lincoln Evangelical Free

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

Cushing Baptist

26298 Bear Rd., Cushing
Pastor Dan Holmes 320-749-2583
Sunday School 9:30 a.m.
Worship 10:30 a.m.
WEDNESDAY
Bible Study 7:30 p.m.

Leader

Swan Valley Lutheran

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

Maple Hill Lutheran

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

Motley

Motley Free Methodist

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

St. John's Lutheran

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

St. Michael Catholic Church

280 1st Ave S., Motley 218-631-1598
Rev. JC Duncan, 218-632-7314
Rev. Rick Aubol, 218-632-7310
Rev. Greg Sauer, 218-632-7319
Saturday 4:00 p.m. (Dec - April)

United Methodist

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

Oylen

Oylen Alliance

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

Pillager

First Lutheran Church

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

Casino Assembly of God

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

First Baptist

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

Hewitt

Church of the Nazarene

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

Trinity Lutheran Church (LCMS)

524 Front Street, PO Box 116, Hewitt, MN
Pastor Robin Fish
Sunday Worship 10:30 a.m.

Hewitt Community Church

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

Verndale

Verndale Alliance

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

Family Life Church

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

Hope Chapel Alliance

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

Immanuel Lutheran Church of Bartlett Township (LCMS)

17097 460th St., PO Box 37, Verndale
Pastor Robin Fish
Sunday Worship 9:00 a.m.
WEDNESDAY
Bible Study 6:30 p.m.

Verndale United Methodist

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

Central Community Church

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

St. Frederick Catholic Church

20 Mason Avenue NW
Verndale 218-631-1598
info@marysacc.org
Rev. JC Duncan, 218-632-7314 Rev. Rick Aubol, 218-
632-7310 Rev. Greg Sauer, 218-632-7319
MASS: Saturday 6:00 p.m.

St. Hubert Catholic Church

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

Leaf River Township

The Old Country Church

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

Wadena

St. Helen's Episcopal Church

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

St. Ann's Catholic Church

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

"Thank You to Those Who Help the Bereaved"

Pastor Barry Klein, Staples Church of Christ

As likely all pastors do, I have notebooks full of past funerals that I've had the opportunity and privilege to be a part of. It's such a vulnerable experience for people to go through their loved one's death and now funeral. (I like the growing trend of calling the gathering, "A Celebration of Life").

In each time from the dying process, the death call, the funeral planning and the service itself, I never cease to be amazed at the important team that God puts together each time. From our medical community, to our funeral and grave plot preparers, to our sound room tech staff, to church custodians and to our ladies who put the meals together, it's a humble privilege to be a small part of the greater whole.

Who of us hasn't been taken in by the extreme compassion that Jesus Himself has in the midst of loss, pain, heartache and death? We see Jesus' being moved by a widow whose son had died in Luke 7:11-15. After Je-

sus miraculously raised the son, you can just envision the tender way in which Jesus "gave him back to his mother" in verse 15.

Then you have Jesus in John 11 with Lazarus' death. In the midst of the whole scene of grief, we hear those deep two words of John 11:35, "Jesus wept."

If you want another reminder of the compassion of Jesus. Please take time to savor Isaiah 53:4 when we hear, "Surely he has borne our griefs and sorrows."

Indeed, thank you to each one of you who have been on people teams of walking beside people in their grief. How can we not mention our Lakewood Hospice team that often sees, experiences and engages more than most of us? Thank you.

Be a person who seeks God's compassion, strength and patience to "risk" entering the mystery of suffering and death. God is our equipper and He personally walks "the valley of the shadow of each" with each one of us.

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10 for 10: All wrestlers win an individual medal

Tappe, Bjerga & Bjerga win, Greenwaldt 2nd

Mark Anderson
Managing Editor

In a stunning display of wrestling prowess, every Staples-Motley wrestler in the state individual tournament earned a medal for placing in the top six in their weight bracket. The Cardinals had 11 wrestlers qualify for the individual tournament, but Beau Carlson was unable to wrestle due to an injury.

Garrett Bjerga won the state title at 107 pounds, Gage Bjerga won at 139 and Colbe Tappe was the 160 pound champion. Eli Greenwaldt made it to the state final at 145 pounds, but lost to an undefeated three time state champion to place second.

The other medal winners were: Caden Kramer 3rd, 121; Cayden Neisen 4th, 133; Riley Reese 4th, 172; Luke Bjerga 6th, 189; Zach Tabatt 4th, 215; Adrian Gomez 4th 285.

Garrett Bjerga

The 107 pound class shaped up to be a three person race with Garrett Bjerga and two other star wrestlers. Bjerga had the number one seed so he only needed to face one of them, whoever won the semifinal. He knew one of the two would be there at the end, so he focused on one match at a time.

With two pins and an 11-2 win, Bjerga reached the final easily. When he learned his opponent would be Tyson Meagher of Paynesville, he could finally focus on that final.

"I went back and watched the videos of the last two times I wrestled him," said Bjerga. "I found a few things that I could do better."

He took that knowledge into the match, but there were still no takedowns in the first period. Meagher chose down in the second period and as he tried a roll to escape, Bjerga caught him and turned him over for a four point near fall.

"It felt good to get that four, it was really a sense of relief," said Bjerga, after their previous matches were decided by one point.

He continued to ride it out for the rest of the period and took that 4-0 lead into the final period. He was given an escape and spent the third period playing defense.

"I was doing a little stalling," said Bjerga, and it cost him one point. But at the end, Meagher went for a desperate lunge and Bjerga got on top for a takedown and earned his first state championship with an 8-1 win.

Gage Bjerga

Gage Bjerga came into the tournament ranked number one, with not a lot of competition apparent.

"I was pretty confident after looking at my bracket, but it played out differently than I expected."

None of the top seeds made it through, as Isaac Rodriguez of Jackson County Central took out the number two and number three seeds.

Bjerga had wrestled

Rodriguez last year and won with a pin. This year he was just as good, scoring two takedowns and two near falls in the first period. With another near fall in the second period, Bjerga won his second state title with a 16-1 technical fall.

"It was nice to dominate all the way through the bracket," he said.

Bjerga is not done wrestling this year, he said he plans to enter some national tournaments in both free-style and Greco-Roman wrestling.

Colbe Tappe

As returning state champion and number one seed, Colbe Tappe saw a potential hazard early in the tournament. In the second round, he faced Mason Javers of Minneota.

"Going in, I thought he would be the best opponent in the bracket," said Tappe. "I had to get up early in the morning and get ready for what was likely a state championship match in the second round."

After sparring for much of the first period, Tappe got in to grab a leg and came around for a solid takedown. Javers earned the escape and the first period ended 3-1. Each wrestler earned their escape in the next two periods, but there was no more scoring.

"I wasn't stalling, he just has good defense and was hard to get to," said Tappe. "He found my weakness and used it."

Tappe survived a flurry at the end and came away with a 4-2 win.

Tappe scored a 13-1 major decision in the semifinal and faced Mark Schiefelbein of Kimball in the final. He had the same plan as his semifinal.

"They are both tall and lanky wrestlers, so having a similar guy in the semifinal set me up for success in the final," said Tappe.

