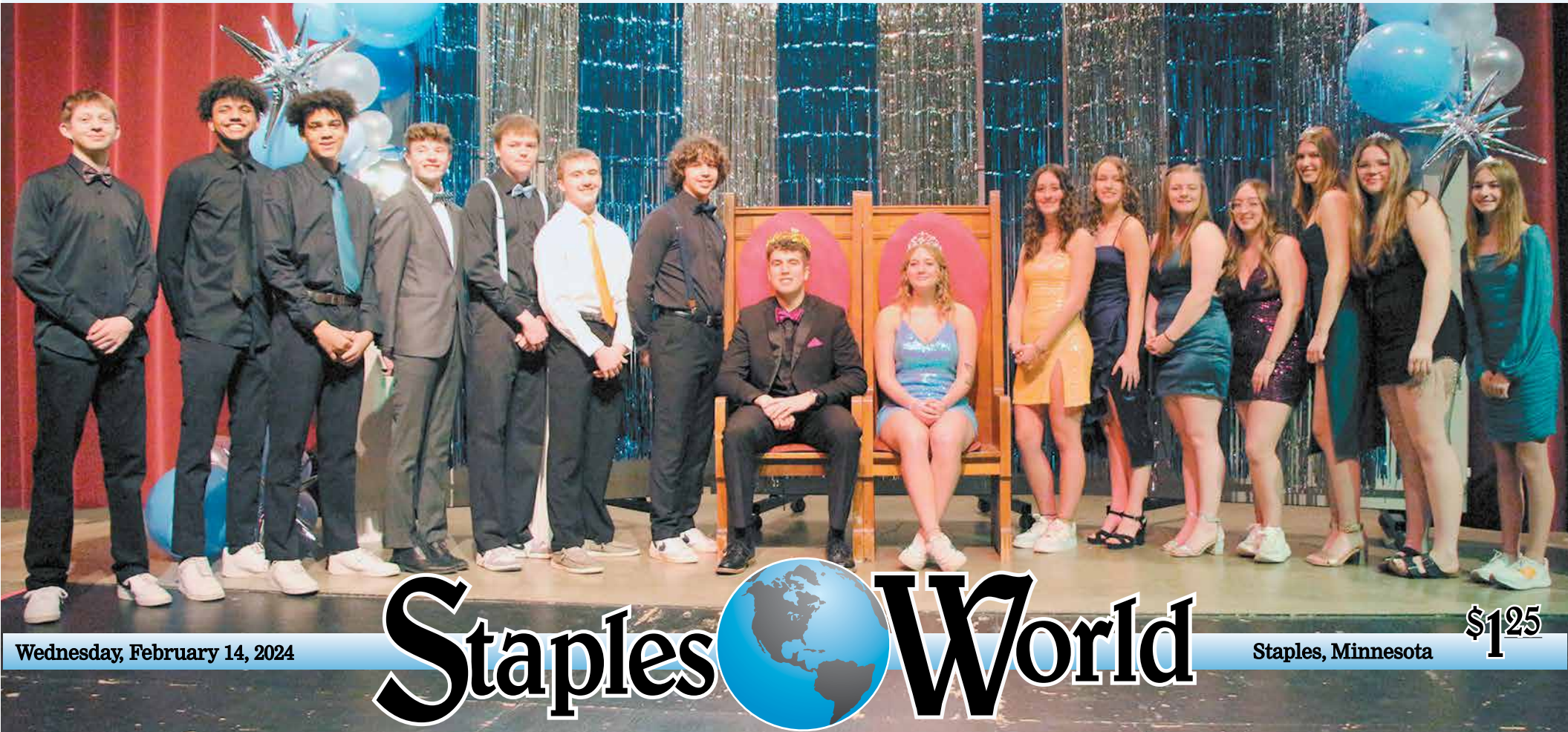


Inside this issue:

Girls wrestling section results
Forensic psychologist author to speak
Caucuses coming up
SnoDaze lip sync



Wednesday, February 14, 2024 Staples, Minnesota \$125

SnoDaze court AJ Nienow and Bailey Wieland were named the Staples-Motley SnoDaze king and queen. Their court, from left, underclass representatives Evan Schultz, Avandre Brandt and Josiah Critten, senior candidates Zach McIlravy, Carson Trantina, Caden Dobson and Griffin Bettis, the king and queen, senior candidates Ellie Moulton, Sabina Moe, Steffany Sullivan, and Gen Grotsch, with underclass representatives Paula Rauwerda, Josie Jennissen and Bella Hines. Below, AJ and Bailey pose on their thrones. (Photos by Mark Anderson)



School board reviews communications, survey

By Mark Anderson
Managing Editor
The Staples-Motley

School Board reviewed a communication plan presented by Staci Headley, the district's marketing director.

The board also reviewed a survey of school staff. The plan was presented at the Feb. 5, 2024 school board work session and included an overall vision, identified stakeholders, objectives and goals under each objective.

Headley said this is the first presentation of the plan, which is open to change. "All of this is up for discussion, this is a working document," said Headley.

The three main goals in the plan are:

- 1. Enhance engagement.
- 2. Embrace ISD 2170's centralized method of communications with a commitment to assist departments in delivering consistent, internal processes and procedures.
- 3. Deliver timely, open and honest messages that inform, educate, inspire and engage the community.

Each goal had objectives, strategies and ways to measure progress on the goals. Under the first goal, objectives included increasing social media, transparent communication and community partnerships.

The second goal concentrates on employees. Strategies included updating the school web site, procedural materials and distribution lists.

The third goal had one main objective, to promote district engagement with a variety of content produced by the school. The first strategy is "Create more dynamic content and more appealing headlines, subject lines and teasers for both digital and traditional content."

Board members had See **SCHOOL** on page 10a



Wrestling pioneers on the mat

The first team of Staples-Motley girls wrestlers completed their season at the section meet on Feb. 9. At a practice before the tournament, five girls wrestlers paused for a photo, from left, Leah

Greenwaldt, Kana Reese, Mikayla Pesta, Isabelle Dobson and Charlotte Wunderlich. Not pictured, Mia Pesta and Kyleena Rudlang. (Staples World photo by Mark Anderson)

First ever Cardinal girls wrestling team found joy in tough sport

By Mark Anderson
Managing Editor

There have been individual girls who have competed in the Staples-Motley wrestling program, but this is the first year of an organized girls team, with seven wrestlers who completed their full season that finished with the section tournament Feb. 9-10.

The three section wrestlers told what it was like during this historic year of pioneering Staples-Motley girls wrestling.

Isabelle Dobson's family inspired her to start wrestling. "My brother and dad are in it, so I wanted to try it," she said.

After a full season, Dobson said "It's been really fun."

Leah Greenwaldt also got into it because of her family. "My brother did it and it looked like fun," she said. "It is a hard sport, but my brother went to state and he

is a good teacher."

Charlotte Wunderlich came to Staples-Motley this year as an exchange student from Germany. "I wanted to try something new, I never did something like this before. In Germany I did gymnastics, dancing and tennis. My teammates are super nice. They showed me everything and brought me into their team."

The girls team mostly practiced with the junior high boys team, learning the same moves.

"The coaches are very helpful," said Wunderlich, "they are good at knowing you. When a sport is that hard, you can lose interest, but it is good to have coaches who can keep you motivated and keep you going."

Once they started learning the sport, the girls learned the competitive aspect of wrestling.

"The matches are really hard, you have to be aggressive," said Greenwaldt. "If you're not trying to win, you're not going to."

"It's an even balance of mental and physical," said Dobson, "sometimes more mental than physical."

One of the tips that Greenwaldt learned is "Use your head, dig it into their head and shoulder."

The girls competed in several tournaments, traveling to Bemidji, Grand Forks, Wadena and Osakis during the year. They also had a few spot matches when the boys varsity team wrestled another team with girls in similar weight categories.

"I had a lot of matches," said Dobson, "definitely a lot of Brainerd kids."

Wunderlich described what her first match was like. "I was very nervous for the first one. It was crazy being in a different country, doing something I never did before."

Once she got a few matches in, Wunderlich found she liked it. "It became fun, I enjoyed it. It is a hard sport, tough but fun," she said.



Weather

2024

This Week's Forecast

	High	Low	Cond.
Feb. 14	33	18	Cloudy
Feb. 15	26	7	P. Cloudy
Feb. 16	22	12	P. Cloudy
Feb. 17	31	15	M. Sunny
Feb. 18	31	9	M. Sunny
Feb. 19	25	10	P. Cloudy
Feb. 20	28	18	M. Sunny

Last Year, 2023

	High	Low	Cond.
Feb. 14	36°	34	Cloudy
Feb. 15	12	5	Sunny
Feb. 16	13	1	Sunny
Feb. 17	24	0	Sunny
Feb. 18	35	18	Sunny
Feb. 19	22	7	Sunny
Feb. 20	28	12	Snow

Average Temps:
H = 28° Low = 9°

*Compiled by
Dale Hausmann,
WCCO's Staples area
Weatherwatcher*

Public Notices

Todd Cty.
Courthouse bids
8A

City of Staples
Public Hearing
8A

Obituaries

Olivia DeGeest
Neil Dvorak
Virginia Rollins

Staples-Motley High School students recognized by MSHSL

Three high school students at Staples-Motley were nominated for the ExCEL (Excellence in Community, Education and Leadership) Award, and the Triple ‘A’ (Academics, Arts and Athletics) Award which are sponsored by the Minnesota State High School League (MSHSL).

Lily Tyrrell, a junior at SMHS, was selected as the school’s ExCEL Award winners for 2024. Sponsored by the Minnesota State High School League, ExCEL is a recognition program designed for Minnesota high school juniors. Students who are active in fine arts and/or athletics, who show leadership qualities and who are model citizens in their community are eligible for the award.

Sabina Moe and AJ Nienow are seniors at SMHS who were selected as the school’s 2024 Triple ‘A’ Award winners. Sponsored by the Minnesota State High School League, AAA is a recognition program designed for Minnesota high school seniors. Students who are active in fine arts, athletics, who show leadership qualities, who are model citizens in their community, and excel with their academics are eligible for the award.

Below is a description of each of the award winners.

Lily Tyrrell

Lily Tyrrell, the daughter of Jay and Joy Tyrrell, is active at her school, participating in a variety of activities. In the area of



Outstanding students recognized

Pictured, from left is Lily Tyrrell, junior at Staples-Motley High School (SMHS), who was selected as this year’s ExCEL award winner for Staples-Motley; and Sa-

ports, Tyrrell has been a leader on the Cardinal’s volleyball and softball teams. She also plays trombone in the school band, and is a member of the Honor Society. Tyrrell attends Sacred Heart Catholic Church, where she has been a volunteer. She also works at Lakewood Health System Hospital in Staples as a CNA (Certified Nursing Assistant).

Tyrrell said she is grateful for all of her volleyball coaches along the way (including head coach Gretchen Bestland), whom she described as “great people.” In addition to helping her improve her athletic skills, Tyrrell said her coaches have always encouraged the team to keep up on their school work, which she appreciates.



bina Moe and AJ Nienow, SMHS seniors who were selected as the school’s Triple ‘A’ Award winners for Staples-Motley. (Submitted photos)

She’s also grateful to the teachers at Staples-Motley. In particular, Tyrrell said she’s enjoyed classes taught by Drew Potter and Lorna Birkholtz. Potter teaches business and finance, which encompasses important things in life you should know, and Birkholtz, who teaches chemistry and biology, has helped Tyrrell understand these sciences, as well as inspiring her to go into nursing. “I like helping people...it’s rewarding,” she said.

Lily Tyrrell will represent Staples-Motley at the state level for this prestigious award.

