

Inside this issue:

Cardinal Showcase - Student Council
Community Christmas dinner
Wrestlers win Jackhammer Invitational



Wednesday, January 1, 2025

Staples, Minnesota

\$1.25

Holiday enlightening display aglow A Christmas light display at the Pine Ridge trailer park, at the 1400 block of 8th Street NE in Staples by Albert Collison lights up the evenings with an ever growing display of lights and decorations. Albert has decorated for many years, adding Christmas pieces and more lights, which are on display for drive-bys from 5 to 9 p.m. Neighbors also decorated. Below: The Staples Fire Department. (Staples World photos by Janice Winter)



Lape appreciates the Five Wings arts community

By Mark Anderson
Managing Editor

The arts brought Miranda Lape back to Minnesota. She has recently started as Executive Director of the Five Wings Arts Council.

"I loved working in the arts, it was one of the things that brought me back to the state."

Lape went to college out of state and found out that the arts scene is very different in other places.

"Growing up, I took for granted how much art is a part of life," she said. "Our funding of the arts makes Minnesota one of the best places to live."

That is not a universal experience in other states, she said.

"A lot of that is due to the wonderful regional arts system. We are one of the highest per capita arts funders in the nation," said Lape.

She started working at the Lake Region Arts Council in Fergus Falls, where she worked as grants manager.

When the Five Wings job came up, Lape applied.

"It's been a career goal so I jumped at it," she said about combining arts and administration.

After starting in October, Lape is still in the phase of discovering the people who make up the arts community in the five county region.

From what she has learned so far, Lape said "I really appreciate the strong community organizations. There is a strong drive for community involvement."

The people participating and benefiting from the arts are "not just artists, it is people from all walks of life," she said.

When asked about the

See **LAPE** on page 3a



Health care, sports dominated 2024
Staples World, the year in review

By Mark Anderson
Managing Editor

Sports and health care took over a lot of the coverage in the Staples World in 2024, with Staples-Motley sports teams achieving great heights and a large expansion of health care facilities, demanding coverage from the local newspaper.

It started with winter sports, the Staples-Motley wrestling team placed second at state with Gage Bjerga earning an individual title. Boys basketball also made a deep playoff run. Spring sports had multiple state athletes in golf and track and field, plus another deep playoff run by the baseball team. Fall sports saw every high school team earn a winning record. Cross country state champion Audrey Brownell led her team to state and Ronnie Noska placed at state tennis. The Cardinal football team had an amazing state tournament, winning two games against great teams but falling short in the state championship.

For health care, Lakewood opened The Plaza, with Twin Cities Orthopedics and Longbella Drug. There were also major stories on Lakewood starting on a new obstetrics residency program and breaking ground on a Cancer Center. A brand new Essentia Clinic opened in Staples, adding a new health care system to the community. Finally, health care and sports collided with the opening of The Nest, a refurbished high school gym bolstered by a walking track and community fitness room donated by Lakewood.

The Staples World also covered many other sports, including the first ever girls wrestling team at the school, summer soccer and tumbling programs, whiffle ball and Staples Lumberbats baseball. The World also covered another cohort of athletes, teams and coaches who entered the Staples-Motley Athletic Hall of Fame.

While sports are a weekly part of the newspaper, in 2024, the World took note of how athletics shape our community. Likewise, health care is covered constantly, but 2024 supersized the amount of health care in the area.

Year in review

Following are some of the big stories covered by the Staples World in 2024:

Jan. 10 - Since 1898, Thomastown Covenant Church has been a beacon of light in rural Staples, offering a place for worship and spiritual guidance. Now heading into its 126th year of ministry, the church's light is still shining brightly.

Jan. 10 - Lauren Rutten reached the 1,000 point career scoring mark, leading the Cardinals with 10 points against W-H-A.

Jan. 10 - Longbella Drug by Lakewood Health System is now open at The Plaza, the



Photos of the year - Feb. 14

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)

new Lakewood building on Highway 10 in Staples. The other portion, Twin Cities Orthopedics, will open soon.

Jan. 17 - U.S. Senator Amy Klobuchar came to Staples on Jan. 12 to visit the Ag and Energy Center and AgCentric at CLC, and to learn about the new meat cutting program.

Jan. 24 - Lakewood Health System announced official plans to move forward with the Lakewood Cancer Center, which is set

See **2024** on page 2a

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Weather

∞

2025

This Week's Forecast

	High	Low	Cond.
Jan. 1	17	9	M. Cloudy
Jan. 2	20	7	M. Cloudy
Jan. 3	15	5	P. Cloudy
Jan. 4	18	8	P. Cloudy
Jan. 5	17	3	M. Cloudy
Jan. 6	12	2	Cloudy
Jan. 7	5	-13	Cloudy

Last Year, 2024

	High	Low	Cond.
Jan. 1	27°	17	M. Cloudy
Jan. 2	33	24	Cloudy
Jan. 3	24	22	Cloudy
Jan. 4	18	13	Cloudy
Jan. 5	29	25	Cloudy
Jan. 6	29	27	Snow
Jan. 7	12	9	Cloudy

Average Temps:

H = 21° Low = 4°

Merry Christmas!

Compiled by

Dale Hausmann,

WCCO's Staples area

Weatherwatcher

Public Notices

Bartlett Township

9A

May Township

9A

ISD #2170

9A

2025

The year in review: 2024 as seen through the Staples World



Photos of the year - Feb. 7

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 Funk, Sebeka; Sheri (Sampson) Johnson, Motley; Bob Hamann, Staples; Joan Hamann, Staples; Greg Frisk, Motley; Pam Sachs, Little Falls; Verde Pepin, Motley; Warren Mertens, Motley; Julie (Ackerson) Mertens, Motley. (Staples World photo by Dawn Timbs)

2024 continued from page 1a

Top stories of 2024

to break ground in spring of 2024, with a completion date in summer of 2025.

Feb. 21 - Blake Neelan stunned Holdingford with a throw for a pin, and Jack Carlson upset his opponent, two pivotal matches that helped the Staples-Motley wrestling team beat the state's second ranked team 32-25 in the Section 7A team final on Feb. 16, punching their ticket to the state meet.

Feb. 28 - A Motley couple is hoping to protect other pets and perhaps even small children from dying as their dog did recently, the result of a baited kill trap at their neighbor's residence. Amber and Miranda Frame shared what had happened to their family's pet.

Mar. 6 - Staples-Motley Middle School will present the musical "Cinderella" Friday, March 15.

Mar. 6 - The Staples-Motley wrestling team lit up the Xcel Energy Center in St. Paul with a dominating win over LeSueur-Henderson and a superb takedown of Belgrade-Brooten-Elrosa in round two. They fell flat in the state final against Chatfield, but once the emotion died down, the team realized their amazing accomplishment of going from an unranked team at the beginning of the season to the number two team at the state tournament. "We came a long way from last year and the beginning of this year, we're proud of everything we earned," said

senior Owen Winter. "We worked together and pushed each other every day in practice, we worked as a team."

March 13 - The Staples-Motley boys basketball team advanced to the Section 7AA semifinal with a 59-49 win over Crosby-Ironton on March 9. C-I was the third seed and the Cardinals were seeded sixth, making this the biggest upset in the section tournament so far.

March 20 - "We've had some really good days, people are enjoying the good weather," said new Golf Course Manager Lynn Peterson, the former teacher and basketball coach at Staples-Motley schools. The course opened March 1, the earliest opening in history.

March 27 - Laken Hines placed fourth in Humor; earning a spot in the National Speech Tournament in Des Moines, Iowa in June.

April 10 - The Garage Logic podcast interviewed Staples World Editor Mark Anderson about the story on the moose that traveled through the area before Thanksgiving last year.

April 17 - "If small towns are dying, why can't I find a house to buy in my town?" said Ben Winchester at the Todd County Development Corporation annual dinner. Rick Utech is stepping down as director, with Melissa Wyman taking the position.

April 17 - The Staples-Motley speech team won the



Photos of the year - Feb. 7

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)



Photos of the year - Mar. 6

As Chatfield hoisted their trophy into the air, the Staples-Motley team huddled together for a confidential moment.

Section 6A tournament and will send seven people to state. Those advancing from Staples-Motley are: AJ Nienow and Joshua Cushing, placing first and second respectively in Creative Expression, Walker Johnson placed second in Extemporaneous Reading, Brynn Bestland first place in Great Speeches, Laken Hines took the top spot in the Humor category, Olivia Opheim placed first in Informative Speaking, and Lexi Ann placed third in Prose.

