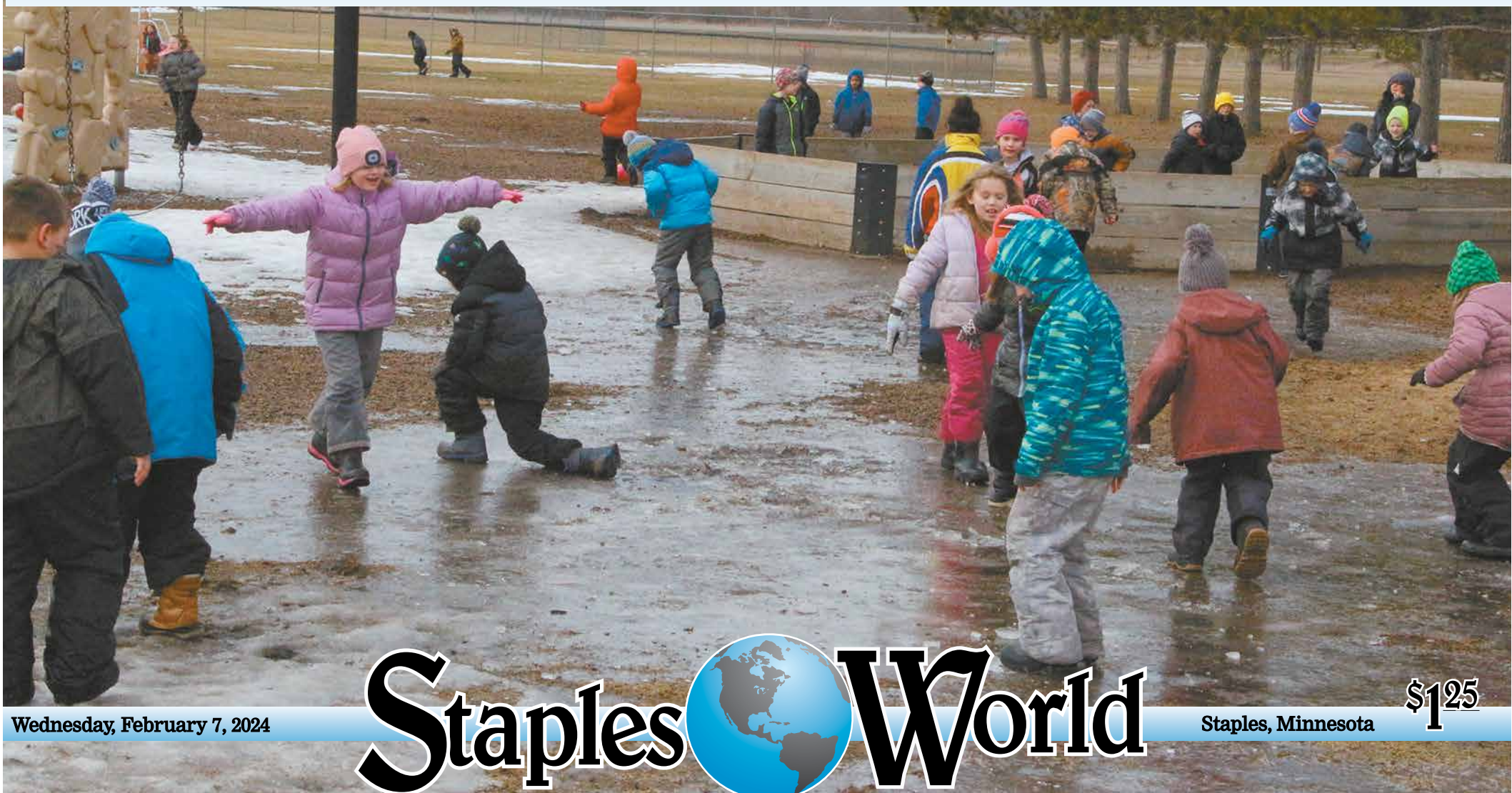


Inside this issue:

Motley remembers H. Lyle Jones
Speech tournament in Duluth
Girls basketball win
Mrazek to perform in CLC wizard play
SnoDaze royalty candidates



Chipping away at winter Every afternoon during the recent warm spell, the snow on the Staples-Motley Elementary playground melts and every night the melted snow freezes. Pictured on Feb. 2, Groundhog Day, students stomp and slide on the ice, breaking it up and summoning spring to arrive early. (Photo by Mark Anderson)

Students predict early spring on Groundhog Day

By Mark Anderson
Managing Editor

Staples-Motley first graders learned about the Groundhog Day traditions and made predictions on whether the groundhog would see its shadow this year. In an unusual year in which much of the snow was melted by Groundhog Day, Feb. 2, the transition from winter to spring is

taking on a different aspect this year.

Three of the first graders, Dakota Simoneau, Noah Dukes and Maverick McKenna, talked about what they have learned about Groundhog Day and the coming of spring.

“When the groundhog sees shadow, we have a lot more winter,” said McKenna. “Six weeks more,” said

Simoneau.

“If it doesn’t see it’s shadow, we have a couple more weeks and then spring comes,” said McKenna.

This year, the class made predictions as to whether the groundhog would see it’s shadow. On Feb. 2, they watched a livestream of the groundhog unveiling and reported that it did not see

See **GROUNDHOG**
on page 10a



Certified Hand Therapist at TCO Staples



Izaak Schafer, at left, is a Certified hand Therapist and Therapy Supervisor at TCO Staples - Therapy. Schafer, a Staples native and 2003 graduate of Staples-Motley High School, is excited to be back working in his home town and part of the TCO Staples - Therapy team.

Above, Schafer led tours of the new facility, which includes eight treatment rooms, explaining services offered for hand therapy. (Staples World photos by Dawn Timbs)



Groundhog Day experts

From left, Noah Dukes, Dakota Simoneau and Maverick McKenna show their Groundhog Day predictions

with melting snow behind them at Staples-Motley Elementary School on Feb. 2. (Staples World photo by Mark Anderson)

Weather

2024
This Week's Forecast

	High	Low	Cond.
Feb. 7	48	41	Cloudy
Feb. 8	45	33	Rain
Feb. 9	35	23	Snow
Feb. 10	30	23	Cloudy
Feb. 11	31	22	M. Cloudy
Feb. 12	32	21	P. Cloudy
Feb. 13	30	16	P. Cloudy

Last Year, 2023

	High	Low	Cond.
Feb. 7	32°	17	M. Sunny
Feb. 8	40	20	Sunny
Feb. 9	29	2	Sunny
Feb. 10	28	20	Sunny
Feb. 11	40	21	Sunny
Feb. 12	35	21	Sunny
Feb. 13	39	17	Sunny

Average Temps:
H = 27° Low = 8°

Compiled by
Dale Hausmann,
WCCO's Staples area
Weatherwatcher

Public Notices

Bartlett: **8A**
Evergreen Cemetery: **8A**
Todd County Commissioners: **8A**

Obituaries

Bessie Huff
Harvey Lyle Jones
Judith Resch



Touring Twin Cities Orthopedics Staples - Therapy

Dozens of people attended the Feb. 1 grand opening celebration at TCO Staples - Therapy, a one-stop shop for physical therapy, hand therapy and sports performance services. The event included a tour of the 7,000 square foot facility, gift bags, prizes, an opportunity to meet staff, and a free meal. TCO Staples - Therapy is located in the Lakewood Plaza, at the crossroads of U.S. Hwy 10 E and 12th St. NE in Staples. (Staples World photo by Dawn Timbs)

Memories shared of H. Lyle Jones, longtime leader at Motley School District #483



A memorial gathering for former superintendent

Former students, co-workers, friends and colleagues of H. Lyle Jones, long-time superintendent of the Motley School District, gathered at BRICKS in Motley recently to share memories of Jones, who passed away Jan. 6, 2024. Pictured, clockwise from left: Charles

By Dawn Timbs
Staples World reporter

It's been 33 years since H. Lyle Jones walked the halls at the public school in Motley...the same amount of time that Jesus lived on earth, incidentally.

Although nobody went so far as to say Motley's former school principal and superintendent ranked up there with the Son of God, based upon countless glowing memories voiced about Mr. Jones since his passing Jan. 6, 2024, it's evident he was held in high regard and admired by all who knew him.

Upon learning of his death, Julie (Ackerson) Mertens, a former student and colleague of Jones, organized a gathering at BRICKS Restaurant in Motley to allow people to remember and share stories about the man who'd made a difference in so many of their lives.

A 1978 graduate of Motley High School, Julie went on to become a teacher at her alma mater, influenced by the example of Mr. Jones. "I've mentioned

him many times," Julie said, adding that he had the best leadership qualities of anyone she knew. She never recalled him saying, "No," to staff ideas, but rather, would ask questions, encouraging them to think things out and come to their own conclusions. Often times, she realized the best answer was "no" after all, Julie said.

She also recalled, as a student, being kicked out of class for giggling, and made to sit out in the hallway for awhile. If Mr. Jones walked by, he never berated her, but simply said, "Good afternoon, Miss Ackerson."

