



# Staples World

Wednesday, March 3, 2021

Staples, Minnesota \$1

## Weather

**This Week's Forecast**

High	Low	Cond.
Mar. 3 41°	26°	P. Cloudy
Mar. 4 42	26	Sunny
Mar. 5 45	27	Sunny
Mar. 6 47	34	P. Cloudy
Mar. 7 50	36	P. Cloudy
Mar. 8 50	36	M. Cloudy
Mar. 9 46	29	Cloudy

**Last Year, 2020**

High	Low	Cond.
Mar. 3 37°	26°	Cloudy
Mar. 4 38	11	M. Cloudy
Mar. 5 34	30	Cloudy
Mar. 6 34	11	Sunny
Mar. 7 44	29	Sunny
Mar. 8 42	36	P. Cloudy
Mar. 9 30	21	P. Cloudy

**Average Temps:**  
**H = 34° Low = 15°**  
**Total Snow:**  
**For week: 1.5"**  
**For year: 36"**  
**March Outlook:**  
**ABOVE average temps. Enjoy!**

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

## School open house

Above, Staples-Motley School Board members and administration meet with visitors at the school informational meeting in Staples on Feb. 24. (Staples World photo by Mark Anderson)

## Two suspects dead after shootout with officers

At approximately 8:48 p.m. Feb. 27, 2021 a Wadena County Sheriff's Dept. deputy attempted to stop a vehicle for a traffic offense near the intersection of 205th Ave. and 280th St., in North Germany Township near Nimrod. The vehicle eventually stopped near 205th Ave and 270th St.

A struggle ensued between the deputy and the motorist. A second motorist then arrived on scene and a short time later, a Sebeka Police Dept. officer arrived and the struggle continued. A short time later, at least one of the motorists began shooting at the officers. One of the officers returned fire. All four were struck by gunfire.

The injured deputy was taken by ambulance to St. Joseph's Health Hospital in Park Rapids and then transferred to North Memorial Health Hospital in Robbinsdale with serious but

non-life threatening injuries. Reports state that the deputy returned home the following day, Feb. 28. The Sebeka officer was struck, but was wearing his protective vest and required no medical treatment.

One of the two other people who were shot died at the scene. The other was taken by ambulance to Tri-County Health Care in Wadena where they later died.

The Wadena County Sheriff's Office, Bureau of Criminal Apprehension (BCA) agents and crime scene personnel are currently investigating. The investigation is in its very early stages and more information will be released by the BCA at a later date.

There's no ongoing threat to the public, but the Wadena County Sheriff's Office is urging people to stay away from the area at this time.

## Staples Police helping community

Editor's note: every week, the Staples Police report contains calls where officers help a community member. Usually those reports are cut out of the newspaper story due to limited space. This week we left in some of the incidents to show the helpful work that police officers do every week.

On Feb. 8, around 1:07 a.m., Staples Police located a vehicle which was observed to be running, at the Dower Lake access. Police located a subject sleeping inside of the vehicle. Police checked the welfare of the subject, and learned that the subject had left their residence due to an argument with their spouse. Police advised the subject, and advised the Wadena County Sheriff's Department to conduct a welfare check on the spouse.

On Feb. 8, Staples Police were asked to check the welfare of an elderly male that called his daughter and was not making sense. Police made contact with him and he was having memory issues. The male stated that he was making an appointment at the hospital and declined medical treatment.

On Feb. 9, Staples Police assisted Lakewood emergency room with an upset patient. Police were able

to calm the patient down. Police later transported the subject to the Sunset Motel.

On Feb. 9, Staples Police received a call from a driver of a vehicle who had to stop their vehicle for a person who walked out in front of them on the 100 block of 2nd Ave. NE. The pedestrian said something to the driver and then continued walking. Police located the pedestrian and advised them on crossing a roadway properly.

On Feb. 9, Staples Police received a call for a subject who made a suicidal comment. After speaking with the subject, police learned the subject made the comment out of frustration and did not have any plans of harming themselves.

On Feb. 10, Staples Police responded to the 400 block of 2nd Street SW for someone suffering with mental health issues. Also there to assist was Wadena County Sheriff's Office and Minnesota State Patrol.

On Feb. 10, Tylor Bendson, 38, was arrested for disorderly conduct.

On Feb. 11, Staples Police responded to the overpass for a report of a suspicious subject who was reported to have run into traffic, causing a vehicle to have to stop.

See **POLICE** on page 3a

## School referendum questions explored

By Mark Anderson  
 Managing Editor

The Staples-Motley School District hosted four informational sessions from Feb. 23-24 for the public to learn more about the proposed \$64 million building referendum. Superintendent Shane Tappe said between 15 and 25 community members attended each meeting and most had questions about the project.

"We were appreciative of the people who were there," said Tappe. "We wanted to make sure they have the correct information."

One of the most common questions at the meetings was "How is this referendum different from last time?" said Tappe. While some of the proposal is similar to the 2019 referendum proposal, this one has more renovation throughout the two buildings.

"It is important to recog-

nize that every square foot of the building is being addressed," said Tappe.

The meetings had information on what the school will do if the referendum does not pass. The school called that "Plan B" and described improvements that would cost \$15 million and come from tax increases.

Tappe said one purpose of the information is to let people know the value of passing the project, compared to the cost of not passing it. Under the referendum plan, a home valued at the district median amount of \$125,000 would pay \$282 more per month for the fully updated school, or under Plan B it would be \$152 more per month for a school that will still need a lot of work.

"It does incur a tax impact and doesn't address all the concerns of the Minnesota Department of Education," said Tappe. "That

may result in Plan C or D which would involve future investments and future tax impacts."

One major change at the high school would be changing the front entrance to the west side of the building, and closing Centennial Lane, the road between the high school and the football field. Tappe said that change was included for safety.

"Buses, parents and students are all in the same traffic flow right now, along with anybody that comes in the morning or after noon," said Tappe. "Safety measures need to be put in place." The proposal would have students in the north parking lot and buses on the west side.

The decision to not reuse the varsity gym was made because of cost, said Tappe. The proposal calls for the gym structure to be saved

See **SCHOOL** on page 10a



## Informational meeting in Motley

Four informational meetings regarding the facilities referendum of the Staples-Motley School District were held Feb. 23 and 24, providing the public the opportunity to see architectural drawings of the facilities plan, ask questions of school board members; and learn about the cost of the proposed plan, as well as how it will affect taxes. The meetings were held at Scandia Valley Township Hall, Early Education Center in Motley, Leader Community Hall, and at the Middle/High School in Staples.

Pictured above, people gathered at the Early Education Center in Motley (formerly, the Motley-Staples Middle School).

Center photo: Loren Mory of Motley (right) speaks with Staples-Motley Superintendent Shane Tappe at the Motley meeting. In the background is David Leapaldt with JLG Architects.

Lower photo: School board member Jeremy Reeck (far left) takes time to answer questions of the Brichacek family of rural Staples - Tom, Aimee and Abby, a seventh grader at Staples-Motley High School. Tom Brichacek said he was impressed with the proposed CTE (Career and Technology Education) area of the facilities plan, which would be expanded. Superintendent Tappe said he was glad to see people from the school district at these meetings, so they could be informed before the referendum vote on April 13, 2021. (Staples World photos by Dawn Timbs)



## Public Notices

ISD #2170  
 Proposed School  
 Construction  
 Project: **9A**

## Obituaries

Roger Holman, Sr.  
 Marian Laust  
 Roger  
 Rittenhouse



Thank you for subscribing!



# Spreading sunshine in the Pillager community

After reading an article about 'Balloon Buddies', created by Party World of Baxter, Misty Cremers was inspired to help share these creations with residents of assisted living homes in Pillager during National Random Acts of Kindness Week.

It sparked an idea in her that handing out Balloon Buddies would be a "great way to bless others and spread sunshine in the Pillager Community during these darker Covid times," Cremers said, going on to share that she runs an in-home child care business in Pillager.

She can't imagine what it must be like not being able to have family visitors, and to have been so isolated this past year. Cremers reached out to families at Little Rays of Sunshine Child Care (her business), Pillager Dental; and Pillager Area Fire &

Rescue, asking if they would like to sponsor all of the residents at Riverside Assisted Living and Krushe Residential Homes, both located in Pillager.

"There was no hesitation at all," Cremers said, adding that between the three organizations, they were able to sponsor every resident.

"On Feb. 21, we were able to spread sunshine as we delivered these Balloon Buddies to the residents, along with some amazing artwork that the Little Rays of Sunshine created for them," Cremers said. "The reactions, the disbelief, the smiles... were priceless," she added.

The 2020 National Random Acts of Kindness Week was Feb. 15 - 21, but it's never too late to show a little kindness to someone along the way.



## Random acts of kindness in Pillager

Representatives from Little Rays of Sunshine Child Care, Pillager Dental, and Pillager Area Fire and Rescue delivered Balloon Buddies to residents at Riverside Assisted Living and Krushe Residential Homes, both in Pillager, during the recent National Random Acts of Kindness week.

Pictured above at Riverside Assisted Living are, from left: Cowen Cremers, Caleigh Cremers, Norah Eastman, Assistant Chief Thomas Cremers (PFD), Carlene (resident), Misty Cremers (Little Rays of Sunshine Child Care), Colston Cremers, Heidi Fletcher (Pillager Dental), Jayce Eastman and Harris Fletcher.

At right are residents at Krushe Residential: Barb, Shelly, Wynter and April. (Submitted photos by Sandie Youngblom, PFD firefighter)



## Law enforcement reports, Motley area

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

### Feb. 18 - 24

Feb. 23 - The MPD responded to a report of theft at the 400 block of Pine Ave S., Motley. The complainant stated they inadvertently gave out personal information on a scam call and the unknown suspect changed the person's social security information so that her social security payments now went to the suspect. The

complainant has since updated her account but fears she may not be able to get her money back. A report has been sent to the inspector general through the social security administration.

Feb. 22 - 23 - The MPD issued hands free violation citations to Kylie Pickar, 31; Kristen Popp, 26.

Feb. 18 - 23 - The MPD issued speeding citations to Luis Cardenasaguilar, 35; Cassandra Katona, 29; Thomas Yang, 21; Andrew Strong, 38; Eric Cherland, 43; Ranae Cemensky, 49; Michael Kilian, 44; Garrett Farmer, 42; Tesia Shoberg,

30; Leah Johnson, 28.

Feb. 22 - The MPD received a report from Unity Bank in Motley that they'd received a counterfeit \$20 bill in a deposit from the Dollar General store. It is unknown who the note may have come from and which weekend day.

Feb. 18 - The MPD issued a citation to Sondra Keezer, 24, for driving with a revoked license and not having insurance on her vehicle.

Feb. 21 - The MCSO issued speeding citations to Herbert Scott, 69; Madelyn Phillips, 23.

# COVID-19 increases in area, affects schools

While most of Minnesota is lowering the number of COVID-19 infections, Todd County has reported increases the past two weeks. The virus has reached into the Staples-Motley School District, requiring students to be quarantined because of possible contact with someone who tested positive. The Staples-Motley

boys basketball team canceled their games on Feb. 23 and 25 due to COVID-19 protocol.

On Feb. 23, the Staples-Motley School District sent a message out to families saying they've detected a few student cases of COVID-19 and have conducted contact tracing to determine what other stu-

dents may have been near those students while they were infected. Students in close contact were quarantined at home, but the school continued in person learning for students not identified by the protocol. The school said many of the teachers and staff have had the opportunity to receive a COVID-19 vaccination.

