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Wednesday, April 12, 2023

Staples World

Staples, Minnesota \$1.25

# Staples approves new tobacco, THC ordinances

By Mark Anderson  
Managing Editor

The Staples City Council approved the first reading of ordinances that will limit the sale of tobacco and tetrahydrocannabinol (THC) products, the compound from marijuana plants. Each ordinance included restrictions that will pre-

vent opening a smoke shop or selling marijuana-related products within 500 feet of a school, church or park. The council plans to have their second reading on Tuesday, April 11. If both ordinances pass, it will become law when published in the newspaper. The council had also recommended changing

language on permit applications to prevent family members from applying for a person who is not eligible to open a tobacco shop. City Administrator Jerel Nelsen said the city's attorney said that specific language would not be legal, but they did include a pro-

See **ORDINANCE** on page 10a

## Easter bonnets

Members of Motley United Methodist Church donned festive Easter bonnets prior to the start of the worship service April 9. From left are Kathy Morey, Dave Rowe, Leticia Peterson, Kathy Rowe, Vern Peterson, Linda Townsend, Greg Townsend, Liz Curren, Gayle Quinn, Elaine Rogers, Stephanie Leslie, Marinell Philipp. (Staples World photo by Dawn Timbs))

# School board approves sale of Motley building

By Mark Anderson  
Managing Editor

With all of their questions answered or erased, the Staples-Motley School Board approved selling the Motley school building to Daniel Druk and Isabella Druk for \$48,000. A closing date has been set for July 3. The board had questioned some of the provisions of an original sale proposal. The request for the school to help with property taxes was taken off, training for boiler operator was limited to eight hours and property not attached to the building will be sold or negotiated separately from the building agreement. Staples-Motley Superintendent Shane Tappe said the sale date will give the school time to move or sell items that are currently in the building. He said an auctioneer has started looking through the items to plan for a sale. Buildings Supervisor Leroy Peterson said that items belonging to the Motley Historical Society are no longer stored in the building. The sale agreement has a restriction that no other educational institution can be put into the building. Tappe said the restriction would remain even if the building is resold and will remain in place for 30 years. "The buyer has great ideas for the things he wants to do with the building," said Tappe. "It will be a great asset to the community and to the area."

**Setting 3 EBD**

The board approved adding a Setting 3 EBD (emotional and behavioral disorder)

teacher for the Staples-Motley Elementary School for the 2023-24 school year. Elementary Principal Allan Berg had recommended adding the position because the high school has that level of service but not the elementary. "We are missing a whole level of services," said Berg. "We can provide level 1 and level 2, but not level 3." The next level is to send students to outside alternative programs for that level of attention. Tappe said the school has been running short on special education staff this year. "The teachers have done an exceptional job, this would alleviate some of those concerns," said Tappe. Berg said the position "gives students the skills and resources so that eventually they can be transferred out of those services." He said if it starts in the elementary school, it will help them transition better when they get to middle school. Berg said he wouldn't start the program unless they get the right teacher who is qualified and experienced. He said they already have a few people who could be right for the job, including one who has worked in the building and the spouse of a staff member who might be interested.

**In other news, the board**

- Approved agreement for services with Sacred Heart Area School for allowing Sacred Heart students to participate in classes and provide transportation. The contract will go to the Sacred Heart School Board for approval.
- Looked at the school's Continuous Improvement Plan and decided to review it at the next work session.

# Druk seeking community suggestions for Motley school ideas

By Mark Anderson  
Managing Editor

What started with a search for indoor storage space is now turning into an unknown project filled with possibilities for Daniel and Isabella Druk. Their offer to purchase the Motley school building was accepted by the Staples-Motley School Board at their April 3 meeting. The agreement has a target date of closing on July 1. The Druks own Druk Auto Sales, a classic car

business in Ramsey, a suburb of Minneapolis. Their building on Highway 10 advertises an indoor showroom, but the limited size of that building led to a search for more indoor space to preserve their classic auto inventory. In the search, Daniel Druk came across the Motley school building and was intrigued by the floor space available. After looking at the building and the city, he is rethinking the possible uses and is asking the Motley community to help come up with ideas.

The more input he gets, Druk said "It started to take out the idea of automobiles, there could be a better use. There are a thousand ideas." So far, some of the ideas that people have suggested include pet hotels and personal storage. One idea is a "car condo" where people can rent an apartment and keep their classic vehicle in the same building. Druk said he is also open to manufacturing and industrial suggestions, such as shipping and receiving. Since it

See **DRUK** on page 3a

## Weather

This Week's Forecast			
	High	Low	Cond.
Apr. 12	67	41	Sunny
Apr. 13	56	38	Showers
Apr. 14	52	33	Showers
Apr. 15	45	30	Showers
Apr. 16	48	28	P. Cloudy
Apr. 17	50	29	M. Sunny
Apr. 18	54	34	M. Sunny

Last Year, 2022			
	High	Low	Cond.
Apr. 12	45°	36	Cloudy
Apr. 13	37	32	Cloudy
Apr. 14	30	27	Cloudy
Apr. 15	24	15	Cloudy
Apr. 16	35	21	Sunny
Apr. 17	32	22	Snow
Apr. 18	33	26	Cloudy

**Average Temps:**  
**H = 52° Low = 32°**

Compiled by  
Dale Hausmann,  
WCCO's Staples area  
Weatherwatcher

## Public Notices

Moran: **9A**  
Villard: **9A**  
Motley Public Cemetery: **9A**  
Thomastown: **9A**

## Obituaries

Gayle Grossman  
Beverly Hansen  
Ramona Neznik  
Ruth Nurnberger



## Browerville school gym after controlled collapse

The Browerville high school gym roof partially collapsed April 2 bringing about an emergency meeting of the Browerville school board. As the area was secured, the board decided the gym roof be brought down as soon as possible with a controlled collapse (above). The area was cleared the following weekend. Several classrooms

around the former gym which were not damaged have been closed for safety reasons and will remain closed through the end of the school year. Other areas of the school were not damaged. The board will consider options as they explore what can be done with the rebuilding of the facility. (Submitted photo)



# Motley woman dies, another injured, in crash near Wadena

A Motley woman died March 27, in a car-semi collision at the intersection of Hwy 71 and Leaf River Road near Wadena. Another woman in the same vehicle suffered life-threatening injuries.

According to the Minnesota State Patrol, the deceased, Razia Sultana Qureshi, 67, of Motley, was a passenger in a 2012 Nissan Pathfinder that collided with a 2019 Freightliner Cascadia, driven by Roman Polusmak, 27, of Olympia, Wash.

The driver of the Nissan,

Farha Naz, 58, also of Motley was taken to CentraCare Hospital in St. Cloud, with life-threatening injuries.

The driver of the semi was not injured. All three people were wearing seat-belts and no alcohol was involved in the crash. Airbags deployed in the Nissan.

The Freightliner Cascadia was northbound on Highway 71 while the Nissan Pathfinder was traveling east on Leaf River Road, and they collided at the intersection of these two roads, according to the state patrol.

## Motley area police reports

Recent reports from the Motley Police Department (MPD) and Morrison County Sheriff's Office (MCSO) included the following:

### Mar. 22 - 28

March 28 - Motley Police arrested Jasmine Leigh Bellcourt, 28, following a traffic stop at Hwys. 210/64 in Motley.

March 27 - The MPD received two reports of gas drive-offs at the Holiday Station in Motley; one in the amount of \$35.83 and the other, \$67.69.

March 26 - Motley Police responded to a report of a suicidal subject at the 200 block of Ash St E., Motley. The subject made threats to harm staff as well.

March 22 - Motley Police assisted the Minnesota State Patrol with a traffic stop at Warner Rd. and Hwy. 64 in Motley, standing by as a cover officer until cleared.

March 22 - The MPD responded to a shooting complaint at the 900 block of Poplar Ln, Motley.

March 22 - The MPD received a report of a house fire at the 100 block of Beaulieu St W., Motley. The Motley Fire Department responded.

March 27 - The MCSO received a report of a domestic at the 1600 block of 320th St., Cushing. Children were present and witnessed the altercation.

March 27 - Morrison County deputies assisted

the MPD with a stop at Hwys. 10/210 in Motley. Two passengers were placed in the squad vehicle while the police officer interviewed the driver of the stopped vehicle.

March 26 - The MCSO received a report of harassment at the 100 block of Hwy. 10 N., Motley.

### Mar. 29 - Apr. 4

April 1 - The MPD received a report of an intoxicated subject at the 400 block of 3rd Ave. S., Motley.

March 31 - Motley Police issued a citation to Troy Winger, 53, for hands free violation.

April 3 - A Morrison County deputy stopped a vehicle for non functioning license plate lights at Hwy 10 and Morrison Line Rd., Motley. Subsequently, Ryan William Schmidt, 30, was arrested.

April 1 - The MCSO received a report of a suicidal/missing juvenile at the 26000 block of Beaver Rd., Cushing.

April 1 - Morrison County deputies responded to a report of a domestic situation at the 3000 block of 270th St., Cushing. Deputies later located the subject, Jason Michael Beckner, 47, and he was placed under arrest. Additionally, Patrick J. Dvorak was found with the subject to have a warrant from Hennepin County and he was arrested too.