Sheri (Sampson) Johnson, a 1979 graduate of MHS, had similar recollections of the superintendent's kindness. She shared that her family were neighbors to the Joneses... Lyle, his wife, Ellen, their daughter, Leslie and son, Kenneth. A self-proclaimed "naughty girl" when she was a kid, Sheri said Mr. and Mrs. Jones always were kind to her. After one of the times she'd gotten in trouble during school, instead of severely reprimanding her, Mr. Jones simply asked,

"are you going to do that again?" He wasn't the sort of person you wanted to let down, so invariably, she'd answer, "no."

Sheri laughed, recalling the mischief she and her friends would get into. Although they probably deserved a "swat" at times, Mr. Jones would give them a hug. He was like a dad to her, Sheri said. And, the Joneses' daughter Leslie, a 1978 MHS grad, was like a sister, and one of her best friends. "She's the reason I'm a pastor's wife," Sheri said of her childhood pal.

Greg Frisk of Motley described Lyle as highly educated, and a man of integrity. "I never heard him swear or speak badly of someone," Greg said. A 1970 MHS grad, Greg would later return to serve on the school board at MHS when Jones was superintendent. "I'm still getting called to the office," Greg recalled saying to Mr. Jones. However, this time he entered the office as Jones' boss, not as a naughty boy who needed discipline back in the day.

Working at Motley High School was her first job, and

H. Lyle Jones (who hired her) was her mentor, Pam Sachs of Little Falls shared. She taught English at the school for a total of 30 years, during which time she got to know the entire Jones family well. In fact, she even taught the kids, Leslie and Ken, how to ride horse. She collected many rich memories during those years, Pam said.

Verde Pepin of Motley got to know Lyle while teaching driver's training at MHS. "I used to count him more as a friend," Verde said of the former superintendent. "He always had an 'open door' policy," Verde went on, adding they talked about the weather, and most often about old cars, of which they shared an interest. He still has a couple of Lyle's cars at his home, Verde said, mentioning a '66 Buick and another from '73 with an electric hard top.

They last spoke by phone about a month ago, Verde said, adding that his friend had shared about his upcoming move from California to Tennessee. Sadly, illness took his life before that came to be. But,

as noted in his obituary, "Fueled by a profound love for God and an unmatched compassion for humanity, Lyle's impact continued until he peacefully transitioned from this life to the next."

He possessed an inner strength that helped him face a variety of difficult situations, the group noted.

Charles Funk, who taught Agriculture at MHS from 1970 - 86, said that Lyle had served as principal and superintendent during some really tough times, including years when many cuts at the school had to be made. Greg Frisk went on to note the difficulties surrounding the consolidation of the Motley and Staples schools, but that Lyle led the board (which Greg served as chair) as a true leader should.

Because he was well read and kept his ear to the legislative process, Mr. Jones knew what open enrollment would do to the Motley School District, Julie said. "He could see that coming."

Lyle worked with common sense, Julie went on, noting that Mr. Jones would most likely say that closing the Motley School building (which took place in recent years) was the right thing to do, because of the expense of keeping it open.

He always wanted to make sure the board members were well-informed as well. Julie shared that many of them, including her dad, who was a farmer, didn't have a background in education. Lyle always met with each board member prior to the meeting so they would be as prepared as possible.

Joan Hamann of Staples, a former office administrator for the Motley School District, worked with Lyle for 14 years. "He was excellent," Joan said, describing Lyle as an intelligent man who was funny, always a gentleman, and respectful of all. "He'd get frustrated at times with budgets, but he was never angry," she said.

Warren Mertens, Julie's husband, served as Athletic Director during Jones' tenure at Motley. Like Verde, Warren recalled that Lyle's "door was always open, and he was always friendly." He went on to note a very caring side of the superintendent, sharing that when he and Julie had young kids at home, Lyle offered to attend an athletic event in his place, if Warren needed to be home.

Oh yes, that's just how he was, Joan said of Lyle's willingness to help wherever it was needed. "He wasn't afraid to wash dishes," she said.

Joan's husband Bob Hamann, a 1964 MHS grad who later worked at the



Beloved mentor

H. Lyle Jones led the Motley School District from 1967 - 1991, first as principal, then as superintendent. During his years in education, he also taught math in Pollock, S.D., and served as Superintendent of Schools in several other Minnesota districts, including Canby, Minneota and Pine City. His contributions also included State Department of Education roles as a finance director in St. Paul, and finance manager and director in Trenton, N.J. Jones died Jan. 6, 2024, at the age of 84.

school's business office, shared that Lyle had the ability to "make a family of all the people who worked for him," going on to describe the "closeness" of the district's staff.

In addition to the group at BRICKS, Julie read a few comments shared on Facebook about Lyle, including that of Dana Bacon who recalled that the beloved superintendent "talked to kindergartners."

Mary Sperley shared that Lyle "loved to have fun and goof around", and Lori (Underhill) Keating described him as being a blessing to many at the school, including her mother, Rena, who taught kindergarten there. Others, like Royall Sams, noted his personal integrity and strong Christian faith. Sams went on to share that one of Lyle's last texts to him said, "Until we meet again...we are just passing through."

As his obituary states, "Lyle's life was defined by his deep commitment to public education, where he became a beacon of inspiration and mentorship, significantly impacting the lives of those fortunate enough to cross paths with him."

That certainly includes all who knew him during his many years of leadership at Motley School District #483.

Motley police report

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

Jan. 24 - 30
Jan. 29 - Motley Police responded to a report of three small American flags stolen from a yard located at the 300 block of Beaulieu St. W., Motley. There were no tracks found in the snow going to the flags.

Jan. 25 - Motley Police responded to a call from Cass County and assisted at the scene of a motor vehicle crash with injuries. The incident took place at 11253 79th Ave. SW, Motley.

Jan. 27 - Morrison County deputies responded to a suspicious activity complaint at the 32000 block of Atlantic Rd., Cushing. The caller said there was a vehicle parked in their lot with the lights on. Upon their arrival, the deputies made contact with the vehicle's occupant who stated he was driving through the area, got tired and stopped to take a nap. He said he would continue on his way.

Jan. 25 - A Morrison County deputy responded to a call of a vehicle that had driven into the ditch at 28935 Dove Rd., Cushing. There were no injuries reported.



OPEN
FOR DINNER

STARTING
JANUARY 2, 2024
TUESDAY - SATURDAY
4PM - 9PM

Use your gift card from the Timberlake for a pool party or a party room for a family gathering or dinner at the Timbers by January 26 and receive a free glass of House Wine or a Tap Beer



DEADLINES
Newspaper deadline for copy
and advertising: 12 noon Fridays



Sports performance services offered

Attendees at the recent TCO Staples - Therapy open house had the opportunity to visit with sports performance coaches and learn about the equipment and services available at the cutting-edge sports performance facility.

In above photo is Cole Larson, a Sports Performance Coach for Training HAUS at TCO Staples - Therapy. Below, students from Pillager get some sports performance tips from Kirk Olson, TCO's Sports Performance Manager at Training HAUS. (Staples World photos by Dawn Timbs)



Court report Jan. 25

Long Prairie Police Department

Jose Manuel Diaz Torres, Sauk Centre. Failure to display current registration, expired plates. Fine \$30. Fee \$85. Driver must carry proof of insurance when operating vehicle. Fine \$200.

Diego Baltazar Martinez Vazquez, Sauk Centre. Speed 70/60. Fine \$40. Fee \$85.

Kendri Reyita Reyes Lemos, Browerville. Driving without a valid license for vehicle class or type. Fine \$100. Fee \$85.

Luis Mario Santana Acosta, St. Cloud. Driving after suspension. Fine \$200. Fee \$85.

Minnesota Department of Natural Resources

Mark Allen Patnode, Eagle Bend. Forestry—open burning—prohibited materials. Fine \$200. Fee \$85.

Minnesota State Patrol

Robin J. Gonzalez, Chicago, Ill. Unsafe lane usage on laned highway. Continued for dismissal. Fee \$75. Unsupervised monitoring without conviction, one year.

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

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

Derek Franklin Banks, Osseo. Speed 85/70. Fine \$60. Fee \$85.

Adrianis Cruz Escalera, Long Prairie. No Minnesota Driver's License. Fine \$100. Fee \$85.

Daniel J. Czechowicz, Swarthmore, Penn. Speed 87/70. Fine \$60. Fee \$85. No Minnesota Driver's License. Fine \$100.

Ashley Grace Desmarais, Long Prairie. Hands-Free Law-subsequent offense. Fine \$275. Fee \$85.

Brandon James Duel, Fargo, N.Dak. Speed 80/70. Fine \$40. Fee \$85.

Alyssa Marie Etzler, Breckenridge. Fine \$50. Fee \$85.

Cassandra Marie Field, Osakis. Speed 74/60. Fine \$50. Fee \$85. Hands-Free Law- initiate, compose, send, retrieve, read electronic message. Fine \$50. Fee \$85.

Benjamin John Frieler, Browerville. Hands-Free Law- initiate, compose, send, retrieve, read electronic message. Fine \$50. Fee \$85.

Elijah Hagen, Osakis. Speed 80/70. Fine \$40. Fee \$85.

