

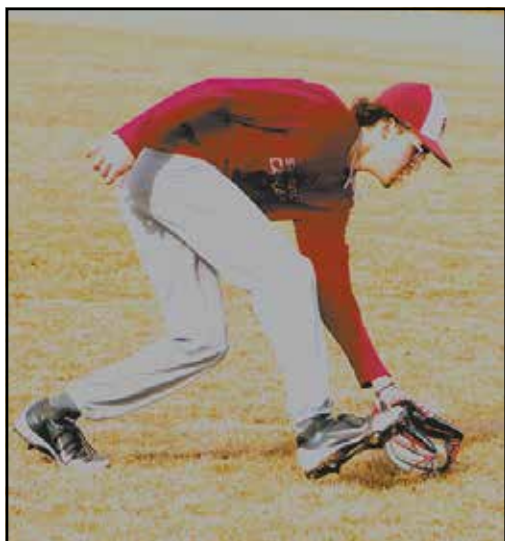
Inside this issue:

SMAAC announces summer concert series
Tae Kwon Do tournament
New manager at Trident Seafoods
Boys basketball postseason run ends



Wednesday, March 19, 2025 Staples, Minnesota \$1.25

Spring halted With the last snow drifts nearly melted, a snowstorm on March 15 put a glitch into the spring plans for many in the area, bringing up to a foot of snow in the area. (Photo by Mark Anderson)



Athletic Hall of Fame announces new class

The Staples Motley Athletic Hall of Fame will induct a group of firsts in 2025, including the school's first state basketball team, the first wrestling state champion and the first girls cross country state champions.

Four athletes, two coaches, two teams and one community contributor were elected to this year's hall of fame class. This is the sixth class to be inducted into the hall of fame.

Athletes are Loren Bendson, Kristi (Wolhowe) Halverson, Kevin Johnson and Alex Griffith.

Coaches are Norm Card and Tom Honek.

Community contributor is Dick Bremer.

Teams are the 1981 and 1982 Staples boys basketball teams and the 2002 and 2003 Staples Motley girls cross country teams.

The induction celebration will be held Saturday, Sept. 27, at Centennial Auditorium in Staples at 5:30 p.m. Social hour will be 4:30-5:15 p.m. Following the event, a reception will be held at the Witches Brew Event Center in Staples.

Below are some of the highlights from the biographies of the hall of fame

class of 2025.

Loren Bendson

The first state wrestling champion for Staples High School in 1971, just the second state champion in school history after Robert Skinner won the javelin throw in 1935.

Bendson had a varsity record of 57-10-1. In his three varsity years, his teams had a 28-3 dual meet record that included conference, district and region titles.

Kristi (Wolhowe) Halverson

All-State in basketball and tennis.

Led the 1985 Staples girls basketball team to an undefeated 29-0 season and the state title. That year she set state tournament record for field goal percentage at 75%. Set school records for field goal percentage, rebounds and blocked shots. Career varsity basketball record of 75-3. Her 1985 basketball team was in the first class inducted into the Staples Motley Athletic Hall of Fame.

In tennis, part of four state tournament teams, placing 2nd, 3rd, 3rd and 4th. Individual state qualifier in doubles, with partners

Mary Riewer and Penny DeMars, placing 3rd and 4th. Played college basketball at Wake Forest and Augustana.

Kevin Johnson

Three sport athlete in football, baseball and basketball.

Baseball pitcher for the 1969 District 24 champion Staples team, competing against big schools in one class system. Pitched a shutout in the first region game.

All Conference in basketball as a top scorer and rebounder for the Cardinals.

All Conference in football as the team's leading tackler.

Signed a professional baseball contract with the Cincinnati Reds out of high school.

Alex Griffith

A four sport athlete for the Motley Rockets, excelling in football, basketball, track and field and baseball.

All Conference in football and was conference MVP his senior year. Statewide honors, named to WCCO Team of the Week. Finished career with 2,110 yards rushing, with an average of

See **ATHLETIC** on page 10a

Inside/outside sports

Staples-Motley baseball players were able to start their season outdoors, above, while the softball team had an indoor practice on March 10. (Staples World photos by Mark Anderson)

Sourcwell's AscendRural using technology for mental health

Mark Anderson
Managing Editor

Sourcwell launched AscendRural on March 10, a new program designed to help rural communities improve lives through technology.

Ascend Rural is starting with a 90-day pilot program for youth mental health where they will be working with five community organizations. They'll find out what works and look to expand it to more groups in the future.

On March 5, Melissa Kjolsing, Managing Director of Ascend Rural, held an online press conference to reveal the new plan and answer questions about it.

The first pilot program will focus on mental health among teens up to age 25. Kjolsing said Sourcwell studied nearly 50 companies that have developed technology to help youth improve their mental resilience. They underwent a multi-round judging process and identified which technologies would have the highest impact for rural communities.

See **ASCEND** on page 10a



Ascend Rural partners

The team working on the Ascend Rural pilot program through Sourcwell, top row from left, Logan Smith (The Shop), Hanxiao Lu (Psyche Care), Claire Markovsky (Supportiv), Steve Lafferty (Supportiv) and Mike Schmidt (Smiles for Jake); row three, Breton Monroe (The Shop), Jess Erickson (YMCA Brainerd), Langston Johnson (FARMS) and Sarah Smith (Smiles for Jake); second row, Alie McInerney (Sourcwell), Steph Peters (AscendRural), Katie Boecker (Central Care - Clara's House) and Ricky Solomon (YMCA Brainerd); front row, Arlene Selander (Selander Coaching and Consulting), Bob Seward (Sourcwell), Melissa Kolsing (AscendRural) and Eryn Johnston (The Idea Suite). (Submitted photo)

Weather

2025

This Week's Forecast

	High	Low	Cond.
Mar: 19	40	20	Cloudy
Mar: 20	50	31	M. Sunny
Mar: 21	45	15	P. Cloudy
Mar: 22	44	27	Sunny
Mar: 23	44	27	Cloudy
Mar: 24	47	29	M. Cloudy
Mar: 25	50	29	P. Cloudy

Last Year, 2024

	High	Low	Cond.
Mar: 19	42°	31	M. Sunny
Mar: 20	29	17	M. Sunny
Mar: 21	28	19	Cloudy
Mar: 22	27	18	Snow
Mar: 23	38	7	Sunny
Mar: 24	30	22	Snow
Mar: 25	31	27	Snow

Average Temps:

H = 43° Low = 24°

Compiled by Dale Hausmann, WCCO's Staples area Weatherwatcher

Public Notices

City of Motley **8A**

City of Staples **8A**

Moran **8A**

Thomastown **8A**

Todd Planning **8A**

Obituaries

Sharon Schibilla

Jack Wheeler

Cassie Roberts is the first woman Plant Manager at Trident Seafoods in Motley

A ‘dream job come true’ for her



Loves her work

Cassie Roberts is the new Plant Manager at Trident Seafoods in Motley, overseeing 350 employees. She loves her work, as well as the company. (Staples World photo by Dawn Timbs)

By Dawn Timbs
Staples World reporter

Cassie Roberts is the new Plant Manager at Trident Seafoods in Motley, a position she officially started this past September. She's the first woman to wear this title at Trident, a job that entails overseeing 350 employees at the Motley plant, the largest producer of imitation crab in the U.S. "Louis Kemp is our brand," Roberts shared, adding that 1.5 million pounds of imitation crab is processed at the Motley plant every week...equating to 80 million pounds a year. And that is just one of the items produced at Trident Seafoods. "It is absolutely amazing what it takes to feed the world," Roberts said. At just 38 years old, Roberts is working at a job she describes as having been a life long dream of hers. "It came sooner than I'd expected, and I'm thrilled at the opportunity," she said. A native of Coon Rapids, Roberts went on to attend the University of Minnesota-Duluth, graduating in 2009 with a degree in organizational management. There weren't a lot of jobs available at that time, Roberts recalled, but she did receive an offer from Hormel Foods in Austin for a second-shift job as produc-

tion supervisor. She was 22, and in charge of managing 55 employees. In addition to gaining a lot of experience during her three years at the 'hog plant,' Hormel Foods is where she met her husband, Cade Roberts, who was working there as an industrial engineer. From there, 25-year-old Cassie went on to work as the Human Resources (HR) Manager at Seneca Foods in Rochester. That was where she was first introduced to migrant labor. Cassie recalled traveling to San Antonio, Texas, every April to hire 450 seasonal workers. Skills she learned during that process would come in handy down the road at Trident. "After Covid, we needed more people to get this plant running again," Cassie said of the Motley plant. "That's when we started hiring seasonal workers," she went on, noting that this system has worked well all around... offering support to the full-time employees, while providing seasonal employment for others. "We have people who are on their fourth contract with us... they keep coming back." The Robertses moved to Staples in 2015, when Cade and Cassie started working at Dan's Prize in Long Prai-

rie. A subsidiary of Hormel Foods, Dan's Prize has plants in Browerville and Long Prairie. "I was there

five years," Cassie said of her job as the HR and Safety Coordinator at Dan's Prize. Cade is currently the Plant Manager at Stern Rubber in Staples. They were happy to move north to this area, Cassie said, noting that her family had a cabin on Lake Alexander and she had wonderful memories of time spent there over the years. Her husband felt 'at home' in the Lakes Area as well, having grown up in Alaska. They now live in Cushing, about a mile from her parents' cabin. It's a beautiful location, and has been a great place to raise a family, too, Cassie said, sharing that she and Cade have two daughters; Rose, 10, and Charlee, seven. Both are Staples-Motley students. In 2019, Cassie began her career at Trident. Curt McIlravy was the plant manager at that time, and he hired Cassie to be the Environmental, Health and Safety (EHS) Manager. "My HR background came into play," she said of the opportunity to work at Trident. A few years later, Cassie was promoted to Assistant Plant