## Planning for June Fest

Members of the Motley Community Events Organization met recently to continue planning for this summer's June Fest, scheduled for Saturday, June 17. Front row, from left, Kristin Bjerga, Jayme DeChaine, Brenda Borash, Jason Borash, Amy Brichacek (committee chair).

Middle - Jaelyn Jordahl, Stephanie Jordahl, Shawn Jordahl, Bruce Ekert, Frank Vasecka. Back - Don Delude, Mike DeGeest, Tad Carlson, Bruce Brotherton. (Staples World photo by Dawn Timbs)

# June Fest plans underway

## The committee considers Motley Fairgrounds

By Dawn Timbs  
Staples World reporter

Plans for Motley's annual June Fest are well underway, as was evidenced at their committee meeting April 5, at Motley City Hall.

The event, set for June 17, is being organized by members of the Motley Community Events Organization, chaired by Amy Brichacek.

June Fest will be held both downtown Motley and at the Motley Fairgrounds, with activities planned for all ages. Some of the items discussed at the recent meeting include running events, a parade, bounce houses, face painting, live music, rib fest, car show, volleyball, and a demo derby. Bringing back the magic show was also discussed, and it was noted

that 'Bingo at the Fair' will be new this year.

The Leader Lions will have their eatery open at the fairgrounds again this year, and other food vendors have expressed interest in setting up at the festival.

The committee will be making a concerted effort in the upcoming days to contact area businesses regarding sponsorships. Brichacek noted that they need to order June Fest materials (posters, banners, etc.) by the end of the month, so they will need to have their list of sponsors by that time.

### Motley Fairgrounds

Whether or not the Motley Community Events Organization (MCEO) should consider taking over full responsibility of the Motley Fairgrounds

was also discussed. It was noted that Rhonda Amundson, the current fair board director, is stepping down after many years of volunteer work.

What would that mean for the MCEO? What sort of insurance would they need to obtain? Do they have enough committee members to help with the grounds upkeep, including mowing the lawn, fixing animal cages, building maintenance, etc.?

Perhaps they could make the fairgrounds more available to the public, to be available (for a fee) for various events, such as weddings.

Committee member Shawn Jordahl noted they've already proved it's possible to make a profit after their success with

June Fest and their Fall Festival. He suggested reaching out to townships to see if they'd be willing to help financially.

During the discussion it was noted that in order for the Motley Fairgrounds to remain a fair, there must be animals and 4-H activities. It was also noted that the fairgrounds property was donated in 1910, with the stipulation that if the fair ever dissolved, the property would go back to the family.

Brichacek said there will be a meeting to discuss the future of the Motley Fair Wednesday, April 12, 6:30 p.m., at BRICKS Restaurant in Motley. The committee is hoping there will be a good representation by the city and surrounding community.



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Sebekka/Menahga/Nimrod: June 1<sup>st</sup> to July 1<sup>st</sup>

Bluffton/NYM/Deer Creek: August 1<sup>st</sup> to September 1<sup>st</sup>

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## Donation to Motley Area Food Shelf

Four area business owners recently donated \$1,000 each to the Motley Area Food Shelf, along with 43 pounds of food they collected. Pictured, from left, are Joe Brichacek, BRICKS Travel Center, Motley; John

Brichacek, 2 Tall Tavern, Cushing; Clayton Hageman, Sportsman's Plumbing, Heating and Air Conditioning, Motley; and Tony Brichacek, Brichacek Electric, Motley. (Submitted photo)

## Food Shelf donation

The Leader Lions recently held their annual Pancake Breakfast; as a result they donated \$1,000 to the Motley Area Food Shelf. Above: Deb Alexander, Leader Lions treasurer and Fran Kokett, food shelf volunteer. (Submitted photo)

## 3M donates to food shelf

3M in Staples recently donated products and grants totaling \$3,790 to the Motley Area Food Shelf (MAFS). Pictured at the MAFS, from left, are 3M employees Jeff Booth and Reggie Thompson, who also brought with them three boxes of food and cash collected from their fellow employees. (Submitted photo)

Thanks for reading the Staples World!



# Roxanne Zerwas, LICSW, joins Lakewood’s Behavioral Health staff

Roxanne Zerwas, licensed independent clinical social worker (LICSW), joins Lakewood Health System’s clinic behavioral health staff in Staples. Originally from St. Paul, Zerwas received her Master in Social Work degree from the University of St. Thomas and College of St. Catherine’s joint social work program. She had a graduate internship at Abbott Northwestern/Sister Kenny Institute where she worked with people who sustained spinal cord injuries. Zerwas is a member of the National Association of Social Workers. As a clinical social worker, Zerwas provides mental health care and support

to patients in Lakewood’s clinic setting. She has a passion for working with young children and specializes in those ages birth to five years. Zerwas is specially trained in child-parent psychotherapy (C-PP) and childhood trauma. “I am very excited to be part of the Lakewood community where I can work, serve and live closer to family,” said Zerwas. “I’m looking forward to becoming a grandmother in August.” Zerwas and her husband, Jeff, had two children, who are now adults: Alex is 20, living in Thief River Falls where he grew up, and Morgan, 24, was married last summer. Zerwas and



Roxanne Zerwas, LICSW

her family had a celebration of life for her late husband, going on two years. He fought brain cancer for ten years and finished well.

DRUK continued from page 1a

# Preserving old gymnasium a priority for Druk’s Motley school building purchase

has been a community hub for so many years, Druk said he is also open to serving community purposes. “I will be taking time in the next few months to find what direction to go,” said Druk. He said the building is unique, which led to his desire to do something with it. “There is so much land, so much space, it’s clean, really nice, it has undergone a lot of upgrades. It is quite an impressive property,” he said. Druk plans to go forward with his first idea, which will be to upgrade the old gymnasium and store classic cars there. The building has two gymnasiums, but it was the older, smaller one that caught Druk’s attention. “As a preservationist, that is the most important

aspect of buying the building,” he said. The original old gym had glass brick for the upper windows and Druk said he would like to bring that back or create lighting to replicate it. Once fixed up, “the old gymnasium would be a beautiful place to house classic vehicles as a display or museum,” he said. The newer gymnasium doesn’t have as good of access for vehicles. Druk said there isn’t a large garage door, so he is open to any other suggestions for the space, including using it as a gym. Druk also doesn’t have a plan for the large fields behind the building, since he is focused on the indoor space. “Maybe the community would like to step in. With the indoor space and the big fields, there is the ability to host different events,” he

said. Druk said he is willing to form partnerships with local government entities, such as the school, city or county. “They could still have youth activities,” he said. As for community input, Druk said he will be talking to local people and he also has plans to put up a web site that will show images of the property. Visitors will be able to input their vision of what could go on the property. “If anyone has ideas that they are ready to put in, we would be willing to step aside and let someone use it in their vision,” said Druk. “This started as a storage shed. Now God has placed us in a position so that we can have it long enough for the right idea to come across,” said Druk. “We can wait for the idea that is the best.”

## Looking back

### 75 YEARS Ago - 1948

- April 8, 1948 - Stan Eddy was re-elected mayor of Staples for the next two years at the biennial election held April 6, and will start his third term as head of the city government when he is re-installed into office April 13.
- April 8, 1948 - Staples fire department was called out twice within an hour on Monday to combat small blazes which had started from burning grass. The first call was to the

Compiled by Dawn Timbs

Bill Taylor home on the south side where a chicken house had caught fire when members of the family were burning off the grass in the back yard. The second call was near the Farmers Oil Station where another grass fire had gotten out of control.

- April 8, 1948 - Miss Carrie Mayer, librarian for the Staples Public Library, announced last week that 16 new books have arrived at the library, have been registered and are ready for use by the people of the Staples community. Some of the books on that list include Canadian Spring, by Jacques; Grass Roots History, by Blegan; Eagle at My Eyes, by Katkov; A Light in the Window, by Reinhart; On Being a Real Person, by Fosdick; Christ in the drama, by Eastman; The Bible Designed to be Read as Living, by Bates; The Victim, by Bellow; Stars in My Crown, by Brown.
- April 8, 1948 - Gordon Stohlanske of Staples purchased the business and equipment of the Gene

Irwin barber shop in Staples, and took possession April 1. Mr. Irwin purchased the barber shop in the Ellis Building from William Cutler a little over a year ago, but has decided to devote his entire time to his farming interests north of Motley. Mr. Stohlanske had his schooling in barber work in the Twin Cities and had a shop in Brainerd for five and a half years, before coming to Staples to work for the Northern Pacific railway company.

- April 8, 1948 - Willis Pribbenow of near Motley has re-enlisted in the United States military forces and is now with the army air corps stationed at Scott Field, and his brother, Arthur, has enlisted in the corp 2 brigade of the special engineers corp and is located at Fort Worden, Wash. Both young men were in the service during World War II.

### 50 YEARS Ago - 1973

- April 12, 1973 - Property damage was heavy as fire swept through and destroyed a garage building in Motley early Saturday afternoon, April 7. The building, constructed of metal and lined with fiberboard, was owned by Elmer Gold of Motley and was situated behind the El-Ray Truck Stop. The business occupying the building was Motley Welding and Repair, run by Dean Brotherton.
- Loren Morey, an officer of the Motley Fire Department, reported to The World that the Motley firemen were summoned to the scene about 2:15 p.m., and the members of the Staples Fire Department were called about 2:20 p.m. Other firefighters at the



## Mystery photo

Hello readers. This week’s archive photo is from our April 6, 1995 edition. 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.

scene included Larry Holub, Ronnie Galligher, Bob Thiede, Kenny Koltes, Joe Monneta.