Megan Chris Hansen, Eagle Bend. Speed 65/60. Fine \$40. Fee \$85.

Erin Marie Holker, Dassel. Speed 84/70. Fine \$50. Fee \$85.

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

Hassan Papee Kamara, Fridley. Speed 87/70. Fine \$60. Fee \$85. Driving after suspension. Fine \$200.

Bryce Matheny Kleven, Maple Grove. Speed 65/55. Fine \$40. Fee \$85.

James John McGovern, Randall. No proof motor vehicle insurance. Dismissed.

Jose Luis Montanez Hernandez, Sauk Centre. Fine \$200. Fee \$85.

Melvin Paye, Olive, Iowa. Speed 88/70. Fine \$60. Fee \$85.

Jordan Mikal Pollock, Twin Brooks, S.Dak. Fine \$40. Fee \$85.

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

Tucker Darwin Schoenfish, Minneapolis. Speed 80/70. Fine \$40. Fee \$85.

Todd County Sheriff's Office

Erik Christopher Warren Davis, Alexandria. Driving after revocation. Fine \$200. Fee \$85. Operate vehicle with expired registration. Fine \$30.

Ricardo Zamora Mendoza, Long Prairie. Driving without a valid license for vehicle class or type. Fine \$100. Fee \$85.

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

Kristine Elizabeth Ziegler, Cushing. Fifth Degree Possession of a Controlled Substance. Dismissed, conditions met or expired.

The following cases were heard before Judge Daniel Benson in Seventh District Court in Todd County Jan. 18, 2023.

Treasure Marie Weekley, Motley. Disorderly conduct—offensive, abusive, boisterous, noisy, obscene. Stay of adjudication. Fine \$50. Local confinement four days. Credit for time served: four days. Supervised probation, one year. Damage to property—Fourth Degree—intentional damage. Dismissed.

The following cases were heard before Judge Daniel Benson in Seventh District Court in Todd County Jan. 22, 2023.

Lynsey Jo Wiechmann, Melrose. Speed 75/60. Continued for dismissal. Unsupervised monitoring without conviction, three months. Fine \$50. Fee totals \$125.

Bryan Jason Peterson, Belgrade. Third Degree DWI- refuse to submit to chemical test. Sentenced. Local confinement 364 days. Stay 362 days for two years. Credit for time served: two days. Fine \$200. Fee \$105. Supervised probation, two years. Fourth Degree DWI- operate motor vehicle under influence of controlled substance. Dismissed.

The following cases were heard before Judge Daniel Benson in Seventh District Court in Todd County Jan. 23, 2023.

Treasure Marie Weekley, Motley. Flee officer on foot. Dismissed. Obstruct Legal Process—interfere with peace officer. Sentenced. Fine \$50. Fee \$75. Local confinement 90 days. Stay 81 days for one year. Credit for time served: nine days. Unsupervised probation, one year.

The following cases were heard before Judge Daniel Benson in Seventh District Court in Todd County Jan. 23, 2023.

Jordan Anthony Anco, Verndale. Domestic Assault. Fine \$50. Fee totals \$125. Local confinement 90 days. Stay 77 days for one year. Credit for time served: 13 days. Supervised probation, one year.

Jeremy Christian Becker, Grey Eagle. Theft- take, use, transfer movable property- no consent. Dismissed, conditions met or expired.

Francis Jean Hall, Aldrich. Trespass- permit domestic animals. Dismissed, conditions met or expired. Stray animals- running at large domestic animals prohibited. Dismissed, conditions met or expired. Public nuisance. Dismissed, conditions met or expired.

The following cases were heard before Judge Daniel Benson in Seventh District Court in Todd County Jan. 24, 2023.

75 YEARS Ago - 1949

• Feb. 10, 1949 - The rat eradication program which was sponsored by the Staples city council, and the work done by the Lystad-Redick company of Grand Forks, N.D., seems to be very effective so far within the city. The program was started about three weeks ago and already noticeable results have been tabulated.

• Feb. 10, 1949 - Mrs. John

— 0 —
Compiled by
Dawn Timbs
— 0 —

Schmitt, who resides west of Staples, had the misfortune of burning herself seriously Saturday afternoon, Feb. 5, while she was frying doughnuts.

In some manner the pan of boiling grease was tipped from the stove, spilling the hot lard on her left leg and foot. She was brought to a Staples physician, where it was declared second degree burns existed.

Her daughter, Betty, also received slight burns on one foot. Mrs. Schmitt is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. C. M. Bittner of Staples.

• Feb. 10, 1949 - Word reached Staples Monday morning of the accident in the Postoffice building in Minneapolis which befell Bert Kingsley, former Staples resident, now residing in Minneapolis.

Mr. Kingsley, an engineer in the postoffice building, fell 20 feet out of a conveyor carrying coal to the stoker hopper, and is in a very critical condition at the Abbot General hospital.

• Feb. 10, 1949 - The Motley fire department was called out early Thursday morning of last week to aid in putting out a fire in the Roy Monty farm home just east of town. The origin of the fire was not determined but seemed to have started from an overheated stove, as fire was burning between the walls.

There was also some damage to the home from water and smoke. The fire hose froze and had to be thawed out in the Morey Fish company building before being put away. The temperature registered around 38 to 40 degrees at the time the men were called out.

• Feb. 10, 1949 - Todd



Mystery photo

Hello readers. This week's archive photo is from 1986. Do you know who these people are and perhaps the context of the photo? Do you have a memory to share? Email your answers and where

you're from to dtimbs@staplesworld.com by Friday, or call 218-894-1112. The answers will be published in next week's paper, as well as a new mystery photo.

50 YEARS Ago - 1974

• Feb. 7, 1974 - In appreciation to the many years of loyalty to the Farmer's Oil Station as manager, and owner of the Staples Tire Company, Mr. and Mrs. Francis Volesky are having an "Orval Garland Day," at Farmer's Oil Station, West Highway 10.

There will be free remembrance gifts, coffee and donuts, and suckers for the children, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Mr. Garland announced his retirement Feb. 1. Born in Nebraska in 1906, Orval Garland moved on a farm north of Staples in Thomastown, at the age of 7. He became a car helper apprentice with Northern Pacific Railway, and as many railroad workers were laid off during the late 20's and early 30's, after serving his apprenticeship, he too was laid off. In August of 1931. At just that time, William Lorentz had started his gasoline business, and within a few days, Orval was hired as manager of the youthful business.

• Feb. 7, 1974 - The Staples Faculty picked up their 14th win in 17 starts in Staples-Wadena Area Basketball League play Feb. 3, at

Deer Creek as they edged Eagle Bend by an 86-63 score.

Leading the Staples Faculty attack was Hans Borsstad with 24 points, followed by Tom Honek 15, Jack Nelson 14, Larry Werder 14, Jerry Riewer 13, and Joe Joerger 6.

• Feb. 7, 1974 - Bruce Paskewitz, age 16, is the 1974 winner of the Todd County 4-H Radio Speaking Contest which was held Jan. 26, at Long Prairie. The subject this year was "Brotherhood, my concern for others."

Bruce is a junior at Staples High school and is active in the speech activities offered by the school. He is also active in drama and has held major roles in several plays presented there. As the winner of the 4-H Radio contest he will receive a 3-day trip to the Twin Cities in March. He is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Robert Paskewitz, Browerville. Bruce is in his 8th year as a member of the A-1 4-H Club.

• Feb. 7, 1974 - Mark Bendson and Lynnelle Reese were chosen by the students of Staples High school to reign over their Sno-Daze festivities last weekend. King Mark and Queen Lynnelle received their crowns at the pep fest last Friday morning.

Other candidates nominated by the senior class to seek the honor were Toni Anderson, Dorothy Dukowitz, Patty Blessing, Beverly Mennis and Susette Jay for queen, and Tim Dumpprope,



Mystery solved

Last week's mystery photo published in the Feb. 20, 1992 edition of the Staples World featured officers for the Staples Chapter of FFA. Pictured from left, front row: Joe Brichacek, assistant vice president; Mike Olander, assistant vice president. Back: Kory Kruse, treasurer; Neal Becker, president; Jenny Fonteyn, vice president; Missy Etzler, secretary; Becky Haehnel, sentinel; Jason Brichacek, reporter.

Melissa (Etzler) Jewison, Media Center Specialist at Staples-Motley Schools, correctly identified herself and her fellow FFA officers. Kerry Lindgren of Staples, who was their FFA Advisor, correctly identified all, adding, "Great group of individuals!" Judy Wolak of Staples correctly identified all as well. Thanks for participating in our Mystery Photo.

COURT continued

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

Leshel Dianne Anderon, Melrose. Second Degree DWI- refuse to submit to chemical test. Sentenced. Fine \$800. Fee totals \$905. Local confinement 364 days. Stay 362 days for four years. Credit for time served: two days. Supervised probation, four years. Fourth Degree DWI. Dismissed. No proof of insurance. Dismissed.

Roberto Jimenez Jacinto, Long Prairie. DWI- operate motor vehicle under influence of alcohol. Dismissed. DWI_ operate motor vehicle- alcohol concentration 0.08 within two hours. Sentenced. Fine \$250. Fee totals \$350. Local confinement 90 days. Stay 87 days for two years. Credit for time served: three days. Supervised probation, two years. Open bottle law. Dismissed.