The message from the school said, "Our communities, families, staff and students have done an amazing

job of preventing the spread of COVID-19 this school year and we're grateful for their efforts, having allowed our students to maintain in-person learning for much of the year. While the efforts in our communities and schools have been significant, we know it's difficult to completely prevent illness in our facilities. We do ask our students, staff, families and community members to continue to do their part in preventing the

spread of COVID-19: washing hands frequently, wear a mask and most importantly, stay home if you have any symptoms of COVID-19."

### COVID-19 numbers

Todd County; 45 new COVID-19 cases in the week of Feb. 22-28, the second straight week of higher numbers.

Wadena County; 29 new cases, also an increase, Cass County; 24 new cases, a slight increase and Morrison County; 31 an increase

of eight. Stearns County, which includes the St. Cloud area, had 69 cases, their lowest weekly total in at least eight months.

The Staples zip code showed 19 new cases in the week when statistics were released Feb. 25. Motley; 11 new cases after recording zero the previous week. Wadena saw their numbers go up with 12 new cases, and Pillager saw seven new cases.

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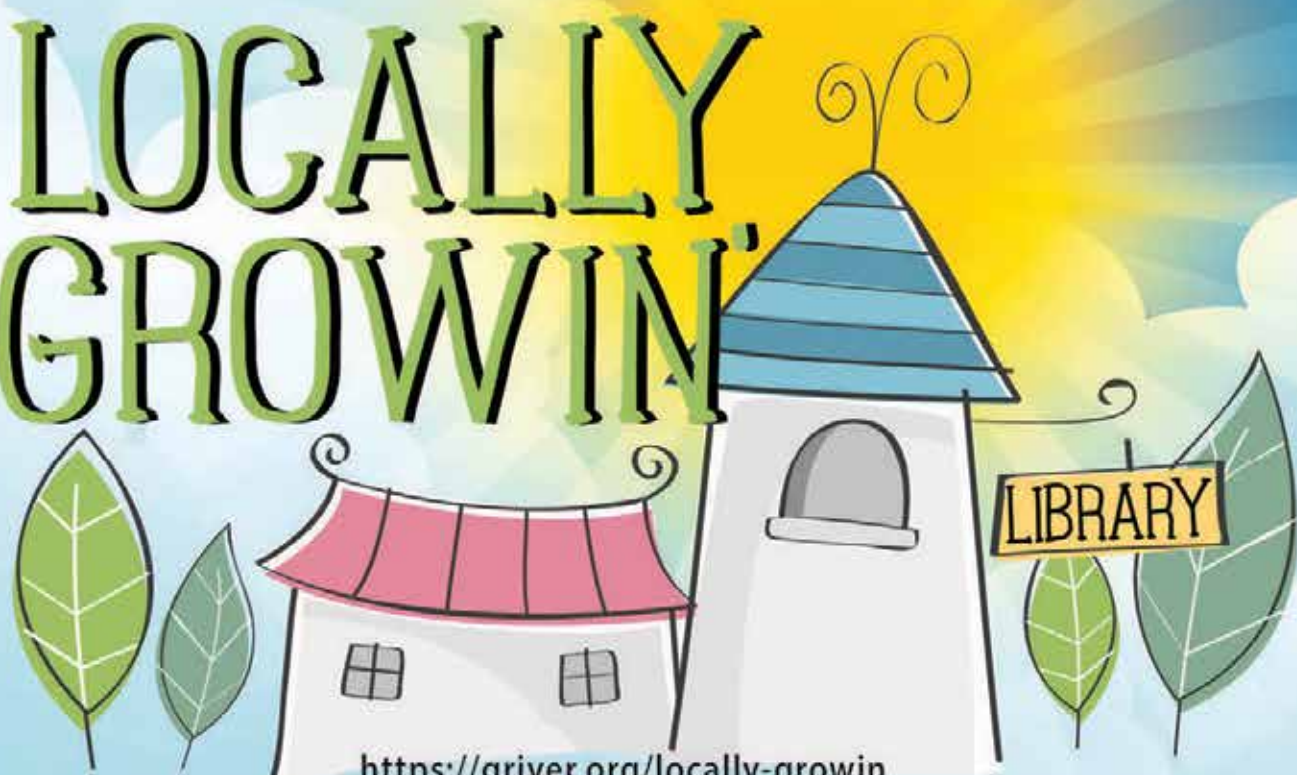
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**Verndale Public School**

**Kindergarten Round-Up**  
Monday, March 15, 2021  
6:00 to 7:00 p.m.

Verndale Kindergarten classes offer...

- ◆ Small class sizes!
- ◆ Individualized student instruction!
- ◆ Large-group activities!
- ◆ Intervention & enrichment support for all students!
- ◆ Integration of technology: interactive whiteboard & iPads!
- ◆ Physical education and music class every day!
- ◆ Social and emotional skills classes with the school counselor!
- ◆ Library every week with a media assistant!
- ◆ Busing available for all students!

For more information contact  
Mrs. Marquardt at 445-5184 ext. 108  
or  
Ms. Strayer at 445-5184 ext. 102



Looking back

75 YEARS Ago - 1946

Feb. 28, 1946 - Mrs. Ahdor Berg, the wife of Ahdor Berg who lives just east of Staples, came here as a bride early in January.

Mrs. Berg was, before her marriage, Miss Anita Alvizuri, of Havana, Cuba. She is a native Cuban, and was born near Havana and when a young girl moved into that city where she has completed her education.

Speaking with slight Spanish accent, Mrs. Berg stated that she was never so thrilled as when she landed in Staples, her first Amer-



Compiled by Dawn Timbs



ican home. She had never seen snow before until she reached that part of the United States where snow had fallen, when enroute to her home in Staples. "The falling of the snow reminded me of the gala fiestas we have in Cuba, it was just like the white confetti we throw at these occasions" she stated.

Mr. and Mrs. Berg were married at the home of the bride's parents at Havana, Cuba on Dec. 26, amid sunshine and flowers. They are now making their home in Staples. Mr. Berg was in military service and has received his honorable discharge and returned to Havana to get married.

Feb. 28, 1946 - New arrivals at Tower's Bootery: "Petties" Wedgies - Perfect to round out your shoe wardrobe as you stride into spring. Black gabardine leather sole, nailhead trim, open toe. \$4.95; and D'Orsay Pumps - Black gabardine with nailhead trim. High heels, leather sole, open toe. \$4.95.

Feb. 28, 1946 - The Maroon and White of Motley closed its basketball season with a victory over the green clad warriors from Clarissa last Saturday evening. The Rockets played by far the best game of the season and at no time during the contest, were the boys from Clarissa in the lead.

Harvey Marohn, at center, carried off the scoring honors for the evening

followed close by Clem Coverston and Bill Strong. Andy Rosvold and Laird Flora put up a fine defensive game and Clarissa's high scoring center, was held to a few points.

50 YEARS Ago - 1971

March 4, 1971 - Staples will send six of its powerful wrestlers into the State Mat Tournament in Minneapolis Thursday, Friday and Saturday. They are Mark Bendson (95), Mike Roberts (112), Gordy Thompson (127), Loren Bendson (135), Dave Fuller (138) and Wayne Shequen (165).

March 4, 1971 - Orville Meyer, State Conservation Officer in Staples, has become the newest member of the Staples Lions Club, Vern Seipkes, secretary, said. Meyer was sponsored by Robert C. Lee.

It was also reported that Frank Leidenfrost has been named the new Lion Tamer of the club.

March 4, 1971 - Jack Hawk was named as the new manager of the C. R. Anthony Company store in Staples effective, March 1.

Mr. Hawk succeeds Mrs. Flodys Farber, who has served as the store's manager the past several years.

A native of Humbolt, Iowa, Mr. Hawk has been employed with the C. R. Anthony Company store in that city for the past three years, leaving that employment to assume his new position in this city. He and his wife, Janet, will be moving to Staples as soon as housing is available.

25 YEARS Ago - 1996

Feb. 29, 1996 - Area cattle ranchers attending an annual beef forum in Staples Tuesday were urged to respond to a recent television news segment on WCCO Television that raised questions concerning the safety of the beef in the nation's food supply.

Ron Eustice, the executive director of the Minnesota Beef Council, said that the segment on the possibility of meat from diseased animals getting into the food supply was deceptive and inaccurate.

Feb. 29, 1996 - Craig and Ione Mertens, from the Staples area, participated in the 42nd annual Minne-



Mystery photo

Hello readers. This week's archive photo is from our March 4, 1971 edition. Do you know who these people are and perhaps the context of the photos? Email your answers and where you are from to dtimbs@staplesworld.com by Friday morning, or call 218-894-1112. The answers will be published in next week's paper, as well as a new mystery photo.

sota Jaycee Outstanding Young Farmer Convention, which was held in Rochester on Feb. 8 and 9. They were sponsored by the Brainerd Jaycees.

Feb. 29, 1996 - Krystle Klema, an eight grade student at Motley Staples Middle School, was the winner of the Drug Abuse Resistance Education (D.A.R.E.) Officers Association essay contest. The seventh annual D.A.R.E. Conference was held in Austin Feb. 16 - 19.

In her essay, Klema wrote, "the single most important way I can help others resist drugs and violence is by being an encouraging, positive and good friend to them." Her essay presentation received a standing ovation at the conference banquet. This is the second year Klema has won the essay contest. She is the daughter of Wesley and Lois Klema of Staples.

Feb. 29, 1996 - Two fire-

men were honored at the Motley Fire Department's annual banquet last week. These included Steve Johnson, recipient of the department's Fire Fighter of the Year award; and Ian Macheel, who was retiring after more than 20 years with the department. Fire Chief Larry Converse and Assistant Chief Rob Storry presented the awards. Previously retired firefighters at the banquet included Doug Frisk, Waldo Frisk, Bernie Hendricks and John Rardin.

10 YEARS Ago - 2011

March 3, 2011 - The Staples City Council approved an agreement with the Federal Highway Administration for the north/south corridor and railroad overpass. City Economic Development Director Jerel Nelsen said once the agreement is in place, the funding can not be taken back due to budget cuts. The agreement includes a project schedule that shows construction starting in April of 2012, and most of the work done by November.

March 3, 2011 - The Colla Voce Girl's Choir, the Staples Motley High School Women's Chorus and the Staples Area Women's Chorus are planning a concert to help benefit the local CARE Organization, the Community Meals project. The concert will be March 13, at Centennial Auditorium in Staples.

"This concert exists to make a difference in our area," said Barb Cline, of the Staples Area Women's Chorus.

March 3, 2011 - Three Staples Motley wrestlers are headed to the state tournament this Wednesday - Saturday at the Xcel Energy Center in St. Paul.

Blake Petrich at 171 pounds, and Chandler Trout at 189, both earned championship honors at the Section 8AA Tournament on Feb. 26, to earn trips to state; and Brent Lisson, at 152 pounds, also won matches to earn a trip to state.



Mystery solved

Last week's mystery photo, published in the Feb. 25, 1971 edition of the Staples World, featured four members of the Staples Chapter of the Future Farmers of America who reached the highest step of FFA membership in the State FFA organization. Pictured, from left, are Curt Neal, LeRoy Hall, Ron Motl and Ron Salber. Their local FFA advisors were James Hofer and Al Lauer.

Mike Koppes and Judy Wolak, both of Staples, correctly identified all.

Koppes noted that he graduated with these boys in 1971. Steve Adams of Moorhead, a 1970 graduate of SHS, correctly identified all but Curt Neal, whom he thought was Neil Zappe. Adams also mentioned that he and LeRoy Hall had both been in choirs and musicals directed by Stan Carlson. He also knew Ron Motl fairly well as they had mutual friends from Browerville. Thanks for participating in our Mystery Photo.