- April 12, 1973 - Daniel J. Hittle, 23, of Staples is being held in the Cass County Jail at Walker on homicide charges resulting from the shooting death of his parents, H. John and Margaret Hittle, at their farm home, north of Motley, late last Wednesday, April 4.
- Cass County authorities said that Hittle was arraigned before Judge Keigh Kraft in Cass County Court last Friday on two counts of first degree murder in connection with the shooting deaths.
- Double funeral services for H. John and Margaret Hittle were conducted April 8, at the Motley United Methodist Church, with the Rev. Alice Engelbretson, Motley, and the Rev. Edith Brunner, Richland Center, Ind., officiating.
- April 12, 1973 - A 13-year-old rural Browerville youth died from apparent accidental strangulation in the yard of his parents home Sunday afternoon, April 8. He has been identified as Michael Wayne Lovelace, son of Mr. and Mrs. Ronald Lovelace.
- According to the Todd County Sheriff’s Office, Michael was apparently playing alone in the yard at the time. He was found by his parents. Michael was an eighth grader at Staples High school at the time of his death.
- April 12, 1973 - Glen Hasselberg, former Staples High school golf standout, is playing No. 1 for the Bemidji State College golf team this spring.
- Hasselberg, a 6-2, 190 pound junior, earned the top spot after carding the low total at the recently completed Galveston Island Intercollegiate Golf Classic at Galveston, Texas. His 72-hole 318 score (81-78-77-82) over the tough par 72 layout was four strokes better than that of teammate Bob Mauss.
- April 12, 1973 - Two Motley FFA members were elected to the District IV FFA offices. Elected were Kelly J. Boldan to the office of Sentinel and Bruce Zetah to the office of Assistant

Sentinel.

### 25 YEARS Ago - 1998

- April 9, 1998 - Three young women were crowned Todd County Dairy Princesses at the coronation April 4, at Centennial Auditorium in Staples. One of those crowned is Lisa Detloff, daughter of Jerry and Lois Detloff of Bertha, and a 1997 graduate of Staples Motley High School.
- April 9, 1998 - A group of ten friends is the first team to enter the Heartland Relay for Life event scheduled for June 26, at the Staples Elementary track. Each member of the group, which calls themselves “The Happy Wanderers” has been touched personally by cancer - either in their own family or among their friends.
- Team members of The Happy Wanderers include Gloria Palmer, Marilyn Holst, Diane Carlson, Mary Giza, Rayma Miller, Jeanne Leifermann, Dee Nelson, Kerwin Donat, Jean Hayenga, Beverly Nelsen.
- April 9, 1998 - Four members of the Staples Motley High School Speech Team will be competing in the Class A State Speech contest April 18, at the Shakopee High School. They include senior Nicolle Shaffer, Extemporaneous Reading; sophomore Tasa Anderson, Drama; and senior team co-captains Scott Smith and Tom Vasecka, Dramatic Duo.

### 10 YEARS Ago - 2013

- April 11, 2013 - Auger’s Pine View Resort on Lake Shamaine is celebrating its 40th anniversary this year.
- Located south of Motley in the Lincoln Lakes area, the resort has a rich history and is a dream come true for Dick Auger, who, along with his wife, Sharon, purchased the family-owned business in 1974 from Elmer and Agnes Hought.
- April 11, 2013 - Still waiting for the snow to clear, the Staples Motley softball team practiced indoors again this week. Team captains include Ashley Jenniges, MacKenzie Holst, Jessica Tomann and Kelsey Zetah.

By Mark Anderson  
Managing Editor

The Staples Industrial Building will be full after a printer company has rented the last remaining space in the building. At the Staples Economic Development Authority meeting on March 28, Economic Development Director Melissa Wyman said the company was started in the Twin Cities, but the owners are originally from the Eagle Bend area and are now living near Staples. Wyman gave the board some bad news that Staples

was not selected as part of the transportation grant, as only three of 25 applications were approved. Wyman said more than 100 local surveys were returned regarding the Small Cities Grant application, which she said is a good response that should help with getting that grant approved. Wyman gave updates on the manufactured home project by the Ives family, with three homes expected to be delivered this spring to the site of the former trailer home area on Airport Drive and 3rd Ave. NE.

# Portion of R&J Arena destroyed by fire

On April 6, 2023 at approximately 5 a.m., the Wadena County Sheriff’s Office received a report of a structure fire at the R&J Arena, along Hwy 10, just outside of Verndale. A southwest portion of the building arena was on fire. Fire departments from Verndale, Staples, Bertha, Hewitt, Wadena and Sebeka all responded to the call and quickly contained the fire before it spread to other

parts of the building. No animals or people were injured as a result of the fire. Other agencies assisting the Wadena County Sheriff’s Dept. on the scene, were; Astera Health EMS, MN Energy, Wadena County Highway Dept., MN State Fire Marshal’s Office and Ideal Construction, Staples. The cause of the fire remains under investigation.



## Staples Lions donate

The Staples Host Lions recently donated \$2,449 to the Evergreen Hill Cemetery in Staples. Pictured, from left, are Huck Holst, cemetery representative; and Lion Frank Leidenfrost. (Staples World photo by Dawn Timbs)



## Donation to Barn Quilts

The Staples Host Lions recently donated \$500 to the Barn Quilts of Central MN organization. Pictured, from left, are Barn Quilts representatives Kerry Lindgren, Megan Lindgren and Lisa Kajer; and Lion Frank Leidenfrost. (Staples World photo by Dawn Timbs)



## Mystery solved

Last week’s mystery photo published in the March 28, 1957 edition of the Staples World featured Staples high school students that received Superior ratings in the District 24 speech festival. Pictured front row from left, Darlene Jelinek, original oratory; Marilyn Martin, alternate to the regional contest in humorous interpretative reading; Deloris Olson, extemporaneous speaking. Back row, Wayne Judd, memorized oratory; Wendel Toedter, alternate in original oratory; Marlys Hopkins, humorous interpretative reading.

*Judy Wolak of Staples correctly identified all students, as well as the context. Lana Hansen of Motley, thought Wendel Toedter and Marlys Hopkins were members of the Schwartz family (Dick and Linda), and guessed this to be a church-related event. Tom Crawford of Staples correctly identified Wendel Toedter, but thought this was a family photo. Thanks for participating in our mystery photo.*



# RMAP good for rural small businesses

From Center For Rural Affairs

With U.S. House and Senate congressional committees considering funding for 2024, the Center for Rural Affairs and 30 organizations from across the country are asking for their continued support of rural small businesses.

In April, the groups, representing 22 states, sent a letter to the chairmen and ranking members of the House and Senate Agriculture Appropriations Subcommittees requesting \$8 million in funding for the Rural Microentrepreneur Assistance Program (RMAP).

RMAP provides much-needed support for small businesses that strengthen our nation’s rural communities, the letter said. Through RMAP, direct loans and grants are provided to Microentrepreneur Development Organizations, such as the Center, who then provide technical assistance and microloans of \$50,000 or less.

“Rural entrepreneurs face the unique challenge of diminishing resources for loan capital and business training,” the letter said. “The number of small town banks has steadily decreased, and many are less interested in offering small business loans.”

Kalee Olson, policy associate with the

Center, said RMAP has proven its ability to fill this void in many communities, and increased funding will help ensure these benefits are available to more entrepreneurs as they establish and grow their businesses.

Since RMAP’s inception in 2008, approximately \$36.5 million in grant funding and \$97.1 million in loans have been distributed to MDOs in 45 states, plus the District of Columbia and Puerto Rico.

This widespread interest demonstrates the program’s value and impact nationwide, Olson said, adding that strong businesses can attract new residents to rural communities.

“Continuing a trend that began during the pandemic, more people are choosing to relocate to smaller communities,” Olson said. “ Providing resources to rural small businesses will help entrepreneurs reinvigorate main streets and increase their potential to attract and support individuals and families new to rural areas.”

Established in 1973, the Center for Rural Affairs is a private, non-profit organization working to strengthen small businesses, family farms and ranches, and rural communities through action oriented programs addressing social, economic, and environmental issues.

# Local news works to stop misinformation

By Gretchen A. Peck  
For Editor and Publisher  
Magazine

Good things come from great partnerships, and that certainly was the case when students at the Walter Cronkite School of Journalism and Mass Communication at Arizona State University (ASU), faculty advisers and project managers from Wick Communications — the Arizona-headquartered community news media publisher — came together to take a meaningful look at local news in Arizona.

The year-long Voices Listening Project (VLP) focused on smaller communities with populations and circulations of less than 50,000. The project received funding from the Google New Initiative’s 2021 North American Innovation Challenge program.

The VLP sought to answer three questions:

- How do people interact with information?
- How can local journalism combat misinformation in communities?
- How can journalism engage audiences to increase trust?

The researchers received 1,638 responses to an online survey and conducted more than 218 in-person interviews and 52 via video conference. The VLP study concluded in December 2022 and culminated in a white paper, available at [voiceslisteningproject.org](https://voiceslisteningproject.org).

