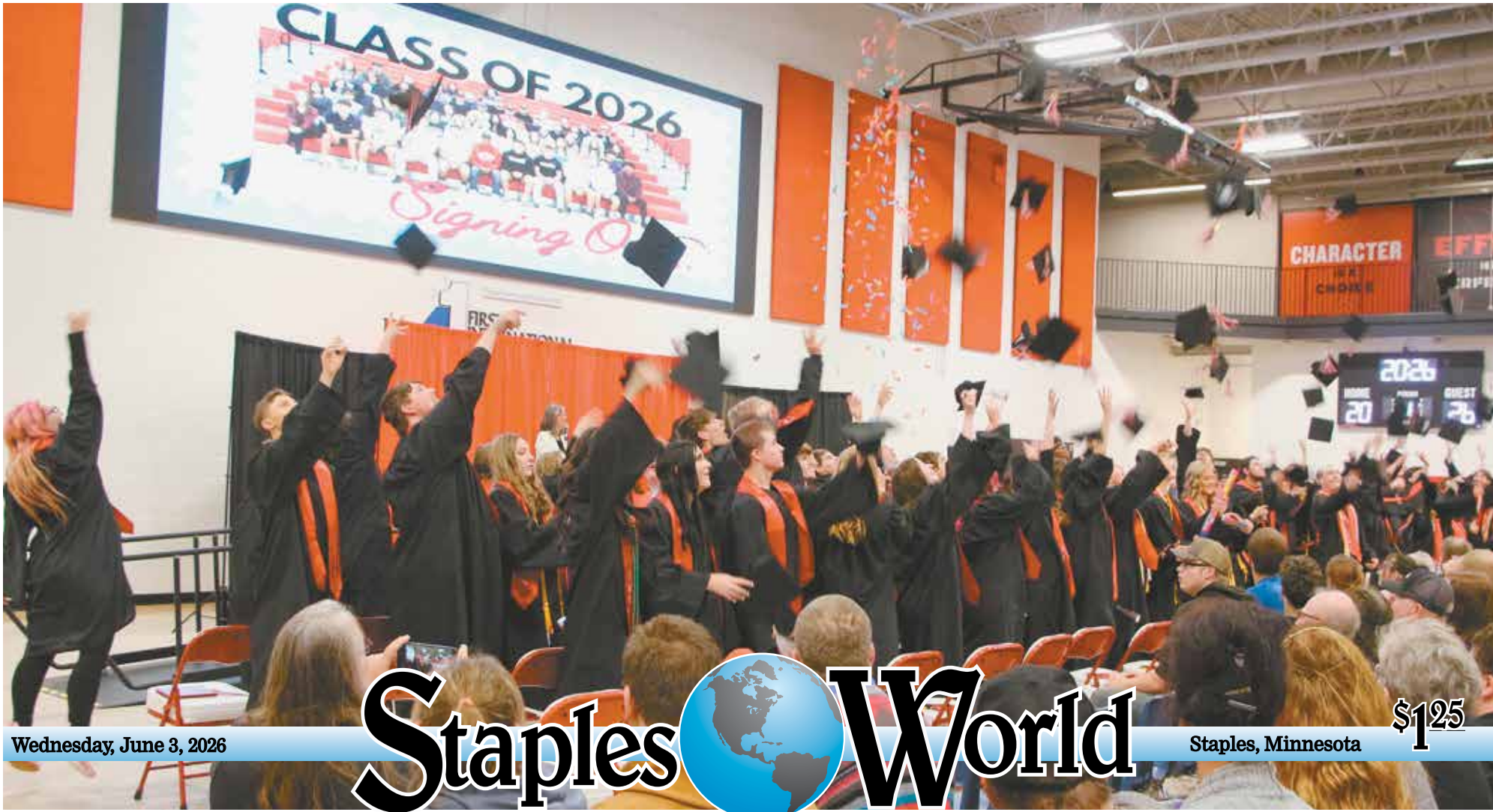


Inside this issue:

Four track and field athletes qualify for state meet
Library poetry contest winners
Motley school reunion
SMACF award nominations open



Wednesday, June 3, 2026

Staples, Minnesota

\$125

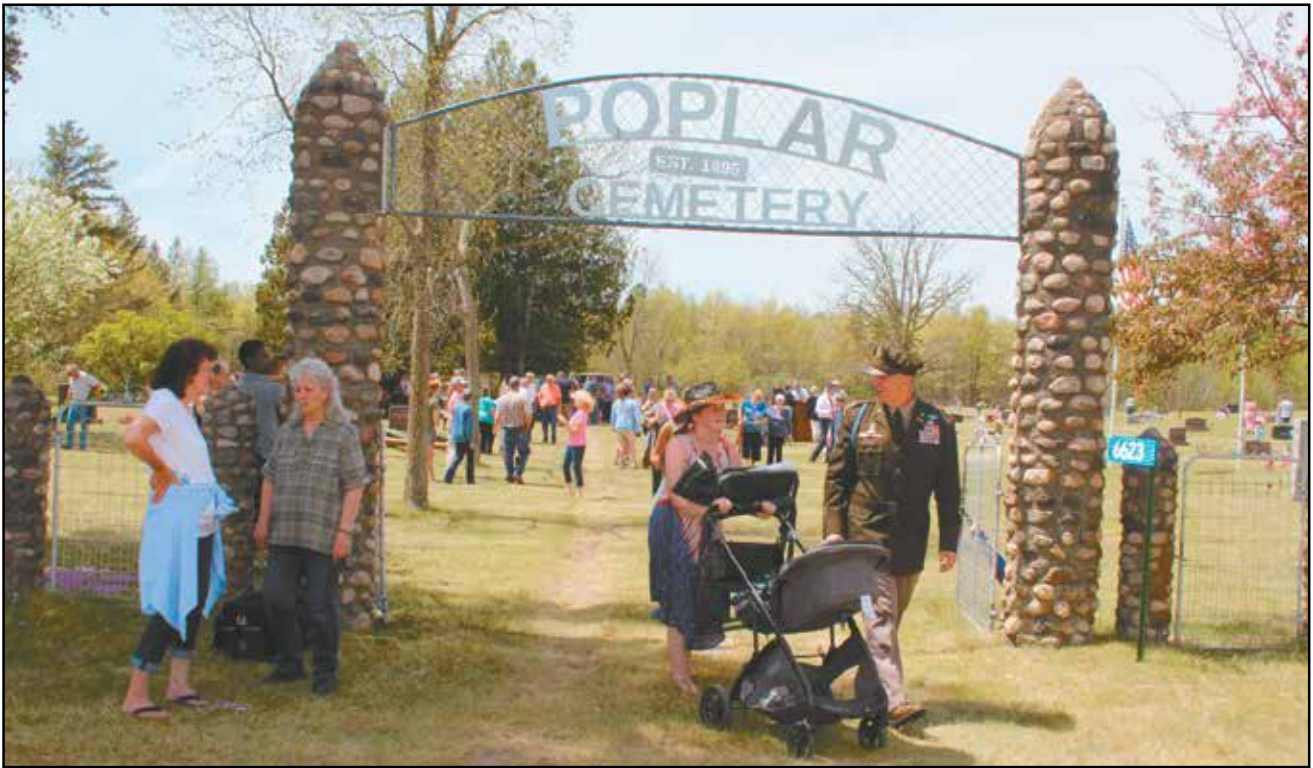
Graduation season Staples-Motley Class of 2026 celebrates their graduation May 22. See more photos, pages 10a and 14a. (Photo by Mark Anderson)



Staples-Motley School Board member Kyle Reese congratulates Gage Foss at graduation.



