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Staples-Motley Madrigal Dinner Dec. 6
Holiday gratitude Thanksgiving
Girls basketball opens season with win
One injured in fire at Staples Hi-Rise



Wednesday, November 26, 2025

StaplesWorld

Staples, Minnesota

\$125

Parade of Lights kicks off Christmas season in Staples

Christmas events in Staples:

- The second annual Holiday Parade of Lights will be held Saturday, Nov. 29, starting at 5:30 p.m., starting at the high school and heading through downtown Staples.
- The Staples Lions Club is coordinating the Lights in the Pines display at Pine Grove Park, open 5-8 p.m. on Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays through December.
- The Staples Chamber of Commerce is starting a Shop Local program for the 12 days of Christmas Dec. 12-23. Participants can qualify for prizes to be drawn Dec. 23. Details can

be found

- The Staples Area Men's and Women's Chorus are hosting the Community Christmas Concert on Saturday, Dec. 13.
- The Polar Xpress, presented by Central Lakes College and the Staples Historical Society will be held Saturday, Dec. 13 and Sunday, Dec. 14, from 12-4 p.m. each day. This free event for all ages includes model trains, crafts, activities, artifacts from history, including Christmas and railroad memorabilia, and a festival of trees. New this year, vendors and a new theme. The Polar Xpress is held at Central Lakes College in Staples.

Local industry presents to students The Staples-Motley Legacy Gym was filled with students and technology for the Hometown Careers Collective event on Nov. 19. Local manufacturers, producers, industries and businesses were invited to show students what they do, what jobs are available in the community and what skills are needed to earn those jobs. See story, page 10a. (Photo by Mark Anderson)

Motley's Planning and Zoning Commission votes against rezoning

By Dawn Timbs
Staples World reporter

Starlight Cannabis LLC was hoping to set up shop at the former school property in Motley, adapting the long-vacant school into a modern, secure cultivation site.

That isn't going to happen, as was made clear at a public hearing Nov. 17, led by Motley's Planning and Zoning Commission.

Nikki Bjerga was Acting Chair of the meeting, as Commissioner Dennis Erickson was absent. Other commissioners included Pat O'Regan, Steve Johnson and April Skeesick-Larson.

During the hearing, the commission considered an application from Lyle Gillson, Co-Founder of Starlight Cannabis LLC, to rezone the former school property located on 1st Ave. South in Motley from Downtown Mixed Use (DMU) to Industrial.



Standing room only at Motley City Hall

More than 60 people crowded into the meeting room at Motley City Hall the afternoon of Nov. 17, for a public hearing conducted by the Planning and Zoning (P & Z) Commission. The purpose of the hearing was to consider a request to rezone the former school building property on 1st Ave. South in Motley from Downtown Mixed Use to Industrial. The applicant, Starlight Cannabis LLC, hoped to use the property (which includes an ex-

isting 88,583 square foot building) for indoor cannabis cultivation. Pictured above, from left, are commission members Pat O'Regan, Nikki Bjerga and Steve Johnson; Katie Kostohryz, Community Development Administrator; Justin Burslie, Associate Director of Community Development; and Tami Brotherton, Motley City Clerk/Treasurer. (Staples World photo by Dawn Timbs)



Weather

2025			
This Week's Forecast			
	High	Low	Cond.
Nov. 26	26	15	M. Cloudy
Nov. 27	27	10	P. Cloudy
Nov. 28	25	14	Cloudy
Nov. 29	26	12	Cloudy
Nov. 30	24	3	M. Cloudy
Dec. 1	16	0	M. Cloudy
Dec. 2	15	5	M. Cloudy

Last Year, 2024			
High Low Cond.			
Nov. 26	16°	6	P. Cloudy
Nov. 27	21	16	Cloudy
Nov. 28	20	17	Cloudy
Nov. 29	6	2	Cloudy
Nov. 30	5	-4	Sunny
Dec. 1	10	0	M. Sunny
Dec. 2	12	2	Cloudy

Average Temps:
H = 31° Low = 16°
Have a Great Thanksgiving!

Compiled by
Dale Hausmann,
WCCO's Staples area
Weatherwatcher

Public Notices

ISD #2170 **9A**
City of Staples **9A**
Freshwater **9A**

Obituary

Heidi Ann Packer

Also in attendance at the hearing were Justin Burslie, Associate Director of Community Development and Katie Kostohryz, Community Development Administrator, both of Sourcewell. The City of Motley contracts from Sourcewell for its Community Development (Planning and Zoning).

The subject properties, currently owned by Daniel and Isabella Druk, involved 17 parcels, sitting on approximately 5.4 acres. The rezoning proposal was for the school property itself, minus the old creamery and the open field on the northeast corner. Gillson mentioned Starlight Cannabis LLC planned to donate the creamery to the Motley Historical Society and the field to another entity.

In their application, Gillson stressed that if rezoned, the property would be used exclusively for indoor cannabis cultivation by Starlight Cannabis LLC. It would be a single-operator, single-use facility. There would be no retail sales and no public-facing dispensary

operations.

The application also noted that the existing 88,583 square foot building would be adapted into a modern, secure cultivation site.

Rezoning to Industrial is the required first step before any conditional use permit may be considered.

At the hearing, Burslie and Kostohryz presented the commission with options, for and against, the rezoning. They presented seven findings for each.

Regarding findings for consideration for denial, Burslie and Kostohryz cited a goal contained in the City of Motley's Comprehensive Plan, which is 'to protect residential areas from industrial encroachment and other incompatible land uses.' This request to rezone the subject proper-

ties (located in a residential area) to Industrial is NOT compatible with the city's Comprehensive Plan.

In their findings for consideration for approval, they noted that rezoning the subject properties to Industrial is compatible with the surrounding neighborhood, as the subject property is adjacent to vacant/railroad property to the north. The property is separated from the nearby residential and commercial areas by public right-of ways. They went on to note that the request to rezone the subject properties is consistent with goals contained in the comp. plan, including to 'Promote Motley as a thriving community actively seeking to partner with business and industry seeking new sites and stressing the natural amenities of the Motley

area to attract a wide range of industries in a small town environment.'

Prior to any action by the commission, the commission heard from both the applicants, as well as members of the public who wished to comment.

Gillson, along with Jeremy Mercil, CEO of Starlight Cannabis LLC, spoke at the hearing.

Gillson told the commission that he and Mercil are 'just two good guys,' both from Minnesota. Gillson hails from Stillwater, and Mercil, a Grand Rapids native, currently lives in Duluth. Their goal was not about lining 'deep pockets,' but that of helping the community.

He was initially introduced to cannabis when his high school girlfriend was

See **MOTLEY** on page 12a

School board moves referendum forward

By Mark Anderson
Managing Editor

The Staples-Motley School Board approved submitting their facility plans to the Minnesota Department of Education with the hope of getting it approved for an April 14 referendum.

The \$40 million referendum would add Career and

Technical Education (CTE) rooms at the high school building and move the fifth grade to the elementary school, with new classrooms built there.

The referendum would not increase property taxes over the current level, with the school portion of taxes remaining the same as the current level.

Staples-Motley Business Manager Ellie Hill, Superintendent Shane Tappe and ICS firm representative Jason Splett presented the project to the board.

Tappe said the plan was shaped by stakeholders, who developed some main themes, including more CTE spaces and equipment, updating general education

space in the high school, safety and security, auditorium improvements and the educational grade alignment of moving fifth grade to the elementary school.

Tappe said the study showed that improvements needed to be made sooner than later. The community

See **SCHOOL** on page 3a



Northern Lights viewers catch images

The Northern Lights (Aurora Borealis) glowed, illuminating the northern sky Nov. 12 and 13 near Staples much to the delight of evening viewers. (Submitted photos)



One injured, others displaced, after fire at Staples Hi-Rise

A fire at the Staples Hi-Rise apartments the evening of Nov. 19 resulted in one victim being air-lifted to a metro hospital, and other tenants being displaced due to smoke.

According to a press release from Staples Fire Chief Cole Yungbauer, the Staples Fire Dept. was dispatched to the Hi-Rise apartments at 9:27 p.m., for an activated smoke detector and general fire alarm. While Staples Fire units were responding, they were advised that smoke was showing on the second floor of the 60-unit apartment complex.

Upon their arrival, Staples firefighters did a primary search of the second floor and a victim was located in the apartment of the fire's origin. The victim was transported by ambulance to Lakewood Health System Hospital in Staples and later flown to a metro hospital.

The fire was contained to a single living unit in the apartment building, however other surrounding living units sustained minor smoke damage.