The following cases were heard before Judge Daniel Benson in Seventh District Court in Todd County Jan. 25, 2023.

2023.
Sasha Lea Gangle, Grey Eagle. Harassment; Restraining Order- vio-

late and knows of temporary or restraining order. Dismissed, conditions met or expired.



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At the ribbon cutting ceremony

A ribbon cutting took place at the grand opening of the new TCO Staples - Therapy Feb. 1. Pictured, from left, are Staples Mayor Ron Murray; Brad Anderson, VP Strategy & Development, Lakewood Health System; Izaak Schafer, Therapy Clinic Supervisor, Twin Cities Orthopedics; Chris Bailey, Chief Development Officer, Twin

Cities Orthopedics; Lisa Bjerga, Chief Executive Officer, Lakewood Health System; Dr. Christine Albrecht, Chief Medical Officer, Lakewood Health System; Lori Ryan, Director of Therapy, Twin Cities Orthopedics. (Submitted photo)



Table surfing the new fad?

At the Staples-Motley SnoDaze pep fest, each grade rolled a staff member on a table across the gym floor, with the students as the wheels of the roller. Below, the senior class were the winners. (Staples World photos by Mark Anderson)



Legislation introduced for housing shortage

Submitted by the office of U.S. Senator Amy Klobuchar

U.S. Senators Amy Klobuchar and Tim Kaine (VA) reintroduced the Housing Supply and Affordability Act to create a new grant program that would provide funding to help localities develop and implement comprehensive housing policy plans. This program will provide technical assistance to help states, localities, and regional coalitions increase housing supply, improve housing affordability, and reduce barriers to new housing development while avoiding the displacement of current residents. Companion legislation in the House of Representatives is led by Representatives Lisa Blunt Rochester (DE), Brian Fitzpatrick (PA), and Joyce Beatty (OH).

“Access to stable, quality housing is key to expanding economic opportunities for families but right now, the housing market is inaccessible for far too many,” said Klobuchar. “This legislation will give state and local governments critical resources to improve affordability and expand access to quality housing where it’s needed the most.”

“Everywhere I go in Virginia, I hear about how difficult it is to find affordable housing,” said Kaine. “But the housing needs in one part of the country aren’t necessarily the same as another. That’s why this legislation would enable localities to engage with their residents to identify the strategy to boost housing supply that works for their community. As a former fair housing attorney, I’ve seen the difference a reliable, safe roof overhead can make for a family, and I urge my colleagues to join us in working to make affordable housing more accessible for all.”

Between 2001 and 2018, median rent increased by 13 percent, while wages increased only 0.5 percent.

Now, the average American needs to earn \$19.56 per hour for a modest one-bedroom rental home and \$23.96 per hour for a modest two-bedroom rental home. Prior to the pandemic, more than 7.7 million extremely low-income renters were spending more than half of their incomes on housing expenses. Not only is affordable housing inaccessible for many Americans, there is a general shortage of houses. From 2000 to 2015, the United States fell 7.3 million homes short of meeting housing demand.

The Housing Supply and Affordability Act:

- Creates a \$300 million competitive grant program each year over five years available to state and local governments that demonstrate rising housing costs or projected rising housing costs to develop a housing plan that would increase housing supply in an area while avoiding the displacement of residents in the area;
- Ensures that at least 10 percent of funds are awarded to rural areas;
- Prioritizes grants by housing plans that would increase affordable housing access for individuals of every race and income level, reduce barriers to affordable housing development; and avoid the displacement of residents;
- Requires the HUD Secretary to issue guidance with recommended policies, strategies, and reforms to encourage repurposing land for housing development, allow for a greater variety of housing types, revise land use policies to allow for the development of more housing, streamline the approval process for housing development, provide financial incentives to support affordable housing development, and support inclusive engagement of community members; and
- Requires routine reporting from applicants regarding the use of these grant funds.

Quote of the week

“When strangers start acting like neighbors... communities are reinvigorated.”
— Ralph Nader

Legal Aid available to Todd County seniors

The St. Cloud office of Mid-Minnesota Legal Aid has received a grant of Older Americans Act funds from the Central Minnesota Council on Aging to provide legal services for seniors residing in Todd County. The funds will be used to provide legal advice, counseling and representation in court and administrative hearings. There is no cost for these services.

If you’re 60 years or older and reside in Todd County, you can get help with legal problems involving Medicare, Social Security, eviction or other housing problems, public benefits ie: medical assistance, food support, fuel assistance, family law issues, includ-

ing domestic abuse, income maintenance, nursing home problems, home care services, powers of attorney, health care directives and debt collection. NO help is provided for criminal matters, wills, estate planning or real estate transactions.

Seniors can call the St. Cloud office of Mid-Minnesota Legal Aid toll free at 1-888-360-2889 for help scheduling an appointment by phone, virtually, in person or we can also bring the Justice Bus to your area to meet with individuals.

Mid-Minnesota Legal Aid accepts contributions for the legal services, but contributions are not required to receive legal help.

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and area townships.

Letters: Readers are encouraged to express their views by writing letters to the editor. Letters are verified for authenticity, so please include a name, address and phone number. Only the author’s name and city will be published. Letters may be edited for spelling and grammar errors, libel, length and other factors. Private thanks, solicitations and libelous letters will not be published. Letters are printed on a space available basis. The editor reserves the right to reject letters.
The deadline is 12 noon, Friday. Opinions expressed on this page do not necessarily represent the views of this newspaper.

Fairness: The Staples World tries conscientiously to report fairly and accurately. If you feel we fall short of this objective at any time, please direct your complaint to the manager whose name appears on this page.
Note to Advertisers: Advertisers should check their ad following first publication. This newspaper shall not be liable for failure to publish an ad or for the typographic error or errors in publication except to the extent of the cost of the ad for the first day’s insertion. Adjustment for errors is limited to the cost of that portion of the ad wherein the error occurred. The publisher reserves the right to cancel any advertisement at any time.

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Mark Your Calendar

February 7, 8

FREE TAX-AIDE Wednesdays, 1-4 p.m. and Thursdays, 10 a.m.- 4 p.m., Feb. 7 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 Lake-wood Health System’s main campus in Staples. Meet at the main entrance. For more information about this free program, visit <https://walkwithadoc.org/>

join-a-walk/locations/staples-minnesota

WADENA WHIRLWAYS SQUARE DANCE GROUP DANCING Thursday, Feb. 8, 7:30 - 10 p.m., at St. Michael’s Church, 280 1st Ave. S., Motley. Andy Flint, caller. For info., 218-894-2900.

February 9

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 12

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

February 13

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.



PUFFS magic coming at you

Caden Mrazek, fourth from left, is one of the actors casting a spell in PUFFS The Play at Central Lakes College in Brainerd, Feb 15-17 and Feb. 22-24. (Submitted photo)

Staples Senior Nutrition program meals Feb. 21 and Feb. 29

Senior Nutrition Program
218-894-2556

Dine-in lunch followed by bingo will be offered at the Senior Nutrition Site, Staples Community Center senior’s room on Weds., Feb. 21 and Weds., Feb. 29 at 11

a.m.
Lunch may be ordered through the nutrition site by calling LuAnn at 218-894-2556. Call by 10 a.m. Fri., Feb. 16 for the Feb. 21 meal and by Feb. 23 for the Feb. 29 meal.
Bingo will be played following the meal.

The Senior Nutrition Site is located at the Staples Community Center, 425 4th St. NE, Staples.

Cardinal Calendar

SM school events

February

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

March

◦ **OUR VOICE, OUR SONG CONCERT** Staples-Motley High School Main Gym, 7 p.m.
◦ **MS/HS CONCERTS** March 7, 6 p.m., 7 p.m., Centennial Auditorium
◦ **MIDDLE SCHOOL MUSICAL** March 15 - 16, Centennial Auditorium
◦ **VOCAL LARGE GROUP CONTEST AT STAPLES-MOTLEY** March 27

Staples-Motley graduate Caden Mrazek will be in a Central Lakes Theatre production, Feb. 15-17 and 22-23. The Brainerd Community Theatre and CLC Performing Arts Center will present PUFFS The Play by Matt Cox, a side-splitting comedy set in an enchanting world of wizardry, where the unsung heroes take center stage. This clever and inventive production leaves audiences in stitches, offering a fresh and humorous perspective on a familiar magical adventure.
“For seven years, a certain boy wizard went to a certain Wizard School and conquered evil. This, however, is not his story. This is the story of the Puffs... who just happened to be there too,” says the play’s description. The New York Times proclaims it as “A FAST-PACED ROMP through the ‘Seven Increasingly Event-

ful Years at a Certain School of Magic and Magic.” It’s a treat for “POTTERphiliacs” who grew up with a certain famous boy wizard, offering a jovial and winking fondness for all things Harry.
This whimsical and fast-paced play follows three potential heroes just trying to survive a dangerous magic school. Alongside them are the Puffs, a group of well-meaning, loyal outsiders with a fondness for badgers. The characters are relatable and the story transcends parody into a heart-warming tale of finding one’s place in the world.
The cast is filled with frequent Brainerd Community Theatre actors, including Olivia Armstrong as Megan Jones, Jacob Beckmann as Cedric/Mr. Voldy, Phyl Bell as Wayne Hopkins, Al Carney as Ernie Mac, Joey Haasken as Oliver Rivers, Lydia Jendro as Susie Bones,

Caden Mrazek as J. Finch Fletchley, Connor Nichols as Narrator, Abby Pratt as Hannah, Mackenzie Pratt as Sally Perks, and Kryston Wisely as Leanne. The play is directed by Travis Chaput, who most recently directed the Brainerd Community Theatre production of High School Musical JR. Set design by Tim Leageld. Lighting design by Heidi Eckwall. Costume and props design by Rachael Brutscher.
This production is supported by the Five Wings Arts Council and the Minnesota State Arts Board. It is intended for audiences 10-plus.
PUFFS The Play runs Feb. 15-17 and 22-24 at 7 p.m. in the Chalberg Theatre at Central Lakes College, Brainerd. Tickets are available at www.clcperformingarts.com or by calling the Box Office at 218-855-8199.