Eli Rutten graduates with an NBA-style powder clap. (Staples World photos by Mark Anderson)



Leaving Poplar Cemetery

Colonel Charles “Chip” Rankin, speaker at the Memorial Day Program at Poplar Cemetery near Leader, visited with people following the program. In addition to his work with the Army National Guard, Rankin has an ex-

tensive background in education and has currently been hired as the superintendent at Brainerd Public Schools. (Staples World photo by Dawn Timbs)

Businesses can thrive during road construction season

By Mark Anderson
Publisher

Local businesses can remain visible to the community despite construction shutting down the street in front of them. Using online marketing along with creative ways to get people to the business location, road construction does not have to mean a loss

of business. On May 26, this topic was presented as a webinar by Katie Heppner of the North Central Small Business Development Center (SBDC) at Central Lakes College, with the help of Alison Medeck, Director of The Economic Alliance of Wadena County. “To keep customers coming in, make it easy

to find and buy from you,” said Heppner. Heppner said several area communities have major downtown construction projects this summer, including Staples and Pequot Lakes. She said sometimes customers think the business is closed or unreachable, so the business needs to do everything they can to let customers

know they are still open. **Digital marketing** The first thing every business must do is make sure their Google profile is up to date and has the correct business hours. Often when a potential customer sees road construction, they will check their phone to see if the business is open. See **CONSTRUCTION** on page 3a

ooWeatheroo

2026

This Week's Forecast

	High	Low	Cond.
June 3	80	61	Cloudy
June 4	78	58	Showers
June 5	76	58	Showers
June 6	84	62	P. Cloudy
June 7	88	65	P. Cloudy
June 8	81	64	P. Cloudy
June 9	83	62	M. Sunny

Last Year, 2025

	High	Low	Cond.
June 3	75°	64	M. Sunny
June 4	73	46	M. Sunny
June 5	74	50	P. Sunny
June 6	64	54	Rain
June 7	75	52	M. Sunny
June 8	54	53	Cloudy
June 9	58	48	

Average Temps:
H = 74 ° Low = 52°

Compiled by
Dale Hausmann,
WCCO's Staples area
Weatherwatcher

Public Notices

Certificate of Assumed Name9A

ISD #2170 bids9A

Wadena County Planning Commiss.9A

Obituaries

Peter Greenwaldt

George Warn

Neil Zetah



Firefighter recuperation

Firefighters from Staples, Motley and Verndale were called to a large warehouse fire around 3 p.m. on May 26 at the metal recycling business owned by Dennis

Lee of Staples on 285th Ave. Pictured, after reinforcements arrived, the first shift of firefighters collapsed in the shade to recover. See more fire photos, page 13a.

Memorial Day celebrated at area parks, cemeteries



Leading the Invocation

Pastor Jim Johnson, Motley Free Methodist Church, led both the opening and closing prayers at the Memorial Day Program at Poplar Cemetery near Leader. He led prayers at other area programs that day, including at Staples All Veterans Park and the Motley Public Cemetery. At left is Dave Johnson who served as emcee at the program. (Staples World photo by Dawn Timbs)



Descendants of Civil War veteran George F. Matthews

Leader native Kelly Boldan, left photo, stands near the gravestone of Civil War veteran George F. Matthews, Jr., buried at Poplar Cemetery near Leader. Matthews is Boldan's 3rd great-grandfather and the direct ancestor of all the Matthews and Matthews-Johnson descendants from the Poplar-Leader area. Matthews was a native of Ontario, Canada, who emigrated to northeast Iowa in the early 1850s. In 1862, he enlisted in Company C of the 32nd Iowa Infantry and served in Missouri, Tennessee, Kentucky, Vicksburg, Mississippi, Arkansas, and Louisiana. His company's engagements included the Red River Campaign, the Battle of Pleasant Hill in Louisiana and the Battle of Nashville. During the Battle of Pleasant Hill on April 9, 1864, the 32nd Iowa Infantry lost 210 men out of 469 in the unit. George F. Matthews, Jr. survived.



In 1892, George F. Matthews Jr. traveled with his son Charles Matthews and son-in-law George Norris Johnson to scout land in central Minnesota. In 1894, multiple Matthews, Johnson, and Johnson-Matthews families migrated to Poplar Township from northeast Iowa. In top right photo are likely the oldest and youngest descendants of Matthews who attended the Memorial Day Program at Poplar Cemetery on May 25, 2026. Seated at left is great-granddaughter Ruth Boldan, 102 years of age. Above right, a 3rd great-grandson Loren Bendson holds his grandson, a 5th great-grandson descendant of Matthews. Seated at right is Loren's wife, Mary Vogel Bendson, who had previously been married to Ruth's son, H. James Boldan, until his death in 1978. (Staples World photos by Dawn Timbs)



Playing 'Taps'

Members of the Motley American Legion's Color Guard stood at attention while fellow member Frank Vasecka played 'Taps' at the Memorial Day Service in Staples. The Motley American Legion Post #124 provided the Color Guard and Firing Squad at four services

that day. In addition to the service at Staples All Veterans Park, they were at Motley Public Cemetery, Poplar Cemetery and Bridgeman Cemetery. (Staples World photo by Dawn Timbs)



Provided special music

A trio of recent Staples-Motley High School graduates sang two selections at the Memorial Day Program in Staples May 25. From left, singing The National Anthem, are Cecily Moe, Brynn Bestland, Raina Mikhaeil. The girls later entertained the crowd with their rendition of "The Boogie Woogie Bugle Boy of Company B." (Staples World photo by Dawn Timbs)



Orthopedics *at* Lakewood

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



Steven Meletiou, MD
ORTHOPEDIC SURGEON



NO REFERRAL NEEDED | LAKEWOODHEALTHSYSTEM.COM | 218-894-8259

CONSTRUCTION continued from page 1a

‘Open’ sign key to physical marketing

said Heppner.

Add comments to your online profile, saying “open during construction.” Another tip is to add photos showing where people can park to get to the business or what entrance they can use.

A new online strategy is to employ “answer engine optimization” (AEO) so that the busines is included in the little AI overview that is at the top of most searches.

“Use plain language, avoid being cutesy,” said Heppner, “AI doesn’t understand those things, the best thing is to be crystal clear.”

Social media

Heppner said businesses should post online three to five times per week.

“Don’t assume that people remember you’re open,” she said.

Those posts can simply be “we’re open” reminders. Heppner gave one example of businesss owners who took a video of how to drive through the construction to get to their store, then sped it up to post online.

Another tip is to do a “question of the day” to get people thinking about the business. Heppner said AEO loves to use frequently asked questions as a source for their overview.

Other ideas are to post behind-the-scenes content on how the business is dealing with the construction.

Physical marketing

“Your location still matters,” said Heppner.

Especially if construction is right outside the door, businesses still need to capture someone’s attention to show they are open.

“An ‘open’ sign is the holy grail of physical marketing,” said Heppner.

Businesses can also order a special “open during construction” banner that can be seen from far away, if customers are unable to drive up to the building.

If pedestrians can walk across a construction zone,

businesses can put up “walk this way” signs to guide them to the door.

Heppner said use large signs with clear fonts so people can see it from far away.

“If they have to look more than three seconds, they may not keep looking,” she said.

Once people are at the business, Heppner said to make it worth their while for making the trip.

“Thank customers for coming in person, they stopped to see you during construction, so that matters,” she said.

Small business neighbors can work together to bring people in, such as holding thrmed events or summer loyalty programs. Other ideas are to offer construction discounts or construction-themed sales.

Heppner said creating special events is a way for people to notice that the business is still going. She said something as simple as offering free lemonade or snack is enough to create an event. She said to post your events on social media, where event pages are promoted more than your regular page.

Ordiering and convenience

Another way to maximize business is to make it easier for customers to use your services. Heppner suggested taking online orders, phone orders or offering curbside pickup or delivery.

While social media tries to get views, a more direct approach could be email or text messages, said Heppner.

“Send weekly updates, promotions and events,” said Heppner, “Make it short messages with a clear call to action.”

Simple phrases like “visit us today,” “buy now” or “schedule an appointment” are enough to get customers to think about the business even if they aren’t driving past it any more.

75 YEARS Ago - 1951

• May 31, 1951 - Mrs. Carolin Bostrom has received a letter from Major General William E. Bergin of the U. S. Army, telling a little more about her son, Pfc. Harry Bostrom who last week was reported missing in action in Korea.

The letter, in part, read as follows: I know that added distress is caused by failure to receive more information or details about your son Pfc. Harry Bostrom. Therefore I wish to assure you that at any time additional information is received it will be transmitted to you without delay.

•May31, 1951 - Hoodlums ransacked the Meadow Brook school this past week

- O -
Compiled by
Dawn Timbs
- O -

end.

All windows in the school were broken, and large rocks were thrown all over the floor. Desks tipped over and considerable damage was done to the books as well as to other school supplies.

Since the Meadow Brook school is still in session this week, it was necessary that Mrs. James Converse, the teacher, conduct classes out of doors while the Cass county sheriff, Mr. Simpson, is making an investigation.

• May 31, 1951 - Help Wanted. Respectable and capable girl, 16 to 21 years of age, to work in modern home. Private room. Steady year-round employment. Protestant. \$20 per week. Send picture and full particulars in first letter. 1/2 mile from city. Mrs. Fred Thiesse, Rt. 1, Brainerd, Minn.

• May 31, 1951 - Motley went down to defeat at the hands of Buckman Sunday on the Buckman diamond by a score of 6 to 3. The game was close and anybody’s ball game up until the ninth inning.

Batteries for Buckman were Scess and Kellzenberg and for Motley it was V. Skeesick, H. Sklenicka and Starke. Next Sunday Motley plays at Flensburg where they hope to put an end to their losing streak.

• May 31, 1951 - On May 11, Mrs. George Peterson and her pupils of Philbrook gave a tea in honor of Mother’s Day. As the mothers arrived, a son or a daughter pinned a corsage on her.

A short program was given and then each mother was presented with a gift made by the children in school. Lunch and social hour brought to a close a delightful afternoon.

50 YEARS Ago - 1976

• May 20, 1976 - Congratulations 1976 Staples High School Baseball Team. The Staples community is proud that your are co-champions of the Mid-State Conference, and in your over-all season record of 9 wins and 7 losses.