Several tenants were displaced due to the smoke and are receiving services from the Red Cross.

The Staples Fire Dept. was assisted by Lakewood Health System Ambulance, Motley Fire Dept., Verndale Fire Dept., Staples Police



Staples Hi-Rise

The Staples Hi-Rise Apartments, located at 615 4th St. NE, sustained damage as the result of a fire the evening of Nov. 19. See story for details. (Staples World photo by Dawn Timbs)

Dept., Wadena County Sheriff's Office, Todd County Sheriff's Office and the Minnesota Fire Marshal Division.

The Staples Fire Dept. expressed their thanks to

all partners for their crucial role during this incident.

According to officials, this fire remains under investigation and no further information will be released at this time.

Todd County Sheriff's report

Boat & Water Incident: On Nov. 9 at 8:07 a.m., the Todd County Sheriff's Office received a report of a boat flipped over with two subjects in the water on Mud Lake, 29088 County 16, Browerville.

Contact was made with the juvenile males and efforts were made to rescue them.

TCSO was assisted on scene by Minnesota DNR, Browerville Fire Department, Browerville Ambulance and Long Prairie Fire Department..

School district statistics show students improving

By Mark Anderson
Managing Editor

A student achievement data report was presented at the Nov. 17 Staples-Motley School Board meeting by Jenny Pantzke, Staples-Motley Teaching and Learning Coordinator.

Pantzke said the school assessments include required state testing, plus statistics for each grade and classroom. She said the academic assessments even to the personal level to make sure each student has their basic needs met before they come to school, including food, clothing, safety, health and a sense of belonging.

Pantzke said Staples-Motley has a high homeless rate for students and a high rate of free and reduced meal students, compared to state averages. Regionally, the school is one of the lower free and reduced rate schools.

Staples-Motley has an extremely high graduation rate at 95 percent, with the state average at 84 percent.

On statewide testing, the school is below the state average for math and reading, but above the state average for science, which is measured with tests for grade five, eight and ten.

School board member Ryan Wright said he found that interesting because science takes a lot of reading and math to understand.

Despite being lower than state average for reading and math, Pantzke presented individual statistics that show that the students are growing from year to year and making grade level improvements.

To improve their scores, Pantzke said 34 teachers are participating in professional development through the READ Act. The school is also changing their math curriculum so that each grade aligns with what the students learned in previous years.

With the high graduation rate but low test scores, school board member Chandler Trout asked if people will think that the school is passing students along just to graduate. Pantzke said they are two different standards, with statewide testing measuring student's knowledge of the standards and graduation measuring students work over the school year.

Superintendent Shane Tappe said the school offers a lot of project-based learning and hands-on education at the school, which doesn't always help in the statewide testing.

Staples-Motley Middle/High School Principal Debbie Ferdon said the school does a lot of work on career pathways and readiness planning.

"We teach students to be good employees and good citizens," said Ferdon. "We are graduating kids who will be productive citizens in our workforce."

She noted that the REACH program had the fewest F grades since the program started. This is a program that helps students who have needs for studying and planning help. The previous lowest number of F grades was 15 in one quarter, this year they only had two failing grades out of all the students.

SHOP LOCAL, STAPLES!

First Annual – 12 Days to Christmas Countdown

A Staples Area Chamber Member Event

How to Participate

1. Shop at any of the 12 participating Chamber-member businesses.

2. Make a purchase over \$10.

3. Either “LIKE” the business on Facebook OR “CHECK IN” at the business on Facebook

Each qualifying visit earns you an entry into the business’s drawing.

 12-Day Daily Business Countdown (Dec 12–22)

DAILY DRAWINGS: One winner drawn each day by the featured business.

Grand Prize – December 23

On December 23rd, all entries from all 12 businesses will be combined for a final drawing for a grand prize worth over \$500 in business.

Stay Connected!

Please FOLLOW & LIKE the Staples Area Chamber of Commerce on Facebook.

• View the list of participating businesses

• Daily winner announcements all season long

Why Shop Local This Season?

• Your dollars stay right here in Staples

• You support local jobs, local families & local growth

• You strengthen Chamber events, programs & community traditions

JOIN THE COUNTDOWN!

Watch for the “Shop Local –12 Days to Christmas” signs and enter November 29



Looking back

Mystery solved: many memories of piano teacher

Last week’s mystery photo published in the Nov. 20, 1975 edition of the Staples World featured Mrs. Lex (Palmer Hotchkiss) Willis who was being honored Dec. 14, at an appreciation dinner and birthday celebration for her outstanding contribution to the Staples community having given piano lessons for almost 60 years.

Marlys Prindle of Staples recognized Mrs. Willis, noting that she was from Motley and her maiden name was Palmer. Marlys shared that her sister, Carol (Thomson) Frisk had taken piano lessons from “Lex” in the 1940s. Marlys had studied with someone else, but recalled that Lex had come to her piano recital and had told her she was impressed with a classical piece she’d played. She was not as impressed, however, with her other piece, “Humoresque” which was fairly simple, Marlys said. Years later, Marlys was thrilled when her daughters, Joy and Valerie, had the opportunity to take piano lessons from Mrs. Willis.

Judy Wolak of Staples guessed correctly that this was Mrs. Willis, also known as Mrs. or Miss Hotchkiss to an earlier generation of students. Judy shared that she’s heard many wonderful things about this woman, who taught piano lessons from her home at 616 NE 6th Street from 1921 - 1985, adding, “Her piano teaching inspired three generations of children growing up in Staples.”

Judy Jenkins of Staples also correctly identified Mrs. Willis, sharing a few stories about the lady she’d gotten to know quite well having helped clean her house for an hour once a week, in exchange for Judy’s daughter Lisa taking piano lessons from the renowned teacher. Judy also noted that although she was there to clean, she and Lex spent much of that time visiting. “She was very proud of her Steinway Grand piano,” Judy went on, noting that all of Mrs. Willis’s students had their lessons at that piano. Judy went on to say that Mrs. Willis was a very interesting woman, who shared many interesting stories during their visits, including that she’d been the first person in Staples that took the train to the Cities to get a perm, something she was kind of proud of. She never left the house in all the years she knew her, Judy went on, noting that Lex had all of her groceries delivered, and must have had somebody else help her with household chores before Judy met her. They became good friends over the years, Judy said, adding that both she and her husband, Lee, helped Mrs. Willis out as they were able.



Sue (Manning) Adams of Staples shared that she took organ lessons from Mrs. Willis, whom she described as “a classy lady.” She went on to recall the recitals Mrs. Willis hosted at her house on Halloween, with the students all wearing costumes. One year, Sue and her friend, Kris Westin, dressed up as Batman & Robin. “I was Robin,” Sue said. She went on to note that she was too short to reach the organ foot pedals, so when playing her recital piece, fellow student David Uhrich helped out by playing the pedal notes while she concentrated on the hand-played keyboard.

Dawn (Schimpp) Timbs, Staples, recalled wanting badly to take piano lessons from Mrs. Willis in the 1970s, as many girls she knew studied with her. But, at three dollars a lesson, her family couldn’t afford it at that time. She did take lessons from a couple of other wonderful teachers in Staples, but always dreamed of taking from Mrs. Willis with hopes of playing like Lori Lee and Kathy Hegre, both of whom studied with the acclaimed teacher, played beautifully, and often accompanied the high school choir. Finally, in 1980, she was able to take piano lessons from Mrs. Willis for one year. She recalls entering the stately brick home and being greeted by the equally stately Mrs. Willis, who was friendly, but ‘all business’ when it came to music and the piano. Dawn was first shown the sink, where she was taught to always first wash your hands before touching the black and white keys of the grand piano. Then, there was an exercise of holding an orange to help with learning the correct curved position of ones hands while playing piano. Dawn recalled working on a Rachmaninoff piece that Mrs. Willis described as telling the story of a fire. She wanted her student to feel it in the music as the fire built in intensity and to translate that message to listeners. Don’t just play the notes, feel the notes, Mrs. Willis had stressed. Dawn was quite honored when Mrs. Willis told her one day she wished she’d been able to teach her for a few more years. She may have been another Lori Lee or Kathy Hegre! Mrs. Willis told her.

75 YEARS Ago - 1950

• Nov. 30, 1950 - Thirteen young men from Todd county were called for induction into military service and reported to the local board at Long Prairie on Nov. 29.

Listed from Staples are the following: Chris Holton, William Jensen, Gordon Midthun, LeRoy Anglin, and Stanley Erickson.