“Misinformation and bias — terms respondents often used interchangeably — were persistent concerns, coinciding with a pervasive perception that there is ‘a lot of misinformation’ across all forms of media, including TV, radio, news websites and social media,”

the group explained in the executive summary.

Community members shared that there aren’t adequate sources for local news. Spanish-speaking participants reported language barriers to local news access.

Technological barriers are less of a concern, they found.

“More than 85% of respondents said they felt natural or very natural using technology; social media was the most popular way people interacted with others in their community (71.6%). The majority of respondents have used mobile apps, radio or podcasts, websites, video/television and email to access local news,” the VLP reported.

“Relevance, representation and diversity of viewpoints mattered most to respondents when it comes to what could maintain or improve trust in local news,” the group discovered. “Efforts to increase transparency and engagement, including creating more ways to provide feedback and knowing the reporters covering the community, were less popular suggestions. It’s worth noting that 35% of respondents said that not having to pay for the news would help maintain or improve trust, while only 8.2% said that paying for news would help, opinions that underscore the conundrum of sustainable business models for local news.”

The VLP wasn’t merely academic. Wick Communications has already put some of the insight to practical use. They’re developing a next-generation NAB-UR (Neighborhood Alliance for Better Understanding and Respect) platform that incorporates NewsGuard, an independent, journalist-run rating system that adjudicates the veracity and trustworthiness of information websites.

“We’re also working with our content management system provider, BLOX Digital, to build some of the article-level features that originated in this project,” Wick Communications’ team reported. “First on the list is the ‘Reporting Process’ text block, which offers readers a high-level summary of the steps the author went through to source their article.”

The project also proved practical for the ASU student researchers, who had “the ultimate experiential learning experience,” the group concluded. The white paper’s authors noted, “The project’s strength came from the students’ fresh perspectives, commitment to honoring the communities involved and dedication to tackling the challenges facing the local news environment.”

Gretchen A. Peck is a contributing editor to Editor & Publisher.

# Gun permits, vehicle accidents increasing

By Bryan Welk  
Cass County Sheriff

I would like to share a recap of Sheriff’s Office activity during 2022. Our Annual Report with numbers and statistics from our townships and cities are compiled and sent to the clerks of those government units for review at their Annual Meetings in March 2023.

In 2022, we handled 19,568 Initial Complainant Reports (ICRs), down 1,100 from 2021, but average compared to pre-pandemic totals. This is a signal of a return to pre-pandemic levels. Detention Center bookings and daily housing numbers are starting to trend back to normal levels as restrictions were lifted. Daily average booking numbers are trending higher and our STS crews were back to steady daily participant numbers. Trending down from 2021, we processed 41,589 calls to 911 from cellular phones in 2022 and 1,965 calls from landlines. We received 95 percent of our 911 calls from cellular phones. Saturday was our busiest day for 911 calls received and Wednesday had the least amount of daily 911 calls. An increase in calls was seen from 3 - 9 p.m., peaking from 6 - 8 p.m. daily.

We continue to receive and process a large number of Gun Permit to Purchase and Permit to Carry Applications. Permit to Carry Applications continue to show

an increase in 2022, processing 366 Permit to Purchase Applications and 1077 Permit to Carry Applications.

Traffic crashes with injuries, both statewide and within Cass County, continue to trend much higher than average. In 2022, we responded to and investigated 86 crashes with injuries and 202 without injuries. The State of Minnesota continues to report that statewide crashes and high speeds remain. Four motor vehicle fatality crashes were investigated within Cass County. A serious increase in overdose related medical calls and deaths are being observed region wide, most due to the use of fentanyl. We responded to 113 medical related overdose calls, with four resulting in death. Narcan (Naloxone is a medicine that rapidly reverses an opioid overdose) was noted to be used/administered on 117 calls in 2022. We are currently working with our regional and tribal partners to develop and implement strategies to respond to this epidemic.

An increase in ATV traffic and complaints was observed year round throughout the county, consistent with MN DNR OHV/ATV registration and use data. The rise in traffic on our trails, roadways, and public property has created a variety of new issues and need for additional education and enforcement. Several highly visible OHV enforcement and educational satu-

rations were conducted in high traffic and complaint areas in 2022 yielding successful results. Four fatal OHV crashes were investigated in Cass County in 2022, three of which resulted from speed and alcohol, and at least three where riders were operating alone.

Utilizing our AVL (Automatic Vehicle Locator), the concept of drawn patrol lines in response areas disappear and the closest squad, including deputies, supervisors and investigators is sent to the call for service. Our average on scene times show that we spend a large amount of time on scene with investigations and follow-ups, meeting with victims, collecting evidence, investigating suspects and conducting follow-up. Overall average response time to incidents was 7.82 minutes and average time spent on scene was 35 minutes.

Two Investigators have been assigned to Narcotics Investigations, which has been very beneficial to the enforcement and investigation into the use and sales of narcotics, illegal substances and associated crimes. In 2022, this unit again produced some impressive results. Investigators and deputies completed dozens of search warrant applications and executions, resulting in several pounds of a variety of illegal drugs and substances seized, along with cash and firearms.

# Help Todd County stop child abuse

From Todd County Health and Human Services

April is National Child Abuse Prevention Month. This month and throughout the year, Todd County Health and Human Services encourages all individuals and organizations to play a role in making Todd County a better place for children and families.

By ensuring that parents have the knowledge, skills, and resources they need to care for their children, we can help prevent child abuse and neglect by making meaningful connections with children, youth and families in our communities.

On Thursday, April 20, Todd County

Health and Human Services will hold their Annual Spaghetti Dinner with snow cones for dessert at the First Baptist Church in Long Prairie.

The event includes dinner from 4:30-6 p.m.; free will donation.

At 6 p.m., speaker Kent Mollberg will give a speech on Cyber Safety & Digital Citizenship. Topics include cyberbullying, Facebook, textual harassment, sexting, Internet urban legends, Internet identity theft, social networking, cell phone safety, online predators and internet shaming

The event will include a resource fair for children and families, with activities for children provided during the speaker.

# Fischback visits Raymond train crash site

From the office of U.S. Representative Michell Fischbach

Congresswoman Michelle Fischbach met with local officials, BNSF Railway and National Transportation Safety Board (NTSB) staff, and first responders to discuss the recent train derailment, see the scene first hand, and talk about next

steps.

“Kandiyohi County and the citizens of the Raymond area have proven their strength and resilience over the the last two days. Despite this terrible event, I was moved by what I saw,” said Rep. Fischbach. “I was encouraged to see the strength and ability of all those involved in the response to the train derailment and the precautionary evacuation as well as those who are tasked with clean-up and any other work that is needed to be done going forward. My team remains at the ready to assist in every way we can.”

The Congresswoman thanked Senators Klobu-

char and Smith, and State Senator Lang for joining her. She also expressed her gratitude to State Rep. Baker, the City of Raymond, all of the first responders who arrived on the scene from across the region to help, and BNSF Railway and NTSB staff for their quick work, as well as Superintendent Jon De Groot with the Central Minnesota Christian School in Prinsburg and Pastor Steve Zwart and the Unity Christian Reformed Church in Prinsburg who opened their doors to shelter people and provide food, and Pastor Aaron Greydanus with the Raymond Christian Reformed Church who opened up their space to the group.

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

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

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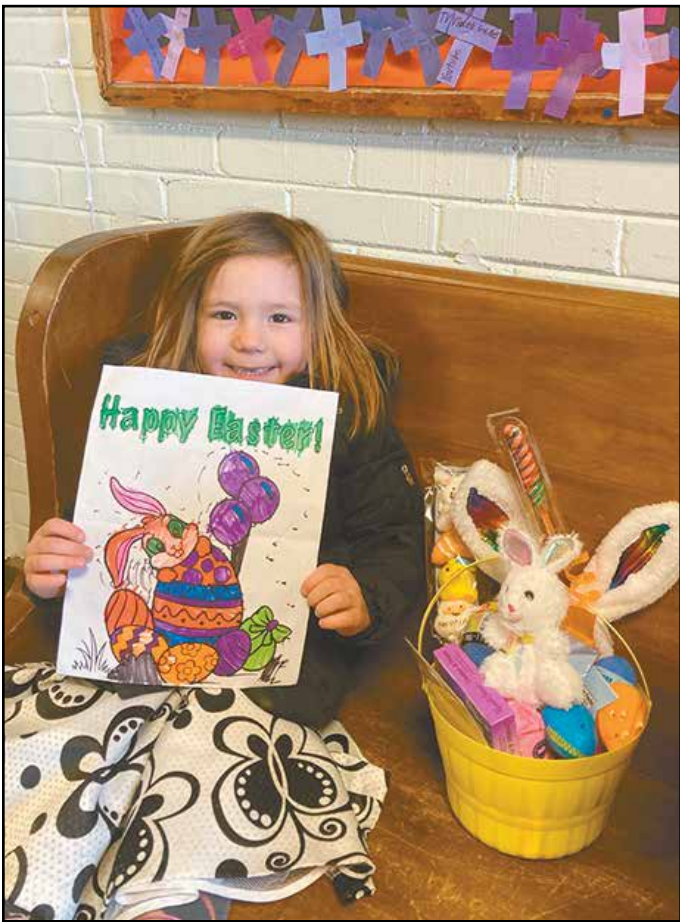
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Quote of the week

“I do love the feeling of a big win. But you don’t have to have a World Series ring to be a winner. A winner is somebody who goes out there every day and exhausts himself trying to get something accomplished. Being able to get the most from their ability. That’s what characterizes a winner.”