Funding for books

The Staples Host Lions recently donated \$250 to Freshwater Education District, with funds designated for the distribution of books, part of Freshwater’s ‘Reading for the Future’ program. Pictured, from left, are Lion President Rick Adamietz and Lisa Wick, with Freshwater Education District. (Staples World photo by Dawn Timbs)



Support for hockey

The Staples Host Lions recently donated \$150 to Wadena Hockey. Pictured, from left, are Lion President Rick Adamietz and Amber McManigle, representing Wadena Hockey. (Staples World photo by Dawn Timbs)



Donation to SPARKS

The Staples Host Lions recently donated \$200 to the SPARKS mentor program and their upcoming ‘Dinner in the Woods’ event. Pictured, from left, are Lion President Rick Adamietz and Rosie Blessing, SPARKS board member. (Staples World photo by Dawn Timbs)

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!

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Celebrating the Lenten season...
Fat Tuesday

PANCAKE & SAUSAGE SUPPER

Tuesday, Feb. 13
5 - 7 p.m.

Trinity Lutheran Church

1000 4th St. NE, STAPLES
(across from the Staples-Motley Elementary School)

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Hello World

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Student Achievements

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Obituaries

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ONLINE BIRTHS REMOVED AT THE REQUEST OF LAKEWOOD HEALTH SYSTEM.

MINNESOTA STATE COMMUNITY AND TECHNICAL COLLEGE, with campuses in Detroit Lakes, Fergus Falls, Moorhead and Wadena, has announced its graduates of the 2023 Fall Semester. Local graduates include:

- Jaelyn Jordahl, Motley, Cosmetology Diploma and Eyelash Extension Technician Certificate
- Keyona Teamer, Pillager, Advanced Practice Esthology



WHAT A GREAT COMBINATION!!!

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Staples World

Bessie Huff



Bessie June Huff, 102, of Staples, passed away peacefully on January 27, 2024.

Funeral services were held February 2 at the Church of Christ in Staples.

Bessie was born June 12, 1921, to Levi and Elta (Karnes) Shinabarger in Grey Eagle. She grew up in the Long Prairie, Staples and Philbrook areas. She married Glenn Huff on July 3, 1941 and they settled in Motley. Bessie worked

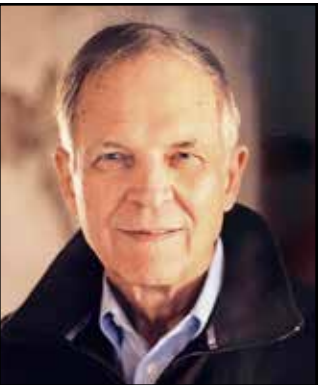
for many years at the Staples Hospital and at Maddens Resort. She enjoyed spending time with her family and enjoyed flowers, gardening, quilting and attending church. She met many wonderful people throughout her 102 years and will be greatly missed by all who knew her.

Bessie is survived by three sons, Richard of Motley, Walter (Patricia) of Staples and Robert (Marie) of Arizona; one daughter, Nancy (Gary) Nieken of Illinois; 13 grandchildren; many great-grandchildren and great-great-grandchildren.

She was preceded in death by her parents; husband, Glenn Huff and three grandchildren, Tanya Huff, Jameson Johnson/Nieken and Joseph Marshall.

Arrangements were by the Brenny Family Funeral Chapel of Staples.

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Harvey Lyle Jones

Harvey “Lyle” Jones, 84, of Simi Valley, California, passed away January 6, 2024. He will be remembered as a man whose life was a testament to faith, kindness, compassion and an unwavering dedication to the betterment of others.

Lyle was born March 18, 1939, in Pollock, South Dakota, the only child to Lester Jehu Jones and Hilda Clara (Vikse) Jones. He graduated from Pollock High School in 1957, attended Northern State University in Aberdeen, SD and St. Cloud State University earning double master’s degrees in education and administration. His distinguished 60-year career included serving as Principal at Motley High School and Superintendent of Schools in several Minnesota districts including Motley, Canby, Minneota and Pine City and State Dept of ED roles in St. Paul and Trenton, NJ.

Lyle married Ellen Ann (Cedar) Jones on Thanksgiving Day, Nov. 27, 1958 and they raised two children.

He is survived by one daughter, Lesley (Brian) Glassford; one son, Kenneth Jones; six grandchildren and 11 great-grandchildren.

He was preceded in death by his parents and his wife.

Service memorials will be held in both Pollock, SD and Motley in early summer. Charitable donations in Lyle’s name may be made to the following organizations:



Judith Resch

Judith Ann (Younggren) Resch, 75, of Staples passed away peacefully January 26, 2024 at the Loving Care home that was built for her and husband, Gene (A Daughter’s Love Assisted Living).

Judy was blessed to have two of her daughters and one granddaughter by her side.

A Celebration of Life Open House will be held Thursday, February 8, at Frosty’s (use 5th St. Entrance) Batchelor Block Opera House, Staples from 4 to 6 p.m. with prayer and remembrances 6 to 6:30 p.m. Stay and enjoy live music of Frosty’s Spirits & Social Club Celebrating the music of her days. As “extra” as Mom was, we will also be providing “Love” cash to play blackjack while listening to the live music and enjoying time and stories of our favorite Avon lady, Judy.

Judith was born in Bertha on January 26, 1949, to Carl and Mabel (Foster) Younggren. She grew up on the family farm and moved to the Duluth area shortly after graduating from Long Prairie High School and became a caregiver. She was married to Jon Lamkin and blessed with two daughters. Judy later married Eugene Resch while working as Executive Director of the Staples Hi-Rise. Judy later retired after 17 years of serving the elderly and those with housing needs and went on to run the “shop” for Gene (Resch Tile and Carpet.) This is also where she was able to spread her joy and love for Avon with the community.

During their years together, Eugene and Judy enjoyed traveling and dancing. Her family, friends and caregivers will miss her dearly.

Judith will always be remembered by her family, Carla (Doug) Platzer of Staples and Christine (Todd) Tollefson of Florida; Melissa Shriver of Willow River; one biological grandchild, Alexis Kuchinski and many step-grandchildren and one brother, Arlan “Yogi” Younggren.

She was preceded in death by her parents; loving husband, Gene and doting doggy, Roady.

Family would like to honor the abundant love and care provided by the caregivers and nurses at A Daughter’s Love Assisted Living, the team from Knute Nelson Hospice and the residents and families that treated Judy with so much love and attention.

Any memorials received will be split between the loving caregivers at A Daughter’s Love Assisted Living ~ Hospice ~ Rehab and Respite Suites.

Arrangements are by the Brenny Family Funeral Chapel, Staples.