Members of the team are Doug Shequen, Bob Nurnberger, Paul Jenkins, Mike Mertens, Larry Dumpprope, Jim Marden, Tim Miller, Robb Peterson, John Tevlin, Steve Grossman, Jeff Cizek, Tom Backberg, Mark Redemske. Jerry Riewer is the head coach, and Joe Joerger is the assistant coach.

• May 20, 1976 - Graduation ceremonies for the 39 members of the Class of 1976 at Motley High school will be held Friday, May 21, at 8 p.m. in the school auditorium.

sexual conduct. Continued. Supervised probation, 1 yr. Fine \$350.

Donald Ray Lesnau, Verndale. DWI-operate motor vehicle-any amount Schedule 1/I/I drugs/metabolite; not cannabis/hemp. Sentenced. Local confinement (90 days, stay 87 days for 2 yr credit for time served: 3 days) Community work service, 20 hours for indeterminate. Fine \$200. Fee \$75. Careless driving. Dismissed. Criminal damage to property in the 4th degree. Dismissed.

The following cases were heard before Heidi L. Hovis, Seventh District Court in Todd County May 14, 2026.

Jacob Anthony Harty, Motley. Criminal sexual conduct-4th degree-contact-uses force 609.341, subd 3(2). Dismissed. Criminal sexual conduct-5th degree-nonconsensual

Looking back

Robert G. Bengtson, principal, announced this week that Dennis L. Johnson, son of Mr. and Mrs. Lloyd Johnson, is the class valedictorian. Judy Dubbels, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Jo Dubbels, is the class salutatorian.

• May 20, 1976 - Two students from Staples were recipients of awards Sunday, May 16, at the annual Student Recognition Banquet at the University of Minnesota, Duluth.

Receiving an Arrowhead Award from Alpha Phi Omega were Kevin M. Olsen and George J. Hankey, both of this city.

• May 13, 1976 - Consistent play by a veteran Wadena crew proved too much for other Mid-State Conference rivals as the Indians captured first place in the Mid-State tennis tourney at Detroit Lakes May 15.

Staples finished with 12 points to tie Wadena for the crown, but dropped the contest on total games lost, 100-73. Little Falls finished third with 10 points, followed by Detroit Lakes with 4.

Individual Cardinal results found Brian Bates and Jim Uhrich winning the championship in second doubles by defeating D.L. 6-3, 7-5 and Wadena 3-6, 6-0, 6-3.

• May 13, 1976 - Champions of the Wednesday Twilight League at Hi-Way Lanes for the 1975-76 season is the team sponsored by Nancy’s Boutique.

Members of the team include Nancy Sadusky, Effie Moon, Meal Wert, Lila Card, Rhoda Schull and Bonnie Grossman.

• May 13, 1976 - The annual capping and award ceremony for the Candy Stripers at the United District Hospital will be held Tonight (Thursday) at eight o’clock in the hospital dining room.

Nine girls will be receiving caps for 50 hours of volunteer work. They are Elaine Jutz, Laural Skoglund, Dara Erickson, Michelle Hankey, Becky Flack, Sandra Hall, Liz Webster, Kathy Hegre and Ramona Mick.

25 YEARS Ago - 2001

• May 31, 2001 - The Staples Motley boys golf team posted a 334 for a third place finish at the Section 6A golf tournament May 29, at Pebble Lake Golf Course at Fergus Falls.

Andrew Murray led the Cardinals with a low score



Mystery photo

Hello readers. This week’s archive photo is from 1988. 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.

of 81 for the meet followed by Cory Wilson at 82, Josh Grossman, 85; Travis Grossman, 86; Isaac Landecker, 88 and Bryan Kavanaugh, 92.

• May 31, 2001 - Behind excellent pitching by Michele Honek and great defensive plays in the field, the Cardinal girls softball team downed Pequot Lakes 4-0 Thursday, May 24, in the first game of the sub section softball tournament.

• May 31, 2001 - The Staples Motley Cardinal girls golf team is heading to state competition June 7 and 8 at Izaty’s at Onamia.

The cards won the Section 6A tourney May 29, at Pebble Lake in Fergus Falls by a 12-stroke margin, 361-373, over Minnewaska.

Mary Hasselberg had the lowest score of the tournament at 82. Cardinals Melanie Wilson and Alicia Forsberg also qualified for state individual competition with 87 and 91 respectively.

• May 31, 2001 - Tower Pizza in Staples joined several other restaurants in

the area as a smoke-free establishment on May 25.

“The big reason I did it is because I have just one big room. A smoking section was silly for us. It just doesn’t work,” said Roger Rasmussen, owner.

As a former smoker, Rasmussen noted, it was hard to face the facts; it’s been proven that second-hand smoke carries farther and is hard on children.

“We get a lot of families in here,” Rasmussen said. “I don’t feel it will hurt our business any.”

Other area restaurants which do not allow smoking include Subway, Burger King and the Dairy Queen in Staples, and the Motley Dairy Queen.

10 YEARS Ago - 2016

• June 2, 2016 - Fourth graders at Staples Elementary, Motley Elementary and Sacred Heart Area School recently participated in the ‘Hooked on Fishing Not on Drugs’ event at Camp Shamineau in rural Motley.



Mystery solved

Last week’s mystery photo published in the Oct. 30, 1980 edition of the Staples World featured five of the eight members of the State Class A Girls Tennis Runners-Up accepting the congratulations of their parrents and fans at the Friday night homecoming. Proudly wearing their tournament medals are, from left, Mary Riewer, her doubles partner Kristi Wolhowe, and the seniors on the 1980 Staples High School tennis squad, Angie Matanich, Deb Finn and Peg Hess.

Mary (Riewer) Samuelson of Arden Hills called the World and correctly identified all. She said the picture brought back great memories of their team taking second at state tennis that year. She shared that she was a freshman and her doubles partner Kristi Wolhowe was an eighth-grader. The two remained doubles partners until Mary graduated from SHS in 1984. Thanks for participating in our mystery photo.

Todd County

Patricia Lou Haberman, Baxter. Driver entering/crossing roadway

The following cases were heard before Heidi L. Hovis, Seventh District Court in Todd County May 14, 2026.

Jacob Anthony Harty, Motley. Criminal sexual conduct-4th degree-contact-uses force 609.341, subd 3(2). Dismissed. Criminal sexual conduct-5th degree-nonconsensual

sexual conduct. Continued. Supervised probation, 1 yr. Fine \$350.

Donald Ray Lesnau, Verndale. DWI-operate motor vehicle-any amount Schedule 1/I/I drugs/metabolite; not cannabis/hemp. Sentenced. Local confinement (90 days, stay 87 days for 2 yr credit for time served: 3 days). Supervised probation, 2 yr. Fine \$250. Fee \$100.

Bernadin Seide, Long Prairie. Speed 96/55. Sentenced. Driver fails to Yield right of way to emergency vehicle. Dismissed. Driver must carry proof of insurance when operating vehicle. Dismissed. Unlawful passing-against signs. Dismissed.

The following cases were

heard before Meriel B. Lester, Seventh District Court in Todd County May 20, 2026.

Lavern C. Kauffman, Clarissa. Criminal sex conduct-3rd degree-significant relationship-victim 16-17. Local confinement (30 days, stay 0 yr 0 mo 0 days credit for time served: 2 days). Commit to Commissioner of Corrections-adult (MN Correctional Facility-St. Cloud, 36 mo stay for 15 yr). Supervised probation, 15 yr. Fine \$50. Fee \$75. Criminal sex conduct-1st degree-penetrate/contact-victim under 16-significant relationship-multiple acts over time. Dismissed.

StaplesWorld

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

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

Regular advertising and copy deadline is Friday, noon.

The office closes at noon on Friday.

Across from the old Staples Theatre marquee

Minnesota agencies urged to advertise with local news

From Minnesota Newspaper Association (MNA)

In February, Minnesotans saw for the first time how state agencies spend public dollars on advertising and how little of that money reaches local news. The disclosures were required under a transparency law that lawmakers passed in 2025.

The numbers, posted to state agency websites on Feb. 1, reveal that a dozen agencies spent more than \$2.4 million promoting government programs and services, from health insurance enrollment to benefits for veterans, children and families.

Yet only \$700,000 of total — less than 30 percent — went to local newspapers, radio and television.

Some agencies spent even less. Minnesota’s Department of Veteran Affairs devoted only 7 percent of its advertising budget — about \$52,000 out of \$726,000 — to local news outlets. MNSure health insurance program, which has the second-largest advertising budget after the Lottery, spent only 22 percent of its more than \$1 million budget with local news outlets, mostly TV and radio. The Department of Employment and Economic Development spent about one-third of its nearly \$1.7 million in advertising buys targeting in-state audiences, but just under 5 percent of that Minnesota-targeted spend, about \$26,000, went to local newspapers and radio outlets.