April 24 - One person is dead following a house fire April 16, at 7484 79th Ave SW in Byron Township, rural Staples. Family members have posted online that the victim is Gary Rud, 65, of Staples.

April 24 - The United States Army is partnering with Sourcewell, a local unit of government, in Staples, for support in making sure its bases and forts in the contiguous U.S., are getting the supplies and services they need to remain mission ready. Army leadership hosted Sourcewell's entire board of directors and several staff members at the Pentagon in Washington, D.C., for a ceremonial signing of the agreement.

April 24 - Motley's 'Oldest, Continuous Business,' Bjerga Feed Store, is now in its fourth generation of ownership...a family tradition that began with Norwegian immigrant Christian (Chris) Bjerga in 1950.

May 1 - Staples-Motley seniors Madalynn Beto and Richard Page were honored at the 2024 Students of Character Celebration on April 17, at Madden's on Gull Lake. The recognition is sponsored by Sourcewell.

May 8 - Eric and Deidre Hubbard had been looking to buy a True Value Hardware store, and found just what they were looking for in Staples. They are the new owners of TrueValue, now Hubbard's Hardware.

May 15 - Lucas Wakefield recently started as the Staples Economic Development Director.

May 29 - Jacob Brunell, 19, of Menahga, was arrested in connection with a break-in, destruction and theft at The Vintage Golf Course in Staples on May 2. Brunell is charged with four counts of burglary, one count of criminal damage to property and one count of felony theft.

May 29 - Children and adults are increasing their participation in Staples-Motley activities and in Staples-Motley Community Education programming. Activities Director Josh Lee told the Staples-Motley School Board that sports, music, speech, trap shooting and FFA numbers are increasing at the school, with five out of every six

students participating in at least one activity.

June 5 - The Staples-Motley track and field team qualified six athletes for the Minnesota State Track and Field meet. Girls athletes are Audrey Brownell in the 800 and 1,600 meter runs, and Kyanna Burton in the 3,200. Boys athletes qualified for state are Avandre Brandt in the 200, long jump and high jump, Sawyer Ferdon in the triple jump, Noah Larson in the 110 hurdles and Turner Beachy in the pole vault.

June 12 - In 1984, for the 40th anniversary of D-Day, the Staples World ran a story about George Sycks, a teacher and guidance counselor at Staples High School, who landed on Omaha Beach that day.

June 12 - Audrey Brownell is an individual state champion, winning the 800 meters and 1,600 meters, setting school records in both events at the Minnesota State Track and Field meet.

June 19 - For 90 years, "Call Giza," has been a familiar phrase voiced by people in the Staples area who are in need of plumbing and heating services. The family owned and operated business, is now in its fourth generation.

June 19 - Tami Brother-ton has been hired as the Motley City Clerk/Treasurer, and Janae Stern is the city's new Deputy Clerk/Office Manager.

June 26 - Both Staples-Motley/Verndale golfers finished high on the leader board at the Minnesota State Golf Tournament June 11-12 in Jordan. Carter White placed third in the boys state golf and Mallory Uselman was 13th in the girls meet.

July 3 - At the groundbreaking for the new Cancer Center at Lakewood Health System, Dr. Wade Swenson, said "Community-based care is rare; community-based care in rural Minnesota is even more rare, so this is a unique opportunity to show the world how to deliver world-class cancer care in a community setting."

July 10 - The Witches Brew, a new bistro/coffee shop, is now open in the space formerly occupied by Timbers Restaurant.

July 17 - Staples native David Haugen was instrumental in creating the path for the Trans Alaska Pipeline. Now he has written a book to remember this incredible engineering feat.

July 24 - After chemotherapy and a bone marrow transplant, Staples native Ashley Robben is still fighting the leukemia that she has been battling for 10 months.

Aug. 7 - Essentia Health estimated that 350 to 400 people toured their brand



Photos of the year - Feb. 21

Staples-Motley Speech Team coaches and state speech champions posed by the newly constructed Speech Hall of Fame in May of 2023. It's located in the lobby of Centennial Auditorium in Staples. From left are coaches Frank Odell, Brian Sams, Heather Sams; and 2023 state champions Micah Larson, Luke Bates and Caden Mrazek. Larson competed in the Creative Expression category with his speech "Sports Atheist"; and Bates and Mrazek's winning speech, in the Duo Interpretation category, was "Young Frankenstein." Brian Sams and Heather (Stumbo) Sams were part of the speech team in past years and their names appear on the wall as well. Brian was an alternate to state in 1985 and a state competitor in 1989. Heather was an alternate to state in 1990 and competed at the state tournament in 1991. (Photo by Dawn Timbs)



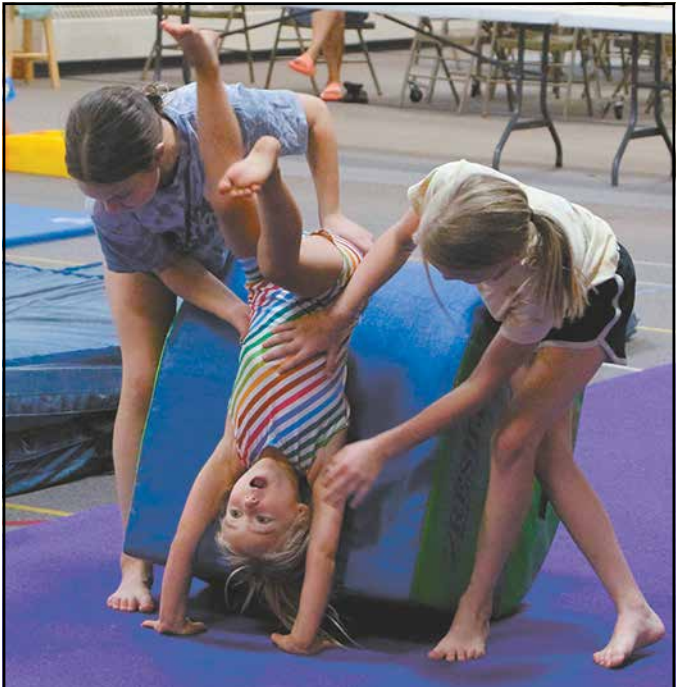
Photos of the year - Mar. 13

Staples-Motley basketball players gave big hugs to the coaching staff following their Section 7AA quarterfinal win over Crosby-Ironton on March 9. Left, player Alex Schultz gives a hug to his father Nick, center, Noah Larson picks up coach Zack Qual and coach Justin Thorne is at right. (Staples World photo by Mark Anderson)



Photos of the year - June 19

A highlight at the recent Motley Fair was the opportunity to meet Paul Bunyan, who stood 7'6" tall. Pictured above June 15, Jaidyn Fonteyn, Jocelyn Fonteyn and Logan Serich posed with the gentle giant. (Photo by Dawn Timbs)



Photos of the year - Aug. 7

Staples-Motley Community Education tumbling classes started in July, with local girls and boys learning skills and strengthening their bodies for gymnastics events. A second session of tumbling starts Aug. 19. (Staples World photo by Mark Anderson)

new facility during an open house on July 30. The clinic is now open to all patients and will eventually provide up to 25 employees when all the departments are open.

Aug. 7 - A visit from WCCO-TV in Minneapolis Aug. 1 and 2, reminded people in the Staples/Motley area that life smack

dab in the center of Minnesota is pretty darn good. The production crew, which included WCCO anchors Frank Vascellaro and Heather Brown, were in the area filming the final chapter in their 'Goin' to the Lake' summer series.

Aug. 21 - Lakewood Health

See 2024 on page 10a

THANK YOU

for making a difference!

Congratulations to these 5-Star employees



Jaci Gran, Phlebotomist, Lab
Nominated by Lacey Dailey, LPN, Home Health/Hospice
"I work in home care, which I love, however it does leave you hanging at times with nobody to turn to for help in the field. I was unable to get blood from a patient. I asked the patient if I could come back later in the day to try again, which she agreed to. I then went to the Pillager lab and Jaci immediately could tell that I was upset. Jaci calmed me down and said, "Draw my blood and I will give you tips!" She walked me through the blood draw and gave me some amazing tips and tricks to try. I went back to the patient's house and was able to get the specimen on the first try."