Sabina Moe

Sabina Moe, the daughter of Jordan and Connie Moe, is active in the Cardinal Music Department, playing percussion in the



school’s band and violin in the orchestra. She also was a part of choir for a few years. Last year, she helped with the theatre department in the areas of technical support and photography. She’s enjoyed it all, Moe said.

Moe is also on the Cardinal Speech team, serving as a captain, and competing in the Discussion category, where she was a medalist at the section meet. She enjoys researching various topics that are discussed.

In the area of athletics, Moe ran track for a few years, and is very active in swimming, having lettered, served as captain, and been named top point scorer this past year. She was part of the Staples-Motley swim team until they dropped the program, later swimming as part of a co-op with the

Little Falls team. Some of her favorite high school memories have involved swimming, Moe said, going on to mention Sarah, her best friend on the team. “We cheer each other on,” she said.

Academically, Moe ranks third in her class (while taking a number of difficult courses, including chemistry, calculus and physics), is on the Honor Society, and also takes post-secondary online classes.

Moe has enjoyed taking business/finance classes from Drew Potter, adding that “he is blunt, says it like it is, which I respect.”

Outside of school, Moe works at the Staples Community Center, where she teaches swimming lessons and watches the pool.

Next year, Moe plans to attend the University of Wisconsin-Madison to study engineering and math. She hopes to be a civil engineer someday, adding that she was inspired after taking a class on designing cities and towns. “I like traveling a lot and seeing how things work,” she said.

AJ Nienow

AJ Nienow, the son of Adam and Lori Nienow, is very active in the arts at Staples-Motley. He’s competed on the speech team for six years, is a section medalist, and currently serves as a team captain. This year, Nienow’s competing in both the Creative Expression category, and the Duo category with Maddock Harvey.

Music has been a significant part of Nienow’s high

school career as well. He sings the part of bass II in the choir, which he’s been a part of since seventh grade. This year, he’s taken on the role of choir president, and serves as section leader. In orchestra, Nienow plays cello, and occasionally plays guitar at school music events. “I play all sorts of music on my own,” Nienow said.

Academically, Nienow has been named to the Honor Society and serves on the student council. Currently, he is taking all college-level courses, three of which are online.

Nienow is currently exploring college options, with plans to study business and pre-law. He’d love to go into law, Nienow said, adding that he was first inspired after taking Erik Johnson’s ‘Crime and Justice’ class, where he participated in a mock trial. He also served as an intern with Kurt Porter, having the opportunity to watch a court in session and see how it all works.

In the area of athletics, Nienow is a member of the Cardinal golf team. The things he likes best about the sport are having the opportunity to be outdoors, and being with friends. He appreciates that it’s a life sport, and is a lot of fun.

Some of his favorite school memories include the ‘Spirit Weeks,’ where students have the opportunity to dress up in crazy outfits and have a fun time.

One injured in vehicle accident near Motley

The Morrison County Sheriff’s Office reports that on Feb. 11, at approximately 5:48 p.m., their office received a report of a motor vehicle accident on 385th St., west of Hwy 10, about one mile south of Motley.

According to the sheriff’s office, a vehicle driven by 33-year-old Lucille Umang of Clarissa was traveling east on 385th St. when she suffered a possible medical emergency. Umang’s vehicle went in the ditch, hit an address sign, mailbox and a street sign before coming to a stop. Umang was transported by ambulance to Lakewood Health System Hospital in Staples with unknown injuries.

The Morrison County Sheriff’s Office was assisted at the scene by Motley Fire and Rescue, and Staples Ambulance.

Staples Police Department report

Recent reports taken by the Staples Police Dept.

Jan. 15, Staples Police arrested Wesly Twa, 41, for a body only warrant out of Crow Wing Cty. Police also located suspected methamphetamine on Twa during the arrest. The report will be sent to the county attorney for charges.

Jan. 17, Staples Police took a report of a counterfeit bill that from Unity Bank. The bill was not used in a transaction. Individual that dropped the bill off stated there are several of those bills floating around the community.

Jan. 18, at 12:42 a.m., Staples Police came upon an intoxicated individual in the road on the 1100 block of 6th St. NE. Officers gave the individual a ride home.

Jan. 18, Staples Police responded to the 200 block of Wisconsin Ave. SE for a civil matter. Complainant’s property was in another individual’s car and the car owner reportedly would not give it back. Officers were able to mediate the issue. The complainant got their property.

Jan. 19, Staples Police responded to the high school for a report of two students fighting. Both juveniles were cited for disorderly conduct.

Jan. 20, Staples Police responded to a report of an

attempted break in on the 1400 block of 8th St. NE.

Jan. 20, Staples Police received a report of a assault that occurred on the 900 block of Michigan Ave. NE. Officers are investigating.

Jan. 21, Staples Police responded to a report of a domestic dispute occurring on the 1400 block of 3rd St. NE. Upon investigation, police arrested Jade Hange, 33, for domestic assault, 5th degree assault, 1st degree burglary, 3rd degree damage to property, two counts of disorderly conduct and obstructing the legal process. Hange was transported to the Wadena County Detention Center to be held for court.

Jan. 23, Staples Police responded to the 800 block of 3rd Ave. NE on a report of possible domestic assault. When law enforcement arrived on scene they heard yelling and arguing coming from the garage. The responding officer encountered a male on the back deck of the residence. The male refused to show his hands, began struggling with the officer as they attempted to handcuff him. Once the suspect was secured in the rear of the patrol vehicle, officers were able to speak with the victim and complainant and determined that an

assault had occurred. While on scene, the suspect made claims of a heart attack. He was transported by ambulance and medically cleared by staff. Paul DeBoer, 46, of Staples, was arrested and charged with domestic assault, obstructing legal process and was transported to Todd County Jail.

Jan. 26, 1:12 a.m., Staples Police located an intoxicated subject who had fallen in the 100 block of 4th St NE. The subject refused to tell officers where he was going and refused a ride. Police followed the subject for some time to make sure the subject would be safe due to his intoxication. Police observed that the subject had a cell phone on him and that he continued to walk without falling. Police cleared without incident.

Jan. 31, Staples Police were requested to assist the Todd County Sheriff’s Dept. on an active domestic on Cty Rd 21, just south of Staples. Officers arrived and assisted the Sheriff’s Dept. with the investigation. A juvenile was arrested for Domestic Assault and taken to the Todd County Sheriff’s Office.

Feb. 1, Staples Police received a driving complaint of a semi truck weaving in and out of its lane Westbound on Hwy 10. Offi-

cers followed the vehicle and stopped it for weaving. Officers determined the driver was not impaired but due to medical conditions was not fit to be driving. Officers arranged for a ride for the driver and got a driver for his semi.

Feb. 2, Staples Police placed four juveniles on a 72 hour police health and welfare hold for Wadena Police Dept.

Feb. 3, at 2:40 a.m., Staples Police received a request to assist the Morrison County Sheriff’s Dept. with a vehicle that had been stolen from Brick’s Travel Center in Motley and was heading west on Hwy 10. Officers located the vehicle and stopped it. Daniel Marsh, 40, of rural Staples, was taken into custody for Theft of a Motor Vehicle and taken to the Morrison County Jail.

Feb. 3, Staples Police received a report of a subject trespassing with an ATV in a private parking lot. The caller also stated the subject had small children riding on the ATV without helmets. Police located the subject, advised them of the complaint and issued a verbal warning.

Feb. 3, Staples Police received a call at the Mill Townhomes about a suicidal and homicidal subject who wanted to be trans-

ported to Lakewood. Police transported the subject without incident.

Feb. 3, Staples Police were dispatched to the Family Dollar for a report of a bag of meth being found. Officers took the substance, confirmed it to be methamphetamine it was placed in a secure location to be disposed of.

Feb. 3, Staples Police responded to the 1400 block of 3rd St. NE for a possible domestic. Baylee Baston, 24, of Staples, was cited for disorderly conduct.

Feb. 4, Staples Police arrested Samantha Doesken, 33, for a Crow Wing County warrant for 5th degree drug possession. Police transported Doesken to Pillager and turned Doesken over to a Crow Wing County Deputy without incident.

Motley area law enforcement

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

Jan. 31 - Feb. 6

Feb. 3 - Motley Police received a report from a Motley resident who stated

her dog was found in a neighbor’s trap.

Feb. 3 - Motley Police and Morrison County Deputies responded to a report of theft of a motor vehicle at the 200 block of Hwy 10 W., Motley. Daniel Jacob Marsh, 40, was arrested and transported to the Morrison County Jail.



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The City of Little Falls, Minnesota, will be receiving sealed proposals to provide Clubhouse and Event Center Management services as a part of the Little Falls Country Club.

Sealed proposals (one original, four copies, and one digital USB flash drive) will be received by the City Administrator’s Office, 100 Northeast Seventh Avenue, PO Box 244, Little Falls, MN, 56345-0244, until 12:00 noon central time on February 21, 2024. Any proposals received after the time specified will not be accepted and shall be returned unopened to the Proposer.

The Request for Proposals is open to inspection and may be obtained at City Hall, 100 Northeast Seventh Avenue, Little Falls, MN, 56345; or on the City’s website at: www.cityoflittlefalls.com.

The City of Little Falls reserves the right to reject any or all proposals, to waive technicalities, and to readvertise. The award, if made, will be made to the most responsive Proposer whose proposal is determined by the City, in its sole discretion, to be the most advantageous to the City.

Looking back

75 Years Ago - 1949

• Feb. 17, 1949 - Under the sponsorship of the Clover Leaf 4-H club, of near Motley, the KSTP Barn Dance and Main Street radio and stage show will be presented in Staples at the Staples auditorium on Friday evening, Feb. 24, with the show starting at 8:15 o'clock.

Featured on the program will be Billy Folger, Kim Weston, Fiddlin' Russ, Cactus Slim, Andy Walsh and "Quarantine and Bobby, the madcaps of comedy."

• Feb. 17, 1949 - From a report coming from County Auditor Nick Truog, at Long Prairie, it is learned that Todd county paid out a total of \$1,809 in wolf and fox bounties during the 1948 year.

Mr. Truog stated that the

- O -
Compiled by
Dawn Timbs
- O -

amount of bounty paid is \$4.00 for adult, and \$2.00 for cub fox, and \$15.00 for adult and \$5.00 for cub wolves.

A total of 235 cub foxes were turned in during the year, and 310 adult fox were turned over to the county. Only nine wolves were presented for bounty, and no wolf cubs were caught.

Leonard Markfelder of Staples was the leader in wolf bounties, having turned in five of the nine caught in the county. Mr. Markfelder also turned in 34 adult fox during the year. Second honors in the county went to Arthur Mortenson of Burnhamville, who turned in 24 adult fox and 31 cubs.

• Feb. 17, 1949 - Sponsored by the Staples Lions club, teen-agers of Staples will be entertained at a free roller skating party at the Batcher hall Tuesday evening, Feb. 22, starting at 7:30 and continuing until 11 p.m.

• Feb. 17, 1949 - Miss Jackie Ellefson, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Rudy Ellefson, of Staples, was the winner of Todd county's 4-H radio public speaking contest held Monday evening, Feb. 14, at Grey Eagle.

Jackie was one of 16 contestants to participate in the event, and is a member of the Hayden Boosters 4-H club, with Mrs. John German as their adult leader.

Choosing as her theme "What My Home Means to Me," Jackie presented her talk in one of the very best manners that any speaker has ever done in competition in 4-H club work, according to Miss Ruth Lehman, county home demonstration agent.

As a result of her winning, Jackie will appear in a radio speech contest over



Mystery photo

Hello readers. This week's archive photo is from 1999. 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

station KWAD on Feb. 25.

50 Years Ago - 1974

• Feb. 14, 1974 - Craig Williams, son of Mr. and Mrs. James E. Williams, Staples, was the recipient of the Eagle Scout Award, the highest award that can be given a Boy Scout, at ceremonies conducted at the annual Boy and Cub Scout Banquet Saturday evening in the high school cafeteria.