He came through with a takedown and four point near fall in the first period. Two takedowns and another near fall gave Tappe a 20-4 technical fall and his second straight state championship at 160 pounds.

Elijah Greenwaldt

In the first three rounds, Elijah Greenwaldt was brilliant in slicing through tough opponents. After winning by fall in the first round, he faced the opponent he had beaten by one point in the section final a week earlier. He was on fire from the beginning, never giving up a point and scoring two takedowns and two near falls for a 14-0 win over the second seed in the tournament.

He was nearly as fierce in the semifinal, scoring another two takedowns and two near falls, but he gave up one late takedown and ended with a 16-5 major decision to advance to his first state final.

One of the secrets to his run to the final was not getting worried and following his routine.

"I just took it one match at a time, I didn't look ahead to see who might be in the next round," said Greenwaldt.

That gave him an oppor-

tunity to compose himself between matches. "I would go back to the hotel for resting and eating, I sometimes took a nap," he said.

With third and fourth place medals from previous state tournaments, Greenwaldt wanted to get to the top.

"I've been wanting to get first place since ninth grade, when I got my first medal," said Greenwaldt.

He had the tall task of facing Trey Gunderson of Kerkhoven-Murdock-Sunberg, undefeated for the past three seasons and two time state champion. Greenwaldt battled well but could not get in on his opponent. He lasted into the second period but ended up losing by technical fall.

Even though he took second, Greenwaldt appreciated his career with two team gold medals and his individual silver medal to go with his other two state medals.

"I'm happy and content with what I've done, and what we've done as a team," said Greenwaldt.

Caden Kramer

After a 9-2 win and first period pin in his first two rounds at 121 pounds, Caden Kramer faced a wrestler he had defeated in the team tournament. This time he wasn't able to get any takedowns and lost 7-2. In the consolation bracket, he won 7-1 and placed third by defeating Hunter Katterhagen of Long Prairie-Grey Eagle 8-1.

Cayden Neisen

Two convincing wins in the first two rounds brought Cayden Neisen to the 133 pound semifinal, where he lost 10-0. In the consolation bracket, he won 4-2 to reach the third place match, but lost 4-1 there, receiving the got the fourth place medal.

Riley Reese

A single point separated Riley Reese from defeating the eventual second place finisher at 172 pounds. In the second round, Reese met Simon Boeckman of Holdingford, a rival he had two close losses to this season. Reese got in for the first takedown in the second period, but Boeckman got one right back. In the third period, Reese had several opportunities to come up from the bottom position, but never quite finished the reversal after grabbing a leg. He ended with a 5-4 loss. In the wrestlebacks, Reese had three straight wins, 16-4, 4-2 and 10-4, reaching the third place match. He lost 5-2 to finish fourth.

Luke Bjerga

After a 4-0 win in the first round, Luke Bjerga faced returning state champion Kane Larson of Fillmore/Lanesboro. After getting taken down twice in the first period, Bjerga returned the takedown in the second, the only takedown Larson gave up the entire tournament,

as he went on to repeat as champion. But that was all Bjerga could do and lost a 21-5 tech fall.

In the wrestlebacks, Bjerga fell behind in his first match, turned his opponent in the third period and held it tight for a pin. He continued with a 4-1 win before dropping two close decisions. Bjerga lost 8-3 in the placing round and lost 8-6 in the fifth place match to finish sixth.

Zachary Tabatt

One-point and two-point matches were all that separated the top five wrestlers in the 215 pound weight class. Zachary Tabatt lost 5-4 on a late takedown in the opening round to the wrestler who ended up in fifth place. He came all the way back through the consolation bracket to get into the third place match, winning 4-2, 8-1, 8-3 and 4-1, scoring the only takedowns in each match. In the third place match against Blake McMullen of Mahnommen-Waubun, who had lost a one point match to the eventual state champion, Tabatt was on the wrong end of a third period takedown and lost 4-2 to place fourth.

Adrian Gomez

Adrian Gomez reached the state semifinal with a pin and a 2-0 win against one of the larger heavyweights in the field. In the semifinal, he fell behind 10-0 in the first period but came back with two takedowns of his own. Late in the match, he needed to create some action and went for a throw that didn't work and he got pinned.

In the wrestlebacks, Gomez scored two takedowns and a near fall to reach the third place match, where he lost 8-3 to Nick Becker of Eden Valley-Watkins to place fourth.

Cardinal GBB shot down in playoff game

The Staples-Motley girls basketball team was unable to repeat the success they had against Pierz in the regular season, falling 59-44 in the first round of the Section 7AA playoffs.

In the regular season meeting of these two teams, Pierz struggled to make outside shots and the Cardinals built up a lead in the first half. In the playoff game, Pierz made six 3-pointers in the first half and were ahead 32-18 at halftime.

Sophia Luna kept Staples-Motley in the game early on, with a three pointer and two short bas-

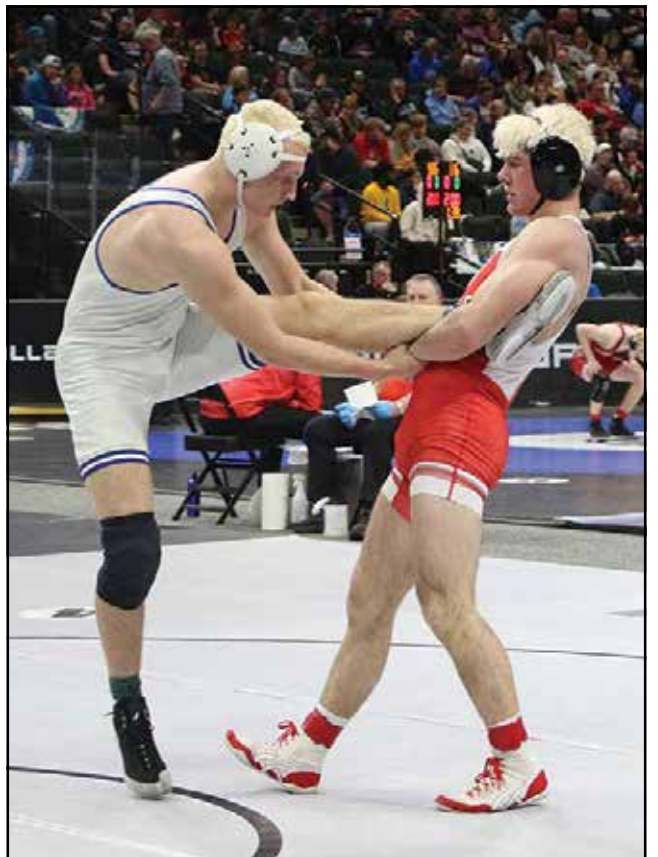
kets.

In the second half, the Cardinals stayed even with Pierz but were not able to cut into the lead. Chloe Larson made four baskets and Clara Maros hit two 3-pointers in the half. Addison Potter made three shots.

The Cardinals didn't go to the free throw line often and only made three of nine shots from the stripe.

Team results

Section 7AA playoffs
SM 44, Pierz 59
Scoring: Chloe Larson 10, Sophia Luna 10, Clara Maros 9, Addison Potter 8, Hannah Cole 4, Joci Lenk 3



Riley Reese, right, lifts a leg before a takedown.