But other agencies chose to “buy local” at far higher levels. The Department of Human Services spent 95 percent of its ad budget — nearly \$160,000 — with Minnesota newspapers. The Department of Youth and Families, the business and workforce development Iron Range Resources and Rehabilitation, and the Department of Revenue also spent more than 80 percent of their advertising budgets with local news organizations.

The state Lottery spent 43 percent of its \$3.5 million advertising budget with local TV, radio and newspapers. That’s compared to the overall agency average of less than 30 percent spent with local outlets.

The data, secured through advocacy from the Minnesota Newspaper Association, tells an important story: Most of Minnesota’s public advertising dollars are being steered away from the state’s local news sources toward other media platforms, likely including big tech companies such as Google and Meta.

Getting this information is the first step in keeping more of the state’s advertising dollars in Minnesota communities — with local news outlets. MNA has been leading the push for a “buy

local” government advertising set-aside that would direct half of agency advertising budgets to in-state community news organizations.

“MNA’s initial proposal required state agencies to spend half of their advertising budget on local news ads and annually report on their ad spending,” said Lisa Hills, MNA executive director. “Our efforts were hindered by the lack of information about current state agency advertising spending. Having the data from this report will be helpful to our future efforts.”

Unlike big tech and other media companies, advertising dollars spent with local news organizations have countless important advantages for the communities they serve. With a slight but intentional shift in priorities, Minnesota could strengthen and expand news coverage statewide.

That’s why Rebuild Local News developed and advocates for government advertising transparency and set-aside policies.

Transparency laws like Minnesota’s are essential for understanding where public dollars go. Illinois and California have passed similar requirements, with their first reports expected in fall 2026.

A government advertising set-aside policy requires state or municipal agencies to dedicate a portion of their advertising budgets to local news media. Although the idea is relatively new, it has already had a profound impact in New York City, where the Center for Community Media pioneered the policy in 2020.

In its first five years, NYC’s set-aside steered \$72 million to ethnic and community news outlets, CCM reported. That investment has allowed neighborhood publications such as The Haitian Times to hire staff and expand news coverage. Inspired by this model, San Francisco and Chicago have adopted similar policies.

This approach has drawn bipartisan appeal because it doesn’t require additional budget appropriations and still allows agency advertising teams to meet their marketing goals effectively, among other advantages. In 2026, state-level set-asides are advancing through legislatures in Maryland and New Jersey, with coalitions in other states drafting bills.

Tracking how government advertising dollars are spent is an important first step toward reinvesting public money in the public good of local news in Minnesota. New York City has shown what’s possible, and other cities and states now have a roadmap for steering more public advertising dollars back into community news, strengthening coverage for every resident.



Opinion

Quote of the week

“Summer afternoon... those have always been the two most beautiful words in the English language.”
— Henry James

“The two most beautiful words in the English language are ‘check enclosed.’”
— Dorothy Parker

Find Treasure Within

Without hard work, nothing grows... except poison ivy

By Frank Odell

There’s a saying I’ve come to appreciate:..Without hard work, nothing grows... except poison ivy. Now that may not appear in the concordance, but it could have been scribbled in the margins of Genesis right after the fall. Because in Genesis 3, after sin enters the world, God tells Adam that the ground will produce “thorns and thistles.” In other words: weeds will grow automatically. Blessings will not. Isn’t that the pattern?

Roses require cultivation. Thistles require neglect. You don’t have to work hard to grow weeds in your yard. And you don’t have to work hard to grow weeds in your soul.

The Apostle Paul put it plainly in Galatians: “Whatever a man sows, that shall he also reap.” Sowing implies effort. Reaping implies results. But if you sow nothing... something still grows. Neglect is a seed.

Consider a garden. If you till the soil, plant intentionally, water faithfully, and guard it carefully, you may harvest tomatoes. But if you do absolutely nothing—if you sit in a lawn chair with a glass of iced tea and say, “I’m trusting the Lord for produce”—you will not get tomatoes. You will get weeds. Faith is not laziness baptized.

Now, let’s exaggerate just a bit for emphasis. If procrastination were a spiritual gift, some of us would be archbishops of delay. We would form committees to postpone commitment. We would host seminars titled “Advanced Avoidance.” But you don’t drift toward holiness. You drift toward compromise. The writer of Hebrews warns believers not to “drift.” Drift is effortless. Discipline is intentional.

And Paul, again, sharpens it in 1

Corinthians when he compares the Christian life to training for a race. Athletes discipline their bodies. They practice. They endure discomfort. No runner accidentally wins a marathon because he had positive vibes. He trains.

Roots before fruit. Sweat before strength. The truth is weeds are automatic.

Genesis tells us thorns and thistles would come from the ground. That wasn’t poetic flourish—that was reality. Creation itself resists ease. And spiritually, the same principle applies. If you do not cultivate gratitude, resentment will sprout. If you do not pursue humility, pride will spread. If you do not nourish faith, fear will take root.

Even Jesus used gardening imagery in John chapter 15: “I am the vine... abide in me.” Branches don’t produce fruit by accident. They remain connected. They draw life intentionally. Disconnected branches don’t bear fruit. They wither.

Now here’s where the emotion comes in. Hard work is not glamorous. It’s early mornings in prayer when you’d rather sleep. It’s apologizing when pride wants to defend. It’s choosing integrity when compromise looks convenient. It is weeding. And weeding is not pleasant. It’s bending low. It’s dirt under the fingernails. It’s scratches on the forearm.

But neglect hurts more. Anyone who has brushed against poison ivy knows this: the itch doesn’t show up immediately. It takes time. And by the time you feel it, the damage has already begun. Sin works that way. Neglect works that way. You ignore your spiritual life for months, and suddenly you’re wondering why joy has dried up

and peace has thinned out.

Because something was growing. It just wasn’t what you planted.

Here’s the challenge. Walk through the garden of your life. What is growing right now? Not what you intend to grow. Not what you posted about growing. What is actually growing?.. creeping criticism? Paul’s words are steady and sobering: you reap what you sow. That is not condemnation. It is invitation. It means your effort matters. It means your choices matter. It means today’s seed becomes tomorrow’s harvest.

So yes, without hard work, nothing grows... except poison ivy Our part is faithfulness...We plant....We water. We weed.

We abide. ..And over time—sometimes slowly, sometimes quietly—fruit appears.

Character strengthens. Faith deepens....Love expands. And one day you look over the fence of your life and instead of a tangle of thorns, you see something beautiful. Not because it was easy.....But because it was tended.

So don’t resent the sweat. Don’t despise the discipline.....Don’t neglect the garden. Because thistles grow automatically. But fruit—eternal fruit—requires faithful work. And I would rather harvest righteousness than scratch regret.

Frank Odell grew up in Willmar, MN with roots on a small farm not far from Svea, MN. Formal education includes Willmar Community College, MN-Morris, Master’s in Education at Hamline University; Taught English, Theatre, and Speech for thirty years in Milan and Staples

ATV law progressing through safety, education

By Bryan Welk
Cass County Sheriff

May marked two years since Cass County adopted its new all-terrain vehicle ordinance. The past two years have been spent on education and enforcement efforts while making contact with hundreds of ATV operators throughout the County. While we are experiencing mostly high levels of compliance with the new ATV ordinance there is still work to be done.

While this is not a perfect ordinance for every rider, property owner and situation, it addresses some of the issues that we are often called to investigate and monitor and address complaints that we receive regarding ATVs and their use on public roads and right-of-way. The ordinance is comprehensive for Class I and II ATVs, consistent with the current state statute. Class

1 all-terrain vehicle is an all-terrain vehicle that has a total width of 50 inches or less from the outside of tire rim to the outside of the tire rim on one side. Class 2 all-terrain vehicle is an all-terrain vehicle that has a total width greater than 50 inches but not more than 65 inches from the outside of the tire rim to the outside of the tire rim on one side.

The ordinance addresses Operation of All-Terrain Vehicles on County Roads in Cass County.

- An all-terrain vehicle shall be operated on any County Highway in the same direction of travel as other vehicular traffic.

- An all-terrain vehicle shall not be operated outside of the traveled portions of the County Highway and shall remain on the far-right side of the paved surface or gravel surface on a gravel highway.

- Except as otherwise pro-

vided in this ordinance, an all-terrain vehicle operated on a County Highway shall comply with applicable federal, state, and local laws or rules.

- Every driver of an all-terrain vehicle on a County Highway is responsible for becoming and remaining aware of the actual and potential hazards existing on the County Highway and must use due care in operating an all-terrain vehicle.

- No person shall operate an all-terrain vehicle on a County Highway at speeds greater than reasonable under the conditions. Class 1 all-terrain vehicles shall not exceed a speed of 30 miles per hour, and Class 2 all-terrain vehicles shall not exceed the posted speed limit of the County Highway.

- When multiple all-terrain vehicles are operated on a County Highway in the same direction of travel, the vehicles shall be operated one in front of the other in a single-file manner.