• Feb. 14, 1974 - Thirteen members of the Class of 1974 at Staples High school were honored Feb. 7, by their being initiated into membership of the National Honor Society.

The new members of the society are Lynn Dyer, Jodi Olsen, David Floistad, Julie Johnson, Phil Lindamann, Sally Keeling, Richard Bremer, Julie Voeltz, Michael Salber, Kim Wilson, Joe Lauer, Linda Wise and Mark Evans.

The seven members of the National Honor Society, who were inducted last May, performed the initiation ceremonies, namely Patricia Blessing, Jeanne Hesse, Susette Jay, Toni Anderson, Lynnelle Reese, Gary Williams, and Marie Ziegler.

Thursday's program got underway with the Trumpet Fanfare, followed by greetings from Dr. Duane R. Lund, superintendent of schools. The A Cappella Choir, directed by Stan Carlson, sang "O, All Ye Nations."

• Feb. 14, 1974 - The Rocket Grapplers defeated the Pequot Lakes Indians in a down-to-the-wire match at

home Thursday, 30-28.

The high point of the evening was the ceremony honoring the parents of the wrestlers. Each wrestler's mother received a rose as did the coaches' wives, the cheerleading advisor, and the scorekeeper's wife.

• Feb. 14, 1974 - The Staples Cardinals showed the Little Falls Flyers, the Aitkin Gobblers, the C-I Rangers, the Park Rapids Panthers, the Wadena Indians and the Detroit Lakes Lakers where the wrestling power of the Mid-State Conference lies as the men of Coach Don Dravis easily wrestled their way to their seventh consecutive crown last Saturday at Little Falls.

As the Cardinals dominated the action, they came home with six individual champions, Dave Roberts, Mark Bendson, Bob Sowers, Tom Goff, Ron Kern and Roger Madson, plus a second placing by Jeff Marden, third placings by Terry Carlson, Bernie Folkert and Bob Sadlo and a fourth by Harry Goeden.

• Feb. 14, 1974 - Dr. Mike A. Lucas has joined Dr. James L. Schaefer on the staff of the Staples Veterinary Clinic, according to an announcement made today. Dr. Lucas assumed his duties Feb. 4.

A native of Blackwell, Oklahoma, Dr. Lucas served as a veterinarian in Hugoton, Kansas, before joining the Staples Clinic.

He and his wife, Wanda, have four children: David, 10; Janie, 10; Rebecca, 8; and

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.

Susan, 7. The family resides on a farm north of Motley.

25 Years Ago - 1999

• Feb. 18, 1999 - Dustin Cavin emerged the top speller at Pillager School after the Friday's contest. Dustin completed 14 rounds of competition and won with the word "remember." Cavin will advance to the region Spelling Bee held at Pequot Lakes and the chance at state and Washington D.C.

• Feb. 18, 1999 - Posting a 28-20 win over Wadena-Deer Creek for the championship, the Staples Motley Cardinals are Section 7AA wrestling champs and headed for the state tournament Feb. 25, 26 and 27.

• Feb. 18, 1999 - Lamp-lighter Community Theatre (LCT) takes you back to the 1960's and invites you to "Listen in" on a conversation over lunch by two old, old friends, Clara and Gertrude. Between courses, these two octogenarians reminisce, discuss and debate as only friends since childhood could.

Public performances of the play, "Save Me a Place at Forest Lawn," are Feb. 27 and 28 at Centennial Auditorium in Staples.

The production is directed by Amy Hjelmeland, co-founder, board member and past president of LCT. "Gertrude" is played by Anna Nice of Motley, who has been involved in theater and music for many years. The part of "Clara" is played by Margo Hoemberg of Staples, who usually works "behind the scenes" at artistic events. Hoemberg is a member of the board of LCT.

10 Years Ago - 2014

• Feb. 13, 2014 - Sophia Roberts, a seventh grader at Motley Staples Middle School, was the winner at the District Spelling Bee on Jan. 30.

Roberts didn't seem any more nervous than the other contestants, but inside she was terrified. "I almost passed out every time they gave me a word," she said.

To calm herself down, Roberts used a trick that her grandmother taught her: "She said if you visualize the word in your mind, you should be able to spell it," she said.

In the last few rounds, Roberts correctly spelled recoup, rosin, extinguish, evince and prognosticate. Her win qualified her for the Lakes Bee on March 6, at Tornstrom Auditorium in Brainerd.



Student program supported

The Staples Host Lions recently donated \$150 to Sourcewell, to go toward their 'Students of Character' ceremony. Pictured, from left, are Lion President Rick Adamietz and Lexi McDonald with Sourcewell. (Staples World photo by Dawn Timbs)

Court report Feb. 1

Long Prairie Police Department

Rafael Becerra Garcia, Long Prairie. Driving after revocation. Dismissed.

Luis Alejandro Lara Castillo, Long Prairie. Fleeing a peace officer in a motor vehicle. Sentenced. Local confinement 364 days. Stay 334 days for two years. Credit for time served: two days. Fine \$400. Fee \$75. Supervised probation, two years. Careless driving. Dismissed.

Cedric Roy Machado Pastrana, Clarissa. Driver must carry proof of insurance when operating vehicle. Fine \$200. Fee \$85. Driving after suspension. Fine \$200.

Arcadia Zorrilla Hernandez, St. Cloud. Disorderly conduct—offensive, abusive, boisterous, noisy, obscene. Dismissed.

Minnesota State Patrol

Austin Trey Hodgden, Park Rapids. No proof of Minnesota insurance. Dismissed.

Colin Steven Jackson, Clarissa. Driving after revocation. Fine \$200. Fee \$85. No proof of motor vehicle insurance. Fine \$200. Fee \$85. No insurance owner. Fine \$200.

Jacob John Knudson, Staples. Hands-Free Law—engage in cellular phone or video call. Fine \$50. Fee \$85.

Tina Marie Myrum, Bertha. Speed 69/60. Fine \$40. Fee \$85.

Adam Gene Schwartz, Wadena. Hands-Free Law—initiate, compose, send, retrieve, read electronic message. Fine \$50. Fee \$85.

Patricia June Sweeney, Cocoran. Speed 74/65. Fine \$40. Fee \$85.

Thomas Andrew Zabka, Merri-field. Speed 75/65. Fine \$40. Fee \$85.

David Dean Anderson, Breckenridge. Speed 80/70. Fine \$40. Fee \$85.

Mitchell Trace Anderson, Bloomington. Speed 85/70. Fine \$60. Fee \$85.

Eric Michael Dahl, Osseo. Speed 80/70. Fine \$40. Fee \$85.

Hannah Jo Grimm, Lake City. Speed 80/70. Fine \$40. Fee \$85.

Leon Joseph Imdieke, Sauk Centre. Animals at large. Fine \$50. Fee \$85.

Jessica Susan Jacobson, Twin Valley. Speed 70/80. Fine \$40. Fee \$85.

Penelope Ann Johnson, Minneapolis. Speed 70/80. Fine \$40. Fee \$85.

Skyler James Dale Klinger, Long Prairie. Speed 70/60. Fine \$40. Fee \$85.

Emma Audrey Lewis, Hugo. Speed 80/70. Fine \$40. Fee \$85.

Adelia Manuel, Houston, Texas. Speed 103/70. Dismissed. Careless driving. Sentenced. Fine \$200. Fee \$85. Local confinement 90 days. Stay 90 days for six months. Probation to the court, six months.

Marcus Ryan Meder, Dalton. Speed 80/70. Fine \$40. Fee \$85.

Shelby Kay Nagel, Alexandria. Speed 80/70. Fine \$40. Fee \$85.

Garett Scott Nelson, Rochert. Seatbelt required. Fine \$25. Fee \$85.

Colton Michael Niemann, Foley. Speed 65/55. Fine \$40. Fee \$85.

Zachary Donald Person, New London. Speed 70/60. Fine \$40. Fee \$85.

Tina Michelle Peterson, Menahga. Speed 65/55. Fine \$40. Fee \$85.

Jordan Mikal Pollock, Twin Brooks, S.Dak. Speed 80/70. Fine \$40. Fee \$85.

Alexander Stephan Pupp, Independence. Speed 80/70. Fine \$40. Fee \$85.

Paul Vance Robert Goldammer, Sioux Falls, S.Dak. Speed 71/60. Fine \$50. Fee \$85.

Cameron L. Sass, Lake Bar-

ington, Ill. Speed 80/70. Fine \$40. Fee \$85.

Keith Lavell Scott, Fargo, N.Dak. Driving after cancellation. Stay of adjudication. Fine \$50. Probation to the court, six months.

Staples Police Department

Bradley Richard Beach, Staples. Accumulated machinery/appliances/other. Dismissed.

Wendy Sue Poland, Staples. Unlawful parking/storage. Dismissed.

Todd County Sheriff's Office

Sharon Sherrie Lee Kutter, Grey Eagle. Theft—take, use, transfer movable property. Dismissed, conditions met or expired.

Brian Joseph Lemley, Sauk Centre. Fifth Degree Possess Schedule I, II, III, IV or paraphernalia residual—not cannabis/hemp. Dismissed.

Geovanni Reyes, Clarissa. Driving after revocation. Fine \$200. Fee \$85.

The following cases were heard before Judge Daniel Benson in Seventh District Court in Todd County Jan. 25, 2024.

Sasha Lea Gangl, Grey Eagle. Harassment; restraining order—violate and knows of temporary or restraining order. Dismissed, conditions met or expired. Fee totals \$50.

The following cases were heard before Judge Daniel Benson in Seventh District Court in Todd County Jan. 29, 2024.

Michael Andrew Brastad, Aldrich. Fifth Degree Possession of a Controlled Substance. Amended court decision. Sentenced. Local confinement 90 days.

The following cases were heard before Judge Daniel Benson in Seventh District Court in Todd County Jan. 30, 2024.

Brent Norman Polan, International Falls. CRM-HRO violation. Stay of adjudication. Fee totals \$50. Disorderly conduct—offensive, abusive, boisterous, noisy, obscene. Dismissed.

Robert James Hartman, Vernal. Second Degree DWI—operate motor vehicle under influence of alcohol. Dismissed. Second Degree DWI—operate motor vehicle—alcohol concentration 0.08 within two hours. Amended court decision. Sentenced. Fee totals \$530. Local confinement 365 days. Stay 275 days for four years. Credit for time served: five days. Supervised probation, four years.

Cindy Jay Krueger, Eagle Bend. Theft—take, use, transfer movable property. Sentenced. Fine \$50. Fee totals \$125. Local confinement 90 days. Stay 90 days for one year. Probation to the court, one year.

The following cases were heard before Judge Daniel Benson in Seventh District Court in Todd County Jan. 31, 2024.

Devin Andrew Jake Fletcher, Park Rapids. Dismissed. Fifth Degree Possess Schedule I, II, III, IV— not small amount marijuana. Fee totals: \$125. Local confinement 364 days. Stay 163 days for two years. Credit for time served: 201 days. Theft—take/drive motor vehicle. Sentenced. Local confinement 90 days. Credit for time served: 54 days. Fine \$50. Fee totals \$125. Supervised probation, five years.

Brian Dean Young, Bertha. DWI—operate motor vehicle under influence of alcohol. Dismissed. DWI—operate motor vehicle—alcohol concentration 0.08 within two hours. Dismissed. Obstruct legal process—lawful execution legal process. Dismissed, conditions met or expired. Unsupervised monitoring without conviction, six months.