Luke Bjerga, left, goes toe to toe with the state champion.



Silent inspiration before wrestling

Staples-Motley wrestlers Colbe Tappe, left, and Zach Tabatt, right, took time before their final matches

ment of his first place match and Tabatt took a moment after putting on his colored ankle bands. (Staples World



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SW 2024 changed wk #3

Repeat state champions fulfill team vision

By Mark Anderson
Managing Editor

“Two is way better than one,” Staples-Motley senior Colbe Tappe said about repeating as state wrestling champions on Feb. 26, 2026. “This is what we do it for,” said Tappe.

As the number one ranked team all season and the number one seed, the Cardinals were confident they could win, but were wary.

“There were more nerves this year, being the top ranked team with everyone going after you,” said senior Riley Reese.

Chatfield did put up a fight in the championship match before being overwhelmed by the six seniors and seven other high-level wrestlers on the Staples-Motley team. The final score was 41-14, a larger margin than the state championship win last season.

“We’re in the history books now as back to back champions,” said senior Elijah Greenwaldt. “We’ll be on the wall back home and everyone can come back to look at it.”

This was the first back to back title for Staples-Motley since 1986, when the Staples Cardinals completed their fifth straight state title.

The seniors on this year’s team grew up learning about those teams and started forming the idea that they could also achieve the feat.

“We were pretty solid in NYWA (youth) wrestling, we were the top Class A

team in the state,” said Tappe. We were thinking we might be able to win state when we got older.”

That dream became a vision when they started getting state level success.

“When we beat Holdin-gord in the section final two years ago, we realized we could win state,” said senior Adrian Gomez.

Although they finished second that year, they had another year to plan their championship.

“The coaches we have now were a part of that group who won championships,” said senior Luke Bjerga. “They knew what it takes to get us to that level.”

Senior Turner Beachy said team unity is another key to their success.

“We’re a solid team, we mesh well,” said Beachy. “We came back as a team and wrestle all our matches together. It’s been a great season and I’ll miss wrestling with my boys.”

Staples-Motley 60, Kenyon-Wanamingo 9

As the number one seed, Staples-Motley drew an unseeded team in the first round. Kenyon-Wanamingo has three stars and a few more good wrestlers. Two of their stars won, but the Cardinals only gave up a couple of bonus points.

The third star was taken out by Caden Kramer, who built up a 7-0 lead before winning with a fall in the third period. After those lower weight matches, the Cardinals won nine straight.

One notable match was Beau Carlson winning with

a technical fall against one of the good wrestlers. He got the win but also was injured which kept him out of the rest of the tournament.

Staples-Motley 63, Jackson County Central 3

After shutting out Jackson County Central last year, the Cardinals still matched up well and won all but one match in their state semifinal.

Justin Olson sparked the team with an overtime win at 114 pounds, and the rout was on. The only loss was Cooper Tappe replacing Beau Carlson at 152 pounds. Tappe built a 5-1 lead against a wrestler who went on to place second in the individual state tournament. But he was taken down twice in the final period to lose 9-7.

Staples-Motley 41, Chatfield 14

The state championship match was the third straight between the Cardinals of Staples-Motley and the Gophers of Chatfield, with the teams splitting the first two.

The match started out with Garrett Bjerga facing one of the top 107 pounders in the state, each wrestler coming in with just one loss.

Bjerga seemed to have better opportunities but no takedowns were scored in the first period. Bjerga earned his escape in the second, then attempted to ride out the third. He avoided several close attempts and held on desperately until the buzzer to

win 1-0.

But Chatfield had a string of top level wrestlers coming up and won the next three to take the lead back. However, Justin Olson, Caden Kramer and Turner Beachy only gave up two bonus points between them so the score was only 11-3.

Cayden Neisen got things back on track with a 5-4 decision over a wrestler who went on to place third in the individual tournament. Gage Bjerga followed that up with a technical fall and Greenwaldt scored a fall at 145 pounds to make the team score 17-11.

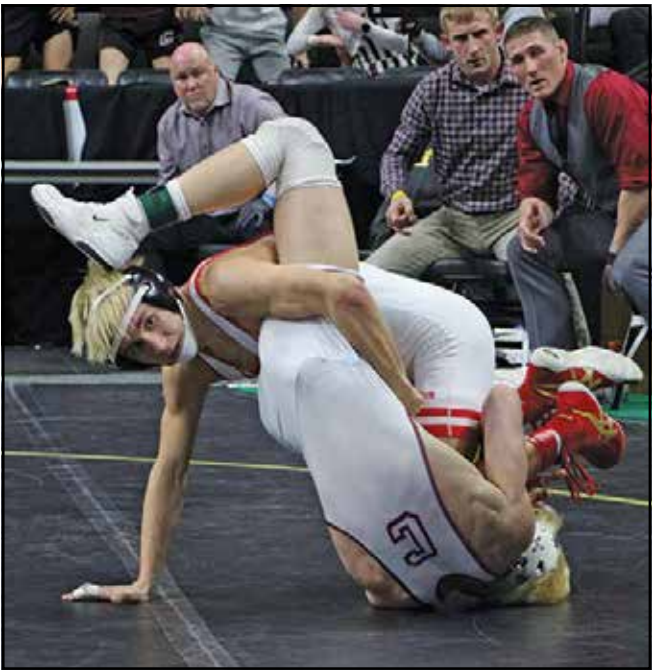
“Cayden and Gage started us on a roll and I kept it going,” said Greenwaldt.

Cooper Tappe held a state wrestler to a regular three point decision at 152, and Staples-Motley won the final five weights convincingly. Colbe Tappe had a pin, Riley Reese scored a 22-5 technical fall, Luke Bjerga won 13-2, Zach Tabatt won 8-2 and Adrian Gomez capped the state title with a first period pin.

“We wrestled like this all season. We expected to win, we were not going to take anything less than taking first,” said Gage Bjerga. “We will have the same thing going in to next season.”

“Team comes first, we train that way every day,” said Luke Bjerga. “It feels cool to bring it back as a team.”

“It feels great, we’re one of the hardest working teams in the state. No one put in more preparation,” said Greenwaldt.



Cayden Neisen



Turner Beachy



Referee spots something during an injury timeout.



Luke Bjerga being interviewed.



Coaches Eric Kramer and Dan Bjerga anticipate the action during the team tournament.



Go Big Red!

Cardinal fans yell for their team.



Colbe Tappe

Basketball season ends with Cardinals near top of section, conference

The Staples-Motley boys basketball team finished the regular season with two wins and one loss, bringing them in with a 7-1 record in their last eight games.

The Cardinals lost at Pelican Rapids 72-54 on Feb. 24, had two home wins, 78-41 against Ashby and 70-45 against Park Rapids.

The winning streak pushed the Cardinals into the second position for Section 8AA playoffs, earning a bye in the first round. They

also finished third in the Heart O’ Lakes Conference.

The first playoff game will be Saturday, March 7, at home against the winner of seventh seed Thief River Falls and tenth seed Roseau, who play on March 5.