Child care assistance available to families

By Todd County Health and Human Services

The Minnesota Child Care Assistance Program (CCAP) can help qualifying families pay for child care while they go to work, look for work or attend school. This program assists with child care costs for children ages 0 through 12, and for children with special needs through age 14.

Eligibility is based upon family size, family income and participation in autho-

rized activities. All families receiving child care assistance and earning 75% or more of the federal poverty guideline make co-payments based on family income.

How to apply for child care assistance:

- Apply online at www.co.todd.mn.us and download the application (DHS-3550).

- Contact Todd County Health and Human Services at 320-732-4500 to request an application by mail

- Pick up an application packet at Todd County Health and Human Services.

Completed applications can be mailed, faxed, emailed, or dropped off at:

Attention: Marie Baron-Kelly  
Todd County Health and Human Services  
212 2nd Ave. S.  
Long Prairie, MN 56347  
Email: marie.baron-kelly@co.todd.mn.us  
Phone: 320-732-4536  
Fax: 320-732-4540

POLICE continued from page 1a

Local police help people with mental health issues, transportation problems

Police spoke with the subject and advised them.

On Feb. 12, Staples Police responded to the Sunset Motel for a tenant that was having a mental health issue. Police were able to calm the subject down.

On Feb. 13, Staples Police received a report of an assault and mail tampering. Police are investigating.

On Feb. 14, Staples Police assisted a subject with a ride from Lakewood Health System to his residence.

On Feb. 15, Staples Police assisted a subject that fell in his residence. Police got the subject up and he stated that he was fine.

On Feb. 15, Staples Police received a report of a subject that jumped into the roadway in front of a vehicle, causing them to have to veer out of the way. Police located the subject and spoke with him regarding his actions and the consequences.

On Feb. 17, Staples Police were called to a residence on the 400 block of 2nd St SW for a welfare concern. It was reported there was a concern for a subject who was possibly in a mental health crisis. Officer spoke with the subject and determined they were not in crisis.

On Feb. 17, Staples Police were requested to conduct a welfare check on a subject on the 300 block of 2nd Ave NW. Police made contact with the subject and after speaking to her with a social worker present, the subject was taken to Lakewood Health System ER for an evaluation.

Reported: On Feb. 18, Sta-

ples Police received a report of a theft of a 20 pound propane tank out of a vehicle that was parked at Lakewood Health System.

On Feb. 20, Staples Police responded to a report of 911 hang up calls on the 1500 block of 3rd Street NE. Police arrived and learned that a party had fallen and needed assistance getting up. Police assisted on scene. Also responding was the Staples Ambulance, but the subject refused transport.

On Feb. 21, Staples Police responded to the 400 block of 7th Street SE for the report of a water line that had burst inside a residence. Police contacted Staples Utilities.

On Feb. 19, Staples Police assisted the Staples Elementary School with a student who ran from the school. Police assisted with getting the student back into the school.

On Feb. 19, Staples Police located a subject walking on County Road 2. The subject said his car was stuck in Old Wadena Campground and he was walking home. Due to the cold weather, Police gave the subject a ride home.

On Feb. 21, Staples Police observed a vehicle with a door wide open. Police were able to identify who the owner of the vehicle was and they were advised.

On Feb. 21, a male subject approached an officer asking for a ride to a residence in Wadena County. The subject indicated he no longer wanted to live with his girlfriend and did not have a vehicle. The subject was given a ride to the residence.

Fracture care at Lakewood Health System

Lakewood Health System, Staples, now offers fracture care as part of its surgical care services. This includes the treatment of hip, femur, forearm, humerus, and foot and ankle fractures by Lakewood's podiatric surgeons, Drs. Jon Peterson and Dave Schleichert, and orthopedic surgeons, Drs. Nick Lesmeister, Chris Metz, Ashley Nord, Paul Rud and Paul Thompson.

New to the fracture care services at Lakewood is the ability to care for patients needing treatment for hip and femur fractures, as well as certain humerus fractures. In the past, many patients needing this kind of treatment would have been transferred to another facility for care. Now, they can be treated and cared for by Lakewood's surgical team and providers.

These services are available 24/7 for emergent care situations for basic and complex bone breaks. This full-spectrum orthopedic and podiatric care is provided by Board-certified surgeons and includes integrated rehabilitation services all done at Lakewood Health System.

Services are available at Lakewood's Main Campus in Staples. To schedule an appointment, call 218-894-1515 or visit our Emergency Department if the situation is urgent.





## School buildings only limited by imagination

In large cities, the hippest neighborhoods get started in warehouse districts or abandoned factories. It usually starts with artists looking for cheap space to create studios. Musicians and writers usually follow to build off the creative energy. They organize into idealistic groups and start to make a name for their neighborhood. Then come coffee shops, restaurants and spin-off businesses, until soon it becomes the place to go for city residents and tourists.

In small towns, it's very rare to be able to create such vibrant community spaces, but we have two such opportunities right now, with the Batcher Block Opera House and the Staples-Motley school referendum.

The Batcher Block project is ongoing and making steps forward, but now is the time to concentrate on the school referendum, since mail-in voting has opened and in-person voting is April 13, 2021.

Most of the discussion

about the school building project has revolved around the nuts and bolts, the educational needs, the cost and the taxes that will pay for it. Those are important, but it leaves out the vision of what this could do for the community. If the project is approved, it should be a gigantic enrichment of public life in both Staples and Motley.

In small towns, the school building acts as a fulcrum of activity, with gatherings for sports, concerts, community events and forums. It becomes a hub that fosters public conversations. So when a school building project comes up, I look at the public spaces to see what it will be like for the community.

In Staples, I learned that the varsity gym will no longer be used for sports, but will be remodeled to retain its nostalgic atmosphere as the space is converted into a lunch room/public gathering space. When I heard that, it made me think of those hip warehouse neighborhoods in big cities, something that will be unique and will have visitors talking about it long after they leave. I've been to several new schools in the area, and none of their big gathering spaces have the character that the converted gym would have.

In Motley, the opportunity to repurpose the school building will be just as important and could potential-

ly have better results for the community, since there's more space to work with. No matter what becomes of the building, the people of Motley should make sure it retains a public purpose and is a community gathering place into the future.

Staples and Motley each have their own unique charisma. The school pairing has helped establish the reputation of the area so that it benefits each community. But to make life in a small town worthwhile, we need to keep the public realm vibrant. That means asking our local artists, musicians and writers about their vision for the spaces, asking community groups how they would like to use the building and being open to any other suggestions from the community.

If the project is successful, local businesses will have new avenues to expand their scope and spin-off businesses could pop up to feed off the energy created. Of course none of this speculation is assured, but it will never happen if we don't start talking about it.

Most people will vote based on their perception of the value of the school project, educational needs and taxes. But whether the referendum passes or not, our imagination is the only limit on using the school building to help create an amazing community.

## Township Day is grassroots government

Attend your Township Day on Tuesday March 9, 2021, where you have a direct voice and vote.

For those that live in one of Minnesota's 1,781 townships, we encourage you to attend your local government's annual meeting on Township Day, March 9. You have the opportunity to participate in important dis-

cussions, such as your tax levy and many townships will be electing new officers, as well.

How will COVID impact our grassroots government? Townships have adapted and are taking precautions to keep everyone healthy. Meetings have been held face-to-face or virtually with options to join in from home. Many townships will officially start the meeting but immediately 'pause' it, and set a date to continue the annual meeting this summer in outdoor meet-

ings. Check in to your annual meeting - together we'll keep democracy alive and well as township residents. Mark your calendar, find the location and time by checking your local newspaper or contacting your township clerk and invite your neighbors to your annual township meeting on Township Day, March 9.

Steve Fenske,  
General Council, Minnesota Association of Townships

## Action on smoking epidemic

From Minnesotans for a Smoke-Free Generation

Minnesotans for a Smoke-Free Generation thanked Attorney General Keith Ellison for expanding the state's lawsuit against big tobacco companies for illegally marketing to youth. The Attorney General announced that Minnesota amended its JUUL complaint to include Altria and four of its subsidiaries as defendants. Minnesota continues to face an epidemic of youth nicotine addiction, largely driven by JUUL e-cigarettes. In December 2018, Altria bought a major (35 percent) stake in JUUL.

"Thank you to Attorney General Ellison for continuing to make Minnesota a leader in holding Big

Tobacco accountable for targeting and addicting our kids," said Janelle Waldock, Senior Director of Policy, Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Minnesota and Co-Chair of Minnesotans for a Smoke-Free Generation. "Tobacco industry giants Altria and JUUL engaged in aggressive, predatory behavior and we continue to face a crisis of youth tobacco use."

Minnesota becomes only the second state to include Altria in its legal action against JUUL.

High teen vaping rates are a result of aggressive youth-focused marketing campaigns by JUUL, which included several tactics from Big Tobacco's playbook. Investigations have found that JUUL targeted kids as young as eight with a sophisticated marketing program including summer camp, school programs and hundreds of social media influencers.

Minnesotans for a Smoke-Free Generation supports four policies that reduce youth smoking and nicotine addiction, including increasing tobacco pric-

es, prohibiting the sale of all flavored tobacco products, investing in tobacco prevention programs and increasing the tobacco sale age to 21 - which was implemented statewide on August 1, 2020.

Findings from the 2019 Minnesota Student Survey:

**Percent of students who vaped e-cigarettes in past 30 days**

- Grade 8: 11 percent (95 percent increase from 2016-2019)
- Grade 9: 16 percent (75 percent increase from 2016-2019)
- Grade 11: 26 percent (54 percent increase from 2016-2019)

The 2017 Minnesota Youth Tobacco Survey found:

- 67 percent of Minnesota high-school tobacco users and nearly 60 percent of middle-school tobacco users reported using flavored products.
- 40 percent of Minnesota high-school students have tried e-cigarettes, 88 percent of Minnesota students reported they have seen advertisements promoting e-cigarettes.

## CGMC: put infrastructure for cities on bonding bill

Statement from Coalition of Greater Minnesota Cities (CGMC) President and Little Falls Mayor Greg Zylka on Governor Walz's capital investment plan

"It's good to see that the Governor is elevating the need to pass a bonding bill this session, but his proposal misses an opportunity to invest in critical infrastructure needs in Greater Minnesota.

"The biggest omission in the Governor's plan is that it fails to mention water infrastructure, which remains one of the most pressing needs across Greater Minnesota. The 2020 bonding bill included record funding for state grant and loan programs that help cities pay for costly wastewater, drinking water and stormwater projects, but the need continues to grow. Dozens of cities currently have projects in the works to repair aging facilities or replace outdated equipment, and more than 300 cities are expected to undergo major water infrastructure improvements over the next 20 years. The Legislature must continue to make significant investments in water infrastructure to keep up with this growing need.

"As the Governor and legislators discuss a bonding bill this session, I urge them to address other key Greater Minnesota priorities as well. The pandemic has amplified the need for more child care centers as well as increased investment in economic development programs that will help communities and families recover from the financial fallout. With low interest rates and a long list of needs, the Legislature should seize this opportunity to pass a bonding bill that investments in critical infrastructure and aids in Minnesota's economic recovery."

Quote of the week

**"There are many little ways to enlarge your child's world. Love of books is the best of all."**

— Jacqueline Kennedy Onassis

## This is your brain on parenting

By Anne Mosle  
Executive Director of Ascend

We have learned so much about the powerful brain burst moments in the early years of life and the impact toxic stress, trauma, and poverty have during this critical period for babies. Research shows a baby's brain can double in size by the first year and by the child's fifth birthday, 95 percent of their total brain growth has taken place.