Mystery solved

Last week's mystery photo published in the Jan. 30, 1986 edition of the Staples World featured several members of the Motley community who had been recognized at a Centennial dance at the Motley 10-Hi Corral. Pictured from left, back row: Ernie Spilman, American Legion Commander; Lee Greig, Motley Lions president; Marvin Spilman, American Legion gambling chairman; Quent Bendtsen, president of the Motley Merchants Association. Front row: Judy Hustak, representing the Motley Lionettes; Janet Greig, co-chair of the Centennial fundraising committee; Betty Hustak, of the Motley Senior Citizens; and Pat Crawford, chairperson of the Centennial project. Motley's Centennial took place in July of 1987.

Pat Crawford recognized all of the women, and two of the men. She didn't

recall this particular gathering, but remembered all of the planning that went into the Centennial. Janet Greig of Motley recognized most in the photo, and also recalled the amount of work that went into planning the town's Centennial celebration. She went on to share a few memories about the Centennial itself, including that around 10,000 people were in attendance throughout the weekend, and that Hwy 10 was closed for the parade, which resulted in traffic being re-routed and backed up for quite awhile. One woman from the Twin Cities called later to report that her bird had died because she'd been stuck in traffic, due to Motley's Centennial. Kathy Odden of Staples recognized Patty Crawford. Thanks for participating in our Mystery Photo.

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Staples World

Full & Part Time Local & Regional Positions

2, 3, and 4 day schedules or Full Time positions available from our Terminal in St Cloud, MN. Come join our team at Warnert Logistics, we will have 2 FT driving positions available March 1st, We offer Full Time Benefits (Health Insurance, 401k, PTO) Home weekends and some evenings, Late Model trucks and Dry Van trailers, excellent maintenance program and onsite mechanic, percentage based pay program.



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Feb. is Teen Dating Violence Awareness Month

By Barb Dinkel Goodrich
Hands of Hope Resource Center – Todd County

February was declared Teen Dating Violence Awareness Month by Congress in 2010. It is a nationally recognized campaign to raise awareness and education on teen dating violence and its impact on individuals, families, and communities.

Romantic relationships between teenagers can be complicated. Being in a relationship requires more maturity than most teens have developed, and are more likely to lead to problems with communication, jealousy, and selflessness.

Unhealthy relationships can take many forms, and there are certain behaviors that should be cause for concern and raise red flags:

- Extreme jealousy or insecurity
- Explosive outbursts, temper, or mood swings
- Possessiveness or controlling tendencies
- Isolation from friends or family (physically, financially, or emotionally)
- Frequently being put down, especially in front of others
- Threatening or causing physical violence

- Pressuring or forcing unwanted sexual activity
- Monitoring their whereabouts, what they are doing and who they are with

Talking to teens about the health of their relationships is a proactive way to support them, even if they are not in an abusive relationship. Parents need to feel comfortable talking about these issues. Schools need to take steps to become better prepared to address incidents on campus. And as a community, we need to rise up and say “No More.” It’s never too early to start having these conversations – adolescence is a crucial time to discuss love, respect, and boundaries.

If you or someone you know is involved in an unhealthy or abusive relationship, it is important to know that you are not alone, and telling someone you trust is the first step. Relationship violence can escalate quickly, so it’s important to take action as soon as you experience any emotional, physical, or sexual abuse. Remember: “one time is too many.”

Hands of Hope Resource Center in Long Prairie has trained advocates available if you want to talk in a safe, confidential environment. Advocates can be reached Monday–Friday, 8:30 a.m.–4:30 p.m. at 320-732-2319, or their 24/7 hotline at 800-682-4547.

Quote of the week

“Love is nothing in tennis. But in life, it’s everything.”
— Jeanette Murray

Minnesotans value water

From University of Minnesota Extension

Understanding how different communities value water and prioritize its protection is critical to effective policy and governance.

University of Minnesota research recently published in *Society & Natural Resources* explores how socially and culturally diverse Minnesotans value water. While some values are universal — safe drinking water, for example — other values and priorities vary by sociocultural identities.

This work was supported by the Minnesota Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund as recommended by the Legislative-Citizen Commission on Minnesota Resources (LCCMR). Funding for this project was also provided by the Minnesota Stormwater Research Council and Clean Water Funds established by the Minnesota Clean Water Land & Legacy Amendment.

“Minnesotans don’t all experience water in the same ways — we have different water relationships depending on where we live, our cultural worldviews, our life experiences and the hardships we face,” said lead author Mae Davenport, a professor in the Department of Forest Resources and director of the Center for Changing

Landscapes. “Unfortunately, because of historical and institutional injustices that still affect people today, culturally diverse and non-dominant racialized groups have been underrepresented in positions of power and underserved by decisions that affect human-water relationships.”

Through two studies, a statewide mail survey of Minnesota residents and an onsite survey of Twin Cities community members at cultural events, the research team observed how variables like gender, race, ethnicity and home ownership are associated with different water priorities. The researchers partnered with community leaders to make the methods more inclusive and representative of diverse water relationships.

They found:

- Safe and clean drinking water was the most important water value in both studies, across all gender, race and ethnic identities.
- Culturally diverse respondents identifying as Asian, American Indian, Black or African American, Hispanic or Latino, Middle Eastern or North African, or Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander placed higher importance than white-only identifying respondents on many water values, including water for cultural and religious practices, for watering vegetable gardens,

for recreation opportunities, and fishing for preferred species.

- Female-identifying respondents placed higher importance on average across water values than male-identifying respondents in the statewide survey.

“What we have learned through this research will support more inclusive and community-centered water dialogue, science, policy development and investments for all Minnesotans,” said Davenport. “I believe we all will benefit from learning more about the deep and meaningful connections people have with water in Mni Sóta Makoce, the Dakota name for what is now called Minnesota, meaning ‘where waters reflect the clouds.’ And, water will benefit too as we share in our knowledge and caretaking practices.”

These findings suggest that more inclusive and holistic water science, policy and management is needed. Approaches that acknowledge and support the diversity of water values and relationships should be incorporated into water programs, policies and investments. Additionally, science requires more inclusive research and engagement methodologies to explore and uplift different voices and narratives around water.

Letter to the Editor

Caucus puts government in your hands

On Tuesday, Feb. 27, at 7 p.m., Republicans across Minnesota will be gathering in their neighborhoods

for precinct caucuses. The future of our party and nation belongs to those who show up. If you wish to see a change in our party or our candidates, precinct caucuses are your chance to stand up and be heard. Don’t miss your chance to make a difference. Attend your caucuses at Menahga, Sebeka,

Wadena and Verndale, depending on which precinct you live in. If you’re unsure where to go, you can find out by going to the caucus finder on the Minnesota Secretary of State’s website.

Donald Line
Verndale, Minn.

Quote of the week

“Whether you think you can or you think you can’t, you’re right.”
— Henry Ford

Looking ahead to state session, Bonding Bill

By Senator Paul Utke

As February begins, it’s time to start considering the upcoming Legislative Session. Since 2024 is a Bonding Year, not only does that mean session starts a bit later on February 12, but it also means the main focus of the year is putting together a bonding bill, despite Democrats already passing multiple bonding bills last year. The Democrat trifecta also showed they have no qualms when it comes to pushing their social agenda on the entire state. So much so that they ran through nearly the entire surplus, with plans to spend even more this year.

I’m sure most folks remember the end of 2022 when it was announced that Minnesota had an unprecedented surplus – nearly \$19 billion before accounting for inflation. Minnesotans were expecting tax relief. Unfortunately, that money has all but been spent up by Democrats, funding extreme and costly legislation. All those projects were financially underestimated when they were passed, and now costs are exploding. Free school meals, a paid sick time mandate, and funding for the State Office Building renovations... All over budget. To make matters worse, because of Democrats’ out-of-control spending, Minnesota is barreling towards a deficit. Republicans tried to sound the alarm on this repeatedly, and now we’re seeing the results of their

catastrophic spending.

One of the top priorities this session will require taking a hard look at the current spending and doing our best to rein it in. Senate Republicans have always been committed to fiscal responsibility – after all, these are taxpayer dollars that are being spent. Since we’re looking at a deficit on the horizon, the legislature needs to get our state’s finances in order. If this doesn’t happen, you can certainly bet Democrats will continue raising taxes to fund their pet projects.

Another issue that has already reared its head is the “End-of-Life Options” bill. Democrats have forced hearings on this bill, showing how interested they are in continuing with a culture of death in their single-party control. Rather than providing treatment and care for the vulnerable, terminally ill, depressed, and frail, they propose a sanitized “medical aid in dying” approach that just masks a hidden agenda to undermine a person’s right to life. We’ve seen the horrifying results of these assisted suicide laws in other states and countries, like doctor shopping by family members to end the life of a loved one, flimsy psychological referrals, and even expanding qualifications to include economic status. A person’s right to life does not depend on their quality of life, mental health, or income. This bill is an extremely dangerous policy

that will pit Minnesotans against one another and divide families facing challenging situations. This is something Republicans will be fighting against.

Lastly, as stated before, it’s a bonding year. That typically means many bonding projects will be heard, and some projects will be chosen to be included in a bonding bill at the end of session. It’s important that we address crumbling infrastructure, but Democrats are not interested in doing that. They already passed multiple bonding bills last session, and those bills funded numerous metro projects and funded over 54 non-profits. They put special interests above real needs, and I believe we’ll see more of the same this year.

There are many topics that will be on the agenda this year. Senate Republicans will work hard to hold the line by pushing for tax relief and funding for critical infrastructure, but Democrats have shown they have no interest in working across the aisle. They’ve previously opted to push through hyper-partisan legislation, and I’m concerned we can expect more of the same this year. We need to do what is best for Minnesota families, not special interest groups. I encourage folks to follow along closely this year and remain engaged in the process. Minnesotans should not be stuck footing the bill for bad Democrat policies.

Stauber urges Congress to delist gray wolves

Submitted by the office of U.S. Representative Pete Stauber

Congressman Pete Stauber (MN-08) recently led a letter to House Leadership and House Appropriations Chairwoman and Ranking Member requesting that any FY2024 spending package put before the House of Representatives include language to delist the gray

wolf under the Endangered Species Act (ESA).

The importance of this request was recently compounded by a Friday announcement made by the Biden Administration’s U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service that there would be no changes to the listing status of the gray wolf under the ESA.

Of his letter, Stauber stated, “The gray wolf has fully recovered, yet Administration after Administration have been unable to delist this species under the ESA because well-funded activist groups have weaponized the court system to keep the gray wolf on the Endangered Species list. Most recently, an activist judge in California ordered the Biden Administration to relist the species in 2022.”

Stauber continued, stating, “Friday’s announcement further demonstrates that the Biden Administration is unable to do the right thing, making it more evident that Congressional action is necessary. That’s why I am proud to lead a group of my colleagues in demanding that House Leadership and House Appropriators include language to delist the gray wolf under the ESA in any FY2024 spending package brought before this Chamber. My constituents in northern Minnesota are fed up with the devastating repercussions caused by the dramatic rise in the gray wolf population, which is why I will not stop until the gray wolf is removed from

the Endangered Species list and a responsible management plan is enacted in our state.”

Background

In Minnesota, the gray wolf population is estimated to be well over 3,000, while the ESA Recovery Plan goal for our state is 1,400.

Congressman Stauber has been very active on this issue, introducing legislation like the Manage Our Predators Act to remove the ability of judges from faraway places to dictate how we manage wildlife in our backyard. Over the past several months, Stauber has met with constituents from across northern Minnesota to listen to their stories regarding the gray wolf attacks on livestock, pets, and wildlife. He most recently hosted a town hall meeting alongside Minnesota state legislators in Willow River, MN on January 22nd, which was attended by over 240 concerned constituents from across Minnesota’s 8th Congressional District.

On February 1st, Stauber joined House Natural Resources Committee Chairman Bruce Westerman and his colleagues on the Natural Resources Committee in sending a letter to U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Director Martha Williams regarding the agency’s unscientific approach to gray wolf listing under the ESA and the significant impacts an endangered listing would have on western communities.