Manager, working alongside McIlravy for the next two years. McIlravy has been a great support to her, Cassie said. In what is known to be a male-dominated industry, she "felt like an equal at Trident," Cassie said. This past fall, McIlravy became the vice president of Trident's U.S. Value Added Plants. Shortly after, he asked Cassie if she'd take over as Plant Manager, and she jumped at the opportunity. Trident itself is a great company to work for, Cassie said, noting that it's family-owned and now into its second generation. The seafoods corporation was founded in 1973 by Chuck Bundrant, and in 2013, his son Joe Bundrant took over as CEO. According to information at Trident's website, "In this family-owned company, we know and love seafood. We bring the freshest, healthiest, wild-caught fish from the pristine waters of Alaska to families worldwide, and we've done so for over 50 years. We are proud to champion Alaska's natu-

ral bounty with a steadfast commitment to sustainable practices." In addition to all of their fish coming from Alaska, Cassie shared that Trident contracts with family-owned fishing boats. She appreciates Trident's values and truly enjoys her work at the Motley plant. "Connecting with people" is one of her favorite parts of her job. And when she's not at work? "We love everything lake related," Cassie said, going on to say that her family loves to fish and water ski. They also hunt and are passionate about golfing, all of which were a draw for their making their home in Cushing. The Robertses are also very involved at St. Michael's Catholic Church in Motley, where you'll no doubt find them at a weekend service. But come Monday, Cassie will be back at Trident, providing support and leadership to 350 employees. 'Cassie Roberts - Plant Manager.' It's a dream job come true.



Trident Seafoods plant in Motley

Trident Seafoods plant in Motley is located at 1348 Hwy 10 S., employs 350 people, and processes 1.5 million pounds of imitation crab each week. Louis Kemp is the Motley plant's brand. According to information at their website, "Our products begin with Harvesting Wild

Alaska Pollock by our fishing boats to processing at our state-of-the-art production facility in Motley, Minn., and all the way to your plate. We control the quality every step of the process." (Staples World photo by Dawn Timbs)

Motley area law enforcement

Recent reports from the Motley Police Department (MPD) and Morrison County Sheriff's Office (MCSO) included the following:
Mar. 5 - 11
Mar. 11 - Motley Police responded to a hit and run accident at BRICKS Travel Plaza in Motley.
Mar. 7 - Morrison

County deputies trespassed Karmie Dwinnell from the Country Terrace Apartments in Motley for one year.
Mar. 9 - A Morrison County deputy responded to a report of property damage at Dove Rd. and 330th St. in Cushing.



Food shelf donation

The Motley American Legion recently donated \$1,000 to the Motley Area Food Shelf (MAFS). Pictured, from left, are MAFS Director Sherry Frisk; Frank Vasecka, Motley America Legion member; and Jodi Reeck, MAFS volunteer. (Submitted photo)

Todd County Sheriff's report

Recent report(s) from the Todd County Sheriff's Office (TCSO) included:
March 10, 2025, 11:29 a.m.: TCSO received a report of camper fully engulfed in fire at the address of 32192 Cty 71, Eagle Bend. Eagle Bend Fire Dept. was able

to extinguish the fire. The camper belonged to Jeffrey Dous; the property owner is Mark Miller. The camper was a total loss, as well as a nearby shed and car. The TCSO was assisted on scene by Eagle Bend Fire Dept.

Staples electrical policy needs new section

The Staples City Council considered a new electric upgrade policy at their March 11 meeting. Public Works Director Scott Grabe said the city has been approached by a contractor who is working with a customer who wants to add equipment that would require an upgraded service to the location. The city's current electrical policy did not fit this situation so the Public Works Commission discussed how to go about it. "The commission does not want to hurt the person who wants to expand their business, but they also want to make sure rate payers are not subsidizing their business," said Grabe. They reviewed several policies and Grabe wrote a new portion that he thought would fit for Staples. The council had an opportunity to look at the new policy.
In other news, the council
• Approved sale of prop-

erty at 2nd street SW and Dakota Ave. Buyers Dale and Carla Leehy are intending to build a home on the property.
• Approved sale of property to Lois Kneisl, for a lot adjoining her existing property. Additional property is 10,000 square feet, with a cost of \$7,550 plus surveying and legal fees.
• Approved gambling permit from Ottetail Ducks Unlimited for Beck's Burger Co.
• Heard from Economic Development Director Lucas Wakefield, who said there has been a lot of business activity in the city lately. "We have a handful of businesses looking to change locations or change owners, and fill downtown spaces that are vacant," said Wakefield, "I am surprised how much business has sprung up over the last week and a half."

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DON'T FORGET!!!!

The deadline for classified ads, display ads, garage sale ads, letters to the editor and news items for the Staples World is:

Friday, noon

Todd County Court report March 12

Long Prairie Police Department

Austin William Bollin, Browerville. Careless driving. Fine \$100. Fee \$85.
Francisco Emmanuel Sanchez Nieves, St. Cloud. Driving without a valid license for vehicle class or type. Fine \$100. Fee \$85.

MN Dept. of Natural Resources

Thomas James Cebulla, Belgrade. License to take/buy/sell/transport/possess protected wild animals. Fine \$50. Fee \$85.
Luke Thomas Opdahl, North Branch. ER Big game-fail to validate deer license/tag. Fine \$25. Fee \$75.
Eason Anslym Rahn, Randall. RV-fail to display valid ATV registration/decal as required. Fine \$25. Fee \$85.
William Garrett Weber, Sauk Rapids. Fishing-extra line. Fine \$50. Fee \$85.

MN State Patrol

Mekayla Lucille Danielson, Elbow Lake. Speed 75/60. Fine \$60. Fee \$85.
Sonja Michelle Eidenshink, Baxter. Speed 74/60. Fine \$50. Fee \$85.
James Acevedo, Melrose. Driving after revocation. Fine \$200. Fee \$85.
Damian Ambriz Abonce, Long Prairie. Speed 71/60. Fine \$50. Fee \$85.
Jesus Martin Cruz, Champlin. No MN Driver's license. Fine \$100. Fee \$85.
Brian Robert Donahue, Moorhead. Speed 80/70. Fine \$40.. Fee \$85.
Jose Hernan Garcia Chavez, Long Prairie. Hands free law. Fine \$50. Fee \$85.
Kayla Ann Gebhardt, Melrose. Speed 80//70. Fine \$40. Fee \$85.
Bennie E. Gingerich, Browerville. Window restrictions-windshield tinted or glazed. Fine \$50. Fee \$85.
Window tint. Fine \$50. Loud muffler/loud exhaust. Fine \$50. Bumper height 25 inches truck. Fine \$50.
Lisa Marie Hoffmann, Becker. Speed 80/70. Fine \$40. Fee \$85.
Lubenson Joazard, Fort Pierce, FL. Speed 76/60. Fine \$60. Fine \$85. No MN Driver's license. Fine \$100.
Sofia Haley Lisell, St. Louis Park. Speed 83/70. Fine \$50. Fee \$85.
Luke Andrew McPerherson, Lakeville. Speed 85/70. Fine \$60. Fee \$85.
Brian Lee Miller, Grove City. Speed 65/60. Fine \$40. Fee \$85.
Noe Ulises Montanez Paramo, Long Prairie. Driver fails to stop for STOP sign. Fine \$50. Fee \$85.
Callen Clarice Olson, Alexandria. Speed 65/55. Fine \$40. Fee \$85.
Joel Antonio Raya Garcia, St. Cloud. Speed 7970. Fine \$40. Fee \$85. Driving after revocation. Fine \$200.
Valdemar V. Reeves, Fargo, ND. Speed 89/70. Fine \$60. Fee \$85.
Hannah Luella Schad, Clarissa. Speed 65/55. Fine \$40. Fee \$85.
Joseph Reagan Schueller, Bloomington. Speed 69/55. Fine \$50. Fee \$85.
Matthew Leigh Tredinnick, Savage. Speed 86/70. Fine \$60.

Fee \$85.

Todd County Sheriff

Aiden James Bryniarski, Staples. Expired registration. Fine \$30. Fee \$85.
Laurie Ann Nordlund, Royalton. Driver fails to stop for STOP Sign. Fine \$50. Fee \$85.
Myles Jay Smith, Staples. Speed 70/55. Fine \$60. Fee \$85.
The following cases were heard before Judge Daniel A. Benson in Seventh District Court in Todd County March 4, 2025.
Dominick Ezekiel Bailey, Clarissa. Driving after suspension. Local confinement (90 days, stay 0 yr 0 mo 0 days credit for time served: 61 days). Fine \$50. Fee \$75.
Yoni Juarez Orozco, Villard. Domestic assault-intentionally inflicts/attempts to inflict bodily harm on another. Dismissed. Assault-5th degree inflict or attempt bodily harm. Dismissed. Disorderly conduct. Sentenced. Local confinement (90 days, stay 85 days for 2 yr credit for time served: 5 days). Supervised probation, 1 yr. Fine \$100. Fee \$75.

The following cases were heard before Judge Daniel A. Benson in Seventh District Court in Todd County March 3, 2025.