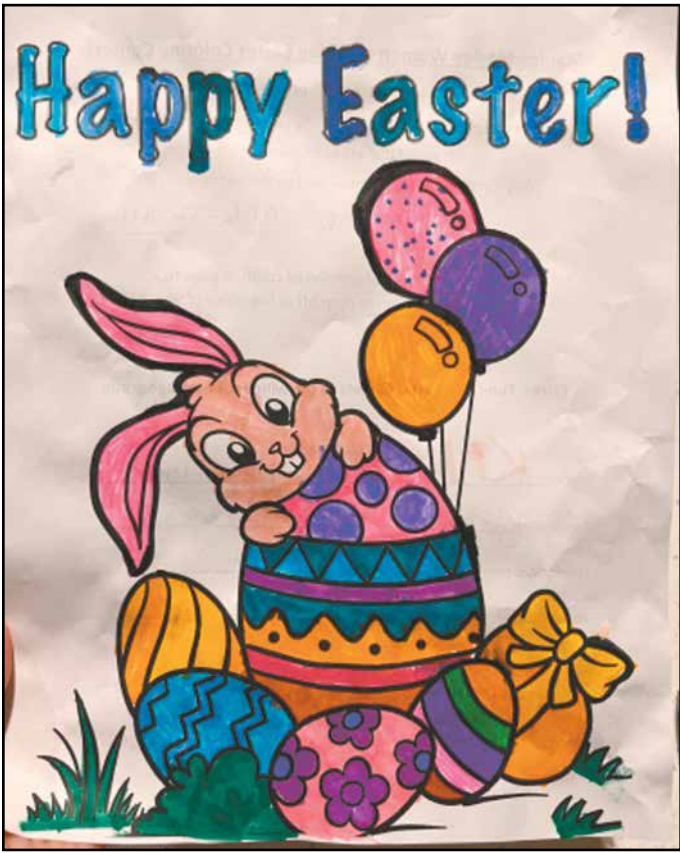
— Joe Torre





## Easter coloring contest

The Staples Motley area Women Of Today held a Easter coloring contest. Pictured, above, Lucy Detloff was the winner of the “up to 4 years” category. Other winners are Kiley Peterson, 5 years/kindergarten and Rory Schultz, 1st/2nd grade. The three winners each got a Easter basket filled with goodies. (Submitted photos)



## Mark Your Calendar

### April 12, 13

**FREE TAX-AIDE** Wednesdays, 1-4 p.m. and Thursdays, 10 a.m.- 4 p.m., through April 13, Staples City Hall. Must call for an appointment at 218-296-6616. For low to moderate income taxpayers.

### April 13

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

**WADENA WHIRLWAYS SQUARE DANCE GROUP DANCING** Thursday, April 13, 7:30 - 10 p.m., at St. Michael’s Church, 280 1st Ave. S., Motley. Tom Allen, caller. For info., 218-296-1642.

### April 14

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

### April 17

**AA GROUP MTGS IN MOTLEY** are held at the United Methodist Church, 847 3rd Ave. S., on Mondays at 8 p.m.

**‘GRIEF SHARE’ GRIEF SUPPORT GROUP** is held on Tuesdays from 6 - 8 p.m., at Motley Free Methodist Church, through May 30. For more information, call 218-352-6888.

**EXPERIENCE STRENGTH AND HOPE AA GROUP MTGS IN STAPLES** are held at the Staples Congregational Church, 204 5th St. NE, Tuesdays at 6:30 p.m.

**LAKEWOOD GRIEF SUPPORT GROUP** is held on Tuesdays from 3 - 4:30 p.m., at Sourcewell in Staples (202 12th St. NE), through April 25. For info., call 218-894-8093 or email [pauljohnson@lakewoodhealthsystem.com](mailto:pauljohnson@lakewoodhealthsystem.com).

### April 19

**STAPLES ALL VETERANS AND COMMUNITY PARK ASSOCIATION’S BOARD MEETING** Wednesday, April 19, at Timbers Restaurant and Event Center, Staples, 5:30 p.m. The public is invited to attend. To attend via Zoom, contact Bob Hamann at 218-894-3139.

## School Board meeting April 17

The Staples-Motley School Board will meet, Monday, April 17, 2023, at 6:00 p.m. at the District Office, 905 4th St. NE, Staples.

Groups or individuals wishing to be included on the school/community forum portion of the meeting must contact the board chair or superintendent by noon the Friday prior to the board meeting.

The agenda includes but is not limited to:

- Approve: fundraising request from SM Track Boosters; fundraising request from SM Baseball/Diamond Club; Q-comp career ladder positions for the 2023-2024 school year; a Family Medical leave; hire of Holton Truax DAPE/PE/HEALTH - 2023-2024 school year
- Accept the retirement of Kathy Blessing, Food

Service, effective May 26, 2023

- Facilities Update - ICS
- Approve: Resolution to accept Lease agreement with Lakewood Health System; Annual Compliance Overview of the American Indian Advisory Committee Vote of Concurrence; revision to the 2022/23 school calendar with Weds., May 31 as the last staff day; sealed bids for miscellaneous items.

Upcoming schedule:  
**Mon., May 1:** Board Work Session, 6:00 p.m., District Office

**Mon., May 22:** Board Meeting, 6:00 p.m., District Office

**Fri., May 26:** Graduation

**Mon., June 5:** Board Work Session, 6:00 p.m., District Office.

## Cardinal Calendar Staples-Motley School events

### April

- **VOCAL SOLO/ENSEMBLE CONTEST AT PEQUOT LAKES** April 12
- **MUSIC ENSEMBLE SHOWCASE - CAFETERIA** April 14, 4 p.m.
- **PAUL BUNYAN BAND FESTIVAL AT PILLAGER HS** April 21, 7 p.m.

### May

- **DOLLARS FOR SCHOLARS AWARDS NIGHT** May 3, 7 p.m.
- **PROM** May 6

All Staples-Motley Upcoming Events are subject to change. Go to [www.isd2170.k12.mn.us](http://www.isd2170.k12.mn.us) for up to the minute information.

## American Legion National Commander at LP April 20

American Legion National Commander Vincent James “Jim” Troiola of New York state is coming to Long Prairie on April 20 and will speak on issues of importance to Minnesota veterans.

Troiola will address the issue of veterans suicide and The American Legion’s “Be The One” campaign. In addition, he will speak about the importance of membership.

He will visit Long Prairie Post 12 at 714 Commerce Road for a lunch and presentation at 11:45 a.m. Thursday, April 20, and

talk with veterans, community leaders and local residents. The public is invited to attend.

“We look forward to sharing with National Commander Troiola the great things our American Legion Family members are doing for our veterans, our families and our communities,” said Minnesota American Legion Commander Jennifer Havlick, who resides outside of Two Harbors. “We encourage members of the public and all supporters of veterans to hear what he has to say.”



## Live music at the DQ



Staples-Motley music students entertained customers at the Staples DQ as a fundraiser prior to their recent Music Tour to Chicago. Above, from left, are quartet Nathan Ritter, Cy Johnson, Keegan Harvey, Keegan Bestland. At left, Geoffrey Decamp plays the keyboard. Below on trumpet, from left, Luke Bates and Zach Veen. (Submitted photos)



Spring

Chicken Dinner

Spring

**Weds., April 19**  
**Serving: 4:30-6:30 p.m.**  
Serving fried chicken, mashed potatoes, stuffing, gravy, corn, coleslaw, pie.  
**Adults: \$15.**  
**Children ages 6 -12: \$7.**  
**Ages 5 and under FREE.**  
**Motley United Methodist Church**  
847 3rd Ave. S.,  
Motley, Mn. 218-352-6466

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# Monica Neznik

Monica (Mona) Helen Neznik, 96, passed away peacefully March 17, 2023, at Riverside Assisted Living in Pillager with family at her side.

A Mass of Christian Burial will be held Friday, April 21 at 11:00 a.m. at Sacred Heart Catholic Church in Staples with Father Gabriel Walz officiating. Visitation will be held Thurs., April 20, from 5:00 to 7:00 p.m. at the Brenny Family Funeral Chapel in Staples and one hour prior to the services at the church on Friday.

Mona was born April 21, 1926 to Bernard and Christine Belinski in Swanville. She was united in marriage to Joe Neznik on July 19, 1945, at St. Stanislaus Catholic Church in Sobieski. They raised eight children.

Mona had a zest for life, from softball, daily walks, adult ed. classes, sewing, cake decorating, traveling with the bank group and especially entertaining family and friends. She had a love for big band music, the color pink and collecting angels.

She is survived by three daughters, Jo (Tom)



Swoverland, Jan Lorentz and Darlene Bartle; one son, Tom; one daughter-in-law, Deb Neznik; one sister, Ann DeLong of Tampa, FL; 20 grandchildren; 34 great-grandchildren; nine great-great-grandchildren and many nieces and nephews.

She is preceded in death by her husband; parents; two daughters, Diane Burrows and Mary Motl; two sons, Mike and Joe; one daughter-in-law, Pat Neznik; two sons-in-law, Jim Motl and Dick Lorentz and six brothers and sisters-in-law.