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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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Cardinal Calendar

SM school events

February

◦ **DISTRICT SPELLING BEE**
Feb. 20, 1:30 p.m.

March

◦ **OUR VOICE, OUR SONG CONCERT** March 2, Staples-Motley High School Main Gym, 7 p.m.

◦ **MS/HS CONCERTS** March 7, 6 p.m., 7 p.m., Centennial Auditorium

◦ **MIDDLE SCHOOL DANCE** March 8, 3:45 - 5:45 p.m.

◦ **MIDDLE SCHOOL MUSICAL** March 15 - 16, Centennial Auditorium

◦ **POLAR PLUNGE** March 20

◦ **SADIE HAWKINS DANCE (GRADES 9 - 12)** March 23, 7:30 - 10:30 p.m.

◦ **VOCAL LARGE GROUP CONTEST AT STAPLES-MOTLEY** March 27

Forensic psychologist author to speak at library

Thursday, Feb. 15, Forensic Psychologist Frank F. Weber will be at the Staples Library, speaking from 6-7 p.m. on the writing of true crime, forensic work and his latest book. The Haunted House of Hillman (H2 OH) is based on the true story of teens daring each other to return to the home of an unsolved murder. The killer begins to view the home as a victim magnet.

Frank will share the amazing stories of victim survival that led to the resolution of this true crime thriller. Frank will give a live demonstration of a lie detector test (volunteer a friend). Frank will be at the library from 5-7:30 p.m. answering questions on



his work, signing and selling his books and discussing the latest forensic tools. The Staples Public Library is located at 122 6th Street

Northeast, Staples.

Frank F. Weber is a forensic psychologist specializing in homicide, sexual assault and domestic abuse cases. He uses his unique understanding of how predators think, knowledge of victim trauma and expert testimony in writing his true crime thrillers. He has profiled cold case homicides and narrated an investigative show on Oxygen. His award winning books include "Murder Book" (2017) "The I-94 Murders" (2018) "Last Call" (2019) "Lying Close" (2020) "Burning Bridges" (2021), "Black and Blue" (2022), "The Haunted House of Hillman" (2023) and "Scandal of Vandals" (2024).

Mark Your Calendar

February 14, 15

FREE TAX-AIDE Wednesdays, 1-4 p.m. and Thursdays, 10 a.m.- 4 p.m., through April 11, Staples City Hall. Must call for an appointment at 218-296-6616. For low to moderate income taxpayers.

'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>

February 16

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.

February 18

CELEBRATE RECOVERY GROUP MEETINGS are held every Sunday at 6 p.m., at Motley Free Methodist Church, 33 Wellwood St. E., Motley.

February 20

EXPERIENCE STRENGTH AND HOPE AA GROUP MTGS IN STAPLES are held at the Church of Christ, 27343 490th St., Tuesdays at 7 p.m. For info., call Dan at 218-640-7228.

February 21

STAPLES ALL VETERANS AND COMMUNITY PARK ASSOCIATION will hold its regular monthly board meeting on Wednesday, Feb. 21, 5:30 p.m., at Timbers Restaurant and Event Center in Staples. The public is invited. To attend via Zoom, contact Bob Hamann at 218-894-3139.



Staples Host Lions donate

The Staples Host Lions Club recently made several monetary donations, including \$1,000 designated for the upcoming Staples-Motley Grad Blast. Pictured, from left, are Amy Winter, Grad

Blast committee member; Lion President Rick Adamietz; and Sara Trantina, Grad Blast committee member. (Staples World photo by Dawn Timbs)



SM Music Department receives donation

The Staples Host Lions Club recently made several monetary donations, including \$500 to the Staples-Motley Music Department, with these funds designated for risers at the SM Elementary School. Pictured, from left, are Lori Nienow, Ad-

ministrative Assistant of Activities and Community Ed. at SM Schools; Lion President Rick Adamietz; and Brandy Lyon, SM Elementary Music Teacher. (Staples World photo by Dawn Timbs)

MnDOT comment period for Highway 10 4-lane in Wadena

The Environmental Assessment Worksheet (EAW) for proposed improvements to Highway 10 in Wadena, is available for review and comment from Feb. 13 to March 14, 2024, reports the Minnesota Department of Transportation.

MnDOT will improve and expand Highway 10 to four lanes, two in each direction, from west of Wadena at 620th Avenue, Otter Tail County, to east of Wadena at Oink Joint Road/140th Street, Wadena County, in 2025-2026. The project includes roundabouts at County Road 92/11th Street NW (formerly 640th Avenue) and Harry Rich Drive, along with a J-turn at County Road 75.

Copies of the EAW, which documents the purpose and need of the project along with the potential environmental impacts, are available for public viewing during business hours at the following locations:

- Wadena City Hall: 222 2nd St. SE, Wadena, MN 56482
- Wadena City Library: 210 First St. SW, Wadena, MN 56482

An electronic copy of the EAW can be accessed from MnDOT's project website. The 30-day public comment period opens Tuesday, Feb. 13, 2024, and closes Thursday, March 14, 2024. Comments can be sent to Ben Meister, MnDOT District 3 environmental coordinator, at benjamin.meister@state.mn.us; Minnesota Department of Transportation, 7694 Industrial Park Road, Baxter, MN 56425; or through the comment box on the project website.

MnDOT encourages participation by all. If you need an ASL, a foreign language interpreter, or other reasonable accommodation, or need documents in an alternative format (such as braille or large print) for this email or event, please email your request to ADArequest.dot@state.mn.us or call 651-366-4720.

For more information on projects in central Minnesota, visit mndot.gov/d3/projects, or follow us on Facebook at facebook.com/groups/MnDOTcentral.

Staples 'Meals on Wheels' volunteers needed

Volunteers are being sought to deliver meals for the "Meals on Wheels" program in Staples.

Meals on Wheels is part of the Staples Nutrition

Site based at the Staples Community Center. Volunteers deliver prepared meals weekdays, on average taking about one hour. If interested call 218-894-

2556, Mon.-Fri. (mornings are best).

The Staples Community Center is located at 425 4th St. NE, Staples.

First Lutheran Church, Pillager
Invites you to...

- **Ash Weds. Service:** Weds., Feb. 14, 7 p.m.
- **Lenten Services:** Weds., Feb. 21, 28 Weds., March 6, 13, 20 ~*Soup and Sandwich Supper, 5:30 p.m.* ~*Service at 6:30 p.m.*
- **Palm Sunday:** March 24, 9:30 a.m.
- **Good Friday Service:** March 29, 7 p.m.
- **Easter Sunday:** March 31, 9:30 a.m. Service
All are welcome!
The church is located at 717 River St. S., Pillager

Free Meal!
All Welcome!

Care Community Meal
Tues., Feb. 27
4:30 - 6 p.m.

Staples Assembly of God
914 3rd Ave. NE

Menu: Sliced Ham, Scalloped Potatoes, Corn, Salad, Variety of Great Desserts.

Also showing the "JESUS" film in the sanctuary starting at 5:45 p.m. for all who are interested.

RETRO TRIVIA

Venture down memory lane with audio from songs that influenced your youth, television show themes that became must watch TV, along with historic speeches from world leaders that shaped today's landscape.

--FREE: COME AND PLAY--

Thursday, Feb. 22, 11:30 a.m.
Staples Community Center
122 6th Street NE, Staples
Bring a friend or two: it's FREE to play!

It's easy, free and fun to play. Everyone receives a game piece. A 60 to 90 second selection of audio is played, followed by a trivia question in relation to the audio. Players have multiple choice options, circling what they think is the correct answer. This 30 question journey into yesteryear can be completed in approx. 60 minutes. The player with the top score is declared the winner and awarded a certificate proclaiming their skill.

Certificate is suitable for framing, hanging up or portable enough to carry with at all times for bragging rights!

homeward --Presented by Homeward Health

2024 Republican Precinct Caucuses

Pursuant to the laws of the State of Minnesota notice is hereby given that Precinct Caucuses of the Republican Party of **Wadena County** will be held

Tues., February 27, 2024 at 7 p.m.

Arrive early to register

Held at the following locations:

- **Menahga High School Commons for:** Menahga City, Blueberry Twp., Huntersville Twp., Shell River Twp.
- **Sebeka High School Media Room for:** Lyons Twp., Meadow Twp., Nimrod, N. Germany Twp., Orton Twp., Red Eye Twp., Rockwood Twp., Sebeka
- **Wadena-DC High School Commons Area for:** Leaf River Twp., Wadena P1, Wadena P2, Wadena P3, Wadena Twp.
- **Verndale High School Library for:** Aldrich City, Aldrich Twp., Bullard Twp., Staples, Verndale, Wing River Twp.

Prepaid and paid for by: Wadena County Republicans, PO Box 531, Wadena, MN

Republican Caucus, Todd County
February 27, 2024, 7 p.m.

Bertha-Hewitt HS Library:
Bartlett TWP, Bertha City, Bertha TWP, Germania TWP, Hewitt City & Stowe Prairie TWP

Browerville HS Library:
Browerville City, Hartford TWP, Little Elk TWP, Turtle Creek TWP & Ward TWP

Clarissa City Hall:
Burleene TWP, Clarissa City, Eagle Bend City, Eagle Valley TWP, Iona TWP & Wykeham TWP

Grey Eagle Senior Citizen Center:
Birchdale TWP, Burnhamville TWP, Burtrum City, Grey Eagle City, Grey Eagle TWP & Swanville City

LP-GE HS Commons:
Bruce TWP, Little Sauk TWP, Long Prairie City, Long Prairie TWP, Reynolds TWP & Round Prairie TWP

Osakis Elementary School Media Center:
Gordon TWP, Kandota TWP, Leslie TWP, Osakis City, West Union City & West Union TWP

Staples-Motley HS Media Center:
Fawn Lake TWP, Moran TWP, Staples City, Staples TWP & Villard TWP

W8-9p

Paired for by Todd County Republicans, 40298 Pinewood Court, Browerville, MN 56438

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Hello World

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ONLINE BIRTHS REMOVED
AT THE REQUEST OF LAKEWOOD
HEALTH SYSTEM.

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Obituaries

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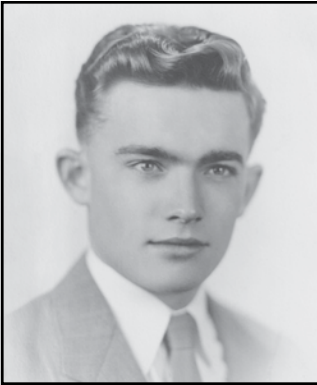
Neil Dvorak

Neil J. Dvorak, 88, of Browerville, passed away peacefully at The Moments in Lakeville, on February 9, 2024.

Funeral services will be held Saturday, February 17, 2024, at 11:00 a.m. at the Staples Church of Christ. Visitation will be held at 10:00 a.m. at the church, one hour prior to the start of the service. Lunch will follow.

Burial with military honors will be at Moran Riverside Cemetery.

Neil was born September 25, 1935 to James and Caroline (Hanson) Dvorak in Wadena. In 1955 he received an Agriculture Degree from the University of Minnesota. Neil then served for two years in Korea with



the United States Army. During his time in Korea, he enjoyed his primary role as a photographer.

Neil was a lifelong dairy farmer who loved his land and animals. In his free time, he enjoyed spending a peaceful day on the

lake fishing and capturing nature through the photography skills he picked up while in the service. Neil was also very proud of his Norwegian and Czechoslovakian heritage.

Neil is survived by one sister, Judy Germann; two nephews, Todd (Terry Rimer) Germann and Chris (Lisa) Germann; one grandnephew, Hakon Germann; one grandniece, Maren Germann and many cousins, friends and wonderful neighbors.

He is preceded in death by his parents.

Arrangements are by the Brenny Family Funeral Chapel, Staples.

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Virginia Rollins

Virginia K. Rollins, 70, of Staples passed away February 5, 2024 at her home in Staples.