Celena Martin, Radiology Technologist
Amanda Svir, RN, Radiology/Cardiology
Amy Youngbauer, Ultrasound Technologist
Nominated by Ashley Current, Radiology Technologist
"These people are not only wonderful people to work with on a regular basis, but I got to experience the level of care, commitment and compassion that they exude when I came in for a procedure as a patient. Both Amy and Celena were so thoughtful and put me at ease during my initial exams. About a week later I came in for the biopsy and these three individuals were rockstars throughout the entire process. Amy got me all set up to do the biopsy in ultrasound and along with Amanda, explained things thoroughly and answered any questions I had. Then I had to do a post mammogram with Celena and the same thing, she was just so gentle and easy going during the images. I want to thank all of them from the bottom of my heart for taking such great care of me and for all that you do for our patients."



Aly Twardowski, Senior Marketing & Events Project Manager
Nominated by Matt Jensen, Marketing Director
"Recently I received a note from a 74-year-old Lakewood patient stating the following, "seldom in a lifetime does a person encounter an individual that truly 'lives the life' of the goals of their employer. Being 74 and disabled, lawn and yard care have become extremely difficult. Aly, Lakewood's Senior Marketing & Events Project Manager, is my neighbor and has taken over yard work without asking for anything in return. She inquires as to my health and well-being when I have been out of touch. This is a shout out and thank you to this young lady for embracing the social well-being of people and being a role model in the community. Thank you for your integrity and compassion."



218-894-1515 lakewoodhealthsystem.com



New FWAC director

Miranda Lape spoke at the retirement party of Mark Turner, the former Five Wings Arts Council director. Lape took over the position in October. (Staples World photo by Mark Anderson)

LAPE continued from page 1a

Five Wings director excited about building community through arts grants

strong regional organizations, Lape gave an example of the Staples choral groups giving opportunities to singers of all ages. For her own artistic experience, Lape said she has dabbled in many different arts. She said “there is an ever growing list of things I would like to try.” Community theatre has always been one of her big draws, which she is still involved in. She also said communities do a good job of emphasizing visual art and public art. Lape is proud to be a part of the economic development aspect of funding the arts. Five Wings has spurred millions of dollars in economic development through their grants. Because of the Legacy Amendment, “the bulk of funding is taxpayer-driven,” said Lape. “It is coming back to our rural areas in greater Minnesota, not just staying in the metro.” More than just economic development, Lape enjoys seeing arts help communi-

ties thrive. “It is something that is really rewarding, that investment goes back into Minnesota and increases quality of life,” she said. “The social capital created through the arts can’t be overstated.” Since Five Wings is already an active arts council, Lape said she plans to continue to go with what is working and use it to help people who might not have had access in the past. “Always, the goal is increasing accessibility, and decreasing burdens on artists,” she said, “we will continue to leverage these opportunities for arts and access.” Lape us usually in the Staples office on Mondays and invites the public to stop in or call any time to talk about the arts in the Five Wings region. “I love learning new things, especially the creative ways people are using the arts to address problems in their communities,” said Lape.

History of Five Wings Arts Council

Established in 1977, the Five Wings Art Council is one of 11 designated Regional Arts Councils in the state of Minnesota that provide grants and services to nonprofit arts organizations, and individual artists. The Five Wings Art Council was formed as a response to a legislative initiative that called for more development of the arts in Minnesota at the local level.

FWAC is funded through appropriations from the Minnesota State Legislature with money from the State’s general fund and Arts and Cultural Heritage Fund (Legacy Amendment) as provided by the Minnesota State Legislature through the vote of the people to pass funding for the arts. FWAC also receives a generous grant from the McKnight Foundation.

Five Wings grants programs

As one of the eleven Regional Arts Councils of Minnesota, the Five Wings Art Council is entrusted with the stewardship and distribution of funds acquired from the Minnesota Arts and Cultural Heritage (ACH) fund as well as funds allocated from the General Budget through the Minnesota State Legislature. We embrace the vision, guiding principles, goals, and key strategies developed in partnership with the Minnesota Regional Arts Councils and the Minnesota State Arts Board. The Minnesota State Arts Board is a state agency that stimulates and encourages the creation, performance, and appreciation of the arts in the state of Minnesota. The Five Wings Art Council is committed to working together to accomplish the vision of this constitutional amendment. We embrace

this vision through grant programs designed to support the work of community organizations that bring the arts to the citizens of their community. The Five Wings Arts Council also grants funds from the McKnight Foundation to support the work of individual artists within our region. The McKnight Foundation, a Minnesota-based family foundation, advances a more just, creative, and abundant future where people and the planet thrive. The Five Wings Art Council administers grant programs for individual artists living in Cass, Crow Wing, Todd, Morrison, and Wadena Counties. These grant programs have been established to provide assistance for artists at various stages in their career development and for arts organizations.

Looking back

- 75 YEARS Ago - 1950
- Jan. 5, 1950 - Otto Lange who bought the Tavern and pool hall in Motley from Melvin Haney in September, sold his business over the weekend to C. Hodge of Brainerd who took possession of the place Tuesday of this week.
 - Mr. and Mrs. Lange left for Brainerd where they will make their home.
 - Jan. 5, 1950 - Bugs are getting in their damaging licks in stored grain around Todd County, County Agent Palmby said today.
- O -
- Compiled by Dawn Timbs
- O -

- They began showing up a couple of months after crops were put in bins, and are now hard at work destroying valuable grain on some farms.
- To find out if stored grain insects are present, Palmby says to stick your arm down in the grain to check for warm pockets. Also look for crusting and webbing on top, which is a sign of Indian Meal moths. Freezing temperatures will kill the moths, but won’t hurt the others. To get to the other bugs, State Extension Entomologist H. L. Parten says to fumigate.
- Jan. 5, 1950 - On display Saturday at Scarf Chevrolet Company in Staples - a 1950 Chevrolet - Introducing Power Glide automatic transmission.
 - Jan. 5, 1950 - Eighteen young people of the Congregational Pilgrim Fellowship had a sleighride party Saturday night, followed by a lunch in the church parlors.
 - Afterwards they all attended the watch night services in the church.
 - Jan. 5, 1950 - A new low for the season was recorded in Staples at the Northern Pacific station Wednesday morning, Jan. 4, when the thermometer stood at 14 below zero.
 - Due to the extreme cold in North Dakota and Montana, and also due to cars freezing up, and derailment, Trains No. 2 and 4 through Staples were very late.
 - Road conditions in this area are very precarious, and motorists are finding it very hard to travel at the present time. The pavement and blacktopped roads are sheets of ice, streets in the city are very bad, although there is not too much snow at the present time.
- 50 YEARS Ago - 1975
- Jan. 2, 1975 - Congratulations to Ron Montgomery, winner of an 8 ft. Christmas Stocking from the owners of Coast to Coast Stores in Staples.
 - Jan. 2, 1975 - The Giza Plumbing and Heating team won the City Association bowling tournament Dec. 18, at the Hi-Way Lanes. Team members included Carroll Miller, Marv Giza, Gary Dezell, Dick Hagen-son, Huck Holst and Dennis Miller. Sixteen teams participated in the tournament. The Giza team rolled a 2872 series, with games of 977, 933, and 962.
 - Jan. 2, 1975 - The Staples Post Office was “clean” of all mail Christmas Eve and Postmaster Bob Pederson said that timely delivery of the mail was made possible by the cooperation of the mailing public.
 - The heaviest day for mailing was Monday, Dec. 16, when 9,400 pieces on non-business letters were handled.
 - The mail volume was within one percent of last year’s volume. Pederson said, “We are grateful that most people mailed their cards and packages early. Now we will start planning for next Christmas.”
 - Jan. 2, 1975 - Announcing a change in ownership of the Ken Barrett Insurance Agency with an Open House Jan. 2 and 3. Refreshments will be served.
 - Martha Rach has purchased the insurance agency from Ken Barrett, who has served this community from this agency for the past 34 years and is retiring.
 - Rach has been a licenced insurance agent for the past 12 years.
- 25 YEARS Ago - 2000



Mystery photo

Hello readers. This week’s archive photo is from 2000. 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.