What we now know, thanks to the work of Dr. Sarah Watamura, Dr. Piyoung Kim, Tiffany Phu, and Andrew Erhart from the University of Denver in Two Open Windows: Part II, is that adults transitioning to parenthood are also experiencing brain bursts. In fact, all caregivers, regardless of biological connection to their baby, experience brain developments as they become parents, like learning if a baby's cry means they are hungry or needs a diaper change.

The science now calls us to think Mom Plus and extend proven supports like home visits and stress-reduction classes to fathers, adoptive parents, and other adults who take on the primary parenting responsibilities for a young child.

It is the act of transitioning to parenthood, whether a biological parent or not, that opens a time-limited window where both new parent and baby are especially receptive to being shaped by their environments. It is a window of opportunity if handled respectfully and intentionally, where we can support and set families on a path to health and well-being. Doing this for parents, caregivers and babies together in this early window will pay off in the short-term by helping parents and children cope with stress and, in the long-term, by setting children on a path to be successful in school and later in life.

What is clear is that we need to support all adults

who are becoming parents. Here are three things policymakers, practitioners, and businesses can embrace to support families in growing stronger and more resilient.

Time for a Mom Plus Plan. Our approach must be both-and, not either-or. Let's apply the research findings highlighted by Dr. Watamura and Dr. Kim and create robust, inclusive policies and supports that double-down on moms as well as bring in fathers, grandparents, adoptive, and nonbiological parents too. Check out the Alameda County, California Fathers Corps for clear steps toward a Mom Plus Plan - seven principles to support dads as parents too.

Modernize antiquated workplace mindsets and policies, include all parenting adults. Fathers, aunties, and grandparent guardians experience the same brain changes as they transition to parenting but often with less support. Nonbiological parents include adoptive and same sex couples as well. Too many workplaces offer maternal leave rather than parental leave, and many community programs are geared only to moms. Family Values @ Work shares the "faces of paid leave," people striving to care for their families without falling off an economic cliff. We need to enable anyone in the parenting role to spend significant time in the early years with their children as it assists with the brain development most beneficial to both. As a society, we can learn a lot from African American fathers who on average spend more time with their children. Black fathers (70%) were most likely to have bathed, dressed, diapered, or helped their children use the toilet every day compared with white (60%) and Hispanic fathers (45%), a model all fathers should follow.

Find ways to lower stress, particularly toxic stress permanently, and especially as we address the impacts of both COVID and racism. Our top job: consider how to

prevent or minimize toxic stress that can undermine parenting. Toxic stress is more than regular stress. It is stress that happens in the context of low support. Combatting stressors like racism or a global pandemic also take a toll. When new parents experience toxic stress, it taxes the neuro system needed to figure out a baby's needs. Supporting new parents, especially those who have experienced trauma, will give them the wherewithal to buffer their children from stress and navigate tough situations. We need to align our mental health systems in more equitable ways, including mental health screening and support to process trauma for all transitioning to parenthood. When brain changes may not happen naturally because parents are suffering from toxic stress, there are programs that show how we can help nature take its course. At Northwestern University, Darius Tandon has developed Mothers and Babies and Fathers and Babies, two national programs that work with moms and dads to help them prepare mentally and physically for parenthood. Proven programs, like Tandon's, use two-generation approaches that target adult mental health to cultivate well-being and enhance parent-child relationships.

Embracing a two-generation approach for infants and parents and leveraging the emerging brain science is a gamechanger in how we design services, supports, and care for families during this critical moment of transitioning to parenthood. The science shows why common-sense policies like equitable paid family leave for all families, and early supports like home-visiting that connect new parents to new learning or education opportunities that will widen the two open windows parenthood unlocks. Parenthood changes everything - including your brain. It's a "no-brainer" - an opportunity we don't want to miss.

# Staples World

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

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## Lions donate to Dollars for Scholars

The Staples Host Lions recently donated \$3,000 to the Staples-Motley Dollars for Scholars. Pictured kneeling, from left, are Keller Anderson, Addisyn Cichos. Back row: Topanga Braith, Jason Tranti-

na, Max Strickland, Madysen Hull, Cole Winkels, SMHS Principal Mike Schmidt, Lion President Ken Christensen. (Staples World photo by Dawn Timbs)

## Energage names Lakewood Health System a 2021 Top Workplace

Lakewood Health System has earned the 2021 Top Workplaces USA award, issued by Energage, a purpose-driven organization that develops solutions to build and brand Top Workplaces. This is the inaugural year for Top Workplaces USA, built on the program's 14-year history surveying more than 20 million employees across 54 markets for the regional Top Workplaces awards.

"This great honor is a direct reflection of our employees," said Roxanne Hejhal, Vice President of Human Resources. "It's their care and compassion for our patients, residents and one another that are the foundation of our culture. Our employees' engagement in their individual roles, within their team and in our communities really does bring out the best in all of us."

Top Workplaces USA offers national recognition for large organizations, those with more than 150 employees and those that may have operations in multiple markets. Several thousand or-

ganizations from across the country were invited and more than 1,100 participated in the Top Workplaces USA survey.

Winners of the Top Workplaces USA list are chosen based solely on employee feedback gathered through an employee engagement survey, issued by Energage. Results are calculated by comparing the survey's research-based statements, including 15 Culture Drivers that are proven to predict high performance against industry benchmarks.

"During this very challenging time, Top Workplaces has proven to be a beacon of light for organizations, as well as a sign of resiliency and strong business performance," said Eric Rubino, Energage CEO. "When you give your employees a voice, you come together to navigate challenges and shape your path forward. Top Workplaces draw on real-time insights into what works best for their organization, so they can make informed decisions that have a positive impact on their people and their business."

## Cardinal Calendar

SM school events

### March

• **BAND AND ORCHESTRA CONCERT (H.S. AND M.S.)** March 4, 7 p.m.

• **POPS CONCERT - H.S.** March 29, 7 p.m.

### April

• **HIGH SCHOOL PLAY** April 6, 7 p.m.

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

## Mark Your Calendar

### March 4

**STAPLES SERENITY AA GROUP Mtgs** are held at the Staples Assembly of God Church on Tuesday and Thursday evenings beginning at 7 p.m. Masks required. For more info., 320-874-0979.

### March 8

**AA GROUP Mtgs in Motley** are held at the United Methodist Church, 847 3rd Ave. S., on Mondays at 8 p.m.

## Staples Area Food Shelf seeks donations during March, Food Share Month

The Staples Area Food Shelf would like to call attention to the Annual March Food Share Month.

During March, Minnesota Food shelves conduct their major campaign for funds and food shelf items. The funds and food collected help determine their budget for the coming year. All funds and food items collected in March help determine the grant amounts available from Hunger Solutions of Minnesota. The non-donated items are purchased from Second Harvest Heartland Food Bank in St. Paul, Ernie's Market and Jon's Family Foods in Staples.

While the COVID Pandemic has also had an impact on our Staples Area Food Shelf, we have been busy this past year, we have served 5,901 individuals in 1,600 households with 144,267 pounds of food.

Besides the foods, we also provide other house-

hold necessities such as toilet paper, laundry and dish-washing soap, and personal hygiene items. In addition, during Thanksgiving and Christmas, we have turkey and ham vouchers available, and we provide monthly milk vouchers to be used at our local food vendors.

The Staples Area Food Shelf is open Mondays and Tuesdays from 2 - 4 p.m., and the fourth Thursday of the month from 5 - 7 p.m.

While March is our major event, we greatly appreciate the support we receive throughout the year. Donations can be made through your church, or monetary donations can be sent to the Staples Area Food Shelf, P.O. Box 82, Staples, MN 56479, or by calling 218-894-1935.

Without your help, the Staples Area Food Shelf could not possibly survive. Also, rest assured, that all the Staples Area Food Shelf

workers are volunteers and do not receive any compensation.

We want to thank everyone for their past support and we respectfully ask for your continued generosity and support. With your assistance and generosity the Staples Area Food Shelf will be able to continue providing for those in need.

The Staples Area Food Shelf Board.

Thanks for reading the Staples World

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## Student Achievements

**Jesse Davis**, Staples, has been named to the Fall Semester 2020 Dean's List at Norwich University in Northfield, Vt. To qualify, students must achieve a grade point average of at least 3.40.

## Hello World

**BIRTHS REPORTED AT LAKEWOOD HEALTH SYSTEM HOSPITAL IN STAPLES INCLUDED:**

- Born to Ronelle Hanson and Jeffrey Herner of Staples, a baby boy, Camden Thomas weighing eight pounds, five ounces on February 19, 2021.
- Born to Sarah and Taylor Lyons of Brainerd, a baby girl, Rayla Evalynn weighing 11 pounds, 10 ounces on February 22, 2021.
- Born to Becky Cusey and Dustin Schlenker of Wadena, a baby boy, Hunter Bryan Jesse weighing eight pounds, 11 ounces on February 24, 2021.
- Born to Jada Kuhlmann and Nick Holmquist of Long Prairie, a baby girl, Ava Lee weighing eight pounds, five ounces on February 25, 2021.

## Roger Holman, Sr.

Roger Holman, Sr., 83, of Motley passed away February 25, 2021 at Lakewood Care Center in Staples. Due to the COVID-19 Pandemic and the safety of family and friends, no services will be held at this time. Visit [www.karvonen-funeralhome.com](http://www.karvonen-funeralhome.com) to leave memorials and condolences on Roger's Tribute Wall. Arrangements provided by Karvonen Funeral & Cremation Service of Wadena. w10c A00006B2021MA03

## Obituaries

### Robert Rittenhouse

Robert "Bob" Rittenhouse, 91, died February 26, 2021. Services will be held at 11 a.m., Fri., March 5, at the Brenny Family Funeral Chapel, Baxter. A visitation will be held one hour prior to services at the funeral chapel. Interment will be at 1 p.m. at the Minnesota State Veterans Cemetery near Little Falls.



Robert was born June 22, 1929 to Vern and Alice (Clark) Rittenhouse in Bloomington. He married Helen "Jean" Planner on August 26, 1954. He enjoyed fishing, hunting, gardening and above all else, spending time with his family. Robert is survived by his loving wife, Helen "Jean"; one son, Randy (Candie) Rittenhouse of Motley; two daughters, Lori (Bruce) Silgjord of Motley and Brenda (Brent) Blevins; six grandchildren, Mark (Kara) Rittenhouse, Justin (Melissa) Silgjord, Brandon (Laci) Silgjord, Caleb (Stephanie) Silgjord, Stephanie Blevins and Cody Blevins; nine great grandchildren; one sister, Mary (Duane) Woldahl of Motley and many extended family and friends. He is preceded in death by his parents; one son, Steven and four siblings. Arrangements by the Brenny Family Funeral Chapel, Baxter. Flowers or condolences can be sent to Brenny Family Funeral Chapel at 7348 Excelsior Rd. N., Baxter, MN 56425. w10c A00006B2021MA03

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### Marian Laust

Marian Laust, 94, of Wadena passed away at her home February 23, 2021, with family by her side, after a brief battle with cancer. She was under the tender care of Lakewood Health System Hospice. A public memorial service celebrating her life was held March 1, at the United Methodist Church in Hewitt with Pastor Ken Uhren presiding.