Lucas Paiz Ramos, Long Prairie. 3rd degree driving while impaired. Dismissed. 3rd degree driving while impaired-blood alcohol content greater than .08 within 2 hours. Sentenced. Local confinement (364 days, stay 363 days for 2 yr credit for time served: 1 day). Supervised probation, 1 yr. Fine \$700. Fee \$105. Careless driving. Dismissed.
Benjamin Franklin Moon, Pilager. Carry/possess pistol w/out permit-public place. Stay of adjudication. Supervised probation, 2 yr. Fine \$400. 4th degree DWI-operate motor vehicle under influence of alcohol. Dismissed. 4th degree DWI-operate motor vehicle-alcohol concentration 0.08 within 2 hours. Sentenced. Local confinement (90 days, stay 0 yr 0 mo 89 days for 2 yr credit for time served: 1 day). Supervised probation, 1 yr. Fine \$400. Fee \$100. Carrying pistol while under influence of alcohol-concentration less than 0.10, but more than 0.04. Dismissed.
Benjamin Jr. Govea, Long Prairie. 3rd degree-refusal to test. Sentenced. Local confinement (90 days, stay 83 days for 2 yr credit for time served: 7 days). Supervised probation, 2 yr. Fine \$400. Fee \$100. 4th degree driving while impaired. Dismissed. Obstructing legal process. Dismissed. Speed 41/30. Dismissed.
The following cases were heard before Judge Galen J. Vaa in Seventh District Court in Todd County February 28, 2025.
Elisha Ann Peterson, Staples. Assault domestic/harm. Dismissed. Assault domestic/fear. Dismissed. Disorderly conduct-off-noisy-obs. Sentenced. Local confinement (90 days, stay 0 yr mo 85 days for 1 yr credit for time served: 5 days). Supervised probation, 1 yr. Fine \$100. Fee \$75. Obstruct legal process-interfere w/Peace Officer. Dismissed.

75 YEARS Ago - 1950

• March 23, 1950 - Coaches John Rengel and Clarence Johnson, and the members of the Staples Cardinals basketball squad leave this afternoon for Minneapolis where they will be in attendance at the annual state basketball tournament being held in Williams Arena the last three days of this week.
• March 23, 1950 - Russell Wetherell, Poplar farmer, narrowly escaped serious injury Friday, March 10

- O -
Compiled by Dawn Timbs
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when he was attacked by an enraged bull.
The animal knocked him down in the barn, into, and across the cement manger and was still attacking him when Russell managed to escape through the stanchions.

He was badly bruised and shaken by the enraged animal, Only the fact that the bull had no horns, was a possible fatal accident averted.

• March 23, 1950 - Douglas Grossman of Moran township, who won the Todd county and the district 4-H public speaking contest recently, took part in the state contest held in the Twin Cities last week.

Even though Doug was not one of the top winners at the state contest at the University of Minnesota, he was a winner in a different sense of the word. A winner by being able to go from here and meeting some very interesting 4-H people of the state and the good sportsmanship shown by each and every one.

• March 23, 1950 - A car accident six miles west of Brainerd at 11:20 p.m. Monday evening, March 20, put Ernie Stevens of Staples in the Brainerd hospital with severe lacerations about his face and body, and possible internal injuries.

Mr. Stevens accompanied by Birton Herman and Earl Clews had been to Brainerd visiting relatives and were enroute home when the accident happened.

Six miles west of Brainerd a horse suddenly came on to the highway, and Mr. Stevens was unable to avert hitting the animal. He was driving a 1941 Buick convertible. He hit the horse, killing it, and the impact of the collision completely demolished his car.

Mr. Herman was slightly injured, but Mr. Clews apparently suffered no injury in the accident.



Mystery photo

Hello readers. This week's archive photo is from 1975. Do you know who these people are and perhaps the context of the photo? Do you have a memory to share? Email your answers and where

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

50 YEARS Ago - 1975

• March 20, 1975 - The 85th anniversary of The Staples World will be observed Friday, March 21, with an open house, according to Charles Mayer, publisher.

Hours of the open house will be from 1 to 4 p.m. Coffee and doughnuts will be served and those attending will have an opportunity to register for many door prizes.

Founded in 1890, one year after the establishment of the City of Staples, The Staples World has continued throughout the 85 years in publishing the local happenings of our community.

Mr. Stone served for over 43 years on the staff of The Staples World, as an employee, manager and then publisher.

Stone came to Staples in 1926 and began his employment with the Staples World under H. W. Sims, publisher. From 1941 - 49, he managed the newspaper and then purchased the business from Sims Jan. 1, 1949. Stone served as publisher of The World until taking his retirement Aug. 1, 1969, at which time Charles Mayer assumed the position as publisher.

In addition to Mayer, other employees of The Staples World are Gordon D. Sellnow, Roger Killian, Beverly Shea, Kay Mergens, Marion Edwards, Gary Mueller and Marie Krause.

• March 20, 1975 - Gerald Dezell was the winner of \$100 in clothing from DJ's Men's Wear, Staples, as a result of a high game of 278

bowled last Sunday evening at Hi-Way Lanes.

It was reported that DJ's offered the \$100 prize for any bowler bowling a 275 or better.

Dezell rolled a 278 game last Sunday evening in the Mixed Doubles League. He is a member of the Pinspotters team.

• March 20, 1975 - The second annual Brown-Bag speech invitational was sponsored by the Staples Lion's Club. At the tournament Ray Denning, Deb Olson, Nancy Sadusky and Mike Hassler all took individual championships.

These four students led the Staples speech team to the first place standing of the Brown-Bag tournament March 15, at the Staples high school.

25 YEARS Ago - 2000

• March 23, 2000 - The Cardinals are the Section 8AA champs!

Staples Motley entered state tournament play this week after downing both Bagley and Crookston last week in the Section 8AA semi-finals and finals.

The Cards narrowly escaped with a 60-55 win over Bagley in the Thursday night semi-finals. On Friday, they captured their first Section 8AA title in three years by coming from behind to down the Crookston Pirates.

• March 23, 2000 - The Activities Department at the Greater Staples Care

Center planned a St. Patrick's Day Party last Friday, complete with "Lil and the Three Bills" as the band. Lil Postell played the piano, with Bill Berndt on sax, Bill Macheel on the banjo and Bill Amundson on the

violin. Ron Starke added the accordion and Jack Bartishofski chimed in with his harmonica.

• March 23, 2000 - The Initiative Foundation (formerly Central Minnesota Initiative Fund) is reactivating the Staples Community Fund and the new advisory board members attended a reception at Centennial Auditorium in Staples Mar. 18. Among those attending were John Schlagel, vice chair of the Initiative Foundation board; Stan Carlson; Marv Rothstein; Brenda Halvorson; Kathy Gaalswyk, president of the Initiative Foundation; Gloria Edin and Stan Edin.

Other members of the Staples Community Fund advisory board are Ray Gildow, Mike Goff, Michelle Lange, Duane Lund, Jerel Nelsen, Julie Nelson, Dale Schock, Bradley Skogen, Craig Wolhowe and Mel Nefstead.

10 YEARS Ago - 2015

• March 19, 2015 - Approximately 80 people attended a concert by the St. Anthony Brass Quintet March 15, at the Motley United Methodist Church. Sponsored by the Staples Motley Area Arts Council, the concert was the final one in their regular season series. A variety of music was featured at the concert, including "Ain't Misbehavin'" "Just a Closer Walk With Thee" and the "Armed Forces Medley."

• March 19, 2015 - Motley Staples Middle School will present "The Princess and the Magic Pea," "The Little Peasant" and "The Golden Goose" at Centennial Auditorium in Staples March 20 and 21.



Mystery solved

Last week's mystery photo published in the April 4, 1985 edition of the Staples World featured Brian Sams (left), Renee DesMarais and Scott Gardner, Staples' ribbon winners at the Aitkin Speech Tournament Saturday.

Kathy Odden of Staples correctly identified Des-Marais and Gardner. Thanks for participating in our mystery photo.



Baseball season will have to wait

What's more American than baseball? And what's more Minnesotan than snow on the baseball field on the first day of practice? The first official baseball practice was scheduled for March 17, but they will need a few

days before the fields are open for play. At right, the track and field announcer stand overlooks the snow covered track. The track and field season was also starting on March 17. (Staples World photo by Mark Anderson)

SEAMLESS
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CALL 320-438-0052

Mayor’s reflections: A call to service inspired by local happenings

Ron Murray
Staples Mayor

Hello everyone in Staples and surrounding area.

I'm glad it's time for another letter as it means it's feeling more like spring. It also means time for winter sports tournaments. I would like to recognize the great performance by our SM speech team. It amazes me the strength of talent and number of members that's remained strong as well. Congratulations to our wrestling team on becoming state champions. The highway championship sign gets to grow in numbers yet again.

Our chamber recently had a meeting on Feb. 12, to begin work on strengths and opportunities to be a positive and strong presence in our community. Thanks to all who attended and gave input to assist the chamber leaders moving ahead.

I spoke about a community engagement movement, Connect Effect in previous letters. This is now being replaced by, Coffee Talks once a month that will involve area businesses presenting info on their business, people can engage with each other and talk on any topics that come from the presentation. It will be held at the Witches Brew in Staples.

There are many good things happening in Staples. You may remember that our city voted to put in place a

one-half percent user tax on all purchases to capture some revenue from everyone in and around Staples to help with our regional community center. Our community center will continue its transformation with, updating/improving the locker rooms, shower areas as well as a new boiler. We will begin using the funds we've taken in through this initiative. We have applied for funds from the State of MN for improving our meeting rooms, senior service areas in the community center updating audiovisual, computer/ internet access along with improved handicapped access. We're hoping to find out later this spring if we were awarded the grant.

Lucas Wakefield, our Economic Developer and I attended a six week course on economic transformation. It was a very good course, and got me thinking about community improvement, development and ideas on how to work on complex problems that may exist. It was great collaborating with Lucas who has experience in this and learning alongside of him.