- Jan. 6, 2000 - No one went away hungry Friday night at the Motley City Hall/Fire Hall New Year’s Eve and Y2K party. A large table full of food and goodies was available all night.
- On hand in case of any Y2K problems, a group of volunteer fire fighters, police and other city employees ate, watched New Year’s Eve celebrations on television and played cards. City staff were on hand from 10 p.m. to 2 a.m. but had no Y2K emergency calls.
- Jan. 6, 2000 - All was quiet and calm New Year’s Eve in Staples, despite the widespread fears over possible Y2K problems. Just in case, several extra precautions were taken.
- Staples Fire Chief Joe Hassler, Police Officer Doug Case and Police Chief Kyle Huber were just three of the people on hand minutes before midnight at the Staples Fire Hall. Also at the fire hall were about a half dozen volunteer fire fighters, some of their spouses, and other city employees.

No problems were reported with city power or any other areas. But everyone had plenty of food.

- Jan. 6, 2000 - The Staples Motley Cardinal girls team downed Cass Lake and Pine River Backus in their Cardinal Classic holiday basketball tournament to keep the tournament trophy at home for the second year.
- Jan. 6, 2000 - The Staples community can claim not just one but three active community members who have lived in three centuries. Minnie Kurpius, Esther Cornelius and Charlie Otteson, all residents at the Greater Staples Care Center, were born in the 19th century, and watched the 20th century turn into the 21st century last week.
- Jan. 6, 2000 - Now showing at the Staples Cinema Jan. 7 - 10 at 7:30 p.m., Bicentennial Man. Coming Next - Stewart Little.
- Jan. 6, 2000 - A Burlington Northern Santa Fe locomotive derailed in the Staples yards Sunday morning, but a BN accident crew was on hand later in the day and had the engine back on the tracks by mid-afternoon.
- The broken rail split one of the fuel tanks, spilling over 2,000 gallons of diesel fuel. Staples Fire Dept. and city crews helped contain the spill until railroad and state PCA crews took over.
- Jan. 6, 2000 - Family members could do little but stand and watch as a fire destroyed the interior of a Staples home Monday afternoon. Shirley Carlson was consoled by Betty and Steve Lorber as they watched their children’s home and belongings going up in flames. Joe and Shirley Carlson still own the house at 509 Fifth Street, but Rick and Lorrie Lorber were living there until Monday. Staples Volunteer Firemen dumped gallons of water on the fire but were unable to bring it under control until after the interior was gutted.



Mystery solved

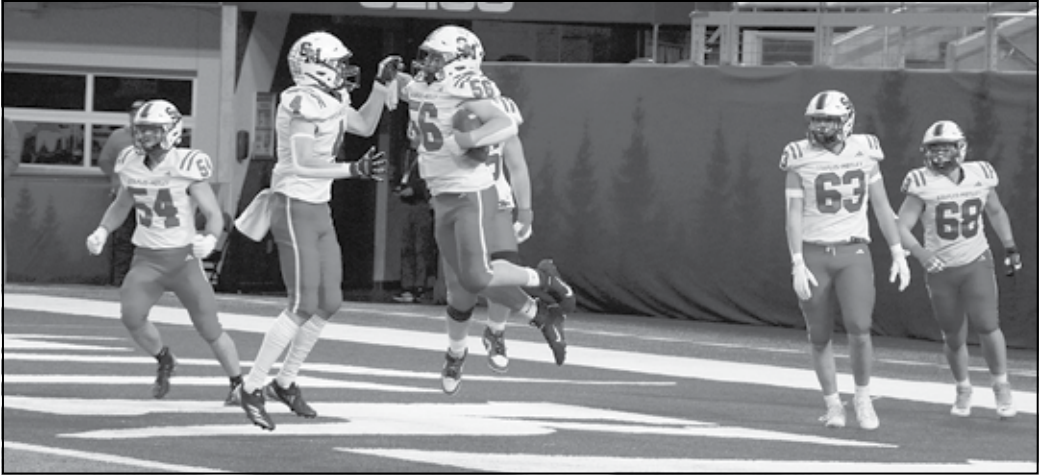
Last week’s mystery photo published in the Dec. 26, 1974 edition of the Staples World featured two senior girls at Staples High school who were selected by the members of the Staples Rotary Club as their delegates to the Model United Nations Assembly in Winnipeg, Canada. Pictured, Don Droubie, president of the Staples Rotary, goes over some information concerning the assembly with the two delegates, Audrey Thompson (left), daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Wally Thomp-

son, and Lorene Haglin, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Wayne Haglin.

Bruce Paskewitz of Staples recognized both girls, but thought the man might be Ron Storbakken. KaAnn (Johnson) Drone of Staples correctly identified all. She also mentioned that she was in the same class at Staples High School with Audrey and Lorene, graduating in 1975. Thanks for participating in our mystery photo.

Photos of the year - Nov. 27

Luke Bjerga celebrates the pick six that gave Staples-Motley an early lead in the state championship. (Staples World photo by Mark Anderson)



Cardinal Showcase

Student council proud of school happenings

By the Staples-Motley Student Council executive team: Jade Story, Annie Schlosser, Livi Lorber, Josie Jennissen, Pam Lawrence and other STUDCO members Sawyer Ferdon, Lilly Tyrrell and Peyton Mithun

These past few months here at Staples-Motley have been super exciting. The school, the town, the businesses, and the community have come together through our school pride and spirit. Our school and students have spent a lot of time in the public eye with the state-bound football and cross country teams, a state-bound tennis player, a state gold academic volleyball team, The Nest grand opening, and the fall play.

Our school and community have accomplished so many great things and you can feel that we are truly thriving. These accomplishments are shining a light on the school right now and we are super proud.

We believe the light has always been there, and just hasn't been given attention. Our school has always had great things. One example is that our school offers many college courses, whether CIS or PSEO. We asked Mr. Jennissen about how many students take advantage of the CIS and PSEOs classes. He told us that Staples-Motley High School Graduating Classes over the past 5

years have completed on average 500 - 600 total college credits each year through CIS courses offered at the high school. The Class of 2023 achieved 769 CIS credits. We average about 6-8 students who achieve their AA Degree while in high school using a combination of PSEO and CIS courses. There were 10 students in 2023, and 9 in 2024 who completed their AA Degree. We also average 40-50 11th & 12th grade students each semester, who will complete a minimum of at least 1 PSEO course. Many of these students will take two or more PSEO courses each semester. This is something to be super grateful for at Staples-Motley because not all high school students get this kind of opportunity.

This year our Student Council has planned many fun dress-up days to get everyone involved. There was a week full of dress-up days for homecoming week. Student Council also came up with Fall into Quarter 2 where there was a short week of dress-up days and free hot apple cider. There were two weeks full of fun dress-up days leading up to Christmas Break where people showed off their creative outfits from fun Christmas Socks to seeing Santa costumes. The Student Council has also planned a full day of fun activities before the Students head off for winter break. There were a variety

of activities ranging from dodgeball and open gym to Christmas cookie decorating and ornament making.

The music program nailed its Fall concert and just wrapped up its Christmas concerts. In this Christmas concert, they followed the traditions of the choir singing "O Come, O Come Emmanuel/For All the Saints" to start the concert and the community joining the choir to sing "Hallelujah" towards the end. Both the band and orchestra also played some well-known Christmas tunes.

The music program has over 70 high school students creating music and willing to play for their community. The cool thing about Staples-Motley High School is that we have a Band, Orchestra, and Choir which is rare in surrounding schools. This winter the High School Music program is gearing up for their large group and small group contests. This spring students have the opportunity to go on tour to Disney World. They have been fundraising all year and looking forward to the trip. Lots of fun things are set for the future in the music department.

As you can tell, there are so many amazing things happening at Staples-Motley schools and we are so proud to be a part of this school and this community! It's a great day to be a Staples-Motley Cardinal!

Quote of the week

“Live in such a way that you would not be ashamed to sell your parrot to the town gossip.”

— Will Rogers

New Minnesota minimum wage starts Jan. 1

From Minnesota Department of Labor and Industry

Minnesota’s minimum-wage rates will be adjusted for inflation Jan. 1, 2025, to \$11.13 an hour for all employers, including large employers, small employers, youth and J-1 visa wages for hotels, motels and lodging establishments. The law still allows for a 90-day training wage for workers under age 20. The current hourly training wage, \$8.85, will increase to \$9.08.

- As of Jan. 1, 2025:
 - All employers must pay at least \$11.13 an hour.
 - The training wage rate, \$9.08 an hour, may be paid to employees younger than 20 years of age for the first 90 consecutive days of employment.
 - The state minimum-wage rates will not apply to work performed in the cities of Minneapolis and St. Paul, which have higher minimum-wage rates.
 - Employee notice updates may be required

As part of Minnesota’s employee notice requirement, employers are required to provide each employee with a written notice of any change, before the change takes effect, including a change to the employee’s rate of pay. Learn more about the employee notice requirement.