Others in the county who will report include Eugene Hanson of Motley; James Nalezny, Gerald Iten, Raymond Buhl and George Pipek all of Browerville.

• Nov. 30, 1950 - Motley high students and teachers had an added incentive for which to work this year as they went about preparing for their annual carnival. That incentive was the desire to help Billy Berndt. Bill, as you know, was seriously injured in the Motley-Pillager football game Oct. 27, and since that day has been a patient in the Brainerd hospital because of a broken leg.

The combined services of the students, teachers

Compiled by Dawn Timbs

and businesses resulted in a successful carnival. The net profit was \$330 and this amount will go toward defraying Bill’s hospital expenses.

Elayne Bjelde and Donald Frisk, senior candidates, were crowned carnival queen and king at 11:30 p.m.

• Nov. 30, 1950 - On sale at Ernie’s: Apples, 20-lb. bag, \$1.59; Butternut coffee, 2 lbs., \$1.67; Sugar, 10 lbs., 97 cents; Flour, 50-lb. bag, \$3.79; Spry vegetable shortening, 3-lb. can, 94 cents; Surf, large package, 2 for 59 cents; Beef loins, ready to cut, 57 cents/lb.

• Nov. 30, 1950 - For sale at Carlson Furniture Co. in Staples: Occasional tables, \$5.45 and up; Clothes hampers, \$7.45 and up; smokers, \$2.95 and up; Occasional chairs, \$13.95 and up; Platform rockers, \$22.95; Mahogany chest with self-rising tray, \$59.95.

• Nov. 30, 1950 - farewell party was given Saturday evening in the Clarence Frisk home for their son, Waldo, who left Tuesday of this week for the army. Games were played and a nice lunch served at the close of the evening.

• Nov. 30, 1950 - Dimitry Markevitch, one of the world’s foremost cellists, will present a concert at 8:15 p.m. Dec. 4, in the Wadena Memorial Auditorium as the second in a series of programs to be presented this season by the Wadena Concert Association.

50 YEARS Ago - 1975

• Nov. 27, 1975 - The swimming program at Staples High school is underway, with a squad of 25 boys in grades 9-12 presently participating in the practice sessions under the direction of Coach Jerry Deming.

“This is the second year of the swimming team at SHS and I feel we will have a much improved team over last year as many of the boys now have a year of experience swimming competitively against the schools in the area,” Deming said.

Heading the Cardinal roster of swimmers will be seven returning lettermen. They are Mike Mertens, Mark Leirer and Kent



Mystery photo

Hello readers. This week’s archive photo is from 1984. 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.

Nordell, seniors; Mike Fox, a junior; and Jay Weber, Jamie Kujawa and Dan Stohlanske, sophomores.

• Nov. 27, 1975 - John Finn, 15, of Staples shot his third deer in as many years, only this time he got the granddaddy of them all...a 15-point buck, shot near Longville Nov. 14. The deer field dressed at 200 pounds. Last year he shot a two-point buck, and the year before he got a nine-point buck.

• Nov. 27, 1975 - The Cardinal wrestlers of Coach Don Dravis opened their 1975-76 slate last Friday evening before the hometown fans in a successful fashion as they claimed a 39-18 mat verdict over the New York Mills Eagles.

• Nov. 27, 1975 - The regular meetings of the Robert W. Hand Post 1910 Veterans of Foreign Wars and Auxiliary will be held at 8 p.m. Dec. 3, in the V.F.W. hall. Vern Rinerson, commander, and Mrs. Karen Bacon, auxiliary president, urges members of both organizations to be in attendance.

• Nov. 27, 1975 - M.A. “Whitey” Muller will be chairman of the program of the Staples Rotary Club for the month of December. He will be assisted by Robert Pederson and R.C. Read.

The Staples Rotary Club meets each Monday at 6 p.m. in the Holm’s Cafe.

25 YEARS Ago - 2000

• Nov. 30, 2000 - The Motley Fire Department spent six hours at an early morning Thanksgiving Day house fire.

The LeRoy Flickinger, Sr., family lost their home early Thanksgiving morning , Nov. 23. The fire department received the call at 12:20 a.m. The fire was located in North May Township at 11746 65th St., S.W. The couple and their two sons were already out of the house.

Motley firefighters remained on the scene for six hours and called in the Pillager Fire Department for mutual aid for two tankers of water. According to the report, the cause of the fire was electrical. The home was listed as a total loss.

• Nov. 30, 2000 - Coach Lynn Peterson has many questions and four openings on his starting lineup for the 2000-01 boys basketball season at Staples Motley High School.

Last year’s Cardinal team finished with 26 wins and only 3 losses and took

fourth place in the Class AA state tournament, one to eventual champ Litchfield.

One returning starter and four letter winners return from last year’s squad.

Leading the returnees is senior Jeff Brevier, who will be starting his fourth season as the Cardinal point guard. Brevier was the Cardinals second leading scorer last year with 325 points, averaging about 10 a game.

Two juniors likely to earn starting spots are Adam Barnett, a 6-3 forward who played significantly as a sophomore; and Dan Lund, 6-3, who also had playing time.

Peterson said Brad Moore, a 6-3 forward, is the only other senior expected to compete for a varsity spot.

Other juniors are expected to complete the lineup.

“We have a good junior class, but we must also quickly adapt to varsity basketball and produce. How well we do that and if we can get some good post play from our two big juniors, Josh Winter and Mike Brenna, will determine our success,” Peterson said. Winter is 6-8 and Brenna is 6-6.

• Nov. 30, 2000 - This year’s Cardinal wrestling team takes to the mats for their first competition on Saturday, Dec. 2, ready or not.

“We’ve got a lot of inexperienced kids. We’ll just have to see how they work out,” Coach Jeff Dravis said. He’s hoping to improve on last year’s record of 12 wins and 11 losses, but knows he has an uphill battle in front of him.

10 YEARS Ago - 2015

• Nov. 26, 2015 - The top Accelerated Reading (AR) program students at Staples Motley High School for quarter one are Macy Judd, Ezra Trantina, Jasen Michel, Patrick Thompson, Shaine Guggenberger, Nicholas Crist, Erik Miller, Natilee Gabel.

• Nov. 26, 2015 - Sherry (DeGeest) Johnson of rural Motley and her registered quarter horse, Skip Cash Ta LeRoy (aka Marvin) have enjoyed quite a ride this year.

Recently, the duo brought home a championship trophy and several prizes after competing in the 2015 Northern Region (NRF) Tour in Wisconsin.

SCHOOL continued from page 1a

FACS room update, dedicated nursing space, outdoor athletic facilities, auditorium included in school district facility plan

agreed, with less than four percent indicating that no improvements are needed.

The plan also includes improvements to the family and consumer sciences (FACS) programs, to upgrade the preparation and cooking space. There will also be a dedicated nursing space and updates to classrooms. The plan includes auditorium updates and outdoor athletic fields are also a part of the plan with improvements to the track and football facilities.

Splett said there will be bid alternates for other areas if the bids are coming in lower than projected.

The board approved submitting the review and comment plan to the Commissioner of the Minnesota Department of Education.

Board member Ryan Wright said “As a district, we can’t stop moving forward. We are building momentum and we have a lot of work to do, this takes a big bite out of that work.

Audit report

The annual school audit was presented by Olivia Morton of the Brady Martz accounting firm. She said the district has an unmodified (clean) opinion, meaning it is in compliance with general accounting principals. They did a single audit on the school’s food service program and again had no findings.

Morton presented four year trends showing that the school’s general fund is growing, while the food service and community service funds grew in three out of four years.

The board accepted the audit as presented.

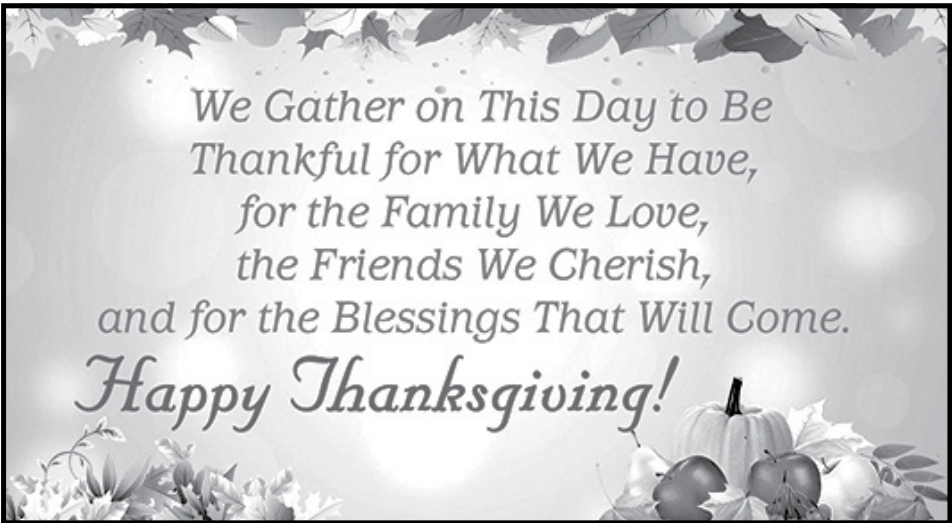
In other news, the board

• Approved fundraiser requests for middle school REACH program Student Theatre.