w7c A00006B2024FB07

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 Sonlight (Kids ages 4 yrs.-6th grade)..... After school to 5:30 p.m. Youth Group (Teens, 7th-12th grade)..... After school to 5:30 p.m. Church of Christ 27343 490th St., Staples.....218-894-2609 Pastor Barry Klein Facebook Live Bible School (youth and adult).... 9:30 a.m. Sunday Worship..... 10:30 a.m. WEDNESDAY: 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 Church.....218-894-2296 info@marysacc.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 am. 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 Wallwood St. E Motley 56466.....218-352-6888 Jim Johnson, Senior Pastor Casey Reynolds, Assistant Pastor Sunday Worship..... 9:00 and 10:30 a.m. facebook live..... 9 a.m. WEDNESDAY AWANA..... 4:00-5:30 p.m. Youth Group..... 6:00-8:00 p.m. St. John’s Lutheran 497 3rd Ave. S, Motley.....218-352-6399 Pastor Vicar Paul Koehler Sunday School and Bible Class.....8:30 a.m. Sunday Worship.....9:30 a.m.	St. Michael Catholic Church 1st St. and Birch, Motley 218-894-2296 info@marysacc.org Fr. Aaron Kuhn Fr. Gabriel Walz MASS: Saturday..... 4:00 p.m. 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 City, Rds, 7 and 9, Oylen 218-472-3440 or 218-472-3316 Pastor Neal Malcore Sunday School.....10:00 a.m. Sunday Worship.....11:00 a.m. Pillager First Lutheran Church Pastor Mathew Sundquist 717 River Street S, Pillager, MN 218-746-3775 Sunday School..... 9:30 a.m. Sunday Worship..... 8:30 a.m. Casino Assembly of God Pastor Dan Johnson N. of Motley, Hwy. 64, E. on Cty 34 to Cty. 104. 218-746-3839 Phone.....218-746-3839 Sunday School..... 9:30 a.m. Worship..... 10:30 a.m. Sunday Worship..... 7:00 p.m. WEDNESDAY Bible Study..... 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 Bible Fellowship Classes.....9:30 a.m. Sunday Bible Fellowship Classes.....11-11:45 a.m. Family Life Church 402 NE Clark Drive, Verndale 218-445-5568 VerndaleFLC@gmail.com Pastor Amos Self..... 218-371-7189 Tahna Rurup, Connections & Media Pastor Tillman Phagan, Kid’s & Food Shelf Pastor Ryan Wolfenden, Youth Pastor SUNDAY Youth Prayer..... 9:20 a.m. Worship Service.....10:00 a.m. Prayer Meeting..... 5 p.m. WEDNESDAY Life Groups..... 6:30 p.m. Hope Chapel Alliance 18126 County Road 7, Verndale 218-445-5643 or 218-472-3316 Pastor Neal Malcore Sunday Worship.....9:00 a.m. Sunday School.....10:30 a.m. WEDNESDAY Family Night.....5:30 p.m. Immanuel Lutheran Church of Bartlett Township (LCMS) 17097 460th St., PO Box 37, Verndale Pastor Robin Fish Sunday Worship.....9:00 a.m. WEDNESDAY Bible Study.....10:30 a.m. WEDNESDAY Seeds of Hope.....7:00 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@marysacc.org Fr. Aaron Kuhn Fr. Gabriel Walz MASS: Saturday..... 6:00 p.m. St. Hubert Catholic Church Bluegrass.....218-894-2296 info@marysacc.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.
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“Stand Firm”

Submitted by Pastor Roy Miles, Staples Assembly Of God

-By Clancy Hayes (God’s Word For Today)

Legendary football coach Vince Lombardi once said, “I firmly believe that any man’s finest hour, the greatest fulfillment of all that he holds dear, is that moment when he has worked his heart out in a good cause and lies exhausted on the field of battle victorious.”

Lombardi’s words hold true for Christians. It is hard work to stand up to natural and spiritual enemies. Paul said that all of the struggles associated with faith will be worth the effort expended when a believer meets Jesus.

“Therefore, my dear brothers and sisters,

stand firm. Let nothing move you. Always give yourselves fully to the work of the Lord, because you know that your labor in the Lord is not in vain.” (I Corinthians 15:58 NIV)

There are various types of struggles Christians face. Some Christians give their lives as a result of persecution. Others face unfair work situations because they hold fast to Christian values. Some feel the enemy’s attack through challenges in their personal lives. Christians will find the strength they need if they keep their eyes fixed on the prize that awaits them when they stand in the presence of Jesus.

Prayer suggestion: Pray for the persecuted Christians around the world.

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**

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For the Staples World

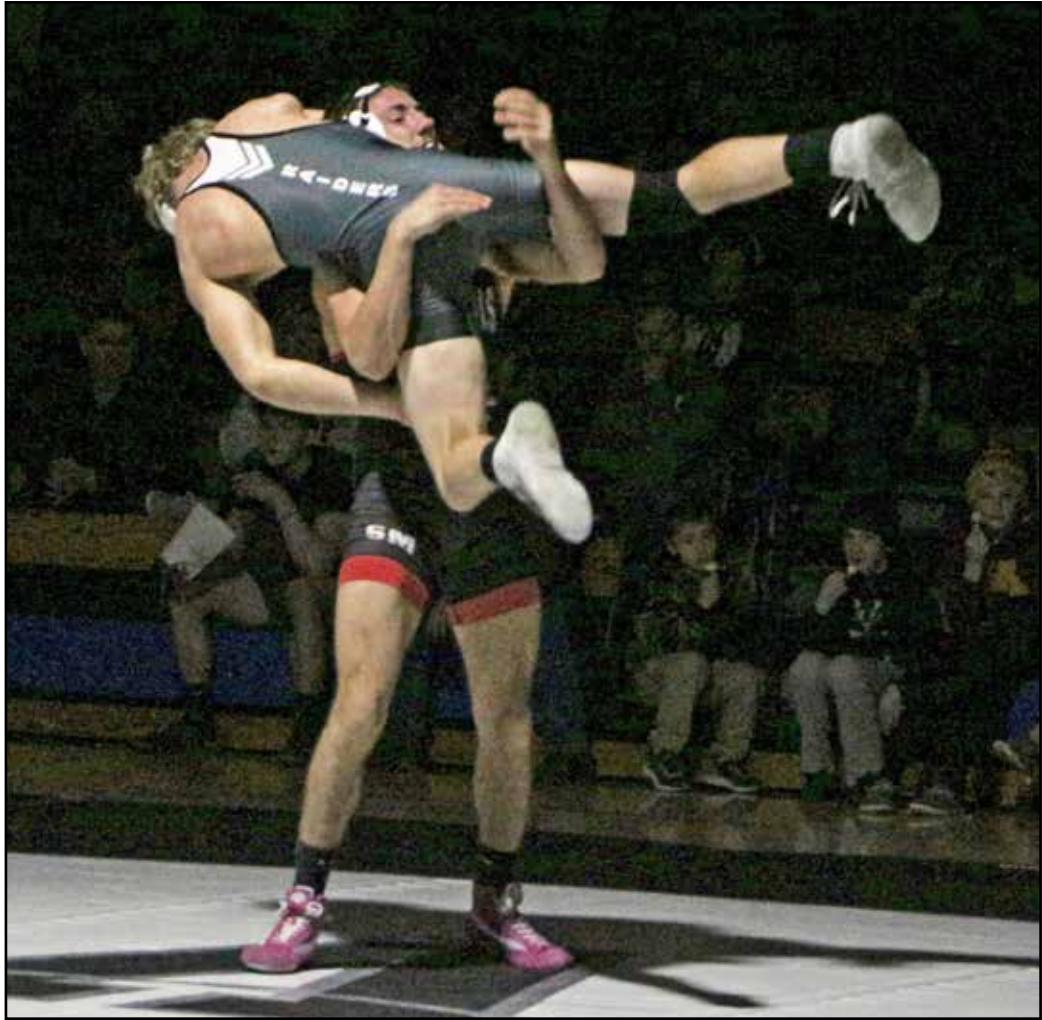
Life Currents Policy

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

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

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

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



High flying takedown

Blake Neelan lifts his opponent high in the air to earn his only takedown in a big 3-2 win against Bertha-Hewitt/Verndale/Parkers Prairie. (Staples World photos by Mark Anderson)

Wrestlers keep winning without full lineup

The Staples-Motley wrestling team won two dual meets decisively despite having two of their starters out. They had wins over Park Rapids 57-7 and Bertha-Hewitt/Verndale/Parkers Prairie 41-16 on Jan. 31 at Bertha. They also took a partial team to the Walker-Hackensack-Akeley tournament on Feb. 2, winning the tournament with nine wrestlers in the 13 weight classes. All nine wrestlers placed in the tournament.

Ramiro Gallardo took advantage of his opportunity in the starting lineup with a 3-1 win against Pelican Rapids at 152 pounds. The score was tied 1-1 with 10 seconds left when he used an upper body throw to get a takedown and win the bout. He was in the exact same situation in the Bertha-Hewitt match and he tried a similar throw, but this time the attempt slipped and he ended up down 3-1.

Against Bertha-Hewitt, the 12th ranked team in the state, Staples-Motley won the first seven weights to go up 29-0. Jack Carlson, Turner Beachy, Riley Reese and Blake Neelan all won close matches by getting the first takedown. Neelan waited until late in the third period to get his takedown. Luke Bjerga and Steven Petrich punctuated the match with pins to provide the winning margin, 41-16.

Gallardo kept wrestling well at the WHA tournament, winning 3-1 in the championship match at 152 pounds. Other tournament weight class winners included; Eli Greenwaldt, 121 and Adrian Gomez, 215. Riley Reese, Luke Bjerga and Steven Petrich placed second at their weight classes. Blake Neelan, third, while Dustin Converse and Jacob Becker were sixth.

Team results

SM 41, Bertha-Hewitt/Verndale/Parkers Prairie 16
107, Gage Bjerga W fall, 114 Caden Kramer W 16-4, 121, Eli Greenwaldt W fall, 127, Jack Carlson W 8-6, 133, Turner Beachy W 5-0, 139, Riley Reese



Ramiro Gallardo grabs a leg.



Dustin Converse spins around for an escape.