Many things, it addressed, included assessing our community and doing what's called assets mapping. Looking at seven types of capital; social, human, natural, cultural, financial, political and built. I've spoken a lot in previous letters about our social and human capital, the connections be-

tween people and organizations or the social glue that makes things happen.

We have the skills and abilities of people to increase our understanding and to identify promising practices. To focus on our assets, to lead "across differences" and I'm hopeful we can continue to move in that direction.

Speaking of assets, one event that's quickly becoming a highlight of the Christmas season is the North Pole Light display at Pine Grove Park. I would like to speak to this event in this letter. The Lions took over the event and have been in charge for several years. The decision was made to move it from a solely Lions event to a community event. The event has been successful, growing in size, attendees and donations. In order to sustain and grow it was decided to create a community based management team to work on organizing the various work groups. Display setup, running the event, marketing, music, expansion of displays, manage community support. Recruiting an administrator is also being considered to manage the project. The bottom line is that we need people who are interested in seeing this be successful, have time, talent and or treasure to come forward and be a part of this great event. It could be an organization who wants to take on a portion of the display,

ie; getting it up, giving of time to assist with certain aspects, it could be a family or a couple who could spend time in some capacity.

As far as the community based management group, if anyone is interested in helping to administrate this community based event that would be great. You can contact me regarding any questions or, if interested in getting involved in any capacity. I've worked with setting it up, worked at the booth in the evenings when the cars come to drive thru it's very worthwhile and fulfilling being a part of this project. There have been so many positive comments on this event, the quality, availability and affordability for the whole family.

We live in a great community. We each live in this community in different ways. We have different needs and concerns related to how we live and use our community. I want to know your concerns and ideas related to our city. Don't hesitate to reach out to me. As always, you are invited to come attend our council meetings or watch on YouTube live. They're the second and fourth Tuesdays of each month. I will close with this quote,

"The future of every community lies in capturing the passion, imagination and resources of its people."

- Ernesto Sirotli

Quote of the week

“Journalism can never be silent: that is its greatest virtue and its greatest fault.”

— Henry Anatole Grunwald

Secrecy gives government control, FOIA can help restore imbalance

By Lauren Harper
Freedom of the Press Foundation

Secrecy gives the government control. FOIA can restore the power imbalance

Excessive government secrecy takes many forms, including denying or ignoring FOIA requests and deleting data from websites.

These tactics prevent the public from meaningfully participating in self-government in every area secrecy touches, from domestic policy discussions on climate change, to foreign policy debates around international aid.

Sunshine Week, the annual celebration of the public's right to know, reminds us that the federal Freedom of Information Act, which allows the public to request the release of government information, is our best tool to counter this excessive secrecy and hold officials accountable.

But FOIA is in trouble, and we need congressional help to fix it.

Request backlogs continue to grow, and it often takes years to receive documents — if you get them at all. Delays are compounded by the fact that many FOIA offices often don't have the resources they need to perform their jobs efficiently. To make matters worse, President Donald Trump's administration has ordered agencies to plan for "large scale reductions in force," which could further hobble FOIA offices, if not halt their work entirely.

The challenges are steep. But we must continue our work to protect and strengthen FOIA, because when it works, it's powerful. Here are just a few examples:

- FOIA makes us ask tough questions about what the government does in our name. The New Yorker's investigative podcast, In the Dark, used FOIA to obtain key records on the 2005 massacre of two dozen civilians in Haditha, Iraq, at the hands of U.S. Marines. The releases included photos of the carnage that the military tried to bury, and helped journalists build a database of 781 possible war crimes committed by the U.S. in Iraq and Afghanistan since 2001. These revelations prompted Senators Elizabeth Warren and Chris Van Hollen to ask the Defense Department inspector general if the agency was following the rules for addressing war crimes.
- When SCOTUS closes a door, FOIA opens a window. Bloomberg reporter Jason Leopold's FOIA lawsuit for FBI records about its investigation into Trump's classified documents case got an unexpected boost from the Supreme Court's pres-

idential immunity ruling. U.S. District Judge Beryl Howell recently ruled that the SCOTUS decision, as well as Trump's firing of the FBI officials working on the case, undercut the bureau's arguments that the documents must stay secret. Howell said the FBI's arguments "crumble with no more weight than dust and just as little persuasiveness," and that the presidential immunity could "open doors" for FOIA requests.

- FOIA can help us make decisions about what we eat. I always like to tell the story about the Food and Drug Administration FOIA release that showed a popular blended Parmesan cheese contained absolutely no Parmesan — but it did contain wood chips. I usually tell this story as a joke, but as federal food regulations are poised to undergo massive changes, it's clear that FOIA's ability to provide access to food safety information is no laughing matter.

I'd argue it's likely that the current administration knows how impactful FOIA can be, and that's exactly why the Department of Government Efficiency is trying to hide its records from FOIA, and why FOIA staff at key agencies have been fired en masse.

In spite of these challenges, the public will continue to file FOIA requests, appeals, and lawsuits to win the release of important information.

But we need more help to fix FOIA's systemic problems, especially under an administration hostile to its implementation.

We must ask members of Congress, whose own access to government information may be compromised, what it's doing to ensure we all have the tools we need to scrutinize the government?

Answers to this question could look like Congress passing new FOIA amendments that require agencies to post more kinds of records proactively, passing a law that makes DOGE explicitly subject to FOIA, or holding regular hearings demanding to know why the Justice Department is not ensuring agencies are complying with the law, and what steps it will take to ensure compliance.

Securing access to information requires the public to be persistent, and to demand the same level of consistent attention from our elected officials. And it demands our attention year-round, and year-after-year.

Lauren Harper is the first Daniel Ellsberg chair on government secrecy with Freedom of the Press Foundation. She can be reached at lauren@freedom.press.

Quote of the week

“The press is the mortar that binds together the bricks of democracy – and it is also the open window embedded in those bricks.”

— Shashi Tharoor

Quote of the week

“Too often we enjoy the comfort of opinion without the discomfort of thought.”

— John F. Kennedy

Newspaper’s job is to shine light on unwelcome news and squash rumors

By Jim Pumarlo
Red Wing Republican Eagle

Newspapers at their foundation provide a living history of their communities. The reports necessarily include a mixture of good news and bad news.

To no surprise, gathering and reporting the good news comes rather easily and is readily volunteered by the sources. First responders are commended for their swift response to saving a life. The school district applauds the academic and athletic achievements of graduating seniors. A local manufacturer is honored for setting a safety record for consecutive days without a workplace accident.

In contrast, gathering and reporting bad news can be challenging. Stories likely go unreported without some digging. A public safety director is quietly reprimanded after taking a pleasure ride on the city's water patrol boat. A superintendent refuses to acknowledge the recommendation to close a school building until formal school board action. A worker loses fingers in an industrial accident.

I encourage Minnesotans to embrace and celebrate the efforts of newspapers to pursue and deliver information relevant to their communities during Sunshine Week, March 16-22. The observance is a nonpartisan collaboration among groups in the journalism, civic, education, government and private sectors that shines a light on the importance of public records and open government.

In a nutshell, sharing unwelcome

news up front takes a giant step toward quelling the rumor mill. Those who are forthcoming with circumstances typically see repercussions minimized.

Newspapers rightfully stand firmly on the letter of the law when seeking access to public information and meetings. Even more important, those hesitant to share what they perceive as unflattering news should consider two other points.

First, think carefully about the spirit of openness – no matter what the law dictates. Public officials should place themselves in the position of friends and neighbors seeking answers from City Hall. Would they be satisfied with “no comment”?

Second, recognize the value of setting benchmarks for community conversation. Meeting in secret or withholding information only fuels rumors. If gossip has reached the newspaper, those affected can rest assured it has circulated broadly, especially fueled by social media. At minimum, hearsay exaggerates the facts. At worst, the whippers promote blatant falsehoods.

The opportunity to deliver facts straight from the source is one of the strongest arguments to share information. Citizens still may dismiss statements as a “company line,” but parameters have been set for community discussion.

The premise of openness should be embraced in the private sector as well. Companies and individuals are not subject to the same laws as public bodies, but they ought to be aware that their news is equally important to

the community and often travels more quickly than a city council vote.

Conflicts over the public's right to know often focus on a specific meeting or particular document. Newsmakers also should be reminded of the value of everyday openness.

I vividly recall the “news” passed along by my photographer when I sat behind the editor's desk. Word had reached his son's elementary school that a teacher at the middle school had lost all his fingers in a lab experiment. We promptly tracked a story for that day's edition. The superintendent set the record straight. The teacher lost a fingertip and all was handled very calmly and professionally.

Our first inquiry, however, went to the school principal. She refused comment, charging us with sensationalism. A few minutes later she called and canceled her newspaper subscription without even seeing our report. I'll stand by our decision to pursue and publish the story. I'm certain we prevented a lot of misinformed dinner talk that evening.

We all can likely relate the to spirit of openness as youths when we tried to hide bad behavior from our parents. The truth inevitably surfaced, and we bore the brunt of punishment. Lesson: Be up front.

During Sunshine Week, we pay tribute to the millions of readers who invite newspapers into their homes each day. I speak firsthand from my years sitting behind the editor's desk. We enjoy the relationships we've made, and we hope our readers do, too.

StaplesWorld

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Letters: Readers are encouraged to express their views by writing letters to the editor. Letters are verified for authenticity, so please include a name, address and phone number. Only the author's name and city will be published. Letters may be edited for spelling and grammar errors, libel, length and other factors. Private thanks, solicitations and libelous letters will not be published. Letters are printed on a space available basis. The editor reserves the right to reject letters.