Section 8AA standings

1. East Grand Forks 2. Staples-Motley 3. Osakis 4. Perham 5. Dilworth-Glyndon-Felton 6. Barnesville 7. Thief River Falls 8. Warroad 9. Park Rapids 10.

Roseau 11. Hawley 12. Wade-na-Deer Creek 13. Crookston 14. Menahga

Heart O’ Lakes Conference boys basketball standings

Pelican Rapids 15-1 Breckenridge 12-3 Staples-Motley 10-5 Perham 10-6 Dilworth-Glyndon-Felton 9-7 Barnesville 7-9 Park Rapids 3-11 Frazee 2-14 Hawley 2-14

**NOTICE
STAPLES TOWNSHIP
ELECTION AND
ANNUAL MEETING**

The Staples Township Election and Annual Meeting will be held Tuesday, March 10, 2026 at the Staples Town Hall located at 25750 490th St., Staples, MN. The Polling Hours are 4:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.

Positions to be filled are:
One (1) Supervisor, three (3) year term;

One (1) Clerk, two (2) year term.

Board of Canvass will follow the election with the Annual Meeting immediately after.

Board of Reorganization will follow the Annual Meeting.

In case of inclement weather, the election and Annual Meeting will be held one week later on Tuesday, March 17, 2026.

Bonnie Thoele, Clerk
Staples Township

10-11pnc

**(ABBREVIATED
ADVERTISEMENT)****TODD COUNTY
HIGHWAY SAFETY
IMPROVEMENT
PROJECTS
Closing date:
March 31, 2026**

Sealed bids will be accepted until 10:00 a.m., March 31, 2026 by the Todd County Public Works Director/Engineer and County Auditor/Treasurer at 44 Riverside Drive, Long Prairie, Minnesota 56347 for the following construction projects:

**SP 077-070-017
6-Inch Ground-In Wet
Reflective Multi-Component
Edge Lines
Various County Roadways
(12.5 miles)**

This is an abbreviated advertisement. A full advertisement can be viewed by going to the Public Works website at <https://mn-co-todd.app.rtvision.com/oneoffice/bidding>.

Loren Fellbaum
Todd County Public Works
Director/Engineer

11-13pnc

**NOTICE
MEADOWBROOK
TOWNSHIP 2026
ANNUAL MEETING**

Meadowbrook Township will hold its Annual Meeting on Tuesday, March 10, 2026 at 6:30 p.m. at the Leader Community Hall.

In case of inclement weather the Annual Meeting will be held the following Tuesday, March 17, 2026, same time and place.

Ty Peterson, Clerk
Meadowbrook Township

10-11pnc

**NOTICE
MAY TOWNSHIP
ANNUAL MEETING**

The May Township Annual Meeting will be held on Tuesday, March 10, 2026 7:00 p.m. at the May Township Hall.

Bianca Wyffels, Clerk
May Township

11-12pnc

**NOTICE
BARTLETT TOWNSHIP
ELECTION AND
ANNUAL MEETING**

Notice is hereby given to the voters of Bartlett Township that the Annual Township Election will be held on Tuesday, March 10, 2026 at the Town Hall from 4 p.m. to 8 p.m.

Board of Canvass will convene following the election.

The Annual Meeting will begin at 8:15 p.m.

In case of inclement weather the alternate date would be March 17, 2026.

Jan Jares, Clerk
Bartlett Township

11pnc

**NOTICE
MOTLEY TOWNSHIP
ELECTION AND
ANNUAL MEETING**

The Motley Township Election and Annual Meeting will be held at the Motley Township Town Hall Tuesday March 10, 2026. The polls will be open from 5:00 p.m. until 8:00 p.m. followed by the board of canvass and then the annual meeting.

Ken Swecker, Clerk
Motley Township

10-11pnc

**NOTICE
MOOSE LAKE
TOWNSHIP
2026 ANNUAL
MEETING/
MAINTENANCE BIDS**

Moose Lake Township will hold its annual meeting on Tuesday, March 10, 2026 at 5 p.m. at the Leader Community Hall.

The township is now accepting bids for road maintenance and cemetery maintenance. Send bids to: Moose Lake Township Clerk, 5335 51st Ave. SW, Pine River, MN 56474.

In case of inclement weather, the alternate meeting date will be Tuesday, March 17, 2026 at 5:00 p.m. at the Leader Community Hall.

Karen Roubel, Clerk
Moose Lake Township

10-11pnc

**(ABBREVIATED
ADVERTISEMENT)****TODD COUNTY
2026 GRAVEL
SURFACING PROJECT
Closing date:
March 31, 2026**

Sealed bids will be accepted until 10:00 a.m., March 31, 2026 by the Todd County Public Works Director/Engineer and County Auditor/Treasurer at 44 Riverside Drive, Long Prairie, Minnesota 56347 for the following construction projects:

**CP 26:88
CP 26:93**

This is an abbreviated advertisement. A full advertisement can be viewed by going to the Public Works website at <https://mn-co-todd.app.rtvision.com/oneoffice/bidding>.

Loren Fellbaum
Todd County Public Works
Director/Engineer.

1-13pnc

**NOTICE
MORAN TOWNSHIP
ELECTION AND
MEETING**

Notice is hereby given to the qualified voters of Moran Township, County of Todd, State of Minnesota that the Annual Election of Town Officers and Annual Town Meeting will be held on Tuesday, March 10, 2026 at the Moran Town Hall.

The Election Poll hours will be open from 5 p.m. to 8 p.m., at which time the voters will elect:

One (1) Supervisor for a three (3) year term

(Alan Halbersma or Write-in)

One (1) Treasurer for a two (2) year term

(Connie Becker or Write-in)

The Board of Canvass will meet March 10, 2026 at 8 p.m. to certify the official election results.

The Annual Meeting will commence at 3 p.m. to conduct all necessary business prescribed by law.

Diane Mack, Clerk
Moran Township

11-12pnc

**(ABBREVIATED
ADVERTISEMENT)****TODD COUNTY
2026 PAVEMENT
MARKING PROJECT
Closing date:
March 31, 2026**

Sealed bids will be accepted until 10:00 a.m., March 31, 2026 by the Todd County Public Works Director/Engineer at 44 Riverside Drive, Long Prairie, Minnesota 56347 for the following construction project:

**C.P. 77-26-03
Pavement Marking Application**

Various County Highways (262.58 miles)

This is an abbreviated advertisement. A full advertisement can be viewed by going to the Public Works website at <https://mn-co-todd.app.rtvision.com/oneoffice/bidding>.

Loren Fellbaum
Todd County Public Works
Director/Engineer

11-13pnc

**NOTICE
VILLARD TOWNSHIP
ANNUAL MEETING**

The Villard Township Annual Meeting will be held Tuesday, March 10, 2026 immediately following the regular monthly 7 p.m. meeting. This meeting will be held at the Eastwood Inn, Motley, MN. In case of bad weather the Annual Meeting will be held on March 17, 2026 at 7 p.m.