- Operation of an all-terrain vehicle on a County Highway shall not result in the spinning of tires.

- To operate an all-terrain vehicle on a County Highway, a person born after July 1, 1987, must possess a valid all-terrain safety certificate issued by the commissioner of natural resources and must have

their own valid driver’s license or be accompanied by a person 18 years of age or older who is in possession of a valid driver’s license.

- The Cass County Board of Commissioners may close any segment of County Highway authorized through this ordinance for all-terrain vehicle use.

- Unless otherwise noted in this ordinance, an all-terrain vehicle operating on a County Highway shall obey all Minnesota Statutes related to all-terrain vehicles and shall comply with all driving rules found in Minnesota Statutes Chapter 169.

It is important to note that this ordinance is only in effect on County roadways. State statute still applies to State Highways, Township and City roads and streets.

Our deputies noted positive interactions with the public while completing education and enforcement efforts. The variation in operation is mostly operating some machines still in the ditch or ROW of the roadways and not staying to the extreme right of the hard surface of the roadway.

Through enforcement and education efforts, fatal and serious injury ATV crashes continue to decline from very high numbers seen in the early 2020s. Our efforts will continue to enforce and educate the public on this topic.

Quote of the week

“June is bustin’ out all over, all over the meadow and the hill. Buds’re bustin’ outa bushes, and the rompin’ river pushes, ev’ry little wheel that wheels beside a mill.”
— Oscar Hammerstein II, from Carousel

Staples World

Established in 1890. USPS 518-760

©2026 RMM Publications

Published Wednesdays by RMM Publications

Office located at 207 4th St NE

Periodicals postage paid at Staples, Minnesota 56479.

Mailing Address: P.O. Box 100

Telephone: 218-894-1112 - Fax: 218-894-3570

www.staplesworld.com - E Mail: editor@staplesworld.com

Deadline: 12 noon, Friday

Official Newspaper for:

City of Staples, Todd County,

Staples-Motley School District,

Freshwater Ed. District and area townships.

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.

Printed at Quinco Press, Lowry, MN

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.

Publisher RMM Publications LLC

Owner Mark Anderson..... editor@staplesworld.com

Advertising Rep..... editor@staplesworld.com

Photo Tech/production..... Janice Winter jwinter@staplesworld.com

Bookkeeping/Circulation/..... Kathy Odden koddenn@staplesworld.com

Reporter.....Dawn Timbs dtimbs@staplesworld.com

Front Office..... office@staplesworld.com

Subscription Rates:

Local: (Todd, Wadena, Morrison, Cass Counties) \$53 per year

Website: \$50 per year

Minnesota: \$58 per year - Out of State: \$63 per year

Foreign: on-line only - Student Rate: (Sept. through Apr./in-state) \$43

There is a \$5 charge for address change from local to out-of-state.

Member: Minnesota Newspaper Association, MCAN Advertising



Correction

The photo of Riley Reese, 2026 graduate of Staples-Motley High School, was inadvertently missed in the 2026 Graduation Tab (May 20, 2026 Staples World). The Staples World apologizes for the error.

Hello World

ONLINE BIRTHS REMOVED
AT THE REQUEST OF LAKEWOOD
HEALTH SYSTEM.

Obituaries

Peter Greenwaldt

A Celebration of Life for Peter Greenwaldt will be held Saturday, June 20, 2026, at noon at the Verdale Community Center, 109 1st Ave. SE, Verndale, MN 56481. A ceremony and luncheon will follow, with visiting, cards and games.

w24c A00006B2026JU03

Neil Zetah

In loving memory of Neil Zetah, 67, who peacefully entered eternal rest on May 2, 2026. A Celebration of Life will be held Sunday, June 14, from 1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. at St. Michael's Catholic Church, Motley, MN. Neil Duane Zetah was born February 5, 1959 to Gerald and Rosalia Zetah in Little Falls, MN. Neil was a creative, kind-hearted, humble and courageous man who touched many lives with his humor, imagination and caring spirit. Neil found joy in nature, photography, making videos and noticing beauty in everyday moments. Known for his artistic mind and playful creativity, he brought originality and wonder to every-



thing he did. He will be remembered for his gentle humor, warmth, kindness and quiet courage. Neil will be deeply missed, forever remembered and lovingly carried in our hearts.

w24p A00006B2026JU03

Staples Area Church Directory

Staples

Staples Alliance
1512 8th St. NE, Staples.....218-894-2891
Jonny Olson, Associate Pastor
Sunday Worship.....9:30 a.m.
Sunday School.....11:00 a.m.
WEDNESDAY
AWANA.....6:00 p.m.
Assembly of God
914 3rd Ave. NE, Staples.....218-894-1081
Pastor Roy Miles
Small Groups (Bible classes for all ages).....9:30 a.m.
Morning Worship Service.....10:30 a.m.
Children's Church (Kids start in main worship service).....11 a.m.
Prayer Meeting.....5 p.m.
WEDNESDAY
Sonlight (kids ages 4 yrs.-6th grade).....
After school to 5:30 p.m.
Youth Group (Teens, 7th-12th grade).....
After school to 5:30 p.m.

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

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

Sacred Heart Catholic Church
310 4th St. NE, Staples
Church.....218-631-1593
parishsecretary@marysacc.org
Rev. JC Duncan, 218-632-7314
Rev. Rick Aubol, 218-632-7310
Rev. Greg Sauer, 218-632-7319
Mass: Sunday.....8:30 a.m.

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

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

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

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

Aldrich

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

Cushing

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

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

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

Leader

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

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

Motley

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

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

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

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

Oylen

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

Pillager

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

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

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

Hewitt

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

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

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

Verndale

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

"Forgiveness: Don't Leave Home Without it!"

Pastor Barry Klein, Staples Church of Christ

Forgiveness has been written about before in our Staples World devotions. Why would we need to bring it up again?

It reminds me of an old preacher joke where the new pastor shared a marvelous first sermon that people deeply appreciated. The next Sunday, the congregation heard the very same message. Although slightly wondering what was going on, respectfully, no one said a thing. "“Maybe he’s still in his moving transition,” one might have said.

Well, weeks three and four found the same message. The church leadership realized that they needed to pull him aside and ask for an explanation. The pastor explained, “Well, I’ve noticed there are no changes happening to show the sermon’s effectiveness, so I’ll keep preaching the same one until there is!”

Folks, let’s be clear. Forgiveness is a hard reality. No one enjoys being mistreated or betrayed. It just plain hurts!

We live in two worlds. A world under God and a world of our own flesh, our sinful nature. The apostle Paul says it well in Galatians 5:16-17 when he says, “So I say, walk by the Spirit, and you will not gratify the desires of the flesh. For the flesh desires what is contrary to the Spirit and the Spirit what is contrary to the flesh. They are in

conflict with each other, so that you are not to do whatever you want.”

How does this apply to the difficult world of forgiveness. In the beloved “Our Father” prayer, of all the wonderful parts of that prayer, Jesus picks out the matter of forgiving another to further comment on. Jesus says in Matthew 6:14-15, “For if you forgive another person when they sin against you, your heavenly Father will forgive you. But if you do not forgive others their sins, your Father will not forgive your sins.”

Folks, we need to cut to the chase. Bottom line? None of us can afford to be unforgiving to ANYONE. Jesus gives a longer commentary on this in Matthew 18:21-35 in story form. He points out that for every one of us, we have far more to be forgiven of than we are asked to forgive someone else. Here comes in our Galatians 5 passage.

We must find our resources to forgive in what we have already been forgiven of by God. (Would you please read that last statement once again?) Said another way, we don’t have, in our own efforts, what it takes to forgive. Know your true need of being forgiven by God and then redirect that forgiveness to others, hard as that may be. The Spirit of God is there, if we will let Him, to pass on what has been given to you as a follower of Him.

Needing/Wanting a Granite Memorial FOR YOUR FAMILY?



I can help!
Diane M. Hahn
32 years serving our area!

Rep. for Fergus Falls Monument Co.

Call 218-445-5685 or 218-640-2341

DEADLINE

for all classified ads and copy is 12 noon Friday

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.

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

To become a Church Directory supporter, call 218-894-1112.

Ernie's Food Market
Groceries - Gas - Convenience - more
Staples, MN 218-894-1072

Staples Veterinary Clinic
"Complete Animal Care"
Staples, MN 218-894-1775

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

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

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

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

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

ONE

Order Bill Check

THE MINNESOTA DISPLAY AD NETWORK

It's the no-stress way to place your newspaper ad in multiple publications. We can place it statewide or regionally. You'll place one order and because you only get one bill, you only write one check.

Your newspaper representative can provide complete details.

The 2x4 Network is a program of the MNA, phone 800-279-2979



Larson, Gomez, Beachy, Kuhns qualify for state track and field

Four Staples-Motley athletes qualified for the Minnesota State Track and Field meet, while others fell short of that goal in some events. They competed in the Section 6A meet at Concordia in Moorhead. The top two finishers in each event qualify for state, as do others who reach a state qualifying time or distance.