• Approved resignations of Paul Petrich, custodian; Audra Steffen paraprofessional and Drew Potter as junior high basketball and baseball coach.

• Approved hire of Paul Petrich as lead custodian; and Dillen Avenson, paraprofessional

• Accepted retirements of Yolanda Koppes, paraprofessional, effective Dec. 31, and Cindy Denning, school district nurse, at the end of the school year. Koppes has worked at the school district for 27 years.



How much gun is ‘enough gun?’

Unless you happen to have an interest in African safaris, there's only a small chance you're familiar with the writer Robert Ruark. In a brief forty-nine year life, sadly cut short 65 years ago by alcoholism, Ruark was at varying times a major syndicated newspaper columnist, novelist, essayist, non-fiction book author, and for eight years a regular Field & Stream contributor of semi-autobiographical, semi-fictional stories that featured a young boy's apprenticeship in the hunting and fishing life.

Ruark was particularly drawn to Africa and the hunting of big game, a branch of hunting that—while never mainstream—is today even less an ambition of the everyday hunter than in Ruark's time.

One of his non-fiction works is entitled *Use Enough Gun*, its subject revealed in the subtitle *On Hunting Big Game*. The main title conveys the importance of a hunter being adequately equipped in the firearm department. This is particularly true in specialized hunting circumstances, like in Africa, where some quarry might be capable of shortening a hunter's life.

The book's title has always intrigued me. As a hunter for most of a relatively long life, it strikes me that its message can be applied to other dimensions of hunting, too. In Africa, “enough gun” might mean a firearm with the power to anchor large, dangerous game. In a closer-to-home world where we hunt mostly for upland game, waterfowl, and deer, it could mean being sure that our shotgun or rifle—and the skill and judgment to use them well—are equal to the task of making what has come to be called a “clean kill.” If we hunt, we are ethically bound to harvest as humanely as possible, not forgetting the undeniable fact that when successful, a wild creature's life is taken.

The skill and judgment parts are up to us. Skill is largely a matter of practice and repetition, judgment a matter of experience and conscience. But how we equip ourselves does have a bearing on our ability to fulfill the “clean kill” promise.

Over more than a half-century of carrying sporting firearms in forests, fields, and duck blinds, I've observed both notable

changes in the armament with which hunters equip themselves, as well as some of the attitudes that help define what we as a hunting community consider “sporting.” The hunting of upland game and waterfowl—both shotgun pursuits—offer examples.

Over this time I've watched an evolution in weaponry that could be called an arms race. Changes in firearms and ammunition have put more power under the hunter's trigger finger. At the same time, these technical advances—and the manner in which they have sometimes been promoted—have had the potential to lead a hunter astray, and encourage less than sportsmanlike behavior.

When I was a teenager, parked on the seat of a 12-foot jon boat, awaiting the arrival of unsuspecting ducks, the standard ammunition we fed our 12 gauge shotguns was two and three-quarters inches long. This length limited the number of shot pellets—lead in those days, before steel and other alternatives—that a shotgun shell could contain, in addition to its gunpowder and cushioning components.

Only a minority of shotguns then were built to handle the longer three-inch “magnum” shell, developed in the 1920's, and capable of holding more pellets, sometimes pushed by more powerful gun powders. Some ammo makers also found ways to cram more into even the shorter, standard length shotgun shells; “baby magnums,” we called them.

Accompanying these developments was advertising in outdoor magazines that touted an enhanced ability to kill ducks and geese at longer ranges. While that might have been true for hunters in the expert class, the idea that the average duck hunter could do this dependably was a gamble at best, a deceptive fiction at worst. For too many hunters, more crippling and unrecovered game would be a consequence.

Fast forward to the present, and the arms race continues. The shotgun capable of handling three-inch magnum shells is no longer an exception. There are now shotguns chambered for even longer, three-and-one-half-inch shells, capable of holding still more shot pellets and powder.

In fairness, these developments were driven in part by the need to use non-lead shot for duck and goose hunting; nationwide, beginning in 1991. This came about after lead shot that accumulated in wetlands and shallow lakes was found to poison and kill waterfowl. Steel shot, the first alterna-

tive to lead that was widely used, did not retain energy as well as lead, or kill as efficiently at longer ranges, so larger shot pellets were recommended; especially for geese, which are significantly bigger and tougher than your average duck. Larger shot pellets meant fewer pellets in a shell of any given length, thus the benefit of longer, higher capacity shells.

Since then we've seen the development of other shot pellet alternatives to lead. These include bismuth-tin, tungsten, and tungsten blended with other materials, such as synthetic polymers and other non-toxic metals. Some actually perform better than lead. But this “bigger bang” comes at a price beyond greater cost. That price is paid by the shooter in greater recoil, the force felt when the shotgun's stock is driven back into the shooter's shoulder as the powder's ignition drives the shot pellets toward their target. More powerful charges of powder propelling pellets harder than lead can escalate the effect. Not only can this be unpleasant, but it can cause a shooter to develop a “flinch” in anticipation of the jolt of recoil. This can throw off aim, resulting in a miss at best, or a bird poorly-hit—perhaps wounded—at worst.

There is a place for such extra-powerful armament in specialized hunting situations; goose and wild turkey hunting are good examples. But that place is ideally for those who can use it with skill and good judgment. For those of us with average shooting skills, we and the game we're seeking might be better served by using reasonable armament, and limiting ourselves to conservative ranges.

Curiously, there is an almost opposite train of thought among some upland bird hunters. Not so much among pheasant hunters, but more prevalent among those who hunt for ruffed grouse, woodcock, and quail. It is the idea that shotguns of smaller gauge, shooting lighter loads, are somehow more sporting, and “give birds a chance.”

For those who don't shoot, a shotgun's “gauge” is defined by the diameter of its barrel, or bore. The largest used nowadays is the 10 gauge, which is restricted mostly to a small minority of those who hunt geese or wild turkeys. Most prevalent and versatile is the 12 gauge, followed by the 16, 20, 28, and .410 gauge, each progressively smaller in barrel diameter.

Smaller barrels mean smaller shells, with less space for shot pellets and powder. There is some overlap, gauge to gauge, based

on intended use and hunter preferences. Just as it's possible to offer lighter, less powerful loads in larger gauges, it's possible to overload the shells of smaller gauge guns in an attempt to compensate for their more limited capacity. Most often, however, a hunter with a shotgun of smaller gauge uses shells with lighter loads.

In a perfect world, the outcome of a shot fired at a game bird would result in either a “clean kill” or a “clean miss.” Sadly, it doesn't always happen that way. A hunter's aim does not always center a bird within the circular pattern of shot pellets. And, not all shot pellets arrive at the target at the same instant. Some shot pellets will be out in front, others following behind. Depending on such variables as shot pellet size and material, the barrel's muzzle constriction, and the target's distance from the hunter, this “shot string” of speeding pellets could be as short as four feet, or as long as 12 feet. The issue can be more problematic with smaller gauge guns shooting magnum pellet quantities that are better suited to larger gauge guns.

As a result of this shot string effect—for some flight angles in particular—a bird may be hit by too few pellets to be killed cleanly. Such birds, when recovered alive by hunter or dog, must be dispatched, an unpleasant reality. Even more unfortunate, some birds may fly on, only to die later, unrecovered. When all other factors are equal, it's hard to avoid the conclusion that smaller gauge shotguns leave less margin for shooter error.

There may be other, valid reasons for choosing a smaller gauge shotgun. These may include lesser carrying weight, or a hunter's intolerance for shotgun recoil. But the idea that a smaller gauge shotgun is inherently more sporting is as much a fiction as the idea that all hunters can cleanly kill birds at long ranges with more powerful shells.

Like the shotgun loaded with the most powerful magnum loads, the smaller gauge shotgun has its rightful place, too. Similarly, that place may be with the more expert among hunters, rather than the inexperienced, or even Joe Average. Hunters who pat themselves on the back and imagine themselves better sportsmen or women just by using them could be looking for sportsmanship in the wrong place.