Mary Trantina-Koenig,
Clerk
Villard Township

11pnc

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**Estate of
EDWARD DANIEL
ZIEGLER, SR.,
Decedent**

**NOTICE OF INFORMAL
PROBATE OF WILL
AND APPOINTMENT OF
PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE
AND NOTICE TO
CREDITORS**

Notice is given that an application for informal probate of the Decedent's will dated January 20, 2023 ("Will"), has been filed with the Registrar. The application has been granted.

Notice is also given that the Registrar has informally appointed ANGELA BEN-ESCH whose address is 679 Schilling Circle NW, Forest Lake, MN 55025, as personal representative of the Estate

of the Decedent. Any heir, devisee or other interested person may be entitled to appointment as personal representative or may object to the appointment of the personal representative. Unless objections are filed with the Court (pursuant to Minnesota Statutes Section 524.3-607) and the Court otherwise orders, the personal representative has full power to administer the Estate, including, after 30 days from the date of issuance of letters, the power to sell, encumber, lease or distribute real estate.

Any objections to the probate of the Will or appointment of the Personal Representative must be filed with this Court and will be heard by the Court after the filing of an appropriate petition and proper notice of hearing.

Notice is also given that (subject to Minnesota Statutes Section 524.3-801) all creditors having claims against the Estate are required to present the claims

to the personal representative or to the Court Administrator within four months after the date of this Notice or the claims will be barred.

A charitable beneficiary may request notice of the probate proceedings be given to the Attorney General pursuant to Minnesota Statutes Section 501B.41, subdivision 5.

Dated: February 12, 2026

Lea Hippe,
Registrar

Kim Peterson
Court Administrator

Attorney for Applicant
Name: Virginia Ryan,
Attorney at Law
Street: 600
Inwood Ave N #130
City, State, ZIP: Oakdale,
MN 55128
Attorney License No: 403030
Telephone: 651-631-0616
FAX: 651-386-0024
Email:
virginia@virgielaw.com

10-11pnp

**Cardinals invade St. Paul**

Staples-Motley fans of all ages were loud and proud at the state wrestling tournament, packing full sections of the stands and supporting their state champion team. (Staples World photos by Mark Anderson)





NOTICE OF EXPIRATION OF REDEMPTION
(These parcels have forfeited to the State of Minnesota)

State of Minnesota
County of Todd

Denise Gaida
County Auditor/Treasurer

TO: ALL PERSONS WITH A LEGAL INTEREST IN THE PARCELS OF
REAL PROPERTY DESCRIBED IN THE FOLLOWING NOTICE.

You are hereby notified that the parcels of real property described below and located in Todd County, Minnesota, are subject to forfeiture to the State of Minnesota because of the nonpayment of delinquent property taxes, special assessments, penalties, interest, and costs levied on these parcels. The time for redemption from forfeiture expires if a redemption is not made by the later of (1) sixty (60) days after service of this notice on all persons having an interest in the parcels or (2) June 18th, 2026 whichever is later. The redemption must be made in the Todd County Auditor/Treasurer Office.

IMPORTANT: If the parcels forfeit, they will be sold. If the proceeds from the sale exceed the total amount of the delinquent taxes, special assessments, penalties, interest, and costs assigned to those parcels, you may be entitled to the excess proceeds from the sale. If there are excess proceeds, you will be notified and must submit the claim form included with the notification in order to receive the proceeds

The following information is listed below: the names of the property owners, taxpayers, and interested parties who have filed their addresses under M.S. 276.041; the addresses of the parties at the election of the County Auditor/Treasurer; the legal description and parcel identification number of the parcels; and the amount necessary to redeem the parcels as of the date listed below:

Parcel No. Names & Addresses	Addition Owners/ Interested Parties	Legal Description	Amount Due
04-0042400 GERALD J & LINDA WALSH 32127 FOXTAIL DR SWANVILLE MN 56382-4536		HEDIN'S ADDITION LOTS 5 & 6 EX W 5 FT OF LOT 6	\$ 9,489.18
08-0024600 KATIE M & MICHAEL G STEWART 33926 ELM LN MOTLEY MN 56466		SECT-25 TWP-132 RANG-32 NE4 NE4 EX E 10 RDS & EX .06 AC CONDEMNED BACK TO STATE OF MN	\$ 6,239.10
08-0090200 JOHN T EISCHEID PO BOX 290 MOTLEY MN 56466	RONALD THOMPSON RICHARD NEISIUS KENNETH ZETAH	LOT-55 BLK-7 FAWN LAKE MEADOWS	\$ 131.75
08-0103900 RICHARD E JOHNSON PO BOX 91 CHAMPLIN MN 55316		LOT-3 BLK-10 FAWN LAKE MEADOWS	\$ 131.75
08-0124900 VITALIY & GALINA VORONIN 404 NE 104TH AVE VANCOUVER WA 98664		LOT-9 BLK-2 PINE ISLAND HEIGHTS ALSO IN MORAN TOWNSHIP	\$ 69.65
08-0133200 WALTER GOODRICH 14639 RIDGEWAY RD CROSSLAKE MN 56442-2773		LOT-20 BLK-4 PINE ISLAND HEIGHTS	\$ 131.75
08-0144000 HENRY R & SYLVIA LEAF 7061 N SUNRISE VISTA PRESCOTT VALLEY AZ 86314		LOT-59 BLK-6 PINE ISLAND HEIGHTS	\$ 141.67
08-0156700 JESSE DAVID RINGAMAN 226 N SWIFT AVE #1 LITCHFIELD MN 55355-2026		LOT-4 BLK-10 PINE ISLAND HEIGHTS	\$ 131.75
08-0157200 GREGORY S BROOKS 136 N HAVEN ST APPLETON MN 56208-1435	NICOLE & CHRISTOPHER PHILIPPI 27297 ODE CIRCLE BROWERVILLE MN 56438	LOT-9 BLK-10 PINE ISLAND HEIGHTS	\$ 121.83
15-0086300 JARED ROGER PAINE 1545 DUNKIRK LANE N PLYMOUTH MN 55447		LOT-8 BLK-1 OSAKIS COMMONS	\$ 1,324.10
16-0002800 RODNEY B BUE 32408-315TH AVE BROWERVILLE MN 56438		SECT-03 TWP-130 RANG-32 W2 SW4 EX S 330 FT	\$ 5,346.12
16-0039000 TRACIE J NORDSTROM 981 JESSAMINE AVE E #1 SAINT PAUL MN 55106		LOT-4 BLK-1 NORDSTROM'S SUBDIVISION	\$ 1,232.27
16-0039100 TRACIE J NORDSTROM 981 JESSAMINE AVE E #1 SAINT PAUL MN 55106		LOT-5 BLK-1 NORDSTROM'S SUBDIVISION	\$ 1,222.35
17-0029900 LAWRENCE & MARY BARKER NICOLE BARKER 22780 FAWN TRAIL ROGERS MN 55374		SECT-27 TWP-128 RANG-34 COMM AT SW COR OF GOVT LOT 4, E 100 FT, N 500 FT TO LAKE FOR PT OF BEG, S 400 FT, E 25 FT, S 100 FT, E 214.63 FT, NW 46.34 FT, NW 20.19 FT, N 63.31 FT, W 97.58 FT, NW 30.26 FT, NE 37.08 FT...	\$ 2,583.37
18-0003802 EFREN SUAREZ RAMOS ROCIO RUIZ GOMEZ 630 2ND AVE NE LONG PRAIRIE MN 56347		SECT-05 TWP-129 RANG-33 SE4 NW4 LYING ETERLY OF CENTERLINE OF HWY #71 EX HWY R.O.W.	\$ 2,603.80
18-0049300 SAMUEL DAN MATTI 24910 HOPE DRIVE LONG PRAIRIE MN 56347	DANIEL R NORLINGER 24910 HOPE DRIVE LONG PRAIRIE MN 56347	LOT-5 RIVERVIEW PLACE	\$ 1,011.54
19-0042500 FRED I FREEDMAN 3616 FAR WEST BLVD STE 117 AUSTIN TX 78731-3198		LOT-27 BLK-4 SYLVAN SHORES VILLA	\$ 86.19
19-0042600 FRED I FREEDMAN 3616 FAR WEST BLVD STE 117 AUSTIN TX 78731-3198		LOT-28 BLK-4 SYLVAN SHORES VILLA	\$ 86.19
19-0042700 FRED I FREEDMAN 3616 FAR WEST BLVD STE 117 AUSTIN TX 78731-3198		LOT-29 BLK-4 SYLVAN SHORES VILLA	\$ 86.19
19-0042800 FRED I FREEDMAN 3616 FAR WEST BLVD STE 117 AUSTIN TX 78731-3198		LOT-30 BLK-4 SYLVAN SHORES VILLA	\$ 86.19
19-0042900 FRED I FREEDMAN 3616 FAR WEST BLVD STE 117 AUSTIN TX 78731-3198		LOT-31 BLK-4 SYLVAN SHORES VILLA	\$ 86.19
19-0043700 PETER V & LILIYA T USTIMCHUK 2718-137TH LN NW ANDOVER MN 55304-3700		LOT-4 BLK-5 SYLVAN SHORES VILLA	\$ 93.73
19-0043900 PETER V & LILIYA T USTIMCHUK 2718-137TH LN NW ANDOVER MN 55304-3700		LOT-6 BLK-5 SYLVAN SHORES VILLA	\$ 103.65
19-0044900 MICHAEL ANDREW 127 N GARRISON RD VANCOUVER WA 98664		LOT-16 BLK-5 SYLVAN SHORES VILLA	\$ 74.07
19-0045300 MICHAEL ANDREW 127 N GARRISON RD VANCOUVER WA 98664		LOT-20 BLK-5 SYLVAN SHORES VILLA	\$ 81.60
19-0046600 PIOTR USTIMCHUK 2718-137TH LN NW ANDOVER MN 55304-3700		LOT-33 BLK-5 SYLVAN SHORES VILLA	\$ 130.66
19-0054700 ILIA KRINITSYN 194 BONDALE DR SPARTANBURG SC 29303		LOT-55 BLK-6 SYLVAN SHORES VILLA	\$65.40
19-0073100 DINO & VLADIMIR YEVTUSHENKO PO BOX 873844 VANCOUVER WA 98687-3844		LOT-34 BLK-4 PRAIRIE RIVER HEIGHTS	\$ 71.65
19-0089000 VITALIY & GALINA VORONIN 404 NE 104TH AVE VANCOUVER WA 98664		LOT-9 BLK-2 PINE ISLAND HEIGHTS ALSO IN FAWN LAKE TOWNSHIP	\$ 61.94
19-0100700 ROY A & JUDY MAGNUSON E8075 COUNTY ROAD B COLFAX WI 54730		LOT-10 BLK-5 SYLVAN SHORES SOUTH	\$ 83.98
19-0115800 JON KENNETH KRATTENMAKER KYLE RYAN KRATTENMAKER 205 EAST CURRAN ST DARWIN MN 55324		LOT-1 BLK-5 LITTLE PINE SHORES	\$ 86.19
19-0126500 PETER V & LILIYA T USTIMCHUK 2718-137TH LN NW ANDOVER MN 55304-3700		LOT-3 BLK-2 TIMBER RIDGE	\$ 98.71
20-0030702 GEORGANN & JAMES LARSON & GEORGE W LARSON 18674 COUNTY 10 LONG PRAIRIE MN 56347		SECT-28 TWP-129 RANG-34 PART OF W2 SW4 DESC AS: COMM AT SW COR OF SEC 28 E 709.45 FT E 184.63 FT TO PT OF BEG; THENCE N 550 FT W 184.63 FT N 299.10 FT W 242 FT NW 955.44 FT E 509.12 FT SE 241.08 FT E 207.21 FT S 433.81 FT W 293.39 FT S 163.95 FT E 193.39 FT S 957.32 FT TO S LINE W 66 FT TO BEG	\$ 2,161.44
21-0013600 ROBERT F MIRON 18766 COUNTY ROAD 59 GREY EAGLE MN 56336		SECT-11 TWP-128 RANG-33 S 666 FT OF SE4 SE4	\$ 6,030.65