Required poster updated, available
Minnesota law requires employers to display some state-mandated posters in a location where employees can easily see them. The posters are available at no cost and need to be updated only when Minnesota law changes. An updated minimum-wage rate poster, as well as other workplace notices and posters, can be found at dli.mn.gov/posters. Learn more about Minnesota’s minimum-wage rates.

2024 Minnesota minimum-wage report released

The Minnesota Department of Labor and

Industry has released its 2024 Minnesota minimum-wage report.

Effective minimum wages for Minnesota, Minneapolis and St. Paul: The Minnesota minimum wage – \$10.85 an hour for large employers in 2024 – is indexed annually for inflation and will increase to \$11.13 for all employers Jan. 1, 2025. The minimum wages for large employers in Minneapolis and macro employers in St. Paul reached \$15.57 Jan. 1, 2024, and indexed for inflation, will increase to \$15.97 Jan. 1, 2025. Minimum wages for small employers in Minneapolis and large employers in St. Paul also reached the same rate July 1, 2024, and will also increase to \$15.97 Jan. 1, 2025. Minimum wages for small and micro employers in St. Paul are \$14 and \$12.25 as of July 1, 2024. They will reach \$15 in 2025 and 2027, respectively, and will be indexed for inflation thereafter.

Full-time annual earnings at the effective minimum wages: For workers earning the Minnesota minimum hourly wage and working 40 hours a week, annual wages in 2024 are \$22,568 for workers at large employers and \$18,408 for workers at small employers. Effective Jan. 1, 2025, annual wages will be \$23,150 for both large and small employers. As of Jan. 1, 2024, workers at Minneapolis large employers and St. Paul macro employers earn annual full-time wages of \$32,386, which will increase to \$33,218 Jan. 1, 2025. As of July 1, 2024, workers at Minneapolis small employers and St. Paul large employers also earn \$32,386, which will increase to \$33,218 Jan. 1, 2025. Workers at St. Paul small employers earn \$29,120, which will increase to \$31,200 July 1, 2025.

Minimum wages in 2024 dollars: Adjusting for inflation, the 2024 Minnesota large-employer minimum wage of \$10.85 an hour is below the average rate of the federal minimum wage for 1960 through 1981, which was \$12.37 an hour. The current inflation-adjusted Minneapolis and St. Paul minimum wages of \$15.97 an hour is higher than the \$14.42 an hour peak reached by the federal minimum wage in 1968.M

AI news: Humans write the news only to have bots steal and repost it

By Heather Close
The Rural Blog

Artificial intelligence bots revived a closed small-town newspaper site using culled stories and stolen reporters’ names. “The defunct Daily Tidings was alive and kicking, sending out fresh stories again,” reports Danny Westneat of The Seattle Times. “The site’s masthead showed eight reporters — a ton for tiny Ashland, Oregon. . . . As Oregon Public Broadcasting revealed this past week in an investigation, the entire site now is reported and written by artificial intelligence bots, under stolen or assumed identities.”

“One ‘reporter’ they tracked down actually lives in the United Kingdom and had no clue he was practicing journalism in southern Oregon,” Westneat explains.

“The site pumps out about five stories a day — most of them cribbed from real publications, such as Ashland News or The Oregonian, and rewritten by AI programs.” The site boasts ads and videos from “big ad-streaming companies such as Google.”

The Daily Tidings past owner “told OPB he looked into suing the AI operation — whoever or whatever it is,” Westneat reports. “His lawyers though said it’s coming from outside the United States, likely China. It would be ‘pursuing a phantom.’”

Ashland’s robot news spot isn’t unique. “Sites are popping up everywhere using AI bots to create the vague appearance of journalism, usually by rewriting or repurposing articles culled from the real local media,” Westneat reports. “AI tools have been developed, such as one depressingly called

Spin Rewriter, that can digest an article and convert it into 1,000 ‘human-quality’ facsimile articles.”

In Seattle, the “Hoodline” news site produces stories by bots. A former human Hoodline employee, who lost her job to AI, told Westneat, “Old-fashioned shoe-leather reporting has been replaced by fake people who’ve never set foot in any of the neighborhoods they write about — because they don’t have feet.”

The editor of the Ashland News, Bert Etling, says that “in Ashland, the scam journalism has been mostly just annoying,” Westneat reports. “It’s a plagiarism operation, so the real town news source, his Ashland News, isn’t at much risk of getting scooped. . . . But it isn’t helping that gnawing sense that nobody believes anything anymore.”

Quote of the week

“The lowest form of popular culture - lack of information, misinformation, disinformation, and a contempt for the truth or the reality of most people’s lives - has overrun real journalism. Today, ordinary Americans are being stuffed with garbage.”

— Carl Bernstein

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hours of input from drivers, stakeholders, TNC representatives, and legislative and local leaders. The expansion of workers’ rights to TNC drivers builds on Minnesota’s commitment to be the best place in the country for working families.

“TNC drivers and stakeholders showed up to advocate and the result was new legislation that increased driver benefits and protections,” said Nicole Blissenbach, DLI commissioner. “Our agency is now working to educate drivers and work with the TNCs, so the law works as intended.”

To ensure drivers earn the minimum compensation rate, every 14 days, TNCs will review drivers’ individual trip and earnings records. If they did not meet the minimum rate of pay over that time period, the TNC will provide a supplemental payment to make up the difference no later than the next earnings period. All tips belong to the driver and are not counted toward the minimum compensation rate.

To incentivize more accessible rides, TNCs will pay drivers an additional 91 cents a minute if they drive

a wheelchair-accessible vehicle.

The new pay transparency provisions require TNCs to provide drivers with a trip receipt within 24 hours of the trip completion and weekly summaries that include the driver’s total earnings before tips, total trip time and trip miles, total fares and fees paid by passengers, and the driver’s total time on the TNC’s app.

DLI has enforcement authority to ensure the minimum compensation rate and pay transparency provisions of the law are met. DLI has created materials for education and outreach and will work with drivers and TNC companies to ensure compliance and understanding of the new law. The minimum compensation rate will be adjusted for inflation beginning in January 2027.

The new law also includes requirements for TNCs to provide a deactivation policy and appeals process and contract with a local organization for driver assistance. More information is available on the DLI website at dli.mn.gov/tnc.

The insurance provisions of the bill will take effect Jan. 1.

Quote of the week

“For beautiful eyes, look for the good in others; for beautiful lips, speak only words of kindness; and for poise, walk with the knowledge that you are never alone.”

— Audrey Hepburn



Christmas Day fellowship

A number of people gathered at Timbers Event Center in Staples Dec. 25, to enjoy a free Christmas dinner among friends and family. The event was made possible thanks to several generous donors and volunteers from the community. Pictured above, from left are Kathy and

Tom Bisek, Eric and Alissa Neznik, Alissa's mom, Carol Demmon; and Eric's dad, Tom Neznik. Pictured below, from left, are Steve and Betty Lorber, Marsha and Ed Jordahl, Sheila Bryce, Pat Koehler, and Judy and Lee Jenkins. (Staples World photos by Dawn Timbs)



Sharing the Christmas spirit

Several Staples-Motley youth volunteered at the free Christmas dinner at Timbers Event Center in Staples Dec. 25. Pictured serving a Christmas dinner of ham, turkey, mashed potatoes, green

beans and rolls are, from left, Colbe Tappe, Corinne Olson, Cora Tappe, Justin Olson and Camrik Tappe. Being served are Steve Lorber and Ed Jordahl. (Staples World photo by Dawn Timbs)



Donation to Staples Historical Society

The Staples Host Lions recently donated \$1,500 to the Staples Historical Society (SHS) in support of the Polar Express Christmas event held at Central Lakes College, above. Pictured at left, from left are Tom Kajer, SHS, Lion President Dan Shaw and John Wolak, SHS. (Staples World photo by Janice Winter)



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33 Wellwood St. E, Motley, MN 56466

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Spring 2025 season
announced at CLC
Performing Arts
Center

-Jessie Perrine

The CLC Performing Arts Center at Central Lakes College is would like to share the lineup for the spring portion of its 2024-25 season. Featuring a mix of storytelling, comedy, family-friendly entertainment, and live music, these events reflect the center's commitment to bringing diverse and engaging performances to the Brainerd lakes area.