Arrangements are by the Brenny Family Funeral Chapel, Staples.

w16c A00006B2023AP12



# Life Currents

## Obituaries

### Beverly Hansen

Beverly Jane Hansen, 85, of Staples, passed away April 3, 2023, at Lakewood Health System Care Center, Staples.

A Gathering of family and friends will be held Saturday, April 22 from 2 to 4 p.m. at Taylor Funeral Home with prayers at 2:30 p.m.

Beverly was born April 5, 1937 to Harry and Mildred (Pentce) Ricketts in Long Prairie. Beverly worked in the Staples area at Ced's Sunshine Market and Trident Foods.

Left to cherish her memory are one son, Dan (Linda) Hansen; three grandchildren, Chrystal, Ashley and John and two great-grandchildren, Trinity and Josh.



She is preceded in death by her parents; one son, Rick; one daughter Nancy Hansen Rudie; one sister, Patricia and beloved cat, Bobbie.

Arrangements are by Taylor Funeral Home, www.taylorfunerals.com.

w16c A00006B2023AP12

### Gayle Grossman

Peacefully and surrounded by her family, Gayle (Radniecki) Grossman, 63, passed away into the arms of Christ on April 1, 2023, at Centracare Hospital in St Cloud.

Mass of Christian burial was held April 10 at St. Bernard's Catholic Church in Thief River Falls with Father Rick Lambert presiding.

Burial will be held in the St. Francis Xavier Catholic Cemetery in Oklee.

Gayle Frances (Radniecki) Grossman was born November 30, 1959 in Thief River Falls, to Virgil and Therese (Fortier) Radniecki. She grew up in rural Oklee, graduating from Oklee High School in 1977. She attended the U of M-Crookston, and while there met Steven Grossman. Together, they raised their sons on the family-run hunt club in Staples, where Gayle left an impact on everyone who visited. For those who simply thought they were coming for a hunt, they didn't realize they'd leave with a new friend and a warm hug goodbye. She was an amazing cook and a host to unforgettable memories such as family Christmases, weddings and more. Gayle enjoyed cooking, Christmas cookie baking, golfing, walking and getting into laugh-out-loud conversations with those she loved. She fiercely protected and loved her sons, instilling her values of love, kindness, hard work and faith that could only be taught by her example. What gave her the most joy in life, however, was her grandchildren. You could find Nana Gayle on the floor playing games,



playing dress-up, helping with homework. She was willing to do anything to get them laughing and loved them dearly.

She will lovingly be remembered by two sons, Joshua (Ellen) Grossman of Rosemount and Travis (Carli) Grossman of Pil-lager; her mother, Therese Radniecki of Thief River Falls; four grandchildren, Garret, Eli, Kate and Julia; former husband, Steven Grossman; 11 brothers and sisters, Stephani (Dick) Kalar of Shoreview, Roxanne (Fred) Sorensen of Red Lake Falls, Deborah Perreault of Waseca, Steven (Renee) Radniecki of Twin Valley, Tom Radniecki of Oklee, Geraldine (Errol) Rustan of Oklee, Randolph (Lori) Radniecki of Lake Tapps, WA, Mary Kay (Randy) Robidoux of Winneconne, WI, John Radniecki of Fargo, ND, Genevieve Radniecki of Bemidji and Danielle (Gary) Parenteau of Lake Park and the love of several nieces and nephews.

Condolences may be sent at [www.johnsonfuneralservice.com](http://www.johnsonfuneralservice.com).

w16p A00006B2023AP12

## Staples Area Church Directory

<b>Staples</b> <b>Staples Alliance</b> 1512 8th St. NE, Staples .....218-894-2891 Pastor Zach Jones Sunday Worship.....9:30 a.m. Sunday School.....11:00 a.m. WEDNESDAY AWANA.....6:00 p.m. <b>Assembly of God</b> 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. <b>Church of Christ</b> 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: Teen Youth/Adults Bible Study.....7-8 p.m. <b>First Congregational Church, UCC</b> firstcongouccstaples@gmail.com 204 5th St. NE, Staples.....218-894-2571 Worship.....9:30 a.m. Fellowship, refreshments following service <b>Faith Lutheran</b> 430 12th Street, NE., Staples.....218-894-1546 Pastor Carl Larson Pastor Chris Mathiason Sunday Worship Service.....9:00 a.m. Sunday School and Coffee Fellowship.....10:05 a.m. <b>Sacred Heart Church</b> 310 4th St. NE, Staples Church.....218-894-2296 Pastor Fr. Aaron Kuhn Parochial Vicar, Fr. Gabriel Walz MASS: Thursday and Friday.....8:30 a.m. Sunday.....8:30 a.m. <b>Seventh Day Adventist</b> 421 Dakota Ave. SE, Staples 218-894-0033 Saturday Worship.....9:30 am. Sabbath School.....10:45 a.m. <b>Thomastown Covenant</b> 15940 251st Ave., Staples.....218-894-3923 Pastor Scott Jorgenson Sunday Worship.....10:30 a.m. WEDNESDAY NIGHT YOUTH.....6:30 p.m.	<b>Trinity Lutheran</b> 1000 4th St., NE, Staples.....218-894-2372 Rev. Robin Collins Sunday Divine Service.....9:00 a.m. Sunday School and Bible Class...10:30 a.m. <b>United Methodist</b> 310 5th St. NE, Staples.....218-894-2248 Sunday Worship.....10:30 a.m. (Nursery Available for Sunday Worship) <b>Aldrich</b> <b>Balsamlund Lutheran</b> 19550 490th Street, Aldrich Eric Clapp.....701-261-2394 (cell) Sunday Worship.....8:15 a.m. Sunday School.....8:30 a.m. <b>Cushing</b> <b>Bethany Lutheran</b> 25430 Bison Rd. Cushing, MN 320-749-2140 Pastor Carl Larson Pastor Chris Mathiason www.bethanylutherancushing.org Sunday Worship.....9:00 a.m. Communion.....1st and 2nd Sunday of each month <b>Lincoln Evangelical Free</b> 1354 320th Street, Cushing, MN 56443 Phone: 218- 575-2449 www.lincolnfree.org Facebook Lincoln E Free Office Hours: Tues. - Thurs., 9 a.m. - 12 p.m. Senior Pastor: Don Reigstad Community Life Pastor: Jim Brown Associate Pastor: Joe Reigstad SUNDAY Church Worship Gathering.....10:00 a.m. YouTube Channel.....10:00 a.m. WEDNESDAY Community Meal.....5:30 p.m. Family Night.....6:00 p.m. <b>Cushing Baptist</b> 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. <b>Leader</b> <b>Swan Valley Lutheran</b> 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. <b>Maple Hill Lutheran</b> Sandy Knight, Synodically Authorized Minister of Word and Sacrament Leader.....218-397-2470 (Rural Pine River) Worship and Sunday School.....9:00 a.m.	<b>Motley</b> <b>Motley Free Methodist</b> 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. <b>St. John's Lutheran</b> 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. <b>St. Michael</b> 1st St. and Birdy, Motley.....218-894-2296 Pastor Fr. Aaron Kuhn Parochial Vicar, Fr. Gabriel Walz MASS: Tuesday.....6:30 p.m. Saturday.....4:00 p.m. <b>United Methodist</b> 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. <b>Oylen</b> <b>Oylen Alliance</b> 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. <b>Pillager</b> <b>First Lutheran Church</b> Pastor Mathew Sundquist 717 River Street S, Pillager, MN 218-746-3775 Sunday Worship.....9:30 a.m. Sunday School.....8:30 a.m. <b>Casino Assembly of God</b> Pastor Dan Johnson N. of Motley, Hwy. 64, E. on Cty 34 to Cty. 104. 218-445-5108 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. <b>First Baptist</b> 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. <b>Hewitt</b> <b>Church of the Nazarene</b> 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.	<b>Trinity Lutheran Church (LCMS)</b> 524 Front Street, PO Box 116, Hewitt, MN Pastor Robin Fish Sunday Worship.....10:30 a.m. <b>United Methodist Church</b> Hwy. 210, Hewitt, MN Pastor Kenneth Uhren Sunday Services.....10:30 a.m. Sunday School.....9:30 a.m. <b>Verndale</b> <b>Verndale Alliance</b> 109 NW Brown Street, Verndale, MN 56481 218-445-5619 Senior Pastor Tony Stanley Heath Belknap, Pastor of Student Ministries Sunday Worship.....9:30 a.m. Sunday Bible Fellowship Classes.....11-11:45 a.m. <b>Family Life Church</b> 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. <b>Hope Chapel Alliance</b> 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. <b>Immanuel Lutheran Church of Bartlett Township (LCMS)</b> 17097 460th St., PO Box 37, Verndale Pastor Robin Fish Sunday Worship.....9:00 a.m. WEDNESDAY Bible Study.....6:30 p.m. <b>Verndale United Methodist</b> 10 3rd Ave. SW, Verndale 218-445-5108 Pastor Jill Pawlowski Sunday Worship.....9:00 a.m. <b>Central United Methodist</b> 5 miles N on Cty Rd 26 (Nimrod tar) Pastor James Middendorf, 320-260-4950 Sunday Service.....9:00 a.m. Bible Study.....10:30 a.m. WEDNESDAY Seeds of Hope.....7:00 p.m. <b>Leaf River Township The Old Country Church</b> Leaf River Twp., Wadena County Rd. 6 Info. 218-837-5690 Sunday Service.....10 a.m.
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### Can God Trust You to be Faithful?