Marian was born to Charlie and Lola (Coley) Melton on July 28, 1926 in Charlotte, NC. She was united in marriage to Charles Clifford Laust on February 14, 1945. She worked outside of the home briefly for Orrin's Lumber in Bertha. Most of her time was spent as a dedicated homemaker, mother and foster parent to over 40 children over the years. She loved her family, both those "down south" as well as "up north". Family brought her much joy and she strove to make each member feel important and loved. She was especially devoted to her 'greats' as she referred to her great-grandchildren. She also loved her adopted family, those that proved over the years to be just as dedicated to her as related by blood. She had many passions in life. She was an avid quilter and has made many beautiful quilts in her time. She taught herself how to carve eggs, creating intricate carvings into ostrich, emu, duck and other various types of eggs. She perfected the art of creating elaborate scenes on miniature eggs. She was a master gardener and loved showing her beautiful yard with an abundance of different flowers. She enjoyed watching the many birds dance around her yard, particularly the two pairs of cardinals that appeared each year. Preceding Marian in death were her husband, Charles "Chuck"; parents; one son, Earl "Chip" and one daughter, Brenda Laust and son-in-law, Barry Klemek. Memories of Marian will be treasured by her daughter, Robin Klemek of Hewitt; daughter-in-law, Cheryl Laust of Hewitt; five grandchildren, Matthew Klemek of Bertha, Megan (Eddie) Dolezal of Bertha, Michael (Ashley) Klemek of Deer Creek, Shawn Laust of MN and Shane Laust of WY; 10 great-grandchildren, Max Klemek, Lauren, Alexa, Claire and Rylee Dolezal, Ryan Klemek, Chris, Allison, Austin and Tiffany Laust of MN; two sisters, Francis (Tankie) Davis of NC and Myra (Clyde) Simpson of FL; along with a host of family, friends and neighbors. Honorary urn bearers were her great-grandchildren. Burial will be held at a later date in Calvary Cemetery, Wadena. Arrangements were by the Schuller Family Funeral Homes & Cremation Services', Johnson-Schuller Chapel, Wadena ([www.SchullerFamilyFH.com](http://www.SchullerFamilyFH.com)). w10c A00006B2021MA03

nals that appeared each year. Preceding Marian in death were her husband, Charles "Chuck"; parents; one son, Earl "Chip" and one daughter, Brenda Laust and son-in-law, Barry Klemek. Memories of Marian will be treasured by her daughter, Robin Klemek of Hewitt; daughter-in-law, Cheryl Laust of Hewitt; five grandchildren, Matthew Klemek of Bertha, Megan (Eddie) Dolezal of Bertha, Michael (Ashley) Klemek of Deer Creek, Shawn Laust of MN and Shane Laust of WY; 10 great-grandchildren, Max Klemek, Lauren, Alexa, Claire and Rylee Dolezal, Ryan Klemek, Chris, Allison, Austin and Tiffany Laust of MN; two sisters, Francis (Tankie) Davis of NC and Myra (Clyde) Simpson of FL; along with a host of family, friends and neighbors. Honorary urn bearers were her great-grandchildren. Burial will be held at a later date in Calvary Cemetery, Wadena. Arrangements were by the Schuller Family Funeral Homes & Cremation Services', Johnson-Schuller Chapel, Wadena ([www.SchullerFamilyFH.com](http://www.SchullerFamilyFH.com)). w10c A00006B2021MA03

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## Staples Area Church Directory

**Staples**  
**Staples Alliance**  
1512 8th St. NE, Staples.....218-894-2891  
Associate 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.

**First Congregational Church, UCC**  
[firstcongregationalstaples@gmail.com](mailto:firstcongregationalstaples@gmail.com)  
204 5th St. NE, Staples.....218-894-2571  
Worship.....9:30 a.m.  
Fellowship, refreshments following service

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

**Sacred Heart Church**  
310 4th St. NE, Staples.....218-894-2296  
Pastor Fr. Gabriel Walz  
Youth and Young Adult Ministry Coordinator: Monica J. Simmons.....218-414-0081 cell/text  
MASS: Thursday and Friday.....8:30 a.m.  
Saturday.....5:00 p.m.  
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 & Bible Class.....10:30 a.m.

**United Methodist**  
310 5th St. NE, Staples.....218-894-2248  
Pastor Greg Leslie  
Sunday Worship.....10:30 a.m.  
(Nursery Available for Sunday Worship)  
Sunday School (for grades K-12 and adults).....9:15-10:15 a.m.

**Aldrich**  
**Balsamlund Lutheran**  
19550 490th Street, Aldrich  
Eric Clapp.....701-261-2394 (cell)  
Sunday Worship.....8:15 a.m.  
Sunday School.....8:30 a.m.

**Cushing**  
**Bethany Lutheran**  
25430 Bison Rd. Cushing, MN  
320-749-2140  
Pastor Carl Larson  
Associate Pastor: Carleton Smea  
[www.bethanylutherancushing.org](http://www.bethanylutherancushing.org)  
Sunday Worship.....10:45 a.m.  
Sunday School and Coffee Fellowship.....9:30 a.m.  
Pancake Breakfast.....11:45 a.m.  
2nd Sunday, each month

**Lincoln Evangelical Free**  
1354 320th Street, Cushing, MN 56443  
Phone: 218-575-2449  
[www.lincolnefree.org](http://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/Youth Joe Reigstad  
SUNDAY Church Worship Gathering.....10:00 a.m.  
Facebook Live.....10:00 a.m.  
YouTube Channel.....10:00 a.m.  
WEDNESDAY Praise & Prayer.....6:30 p.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  
Charles Mallory, Associate Pastor  
Sunday Worship.....9:00 & 11:00 a.m.  
facebook live.....9 a.m.  
WEDNESDAY Youth Group.....6:00-7:30 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**  
1st St. and Birch, Motley.....218-894-2296  
Pastor Fr. Gabriel Walz  
MASS: Tuesday.....6:30 p.m.  
Wednesday.....8:30 a.m.  
Saturday.....7:00 p.m.  
Sunday.....10:30 a.m.

**United Methodist**  
847 3rd Ave. S. Lane, Motley.....218-352-6466  
Pastor Greg Leslie  
[www.motleyumc.net](http://www.motleyumc.net)  
Sunday Worship Service.....9:00 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 Maltcore  
Sunday School.....10:00 a.m.  
Sunday Worship.....11:00 a.m.

**Pillager**  
**First Lutheran Church**  
Pastor Mathew Sundquist  
717 River Street S, Pillager, MN  
218-746-3775  
Sunday Worship.....9:30 a.m.  
Sunday School.....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](mailto: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  
Pastor Wayne Hoffer  
Sunday School.....9:30 a.m.  
Sunday Worship.....10:45 a.m./6 p.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.

**United Methodist Church**  
Hwy. 210, Hewitt, MN  
Pastor Kenneth Uhren  
Sunday Services.....10:30 a.m.  
Sunday School.....9:30 a.m.

**Verndale**  
**Verndale Alliance**  
109 NW Brown Street, Verndale, MN 56481  
218-445-5619  
Senior Pastor Tony Stanley  
Heath Belknap, Pastor of Student Ministries  
Sunday Worship.....9:30 a.m.  
Sunday Bible Fellowship Classes.....11-11:45 a.m.

**Family Life Church**  
402 NE Clark Drive, Verndale 218-445-5568  
[VerndaleFLC@gmail.com](mailto:VerndaleFLC@gmail.com)  
Pastor Amos Self.....218-371-7189  
Children's Pastor Kenneth Kjeldergaard  
SUNDAY Sunday School.....8:30 a.m.  
Worship Service.....10:00 a.m.  
Prayer Meeting.....5 p.m.  
WEDNESDAY Night Life Groups.....6:30-8 p.m.

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

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

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

**Central United Methodist**  
5 miles N on Cty Rd 26 (Nimrod tar)  
Pastor Chuck Horsager, 218-639-4225  
Sunday Worship.....9:00 a.m.  
Sunday School.....10:30 a.m.

**Leaf River Township**  
**The Old Country Church**  
Leaf River Twp., Wadena County Rd. 6  
Info: 218-837-5690 ..Open by arrangement

### Funny Church Sign Sayings

1. The fact that there's a highway to hell and only a stairway to heaven says a lot about anticipated traffic numbers.
2. Jesus does not save halfway.
3. Hipster: Jesus loved you before you were cool.
4. What section would you prefer in the afterlife? Smoking or non-smoking?
5. Be kind whenever possible. Pro tip – it's always possible.
6. Do you spend your time with God's book or Facebook?
7. Store the Bible in your heart, not on a shelf.
8. Acting up in church is like dressing up for an X-ray.
9. Tweet others as you would like to be tweeted.
10. Don't give up! Moses was once a basket case!
11. God recycles. He made you from dust.
12. Always remember that Hell is really un-cool.
13. Jesus is God's selfie.
14. Honk if you love Jesus. Text and drive if you want to meet him.
15. God wants spiritual fruit, not religious nuts.
16. Need a lifeguard? He walks on water.
17. The best vitamin for a believer is B1.
18. When you throw mud, you lose ground.
19. Call 911; our pastor is on fire!
20. If you are more fortunate than others, build a longer table, not a taller fence.
21. Visitors welcomed. Members expected.
22. Lord, help us be the people our dogs think we are.
23. Is prayer your steering wheel or your spare tire?
24. The struggle is real but so is God.
25. Looking for the perfect gift? Find Him here.
26. You have one new friend request from: Jesus.
27. When gratitude becomes your default setting, life changes.
28. Less hate, more pancakes.
29. Don't make me come down there. – God
30. How do we make Holy Water? We boil the Hell out of it!
31. Adam and Eve: The first people to read the Apple terms and conditions.

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

- Longbella Drug Store**  
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2nd Ave., Staples • 218-894-2242  
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Groceries - Gas - Convenience - more  
Staples, MN 218-894-1072
- Staples Veterinary Clinic**  
"Complete Animal Care"  
Staples, MN 218-894-1775
- Mid-Central Federal Savings Bank**  
Fully Insured to \$250,000  
Staples, MN 218-894-3900
- 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
- Staples True Value**  
"Just Ask Rental"  
Open 7 days a week.  
Staples, MN 218-894-3263

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

To update your church information or to advertise on the Church Directory, call 218-894-1112 for Jan or email: [jwinter@staplesworld.com](mailto:jwinter@staplesworld.com). As usual continue to email your Ministerial pastoral message to: [jwinter@staplesworld.com](mailto:jwinter@staplesworld.com)

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

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for all classified ads and copy is 12 noon Friday  
**For the Staples World**

**Emergency Department ASSISTANT NURSE MANAGER**  
FT managerial/direct care exempt position; primary days M-F. Current MN RN license, BLS, ACLS, TNCC and ER experience required. BSN/MSN and managerial/charge experience preferred.  
Apply online: [www.meekermemorial.org/careers](http://www.meekermemorial.org/careers)  
See website for position/benefit details.

**MEEKER MEMORIAL HOSPITAL & CLINICS**  
612 Sibley Ave. S., Litchfield, MN 55355, EOE  
320-693-4521  
[ctwardy@meekermemorial.org](mailto:ctwardy@meekermemorial.org)





## Blind OT takedown

With his headgear slipping over his eyes, Logen Weite didn't need to see in order to complete a takedown and win in overtime with a takedown.

# Wrestlers win to improve section seed

During a busy week, the Staples-Motley wrestling team likely clinched the third seed for the Section 6A tournament by beating three section opponents.

On Feb. 25, the Cardinals won 61-18 against Otter Tail Central and 37-31 in a thrilling match against New York Mills. They defeated Barnesville 59-18 at home on Feb. 27.