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

MINNESOTA NEWSPAPER ASSOCIATION

1897

FREE PRESS

FREE PEOPLE

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

Note to Advertisers: Advertisers should check their ad following first publication. This newspaper shall not be liable for failure to publish an ad or for the typographic error or errors in publication except to the extent of the cost of the ad for the first day's insertion. Adjustment for errors is limited to the cost of that portion of the ad wherein the error occurred. The publisher reserves the right to cancel any advertisement at any time.

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Five Wings asks for feedback on plan

Five Wings Arts Council invites the public to attend a public meeting to review and provide feedback on its preliminary biennial plan. The meeting will be held Monday, March 24, at 4:30 PM at the Five Wings Arts Council office, 121 4th St.

NE, Staples. The preliminary biennial plan will be available for public review at the Five Wings Arts Council office and on its website at fwac.org no later than three days prior to the meeting. During the meeting, the plan's key

elements will be presented, and attendees will have the opportunity to share their input. For more information, contact Executive Director Miranda Lape at 218-895-5660.

SMAAC sets lineup for Music in the Park

The Staples Motley Area Arts Council has enhanced Music in the Park by adding dates and new acts for the summer series held Sunday evenings at Northern Pacific Park in Staples. The arts council has seven tentative commitments from musicians, starting Sunday, July 6. Acts include Tony Cuchetti, River Rats, Red Letter Band, Acousto-

fiddle, Erik Neznik, Kings Ransom and Havana Quartet. The seven consecutive Sunday concerts run through Aug. 17, the final day of Railroad Days in Staples. This is a tentative schedule that will be finalized before the first concert in July. All of the concerts are free to attend, people are

asked to bring their own lawn chairs or blankets to the events. The Staples Motley Area Arts Council has been refreshed with new members who are looking at more arts opportunities in the area, including visual arts, theatre, dance and other arts to celebrate in the community.



Preschool Storytime at Staples Library March 19

Join us in the Reading Roundhouse at the Staples Public Library March 19 at 10:30 a.m. for singing, playing and other age appropriate activities and crafts during Preschool Storytime. The program egaes curiosity, while developing important literacy skills and fostering a life-long love of reading and learning. For preschoolers; Limit 10. Registration is required by calling

the library, 218-894-1401. The program is sponsored by the Staples Friends of the Library. Recent Preschool Storytime participants included, front: Carson Sadlo, Finn Souder; back: Gwen Vanek, Silas, Rhett and Bjorn LaBlanc, Carlyle Souder. (Submitted photo)

SWCD tree sales starting

Todd County Soil and Water Conservation District (Todd SWCD) has a tree sale program, just like other Soil and Water offices across the State. Each year Todd SWCD sells between 16,000 - 20,000 trees. The trees are bareroot trees between 18-24 inches tall. Trees that are smaller in size are easier to transplant as they adapt more quickly to new locations. When selecting what type of tree to plant it's im-

portant to know your soil type. In some situations, it's recommended having your soil tested. Todd SWCD have field technicians that can assist in your tree selection for your property and help identify your soil type. In some instances, cost share funds might be available to help offset the cost for a field windbreak or shelter-belt planting. The SWCD field technicians can assist

by developing a tree plan for your property. Todd SWCD Tree Sale program also includes: One-gallon potted stock, tree tubes, spiral guards and native flower plugs. The tree sales start in the Fall for Spring pick up. To learn more about the tree program or other Soil and Water programs, call the office at 320-732-2644.

CRPD report, trends on attracting new residents

The Center for Rural Policy and Development has released a new report, "Time to Work Together: Our Roles in Keeping and Attracting Residents." The report sheds light on Minnesota's shifting population trends and the increasing importance of migration in sustaining the state's workforce and economy. The report underscores a crucial finding: birth rates are no longer keeping pace with death rates, making migration the key driver of Minnesota's future population growth. According to the Minnesota State Demographic Center, by the late 2040's, any population growth the state experiences will be due to migration rather than natural increase. "For years, we've debated whether people are leaving

rural Minnesota for the metro or leaving the metro for rural areas, but the reality is more complex," said Kelly Asche, Senior Researcher, Center for Rural Policy & Development. "Each region plays a role in this broader migration pattern. Instead of competing, we need a coordinated approach to attract and retain residents across the entire state." **Key findings from the report:** • Minnesota has consistently lost residents on net to other U.S. states over the past two decades. • Migration patterns vary by life stage, young adults are drawn to urban centers and college towns, while working-age adults and families often move to suburban and rural areas. • Recreational and high-amenity rural coun-

ties are attracting retirees, a trend that can be leveraged for economic growth. • Workforce shortages across industries, from healthcare to construction, require a stronger policy focus on attracting new residents. The report calls for statewide collaboration to address these trends. "Rather than viewing migration as a zero-sum game between rural and urban Minnesota, we need to align efforts to keep more people in-state," said Asche. "That means investing in policies that support workforce development, housing and quality of life improvements across all regions." The full report is available online at "Time to Work Together: Our Roles in Keeping and Attracting Residents."

Mark Your Calendar

March 19, 20

FREE TAX-AIDE Wednesdays, 1-4 p.m. and Thursdays, 10 a.m.- 4 p.m., through April 10, Staples City Hall. Must call for an appointment at 218-296-6616. For low to moderate income taxpayers. **'WALK WITH A DOC'** Thursdays at 5:15 p.m., at Lakewood Health System's main campus in Staples. Meet at the main entrance. For more information about this free program, visit <https://walkwithadoc.org/join-a-walk/locations/staples-minnesota>

March 21

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

March 23

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

March 25

CARE MINISTRY FREE MEAL Tuesday, March 25, 4:30 - 6 p.m., at Sacred Heart Church, 310 4th St. NE, Staples. The free community meals are held on a monthly basis to promote fellowship, connection and nourishment **WOMEN'S AA MTG** Tuesdays, from 6 - 7 p.m., at Staples Church of Christ, on

Hwy 210, south of Staples. **EXPERIENCE STRENGTH AND HOPE AA GROUP MTGS IN STAPLES** are held at the Church of Christ, 27343 490th St., Tuesdays, 7 - 8 p.m. For info., call Dan at 218-640-7228. **WADENA COUNTY REPUBLICANS MTGS** are held on the fourth Tuesday of the month at the Wadena VFW at 7 p.m. If you wish to eat early you may order from the menu prior to meeting.

LEADER LIONS CLUB Pancake Breakfast
Leader Community Hall, Hwy. 64, Leader Sun., March 23
Serving 10 a.m. to 1 p.m
Pancakes, sausage, milk, juice, coffee
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is seeking a grades 6-8 Special Ed Paraprofessional 6.5 hour days during school year, excellent pay and work environment. Visit www.isd876.org, Human resources page.
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Student Achievements

THE UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA-TWIN CITIES, has announced its Dean's List for Fall Semester 2024. To qualify, students must complete 12 or more letter-graded credits while attaining a 3.66 grade point average. Local students named include :

- Bo Erholtz, Motley, Carlson School of Management
- Ally Rakauskas, Pillager, College of Liberal Arts
- Amanda Carter, Staples, Col of Educ/Human

Development

JORDYN VANVICKLE, Pillager, recently graduated from South Dakota State University with a Bachelor of Science in Nursing degree.

GUSTAVUS ADOLPHUS COLLEGE, has announced its Dean's List for Fall Semester 2024. To qualify, students must earn a 3.7 or higher grade point average for the semester. Local students named include ;

- Rose Han, Staples
- Emali Jimenez-Kloeckl,

Staples

- Ashlyn Vogel, Staples

ST. CLOUD TECHNICAL & COMMUNITY COLLEGE, has announced its 2024 Fall Semester Academic Honors List. To qualify for the President's List, students must earn a grade point average of 4.0. To qualify for the Dean's List, students must earn a grade point average of 3.5 - 3.99. Local students named include :

- Natalie Kossan, Motley, President's List
- Robb Odden, Pillager,

President's List

BEMIDJI STATE UNIVERSITY STUDENT HAILEE COLGROVE, Motley, has been named one of the winners of the Heartland Symphony Orchestra's 2025 Echo Kowalzek Youth Concerto Competition. She will perform with the orchestra at concerts in Little Falls and Brainerd. The orchestra is directed by BSU adjunct instructor Ryan Webber, with BSU associate professor Dr. Miriam Webber serving as its principal bassoonist.

Obituaries

Jack H. Wheeler

Jack H. Wheeler, 95, entered heaven on February 21, 2025.

A celebration of life will be held at the American Legion in Brainerd, 708 Front St., June 14, 2025, from noon to 5 p.m.

Burial will be at the Fort Ripley Cemetery in a private service.

Jack was born June 22, 1929. He grew up in Staples, graduating in 1948. Growing up, Jack was an avid hunter, trapper and fisherman. He played hockey for Staples, helping them earn a slot in the 1945 MN State Hockey Tournament. Jack enlisted and served in Korea with the Army's 839 EAB 6th Armored Division. Once stateside, he worked for the Northern Pacific Railroad. Jack found and married the love of his life, Priscilla Jane Harrison, in 1959. They raised their three children in Northeast Minneapolis in a strong Christian home.

Jack's love of shooting earned him local, state, regional and even national awards in trap and skeet competitions. He also had an intrigue for engine machining and with a boring bar, Jack's Motor Service began. As Jack's reputation grew, he outgrew his basement and Jack Wheeler Racing



was born. Jack cherished the many life-long friendships from circle track to drag racing; NASCAR to boat racing. Jack and Jane retired up north and added more friendships while living in Cushing, Baxter and Brainerd.