Fr. Aaron Kuhn , St. Michael Church, Motley; Sacred Heart Church, Staples

Jesus wants us to freely choose to believe Him. The Easter message of the Resurrection of Jesus from the dead is our memorial of how far God is willing to go to get our attention, tell us that we are important to Him, and that He patiently waits for our response. Death itself is no obstacle to God. Sin is not an obstacle to God. There is no depth to which God is not willing to go to save us. With one exception: He will not violate our free will. He will not force us to be faithful. That is something we must freely choose to do.

The first Christians were willing to go to great lengths to spread this message of God's love, even to the point of great suffering and death. The apostles (minus Judas) traveled all over the known world. They dedicated their lives to Christ, pro-

viding their freedom to God for His use. And, as a result, there are few spots in the world where the Christian message has not spread.

The freshest mission territory will always be my own heart. I need to ask what kind of steward I have become, for, if I am honest, my life is not my own, and everything I have comes from God and can be lost in an instant.

Can God trust me to be faithful? Do I read the scriptures or not? For that is where the story is revealed. Do I know the gospel well enough to share it with others? Do I want God's kingdom to be realized in my life, or do I resist a total transformation of my belonging, beliefs and behaviors to the Lord alone? God respects our freedom. What will you choose?

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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, call 218-894-1112 or email:

[jwinter@staplesworld.com](mailto:jwinter@staplesworld.com). As always, continue to email your Ministerial pastoral message or advertisement to: [jwinter@staplesworld.com](mailto:jwinter@staplesworld.com)

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**Friday noon**





## Success at state tournament

The Staples-Motley youth wrestling team with their fifth place trophy at the NYWA tournament. Front row from left, Tim Lind, Jonah Becker, Ace de Coup-Crank, Ryker Pesta, Bennett Sonenstahl, Cora Tappe, Cygnus Walz, Brantley Bendson, Reed Leach and Maxx Carlson;

row two, Camrik Tappe, Jacob Reeck, Liam Jennissen, Jacob Odden, Cooper Tappe, Tristan Moore, Tayden Weite, Jayden Rogers, Garrett Bjerga, Gavin Caldwell and Elliott DiGiovanni; back row, Coaches Chris Dobson and Dan Bjerga. (Submitted photo)

# S-M youth wrestlers fifth in NYWA state team tournament

The Staples-Motley Youth Wrestling team placed 5th at the NYWA State Tournament, held April 1-2. On April 1, S-M defeated the LPGE/B Wolves 46-25 in the first round with a strong performance by the upper weights. In the second round, S-M took on Hastings. The Cardinals defeated the Raiders 36-24, only losing by regular decision throughout the match, and scoring several pins to cement their victory. In a tough third round, the Cardinals fell just short to Pine Island with a final score of 32-37. On April 2, Staples-Motley came out with a strong start against Caledonia/

Houston, racking up four pins in the first four weights. After a closer battle through the middle weights, the upper weights brought the match full circle with three more pins to beat C/H 51-18. In their final dual of the day, the Cardinals took on Kasson-Mantorville in the 5th place match. The teams battled back and forth, scoring pins and decisions, but the Cardinals emerged victorious, winning their 5th place match with a score of 39-35. At the end of the K-6 team tournament, the coaches vote on awards. This year, 6th grader Garrett Bjerga was voted as Outstanding Wrestler.

The S-M Youth Wrestling team has consistently improved at the NYWA State Tournament under the leadership of Coaches Dan Bjerga and Chris Dobson. Starting in 2019, the team placed 25th out of 32 teams, advancing to 9th place in 2021 and 7th place in 2022. After placing 5th in the state this year, Coach Bjerga shared with the wrestlers that he was “very, very proud of them.” He continued to praise them, declaring that “it was the most perfect team performance I’ve ever experienced.”

# Deer flock to any feeding opportunity after long winter

As Minnesotans wait with understandable impatience for the end of one of the longest winters in recent memory, the waiting holds more urgency for some. More urgency for wildlife, to be sure. For them, it can be a vigil with life or death consequences. There’s little argument that the wild creature highest on the “special concern” list—certainly among hunters—is our white-tail deer. Apart from the dangers posed by predators like the Eastern Gray Wolf, and the all-too-real risk of injury or death by collision with a motor vehicle, winter is always a force that can play the role of grim reaper. To a great extent, a white-tail’s probability of surviving a Minnesota winter is a numbers game. In this case, the numbers are part of an equation biologists use to gauge whether a winter is severe enough to cause deer deaths by starvation, or weaken them enough to be vulnerable to predation. The equation is the Winter Severity Index, or WSI. It’s not “new math” by any means, but simple addition:

the number of days with snow depths of 15 inches or more, added to the days when the temperature drops to zero, or below. If the total by the time winter breaks is less than or equal to 50, it’s considered a mild winter. If the WSI is 120 or more, the winter is considered severe in terms of deer survival. In the range between these two extremes, the effect of the winter on deer survival is a facts-and-circumstances thing. One thing that is clear, however, is that a substantial part of Minnesota is now in the severe range, and—especially in the north—it will be days, perhaps weeks, before snow depths drop below 15 inches. Deep snow is such a negative factor because it restricts deer mobility. That mobility is key to deer remaining well-fed under conditions that are more draining of their energy than any other time of year. Mobility is also key to their staying one step ahead of predators. Severe winters are especially hard on young and small deer, the older and less fit, and can also impact the ability of pregnant does to bear healthy fawns. There are some rays of hope, however. Literally. Although it will be many days before there is bare ground in most areas of northern Minnesota, the more direct rays of sunlight now can have a powerful effect, especially in some limited but important

places. Such places absorb the sun’s rays and can actually melt the snow pack down to bare ground, even while snow lies deep just a few feet away. It’s to such places that winter-weary deer gravitate. My wife and I regularly drive a rural road between home and a scenic spot where we take daily walks, and occasionally stop at a pub-restaurant nearby. These short drives take us past several large parcels of woodland. Some of it is Norway pine plantation, others a blend of mixed-age conifers and deciduous trees; birch and aspen, mostly. Along the south-facing sides of these parcels we’ve been finding narrow bands of bare ground. Not bare, actually, but barren of snow, revealing last year’s growth of grassy cover at these sunward-facing woodland edges. It’s clear that the sunlight absorbed by the trees’ trunks and the needle-clad branches has generated enough warmth to gradually melt the snow there. On these daily drives we’ve acquired the habit of counting deer, which we often see either grazing on the snow-flattened, tawny brown grass, or bedded down and “ruminating,” also known—in farm animal terminology—as “chewing their cud.” It would make sense that deer could get more nutrition out of new, green grass. Unfortunately, that is not available just yet. But deer,

like cattle, have digestive systems that can digest cellulose, a plant fiber that is just as available in last year’s grasses as it would be in a bale of hay we might feed to a Holstein or a black Angus. On one of our more memorable deer-count trips past these parcels of woodland, we counted 25 in a stretch less than a half mile long. If we had been driving past a captive deer farm somewhere in Minnesota’s Southeast region, we would not have expected to see more! All of which made perfect sense: winter-weary deer taking advantage of one of Nature’s overdue generosity. All of this made perfect sense. What made less sense, and seen on the day preceding April Fool’s Day, was a pair of sandhill cranes fast-stepping their way across the road and into a snow-drifted cattail margin that surroundings a pond near our home. Sandhill cranes are dietary generalists, feeding on grains, seeds, insects, reptiles, amphibians, and even small mammals, like mice or voles. Just where this pair of cranes will find these things—with lakes and ponds still frozen, and fields still covered in snow—is anyone’s guess. Perhaps—we can hope—they have inside information on an impending rapid thaw! That, or some a feeding strategy I’m not imaginative enough to guess at.

## Schultz, Miller earn All Conference in basketball

Staples-Motley basketball player Isaiah Schultz was selected as Mid State All Conference and Hunter

Miller was All Conference Honorable Mention for the 2022-23 season.

# Dravis brothers headed to MN wrestling Hall of Fame

Greg, Blaine and Jeff Dravis, three former Staples wrestlers, have been selected to the Minnesota Wrestling Coaches Association David Bartelma Wrestling Hall of Fame. The induction dinner will take place Saturday, April 29 in Benson. The Dravis brothers will join their father, coach Don Dravis, in the hall of fame. Following are the hall of fame biographies for each athlete.

### Greg Dravis

Greg attended Staples High School, graduating from there in 1980. He participated in football and wrestling.

Greg compiled a high school record of 130-14-1. He was a member of two state title teams, 1978 and 1980 and was also a member of the 1977, 5th place team and the 1979 2nd place team. Greg was a three-time state place winner, placing 2nd as a sophomore at 98 lbs., 4th as a junior at 105 lbs, and 3rd as a senior at 105 lbs.

After graduation Greg attended Augustana College and qualified for Division 2 nationals at 118 lbs. He then transferred to the University of Minnesota-Morris, where he continued to wrestle. Greg, as a sophomore, place 2nd in Division 3 and qualified for the Division 1 NCAA tournament wrestling at 126 lbs. As a junior, an injury kept him from participating in the National tournament. In his senior year he was a NAIA National Champion at 118 lbs.