22-0042500 DAVID A DAVIS 4116 16TH ST SW BACKUS MN 56435-2226		KENNEDY ADDITION TO STAPLES LOTS 2 TO 4 BLK 8	\$ 1,503.15
25-0056200 JAMES W MARTIN 929 - 14TH AVE NE ROCHESTER MN 55906		LOT-1 BLK-2 TRAPPER ADDITION	\$ 376.09
26-0037800 WESLEY ERIC AZARIAH 3414 PLEASANT AVE S MINNEAPOLIS MN 55408		LOT-22 BLK-1 PRAIRIE RIVER HEIGHTS	\$ 891.33
26-0038000 NEUT L STRANDEMO 9835 CONRAD AVENUE EAST INVER GROVE HEIGHTS MN 55076		LOT-2 BLK-4 PRAIRIE RIVER HEIGHTS	\$ 138.16
26-0039600 PETER V & LILIYA T USTIMCHUK 2718-137TH LN NW ANDOVER MN 55304-3700		LOT-9 BLK-7 SYLVAN SHORES SOUTH	\$ 95.38
29-0007900 CHAD L RISCHE KAYLA C WALTZ 540 1ST ST WATSON MN 56295		ORIGINAL TOWNSITE OF BERTHA LOTS 3 & 4 BLK 2	\$ 861.03
33-0001701 JONATHAN DANIEL GARCIA RAMIREZ AMBER ROSE GARCIA 6811 ELLIOTT AVE S RICHFIELD MN 55423		SECT-12 TWP-131 RANG-35 PART OF SW4 SE4 OF SEC 12 DESC AS: COMM AT NE COR OF SEC 13 W 2154.16 FT TO PT OF BEG THENCE NW 119.88 FT TO S-RLY R.O.W. OF CSAH #22 W-RLY 152.09 FT SW 3.01 FT TO NE-RLY LINE OF LOT 1 BLK 1 OF EAGLE BEND RAILROAD...	\$ 51.09
33-0004100 JONATHAN DANIEL GARCIA RAMIREZ AMBER ROSE GARCIA 6811 ELLIOTT AVE S RICHFIELD MN 55423		SECT-13 TWP-131 RANG-35 E 7.66 CH OF NW4 NE4 N OF RY EX N 4.25 CH	\$ 274.83
33-0006601 JONATHAN DANIEL GARCIA RAMIREZ AMBER ROSE GARCIA 6811 ELLIOTT AVE S RICHFIELD MN 55423		SECT-13 TWP-131 RANG-35 PART OF NW4 NE4 OF SEC 13 DESC AS: COMM AT NE COR OF SEC 13 W 2154.16 FT TO PT OF BEG THENCE NW 119.88 FT TO S-RLY R.O.W. OF CSAH #22 W-RLY 152.09 FT SW 3.01 FT TO NE-RLY LINE OF LOT 1 BLK 1 OF EAGLE BEND RAILROAD...	\$ 61.38
33-0011300 JEREMIAH WILLIAM KERN SR. 502 NELSON STREET WEST EAGLE BEND MN 56446		AUDITOR'S PLAT W2 NW4 W 50 FT OF LOT 8	\$ 4,299.00
33-0038600 JONATHAN DANIEL GARCIA RAMIREZ AMBER ROSE GARCIA 6811 ELLIOTT AVE S RICHFIELD MN 55423		LOT-1 BLK-1 EAGLE BEND RAILROAD ADD	\$ 2,146.21
33-0040200 LIONEL SANTOS-COLON 8338 MILLWOOD DR HUDSON FL 34467		TOWNSITE OF EAGLE BEND W 26 FT OF LOT 3 BLK 1	\$ 9,162.11
33-0040300 LIONEL SANTOS-COLON 8338 MILLWOOD DR HUDSON FL 34467		TOWNSITE OF EAGLE BEND 13-131-35 W 26 FT OF E 33 FT OF LOT 11 AND S 6 FT OF VACATED ALLEY	\$ 577.97
34-0002000 ANA YESENIA JUAREZ OROZCO 215 MAPLE ST N GREY EAGLE MN 56336		LOT-1 AUD SUBD SE4 NE4 & GOVT LOT 4 S 50 FT OF W 200 FT OF E 233 FT	\$ 875.15
34-0008700 ANA YESENIA JUAREZ OROZCO 215 MAPLE ST N GREY EAGLE MN 56336		LOT-1 BLK-1 TOWNSITE OF GREY EAGLE	\$ 2,588.34
35-0006900 GLENN P NORTON 223 NORTH DAKOTA STREET HEWITT MN 56453		SECT-22 TWP-133 RANG-35 PART OF NW4 NW4 DESC AS: COMM AT NW COR OF NW4 NW4, E 132 FT, S 520.36 FT TO N LINE OF HWY 71, SE 234.82 FT TO PT OF BEG; THENCE SE 230.26 FT TO E LINE OF W 30 RDS, N 192.09 FT, W 179.79 FT, S 41.05 FT TO BEG	\$ 481.66
35-0009900 J & L HAULING LLC C/O JASON MOTL PO BOX 53 HEWITT MN 56453		TOWNSITE OF HEWITT LOTS 4, 5, 6 & 7 BLK 3	\$21,775.71
35-0011700 KEVIN B & CARISA C HAVILAND 605 E 3RD AVE HEWITT MN 56453		TOWNSITE OF HEWITT E2 OF S 20 FT OF 10 & E2 OF 11 & 12 BLK 4	\$ 3,972.73
36-0003400 ANDREW JACOB KROUSE 405 6TH STREET NE LONG PRAIRIE MN 56347	PATRICK JOHN KAYE JOHN	SECT-17 TWP-129 RANG-33 BEG AT A PT 33 FT W & 344.30 FT S OF NE COR OF SE4 SE4, W 160 FT, S 115 FT 7 INCHES, E 160 FT, N 115 FT 7 INCHES TO PT OF BEG	\$ 3,785.32
36-0024100 ROBERT M SOULE 221-2ND AVE N LONG PRAIRIE MN 56347		LOT-3 BLK-16 TOWNSITE OF LONG PRAIRIE	\$ 2,395.81
36-0006100 MELINDA TRIGUEROS 610 1ST STREET SOUTH LONG PRAIRIE MN 56347		SECT-20 TWP-129 RANG-33 COMM AT NE COR OF LOT 3 OLIVER'S FIRST ADD E 66 FT TO PT OF BEG, THENCE E 231 FT, S 66 FT, W 231 FT, N 66 FT TO BEG	\$10,872.62
36-0059200 MARTIN MONTANEZ MORELOS PO BOX 306 LONG PRAIRIE MN 56347		LOT-8 BLK-27 TWEED'S FOURTH ADDITION	\$9,982.88
36-0086200 DARREN HOLEN C/O ALLAN RAMUSSEN 1720 S 10TH ST BRAINERD MN 56401		LOCKE'S ADDITION TO LONG PRAIRIE (20 & 21) N 10 FT OF LOT 6 & ALL OF LOT 7 BLK 4	\$ 9,080.98
36-0089500 ROCIO RUIZ GOMEZ 630 2ND AVE NE LONG PRAIRIE MN 56347		POWELL'S ADDITION TO LONG PRAIRIE (16) E 50 FT OF W 100 FT OF LOTS 1 & 2 & E 50 FT OF W 100 FT OF S2 OF LOT 3 BLK 6	\$ 7,340.47
38-0037501 WAYNE E RENN 300 DAKOTA AVE SW STAPLES MN 56479		SHELLABARGER'S FIRST ADDITION LOTS 1, 2, 3, 4, 9, 10, 11 & 12 BLK 13	\$ 745.18
38-0039600 TAD J & LISA A FREEMAN 121 WISCONSIN AVE SE STAPLES MN 56479	LAWRENCE & DONNA J SCHMIDT 25223 THUNDER RD STAPLES MN 56479	LOTS 1 & 2 BLK 3 DRAKE & BARTRAW ADDITION	\$ 4,329.11
38-0039700 TAD J & LISA A FREEMAN 121 WISCONSIN AVE SE STAPLES MN 56479	LAWRENCE & DONNA J SCHMIDT 25223 THUNDER RD STAPLES MN 56479	LOT-3 BLK-3 DRAKE & BARTRAW ADDITION	251.68
38-0041000 RUTH WILKINS 615 4TH ST NE APT 204 STAPLES MN 56479		DRAKE & BARTRAW ADDITION W 40 FT OF LOTS 13 TO 17 BLK 7	\$ 5,197.47
38-0054400 JESS A KNOSALLA 704 DAKOTA AVENUE SE STAPLES MN 56479		STEWART & BARTRAWS ADDITION LOTS 2 & 3 BLK 9	\$ 3,354.87
38-0111628 DAVID M RATCLIFF 519 MCKINLEY ST SW STAPLES MN 56479		11 & LOTS 5 & 6 BLK 3 BIGELOW ADDITION TO STAPLES	\$ 2,972.05
38-0111701 TARA OTTOMOELLER 602 4TH ST SW STAPLES MN 56479		LOT-10 BLK-9 BIGELOW ADDITION TO STAPLES	\$ 524.86
38-0111702 TARA OTTOMOELLER 602 4TH ST SW STAPLES MN 56479		LOT-11 BLK-9 BIGELOW ADDITION TO STAPLES	\$ 121.76
38-0115600 BARBARA MARES 501 LONG PRAIRIE RD SW STAPLES MN 56479		LOTS 1 & 2 BLK 8 JENKIN'S FIRST ADDITION	\$ 3,796.06

FAILURE TO REDEEM SUCH LAND PRIOR TO THE EXPIRATION OF REDEMPTION WILL RESULT IN THE LOSS OF THE LAND AND FORFEITURE OF SAID LAND TO THE STATE OF MINNESOTA.