Jack is survived by his wife of 65 years, Priscilla Jane; one son, Michael (Barb) Wheeler; two daughters, Michelle (Jim) Jeziorski and Mary (Bob) Lein; seven grandchildren, Andrew Wheeler, Elizabeth Julich, Lauren Czarnecka, Jaci Jeziorski, Jordan Lein, Josh Lein and Lexi Lein and five great-grandchildren.

Jack was touched by the many friends and family he had. Until we meet again in heaven, rest in peace, Jack.

w13c A00006B2025MR19

Sharon Schibilla

Sharon "Shari" Jeanne Schibilla, 86, of Cohasset, passed away peacefully February 25, 2025, at Maple Woods Assisted Living in Cohasset.

Per her wishes, no services will be held.

Burial will be at Evergreen Hill Cemetery, Staples.

Shari was born in 1938 to Arnold and June (Sather) Scharf in Staples. She graduated from Staples High School and later attended college. She married and had two sons. During her younger years, she was proud of being a radio personality hosting a show on homemaking.

Shari enjoyed gardening and reading. She was very involved with Zion Lutheran Church. Shari enjoyed living at the lake and found quiet enjoyment there. She was modest, quiet and will be lovingly remembered for being kind and caring.



Shari is survived by one son, Chris Salberg and one sister, Stacy (Michael Pride) Lee.

She is preceded in death by her parents; one son, Scott Salberg and one sister, Stephanie Handy.

Arrangements are with the Rowe Funeral Home and Cremation Services of Grand Rapids. To sign the online guestbook or send condolences visit www.rowefuneralhomeandcrematory.com.

w13p A00006B2025MR19

Todd County Museum Club report

The TCMC meeting was called to order March 3, 2025 by President Gary Stracek, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

Reports from the Club Secretary and Treasurer were given and approved.

The Financial Statement was handed out and reviewed. The members of the Todd County Museum are sending condolences to the family of Sid Kjeldahl who passed away March 1, 2025. Sid was an active member of the museum and a long time school teacher in the area.

Museum members are looking for ideas for spring/summer trips to different areas, museums, theaters and historic areas.

Ron Weinhold was surprised on his 90th birthday. Ron gave a presentation on 1951 history of Long Prairie.

Judy Petrie shared a program on life in Staples as she was growing up.

Next meeting is Monday, April 7, 2025 at 1:00 p.m. Program is on History Day in Todd County by Rita Stracek. Elaine John will be serving lunch.

The museum is located at 333 Central Avenue, Long Prairie.

Respectfully submitted,
De Eberle

Staples Area Church Directory

Staples

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

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

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

Faith Lutheran
430 12th Street. NE., Staples.....218-894-1546
Pastor Carl Larson
Sunday Worship Service.....8:30 a.m.
Sunday School and Coffee Fellowship.....10:05 a.m.

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

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

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

Trinity Lutheran
1000 4th St., NE, Staples.....218-894-2372
Pastor Vicar Paul Koehler
Sunday Divine Service.....9:00 a.m.
Sunday School and Bible Class...10:30 a.m.

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

Aldrich

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

Cushing

Bethany Lutheran
25430 Bison Rd. Cushing, MN
320-749-2140
Pastor Carl Larson
www.bethanylutherancushing.org
Sunday Worship.....9:00 a.m.
Communion.....1st and 2nd Sunday of each month

Lincoln Evangelical Free
1354 320th Street, Cushing, MN 56443
Phone: 218-575-2449
www.lincolnefree.org
Facebook Lincoln E Free
Office Hours: Tues. - Thurs., 9 a.m. - 12 p.m.
Senior Pastor: Don Reigstad
SUNDAY
Church Worship Gathering.....10:00 a.m.
YouTube Channel.....10:00 a.m.

Cushing Baptist

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

Leader

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

Maple Hill Lutheran

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

Motley

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

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

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

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

Oylen

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

Pillager

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

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

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

Hewitt

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

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

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

Verndale

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

"A Deep Trust"

Pastor Barry Klein, Staples Church of Christ

Has outdoor camping been in your life experience? I grew up in a family that camped a lot from the big old heavy canvass room tent to a Bethany citation pop up camper. Then, our own family entered Boy Scouting and the camping with our two sons continued.

In one of our adult Sunday School classes, we're studying another type of tent. It is called a "tabernacle." As God's people traveled around the Wilderness, God set them up with a large portable tent that represented their place of worship whenever they traveled.

God gave meticulous instructions from the making of the outer walls right down to what was called the Holy of Holies in the very inside of the tent. I was particularly drawn to a phrase in Exodus 25:9 which says, "Make this tabernacle and all its furnishings exactly like the pattern I will show you."

No one knew better just how the tabernacle needed to be made than God Himself. Unlike us, God is perfect in understanding. To have argued with God about the design or to go even further by taking matters into their own hands to "modify" the plans would be to end up with a far lesser tabernacle.

I wonder how often we tamper with God's design for life and become the lesser for it. Maybe we think we can have money replace God in providing for us. Jesus reminds us in Matthew 6:24 (NIV), "No one can serve two

masters. Either you will hate the one and love the other, or you'll be devoted to one and despise the other. You cannot serve both God and money."

What about the world of relationships and particularly sexuality? Have we tampered with God's design for being people the way He made us? God is clear in Genesis 1:27 (NIV), "So God created mankind in His own image, in the image of God he created them; male and female he created them." God also calls us to purity that is clearly laid out in detail in Leviticus 18. It is an enduring design to be respected and lived out. When we don't, children will pay a very high consequential cost to our adult decisions.

There's dozens of other examples of our need to trust God's design for life right down to the precise design needed in any occupation we're in. Very exact policies and procedures, which are laid out in company handbooks, are to be read and followed if you're going to be on that team. Free-for-all approaches causes chaos, not order. Order points to God as the Author of order and design.

So, please take some time to think about how true all of this is in your life. The more we realize our need to trust God, the more that will ignite the flame of gratitude to God. He is worthy of our trust and gratitude. He is the Source of all that is good.

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for all classified ads and copy is 12 noon Friday

For the Staples World



Tae Kwon Do champions

Students of instructor Francisco Jimenez of United Tae Kwon Do Systems in Staples participated at a Tae Kwon Do tournament in Owatonna March 1, bringing back several awards. Pictured above, from left, are Randy Suess, who received a silver medal in Adults Black Belt Form and a bronze medal in Black

Belt Board Breaking; Elijah Statema, 1st place and grand champion in Advanced Breaking; Penny Statema, 1st place and grand champion in Black Belt Form; and Jimenez, instructor. Penny Statema and Elijah Statema also received 1st place and grand champion in Team Form. (Submitted photos)

First place winner

Right, Gabriel Gibson, student at United Tae Kwon Do Systems in Staples, competed at the Tae Kwon Do tournament in Owatonna March 1, taking 1st place in Form.



Winning's a family tradition

Above: Wyatt Connell (left) and his father Seth Connell competed at the Tae Kwon Do tournament in Owatonna March 1. Wyatt received a silver medal in Form, and a bronze medals in Sparring and Breaking; and Seth received gold medals for Form, Sparring, Breaking and Sword Sparring.

Below: Penny Statema (left) and her son Elijah Statema received first place and grand champion in the Team Form competition at the tournament in Owatonna.

All four are students of Francisco Jimenez, instructor at United Tae Kwon Do Systems in Staples. (Submitted photos)



Frozen basketball

Driveway basketball took a snowy turn with 10 to 12 inches of snow on March 15. Pictured, a ball sits in a snowdrift on 5th Street NE in Staples

Cardinals fall in section semifinal

The Staples-Motley boys basketball team was short-handed when they traveled to Duluth for the Section 7AA semifinal game on March 12. They struggled offensively and came home with a 59-37 loss against Pequot Lakes.

Missing two of their regular rotation players, the Cardinals fell behind early despite two 3-pointers by Avandre Brandt. Conner

Kuhns and Eli Rutten hit two baskets each to keep the team in the game but they still were behind by 14 at the end of the first half.

In the second half, the Cardinals started well with Noah Larson scoring twice. Several times they started cutting into the lead, only to see it go the other way. It eventually became a 20 point deficit that they couldn't make up.

The Cardinals finished the year with a 16-13 record, reaching the section semifinals for the second year in a row.

Team results
Staples-Motley 37, Pequot Lakes 59

Scoring: Avandre Brandt 12, Conner Kuhns 8, Noah Larson 7, Eli Rutten 4, Ryan Neelan 2, Grant Bestland 2, Peyton Jares 2



7th grade basketball champions

The Staples-Motley seventh grade boy's basketball team won the 2025 Greater MN Boys Basketball Championships held in Hutchinson March 15. This is the third year the boys have brought home the championship trophy (5th, 6th and 7th grade). The tournament is held by Minnesota Youth Athletic Services (MYAS)

myasrp.com.

Above, left to right: Ben Stevens, Cade Potter, Austin Dummprope, Ethan Bounds, Blake Mongan, Ben Rutten, JJ Winter, Oscar Doll, Odin Davis. Team members unable to attend were Jaxton Critten and Angel Luna. (Submitted photo)



Sights, sounds, smells announce spring's arrival

If you happened to live in one of those warm places to which Minnesotans migrate to escape our winters, spring might be more a calendar event than a sensory event. Take Florida, for example. The major differences from season to season there are modest, varying mostly in temperature and humidity, with the possibility of a hurricane thrown in to liven things up. An oversimplification, surely, but not outrageously far from the truth when compared to Minnesota.

Here in Minnesota we have seasonal variations that can range from semi-tropical to near-arctic, which have led to major season-to-season differences in our way of life. Differences in everything from our recreational activities—and the devices we use to enjoy them—to our clothing, the vehicles we drive, how our dwellings and workplaces are designed and built, and more.