Ali Sultan - January
24, 7 p.m., Chalberg
Theatre

Ali Sultan, a ground-breaking comedian, will take the stage with humor that reflects his journey from Yemen to Minnesota. Known for his appearances on The Late Show with Stephen Colbert and Comedy Central, Sultan's unique voice and perspective have earned him national recognition.

Kevin Kling - The
Love Show - February
15, 7 p.m., Chalberg
Theatre

Minnesota storyteller Kevin Kling presents an evening exploring the many facets of love, accompanied by musicians and performers including Prudence Johnson and Claudia Schmidt. This program blends humor, music, and heartfelt stories into a thoughtful reflection on connection and community.

Dragons and Mythical
Beasts - February
16, 2 p.m., Gichi-ziibi
Center for the Arts

This family-friendly production invites audiences to step into a world of myths and legends. Featuring interactive storytelling and life-sized puppetry, the show brings creatures like unicorns, griffins and drag-

ons to life in an experience designed for all ages.

It's Murder, Don'tcha
Know - February 27,
28, March 1, 2, 7 p.m.,
Chalberg Theatre

Adapted from the novel by Jeanne Cooney by local playwright Mary Aalgaard, this comedic mystery is set in Hallock, MN. The play follows Doris Connor as she navigates small-town drama, a family scandal, and an unexpected murder investigation.

The Fabulous
Armadillos - Takin' It
to the Limit: Eagles
Tribute - March 28,
7 p.m., Gichi-ziibi
Center for the Arts

The Fabulous Armadillos will perform an Eagles tribute concert featuring beloved classics from one of the most iconic rock bands of the 20th century.

RENT - April 10,
11, 12, 17, 18, 19,
Chalberg Theatre

The acclaimed musical RENT explores themes of love, resilience, and the power of community. Set in New York City, the show portrays the struggles and dreams of a group of young artists living in the shadow of the HIV/AIDS epidemic.

Kathy Mattea - May
2, 7 p.m., Gichi-ziibi
Center for the Arts

Legendary country and bluegrass singer Kathy Mattea will close the spring season with a performance featuring hits like "Eighteen Wheels and a Dozen Roses." Her decades-long career includes Grammy-winning music and heartfelt storytelling.

For information about these performances or ticket details, visit www.CLCPerformingArts.com or contact the box office at 218-855-8199.

Staples Area Church Directory

Staples

Staples Alliance
1512 8th St. NE, Staples.....218-894-2891
Jonny Olson, Associate Pastor
Sunday Worship.....9:30 a.m.
Sunday School.....11:00 a.m.
WEDNESDAY
AWANA.....6:00 p.m.

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

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

Faith Lutheran
430 12th Street. NE, Staples.....218-894-1546
Pastor Carl Larson
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 and Fr. Rick Aubol
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
Pastor Vicar Paul Koehler
Sunday Divine Service.....9:00 a.m.
Sunday School and Bible Class...10:30 a.m.

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

Aldrich

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

Cushing

Bethany Lutheran
25430 Bison Rd.Cushing, MN
320-749-2140
Pastor Carl Larson
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
SUNDAY
Church Worship Gathering.....10:00 a.m.
YouTube Channel.....10:00 a.m.

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

Leader

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

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

Motley

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

St. John's Lutheran
497 3rd Ave. S, Motley.....218-352-6399
Pastor Vicar Paul Koehler
Sunday School and Bible Class.....8:30 a.m.
Sunday Worship.....9:30 a.m.
St. Michael Catholic Church
1st St. and Birch, Motley.....218-894-2296
info@marysacc.org
Fr. Aaron Kuhn Fr. Gabriel Walz
MASS:
Saturday.....4:00 p.m.

St. Michael
280 1st Ave S, Motley.....218-894-2296
Fr. Aaron Kuhn and Fr. Rick Aubol
MASS:
Sunday.....10:30 a.m. (May - Nov.)
Saturday.....4:00 p.m. (Dec - April)

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

Oylen

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

Pillager

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

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

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

Hewitt

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

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

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

Verndale

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

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

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

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

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

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

St. Frederick Catholic Church
20 Mason Avenue NW
Vermdale.....218-894-2296
info@marysacc.org
Fr. Aaron Kuhn and Fr. Rick Aubol
MASS:
Saturday.....6:00 p.m.

St. Hubert Catholic Church
Bluegrass.....218-894-2296
info@marysacc.org
Fr. Aaron Kuhn and Fr. Rick Aubol
MASS:
Sunday Service.....10:00 a.m. (Dec. - April)
Saturday.....4:00 p.m. (May - Nov.)

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

Wadena

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

"A Time... And a Season..."

Pastor Chris Mathiason, Faith Lutheran Church, Staples, Bethany Lutheran Church, Cushing

Ecclesiastes reminds us there is a time, a season for everything. A time for embracing and parting. After a great three years of ministry in Staples, I am taking a new call to Zion Lutheran Church in Amor.

A new year will bring new opportunities for me at a new church community and for all of us, a chance to renew our commitment to follow Jesus. After the business of the Christmas season, January gives a chance to refocus. The irony is the best thing that we can do for ourselves is to focus on others. When we just worry about our own challenges, we can feel like we

have nothing but troubles. When we seek to care for others, our own struggles get put in perspective.

I pray that you had a wonderful Christmas. Busy or still, full of noise or quiet as the falling snow, I hope you saw God working in the season.

As we wait for Epiphany, when the Wise Men arrive to honor the newborn King, I pray for new opportunities for you. Of faithful prayer, of service to others and reflection on where God is calling you to be active in the world.

What ever season you are in, I pray that you feel God in your life. God Bless!

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Girls, boys BB lose conf. games

The Staples-Motley boys and girls basketball teams both lost against Perham on Dec. 20.

The double-header started with the girls falling 70-33. The boys game saw the Cardinals fall 64-48 in

the nightcap.

Both games were Heart O' Lakes Conference games. The girls are now 0-6 in the conference and the boys team fell to 2-1 in the conference.

Wrestlers crush PL Jackhammer Invitational, win by 85

The Staples-Motley wrestling team was superb in winning the Jackhammer Invitational Dec. 20-21 at Pequot Lakes. With 38 teams competing from all three classes, every bracket was filled with top-level wrestlers, and the Cardinals navigated deep into every bracket.

Staples-Motley had placers in 11 of the 12 weight classes they participated in. They had four weight class titles, all in the four lowest weights.

Caden Kramer may have had the toughest road, and he ended up in first place. His bracket had seven ranked wrestlers, and he had to beat the first, third and fourth ranked wrestlers in Class A to win the title, while he was ranked second at the time.

Garrett Bjerga and Gage Bjerga pinned all their opponents.

Cayden Neisen faced big school opponents in his last three matches, finishing with an 11-5 win in the championship match.

Eli Greenwaldt had only one loss, to a ranked Class AA wrestler. Turner Beachy pulled an upset to get to the semifinal round. Seth Cossentine had a close loss to a ranked wrestler. Colbe Tappe lost in overtime in the championship, after beating that same opponent in overtime earlier in the year. Riley Reese had a winning record but fell one match short of placing. Luke Bjerga's two losses were to the

top two ranked wrestlers in Class A. Adrian Gomez earned five pins mixed in with two losses. Steven Petrich won with an overtime takedown, but later lost a match in overtime.

Team results

Pequot Lakes Jackhammer Invitational

Staples-Motley 266, Hutchinson 181, Paynesville 147, Lake Crystal-Wellcome Memorial 138, Mille Lacs 136, Bemidji 133, Minnewaska 114, Centennial 105, Little Falls 104, Belgrade-Brooken-Elrosa 97, Eagan 97, Perham 84, Pequot Lakes/PRB 83, Totino Grace 77, Irondale/Spring Lake Park/St. Anthony 66, Fosston-Bagley 65, Lakeville North 63, Sauk Centre/Melrose 61, Pelican Rapids 57, Virginia 54, Mora 53, Hibbing 49, Roseville 46, Robbinsdale Armstrong 46, Big Lake 44, Long Prairie-Grey Eagle/Browerville 42, ... 12 more teams

107 - Garrett Bjerta 5-0, 1st place

114 - Caden Kramer 5-0, 1st place

121 - Gage Bjerga 4-0, 1st place

127 - Cayden Neisen 5-0, 1st place

133 Eli Greenwaldt 5-1, 3rd place

133 Cooper Tappe 2-2

145 Turner Beachy 4-2, 4th place

152 Seth Cossentine 3-3, 6th place

160 Colbe Tappe 4-1, 2nd place

172 Riley Reese 3-2

189 Luke Bjerga 4-2, 5th place

189 Dustin Converse 3-2

189 Reece Headley 3-2

215 Adrian Gomez 5-2, 5th place

285 Steven Petrich 2-3, 6th place



Music General dance performance

The Music General dancers grade 7-12 gave a Christmas performance at halftime of the girls basketball game on Dec. 17. Their performance included some acrobatic moves, below. (Staples World photos by Mark Anderson)



Walk, snowshoe or ski by candlelight at Minnesota State Parks and trails

Each winter, candlelight events at Minnesota state parks, recreation areas and trails encourage people to get outdoors and warm up to winter. The events feature trails lit up at night with candles, lanterns and other luminaries. Depending on the location of the event and the amount of snow cover, visitors can hike, snowshoe or cross-country ski along the lighted trails.