The redemption amount is shown above is figured thru March 31st, 2026. This amount will increase monthly. Please contact the Todd County Auditor/Treasurer's Office to verify the amount due to redeem said parcel if paid *on or after* February 1st, 2026.

Inquiries as to these proceedings can be made to the Todd County Auditor/ Treasurer Office, whose address is listed below.

Witness my hand and official seal this 27th, day of February, 2026.

Denise Gaida
Denise Gaida, Todd County Auditor/Treasurer

by Becky JagerMeis,
Deputy Auditor/Treasurer
Todd County Courthouse
215 - 1st Avenue South, Suite 201
Long Prairie, MN 56347-1378
Telephone: (320) 732 - 4473

Greenwaldt wins first girls state medal

Tureson, Reese both win matches to advance

Mark Anderson
Managing Editor

Leah Greenwaldt lost her first match at the state wrestling tournament, but came all the way back to reach the podium with a sixth place finish. It was the first state medal earned by a Staples-Motley girls wrestler.

Kana Reese and Annika Tureson both won their first match, but were eliminated after losing their next two matches.

For all three wrestlers, the first Staples-Motley girls to qualify for state, it was a learning experience.

“It was overwhelming, the bright lights and all the people. But once you get there, it’s just a wrestling match,” said Greenwaldt.

Reese had a similar reaction.

“You see everyone there, all the people around the stadium,” said Reese. “That’s when you realize you’ve made it.”

Tureson felt the magnitude of the event.

“You feel so small, it’s so big and you’re just a small person,” said Tureson.

But instead of shrinking, the girls realized this was a moment for them to seize. All three wrestlers agreed the state tournament was an empowering experience.

“It was powerful,” said Greenwaldt, “you started to feel that you could do it.”

The girls also learned the unseen structure of the state tournament, like the warmup area under the stadium seats where the wrestlers warm up before their matches.

“There’s so many good wrestlers down there, it was amazing to know that we were a part of it,” said Greenwaldt.

When it was time for their matches, the wrestlers were led out of the under-stadium staging area into the stadium.

“Going through the tunnel felt special, it made you feel tough,” said Greenwaldt.

Kana Reese

Reese was the first Cardinal to take the mat in her 100 pound match.

“Once you’re on the mat, you just have to wrestle and stick to what you know,” said Reese.

Against a seeded opponent, Natalee Friedrichs of Sauk Centre-Melrose, Reese started with a flurry, scoring an early takedown and turning it into two near falls for an 11-0 lead. Her opponent chose the top position in the second period and Reese didn’t allow a turn but also didn’t get an escape.

In the third period, Reese started on top and survived a wild comeback that cut the score to 11-10. In the final 10 seconds, she got an escape and held on for the 12-10 win, the first Staples-Motley victory in the girls state tournament.

In the second round, Reese was pinned by the eventual third place medalist, dropping her to the consolation bracket. In a low scoring match, she eventually got pinned and was eliminated from the



bracket.

Annika Tureson

In the first round, Tureson faced Asia Brown of Shakopee for a small school vs. big school showdown in the 170 pound bracket. Tureson was worried about her competition, but she remembered the advice her grandfather Bill Finn gave her, “Everyone can be beat.”

Tureson started the match with two takedowns and a near fall, going up 10-0. In the second period, she scored another takedown and turned it into a pin to advance in the bracket.

In the quarterfinals, she lost to the eventual fourth place finisher and then lost in the wrestlebacks to finish out of the medal round.

Leah Greenwaldt

In the first round at 112 pounds, Greenwaldt started slowly, getting taken down twice. She had a spark of momentum with a takedown in the third period that cut the score to 8-6. But she had to make a move at the end of the match and ended up getting taken down for a 12-6 loss.

Coach Holton Truax said Greenwaldt took the loss hard and was struggling with the situation, with the new state tournament schedule having her wait 24 hours before the next indi-

vidual match.

“We got her head right and she was ready to go the next day,” said Truax.

With a 13-4 win in her first wrestleback and a fall in the next round, Greenwaldt was one match away from entering the medal rounds, but had a huge obstacle in Mariah Remer of Mille Lacs, who Greenwaldt had wrestled nine times and had never won. She did have some hope after keeping it to a decision at the section final three weeks earlier.

It was another close battle between the two, with no scoring in the first period. Greenwaldt started on the bottom in the second period and worked for a minute and 30 seconds to earn a reversal for a 2-0 lead.

In the third period, Greenwaldt scored a quick takedown and rode out 1:45 to win 5-0. That assured her of a medal and she celebrated with coaches Truax and Steve Jennissen.

In the next round, Greenwaldt faced the eventual third place winner and didn’t have much of a response before getting pinned. In the fifth place match, Greenwaldt had several opportunities to score, but never ended up on top, falling 6-2 to place sixth.

“My nerves got the best of me in that last match,” said Greenwaldt.



Kana Reese, right, starts the Staples-Motley era at state wrestling. Below, she turns her opponent.



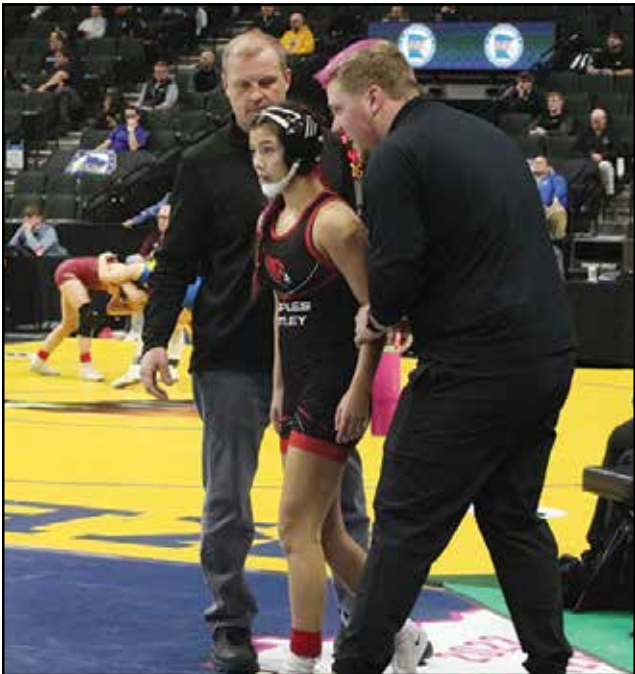
Annika Tureson gets behind her opponent for a takedown.



Leah Greenwaldt looks to the referee to see if this is a pin.



Coaches Holton Truax and Steve Jennissen



Coaches Chris Dobson and Holton Truax.



Leah Greenwaldt