The Cardinals also went up against some bigger schools and performed well but came back with a loss. They fell 38-25 at Moorhead in a triantular meet in which they also beat Mahnomen/Waubun 63-9 on Feb. 23. They lost 46-30 against Alexandria on Feb. 27.

The closest match of all six was against section rival New York Mills. With two ranked teams in Section 6A, this was likely to determine the third seed. The Cardinals took a 16-0 lead with Turner Beachy winning 10-1, Riley Reese winning with a pin and Colbe Tappe earning extra team points with a third period pin. Dalton Wells also won by fall to put the team up 22-6. In the closest match of the day, Logen Weite earned a second period escape and rode out the entire third period to earn a 1-0 victory.

Conner Dobson and Andrew Salcido lost their bouts by decision, but wrestled well enough to avoid extra points by their opponent.

In the upper weights, Sam Jennissen earned an exciting 6-2 win. Alex Giza fell behind early but turned it around with a reversal and a pin.

Even with all the good wrestling, the match still came down to the heavy-weight bout with the score at 34-31. After a scoreless first period, Cole Winkels allowed an escape in the second period. He chose the down position in the third period and earned a reversal for a 2-1 lead, then rode it out for a victory.

Against Otter Tail Central, the Cardinals earned nine pins to get the victory.

Against Mahnomen-Waubun, Reese had a 2-1 win, and five Cardinals won by pin: Jason Trantin, Wells, Blake Neelan, Jennissen and Winkels.



## Bearing down

Cole Winkels works his way around to score a takedown against Barnesville.



## 75 wins and counting

Logen Weite was honored for surpassing 75 wins at the home match, earning wins against Barnesville and Alexandria. Weite, left, is pictured with coach Shane Tappe.

Against Alexandria, Tappe and Weite both earned overtime victories, while Owen Winter, Wells and Giza all won by fall.

Against Barnesville, Wells had a 15-0 technical fall, with Giza and Winkels earning pins. The Cardinals benefitted by seven forfeits in the match.

### Team results

**Staples-Motley 61, Otter Tail Central 18**

106 Turner Beachy W fall, 113 Riley Reese W fall, 120 Colbe Tappe W fall, 126 Jason Trantina W fall, 132 Dalton Wells W ff, 138 Blake Neelan L fall, 145 Conner Dobson W fall, 152 Logen Weite W 7-3, 160 Andrew Salcido L fall, 170 Sam Jennissen W 12-1, 182 Hunter Martin L fall, 195 Alex Giza W fall, 220 Steven Petrich W fall, 285 Cole Winkels W fall

**Staples-Motley 37, New York Mills 31**

106 Beachy W 10-1, 113 Reese W fall, 120 Tappe W fall, 126 Trantina L fall, 132 Wells W fall, 138 Neelan L fall, 145 Dobson L 8-3, 152 Weite W 1-0, 160 Salcido L 11-3, 170 Martin L fall, 182 Jennissen W 6-2, 195 Giza W fall, 220 Petrich L fall, 285 Winkels W 2-1

**Staples-Motley 25, Moorhead 38**

106 Beachy W 12-0, 113 Reese W 10-7, 120 Trantina L 12-0, 126 Tappe W 7-6, 132 Dobson L fall, 138 Wells W 5-1, 152 Salcido L fall, 160 Weite W fall, 170 Jennissen L 10-0, 182 Giza W fall,

195 Petrich L fall, 220 L ff, 285 Winkels L 1-0

**Staples-Motley 30, Alexandria 46**

106 Beachy L fall, 113 Reese L 4-0, 120 Owen Winter W fall, 126 Tappe W 8-6 OT, 138 Wells W fall, 145 Dobson L fall, 152 Weite W 4-2 OT, 160 Salcido L fall, 170 L ff, 182 Martin L fall, 195 Giza W fall, 220 Petrich L fall, 285 Winkels W ff.

# Knosalla sends game to OT; Allen scores 25 in win

Allison Knosalla hit a late three point shot to send the game into overtime, but the Staples-Motley girls basketball ended up losing 59-51 against Park Christian on Feb. 23. The Cardinals came back to win a close game at Aitkin, 65-63, on Feb. 25, thanks to a 25 point game by Tabettha Allen.

Against Park Christian, "This was a very even matched contest of young teams with identical records," said Coach Bruce Fuhrman. "It became a seesaw battle in which we found ourselves again in serious foul trouble and some injuries after a slight first-half lead."

Haley Cichos, who often plays point guard, ended up defending the top post player on Park Christian. "Haley played one of her most complete games of the season," said Fuhrman.

With the team down three in the final minute, Knosalla stepped up to hit the tying shot and send it into overtime, but the Cardinals got outscored in the extra five minutes to lose 59-51.

"We relied on our bench heavily in this one, and Ashley Robben, Georgia Kruchten, Grace Jennissen, Briana Bendson and others really came through in filling their roles for us," said Fuhrman. "We are showing good depth at this stage of the season."

Against Aitkin, Staples-Motley used their speed to get a first half lead.

"Our full-court press break is very effective as of late," said Fuhrman. "We actually want teams to press us, as it basically means we can shoot lots of layups."

Tabetha Allen scored 25 points to lead the team to the win. "Tabetha was dominating in the paint and controlled the boards. It was great to see her play so well," said Fuhrman. "Our other senior, Haley Cichos may have surpassed her performance of a couple nights ago, defending another top player in the area. Lauren Rutten and Alli Olander continue to grow into becoming leaders in the point guard position, while Ashley Robben shows new

confidence on the floor as a shooting guard. Addison Lorber continues to make a positive impact on her comeback from what appeared to be a season ending injury the first game of the season. Her presence in the lineup is definitely felt by our team, and our opponents," said Fuhrman.

"We are playing person-to-person defense much better at this stage of the season and our offense is evolving from where we started," said Fuhrman. "We are adapting to change, which incorporates fundamentals and can take time. The girls have been working very hard and we are winning in this process."

### Team results

**Staples-Motley 51, Park Christian 59 (OT)**

Scoring: Lauren Rutten 13, Haley Cichos 12, Allison Knosalla, 10, Alli Olander 4, Briana Bendson 3

**Staples-Motley 65, Aitkin 63**

Scoring: Tabetha Allen 25, Rutten 15, Knosalla 8, Addison Lorber 7, Cichos 6, Ashley Robben 4



## Gaining leverage

Owen Winter pries his opponent's arm to put him in position for a turn. Winter used the move to score a pin against Alexandria. (Staples World photos by Mark Anderson)

# Our wolf debate is as much about culture as conservation

If you're looking for a close-to-home issue that's as polarizing as current national politics, look no farther than the question of whether Minnesota should hold a hunting season for the eastern gray wolf, known through much of our history as the timber wolf. The path to a possible hunt was opened in January by an order under the Trump administration that removed the wolf from the Endangered Species List. Since then, there has already been action in the courts contesting the de-listing. There are also bills in the Minnesota Legislature with opposing objectives; one to require holding a wolf hunting season, the other to prohibit it.



Mike Rahn

Minnesota has long held the distinction of offering the eastern gray wolf the most extensive area with suitable living conditions of any place in the lower 48 states. This was true even before it was first placed on the Endangered Species List in the 1970s, before which it was widely persecuted by being poisoned, trapped, sometimes shot on sight, and viewed by some as little more than a varmint that killed livestock, pets, and whitetail deer, to

be controlled by any and all means.

In point of fact, the gray wolf has never been threatened with extinction. In addition to smaller populations in northern Wisconsin and Upper Michigan, its range also—and where it is most abundant—includes Canada and Alaska. We've come to equate the label "endangered" with the danger of extinction, and in some cases that may be true. But the gray wolf's time on the Endangered Species List was a matter of uncertainty over its future here in the United States, not its survival as a species.

That doesn't necessarily mean it should be hunted, but those are two separate and distinct issues. When the wolf ceased being persecuted as a varmint and was given federal protection during the 1970s—a time when there were far fewer in Minnesota than today—the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (DNR) set a population "recovery goal" of 1,600.

Demonstrating the great adaptability nature that gave it, the gray wolf began expanding its range significantly with that federal protection. From such places as the North Shore near Lake Superior, the Iron Range, and other northern counties, the population expanded—mostly southward. By 1994, wolves were being seen by National Guard troops training at 53,000-acre Camp Ripley, just north of Little Falls. Today it is estimated that there are 2,700 eastern gray wolves in Minnesota, about

1,100 above the 1970s goal.

A pack even became established in 2014 within the Elm Creek nature reserve just 20 miles north of Minneapolis. It was reported to be the first wolf pack this close to the Twin Cities in more than a century. The event also serves as a cautionary tale about what can happen when a capable predator such as the gray wolf attempts to live this close to a large population center. When the pack grew to 19 animals, the need for food led the wolves to supplement their primary prey—whitetail deer—with pets and cattle.

Ultimately, over a period of months, a number of the wolves were killed by rangers from the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service. Either through death or migration, the rest of the pack eventually left the area. This course of events demonstrated a less familiar kind of incompatibility between humans and wild creatures. If there are too many deer in a suburban area, the result may be damage to shrubs and collisions with automobiles. When the conflict is between civilization and a highly evolved predator like the gray wolf, people may lose pets or livestock.

Despite such conflicts, it's undeniable that the gray wolf has star power. It has come to symbolize wilderness as no other creature has, not even our state bird, the loon. This is due in no small part to the fact that—until it was protected—the gray wolf thrived in greatest numbers in the northern reaches of Minnesota,

including within the Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness.

Besides being a skilled predator, the gray wolf is handsome, as handsome as any of the domesticated dog breeds to which it is related—the German shepherd comes immediately to mind—that we keep as hunting companions and house pets. It's also hard not to admire such a supremely-adapted wild creature.

Minnesotans as a whole are split in their feelings about the harvest of gray wolves. The Minnesota DNR recently conducted a survey of residents, of livestock producers within the state's main wolf range, and of firearms deer hunters—the hunters thought most likely to be interested in a wolf season. Just shy of 10,000 contacts were made with these groups. Fewer than half of the residents—about 40 percent—favored the hunting of gray wolves, and less than one-third favored trapping. On the other hand, 80 percent of livestock producers and deer hunters support a gray wolf hunting season. Eighty-seven percent of residents said they feel it is important to maintain a wolf population in Minnesota.

Whether Minnesota's gray wolf population is to be "managed," and how, remains to be seen. Actions in the courts of law, in the Minnesota Legislature, and in the court of public opinion, could all play a role in the eventual outcome.









**Description of Proposed School Construction Project**

Staples-Motley School District, Independent School District #2170-01, is proposing a single question bond referendum on April 13, 2021 to finance renovations and building additions to the existing Staples-Motley Elementary School and Middle/High School, both located in Staples. The proposed plan would also include the demolition of older portions of the Middle/High School and the sale or disposal of the early childhood center in Motley.

The largest project components are three building additions to both the elementary school and the middle/high school. The three elementary school additions would house additional kindergarten classroom space and separate wings for 3<sup>rd</sup> through 6<sup>th</sup> grades classrooms. At the middle/high school the three additions would house the following: a gym & wrestling room, fitness area/community education and a music suite. Other proposed projects include substantial renovations and site improvements at both schools and the acquisition of six residential properties on the west side of the middle/high school to expand the school site size.