At the risk of being guilty of an awful pun, “enough gun” is not the same for everyone, and very much a moving target.

Quote of the week

“Gratitude turns what we have into enough.”

— Aesop

Holiday gratitude combats stress

From University of Minnesota

The holiday season can be a warm and joy-filled time with family and friends. However, many people report elevated stress levels during the holidays. Gratitude has been associated with well-being, positive mood, satisfaction with life and reduced depression and anxiety. This is why practicing gratitude during the holidays can alleviate some of the stress associated with the season.

University of Minnesota College of Education and Human Development Associate Professor Amy Krentzman is an expert on gratitude and positive psychology, and shares her expertise on how to maintain gratitude during the holidays.

Q: What is gratitude?

Prof. Krentzman: Gratitude is a positive, pleasurable emotion that we feel when we appreciate the small and big things in our lives. Gratitude can be felt toward another person who has been kind to us, and can be felt in general about a pleasant condition such as a beautiful day. It can be expressed as appreciation for something you have, for something good that happened or even for something difficult that was avoided. While it is useful for a person to consider their own role in bringing about good things in their life, gratitude is often associated with a sense of humility — that we have a good thing or circumstance as the result of someone or something outside ourselves who has been good or generous to us. Gratitude is felt strongly in response to things a person has, but that they do not necessarily feel they earned.

Q: What are the benefits of gratitude?

Prof. Krentzman: Gratitude has many benefits. It shifts the mind away from the negative to the positive. Because of a psychological principle called the negativity bias, negative thoughts and emotions impact us much more strongly than positive or neutral ones. A gratitude practice helps to tip the balance the other way — to place emphasis once again on the profoundly positive things in our lives. People may not realize that gratitude has a social aspect, too. It can improve relationships — when someone has been good to us, the feeling of gratitude encourages us to reciprocate. That can lead to a mutual exchange of good things between people which can strengthen the foundation of the relationship.

Q: How can someone get started with a gratitude practice?

Prof. Krentzman: I favor two approaches in combination. One is to think about what you are thankful for — what you are glad about that you have experienced in the past or currently have in your life. The key is to consider ordinary, everyday things that you might have started to take for granted, like having a warm coat on a cold day. Another approach to gratitude is to look back

over the past day and collect a list of good things that happened. Remember that small things count — for example, you might list, “I paid less than five dollars for a great shirt at the consignment shop.”

Q: Are there any downsides to gratitude?

Prof. Krentzman: It is important to remember that gratitude affirms the status quo. It invites us to find and appreciate good things that are true for us now. If someone is in a situation or circumstance where a change might be in their best interest, then a gratitude practice might not support that change.

Another possible downside to gratitude is that people might have a hard time thinking of things to be grateful for. This might feel discouraging. Hearing what others are grateful for, and referring to lists of things to be thankful for can really help with this. Another thing to be aware of is that a gratitude practice can get stale. Your job, your home, your health and your spouse might be the greatest things you have to appreciate. But day after day, writing, “job, home, health, spouse” can get repetitive and stop delivering the power inherent in gratitude. The challenge here is to consider different small good things to be grateful for, or to consult lists of examples, to inspire novelty and renewed appreciation for good things present in life.

Q: What are your tips for maintaining a gratitude practice during the holidays?

Prof. Krentzman: My personal gratitude practice and research on gratitude journaling have resulted in many tips for a successful practice. While it can help to think of what you are thankful for, the practice is enhanced by writing it down. This involves the use of any pen and any piece of paper, but can be made more pleasurable by finding a favorite pen and journal combination that creates a pleasant sensation when writing. Sit in a comfortable chair by a window with a nice view, if one is available. A warm bathrobe and your favorite cup of tea or coffee complete the soothing aspects of the practice, and associate the practice with pleasure. This kind of positive reinforcement will help keep a gratitude practice going.

Consider pleasant, small things that happened over the past day, such as something beautiful you saw. Consider good things — even small good things — from the present or even from earlier in your life. Consider things you might have begun to take for granted like a roof over your head, hot running water and lifelong friends. A great way to get ideas is to share your gratitude list with others — what they write down can inspire you and vice versa. Consider texting your gratitude list to a friend or to a small group of friends on a daily basis. Your entries and their entries will inspire you and lift your spirits.

Quote of the week

“We can complain because rose bushes have thorns, or rejoice because thorn bushes have roses.”

— Abraham Lincoln

StaplesWorld

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Quote of the week

“Feeling gratitude and not expressing it is like wrapping a present and not giving it.”

— William Arthur Ward

Quote of the week

“I’m thankful for my struggle because without it I wouldn’t have stumbled across my strength.”

— Alex Elle



Staples-Motley Madrigal Dec. 6

Maci Mithun and Brynn Bestland are preparing the boar's head to be presented at the Staples-Motley Madrigal Dinner on Saturday, Dec. 6, starting at 6 p.m. The Staples-Motley music department hosts the dinner with a medieval theme of costumes, singing, music, food and old-fashioned fun. Tickets for the

event can be purchased at the school web site, isd2170k.com, under the Community Education webstore. Below, community volunteers help music students find their medieval costumes as they begin practicing for the event. (Staples World photos by Mark Anderson)



Lights in the Pines begins Nov. 28

The 'Lights in the Pines' event at Pine Grove Park in Staples will be held on Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays, 5 - 8 p.m., Thanksgiving weekend through December. A number of lighted holiday displays can be viewed while driving through the

park, thanks to the Staples Lions Clubs and Discover Staples. Vans are welcome. A free will donation is accepted. For more information, visit www.DiscoverStaples.com.

Mark Your Calendar

Nov. 27

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

Nov. 28 - 30

LIGHTS IN THE PINES will be held at Pine Grove Park in Staples Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays, 5 - 8 p.m.,

Thanksgiving Weekend through December. Free will donation.

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.

FREE COMMUNITY BREAKFAST Saturday, Nov. 29, 9 - 10:30 a.m., at Motley United Methodist Church, 847 3rd Ave. S., Motley.

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

Dec. 2

OLD TIME DANCE is held the first Tuesday of every month at the Wadena VFW. For information, call 218-639-0132.

RUBY'S PANTRY will be held Tuesday, Dec. 2, from 4:30 - 6 p.m. at the parking lot of Central Lakes College in Staples.

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.



Wishing you a wonderful Thanksgiving filled with love and happiness.



Preschool Storytime at the Staples Public Library

It was all about turkeys at Preschool Storytime held at the Staples Public Library Nov. 19. Each month join us for fun, stories, songs and crafts. The next Storytime event will be held Dec. 17 at 10:30 a.m. Call the library, 218-894-1410 to register. Above, front row: Lucy Moon,

Ray Biggar, Alida Hanson, Will Moon, A.J. Moon, Olivia Vanek. Back: Cardson Sadlo, Gwen Vanek. (Submitted photo)

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Have your ads and copy into the office by 3 p.m. on Weds., Nov. 26 for the Dec. 3 issue.

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Hello World

ONLINE BIRTHS REMOVED AT THE REQUEST OF LAKEWOOD HEALTH SYSTEM

Obituary

Heidi Ann Packer

Heidi Ann Packer, 43, of Aitkin, passed away November 15, 2025.

A Celebration of Life will be held Wednesday, December 3, 2025, from 4 to 8 p.m. at Riverwood Health Care Center (Room C & D), Aitkin.

Heidi Ann Rach was born May 16, 1981 to Dennis George Rach and Anna Mae (Kozitka) Rach in North Dakota. She formerly lived in Staples.

Her senior year of high school, she moved to Aitkin. Her first son, Hunter Otto Rach was borth April 15, 2002. At the same time, she began working at Aicota Healthcare Center. She met Jori, her future husband, but the only way she could get him to talk to her was to trap him. She finally get him to talk to her and they moved in together, buying a house in Palisade. Jori finally proposed to Heidi and they were married August 18, 2007, in Aitkin. On September 15, 2008, their son, Alexander Lee Packer was born. Heidi enjoyed living the simple life - fishing, four wheeling, crafting and crocheting. In 2021 she went back to work at Riverwood Healthcare Center as a food service technician. She loved the job and the people she saw and helped daily, deciding this would be her career. In 2024 she found out she had kidney disease and started dialysis. That same year she suffered a stroke, which slowed her down a little, but she didn't give up. Following the passing of her dad in August 2025 they moved to Aitkin. She made many plans as she felt her life was finally starting



to move forward. Heidi and her heart of gold, will be dearly missed by the many people who knew her.