Without question, the most radical seasonal changes take place between our winters and the seasons that come before, and after. I would further hazard a guess that most Minnesotans find the transition from winter to spring to be the one they most eagerly await. Though many of us are deep into the recreations that are exclusive to winter—like ice fishing, snowmobiling, or skiing—by February or March most of us are mildly—or wildly—eager for spring.

One can't be sure whether our wild neighbors are capable of experiencing eagerness. But there is certainly biological urgency in their lives during this transition. They are clearly ready to take advantage of the opportunities that come with the melting of snow and ice, and

the lengthening of days; flowing rivers and streams, thawing wetlands, greening vegetation, and a general reawakening of life after the dormancy of winter. The evidence is widespread, and apparent to anyone with receptive senses.

One of the deficiencies of which my wife accuses me is an inability to readily smell things that to her are readily apparent. She might walk up to me, bring her nose close, and ask "When did we last wash that sweatshirt?" To which I may roll my eyes in resignation, and promise that its next stop will be in the laundry bag.

One thing my apparently deficient olfactory sense can smell is an aroma I have come to associate inseparably with spring. It is the scent of "polecat," or skunk, as most Minnesotans know it. Just this past week, one morning as I walked sleepily from house to car in the pale light before dawn, I caught the unmistakable essence of skunk.

Skunks are not deep sleepers; not true hibernators, like the black bear. Instead, they enter a sub-hibernation state called torpor, in which their body temperature drops and activity diminishes. Skunks may occupy winter dens in groups to share body heat, reducing their need for food to maintain their metabolism. Late winter is mating time for skunks, which I'm sure is why that powerful aroma was on the morning breeze. Some find it revolting, perhaps having had a more direct encounter, like when their dog was on the receiving end of a foul blast. But I welcome it—at a safe distance, of course—as a sure sign of spring.

A conspicuous sight now is brilliant white dots in the stubble of corn or soybean fields, dots that on closer examination prove to be pairs of trumpeter swans, feeding on waste grain from last fall's harvest. They have returned and are preparing to nest as soon as the marshes they favor have thawed. They've likely found open water on a flowing river or stream nearby, where they rest and preen

when not feeding. When not on these field feeding forays we may see them standing on the ice of one of the marshes—impatient for that ice to be gone—or will hear their unmistakable bicycle horn-like honking as they skim overhead not far above the treetops.

Even some of the bigger lakes are showing the first signs of spring. A trip down to the shore reveals a narrow band of open water between our sloping bank and solid-looking ice just a few yards offshore. The sight of open water, even just this narrow band, is encouraging. Some anglers are still braving the graying, pockmarked ice sheets when they can find a solid entry point. Those with sound instincts for self-preservation are walking on the ice, rather than driving; some are finding middle ground and using a lightweight all-terrain vehicle for transportation if auger borings have revealed ice that's still thick and solid. Many find this a very productive time in the ice fishing cycle; one of the largest crappies I've yet seen "in the flesh" was caught just this past week by a nearby neighbor.

While out doing early yard chores—picking up what seemed like a thousand sand-and-one conifer cones and branches after a recent late winter gale—I heard sounds that could best be described as a blend of rattling and bugling. Then, in one of those "aha" moments, I realized it was the calling of sandhill cranes high overhead. Not long after, on one of the nearby marshes—still mostly icebound—I spotted what I presumed to be a family group of four cranes standing atop the ice.

Sandhill cranes are what I think of a "crossover" bird. Similar in size, shape, and silhouette to a great blue heron, they are a bird of both the fields and the marsh edges, with a diverse diet than includes grains, berries, insects, frogs, rodents, and—without hold your judgement here!—even nestling birds. They are from a different branch of the evolutionary tree than the great blue herons that use this same

marsh, herons that stealthily stalk its margins, consuming mostly small fish, with the occasional frog or salamander, even mice, muskrats, or young birds. As I watched the cranes, a heron flushed from a small patch of open water. One remarkable difference between them seems to be wariness. The heron has little tolerance for humans nearby, while sandhill cranes are more likely to pause in their feeding and stand there to scrutinize a human intruder.

There are many more such signs that our senses may detect in these days of seasonal transition. There are the liquid, whistle-like notes of cardinals belting out a courtship song in the treetops, tones that in our language could be the words "what cheer, what cheer, what cheer." There are the fuzzy, silvery-gray willow flowers, "pussy willows" we call them, emerging now where willow shrubs grow in damp places along the margins of wetlands, in form so unlike what we expect a flower to be.

We've already seen the first post-winter lightning show, which came in a barrage of flashes that illuminated the night sky before the recent wintry mix of rain, sleet, and snow passed through scarcely a week ago.

Before long, expect to see the first woodcock silhouetted in flight against a still-bright sky as you drive a rural road at dusk, where open fields or clearings adjoin mixed lowland forest of alder, willow, and aspen. Such places are where male woodcock will be performing their "sky dance" to attract a mate.

And of course, Canada geese and many species of ducks are already being seen on the open waters of rivers and streams. They, like the swans, are awaiting the opening of small ponds and wetlands, places where they'll take up residence, continue their courtship, and soon begin nesting and raising goslings and ducklings.

It's time to sharpen our senses for the many sights, sounds, and smells that are, or soon will be, announcing the arrival of spring.

— O —
Inside the
Outdoors



Mike Rahn



Public Notices

TODD PLANNING continued from page 9a

available for those who are unable to attend in person. If you wish to join via Zoom, please contact our office for the call-in information. Those who do attend in person can find parking atop the hill on the west side of the Historic Courthouse and enter through the north doors, near the American Flag and monument.

Questions? Phone 320-732-4420 or Email toddplan.zone@co.todd.mn.us

Agenda

- Call to Order.
- Pledge of Allegiance
- Introduction of Planning Commission Members and process review.
- Approval of agenda.
- Approval of the March 6, 2025 Planning Commission meeting minutes.
- The applicant is introduced
- Staff report
- Applicant confirms if staff report accurately represents the request

•Public comment

•Board review with applicant, staff, and public

1. Travis Eckel: Section 15, Wykeham Township
Site Address: NA (SW corner of County 22 and 145th Ave. Eagle Bend, MN)
PID: 28-0012803

1. Request for CUP for opening a Mini-Storage Facility in AF-2 Zoning District.

Adjournment – Next meeting: May 1, 2025

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

Todd County Planning Commission
Jim Pratt, Chair

13pnc

SERVICES & EMPLOYMENT

205 Help Wanted



Help Wanted City of Motley

The City of Motley is accepting applications to fill the position of **Deputy City Clerk-Office Assistant**

Part-time: 32 hours - 4 days/week. Salary: \$23.56 per hour

Application Deadline: April 3, 2025

JOB SUMMARY: The City of Motley is accepting applications to fill a part-time 32 hour- 4 days per week (Monday-Thursday), Deputy City Clerk-Office Assistant position. Duties include but are not limited to: performing semi-skilled and skilled receptionist, clerical (accounting/bookkeeping) and administrative support work for the Clerk-Treasurer. This individual serves as the frontline customer service person for City Hall; providing secretarial, clerical and administrative support to other city departments and the City Council. The Deputy City Clerk-Office Assistant position will be responsible for monthly utility billing, receiving and processing payments/deposits, Accounts Payable, website and social media management, election judge duties and light office cleaning and organization. Applicants must have a High School Diploma/GED; some secondary, post-secondary coursework, or other formal training (e.g. workshops, seminars, etc.) in areas of book-keeping, accounting, automated billing software and the use of word processing and spreadsheet software. Benefits include PTO, PERA, paid holidays (if the holiday falls on a regularly scheduled work day). A resume, cover letter, and application are required. Application and full job description can be found on the City's website www.cityofmotley.com or picked up at the city office. Application packets must be received by noon on Thursday, April 3, 2025. Contact Tami Brotherton City-Clerk Treasurer for questions. Phone: 218-352-6709 or email clerk@cityofmotley.com.

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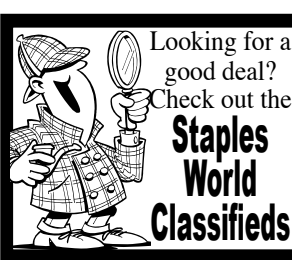
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*Thomas Sellnow is a Real Property Law Specialist certified by Real Property Section of Minnesota State Bar Association.

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SW 2024 changed wk #3



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320-732-4420
toddplan.zone@co.todd.
mn.us

Notice is hereby given
that the Todd County Plan-
ning Commission will hold

**NOTICE OF
MORTGAGE
FORECLOSURE SALE**

**THE RIGHT TO VERI-
FICATION OF THE DEBT
AND IDENTITY OF THE
ORIGINAL CREDITOR
WITHIN THE TIME PRO-
VIDED BY LAW IS NOT
AFFECTED BY THIS
ACTION.**

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

DATE OF MORTGAGE:
October 14, 2016
ORIGINAL PRINCIPAL
AMOUNT OF MORTGAGE:
\$87,387.00

MORTGAGOR(S): Tim-
othy L. Klimek and Dawn
Klimek, husband and wife
MORTGAGEE: Mortgage
Electronic Registration
Systems, Inc., as nominee
for Quicken Loans Inc.

DATE AND PLACE OF
FILING: Recorded on Octo-
ber 17, 2016 as Document
Number 501301 in the Office
of the County Recorder of
Todd County, Minnesota.

ASSIGNMENTS OF
MORTGAGE: Assigned
to: Rocket Mortgage, LLC
f/k/a Quicken Loans, LLC
f/k/a Quicken Loans Inc.
by assignment recorded
on March 16, 2020 as Doc-
ument Number A518497 in
the Office of the County
Recorder of Todd County,
Minnesota.