A Celebration of Life Gathering will be held from 10:00 a.m. to noon on Saturday, April 13, at the Taylor Funeral Home in Staples.

Virginia was born November 12, 1953, to Warren and Marie (Weinans) Rubel in Staples. She grew up and attended school in Staples where she graduated from high school. At the age of 14 she began working at the Mary Rondorf Retirement Home in Staples until she moved to Brainerd in 1974. Virginia was united in marriage to James Rollins on July 21, 1973. The couple resided in Brainerd for a few years until returning to Staples in 1980 where she went back to work for the Mary Rondorf Home. She became the administrator for many years. Following the purchase of the Mary Rondorf Home by Lakewood Health System, Virginia retired and began working part-time at Ernie's Grocery Store in Staples. She volunteered much of her time as an election judge and at the Staples Food Shelf. In her free time, she enjoyed traveling, playing Farkle and having frequent lunch dates with her many friends. Vir-



ginia enjoyed spending time with her family and playing a nightly game of Yahtzee with her husband. She was dearly loved and will be greatly missed.

Virginia is survived by her husband, James; one daughter, Melissa (Jeffrey) Winter; one son, Michael (Heather) Rollins; two brothers, David Rubel and Kenneth Rubel; one sister, Mary Jo Nelson; four grandchildren, Madison Winter, Ian Winter, Keith Rollins and Amy Rollins and many nieces, nephews and friends.

She was preceded in death by her parents and two brothers, Thomas Rubel and John Rubel.

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

w8c A00006B2023FB14

Staples Area Church Directory

Staples

Staples Alliance
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.

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
Soulight (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:
Teen Youth/Adults Bible Study 7-8 p.m.

Faith Lutheran
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.

Sacred Heart Catholic Church
310 4th St. NE, Staples 218-894-2296
Church.....
info@maysacc.org
Fr. Aaron Kuhn
Fr. Gabriel Walz
MASS:
Sunday.....8:30 a.m.

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

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

Trinity Lutheran
1000 4th St., NE, Staples.....218-894-2372
Rev. Robin Collins
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
Pastor Chris Mathiason
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
Community Life Pastor: Jim Brown
Associate Pastor: Joe Reigstad
SUNDAY
Church Worship Gathering.....10:00 a.m.
YouTube Channel 10:00 a.m.

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

Leader

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

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

Motley

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

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

St. Michael Catholic Church
1st St. and Birch, Motley.....218-894-2296
info@maysacc.org
Fr. Aaron Kuhn
Fr. Gabriel Walz
MASS:
Saturday.....4:00 p.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 Malkore
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
Heath Belknap, Pastor of Student Ministries
Sunday Worship.....9:30 a.m.
Sunday Bible Fellowship Classes 11-11:45 a.m.

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

Hope Chapel Alliance
18126 County Road 7, Verndale
218-445-5643 or 218-472-3316
Pastor Neal Malkore
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 United Methodist
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.

St. Frederick Catholic Church
20 Mason Avenue NW 218-894-2296
info@maysacc.org
Fr. Aaron Kuhn
Fr. Gabriel Walz
MASS:
Saturday.....6:00 p.m.

St. Hubert Catholic Church
Bluegrass 218-894-2296
info@maysacc.org
Fr. Aaron Kuhn
Fr. Gabriel Walz
MASS:
Sunday.....10:30 a.m.

Leaf River Township The Old Country Church
Leaf River Twp., Wadena County Rd. 6
Info: 218-837-5690 Call first.
Sunday Service 10:00 a.m.

“Follow Me”

Pastor Chris Mathiason, Faith Lutheran Church, Staples

Are you a sports fan? Someone that lives and dies based on the performance of your team? A long suffering Vikings fan, an ever optimistic Twins fan, cautiously hopeful Timberwolves fan or a dedicated Wild fan? Or perhaps you're a Cardinal to the core, watching basketball, wrestling and cheering?

Or do your interests take you somewhere else? Travel, music, reading. Professional wrestling or bingo. Or do you spend time on your computer, Facebook or video games?

We have so many options for where we spend our time, our money and our attention. But we need to remind ourselves that being busy is not the same as doing things worth our time.

When Jesus called his disciples, He said, "Follow Me." Jesus started His ministry by forming relationships. When I think about my life, the most important parts of my story are not about my interests or what I did, the most important parts of my life are the relationships I formed on the way.

As January has come to a close, I think about Jesus' call to each of us, "Follow Me." I think about the relationships I have formed in church and the people I meet each day.

I pray that God opens a door to you to strengthen friendships with others. I pray we might work together to care for our neighbor. May you have or find a place to connect with others.

Blessed 2024 to you all.

The Staples area Church Directory is sponsored by these area businesses:

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

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

Staples True Value
"Just Ask Rental"
Open 7 days a week.
Staples, MN 218-894-3263

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

Staples World
Your community newspaper since 1890
224 4th St. NE, Staples, MN
218-894-1112

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

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. As always, continue to email your Ministerial pastoral message or advertisement to: jwinter@staplesworld.com

Needing/Wanting a
Granite Memorial
FOR YOUR FAMILY?
I can help!
Diane M. Hahn
29 years serving
our area!
Rep. for Fergus Falls Monument Co.
Call 218-445-5685
or 218-640-2341

HAPPY
Valentine's
DAY



Cardinals fall when long shots go in and out

The Staples-Motley girls basketball team lost a second half lead to fall against Pillager 56-50 on Feb. 5, then lost two more games, 65-44 at Park Rapids and 53-24 against Detroit Lakes on Feb. 9.

Against Pillager, Liv Lorber and Lauren Rutten each scored in double figures in the first half to give the Cardinals a 12 point lead at halftime. They were still up by six points midway through the second half,

when Pillager started hitting on three pointers to go in front. Late in the game, Staples-Motley had several three point shots that hit the inside of the rim and bounced out, leaving them behind at the end.'

Pillager ended up with eight, three point shots in the second half and 11 overall for the game.

The Cardinals now have a record of 5-17 with four games left in the regular season. They're currently

in the 13th position in Section 7AA, which would send them on the road for their first playoff game, likely at Duluth Marshall, Esko or Proctor, depending on how the season plays out. The playoffs start on Thursday, Feb. 29.

Team results
SM 50, Pillager 56

Scoring: Liv Lorber 18, Lauren Rutten 13, Miranda Schotzko 9, Izzy Olander 4, Cami Anderson 4, Hannah Cole 2.



Leah Greenwaldt applies the famous Staples cradle move during the section tournament. (Submitted photo)

Larson, Rutten, Brandt power Cardinal offense

The Staples-Motley boys basketball team pulled away in the first half and kept the lead to beat Pillager 65-54 on Feb. 5, the same team that played them to a two point game in December. They kept it rolling on Feb. 8 with a 83-49 win against Aitkin.

Against Pillager, the teams traded the lead until Grant Bestland started a 14-0 run with a driving basket. Eli Rutten added a three point shot but Noah Larson powered the run with two short baskets, a steal and fast break basket and a three point shot to make the score 31-17. Rutten ended the half with a driving score just before the buzzer for a 33-10 lead.

In the second half, the Cardinals maintained their lead, rarely letting it drop under 10 points.

Against Aitkin, the Cardinals scored early and often, building a 51-28 lead a halftime with Larson and

Avandre Brandt each scoring 15 points in the half. Rutten took over the scoring in the second half with 12 of his 17 points.

With six games left in the regular season, Staples-Motley has an 11-8 record and are sitting in the sixth spot in Section 7AA, which would earn them a home playoff game if they stay in a similar position. The first round of playoffs is scheduled for Monday, March 4.

Team results
Staples-Motley 65, Pillager 54

Scoring: Eli Rutten 19, Noah Larson 17, Grant Bestland 11, Avandre Brandt 11, Conner Kuhns 4, Alex Schultz 3

Staples-Motley 83, Aitkin 49

Scoring: Larson 17, Brandt 17, Rutten 17, Kuhns 13, Schultz 10, Elijah Blue 3, Bestland 3, Benet Robinson 2, Francisco Piovesan 1



Left, Eli Rutten splits defenders for a score. Right, Noah Larson scores over the top. (Staples World photo by Mark Anderson)

Greenwaldt, Dobson, place at section wrestling

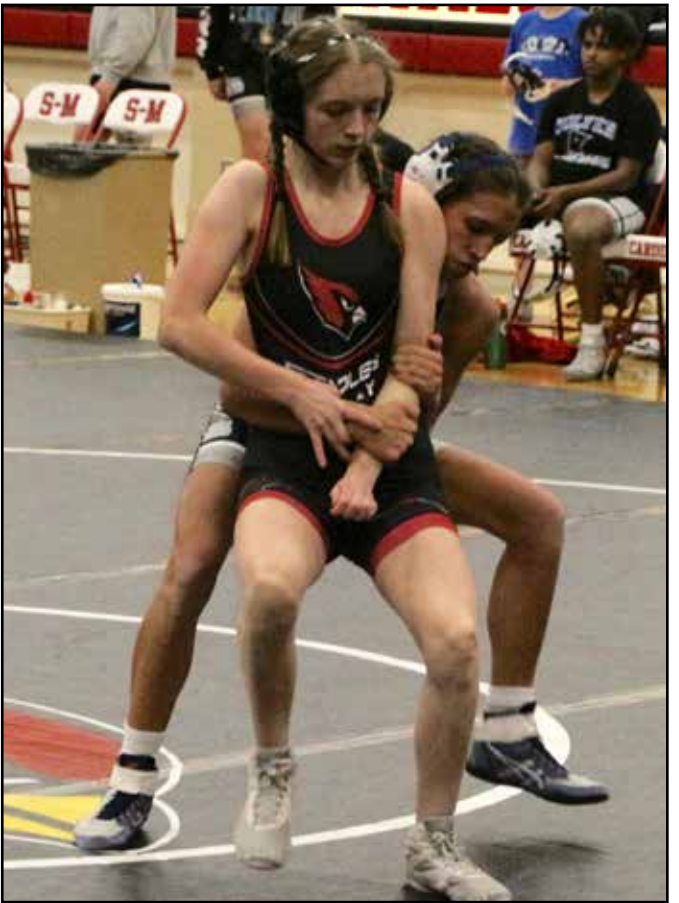
The Staples-Motley girls wrestling team competed in their first section meet, Feb. 9-10 at Bemidji.

Leah Greenwaldt won three matches to place fifth at 100 pounds, Isabelle Dobson won three matches and placed eighth at 106 and Charlotte Wunderlich was eighth place in a nine person bracket at 124.

Girls wrestling in Minnesota is a one-class system, so the Cardinal girls were wrestling against some of the biggest schools in the state. The section wrestling format combines two sections to wrestle for two state spots in each weight. This year, sections 5 and 7 combined for the super-section.

Greenwaldt said her goal was to earn a spot on the podium, but knew the competition at the section meet would be harder than most of the tournaments during the year. She had finished in first place at a few tournaments but also had wrestled at the Rumble on the Red girls tournament, a multi-state event with some of the top wrestlers in the area.

Greenwaldt opened the section tournament with a loss against the eventual second place finisher. That dropped her to the consolation bracket, where she pinned two wrestlers, then lost late in her next match. That put her in the fifth place match, where she won 7-3 for her third win of the tournament and a fifth



Isabelle Dobson makes an escape at a home match this season. (Staples World photo by Mark Anderson)

place medal. Greenwaldt finished the season with a 15-10 record.

Dobson said her goal was to make it to the second day of the tournament. She did that and more, wrestling deep into the consolation bracket. She lost her first match but came back strong to win three in a

row, including a pin, a 14-2 major decision and a 17-15 thriller. She then lost in the next two matches to place eighth. Dobson finished the season with a 18-15 record.