She is survived by her loving husband, Jori Joe Packer; two sons, Hunter Rach-Packer and Alexander Lee Packer; one brother, Chad (Erin) Rach; brother-in-law and sister-in-laws, Jami and Tammy Packer, Jerod and Lori Packer; mother- and father-in-law, Barb and Warren Packer; nine nieces and nephews, Spencer and Emma Packer, Sebastian Packer and Allie Rinta, Brittany Packer, Maddi and Anton Kalk, Paige Packer and Madelyn Rach; great-nieces and nephew, Elizabeth and Samual Packer and Myelin Kalk and many friends and relatives.

Heidi is preceded in death by her parents; one aunt, Nancy Holler in 2002 and her grandparents, Alfred and Lorraine Rach.

To leave a message of condolence, visit: www.srtfuneral.com. Arrangements are with Sorensen-Root-Thompson Funeral Home and Cremation Service, Aitkin.

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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.....218-894-2296
info@marysacc.org
Rev. JC Duncan, 218-632-7314
Rev. Rick Aubol, 218-632-7310
Rev. Greg Sauer, 218-632-7319
Mass: Sunday.....8:30 a.m.

Seventh Day Adventist

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

Thomastown Covenant

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

Trinity Lutheran

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

United Methodist

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

Aldrich

Balsamlund Lutheran

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

Cushing

Bethany Lutheran

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

Lincoln Evangelical Free

1354 320th Street, Cushing, MN 56443
Phone: 218- 575-2449
www.lincolnefree.org
Facebook Lincoln E Free
Office Hours: Tues. - Thurs., 9 a.m. - 12 p.m.
Senior Pastor: Don Reigstad
SUNDAY
Church Worship Gathering.....10:00 a.m.
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
1st St. and Birch, Motley.....218-894-2296
info@marysacc.org
Fr. Aaron Kuhn Fr. Gabriel Walz
MASS:
Saturday.....4:00 p.m.

St. Michael

280 1st Ave S, Motley.....218-894-2296
Rev. JC Duncan, 218-632-7314 Rev. Rick Aubol, 218-632-7310 Rev. Greg Sauer, 218-632-7319
Sunday.....10:30 a.m. (May - Nov.)
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.....218-894-2296
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.....218-894-2296
info@marysacc.org
Rev. JC Duncan, 218-632-7314 Rev. Rick Aubol, 218-632-7310 Father Greg Sauer, 218-632-7319
Sunday Service.....10:00 a.m. (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.

"A Thanksgiving Privilege"

Pastor Barry Klein, Staples Church of Christ

It's not only a privilege to be on the Staples World devotion schedule throughout the year; I consider it an extra privilege that I get to share our community devotion for the day before Thanksgiving.

Our reasons to be thankful not only in this season, but also year-round are many. We don't know how much we have to be thankful for until we take the intentional time to reflect upon and even write down the bountiful ways in which God expresses His generosity with us.

Our first level initially is certainly most familiar to us in the physical. After God finished His six days of creation we read in Genesis 1:31 (NASB), "God saw all that He had made, and behold, it was very good. And there was evening and there was morning, the sixth day." Think about this. Everything physical in the universe was put into existence by God speaking it so. And every person who has walked the face of this earth has and continues to benefit from it directly and personally. It's time well spent to go back earlier in Genesis 1, to slowly realize how each creation day directly affects us each day of our lives.

Within the sixth day of creation God included making people beginning with Adam and Eve. We're given the gifts of relationships both with God and each other. Think a moment about your network of people in your lives...family, friends, coworkers and many more. We

wouldn't have relationships if it weren't for God creating people.

Psalm 24:1 is such a tremendous perspective. It calls us into being good stewards of people and things when we remember that God made everything and entrusts us with everything as the gifts they are. We hear the verse: "The earth is the Lord's and all that is in it; the world and all who live in it." In this Thanksgiving season, is God being given the due thanks that He rightfully has coming to Him? This includes not only words of thanksgiving but lifestyles of thanksgiving.

We certainly would be remiss if we didn't now include the lavish generosity of God spiritually. A gripping verse that puts both physical and spiritual together is Romans 8:32 (NIV) when we hear, "He who did not spare his own Son, but have Him up for us all - how will He not also, along with Him, graciously give us all things? If God would have only given us His Son, Jesus on the cross in our place, that would have been far more than we deserve. But God wants to keep giving us more in our daily provisions. That's overwhelming if we take time to ponder all of this.

May this Thanksgiving season launch us into year-round thanks-living! We can be free of the hold of materialism by looking to God, our Provider, regularly throughout each day.

Familiar faces?

This fitness center photo was taken several (?) years ago at the Staples Community Center and was shared by Al Evans. He's curious how many people can identify those in the group. (Submitted photo)

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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.



Boys basketball underway

The Staples-Motley boys basketball team filled the gym with dozens of athletes for their first practice of the season on Nov. 17. The Cardinals play their first game at West Central Area on Thursday,

Dec. 4, then play the next night at Frazee. They play their first home game Tuesday, Dec. 9, at The nest. (Staples World photos by Mark Anderson)



Champs return to the mat

The Staples-Motley wrestling team began the defense of their state title with their first official practice on Nov. 17. The Cardinals open the season ranked first in the state by The Guillotine. Their first action is Friday, Dec. 5, at Howard Lake-Waverly-Winsted and another tournament the next day at St. Michael-Albertville. (Staples World photos by Mark Anderson)



Girls wrestling begins

Staples-Motley girls wrestlers started practice Nov. 17, with their first match coming up Dec. 6 at the St. Michael-Albertville tournament. (Staples World photos by Mark Anderson)



NOTICES

Give Away

107

WHITE GERMAN SHEPHERD PUPPIES to good homes: 2 mos. old. Leader: 1-218-821-8169. 47-49p

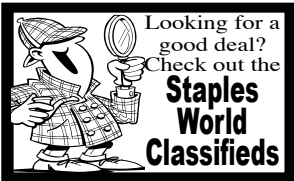
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SERVICES & EMPLOYMENT

205

Help Wanted



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To learn more about this opening and how to apply, visit the Career Opportunities page on the official Todd County website at <https://www.toddcountymn.gov>.

Questions can be directed to Todd County Administration 320-732-6447.

EOE

208

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610

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602

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The Staples World office will be closed Nov. 27-28. Have your ads and copy into the office by 3 p.m. on Weds., Nov. 26 for the Dec. 3 issue.

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Staples Motley School Board Minutes



**ISD #2170
SCHOOL BOARD
MEETING #6
Nov. 3, 2025
6:00 p.m.
District Office**

MINUTES

Call to Order
The meeting was called to order by Chair Freeman at 6:00 p.m.
Roll Call was taken, members Wright, Frisk, Reeck, Trout, Reese and Freeman were present, comprising a quorum. Also present were Superintendent Tappe, Business Manager Hill, Recording Clerk Larson, Staples World Managing Editor Anderson, students, staff, community members, ICS and Ehlers representatives. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.
Motion by Reeck seconded by Wright, to adopt the agenda. MC

Chair Freeman recognized and welcomed those in attendance
Personnel
Motion by Trout, seconded by Freeman, to approve the resignation of Lynn Vanderweyst, Lead Custodian effective 10/21/25. MC
Other
Motion by Frisk, seconded by Reeck, to approve the MSHSL emerging status school commitment for girls team dual wrestling for the 25/26 school year. MC
Motion by Wright, seconded by Freeman, to approve the resolution supporting the Form A application to the Minnesota State High School League Foundation. MC
Motion by Trout, seconded by Frisk, to approve the resolution supporting the Form B application to the Minnesota State High School League Foundation. MC

Sourcewell Board of Directors election discussion.
Long Term Facility Planning Presentation by ICS and Ehlers
Motion by Reeck, seconded by Frisk, to adjourn the meeting at 7:24 p.m. MC
Trisha Larson, Clerk
ISD #2170
49pnc

Upcoming Meetings:
Mon., Dec. 1: School Board Work Session and Truth In Taxation meeting, District Office, 905 4th St. NE, Staples, 6 p.m.
Mon., Dec. 10: Policy Committee meeting, District Office, 7:45 a.m. (Reese, Trout)
Mon., Dec. 22: School Board meeting, District Office, 6 p.m.
Mon., Jan. 5, 2026: School Board Meeting/Organizational Meeting, District Office 6 p.m.