"Winter candlelight events are a magical way to experience Minnesota's state parks, recreation areas and trails," said Ann Pierce, director of Parks and Trails Division at the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources. "There's something truly special about walking a snowy trail under the glow of candlelight, where the quiet of the night and the sparkle of the snow create a peaceful escape. It's a chance to slow down, connect with nature, spend time with friends and family and find beauty in the stillness of winter."

This winter, 19 candle-

light events at 17 different locations are planned between Jan. 3 and Feb. 22. The schedule — including dates, times and other details — is available at the candlelight events webpage.

Candlelight trails are suitable for beginners of all ages. In some locations, snowshoes and skis can be rented or checked out at the ranger station or visitor center. Call the park in advance to confirm the availability of equipment.

In the event of severe weather, check alerts and notices on the park website or call the park office. Park websites are listed on the DNR website and phone numbers are listed on each park website.

While there is no participation fee for the candlelight events, a vehicle permit is required to enter Minnesota state parks and recreation areas. The DNR recommends buying permits in advance at the state park vehicle permit website.



Magic Forest Christmas

Magic Forest Preschool held a Christmas party in December, when children sang songs and then had a chance to tell Santa Claus what they want for Christmas. (Staples World photos by Mark Anderson)



Polar Xpress frozen train ride

Kids loved whizzing outside as part of the train ride at the Polar Xpress event on Dec. 14-15. (Staples World photo by Mark Anderson)

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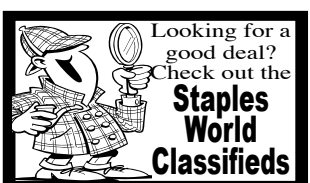
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ASSUMED NAME:
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United States
APPLICANT(S):
Name:
Lacey Danell Grewe
Address:
42447 Quartz RD,
Staples, MN 56479
United States

By typing my name, I, the undersigned, certify that I am signing this document as the person whose signature is required, or as agent of the person(s) whose signature would be required who has authorized me to sign this document on his/her behalf, or in both capacities. I further certify that I have completed all required fields, and that the information in this document is true and correct and in compliance with the applicable chapter of Minnesota Statutes. I understand that by signing this document I am subject to the penalties of perjury as set forth in Section 609.48 as if I had signed this document under oath.

SIGNED BY: Lacey Grewe
MAILING ADDRESS:
42447 Quartz RD,
Staples, MN 56479
EMAIL FOR OFFICIAL
NOTICES: Fellmanlacey@gmail.com

Work Item/Original File
Number 1524421000022

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OFFICE OF THE
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12/22/2024
2-3pnc

BARTLETT TOWNSHIP
NOTICE OF FILING

Bartlett Township is accepting filings for:

One (1) Supervisor for a three (3) year term

One (1) Treasurer for a two (2) year term

The filing period for these offices opens at the home of the Clerk located at 47810 193rd Ave., Aldrich on January 2, 2025 and closes at 5:00 p.m. on January 16, 2025.

Filing fee is \$2.00.
Please contact Jan Jares at 218-640-3176 to file for office.

Jan Jares, Clerk
Bartlett Township
2pnc

MAY TOWNSHIP
RE-ORGANIZATION
MEETING

May Township will meet at 6 p.m. on Monday, January 13, 2025. They will have their re-organization meeting at 6 p.m. with the regular meeting to follow.

Bianca Wyffels, Clerk
May Township
2pnc

COUNTY PRINTING
TODD COUNTY,
MINNESOTA

Notice is hereby given that the Board of County Commissioners of Todd County, will receive sealed bids until Noon, Friday, January 3, 2025 at the County Auditor-Treasurer's Office. Bids will be opened at the County Board meeting on Tuesday, January 7, 2025 at or near 9:05 a.m. in the County Board Room, for publication for the year 2025 as may be required by the County of Todd, a municipal corporation, as follows:

Designation of the
Official Newspaper

This requires the publishing of official proceedings by the Todd County Board, and other legal and public notices required by all Todd County Depart-

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NAME AND TITLE:
John Soule, owner

DATE:
November 25, 2024

EMAIL FOR OFFICIAL
NOTICES: soulejohn@yahoo.com

Work Item/
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1519045400037

STATE OF MINNESOTA
OFFICE OF THE
SECRETARY OF STATE
FILED 12/09/24
1-2pnc

ments, publication of the financial statement and publication of the list of lands in Todd County, delinquent in taxes for the year 2024, which have not been attached to prior judgment. The successful bidder will be required to furnish a performance bond in such amount as may be determined by the County Board. The County Board reserves the right to reject any or all bids if in its judgment of the public interest so require pursuant to M.S. 279.07, and to waive any informalities therein..

Denise Gaida
Todd County Auditor/
Treasurer
1-2pnc

COUNTY PRINTING
TODD COUNTY,
MINNESOTA

Designation of
Extra Printing

Notice is hereby given that the Board of Commissioners of Todd County, Minnesota will receive sealed bids for the extra publication of the Financial Statement for the year 2024 as required by law until Noon, Friday, January 3, 2025. Bids will be opened at or near 9:05 a.m. on January 7, 2025 in the County Board Room.

This requires the extra publication for distribution of the Financial Statement to the remaining parts of the county not covered by the distribution of the official paper. The successful bidder will be required to furnish a performance bond in such an amount as may be determined by the County Board. The County Board reserves the right to reject any or all bids if in its judgment of the public interest so require pursuant to M.S 279.07, and it waives any informalities therein..

Denise Gaida
Todd County Auditor/
Treasurer
1-2pnc

ISD #2170
SCHOOL BOARD
MEETING #7
Mon., Nov. 18, 2024,
6 p.m. District Office

MINUTES

Call to Order
The meeting was called to order by Chair Winkels at 6:00 p.m.

Roll Call was taken, Members Wright, Trout, Reese, Winkels, Reeck and Anderson were present, comprising a quorum. Also present were Superintendent Tappe, Business Manager Hill, Principal Koenigs, AD Lee, Recording Clerk Larson, SMEA President Kneisl, Staples World Managing Editor Anderson, ICS representative Williams, staff members, students and community members. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Motion by Reeck, seconded by Anderson to adopt the agenda. MC

Chair Winkels welcomed and recognized the public in attendance

School/Community
Forum

Jim Jackson - Head Wrestling Coach spoke to the board

Consent Agenda

Approve the Minutes from the October 21, 2024 regular meeting

Approve the Minutes from the November 13, 2024 Special Meeting

Approve the fundraiser request from Dollars for Scholars

Approve the medical leave request from Jennifer Sapp

Approve the fundraiser request from Softball Boosters

Approve the fundraiser request from Tennis Boosters

Approve Mike Roelofs as Lead Custodian - "The Nest"

Approve the hire of Joshua Schimpp, Middle/

High School Paraprofessional

Approve the hire of Karlee Chenoweth, School Readiness Paraprofessional
Approve the fundraiser request from Wrestling Boosters

Approve the following Advisors for 2024/2025

Sr High Knowledge Bowl - Allison Vangness

MS Yearbook - Allison Vangness

Student Council Advisor - Allison Vangness

Prom Advisor - Allison Vangness

HS Yearbook - Jill Kneisl
Motion by Trout, seconded by Reese, to approve the consent agenda. MC
Donations and In-Kind Contributions

Motion by Wright, seconded by Anderson, to approve Grants and Donations in the amount of \$8,778.52 and In-kind donations in the amount of \$50. MC

Finance Items
(Finance Committee Minutes 11-13-2024)