Wunderlich did not get a win in the tournament, but placed eighth out of nine wrestlers in the bracket.



Charlotte Wunderlich reverses her opponent in a match this season. (Staples World photo by Mark Anderson)

Dobson, Converse, Bjerga, Petrich spur win

The Staples-Motley wrestling team finished the regular season with a dual meet at Maple Grove on Feb. 8, winning 35-25. The Cardinals had big wins from Caden Dobson, Dustin Converse, Luke Bjerga and Steven Petrich to secure the victory.

As with nearly every dual meet this season, the Cardinal wrestlers swept the first three weights; Gage Bjerga with a pin, Caden Kramer with a major decision and Eli Greenwaldt winning by fall.

With several regulars not available, the Cardinals bumped some of their wrestlers up a weight, and it backfired with several losses. What did work however, was putting Dobson in at 139 pounds, as he came through with a pin.

Maple Grove got within one point in the team score when Converse came up at 172 pounds. After not scoring in the first period, he controlled the match to win 3-0. At the next weight, Luke Bjerga followed with a pin

and Petrich put a cap on the match with another pin at heavyweight.

Section playoffs

The Cards will host the first round match in the Section 7A tournament on Thursday, Feb. 15. The semifinals and finals will be held Friday, Feb. 16, at Walker-Hackensack-Akely.

The individual tournament will be held Friday, Feb. 23, at Ogilvie.

Section 7A has three teams ranked in the top seven in the state, plus one more that received votes in the rankings at The Guillotine web site. The section has 26 top ten wrestlers, with at least one ranked wrestler in every weight and two or three ranked wrestlers at various weights. Only one other section has more than 20 ranked wrestlers, with 22.

Staples-Motley has six wrestlers who've been ranked in the state this year, Gage Bjerga, Caden Kramer, Eli Greenwaldt, Turner Beachy, Blake Neelan and Colbe Tappe.



Buckle up for flight

Staples-Motley fans get ready to explode as Avandre Brandt throws down a dunk in the Pillager game. Brandt had two dunks in the game. (Staples World photo by Mark Anderson)

**CITY OF STAPLES
NOTICE OF PUBLIC
HEARING TO
CONSIDER THE
PRELIMINARY PLAT
FOR VALLEY VIEW
OUTLOT A**

NOTICE is hereby given that the Planning and Zoning Commission of the City of Staples will hold a public hearing at 5:00 p.m. on Tuesday, February 20, 2024 at the Staples City Hall, 122 6th St NE, to consider the preliminary plat of Valley View Outlot A parcel identification num-

bers 20-410-0260 and 20-410-0120.

All persons interested are invited to attend this hearing and be heard on this matter.

If you are unable to attend, you can e-mail or mail comments to the City Clerk at tgreer@ci.staples.mn.us. For more information call Tara at 218-541-5004.

Tara Greer, Clerk
City of Staples

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NOTICES:
Your Right
to Know

8pnc

**ADVERTISEMENT
FOR BIDS
TODD COUNTY
COURTHOUSE
ROCK WALL AND
EXTERIOR PLAZA
LONG PRAIRIE, MN**

Project Identification: Sealed proposals shall be received for the construction work for repairs to the Todd County Courthouse Rock Wall and Exterior Plaza, located in Long Prairie, Minnesota, in accordance with the Construction Documents prepared by BHH Partners Planners/Architects, 650 3rd Avenue Southeast, Perham, MN 56573.

Project Description: Repair and replacement of the existing stone rock retaining wall and plaza. Including phase one and phase two.

Basis of Bids: A single prime lump sum bid will be received for general construction as noted in the Construction Documents.

Bid Opening: Bids for the project will be received and will be publicly opened and read aloud on **March 6, 2024 at 10 a.m.** Location: Todd County Board room, 215 1st Ave. S., Long Prairie, MN 56347. Address sealed bids to: Denise Gaida - Auditor/Treasurer, 215 1st Ave. S., Suite 201, Long Prairie, Minnesota 56347. Note the name of the project on the outside of the bid envelope.

Pre-Bid Walk-Through: A pre-bid walk-through will be held at the site. All interested bidders shall attend or make special arrangements with the Owner at the Owner's convenience. The Owner is not obligated to meet times/dates requested. Date: **February 22, 2024, 10 a.m.**, 215 1st Ave. S., Long Prairie, MN 56347.

Examination of the Site: All interested bidders shall visit the project site to obtain firsthand knowledge of existing conditions, including existing utilities and services, obstacles that may be encountered and all other conditions relative to the Work to be performed that may or may not be shown within the Contract Documents.

Additional Compensation: Awarded Contractors shall not receive extra payments for conditions that can be determined by examining the site and the Contract Documents in their entirety.

Bid Opening: Sealed bids shall be received and opened at Todd County Administrative offices located in the Courthouse. All bidders who are not attending may mail their bid to:

ATTN: Mitch Johnson
Todd County Facility Supervisor
212 2nd Ave. S.
Long Prairie, MN 56347

Contractor shall be responsible for bids mailed or delivered to ensure receiver of bids has bid by the bid opening.

Responsible Bidder Requirement: Any prime contractor or subcontractor that does not meet the minimum criteria in Minnesota Statutes, Section 16C.285, subdivision 3 or fails to verify that it meets those criteria is not a responsible contractor and is not eligible to be awarded the construction contract for the project or to perform work

on the project.

The term 'responsible contractor' as used in this solicitation document means a contractor as defined in Minnesota Statutes, Section 16C.285, subdivision 3.

A contractor responding to this solicitation document shall submit to the county a signed statement under oath by an owner or officer verifying compliance with each of the minimum criteria in Minnesota Statutes, Section 16C.285, subdivision 3.

A false statement under oath verifying compliance with any of the minimum criteria shall render the prime contractor or subcontractor that makes the false statement ineligible to be awarded a construction contract on the project and may result in termination of a contract awarded to a prime contractor or subcontractor that submits a false statement.

A prime contractor shall submit to the owner upon request copies of the signed verifications of compliance from all subcontractors of any tier pursuant to Minnesota Statutes, Section 16C.285, subdivision 3, clause 7.

Pre-construction Meeting: A pre-construction meeting will be scheduled on site upon contract award. Contractor in receipt of awarded bid along with any/all subcontractors shall attend.

Tentative Commencement of Work: Contractor in receipt of awarded bid and finalization of contracts shall begin work upon notice to proceed.

Examination of Documents: Drawings, Specifications and other Contract Documents may be examined at the following locations:

1. Electronic Files:
Complete digital project bidding documents are available at www.widseth.com by clicking on Bid Documents in the upper right hand corner or at www.questcdn.com by inputting Quest project #: . Please contact QuestCDN.com at (952) 233-1632. Or info@questcdn.com for assistance in free membership registration, downloading and working with this digital project information. You may download the digital plan documents electronically for \$30.

2. Exchange Rooms:
 Fargo-Moorhead Builders Exchange, Fargo, ND
 Grand Forks Builders Exchange, Grand Forks, ND
 Duluth Builders Exchange, Duluth, MN

Minnesota Builders Exchange, Minneapolis, MN
 Dodge Data & Analytics

St. Cloud Builders Exchange, St. Cloud, MN

Plains Builders Exchange, Sioux Falls, SD

Bismarck-Mandan Builder's Exchange, Mandan, ND

Procurement of Documents:

1. Printed Documents: Prime Bidders may secure one (1) printed set of the Contract Documents at the office of the Architect (BHH Partners Planners/Architects, PO Box 185, 650 3rd Avenue Southeast, Perham, MN 56573) upon deposit of \$250 per set. This deposit will be refunded if documents are returned to the office of the Archi-

tect in GOOD CONDITION WITHIN TEN (10) DAYS after date of bid opening. Failure to submit a bonafide bid proposal or to return documents as indicated will result in forfeiture of deposit. Bidders that do not receive contract documents through the Architect's Office will not be listed on the official plan holders list.

Time of Completion: The completion date for phase one of this project shall be not more than eight (8) months from notice to proceed date. If the project is not complete at that time, the Prime Contractor shall pay to the Owner the sum of \$500/day after this date for a period of thirty (30) days. After thirty (30) days, the General Contractor will pay the Owner \$1,000/day until the project is substantially completed. There will be no benefits to the Contractors for early completion of the project prior to duration indicated.

Bonding and Bidding Requirements: Each Contractor shall be required to provide a Performance Bond and a Material and Labor Payment Bond in the amount of 100 percent (100%) of the Contract Amount.

Bid Security: Bids that shall be accompanied by Bid Security in the form of a certified check, cashier's check or bid bond in the amount of five percent (5%) of the Base Bid submitted, made payable to the Owner; as guarantee that the Bidder will, if awarded, enter into a Contract in accordance with Contract Documents and submitted bid.

Labor Standards and Wages: This project is subject to Minnesota Labor Standards and Wages requirements of Minnesota Statutes Chapter 177.

Pursuant to Minnesota Statutes 177.41 to 177.44 and corresponding Rules 5200.1000 to 5200.1120, this project contract is subject to the prevailing wages as established by the Minnesota Department of Labor and Industry. Specifically, all contractors and subcontractors must pay all laborers and mechanics the established prevailing wages for work performed under the contract. Failure to comply with the aforementioned may result in civil or criminal penalties.

Bid Review: The Owner will not award the contract on the day of the Bid Opening and hereby reserves the right to award the contract pending bid review. All bids will be held until approval can be made for the lowest, qualified bidder.

Right to Reject Bids: The Owner reserves the right to reject any and all bids or parts thereof, to waive any informalities in bidding, and to award the contract to other than the lowest bidder if, in the discretion of the Owner, the interests of the Owner will be best served thereby. The Owner further reserves the right to hold all legitimate proposals for a period of thirty (30) days after the date fixed for the opening thereof without exception.

Bids Requested By:
Mitch Johnson
Todd County Facility Supervisor
212 2nd Ave. S.
Long Prairie, MN 56347

**STATE OF MINNESOTA
COUNTY OF TODD
DISTRICT COURT
JUDICIAL DISTRICT:
SEVENTH
Court File No.
77-CV-23-1016
Case Type: Contract**

Civil Summons

Magnifi Financial Credit Union,

vs

Plaintiff

Matthew Rahn and Tamara Rahn, a/k/a Tamara D. Rahn, John Doe, Mary Roe and each other person unknown claiming any right or interest in any part of the real estate described in the complaint herein,

Defendants

This Summons is directed to (name of Defendants): Matthew Rahn and Tamara Rahn a/k/a Tamara D. Rahn; and John Doe, Mary Roe and each other person unknown claiming any possessory right or interest in any part of the real estate described in the complaint herein.

1. **You are being sued.** The Plaintiff has started a lawsuit against you. The *Complaint* is attached to this *Summons*. [Added for service by publication: the Complaint is not attached but is on file with the court in the above case.] Do not throw these papers away. They are official papers that start a lawsuit and affect your legal rights, even if nothing has been filed with the court and even if there is no court file number on this *Summons*.

2. **You must BOTH reply, in writing, AND get a copy of your reply to the person/business who is suing you within 21 days to protect your rights.** Your reply is called an Answer. Getting your reply to the Plaintiff is called service. You must serve a copy of your *Answer* or *Answer and Counterclaim* (Answer) within 21 days from the date you received the *Summons* and *Complaint*.

**NOTICE OF
MORTGAGE
FORCLOSURE SALE**

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

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

DATE OF MORTGAGE: April 14, 2018

ORIGINAL PRINCIPAL AMOUNT OF MORTGAGE: \$87,657.00

MORTGAGOR(S): Henry A. Youngvorst, an unmarried man

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

DATE AND PLACE OF FILING: Recorded on April 20, 2018 as Document Number A508910 in the Office of the County Recorder of Todd County, Minnesota.