State qualifiers are Adrian Gomez in the shot put, Turner Beachy and Conner Kuhns in the pole vault and Noah Larson in the 110 meter high hurdles.

Three girls competed at sections and had good performances, including Lucille Maros running a personal best in the 100 meter dash. The girls team was missing multiple state champion Audrey Brownell, who was unable to compete this spring due to injury.

Larson had the most exciting race of the meet. After 110 meters and 10 high hurdles, Larson and one competitor were still neck and neck at the end. In a photo finish, Larson was declared six thousandths of a second back, in second place.

Gomez won the shot put with a throw of 47 feet, 2.25 inches, his longest throw outdoors this season. He needed that extra distance because one competitor was six inches behind him and third place was 10 inches back.

Beachy and Kuhns both met the state qualifying height of 12'10" to earn their trip to state. Beachy cleared 13'4" and 13'10" on his first attempt, then missed three at 14'4". Kuhns had three straight makes at 11'10", 12'4" and 12'10" before missing three at 13'4". Two competitors did clear 14'4, putting Beachy in third place and Kuhns fifth, but



Annie Schlosser

both made the state qualifying mark.

Avandre Brandt was fourth in the 200 meter dash and in the high jump, both events he made it to state in last year. But injuries this season prevented him from getting back to that level and he didn't even compete in his other state qualifying event, the long jump. He still scored team points with his high finishes.

Kaleb Harman finally broke 40 feet in the triple jump, after improving his performance in every meet late in the season. His 40 feet, two inch mark was good for fifth place.

In the boys discus, both Cardinal competitors took fouls on every throw except one, and each of their one measured throw was well below their personal bests set just the week before.

Jesus Gallardo competed in his second section meet and Angel Luna competed in his first, as up-and-com-

ing young athletes.

Boys results

Section 6A

100 - 14. Jesus Gallardo 12.06

200 - 4. Avandre Brandt 23.36, 14. Gallardo 24.86

400 - 14. Angel Luna 56.57, 15. Brandt 1:07

3,200 - 16. Andrew Dobson 11:47

110 hurdles - 2. Noah Larson 15.95

Shot put - 1. Adrian Gomez 47'2.25"

Discus - 7. Gomez 127'10", 12. Larson 115'10"

High jump - 4. Brandt 5'10"

Pole vault - 3. Turner Beachy 13'10", 5. Conner Kuhns 12'10"

Long jump - 11. Gallardo 18'8.25"

Triple jump - 5. Kaleb Harman 40'2"

Girls results

Section 6A

100 - 10. Sophia Luna 13.45, 13. Lucille Maros 13.63

Discus - 11. Annie Schlosser 91'9"



Section track and field action

Avandre Brandt leaps towards the high jump bar as Coach Bruce Fuhrman

watches, right. (Photos by Long Prairie Leader)



Noah Larson



Lucille Maros and Sophia Luna

Extra inning loss and one-run loss ends playoff run

The Staples-Motley baseball team was unable to solve two tough pitchers and lost two close games in the second and third round of the Section 6AA playoffs to get knocked out of the postseason. Both games were at Faber Field in St. Cloud.

The Cardinals lost to Foley 6-1 in nine innings on May 26. The game was tied 1-1 through seven innings and they had to play extra innings before Foley scored five in the ninth to win.

Staples-Motley lost 3-2 against Eden Valley-Watkins on May 28, with all the scoring done in the first three innings.

Colbe Tappe pitched the duel against Foley, going into the eighth inning before reaching the pitch count limit. Cooper Tappe came on in the relief but gave up three walks and a hit to allow one run. Elijah Kossan finished the game on the mound, giving up two more hits that scored runs.

in the first inning when Foley had two hits and a sacrifice fly to score their run.

Staples-Motley didn't score until the sixth inning when Kossan walked and was moved to second on a ground ball. Colbe Tappe was intentionally walked. After a fielder's choice out, John Schotzko tied the game with a single to center field.

In extra innings, Foley was so concerned about Colbe Tappe that they intentionally walked him with two out in the eighth inning and nobody on base. He stole second to get in scoring position, but was stranded there. The Cardinal batters did not strike out much, but were unable to find holes in the defense and as a result didn't string hits together.

Against Eden Valley-Watkins, the Cardinals fell behind in the first inning after a walk and error left runners on first and third with no outs. They scored

them and then took the lead in their half of the inning. Colbe Tappe hit a single and Cooper Tappe knocked a double. Silas Claussen had an RBI on a ground ball out, the Schotzko knocked in a second run with a hit.

EVW scored again in the third ining with two singles and a double.

The Cardinals had their best chance to score again in the fifth inning, when Kossan hit a double and Colbe Tappe was intentionally walked. They both moved up a base on a wild pitch, but were stranded there.

Down 3-2, Staples-Motley hitters were shut down and started striking out more, with two strikeouts in each of the last three innings.

Cooper Tappe pitched the entire game and threw at least one strikeout in every inning. He stayed strong to the end with two strikeouts in the seventh inning.

The Cardinals finished the season with an 18-5 record.



Jesus Gallardo



Conner Kuhns



Angel Luna

Cardinal golfers get ready for post-season

The Staples-Motley boys and girls golf teams had one more meet before starting the Section 6AA tournament on June 1. The girls team competed at the St. Cloud Cathedral Invite at Wapicada Golf Club in Sauk Rapids on May 26. The boys team hosted the Cardinal Invite at The Legacy course in Brainerd on May 27.

The Cardinals competed at the Section 6AA tournament June 1-2 at Blackberry Ridge in Sartell. Results came in after this newspaper went to print.

Mara Uselman was the top scorer for the girls, scoring one birdie and four pars on the back nine of her round.

Thomas Johnson was the low scorer for the boys, shooting one birdie and nine pars over 18 holes, with nothing else above a bogey.

Boys results

Cardinal Invite at The Legacy
St. Cloud Cathedral 299, Albany 301, Little Falls 313, Pequot Lakes 324, Perz 327, Staples-Motley 333, Milaca 334, Sauk Centre 337, Melrose 339, Pillager 339, Foley 350, Osakis 356, Royalton 364, Wadena-Deer Creek inc.

11. Thomas Johnson 78, 21. Jackson White 81, 45. Oskar Doll 87, 45. Ashton Anderson 37, 55. Evan Schultz 92, 69. Owen Carlson 100, 79. Zachary Tabatt 106

Girls results

St. Cloud Cathedral Invite at Wapicada Golf Club, Sauk Rapids

Albany 340, Pierz 368, St. Cloud Cathedral 387, Melrose 393, Milaca 393, Zimmerman 404, Staples-Motley 410, Foley 450, Sauk Centre 453, Wadena-Deer Creek Inc., Royalton Inc.

9. Mara Uselman 93, 16. Katelyn Schotzko 97, 22. Brooklyn Winter 110, 22. Molly Hageman 110

Classification

TOTAL enclosed

TOTAL enclosed

Please print clearly, one word per space.

Use additional paper
if necessary.
Thank you for your order!

Please mail completed form and check payment to:
Staples World, Box 100, Staples, MN 56479

NEWSPAPER PRODUCTION/GRAPHIC DESIGNER: Computer and literary skills required. Typesetting, designing/ scheduling ads, job work, legal copy, classifieds, pagination, submitting online newspaper copy. Submit resumé to Staples World, PO Box 100, Staples, MN 56479 or email editor@staplesworld.com.



**NOW
TAKING
APPLICATIONS**

Sunny Pines Apts. in Motley

Tenant must be income eligible, 62 years or older, handicapped or disabled. Heat, water, sewer, electric provided.

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

THE CLASSIFIEDS

★ ALWAYS A BEST SELLER ★

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

We are accepting applications for 2 and 3 bedroom townhomes in Staples, a community you can get attached to. Rent based on income.