Freshwater Education District



**FRESHWATER
EDUCATION
DISTRICT #6004
Board Meeting,
10/22/25
Wadena, MN**

MINUTES

Called to order at 5 p.m. by Chair Huttunen.
Attendees - Board: R. Huttunen-Sebeka, C. Wolf-LP-GE, B. Tumberg-W-DC, R. VanDenheuvel-B-H, R. Thalmann-Henning, K. Howard-Menahga, R. Wright-S.M. Board Absent: S. Veronen-Verndale, J. Hillmer-Browerville. Supts': L. Westrum-W-DC, S. Vedbraaten-Browerville. FED: E. Weber, Supt., J. Anderson, Fin. Manager, S. Thiel, Admin. Assist. Others: J. Osberg, A. Zamzo
MOTIONED BY Tumberg, seconded by VanDenheuvel to approve the agenda as presented. VOTE- U/C
Presentation
By A. Zamzo ~ OT presented on MTSS and behavior management.
Consent Agenda: MOTIONED BY Howard, seconded by Wolf to approve the consent agenda as presented, including meeting minutes, Payments of 66551-66961, Policy Review, Renewal of the Collaborative Agmt. w/Head Start, Amendment of the Assist. Director of SpEd Contract, 25/26 Reg Year TS/CR Services Agmt.
Personnel
Retirement of: M. Tabery, PT and C. Salathe, WALC Prog. Support; Reassignment of M. Benning; Hiring: C. Newberry, P. Rowe, T. DeJesus, J. DeYonge, C. Bruggenthies.
Reduction in Hrs.: J. Goodpasture, M. Rasmussen, W. Wegscheid, M. Ludovissie.
Increase in Hrs.: S. Romann, P. Kellen, M. Wolhowe, H. Haase, J. Becker,

B. Faust, E. Hibbs, L. Hubbard, M. Murch, K. Schalow, M. Schmidt, L. Wright, S. Lowe, S. Nixon, S. Romann.
Lane Change Request: K. Lehmann. VOTE: U/C
Info Shared
Supt. Report: T-I negotiations are ongoing, FY27 FED Menu Options will be shared with Supts. before December. Due to van driver shortages, a monthly transportation agreement w/Aksamit Transportation. ALC enrollment of 121 students, including 20 online, TS are beginning. Reviewed SR & ECFE enrollment. State Telecom Program will dissolve in FY28/29, and FED is evaluating WAN options. CP program approvals are due Nov. 1, and the Regional Perkins Liaison Mtg. summary was reviewed.
SPED Report: Out of Field Permission. Teachers will need to be in a Program that leads to full certification in the licensure field in which they hold the OFP.
Finance Mgr. Report: Reviewed FY25 audit progress and the FY26 Q1 Finance report.
New Business
MOTIONED by VanDenheuvel, seconded by Thalmann to approve the Sept. & Oct. 30 day Agmt. w/ Aksamit Pupil Transp. as presented. VOTE- U/C
MOTIONED by Tumberg, seconded by Wright to approve the FY26 Purchased Social Worker Agmt. w/ Perham - Dent #549 as presented. VOTE- U/C
MOTIONED by Howard, seconded by Wright to approve the purchased Social Worker Supervision Svc. Agmt. w/C. Copeland for the 25/26 SY as presented. VOTE- U/C
MOTIONED by Thalmann, seconded by VanDenheuvel to approve the FED Vehicle Sale Agmt w/ Askamit Transp. as presented. VOTE- U/C

sented. VOTE- U/C
MOTIONED by Tumberg, seconded by Howard to approve the renewal of the 2026 Health Insurance plans through the Better Health Collective. VOTE- U/C
MOTIONED by Wright, seconded by VanDenheuvel to approve the renewal of the 2026 Delta Dental PPO Plan as presented. VOTE- U/C
MOTIONED by Tumberg, seconded by Wolf to approve the renewal of the 2026 Ameritas Vision Ins. Plan as presented. VOTE- U/C
MOTIONED by VanDenheuvel, seconded by Thalmann to approve the PFML plan through Madison National Ins. as presented. VOTE- U/C
MOTIONED by Wright, seconded by Howard to approve the 2026 RI Budget as presented. VOTE- U/C
MOTIONED by Thalmann, seconded by Wright to approve the FY26 Bus Mgr. Svc Agmt w/B-H ISD 786 as presented. VOTE- U/C
MOTIONED by Tumberg, seconded by VanDenheuvel to approve the transfer of \$17,500 from the SpEd fund and \$17,500 from the Membership Fund to the OPEB reserve. VOTE- U/C
MOTIONED by Wright, seconded by Wolf to approve the update of the Employee Handbook to align with Policy #412 - Expense Reimbursement. VOTE- U/C
MOTIONED by Tumberg, seconded by VanDenheuvel to adjourn the meeting at 5:46 p.m. VOTE: U/C.

Respectfully submitted,
Barb Tumberg,
Board Clerk
49pnc



Responded to a gas leak

The Staples Fire Department and Staples Police responded to a call regarding a gas leak at Minnesota Ave. and 3rd St. SW in Staples the morning of Nov. 12. Staples Fire Chief Cole Yungbauer said

that residents reported smelling gas at their home. First responders discovered there was a malfunction in the home's furnace and the situation was taken care of. (Staples World photo by Dawn Timbs)



Lions Peace Poster winners

Sixth grade students at Staples-Motley Middle School were invited to participate in the annual Lions International Peace Poster Contest, sponsored locally by the Staples and Motley Lions Clubs. The contest gives young people ages 11 - 13 the opportunity to share what peace means to them through art. This year's contest theme, 'Together As One,' invited students around the world to envision what can happen when a diverse group

of people unites around a common cause or goal.
Pictured, from left, are Aiden Lovesness, 3rd place, winner of \$25; Staples '93 Lion Mary Kobliska; Dakota Kaijela, 2nd place, winner of \$35; Eva Greenwaldt, 1st place, winner of \$50. Greenwaldt's poster will go on to be entered at the district level. (Staples World photo by Dawn Timbs)

Todd County HHS hosting Radiothon to End Child Abuse

Todd County Health and Human Services is hosting their annual 36nd Annual Radiothon to End Child Abuse on December 5th, 2025. You can listen in on The FAN FM 98.5, KIK FM 100.7, Cool FM 94.3, KWAD FM 101.7, and SuperStation FM 105.9.
At this year's event listeners are able to listen to stories, the passion to end child abuse, and what listeners can do to help. We wel-

come community speakers to speak on the resources and passion for need to raise awareness of child abuse. Money raised during the Radiothon will be used to benefit local initiatives working to educate and create safe, nurturing environments for children and families in the Todd County Community.
These events happen year round in Todd County and focus on having a safe,

family friendly environment while connecting community members with resources in Todd County.
Todd County will be adding back the Silent Auction this year. The silent auction will be online and will be open from Monday, Nov. 24 at 10 a.m. and will close Thursday, Dec. 4 at 7 p.m. Go to Todd County's Facebook page for the link.

Zaborowski moves to CLC admissions

Central Lakes College announced the appointment of Josh Zaborowski as its Director of Admissions and Student Recruitment.
Zaborowski has been with CLC since 2011, serving as an Upward Bound advisor. In this role, he worked with low income or first-generation high school students, helping them navigate high school, up to their first day of college.
"As Director of Admissions and Student Recruitment, my priority is ensuring every prospective

student feels supported from their first question to their first day of class," Zaborowski said. "Our mission at CLC is 'we build futures' and I look forward to bringing that mission to many more."
Dr. Hara Charlier, President of CLC, said "Josh has a deep understanding of who our students are and what they need to thrive. His leadership will help guide more students to CLC and ensure they feel welcomed, supported, and confident in choosing us."

Long Prairie Police report

Shots Fired: On Nov. 16 at approximately 4:13 a.m., the Long Prairie Police Dept. was dispatched to a call where an individual sustained a gunshot wound at the address of 115 2nd St. S, Long Prairie.
The individual was air lifted to HCMC for the gunshot wound. Their status is currently unknown.
It's believed the incident took place as the victim was attempting to break up a fight between two other

individuals.
Search warrants were executed at the property and the case is currently under investigation. Law enforcement is still looking for the individuals who were involved in the fight.
There is no current threat to the community.
Anyone with information pertaining to the investigation may contact the Long Prairie Police Dept., 320-732-2156.