ASSIGNMENTS OF MORTGAGE: Assigned to: Rocket Mortgage LLC f/k/a a Quicken Loans, LLC, by assignment recorded on November 13, 2023 as Document Number A538905 in the Office of the County Recorder of Todd County, Minnesota.

LEGAL DESCRIPTION OF PROPERTY: That part of Government Lot 1, Section 9, Township 133 North, Range 33 West lying between the North line of said Lot 1 and a line parallel therewith and 150 feet southerly therefrom measured at right angles thereto and between two lines parallel with and distant respectively 184 feet and 359 feet westerly, measured at right angles, from the east line of said lot, Todd County, Minnesota.

STREET ADDRESS OF PROPERTY: 24709 THUNDER RD, STAPLES, MN

ANSWER: You can find the *Answer* form and instructions on the MN Judicial Branch website at www.mncourts.gov/forms under the "Civil" category. The instructions will explain in detail how to fill out the Answer form.

3. **You must respond to each claim.** The *Answer* is your written response to the Plaintiff's *Complaint*. In your *Answer* you must state whether you agree or disagree with each paragraph of the *Complaint*. If you think the Plaintiff should not be given everything they asked for in the *Complaint*, you must say that in your Answer.

4. **SERVICE: You may lose your case if you do not send a written response to the Plaintiff.** If you do not serve a written *Answer* within 21 days, you may lose this case by default. You will not get to tell your side of the story. If you choose not to respond, the Plaintiff may be awarded everything they asked for in their *Complaint*. If you agree with the claims stated in the *Complaint*, you don't need to respond. A default judgment can then be entered against you for what the Plaintiff asked for in the *Complaint*.

To protect your rights, you must serve a copy of your *Answer* on the person who signed this Summons in person or by mail at this address: Mark F. Uphus, Attorney at Law, 310 Main Street East - PO Box 158, Melrose, Minnesota 56352.

5. Carefully read the Instructions (CIV301) for the *Answer* for your next steps.

6. **Legal Assistance.** You may wish to get legal help from an attorney. If you do not have an attorney and would like legal help:

- Visit www.mncourts.gov/selfhelp and click on the "Legal Advice Clinics" tab to get more information about legal clinics in each Minnesota county.
- Court Administration may have information about places where you can get legal assistance.

NOTE: Even if you cannot get legal help, you must still serve a written Answer to protect your rights or you may lose the case.

7. **Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR).** The parties may agree to or be ordered to participate in an ADR process under Rule 114 of the Minnesota Rules of Practice. You must still serve your written Answer, even if you expect to use ADR.

8. **This lawsuit may affect or bring into question title to real property located in Todd County, State of Minnesota, legally described as follows:**

All that part of the Northeast Quarter of the Northeast Quarter in Section 26, Township 127 North, Range 35 West of the 5th P.M., Todd County, Minnesota, lying Northeast of the Township Road, together with all hereditaments and appurtenances belonging thereto.

The object of this action includes, among other things: foreclosure of a mortgage and other security interests against the above described property and fixtures, improvements, and any unaffixed manufactured housing unit located on the described property; to obtain judgment that Plaintiff's mortgage, security and other interests and claims against said property have priority over any claim or interest of any herein named Defendants and any other person; and obtain and docket, as may be appropriate, a deficiency money judgment against the herein named Defendants.

Dated: December 14, 2023

/s/ Mark F. Uphus
Mark F. Uphus,
Minn. Atty. Reg. # 141136
310 Main Street E
PO Box 158
Melrose, MN 56352
Telephone: 320/256-7491
Facsimile: 320/256-7612
Email: manager@uphuslaw.com

7-10pnc

sale.

TIME AND DATE TO VACATE PROPERTY: Unless said mortgage is reinstated or the property redeemed, or unless the time for redemption is reduced by judicial order, you must vacate the premises by 11:59 p.m. on September 9, 2024.

THE TIME ALLOWED BY LAW FOR REDEMPTION BY THE MORTGAGOR, THE MORTGAGOR'S PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVES OR ASSIGNS, MAY BE REDUCED TO FIVE WEEKS IF A JUDICIAL ORDER IS ENTERED UNDER MINNESOTA STATUTES, SECTION 582.032, DETERMINING, AMONG OTHER THINGS, THAT THE MORTGAGED PREMISES ARE IMPROVED WITH A RESIDENTIAL DWELLING OF LESS THAN FIVE UNITS, ARE NOT PROPERTY USED IN AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTION, AND ARE ABANDONED.

MORTGAGOR(S) RELEASED FROM FINANCIAL OBLIGATION ON MORTGAGE: None

Dated: January 09, 2024

ROCKET MORTGAGE, LLC F/K/A QUICKEN LOANS, LLC Mortgagee

TROTT LAW, P.C.
By: /s/ N. Kibongni
Fondungallah, Esq.
Samuel R. Coleman, Esq.
Sung Woo Hong, Esq.
Attorneys for Mortgagee
25 Dale Street North
St. Paul, MN 55102
(651) 209-9760
(23-1256-FC01)

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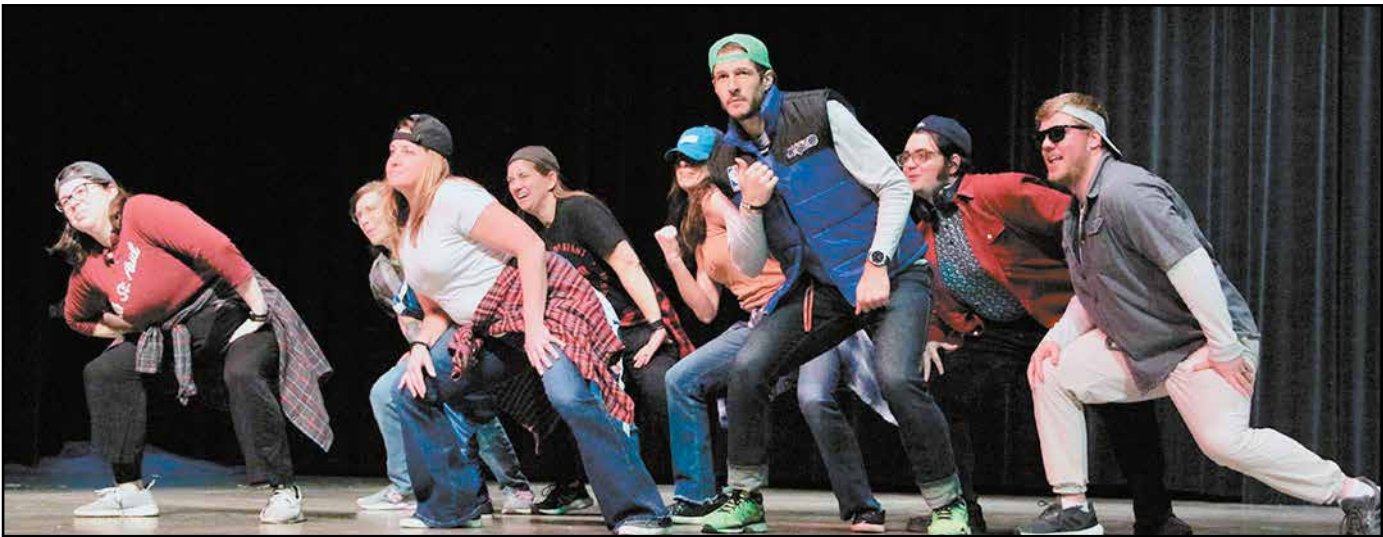
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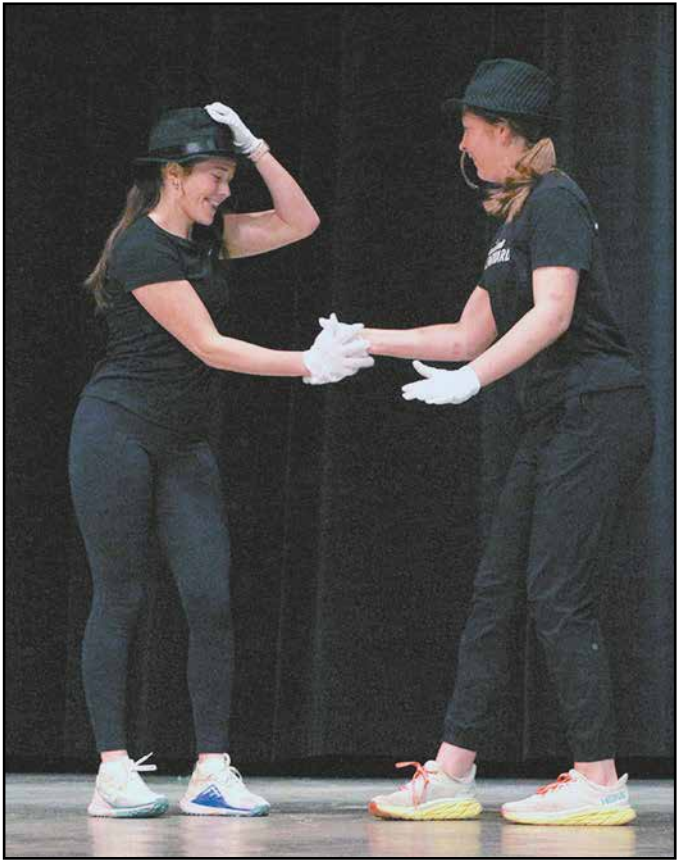
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Staples-Motley SnoDaze lip synch has dancing, coreography

Part of the SnoDaze week at Staples-Motley High School was the lip synch contest, in which staff and students danced and sang some of their favorite songs. Secret judges in the audience voted for the seniors, left and ghosts above, as the winning team. (Staples World photos by Mark Anderson)



SCHOOL continued from page 1a

Board considers staff survey to be a positive sign of school's direction

questions about more specific communication lines. Lisa Anderson asked about communications between teachers and parents, plus coaches to parents. Kyle Reese said "we need to make sure we are communicating every event" because schedules change frequently. Tappe said the school department heads will be working on the specific strategies. "Communication can't just come from one person," said Tappe. The school has a new web site, isd2170.org. Tappe said the previous web site did not have analytics, but the new web site had 16,000 people view it in the first few days. Board member Ryan Wright said the communications plan should be mostly about the first goal, enhancing engagement. "The web site and communications plan is a good step forward," said Wright. **School staff survey** All Staples-Motley staff were asked to answer a seven question survey this fall. 72 out of 183 staff members chose to complete the survey, which is 39 percent. The board thought that was a good response rate for a survey that was not required. On each question, staff were asked to rate the school as exemplary, very good, good, fair or poor. For all of the questions, the very good and good questions had the highest number of votes. For the first two questions, about managing financial resources and about communication and transparency, the number of good and fair votes outnumbered the exemplary and very good votes. For every other question, "very good" was the highest vote getter, with exemplary nearly equal to fair. The other questions were about building positive relationships, professional support, student achievement, the Continuous Improvement Plan and an overall assessment. Out of seven questions, there were a total of five "poor" votes, not more than one in any category. Board Chair Bryan Winkels pointed to one of the questions, about the district's performance in building positive relationships. With half the respondents marking "very good" and the exemplary category tied with the fair category, Winkels said those are "awesome and excellent results, this is how most graphs should look like on a successful survey." The board agreed that the survey was positive overall, with a few areas to improve. Winkels said they took the survey results and made two lists, one of what the school does well and the second of opportunities where they can improve, with some categories appearing on both lists. For things the school does well, teachers and staff is number one on the list, followed by communication, promoting student success, athletics, relationships administration and building leadership, building improvements, community involvement and school culture. The list of areas to improve starts with staff turnover, then lists community relations, public perception, facility cleanliness and maintenance, student discipline and accountability, school culture, support and training for new hires, training of all staff and compensation. Tappe noted that only having five "poor" ratings shows that the school is making progress. "It is very positive, there are areas we can get better, but we are moving in the right direction," said Tappe.



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