**YARD SALE: Thurs.,
June 11, Fri., June 12,
Sat., June 13, 8 a.m.-5
p.m.** 3 mi. west of Sta-
ples on Hwy 10, 237th Ave.
Dresser (3-drawers), 2
kitchen chairs/wheels,
corner cabinet, Riobi cord-
less tools, scrapbooking/
craft supplies, pictures,
holiday decor, tools, much
misc. 320-808-1819. 24x-25p

more freestanding dishwasher, window air conditioner, folding chairs, shop tools, hand tools, hardware, radial arm saw, sliding mitre saw, Robert wire feed welder, cutting torch heads, welding table, welding equipment, vice grinder and table, engine crane lifter, Reddy heater, car ramps, lumber, iron, 2006 Town & Country mini van, many more items. 24p

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

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

2 AND 3 BEDROOM HOMES FOR SALE IN STAPLES

- TWO STALL GARAGES
- LANDSCAPED YARDS
- COMPETITIVE PRICES

CALL MICHELLE
218-326-6098
MIKE IVES REALTY

www.prairieviewneighborhood.com

SERVICE DIRECTORY

WWW.CALLGIZA.COM

ultimatesepticservice@yahoo.com

- Septic System Installation
- Camera Inspection, Tank Pumping and Cleaning



**6685 330th St.,
Cushing, MN. 56443**

Long Prairie Sanitation
Long Prairie, MN

218-631-3101 888-878-5578

CONSTRUCTION



**QUALITY WORK &
PROMPT SERVICE**
Phil Bjerga
218-639-5007
Licensed / Bonded / Insured

**Septics • Waterlines • Trenching • Basements • Retaining Walls
Landscaping & Site Preparation • Backhoe & Skid Loader Work
Sewer Pipe Cleaning and Steaming • Custom Pressure Washing
Equipment, Buildings, Driveways, etc. • Snow Plowing & Removal**

**SINCE
1958**

Asphalt Paving • Seal Coating • Excavating • Driveways
Roads • Parking Lots • Site Prep • Gravel • Rock • Black Dirt
Fill • Peat • Ponds • Demolition • Hauling • Landscaping
Recycled Concrete and Asphalt

- FREE ESTIMATE FROM DESIGN TO INSTALLATION
- COMPLIANCE INSPECTIONS

Site Prep • Basements • Waterlines • Driveways • Landscaping • Black
Dirt • Gravel • Construction & Abandonment of Manure Pits • Fill Dirt
Clearing & Grading • Ditch Cleaning • Snow Plowing: Commercial & Residential



**LICENSED
BONDED
INSURED**

24pnc



Graduates exemplify Cardinal Priorities

At Staples-Motley High School's Cords and Awards ceremony, Principal Debbie Ferdon gave special recognition to seniors who personify the six "Cardinal Priorities" developed by the school's Continuous Improvement Plan. Below are the seniors and the category they excelled in. (Staples World photos by Mark Anderson)



Respect

Wyatt Lahr



Pride

Xander Moench



Excellence

Pam Lawrence



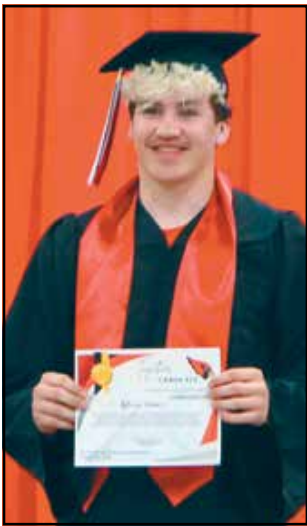
Relationships

Kyra Wolpert



Integrity

Reid Judd



Communication

Adrian Gomez



Senior musicians on display

Senior musicians were featured at the Cords and Awards and Graduation ceremonies. Left, Raina Mikhaeil conducts the orchestra playing "Counting Stars" at Cords and Awards; right, Geoffrey Decamp conducts "Skyfall" for the Cardinal Band during graduation. Below, Cecily Moe leads the rhythm section on the drums at Cords and Awards; below right, Gabriel Kroll takes over the drum kit during graduation. (Staples World photos by Mark Anderson)



Musical connection for graduation

Senior Cardinal Choir members start "The Rainbow Connection" during graduation, from left, Noah Larson, Torrence Rodrigues, Kiya Pope, Cecily Moe, Brynn Bestland, Raina Mikhaeil and Sayde Anderson. (Staples World photo by Mark Anderson)



Raina Mikhaeil and Brynn Bestland sing a duet at the graduation ceremony, "For Good" from Wicked, with the accompaniment of Sandy Paskewitz. (Staples World photo by Mark Anderson)



Laurie Trout reflects on retiring from teaching at SMHS

The Staples World invited retiring staff at Staples-Motley School District to share some thoughts about their career. Laurie Trout's response arrived after the paper went to press last week, but we'd like to include her answers to our questions in this week's paper:

Laurie Trout

I worked for the district for 12 years as a 5th/6th grade science teacher.

WHAT INSPIRED YOU TO GET INTO THIS PROFESSION? I've always loved helping people learn. I taught at my church for 25 years, and when I moved back to the Motley area I knew I wanted to teach at school.

WHAT ARE SOME OF YOUR FAVORITE MEMORIES FROM YOUR TIME AT STAPLES-MOTLEY? Science was my fifth position in the district. I have enjoyed every minute of learning and teaching about our planet. My favor-



Laurie Trout

ite part was helping students discover how to ask good questions that can be researched.

WHAT WILL YOU MISS THE MOST ABOUT YOUR WORK? I have worked with some amazing students over these 12 years. I will miss those students that love to learn and made teaching fun.

WHAT WERE SOME OF THE CHALLENGES YOU EXPERIENCED AT SM? There have been a

lot of leadership changes in the middle school as I taught there. With so many changes it is easy to have a lone wolf mentality. Staying a part of the team was sometimes a challenge. Biggest changes? I started teaching at the Motley building, which was where I graduated from. When that building was closed, we moved to the high school. That was a big transition.

WHAT DO YOU PLAN TO DO WITH YOUR TIME AFTER RETIRING? I hope to spend more time with my grandchild, Owen, my husband and I have a lot of projects, and we also hope to use our RV more to see more of our great country.

ARE THERE ANY OTHER THOUGHTS YOU WOULD LIKE TO SHARE? We never stop learning. I learned so much when I was teaching and I will continue to learn, just won't have the stage to share it formally.



Traffic stop in Staples leads to arrest

One person was arrested following a traffic stop near 2nd Ave NE and 5th St. NE in Staples around 7:45 p.m. May 28. According to a report from the Todd County Sheriff's Office, the driver of the vehicle, 44-year-old Eddie Ray Simmons of Lino Lakes was stopped and given a warning for driving after revocation. A search of the truck yielded methamphetamine paraphernalia and three schedule 2 narcotics,

which will be destroyed. The passenger of the vehicle, 49-year-old Jason Kristopher Berulson of Brainerd was arrested on a Crow Wing warrant. Berulson was transported to Casey's in Pillager and released to Crow Wing County. Pictured, Todd County Deputy Jacob Weishair, K-9 units and Minnesota State Patrol conduct the search. (Staples World photos by Dawn Timbs)



Variety of vendors at farmers market

The Lakewood Health System's Farmers Market in Staples opened May 28, with a variety of vendors offering fresh produce, baked goods, honey, meats, flowers, coffee and more. Pictured below, from left, are Bill and Pamela Evans at their

2 Dolla Bill's booth, where they offered kombucha, hot sauce, honey and other farm products. Pamela also had information about Pama Jama Cards available, of which she is an independent demonstrator. (Staples World photos by Dawn Timbs)



Motley American Legion's firing squad

The Motley American Legion provided the color guard and firing squad at the Memorial Day Program at Poplar Cem-

etary May 25. (Staples World photo by Dawn Timbs)



Farmer's Market opens in Staples

Lois Detloff is one of the 20 vendors at the Lakewood Health System's Farmer's Market in Staples, which officially opened May 28. Detloff had a variety of baked goods for sale, as well as canned pickles, salsas and jams. Pictured with her are her grandchildren Lydia De-

loff and Isaiah Detloff, ages nine and 11, respectively. The Farmer's Market is open on Thursdays, from 2 - 5 p.m., at the parking lot of Lakewood Health System's main campus clinic in Staples. (Staples World photo by Dawn Timbs)

Todd County Sheriff's report

Recent reports from the Todd County Sheriff's Office (TCSO) included:

May 16, 2026: 11:37 p.m., a Todd County Sheriff's Dept. deputy was on routine patrol in the City of Staples when he observed a vehicle committing a traffic violation. The deputy conducted a traffic stop and contacted the driver. During the traffic stop, the deputy observed signs of criminal activity.

The deputy requested Wadena County Sheriff's Dept. K9 Nitro with his handler to respond to the scene for assistance. Ultimately, K9 Nitro indicated the odor of narcotics. A search of the vehicle yielded 170 grams (six (6) oz.) of methamphetamine and a stolen firearm.

The driver, Casey Wayne Parmeter of New York Mills, was placed under arrest for:

- Possessing Ammo/Any Firearm - Conviction or Adjudicated Delinquent for Crime of Violence
- 1st Degree - Possess 50 grams or more - cocaine or methamphetamine

The passenger, Jordan Arthur Oney of Marshall, was placed under arrest for:

- Drugs - 5th Degree - Possess Schedule 1,2,3,4 or paraphernalia residual - Not cannabis/hemp

- Possess Ammo/Any Firearm - Conviction or Adjudicated Delinquent for Crime of Violence

- Drugs- 1st Degree - Possess 25 grams or more - cocaine or methamphetamine and firearm

Both Parmeter and Oney are currently in custody at the Todd County Detention Center. Police reports have been forwarded to the Todd County Attorney's Office for prosecution. TCSO was assisted on scene by the Staples Police Dept. and Wadena County Sheriff's Dept. K9 Unit.