Public Notices

**CITY OF STAPLES
NOTICE OF
PUBLIC HEARING**

Notice is hereby given that the City Council of the City of Staples will conduct a public hearing at 7:00 p.m. on Tuesday, December 9, 2025, at the Staples Government Center located at 122 6th St NE, Staples to receive public input regarding the 2026 Final Budget and Property Tax Levy.
All interested persons are invited to attend the hearing and be heard on this matter or submit written comments to the City Clerk prior to the hearing. For a copy of the proposed 2026 Final Budget and Property Tax Levy, contact City Hall at 218-894-2550.
Dated: November 26, 2025
Tara Greer, Clerk
City of Staples
49pnc

Careers collective for hometown jobs

Around 35 Staples and Motley area businesses set up shop at Staples-Motley High School for the Hometown Careers Collective on Nov. 19. Local manufacturers and industries showed students what is produced in the community and many of them provided hands-on displays where students could see what and how they were produced. This is the first year for this event.

Kim Gustafson of Gustafson Diesel Repair was one of the originators of the event, coming up with the idea during a conversation during the school's facility planning process. She was very happy that a diverse group of businesses participated and she said the students were very interested in learning about the businesses.

Students in grades 9-12 attended the event, writing down a synopsis of at least

three businesses, learning what careers are available in this business, what education and skills are needed and typical salaries.

Participating businesses and agencies included Miran Creek Cabinets, ICS, Agcentric, Larson Electric, Central Building Supply, Action Machining, Holst Construction, Reese Plumbing & Heating, City of Staples, Workforce Development Solutions, Stacker 3D Printers, Williams Floral, Old 10 Apparel, Barmah Hats, Timberlake Hotel, Lakewood Health System, Minnesota Valley Irrigation, Hot Rod Welding, Rural Minnesota CEP, Derek Holst Construction of Lakes Area, Stern Rubber, First International Bank & Trust, Gustafson Diesel Repair, 3M, Trident Seafood, Giza Plumbing & Heating, RD Offutt Farms, Viking Gas, Brichacek Electric and JDM Machining.



Learning about local industry

Ag instructor Dan Rowe, left, meets students at the Gustafson Diesel Repair booth during the Hometown Careers Collective at Staples-Motley High School Legacy Gym. (Staples World photos by Mark Anderson)



DHC construction of Lakes Area



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Basketball season starts with win for Cardinal girls

The Staples-Motley girls basketball team started the season with a road win, defeating Browerville-Eagle Valley 63-40 on Nov. 20, at Browerville. The Cardinals returned home the next night, Nov. 21, to play Hawley, fresh off a state volleyball championship. The many tall athletes on the Hawley team proved to be too much for the Cardinals, and they lost 66-28. In both games, they displayed good passing and good teamwork. Despite low numbers on the girls team, Staples-Motley has some quality athletes who will make this year an exciting one for local basketball fans. (Staples World photos by Mark Anderson)



Hannah Cole



Clara Maros



Brooklyn Winter



Chloe Larson



Sophia Luna



Singing a hymn of Thanksgiving

The Staples Area Community Thanksgiving Service was held Nov. 23, at the Staples Church of Christ. The evening service, facilitated by church member Bruce Paskewitz, included scripture readings by Dean Klebs, gratitude testimonies from Wade and Renata Scepurek, Staples Assembly of God Church; Jay Tyrrell, Sacred Heart Church; Linda Kopp and Bruce Paskewitz, Church

of Christ; prayers, and the singing of Thanksgiving hymns, with Sandy Paskewitz at the piano. Above, Pastor Roy Miles, Staples Assembly of God, leads the closing hymn, "Count Your Blessings." Following the service, a time of fellowship was held, with coffee and goodies served. (Staples World photo by Dawn Timbs)

A time of fellowship

Following the Community Thanksgiving Service at Staples Church of Christ Nov. 23, people enjoyed a time of fellowship, complete with coffee and goodies. (Staples World photo by Dawn Timbs)



Dr. Jennifer Heim is new obstetrician and gynecologist at Lakewood Health System

Lakewood Health System, Staples, welcomes Dr. Jennifer Heim, obstetrician and gynecologist (OB/GYN), to its women's health team. Originally from Harlan, Iowa, Dr. Heim obtained her graduate degree from Mayo Clinic Graduate School and received her medical degree from Albert Einstein College of Medicine in New York. She completed her residency at the University of Minnesota. Dr. Heim is a member of the American College of OB/GYN, the Menopause Society, and the American Association of Gynecologic Laparoscopists. In addition, Dr. Heim is also a credentialed The Menopause Society Certified Practitioner. As an obstetrician and gynecologist, Dr. Heim specializes in menopause care, abnormal bleeding management, PCOS management, infertility, pregnancy care, cervical cancer screening, and minimally invasive



Dr. Jennifer Heim

gynecological surgery including tubal sterilization. "I'm excited to be joining Lakewood to partner in providing high-quality, patient-centered medicine. I really appreciate that they are an independent and community-based organization." Dr. Heim enjoys exploring Minnesota, biking, boating, reading, running, yoga, and spending time with her family.

MOTLEY continued from page 1a

Rezoning denied because of comprehensive plan guidance, not for nature of cannabis business



In favor of cannabis business

Jeramy Mercil, standing center, spoke up at the public hearing in Motley Nov. 17, in support of rezoning an approximate 5.4 acres of property from Downtown Mixed Use to Industrial. Rezoning would allow the productive reuse of a long-vacant former school as a secure indoor cannabis cultivation facility operated by Starlight Cannabis LLC. To Mercil's right is Lyle Gillson of Stillwater, Co-founder of Starlight Cannabis, LLC. Mercil, CEO of Starlight Cannabis, noted that should they be able to purchase this

property, they planned to do considerable construction and that they believed the renovations would raise the value of the building. At far right, standing, is Ryan Shoup who said he'd met Gillson at the state fair, learned about his cannabis business plans and told him about the Motley school building for sale, believing it would be a good fit. Shoup said he didn't think the city should miss out on this opportunity. (Staples World photo by Dawn Timbs)

diagnosed with cancer, an emotional Gillson shared, going on to note the pain relief benefits cannabis provided to her.

Mercil noted that they planned to do extensive renovations to the school building which he claimed would raise its value, bringing new tax revenue to the city. Gillson said their business would create jobs in the community. Around 20 at first, and up to 60 in three years.

There were at least 60 people in attendance at the public hearing, with many voicing concerns about the rezoning request.

Tom Daly wondered if the city's sewer ponds could handle another industry? Cassie Roberts, Plant Manager at Trident Foods in Motley, had similar concerns, mentioning that lack of water pressure could be an issue.

Several people, including Pat Koehler and Darin Flansburg, mentioned concerns about having a cannabis industry across the street from a daycare. Another woman, who attends St. Michael Catholic Church in Motley, felt it would be a conflict of interest to have this business so close to a place of worship.

Still others had concerns about increased traffic and big trucks driving through the neighborhood. A woman named Barb said she moved from the Twin Cities a few years ago to get away from traffic. She was looking for a safe, quiet neighborhood and feared this would take that away.

There were a few who spoke up in favor of Starlight Cannabis LLC. Greg Frisk mentioned the expense of taking down a building like the old school (one he had rich ties to, having attended there and served on the school board in years past, he said). He went on to note that Gillson and Mercil would be paying for the building's improvements. Frisk also noted that a business like this could attract employees from out of town. Another woman noted that there had been extensive water damage to the school building in recent years and was impressed that these folks were willing to spend the money to bring it up to code. Ryan Shoup said that he'd met Gillson at the state fair and had reached out to Starlight Cannabis LLC about the former Motley school building.

He felt they'd be a good fit and didn't want the city to miss out on this opportunity. Shoup also said that regardless of how people feel about it, cannabis is here.

In the end, the commission voted unanimously to deny the application to rezone from DMU to Industrial, based on the seven findings of fact (for denial) as presented in the staff report.

Commissioner O'Regan stressed that what was voted on had nothing to do with any specific business, but simply that the city doesn't want to turn that area into an industrial one. So, its zoning will remain DMU, which means NO industrial business would be allowed.

Following the vote, Gillson thanked the commission for their time and consideration. In a later email, Gillson said their team has a great admiration for this region and "felt Motley would be a natural fit for our company and we would have been honored to become part of the community. We hold nothing but respect for the City of Motley and wish the community continued success."

Fridays, Saturdays, Sundays

5pm - 8pm

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LAKEWOOD WELCOMES

Jennifer Heim, MD

OB/GYN

Lakewood is pleased to announce the arrival of obstetrician and gynecologist, Dr. Jennifer Heim. Dr. Heim provides comprehensive women's health care, with special interests in menopause management, infertility, pregnancy care, and minimally invasive gynecologic surgery. In her free time, she enjoys biking, boating, running, yoga, reading, and spending time with her family. She will be seeing patients at Lakewood's Staples clinic.

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