W 10-1, 145, Blake Neelan W 3-2, 152, Ramiro Gallardo L 3-1, 160, Zach Tabatt L fall, 172, Dustin Converse L 5-2, 189, Luke Bjerga W fall, 215, Adrian Gomez L 14-1, 285, Steven Petrich W fall

SM 57, Park Rapids 7

107, G. Bjerga W fall, 114,

Kramer W 18-3 tf, 121, Greenwaldt W 16-0 tf, 127, Carlson W ff, 133, Beachy W ff, 139, Reese W 14-1, 145, Neelan W fall, 152, Gallardo W 3-1, 160, Tabatt W ff 172, Converse L 9-1, 189, L. Bjerga W 9-1, 215 Gomez L 6-1, 285 Petrich W ff.

Ninth grade wrestlers compete at state

Staples-Motley had four wrestlers, who competed, Feb. 3, in the state Ninth Grade Wrestling League individual tournament. The Cardinals, place sixth as a

team.

Individuals placing included: 88, Garrett Bjerga 3rd; 114, Beau Carlson, 4th; 121, Cooper Tappe, 3rd; 172, Reece Headley 7th.



Crowd anticipates game-winning play

With the team down by two, Lauren Rutten scores after getting fouled with a minute left to go. She made the free throw for the winning score.

Girls basketball grinds to the last minute for a win

The Staples-Motley girls basketball team overcame numerous setbacks for a 59-54 win against Aitkin on Feb. 1, but suffered a 74-47 loss against Pelican Rapids on Jan. 30.

Against Aitkin, The Cardinals led in the first minute and in the last minute, but nowhere in between. Both teams struggled to score early and it was just 3-3 after five minutes of play. Aitkin was the first team to break out, making deep shots from behind the line against a zone defense. Meanwhile, the Cards missed all their shots, many of them from close range. After eight minutes of play they were behind 10-3.

Lauren Rutten and Liv Lorber started scoring, but the team was still plagued by missed shots and they fell behind 13-28 with just a few minutes left in the first half. At that point, the SM made a remarkable run, starting with a basket by Rutten, a three point shot by Izzy Olander and a fast break basket by Lorber. After free throws by Pam Lawrence and Cami Anderson, they were only behind 23-28 at halftime.

Staples-Motley opened the second half with two turnovers that led to Aitkin scores, a problem they didn't have in the first half. Down by 11 again, the Cards mounted another comeback, led by Lorber with a driving basket and a rebound put-back. Miranda Schotzko did the same thing for two more baskets, Rutten completed a three point play and Lorber's long jump shot finally tied the score at 38. Aitkin's offense kept on scoring and the Cardinals fell behind by seven again. Two 3-point-



Liv Lorber rebounds.



Miranda Schotzko shoots.

ers by Olander brought Staples-Motley back within two points. With one minute left in the game, Rutten tipped a pass at the top of the key and Lorber hustled to beat several players to the loose ball, then passed it ahead to Rutten for a fast break basket and a foul. She made the free throw to put the Cardinals ahead 54-53, their first lead since the first basket of the ball game. After that, the defense forced Aitkin to take rushed shots that missed. With the lead, Rutten made three free throws and Olander hit a pair, to give the team their winning margin, 59-53. Olander finished the

game with four 3-pointers. Rutten led the team with 18 points and was responsible for a lot of the ball control and getting the team into their offensive flow. The team had a good night at the free throw line, making 14 of 22, with some of the misses coming at crucial times in the game. Despite stumbling blocks throughout the game, the Cardinals proved to be resilient and came through when it was needed for the win.

Team results

SM 59, Aitkin 54

Scoring: Lauren Rutten 18, Izzy Olander 16, Liv Lorber 15, Pam Lawrence 4, Miranda Schotzko 4, Cami Anderson 2.



Cami Anderson drives to the basket.

Boys basketball splits pair

The Staples-Motley boys basketball team had a strong second half against Verndale, for a 72-46 win on Jan. 29, returning home, Feb 2, losing 70-50, against Crosby-Ironton.

Against Verndale, Conner Kuhns and Eli Rutten broke open a close game in the second half. The Cardinals had a four point lead at the break, but Rutten scored 13 of his 21 points in the second half and Kuhns had

13 of his 15 points. Rutten made three, 3-pointers in the second half and Kuhns had two, plus a three point play with a basket and a free throw. Alex Schultz and Noah Larson helped forge the early lead, both scoring all their points in the first half.

Against Crosby-Ironton, the Cards allowed four CI players to score in double figures, while Avandre Brant and Rutten were the

only two Cardinals with 1 or more points. Staples-Motley was down by 16 at halftime and didn't get any closer in the second half.

Team results

SM 72, Verndale 46

Scoring: Eli Rutte 21, Conner Kuhns 15, Alex Schultz 9, Gar Bestland 8, Avandre Brandt Noah Larson 6, Logan Robben Josiah Burton 2

SM 50, Crosby-Ironton 70

Scoring: Brandt 18, Rutte 10, Benet Robinson 6, Bestlan 5, Kuhns 5, Schultz 3, Larson 3



Riley reese works on a cradle.

**NOTICE
EVERGREEN HILL
CEMETERY MEETING**

The Evergreen Hill Cemetery will hold its annual meeting Tuesday, February 13, 2024 at 6:00 p.m. at the Staples Community Center. Election of officers will be held.

Bob Reeck
Sec./Treas.

7pnc

**NOTICE
BARTLETT TOWNSHIP
ELECTION
ABSENTEE BALLOTS**

Bartlett Township residents needing an Absentee ballot for the township election on March 12, 2024 should contact the clerk at 218-640-3176 between February 9 and March 9, 2024.

Jan Jares, Clerk
Bartlett Township.

7pnc

**TODD COUNTY
BOARD OF
ADJUSTMENT**
215 1st Ave. South,
Long Prairie, MN 56347
320-732-4420
toddplan.zone@co.todd.mn.us

PUBLIC NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that on **Thursday, February 22, 2024 at 6:00 p.m.** the Todd County Board of Adjustment will hold a public hearing in the Commissioner's board room, 215 1st Ave. South, Suite 301, Long Prairie, Minnesota.

NOTE: This meeting is again being held in-person and the public is encouraged to attend, but Zoom and phone options are still available for those who are unable to attend in person. If you wish to join via Zoom, please contact our office for the call-in information. Those who do attend in person can find parking atop the hill on the west side of the Historic Courthouse and enter through the north doors, near the American Flag and monument.

Questions? Call or email 320-732-4420 or toddplan.zone@co.todd.mn.us

AGENDA

- Call to Order
- Pledge of Allegiance

- Introduction of Board of Adjustment Members and process review
- The applicant is introduced
- Staff report
- Applicant confirms if staff report accurately represents the request
- Public comment
- Board review with applicant, staff, and public
- Approval of agenda
- Approval of December 28, 2023, Board of Adjustment meeting minutes

1. Ryan and Angela Rengstorf: Section 02, Staples Township

Site Address: 989 2nd Ave. NW, Staples, MN 56479
PID: 22-0052500

1. Request for road right-of-way setback of twenty-two feet for the placement of mini-storage containers in Commercial Zoning.

2. Request for side yard property line setback of thirty-four feet for the placement of mini-storage containers in Commercial Zoning.

2. Michael T. and Lori K. Lyon, Trustees: Section 03, Grey Eagle Township, Mound Lake

Site Address: 14314 Chippewa Road, Burtrum, MN 56318
PID: 11-0049600

1. Request to reduce the OHWL setback from 100' to 34.85' for construction of deck in RD Shoreland Zoning.

2. Request to reduce the OHWL setback from 100' to 44.85 for the proposed house with attached garage in RD Shoreland Zoning.

3. Request to reduce road right-of-way from 20' to 8.56 for the proposed garage in RD Shoreland Zoning.

4. Request to increase the height limit from 18' to 21'1.5" for the proposed house in RD Shoreland Zoning.

3. Edward C. Kortuem: Section 14, Birchdale Township, Sauk (North Bay) Lake

Site Address: 12281 Alcott Drive, Sauk Centre, MN 56378
PID: 03-0030000

4. Ryan and Angela Rengstorf: Section 02, Staples Township

Site Address: 989 2nd Ave. NW, Staples, MN 56479
PID: 22-0052500

1. Request for road right-of-way setback of twenty-two feet for the placement

of mini-storage containers in Commercial Zoning.

2. Request for side yard property line setback of thirty-four feet for the placement of mini-storage containers in Commercial Zoning.

5. Bruce and Linda Westbrook: Section 20, Grey Eagle Township, Big Birch Lake

Site Address: 11311 County 47, Grey Eagle, MN 56336
PID: 11-0030500

1. Request for variance to reduce the setback from the OHWL from 100' to 39' for proposed dwelling replacement in RD Shoreland Zoning.

2. Request to reduce the right-of-way setback from County 47 from 20' to 12' for proposed dwelling replacement in RD Shoreland Zoning.

3. Request to increase the max roof surface impervious from 15 percent (%) to 16.2 percent (%) for proposed dwelling replacement in RD Shoreland Zoning.

4. Request for variance to increase the peak height limit from the required 18' to 20' for proposed dwelling replacement in RD Shoreland Zoning.