The proposed projects are estimated to cost \$64,505,549 and would be scheduled for completion in the 2022-2025 calendar years. Cost estimates by project component are as follows:

Middle/High School (7-12th Grades)		Elementary School (EC - 6th Grade)	
<b>Additions:</b>		<b>Additions:</b>	
Gym / Wrestling Room	\$2,817,000	3rd / 4th Grade Wing	\$2,702,500
Fitness / Community Education	\$1,327,750	5th & 6th Grade Wing / Gym / Special Ed.	\$7,609,300
Music Suite	\$2,042,150	Kindergarten Classroom Expansion	\$838,950
Career Tech. Education	\$477,400		
		<b>Other Projects:</b>	
<b>Other Projects:</b>		Asbestos Remediation	\$303,150
Demolition	\$670,320	Renovations	\$6,052,000
Asbestos Remediation	\$691,400	Site Improvements	\$1,364,400
Renovations	\$14,672,350	FF&E / Technology	\$1,855,000
Site Improvements	\$2,500,150		
FF&E / Technology	\$3,490,000		
Land Acquisition	\$540,000		
	<b>\$29,228,520</b>	<b>Total Project Costs</b>	<b>\$64,505,549</b>
<b>Other Costs (Both Buildings):</b>			
Fees, Permits & Testing	\$9,091,457		
Capitalized Interest	\$1,196,108		
Contingency	\$3,593,194		
Bond Issuance	\$670,970		
	<b>\$14,551,729</b>		

The school district is projecting a decline in enrollment over the next few years and is losing a large number of resident students to neighboring school district via open enrollment. In the 2019-20 school year, 28 students open enrolled into the school district and 423 students open enrolled out of the district; a net loss of 395 students. With an existing enrollment of slightly under 1,000 students, the open enrollment loss is significant.

Moving to two attendance centers, with the closure of the early childhood center, is expected to reduce the district's annual operating costs by approximately \$323,000. The proposed projects appear to be in the long-term interest of the school district. However, finding ways of ameliorating the loss of resident students should be a focus of the school district moving forward. If the bond referendum is successful and bonds are sold, the debt service on the bonds will be eligible for debt service equalization under Minnesota Statutes, section 123B.53, subdivision 3, if the bond schedule is approved. The amount of debt service equalization aid, if any, the district receives is determined annually and dependent upon property wealth, student population, and other statutory requirements.

**Review and Comment Statement**

Based on the department's analysis of the school district's required documentation and other pertinent information from sources of the Minnesota Department of Education, the Commissioner of Education provides a positive review and comment.

**Additional Information is Available**

Persons desiring additional information regarding this proposal should contact the school district superintendent's office.

*Mary Kathryn Ricker*  
Mary Kathryn Ricker, NBCT  
Commissioner

February 3, 2021

10pnc

**NOTICE  
BARTLETT TOWNSHIP  
ELECTION AND  
ANNUAL MEETING**

The Bartlett Township Election and Annual Meeting will be held Tuesday, March 9, 2021 at the Bartlett Town Hall. The Polling Hours are 1:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m. Positions to be filled are:

- One (1) Supervisor B, three (3) year term.
- One (1) Treasurer, two (2) year term.

Board of Canvass will follow the election with the Annual Meeting beginning at 8:15 p.m. In case of inclement weather, the Election and Annual Meeting will be held one week later on Tuesday, March 16, 2021.

Jan Jares, Clerk  
Bartlett Township  
10pnc

**NOTICE  
MAY TOWNSHIP  
ANNUAL MEETING**

May Township (Cass County) will hold their regular meeting Tuesday, March 9, 2021, 7 p.m. at the May Township Hall.

All are welcome to attend in person or if you would like to use Zoom to watch and participate in the meeting, go to our website: [www.maytwp.com](http://www.maytwp.com) and look on the public notice page for directions.

Bianca Wyffels, Clerk  
May Township  
9-10pnc

**NOTICE  
VILLARD TOWNSHIP  
BOARD  
ANNUAL MEETING**

The Villard Township Board will hold its Annual Board Meeting on Tuesday, March 9, 2021 in Motley at the Eastwood Inn, immediately following the 7 p.m. monthly meeting. Any questions should be directed to the clerk.

Mary Trantina Koenig, Clerk  
Villard Township  
218-640-6115  
10pnc

**NOTICE  
MEADOWBROOK  
TOWNSHIP 2021  
ANNUAL MEETING**

Meadowbrook Township will hold its annual meeting on Tuesday, March 9, 2021 at 6:30 p.m. at the Leader Community Hall. Appropriate social distancing guidelines will be followed and all attending must wear a mask.

In case of inclement weather the annual meeting will be held the following Tuesday, March 16, 2021, same time and place.

Ty Peterson, Clerk  
Meadowbrook Township  
10pnc

**NOTICE  
MOOSE LAKE  
TOWNSHIP 2021  
ANNUAL MEETING  
AND BID REQUEST**

Moose Lake Township will hold its annual meeting on Tuesday, March 9, 2021 at 5:00 p.m. at the Leader Community Hall.

The township is now accepting bids for road maintenance and cemetery maintenance. Please send bids to: Moose Lake Township Clerk, 5335 51st Ave. SW, Pine River MN 56474.

In case of inclement weather, the alternate meeting date will be Tuesday, March 16, 2021 at 5:00 p.m. at the Leader Community Hall.

Karen Roubal, Clerk  
Moose Lake Township  
9-10pnc

**NOTICE  
MORAN TOWNSHIP  
ELECTION AND  
ANNUAL MEETING**

Notice is hereby given to the qualified voters of Moran Township, that the Annual Meeting and elections will be held Tuesday March 9, 2021. In case of bad weather, the meeting and elections may be postponed until Tuesday, March 16, 2021.

The election poll hours will be from 5 p.m. to 8 p.m., at which time the voters will elect one (1) supervisor, one (1) clerk and one (1) treasurer.

The Board of Canvas will immediately follow elections.

The Annual Meeting will begin at 3:00 p.m. to conduct all necessary business prescribed by law. The elections and meeting will be held at the Moran Town Hall located at 23608 430th St., Browerville, MN.

Teresa Wagner, Clerk  
Moran Township  
9-10pnc

**NOTICE  
STAPLES TOWNSHIP  
ELECTION AND  
ANNUAL MEETING**

The Staples Township Election and Annual Meeting will be held Tuesday, March 9, 2021 at the Staples Town Hall. The Polling Hours are 4:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. Positions to be filled are:

- One (1) Supervisor, three (3) year term;
- One (1) Treasurer, two (2) year term.

Board of Canvass will follow the election with the Annual meeting immediately after that.

In case of inclement weather, the election and Annual meeting will be held one week later on Tuesday, March 16, 2021.

Bonnie Thoele, Clerk  
Staples Township  
9-10pnc

**NOTICE  
BYRON TOWNSHIP  
ANNUAL MEETING**

Byron Township will hold their Annual Meeting Tuesday, March 9, 2021 at 10 a.m. at the Leader Community Hall.

Becki Rassler, Clerk  
Byron Township  
10pnc

**NOTICE  
THOMASTOWN  
TOWNSHIP  
ELECTION AND  
ANNUAL MEETING**

The polls will be open from 5:00 to 8:00 p.m. on March 9, 2021 for the Thomastown Township election of one (1) supervisor and one (1) treasurer positions at the town hall. The Annual Meeting of the township will be held following the canvassing of the election at 8:10 p.m.

The Election and Annual Meeting will be held on March 23 at the same time and place if bad weather occurs on March 9.

Stacy Dukowitz, Clerk  
Thomastown Township  
10pnc

**(ABBREVIATED  
ADVERTISEMENT)**

**TODD COUNTY  
2021 BITUMINOUS  
PROJECTS  
Closing date:  
March 30, 2021**

Sealed bids will be accepted until 10:00 a.m., March 30, 2021 by the Todd County Public Works Director/Engineer and County Auditor/Treasurer at 44 Riverside Drive, Long Prairie, Minnesota 56347 for the following construction projects:

- SP 077-612-011
- SAP 077-605-004
- SAP 077-614-020
- CP 21-102
- CP 77-21-01

This is an abbreviated advertisement. A full advertisement can be viewed by going to the Public Works website at <https://egram.co.todd.mn.us/oneoffice/bidding>.

Loren Fellbaum,  
Director/Engineer  
Todd County Public Works  
10-13pnc

**(ABBREVIATED  
ADVERTISEMENT)**

**TODD COUNTY  
2021 GRAVEL  
SURFACING PROJECT  
Closing date:  
March 29, 2021**

Sealed bids will be accepted until 2:00 p.m., March 29, 2021 by the Todd County Public Works Director/Engineer and County Auditor/Treasurer at 44 Riverside Drive, Long Prairie, Minnesota 56347 for the following construction projects:

- CP 21-67
- CP 21-70
- CP 21-76
- CP 21-78
- CP 21-89

This is an abbreviated advertisement. A full advertisement can be viewed by going to the Public Works website at <https://egram.co.todd.mn.us/oneoffice/bidding>.

Loren Fellbaum,  
Director/Engineer  
Todd County Public Works  
10-13pnc

**MINNESOTA  
COURT RULES  
CIVIL PROCEDURE  
FORM 1. SUMMONS**

**STATE OF MINNESOTA  
DISTRICT COURT  
COUNTY OF TODD  
SEVENTH JUDICIAL  
DISTRICT  
CASE TYPE:  
Quiet Title Action**

**SUMMONS**

Michael G. Nosek,  
Plaintiff

vs.

David Monkman,  
John Doe, Jane Roe,  
ABC Corporation,  
XYZ, LLC, all other  
persons unknown  
claiming any right,  
title, estate, interest,  
or lien in the real  
property described  
here in,  
Defendants

THIS SUMMONS IS DIRECTED TO THE ABOVE-NAMED DEFENDANTS.

1. YOU ARE BEING SUED. The Plaintiff has started a lawsuit against you. The Plaintiff's Complaint against you is attached to this summons\*. Do not throw these papers away. They are official papers that affect your rights. You must respond to this lawsuit even though it may not yet be filed with the Court and there may be no court file number on this summons.

2. YOU MUST REPLY WITHIN 21\*\* DAYS TO PROTECT YOUR RIGHTS. You must give or mail to the person who signed this summons a written response called an Answer within 21\*\* days of the date on which you received this Summons. You must send a copy of your Answer to the person who signed this summons located at: 319 South 6th Street, Brainerd, MN 56401.

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 believe the Plaintiff should not be given everything asked for in the Complaint, you must say so in your Answer.

4. YOU WILL LOSE YOUR CASE IF YOU DO NOT SEND A WRITTEN RESPONSE TO THE COMPLAINT TO THE PERSON WHO SIGNED THIS SUMMONS. If you do not Answer within 21\*\* days, you will lose this case. You will not get to tell your side of the story, and the Court may decide against you and award the Plaintiff everything asked for in the complaint. If you do not want to contest the claims stated in the complaint, you do not need to respond. A default judgment can then be entered against you for the relief requested in the complaint.

5. LEGAL ASSISTANCE. You may wish to get legal help from a lawyer. If you do not have a lawyer, the Court Administrator may have information about places where you can get legal assistance. Even if you cannot get legal help, you must still provide a written Answer to protect your rights or you may lose the case.

6. ALTERNATIVE DISPUTE RESOLUTION. The parties may agree to or be ordered to participate in an alternative dispute resolution process under Rule 114 of the Minnesota General Rules of Practice. You must still send your written response to the Complaint even if you expect to use alternative means of resolving this dispute.