Financial Report presented by Business Manager Hill

Approve the October 2024 Disbursements

General Fund: \$711,339.92

Food Service: \$73,332.25

Community Service: \$42,352.04

Construction Fund: \$1,047,719.10

Debt Service: \$0

Fund 21 Student Activities: \$4,776.36

Fund 45: \$10.52

Motion by Reeck, seconded by Anderson, to approve the October Disbursements. MC

Approve the October 2024 Receipts

General Fund: \$1,274,418.27

Food Service: \$104,083.26

Community Service Fund: \$32,901.43

Construction Fund: \$428,338.14

Debt Service Fund: \$960,772.31

Fund 21 Student Activities: \$919.05

Fund 45: \$5,169.25

Motion by Trout, seconded by Wright, to approve the October 2024 receipts. MC

American Indian Parent
Advisory Committee
Presentation by
Principal Koenigs

Motion by Anderson, seconded by Winkels, to Approve the Annual Compliance Overview of the American Indian Advisory Committee Vote of Non-concurrence with received recommendations for improvement. MC

Cabinet Presentation

Presented by Communications/Marketing representatives Headley and Larson

Facilities

ICS Update presented by Williams of ICS

Other

2023-2024SY Student Achievement Data Report presented by Teaching and Learning Coordinator Pantzke

Motion by Reeck, seconded by Wright, to approve the addition of a School Readiness Instructor. MC

Motion by Anderson, seconded by Wright, to approve the 2024-2025 Early Retirement Incentive MOU. MC

Reports

School Board
FED - October 2024 Minutes

Sourcewell

SMEA - Report from SMEA President Kneisl and VP Evans

Principals

Elementary - Report from Principal Koenigs

Middle/High

AD/Community Ed - Report from AD/CE Director Lee

Superintendent - Report from Superintendent Tappe

Other

School Board Members
Tour of "The NEST"

project

Motion by Anderson, seconded by Reese, to adjourn the meeting at 8:03 p.m. MC

Trisha Larson, Clerk
ISD #2170
2pnc

ISD #2170
SCHOOL BOARD
MEETING #8

Mon., Dec. 2, 2024,
6:00 p.m.
District Office

The meeting was called to order by Chair Winkels at 6:00 p.m.

Roll Call was taken, Members Wright, Trout, Reese, Winkels, Reeck and Anderson were present, comprising a quorum. Also present were Superintendent Tappe, Business Manager Hill, Principal Ferdon, Recording Clerk Larson, Staples World Managing Editor Anderson, staff members, students and community members.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Motion by Anderson, seconded by Trout to adopt the agenda. MC

Truth in Taxation
Levy Presentation by
Business Manager Hill

Chair Winkels called for public discussion. No Discussions from the public

Motion by Wright, seconded by Anderson, to Approve and Certify the 2024 payable 2025 Levy in the amount of \$5,855,939.56. MC

Personnel

Motion by Reeck, seconded by Trout, to approve Long Term Substitute, Tenessa Mumm, through December 20, 2024. MC

Motion by Anderson, seconded by Reese, to adjourn the meeting at 8:03 p.m. MC

Trisha Larson, Clerk
ISD #2170
2pnc

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The year in review: 2024 as seen through the Staples World

2024 continued from page 1a

The Nest opens in 2024

System has been selected as a location for the first obstetrics and gynecology Rural Track Program in the country, in which medical students from the University of Minnesota will learn the family practice style of obstetrics at Lakewood. On Aug. 14, U.S. Senator Tina Smith came to Staples to learn more about the obstetrics (OB) program and celebrate the federal grant that is leading to this new partnership.

Aug. 28 - The Staples-Motley School Board approved a recommendation that students in the middle school and high school be limited to cell phone usage only before school, during lunch time and after school.

Aug. 28 - Pam Rapp, owner of Old School Health now open in downtown Staples, is passionate about helping people lead healthy lives...physically, emotionally and spiritually.

Sept. 4 - The new Staples-Motley Elementary School Principal Ryan Koenigs has spent his career in elementary education, where he learned to focus on the positives. "Developing positive relationships and a positive culture, making kids feel successful," he said about what he wants to see in a school.

Sept. 11 - The Staples-Motley School District had a somber first week of school, as students mourned the death of a student who passed away on Aug. 28. A message from the school district to parents stated "We know this loss impacts our entire school community and we are committed to extending care and support to all those in need."

Sept. 25 - With new ideas and new energy, Brianna Robertson is the new director of the Staples Area Women's Chorus (SAWC).

Sept. 25 - The Staples Area Men's Chorus (SAMC) has a new director, Teresa Hamp. She touted the community building potential of this legendary choir.

Sept. 25 - Central Lakes College Practical Nursing instructor Sarah Jennissen has been named the college's 2024-25 Outstanding Educator.

Nov. 6 - Audrey Brownell won the state cross country title after finishing second last year. She led the Staples-Motley team to a seventh place finish overall.

Nov. 6 - Colbe Tappe scored four touchdowns and Ben Tyrrell scored the winning touchdown as the Staples-Motley football team beat Osakis 36-30 on Nov. 1, winning the Section 6AA title and advancing to the state football tournament.

Nov. 13 - The Batcher Block Opera House is featured in the current edition of Cabana Magazine, a large and prestigious international magazine that focuses on design and architecture.

Nov. 13 - As of the first count, Barb Becker won her Todd County Board seat by one vote, with 1,201 votes to 1,200 for Sharon Thiel. There were 14 write-in votes for that race. (Editor's note: A later recount confirmed the one vote margin.)

Nov. 13 - Staples-Motley was victorious in what has to be one of the most epic games in state football tournament history, a 46-44 double overtime win over



Photos of the year - Oct. 30

Aleea Holst races past the Hero's Timing finish chute, with her grandfather Huck Holst framed in the middle of it. A Vietnam veteran, Huck and his wife Marilyn were just inducted into the Staples-Motley Athletic Hall of Fame as community contributors. (Staples World photo by Mark Anderson)

Barnesville on Nov. 7 to advance to the state semifinals.

Nov. 20 - Cheryl Hayes told the Staples City Council that getting feral cats spayed or neutered can be a better way to control the population than randomly killing the cats.

Nov. 27 - When Sue Nanik began her career at Sourcewell - then known as North Central Service Cooperative - she was one of only 12 employees. Now, 28 years later, she has retired as the leader of a dedicated human resources (HR) team, overseeing the acquisition, development, and well-being of nearly 400 employees

across the nation.

Nov. 27 - The Staples-Motley football team took down two juggernauts on their way to the state championship, but fell short of dismantling a third, losing 26-42 against Jackson County Central on Nov. 22, at US Bank Stadium in Minneapolis.

Dec. 4 - The grand opening of The Nest, the new gym, walking track and community fitness center at Staples-Motley High School, was held Dec. 2.

Dec. 25 - Mark Turner is retiring after 32 years as Executive Director of Five Wings Arts Council.



Photos of the year - Aug. 14

The National Night Out crowd flocked to the North Memorial rescue helicopter after it landed midway through the event. National Night Out was held at the Staples Airport this year so community members could see the DNR helicopter, right, and this one. (Photo by Mark Anderson)



Photos of the year - Aug. 28

Animal and the Doot Doot Birds from the Muppet Show performed "Mah-Nah-Mah-Nah" at the Little Red Caboose Variety Show. From left: Amanda Mithun, Kevin Olsen, Megan Trout.



Photos of the year - Sept. 18

Staples-Motley Community Education has introduced a fall soccer program for kids to learn about the sport. The 49 students signed up will be divided into teams and play regular games each Saturday during the fall season. Pictured, the grade 3-6 league practices on their first day, with the help of coaches and parents. (Staples World photo by Mark Anderson)



Photos of the year - Oct. 23

The Johnson family showed up at the Athletic Hall of Fame banquet all wearing Motley Rocket athletic gear to honor Curt Johnson's induction into the hall. Front row, grandchildren Jordan, Johnny, and Elliana Mattson, Jenna and Clayton Carrier; Back row, Bob and Annie Mattson with two month old Emma, Curt and JoAnn Johnson, Jamie and Jenny Carrier and Christy Johnson. (Submitted photo)



Christmas light display

Above: More Christmas lights displayed at the Pine Ridge trailer park by Teresa Erickson featuring lighted tree branches for a flowing effect. On the south side, a snowman with rotating stars. (Staples World photos by Janice Winter)





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