6. Garhard Hendricks: Section 07, Round Prairie Township

Site Address: 23154 190th St., Long Prairie, MN 56347
PID: 21-0009100

1. Appeal of administrative decision; a feedlot was illegally established on the property.

2. Appeal of administrative decision; a variance could not be applied for because it would constitute a use variance.

Adjournment.

Next Meeting:
March 21, 2024

All persons interested are invited to attend said hearing or submit a letter to be heard on these matters. **All correspondence must include name, mailing address and be received 48 hours before the date and time of the hearing.**

Todd County Board of Adjustment

Richard Johnson, Chair

7pnc

**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 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 THUN-

DER RD, STAPLES, MN 56479

COUNTY IN WHICH PROPERTY IS LOCATED: Todd County, Minnesota.

THE AMOUNT CLAIMED TO BE DUE ON THE MORTGAGE ON THE DATE OF THE NOTICE: \$84,579.62

TRANSACTION AGENT: Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc.

NAME OF MORTGAGE ORIGINATOR: Quicken Loans Inc.

RESIDENTIAL SERVICER: Rocket Mortgage, LLC

TAX PARCEL IDENTIFICATION NUMBER: 22-0007602

TRANSACTION AGENT'S MORTGAGE IDENTIFICATION NUMBER: 100039034015630181

THAT no action or proceeding has been instituted at law to recover the debt then remaining secured by such mortgage, or any part thereof, or, if the action or proceeding has been instituted, that the same has been discontinued, or that an execution upon the judgment rendered therein has been returned unsatisfied, in whole or in part.

PURSUANT, to the power of sale contained in said mortgage, the above described property will be sold by the Sheriff of said county as follows:

DATE AND TIME OF SALE: March 07, 2024 at 10:00 A.M.

PLACE OF SALE: Todd County Sheriff's Office, County Detention Center, 115 Third Street South, Long Prairie, MN 56347.

to pay the debt then secured by said mortgage and taxes, if any actually paid by the mortgagee, on the premises and the costs and disbursements allowed by law. The time allowed by law for redemption by said mortgagor(s), their personal representatives or assigns is six (6) months

from the date of 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
Fundungallah, 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)

**THIS IS A
COMMUNICATION
FROM A DEBT
COLLECTOR**

5-10pnc

**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,

Plaintiff

vs

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*.

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
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KMS PUBLIC SCHOOLS
has FT Choir position available August 2024. Qualifications: MN Education Licensure. Apply: www.kms.k12.mn.us. Attach letter of interest, resume, transcripts, copy of license, three letters of recommendation.

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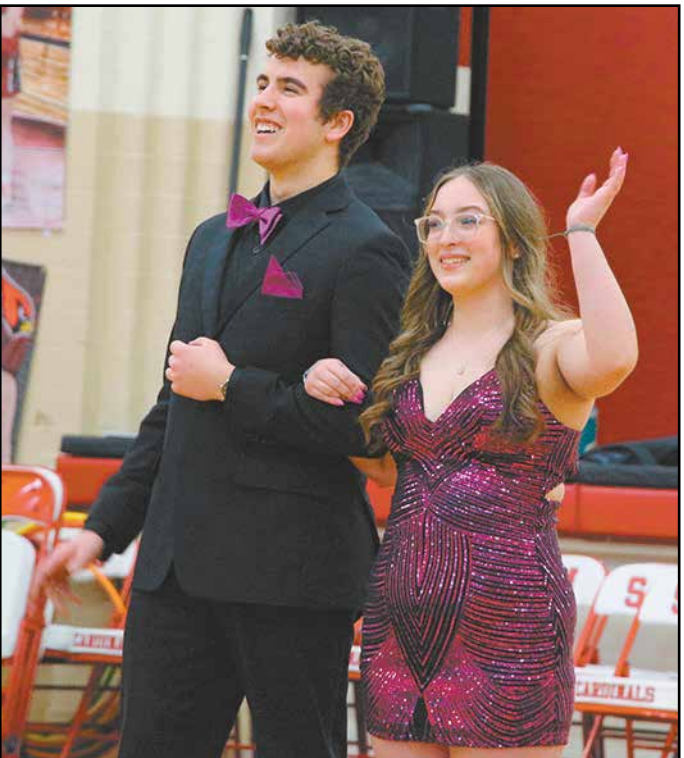
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SnoDaze royalty

Staples-Motley High School will celebrate SnoDaze this week, with senoir royalty announced a a school pep fest on Feb. 1. Pictured, the senior pairs who will be in the running for king and queen, with the coronation to



Carson Trantina and Bailey Weiland



AJ Nienow and Gen Groetch



As part of the SnoDaze pep fest, staff who have kids or relatives in the school played musical chairs.

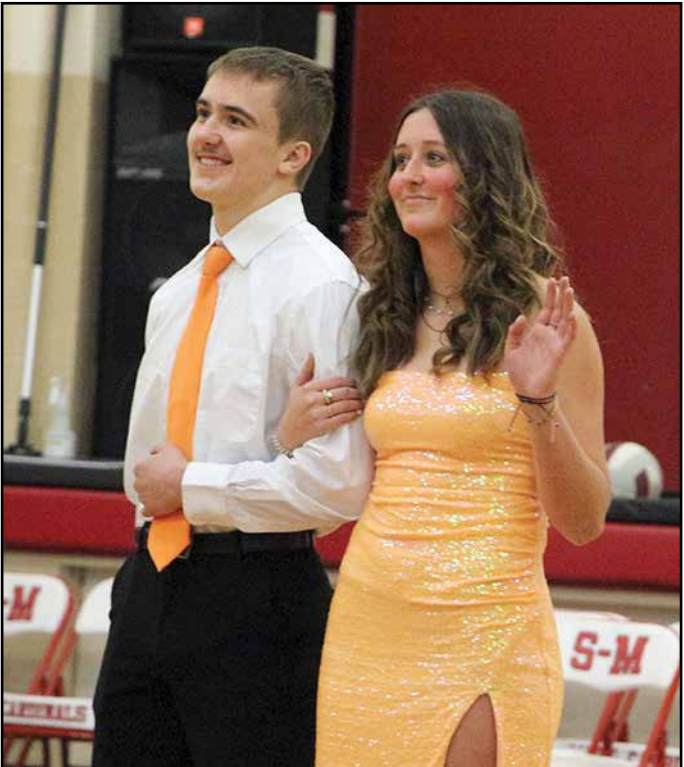


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be Wednesday, Feb. 7 at 9:15 a.m., with special theme days every day this week. The royalty will tour different places in the community on Thursday, Feb. 8. (Staples World photos by Mark Anderson)



Caden Dobson and Ellie Moulton



Zach Mollravy and Steffany Sullivan



Griffin Bettis and Sabina Moe

Nienow, Hines place first in big speech tournament

The Staples-Motley Competitive Speech Team is off to a great start in 2024. They just competed in the 63rd Annual Denfeld High School Rotary Tournament in Duluth on Feb. 3, and came away with a third place trophy in the “big” school competition. More than 400 students from 31 schools entered 14 different categories.

AJ Nienow and Laken Hines were category champions in Creative Expression and Humorous Interpretation, respectively.

Nienow and Maddock Harvey teamed up for a second place finish in Duo. Olivia Opheim took home second place in Informative and Hines was the second place medalist in Storytelling. Walker Johnson took 3rd in Extemporaneous Reading, while Brynn Bestland took home 3rd for Great Speeches. Joshua Cushing and Harvey both earned 7th place medals for Creative Expression and Storytelling, respectively.

Bestland and Cushing teamed up for an Next-In Final championship in Duo. Other Next-In finalists: Lexi Fishman took 5th in Prose Interpretation, while Johnson took 6th; Sabina Moe was 6th in Discussion; Lily Davis took 7th in Storytelling. Davis and Opheim also earned Excellent Awards for Humor and Prose, respectively.

The Cardinals will host their home meet on Saturday, Feb. 10, beginning at 9 a.m.



Speech awards at Duluth meet

Staples-Motley award winners at the Duluth Denfeld speech meet, from left, Lexi Fishman, Lily Davis, Maddock Harvey, AJ Nienow, Joshua Cushing, Laken



Noah Dukes, Dakota Simoneau and Maverick McKenna spot their shadow on Groundhog Day.

GROUNDHOG continued from page 1a

Warm weather affecting play, recreation habits

its shadow, so spring should be coming soon.

The students weren’t sure how the groundhog is able to predict spring, but McKenna said “The groundhog has very good eyes.”

The first graders acknowledged that this has been an unusual winter, with warm weather melding most of the snow in January.

“We don’t need any more snow pants,” said Simoneau. “Sometimes we don’t need boots, gloves, hat and jacket.”

McKenna said he likes summer better. “It’s nice

like spring out but we do need a coat,” he said.

Dukes said he likes to run around during recess at the school. Even though he thought it was easier to run on grass than to run on snow, he still likes winter better. “I can get cooled off outside in the winter,” said Dukes.

Simoneau said the warm winter has disrupted his recreation plans this year. “I was going to go ice fishing with my dad, but with the bad ice and now spring coming, I can’t go any more,” he said, adding “I could still go in a boat.”



Ice breakers

Staples-Motley Elementary School students had fun breaking up the ice on their playground on Groundhog Day, Feb. 2.