Greg is married to Traci and they have 2 sons Derek and Casey. He and his family live in Apple Valley, and will be moving to Park Rapids at the end of June.

Today Greg is a retired Physical Education Teacher. He taught at Scott Highland’s Middle School where he coached wrestling for 30 years and a variety of other middle school sports. He also coached high school wrestling at various schools in District 196. In 2015, he was named Assistant Coach of the Year by the Minnesota Wrestling Coaches Association.

### Blaine Dravis

Blaine attended Staples High School, graduating from there in 1982. He participated in football, wrestling, and golf. He enjoyed a very successful high school career, winning three District titles and two Region

6 titles. He was a member of four state teams. Staples was 2nd in 1979, and state team champs in 1980, 1981, and 1982. His high school record was 132-9-1. He was a state runner-up in 1980 at 98 lbs. and the State Class A Champion at 119 lbs. in 1982. After graduation Blaine attended the University of Duluth, wrestling for Hall of Fame Coach Neil Ladsen. Blaine was a three-time Northern Intercollegiate Conference champ as well as a two-time Div. 2 National qualifier. He was an All-American in the 1986 NAIA national tournament, placing third. Blaine lives in Eagan, works for UPS, and has three kids.

### Jeff Dravis

Jeff attended Staples High School, graduating from there in 1983. He compiled a high school record of 121-14.

Jeff was also active in baseball, and was a member of the Staples Cardinal 1983 state championship baseball team. Jeff was a member of four Staples state class A championship wrestling teams in 1980, 1981, 1982, and 1983. He won three Conference titles, two District titles, and two Region titles. He was a Class A runner-up in 1981 at 98 lbs, a runner-up in 1982 at 105 lbs., and a runner-up in 1983 at 112 lbs. Upon graduating from high school in 1983 Jeff attended Willmar Community College, wrestling for Hall of Fame Coach Roy Minter. He then transferred to the University of Minnesota-Duluth, wrestling for Hall of Fame Head Coach Neil Ladsen. Jeff was a three-time NAIA All-American, placing 5th in 1986, 2nd in 1987, and 4th in 1988, all at 142 lbs.

After college, Jeff taught Industrial Tech in Staples-Motley High School and coached the Staples-Motley Cardinal wrestling team from 1995-2001, earning a dual meet record of 108-72. Jeff’s teams won three section titles during his tenure at Staples-Motley, and his teams placed 3rd and 5th. Jeff coached four state individual state champions, three of them in 1999. Jeff began teaching industrial tech at Park Rapids High School 2004, where he still teaches and is an assistant coach today.

Jeff is married to Tara and they have four kids: Justin, Cody, Taylor, and Kate.

# Temporary trail closures for spring

The Minnesota Department of Natural Resources will begin temporarily closing some roads and trails in state forests, state parks, recreation areas, and wildlife management areas as the spring thaw impacts road conditions. Seasonal melting makes these roads and trails too soft to support vehicle traffic without damage. Depending on weather and local site conditions, the temporary closures could remain in effect until sometime in May.

“Closures protect roads and trails from damage when cars, trucks, ATVs, or any vehicles travel on the wet, unstable road conditions present during spring thaw,” said Matt Huseby, roads coordinator for the DNR’s Forestry Division. “Please check the DNR road closure page for updates, follow the closures, and use

good judgement wherever you drive or ride.” After a lengthy winter, the warmer spring weather inspires many people to hit the trail in one of Minnesota’s state forests. To prevent unwanted surprises, please check for road and trail closures before heading out. In addition, be aware that roads that can handle vehicle traffic will remain open but might have vehicle weight restrictions. For information on road and trail closures, visit the DNR’s road and trail closure page. Information is updated weekly on Thursdays by 2 p.m. Signs will also be posted at entry points and parking lots. Closure signs may be in place before the website is updated.

For information on roads and trails on county land, contact the county directly.

## Moose population down, remains stable

This year’s population estimate of 3,290 moose marks a decade of Minnesota’s moose population remaining relatively stable, according to the results of the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources’ 2023 aerial population survey. Although the estimate dropped from 2022’s estimate of 4,700, the change continues to reflect the population stability observed in previous years. After a

decline from a population estimate of approximately 8,000 in 2009, Minnesota’s moose population appears to have stabilized at about 3,700 animals in recent years. Survey estimates are better used to understand long-term trends. Factors such as visibility of moose from the air, challenging weather conditions and moose avoidance of aircraft create moderately high sam-

pling uncertainty, making it difficult for researchers to make confident statements about the magnitude of annual population changes. Data collected by researchers with the Grand Portage Band of Lake Superior Chippewa suggest the magnitude of this year’s decline could be more than an artifact of sampling. They have reported high mortality rates on collared moose and similar

decreases in aerial surveys around Grand Portage and Isle Royale. Continued comparisons in coming years will help answer that question. While estimates suggest continued stability in the population and reproductive success, DNR researchers point out that Minnesota moose remain at risk given long-term trends





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## SERVICES & EMPLOYMENT

205

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208

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209

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## Cardinal musicians tour Chicago and more

By Dawn Timbs  
Staples World reporter

Choir, band and orchestra members from Staples-Motley High School were well-equipped to handle last week's winter storms, after touring and performing at the 'Windy City.'

The Cardinal Music Tour to Chicago, led by Thomas Johnson and Kristina Haataja, Staples-Motley's music directors, took place March 8 - 12.

A total of 62 students, seven chaperones and the two directors traveled by way of bus, with stops along the way in Minnesota and Wisconsin before arriving in Illinois.

Haataja noted that the Cardinal musicians participated in a clinic at St. Olaf College in Northfield March 8, where they had the opportunity to work with music professors Michael Buck (band), Charles Gray (orchestra) and Therees Tkach Hibbard (choir). Later that evening, they performed at St. Martin's Lutheran Church in Winona.

The next day, the Cardinal Choir, Band and Orchestra had a performance at Oak Creek High School in Wisconsin.

March 10, the two buses arrived at Union Station in Chicago, where they performed for a group of enthusiastic travelers, pleasantly surprised by the impromptu concert.

Along the way, the Staples-Motley crew were able to take in a few tourist attractions, including a stop at Navy Pier, and attending a musical and symphony.

Sophomore Peyton Mithun shared, "My favorite memories from this trip



### A stop at the Basilica

Cardinal singers, under the direction of Thomas Johnson, experienced the acoustics of the Basilica of Saint Mary in Minneapolis during a stop on their music tour. (Submitted photo)

are the time spent together with old and new friends on the bus, getting to make new friends, spending time at the pool with everyone, experiencing the music of the Chicago Symphony Orchestra, going to see the musical, "Annie," time

at the aquarium with my friends, and all the time spent with the entire group."

Upon their return, the Cardinal Choir and Orchestra gifted the community with a 'Home Tour Concert' March 23, at Centennial Auditorium in Staples.



### Performing on tour

Members of the Staples-Motley High School Cardinal Choir, Band and Orchestra, under the direction of Thomas John-

son, performed at St. Martin's Lutheran Church in Winona during their recent music tour. (Submitted photo)



### Music tour stop at Navy Pier in Chicago

Staples-Motley High School music students had the opportunity to see a few tourist sites during their recent Music Tour. Pictured above at Navy Pier in Chicago are, from left, front row: Cecily Moe, Sabina Moe, Natalie Miller, Luke Bates,

Gabe Kroll. Middle: Macy Knudson, Walker Johnson, Skyler Self, Meghan Vanalst, Kyra Stangle, William Dolezal, Amanda Carter, Jaden Johnson. Back row: Rylee Nielson, AJ Nienow, Zachary McIlravy. (Submitted photo)



### Celebrating St. Paddy's in Chicago

Staples-Motley Cardinal musicians had fun watching the St. Patrick's Day Parade in Chicago during their recent music tour. Pictured, from left, are Zachary McIl-

ravy, Skyler Self, Amanda Carter, Brynn Bestland, Sadye Anderson. (Submitted photo)

### ORDINANCE continued from page 1a *Unanimous approval*

vision that the council can deny the application if it is made by someone who "is not the real party of interest or beneficial owner of the business to be operated."

Both ordinances were updated to include specific language that will allow the Bureau of Criminal Apprehension to do inspections on local tobacco and THC product sellers.

The council approved both ordinances unanimously.

#### In other news

• Staples Police Chief Melissa Birkholtz told

the council that they are transferring the city police records to a new system called Central Square. They will now be on the same platform as Todd County.

• The council approved submitting a grant to Sourcewell for the Innovation Funding program. Nelsen said Sourcewell's program is now selecting projects based on random drawing instead of group presentations like they did in the past.

• The council approved gambling permit for Otter-Tail Ducks Unlimited event at Beck's Burgers.

• Nelsen said a party is interested in purchasing one of the remaining Valley View lots. He said a redesign of the Valley View subdivision lots is leaving space for expansion into the 67 acre lot to the east of the current subdivision.

• Parks and Recreation Director Lacey Aguirre told the council that new doors were installed at the Staples Community Center swimming pool.

• The council scheduled a public hearing for the Community Development Block Grant funding for their April 11 meeting.

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