May 7, 2026: Approx. 6:21 p.m., TCSO received a 911 call regarding an ATV accident at 32695 Hwy 71, rural Browerville. A juvenile was riding her bicycle when she was hit head-on by the side by side, driven by her brother. Injuries to her face were reported. Browerville Ambulance and Browerville Fire Dept were dispatched to the scene. The victim was transported from the scene by ambulance.



Business highlights of Motley City Council meeting

A variety of business items were conducted at Motley City Council's regular meeting May 11. Above, City Clerk/Treasurer Tami Brotherton (standing at left) administers the oath of office to council member Elizabeth Blackburn, who was voted in at a special meeting April 20. Other council members, from left, April Skeesick-Larson, Dennis Erickson, Mayor Pat O'Regan, Steve Johnson. Seated in front, from left, Fire Chief Todd Judd, Public Works Director Bruce Brotherton, Police Chief Al Yoder. Below left photo, Ryan Schmidt, with Schlenner Wenner & Company, certified public accountants from Little Falls, presented the Annual Audit Year Ended Dec. 31, 2025, which was accepted by the council. Schmidt said that everything went really well and that there were no issues. Below right, Matthew Horstmann was approved to Motley's Planning and Zoning Commission. He will replace Steve Johnson, whose resignation was approved earlier at the meeting. Horstmann, 22, later shared that he is looking forward to serving on the commission and being part of the solution. His grandpa, Larry Holub, was a past Motley City Council member. Horstmann works at Shingledecker Concrete & Construction in Pillager. He and his wife, Hadassah, live in Motley. (Staples World photos by Dawn Timbs)



Enjoying ice cream treats

The Sterriker siblings enjoyed eating Dilly Bars following the Memorial Day Program at Staples All Veterans Park. From left, Reese, four; Roy, eight; Russell, six. The ice cream treats were donated by the Staples Dairy Queen. (Staples World photos by Dawn Timbs)



Scattering flowers

Children at the Memorial Day Program at Poplar Cemetery near Leader scattered flowers at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier while audience members sang the song "Scatter Flowers." This has been a tradition at the cemetery for decades, initiated by the Poplar Ladies Birthday Club. In the background are members of the Motley American Legion who provided the color guard.



WWI and II vets buried on foreign shores

A monument at the Poplar Cemetery near Leader reads, "In abiding love and gratitude Poplar Community pays tribute to its men who served in World Wars I and II and here enshrines the names of its sons who sleep buried on foreign shores: Lloyd Luiten, Harold Collison, Alvin Francis DeWald, Robert Wiebesick."



Listening to the speaker

People of all ages listened as Col. Charles "Chip" Rankin spoke at the Memorial Day Program at Poplar Cemetery near Leader. Col. Rankin has over 30 years of service in the Army National Guard, during which time he was deployed to Iraq, Afghanistan and East Africa. He noted that during his deployments he and his fellow soldiers shared hardships and a purpose. He went on to remind people that fallen veterans are more than names on a monument and that remembrance is not passive. "Remember them for how they lived," Rankin said. Rankin, who has previously served as superintendent at Minnewaska School District, has been hired as superintendent at Brainerd Public Schools.

Motley School reunion well attended

Approximately 70 people attended a reunion for former Motley School faculty and staff members May 1, 2026 at Pine Ridge Golf Course in Motley.

Those in attendance represented a variety of years and roles served at Motley Elementary, Motley High School and/or Motley-Staples Middle School.

The oldest person at the reunion was Verde Pepin, who taught at the Motley building from 1959 - 1994, continuing on as a driver's education in-

structor for some time after that. The youngest attendee was Amanda Toft, who taught art at Motley Staples Middle School from 2015 - 2020.

In addition to enjoying a meal together, the group had a fun time reminiscing and sharing stories. Bonnie Madson, former administrative secretary at the school, shared that the group in attendance included several former principals, including Bob Koll and Jim Hofer; many longtime (and some short time) teachers and para-

professionals; several former coaches, including Charlie Knott, Warren Mertens, Doug Shequen and Pat Held; and a former Motley High School board member, Greg Frisk.

Madson went on to say that all areas of the school were well represented - classroom teachers, music and art staff, physical education teachers, paraprofessionals, speech and special education, social workers, principals, administrative support, custodial, coaches, nurses and bus drivers.



Sharing memories

Many memories were shared during the Motley School faculty and staff reunion held recently at Pine Ridge Golf Course in Motley. Pictured above, from left,

Meg Robb, Dale Adams, Randy Robb, Verde Pepin. Below left, Julie Mertens, Pam Sachs. Below right, Jim Hofer Roberta Hiller, Gail Honek. (Submitted photos)





Recycling shop fire

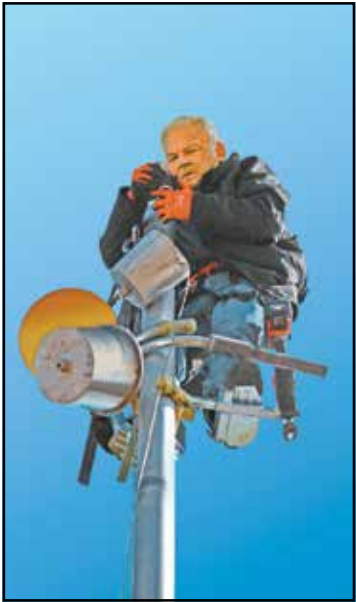
Firefighters from Staples, Motley and Verndale were called to a large warehouse fire around 3 p.m. on May 26 at the metal recycling business owned by Dennis Lee of Staples. The site is on 205th Ave., just south of Warner Road,

less than a mile east of Staples. The warehouse and two storage trailers were severely damaged by the fire. The dark black smoke coming from the fire was from tires stored in the shed. (Staples World photos by Mark Anderson)



Correction

The cutline for the Veterans Park, Staples flag repair, (May 27 issue of the Staples World) should have read: Todd Ross, a “Steeple Jack” from Denver, Colorado climbed the All Veterans Park flagpole in Staples to make repairs. The flagpole fixer climbed the entire **80 feet** to the top of pole. The flag itself measures 20’ X 30”. (Photos by Ken Klose)



Firespotting traffic jam

With dark black smoke from the May 26 warehouse fire visible from the city of Staples, onlookers drove out looking for it. Staples Police directed traffic so emergency responders could access the road.



Join the Great River Regional Library

SUMMER READING CHALLENGE



JUNE 8 TO AUGUST 8

For registration details contact your library or visit griver.org/summer-reading-challenge

STAPLES PUBLIC LIBRARY
122 6th Street NE • Phone: 218-894-1401

A New Chapter for Senior Living in Long Prairie.

An Open Letter to the Todd County Community

We know this building has a history. That changes today.

We are Vitality Living of Long Prairie — the proud new owners of Valley View Estates of Long Prairie.

We have completely rebuilt the care standards, leadership, and culture inside this building.

We accept both Private Pay and Elderly Waiver, ensuring high-quality care is accessible to every senior in our community.

We invite you to come see the difference for yourself. Tour our community, meet our new team, and ask us the hard questions.

We are here for Long Prairie.



VITALITY LIVING
— LONG PRAIRIE —
Live & Develop.



Now Welcoming New Residents

Assisted Living

Memory Care

Private Pay & Elderly Waiver Accepted

Call to schedule a private tour today



(320) 732-2360



vitalityhm.com



Standing to welcome the Class of 2026

Riley Reese and Annie Schlosser led the Staples-Motley Class of 2026 into The Nest for graduation on May 22. The two of them were also the student speakers during the ceremony. (Staples World photo by Mark Anderson)



Peyton Jares and Josie Jennissen



Enola Feela



Indoor celebration

Following graduation, Staples-Motley seniors marched out of The Nest and then walked right back in because of rain outside. They met friends and family and took photos indoors for their celebration. (Staples World photos by Mark Anderson)



Proud of their graduates

Fathers and sons united at graduation, left Colbe Tappe hugs his father Shane. Right, Cam Larson rushes the stage as his son Noah graduates. (Staples World photos by Mark Anderson)

NOW SEEING PATIENTS
AT ESSENTIA HEALTH
St. Joseph's–Staples Clinic



Dana Skonseng, MD

OBSTETRICS, GYNECOLOGY, FERTILITY,
AND GYNECOLOGIC SURGERY

Schedule an appointment: 218-894-7870

Find their full profile and learn more about
conditions treated at EssentiaHealth.org

Essentia Health

St. Joseph's–Staples Clinic
301 2nd Ave NW

NOW SEEING PATIENTS
AT ESSENTIA HEALTH
St. Joseph's–Staples Clinic



Crystal Waagmeester, PA-C

UROLOGY

Schedule an appointment: 218-894-7870

Find their full profile and learn more about
conditions treated at EssentiaHealth.org

Essentia Health

St. Joseph's–Staples Clinic
301 2nd Ave NW