7. To be included only if this lawsuit affects title to real property: THIS LAWSUIT MAY AFFECT OR BRING INTO QUESTION TITLE TO REAL PROPERTY located in Todd County, State of Minnesota, legally described as follows:

**That part of Government Lot 7 and that part of the Southeast Quarter lying North of the Northern Pacific Railway Company's right-of-way, in Section 10, Township 133, Range 32**

**West of the Fifth P.M., Todd County, Minnesota, EXCEPT the following described tract, to wit: Commencing at the Southwest corner of Government Lot 7, Section 10, Township 133, Range 32 West, thence South on the Quarter line of said Section 10 12 feet, more or less, to the Northerly line of the Northern Pacific Railway Company's right-of-way; thence Southeasterly along the Northerly line of the Northern Pacific Railway Company right-of-way, a distance of 437.1 feet; thence North and parallel with the West line of said section 1994 feet, more or less, to the meander line of Crow Wing River; thence Westerly along the meander line of Crow Wing River, a distance of 433 feet, more or less, to the Quarter line of said section; thence South on said Quarter line 1000 feet, more or less, to the point of beginning, except right-of-way of Minnesota State Highway No. 10, AND EXCEPT the following described tract: Commencing at the Southeast corner of Government Lot 7, thence North 320 feet; thence West 1047.99 feet to the point of beginning; thence East along last described line 220 feet; thence North 400 feet more or less to the Crow Wing River; thence Westerly along the Crow Wing River 220 feet more or less to a point 400 feet more or less due North of the point of beginning; thence South 400 feet more or less to the point of beginning, Todd County, Minnesota.**

AND

**Government Lot 5, Section 11, Township 133 North, Range 32 West, Todd County, Minnesota**

AND

**The Northwest Quarter of the Southwest Quarter of Section 11, Township 133 North, Range 32, Todd County, Minnesota**

AND

**That part of the Southwest Quarter of the Southwest Quarter of Section 11, Township 133 North, Range 32 West, Todd County Minnesota, lying North of railroad right of way Except that part of the Southwest Quarter of the Southwest Quarter and the Northwest Quarter of the South-**

**west Quarter described as follows: Beginning at the northeast corner of said Southwest Quarter of the Southwest Quarter; thence South 89 degrees 02 minutes 47 seconds West, assumed bearing, 312.07 feet along the north line of said Southwest Quarter of the Southwest Quarter; thence North 64 degrees 34 minutes 46 second West 674.04 feet; thence North 35 degrees 34 minutes 46 seconds West 403.17 feet; thence South 01 degrees 04 minutes 07 seconds East 752.08 feet to the northerly right of way line of US Highway No. 10; thence South 82 degrees 06 minutes 29 seconds East 1156.06 feet along said northerly right-of-way line to the east line of said Southwest Quarter of the Southwest Quarter; thence North 00 degrees 42 minutes 39 seconds West 298.77 feet along said east line of said Southwest Quarter to the point of beginning.**

The object of this action is Quieting Title.

Dated: July 7, 2020

**SEVERSON PORTER  
LAW**

By /s/ Kurt W. Porter  
Mark A. Severson  
(Reg. No. 0388914)  
Kurt W. Porter  
(Reg. No. 0391461)  
Joseph T. Pates  
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**ATTORNEYS FOR  
PLAINTIFF**

**ACKNOWLEDGMENT**

The parties above-named represented by the undersigned, hereby acknowledge that sanctions may be imposed pursuant to Minn. Stat. Section 549.211.

Kurt W. Porter  
9-11pnc

**Staples World**  
counter sales  
available  
**Tuesday**  
morning  
after 10 a.m.

224 4th St. NE  
Staples, MN  
218-894-1112



**SCHOOL** continued from page 1a

## Needs beyond budget

and repurposed as the new cafeteria.

"When you talk about the upgrades, cost to repurpose that space outweighed the cost of replacement," said Tappe. "The nostalgia of the gym is being kept."

The outdoor sports facilities are not a part of the referendum proposal, but minor adjustments may be needed such as moving fences and adjusting space.

### Community questions

The school has mailed informational booklets to every household in the district to describe the proposed project. Tappe said the feedback from the public has been positive, but some of the residents had further questions that may not be fully addressed by the booklets. The Staples-Motley School District compiled a list of some of the most frequently asked questions that were brought up at the informational meetings Feb. 23-24.

The answers to these questions and other information about the upcoming referendum are on SMTImetoRise.com, and the district invites residents to call the District Office with any further questions at 218-894-5400.

#### 1. What's different about this referendum?

Our district has worked hard to bring a community-driven plan forward for voters to consider. Here's how the April 13 referendum is different:

- This plan is driven by what our communities value and our stakeholders' input. It focuses on well rounded education by making balanced invest-

ments across the district while emphasizing career and technical education (CTE), fine arts and extra-curriculars. It also realigns our grade organization to be more age-appropriate.

- This plan is in alignment with our Continuous Improvement Plan (CIP), which was developed by more than 100 community members, educators, students and parents. This strategic plan guides everything the district does.

- Instead of building a new, single school, this plan reinvests in two of our current facilities. Every space will be renewed or renovated.

- The focus of this plan is based on the district's commitment to our students and community feedback. There is no second question on the ballot that goes beyond the district's needs.

- This bond referendum addresses all of our deferred maintenance needs and provides a long-term investment for generations to come.

- If the referendum fails, there is a board-approved Plan B that would only address a portion of our deferred maintenance. Plan B will still raise taxes, does not require voter approval, and will require additional, ongoing investments in the future.

#### 2. Why does the district have so much deferred maintenance?

Our maintenance staff has done an admirable job of keeping our schools in the best condition possible with our maintenance budget. However, our maintenance budgets are

restricted within our overall district budget, and we must prioritize those funds on the most urgent projects each and every year. Many portions of our facilities have served us long past their life expectancy, and repair needs have accelerated beyond maintenance budget capacity -- this is why all of our neighboring school districts have passed referenda in recent years. Without significant renovations, costs will continue to outpace the available resources to repair or replace them.

#### 3. What are the educational benefits of the plan?

We are making the investments that are needed for teachers to succeed with every student, whether their goal is to be college-ready or career-ready. To do this, we need our classrooms to reflect how teachers teach today. The plan addresses all of our core academic, co-curricular and extra-curricular areas. The plan provides significant improvements that provide the optimal learning environment, specifically collaborative spaces that emphasize hands-on learning. Additionally, improved labs for career and technical education (CTE) and culinary arts lab would provide students with hands-on experiences needed for succeeding in and beyond our classrooms. Improvements to our choir, orchestra and band rooms would broaden the capabilities of our music programs, providing students with new opportunities to continue to excel in the fine arts.

#### 4. Why now?

The COVID-19 pandemic reaffirmed what we already

knew: students learn best in the classroom. We want to ensure that our students receive the education they need to be successful life-long learners in whatever they choose to pursue, and renovating our aging buildings to improve in-person learning would help us do that. If the plan is approved by voters in April, the district could move forward with securing the project bonds at historically low interest rates. The impacts of COVID-19 on other local/regional projects means labor is widely available. The proposed project would provide work for Minnesota workers and businesses, including local contractors.

#### 5. Why did you conduct meetings in an open-house style format?

Community meetings were held in an open-house format to allow residents to come and go at their own pace and to account for maximum COVID-19 safety. This format also allowed for more community members to have their questions answered directly, allowing the district to address individual concerns regarding specific circumstances, such as tax questions regarding individual parcels.

#### 6. Why does a district with declining enrollment need additions?

This plan is about aligning our facilities to our district core values and priorities. These values and priorities will give every individual student the skills and environment they need to be successful. This plan will leave us with more efficient schools that meet state learning standards and help our teachers better prepare students for their futures.

Each and every space will see renovations to bring them up to date for modern learning, health and safety. It will realign our grade structures so that students are in facilities that offer the best educational opportunities for their ages.

#### 7. Why does the plan relocate the entry to the Middle/High School building?

This major design change provides separation of parent and bus drop off for safety and security purposes. This move also allows for increased parking near the front entrance, a challenge in our current building layout.

#### 8. Will ventilation/filtration be addressed?

New ventilation will be added or replaced throughout our facilities to ensure we are addressing indoor air quality for the health and well being for all our staff, students and community members.

#### 9. Will there be enough parking for events and how will parking be added?

Parking spaces are being relocated for better access to our entrances. There are funds budgeted for land acquisition to increase parking if necessary. If increased parking is not needed, these funds could be used to buy down the bond.

#### 10. Will the Centennial Auditorium receive any renovations?

As part of the bond referendum project, the Centennial Auditorium will see ADA compliance upgrades as well as finished performance features such as the orchestra pit and sound system.

#### 11. How do I know the district will not ask for more in the future?

If the referendum passes, this investment in our facil-

ities will better equip the district to meet the educational needs of our students for generations to come, while providing operating efficiencies right away. If the referendum doesn't pass, the school board has passed a resolution to move forward with Plan B - a plan that only addresses a portion of the deferred maintenance of the district. With Plan B there will be additional, ongoing investments required to meet the educational and deferred maintenance needs of the district, which in turn will have a recurring tax impact on district residents.

#### 12. What is so different about education that we need updated facilities?

We have great teachers who do their best with the outdated spaces they have. We want to give our students the best opportunity to be successful in our classrooms and beyond by providing the modern and collaborative learning spaces that better align with today's workforce needs.

#### 13. What are you going to do with the Motley school building?

Only 30% of the existing Motley building is currently being utilized as the Early Education Center. As we look at our current and future educational needs, the school board thinks the best plan for students and taxpayers is to have two facilities.

After local voters approve the referendum, the school board will take the appropriate next steps to transition the Motley building to a new owner. The district has agreed to provide Lakewood Health System first opportunity for continued use of the Motley facility if desired. We believe the building will be of interest as a future community asset, but not likely as a school building.



## First place for SM Speech team at home meet

The Staples Motley Speech Team received first place honors at their home invitational held Feb. 13. Approximately 18 schools participated, with 240 entries participated. Second place went to Thief River Falls, third to Parkers Prairie and fourth to PACT Charter School.

Tournament champions were Alex Brings, Great Speeches; Caden Mrazek, Humor and Storytelling and Torii Nienow, Original Oratory. Connor Judd and Cy Johnson placed second in Duo; AJ Nienow third in Humor; fourth Cy Johnson, Prose and Brooke Ferdon, Discussion; fifth Grace Allen, Poetry; Laken Hines, Humor and

Storytelling; Micah Larson, Creative Expression and Torii Nienow, Informative; Jaden Johnson, seventh in Original Oratory.

Above: front, left to right: Travis Chaput, Coach; Walker Johnson, Brynn Bestland, Laken Hines, Jaden Johnson, Alex Brings, Bella Hines, Adelaid Toepper, Maria Stumbo, Brooke Ferdon, Brian Sams, Coach. Back: Keegan Bestland, AJ Nienow, Connor Judd, Cy Johnson, Micah Larson, Evan Woodwick, Iain Sams, Eliza Urbanek, Olivia Opheim, Cecily Moe, Torii Nienow. (Submitted photo)



## With medals

Micah Larson, Torii Nienow, Caden Mrazek, AJ Nienow, Lakin Hines, Alex Brings.



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**Daniel Douts, Agent**  
 812 4th Street NE  
 Staples, MN 56479  
 Bus: 218-894-1717  
 daniel.douts.f27q@statefarm.com

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**“THIS VACCINE WILL SLOW THE SPREAD OF THE VIRUS, PROTECT THE VULNERABLE, AND HELP US ALL MOVE ON WITH OUR LIVES.”**

—Christine Albrecht, MD

Visit us at [lakewoodhealthsystem.com](http://lakewoodhealthsystem.com) or follow us on Facebook for the very latest on COVID-19 vaccine availability and scheduling.