LEGAL DESCRIPTION
OF PROPERTY: Commenc-
ing at a point 467 feet South
of the Southwest corner of
Lot 3, Block 2, Rodman's
Addition to Eagle Bend,
Minnesota, thence East a
distance of 150 feet, thence
South 125 feet, thence West
150 feet, thence North 125
feet to the place of begin-
ning, being a part of the NE
1/4 of the NW 1/4, Section
13, Township 131, Range 35,
Todd County, Minnesota.

STREET ADDRESS OF
PROPERTY: 309 CENTRAL
AVE S, EAGLE BEND, MN
56446

**NOTICE OF
MORTGAGE
FORECLOSURE SALE**

**THE RIGHT TO VERI-
FICATION OF THE DEBT
AND IDENTITY OF THE
ORIGINAL CREDITOR
WITHIN THE TIME PRO-
VIDED BY LAW IS NOT
AFFECTED BY THIS
ACTION.**

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

DATE OF MORTGAGE:
March 29, 2022
ORIGINAL PRINCIPAL
AMOUNT OF MORTGAGE:
\$149,153.00

MORTGAGOR(S): Eric J.
Tichy, a single person

MORTGAGEE: Mortgage
Electronic Registration
Systems, Inc., as nominee
for USAA Federal Savings
Bank

DATE AND PLACE
OF FILING: Recorded on
March 31, 2022 as Docu-
ment Number A531000 in
the Office of the County
Recorder of Todd County,
Minnesota.

ASSIGNMENTS OF
MORTGAGE: Assigned to:
Nationstar Mortgage LLC
by assignment recorded on
February 27, 2025 as Docu-
ment Number A544828 in
the Office of the County
Recorder of Todd County,
Minnesota.

LEGAL DESCRIPTION
OF PROPERTY: Lot 23,
Auditor's Subdivision of
the Southeast Quarter
Northwest Quarter (SE1/4
NW1/4) and the Northeast
Quarter Southwest Quar-
ter (NE1/4 SW1/4), Section
1, Township 133, Range 33,
Todd County, Minnesota.

STREET ADDRESS OF
PROPERTY: 718 5TH ST NE,
STAPLES, MN 56479

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

a public hearing on Thurs-
day, April 3, 2025 at 6:00
p.m. in the Commission-
ers meeting room, Historic
Courthouse, 215 First Ave.
South, Long Prairie, MN to
consider the following appli-
cations.

NOTE: This meeting is
again being held in-person
and the public is encour-
aged to attend, but Zoom
and phone options are still

See **TODD PLANNING**
on page 8a

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

THE A M O U N T
CLAIMED TO BE DUE ON
THE MORTGAGE ON THE
DATE OF THE NOTICE:
\$83,076.83

TRANSACTION AGENT:
Mortgage Electronic Regis-
tration Systems, Inc.

NAME OF MORTGAGE
ORIGINATOR: Quicken
Loans Inc.

RESIDENTIAL SER-
VICER: Rocket Mortgage,
LLC

TAX PARCEL IDEN-
TIFICATION NUMBER:
33-0003100

T R A N S A C T I O N
A G E N T ' S M O R T -
G A G E I D E N T I F I -
C A T I O N N U M B E R :
100039033600886869

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

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

DATE AND TIME OF
SALE: April 24, 2025 at 10:00
AM.

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

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

TIME AND DATE TO

**NOTICE
MORAN TOWNSHIP
ELECTION RESULTS**

Moran Township elec-
tion results include:
Supervisor for three (3)
years: Joe Brichacek
Clerk for two (2) years:
Diane Mack.

Diane Mack, Clerk
Moran Township

13pnc

VACATE PROPERTY:
Unless said mortgage is
reinstated or the prop-
erty redeemed, or unless
the time for redemption is
reduced by judicial order,
you must vacate the prem-
ises by 11:59 p.m. on October
24, 2025.

THETIMEALLOWEDBY
LAW FOR REDEMPTION
BY THE MORTGAGOR,
THE MORTGAGOR'S
PERSONAL REPRESENTA-
TIVES OR ASSIGNS,
MAY BE REDUCED TO
FIVE WEEKS IF A JUDI-
CIAL ORDER IS ENTERED
UNDER MINNESOTA
STATUTES, SECTION
582.032, DETERMINING,
AMONG OTHER THINGS,
THAT THE MORT-
GAGED PREMISES ARE
IMPROVED WITH A RESI-
DENTIAL DWELLING OF
LESS THAN FIVE UNITS,
ARE NOT PROPERTY
USED IN AGRICULTURAL
PRODUCTION, AND ARE
ABANDONED.

M O R T G A G O R (S)
RELEASED FROM FINAN-
CIAL OBLIGATION ON
MORTGAGE: None

Dated: February 14, 2025

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

TROTT LAW, P.C.

By: _____ /s/ _____
N. Kibongni
Fondungallah, Esq.
Samuel R. Coleman, Esq.
Alexa Marsh, Esq.
Attorneys for Mortgagee
25 Dale Street North
St. Paul, MN 55102
(651) 209-9760
(25-0137-FC01)

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

10-15pnc

TIME AND DATE TO
VACATE PROPERTY:
Unless said mortgage is
reinstated or the prop-
erty redeemed, or unless
the time for redemption is
reduced by judicial order,
you must vacate the prem-
ises by 11:59 p.m. on Novem-
ber 17, 2025.

THETIMEALLOWEDBY
LAW FOR REDEMPTION
BY THE MORTGAGOR,
THE MORTGAGOR'S
PERSONAL REPRESENTA-
TIVES OR ASSIGNS,
MAY BE REDUCED TO
FIVE WEEKS IF A JUDI-
CIAL ORDER IS ENTERED
UNDER MINNESOTA
STATUTES, SECTION
582.032, DETERMINING,
AMONG OTHER THINGS,
THAT THE MORT-
GAGED PREMISES ARE
IMPROVED WITH A RESI-
DENTIAL DWELLING OF
LESS THAN FIVE UNITS,
ARE NOT PROPERTY
USED IN AGRICULTURAL
PRODUCTION, AND ARE
ABANDONED.

M O R T G A G O R (S)
RELEASED FROM FINAN-
CIAL OBLIGATION ON
MORTGAGE: None

Dated: March 05, 2025

NATIONSTAR
MORTGAGE LLC
Mortgagee

TROTT LAW, P.C.

By: _____ /s/ _____
*N. Kibongni
Fondungallah, Esq.*
Samuel R. Coleman, Esq.
Alexa Marsh, Esq.
Attorneys for Mortgagee
25 Dale Street North
St. Paul, MN 55102
(651) 209-9760
(25-0239-FC01)

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

12-17pnc

**NOTICE
CITY OF STAPLES
ORDINANCE NO. 552
AN ORDINANCE
REGARDING THE
SALE OF PROPERTY**

NOTICE IS HEREBY
GIVEN: THE CITY OF
STAPLES DOES ORDAIN
AS FOLLOWS:

Sec. 1. The City of Sta-
ples is hereby empowered
to sell the following real
estate located in the City
of Staples, County of
Todd, State of Minnesota
in accordance with the sale
price to be authorized by
the City Council:

Lots 1, 2, 3, and 4, Block
14, Shellabarger's First
Addition

Sec. 2. The net proceeds
from the sale shall be used
pursuant to Section 11.05
of the Staples City Charter.

Sec. 3. The Mayor and
City Administrator are
authorized to execute any
documents to complete the
sale.

Sec. 4. This ordinance
shall take effect from and
after its passage and publi-
cation in accordance with
law.

Adopted this 11th day of
March 2025.

Tara Greer, Clerk
City of Staples

13pnc

**ASSESSMENT NOTICE
CITY OF STAPLES
COUNTY OF WADENA**

NOTICE IS HEREBY
GIVEN, that the Board of
Review - *Equalization of
the City of Staples, Wadena
County, Minnesota, will
meet at the Office of the
Wadena County Assessor,
Wadena MN at 1:00 p.m. on
Thursday, April 3, 2025. The
purpose of this meeting is
to determine whether prop-
erty in the jurisdiction has
been properly valued and
classified by the assessor.

If you believe the value
or classification of your
property is incorrect, con-
tact your assessor's office
to discuss your concerns.
If you disagree with the val-
uation or classification after
discussing it with your
assessor, you may appear
before the County Board of
Appeal and Equalization.

Tara Greer, Clerk
City of Staples

13pnc

**NOTICE
MORAN TOWNSHIP**

**Important Information
Regarding Property
Assessments**
This may affect your
2026 property taxes.

The Board of Appeal
and Equalization for Moran
Township will meet on
Monday, April 21, 2025 at
10:00 a.m. at the Town Hall.
The purpose of this meet-

ing is to determine whether
property in the jurisdiction
has been properly valued
and classified by the asses-
sor.

If you believe the value
or classification of your
property is incorrect, con-
tact your assessor's office
to discuss your concerns.
If you disagree with the val-
uation or classification after
discussing it with your
assessor, you may appear
before the Local Board of
Appeal and Equalization.
The board will review your
assessments and make cor-
rections as needed. Gener-
ally, you must appeal to the
local board before appeal-
ing to the County Board of
Appeal and Equalization.

Diane Mack, Clerk
Moran Township

13-14pnc

**NOTICE
THOMASTOWN
TOWNSHIP
BOARD OF APPEALS
AND EQUALIZATION**

The annual Board of
Appeals and Equalization
meeting will be held at the
Thomastown Town Hall on
Friday, April 4, 2025 at 1:00
p.m. The purpose of this
meeting is to determine
whether property has been
properly valued and classi-
fied by the assessor.

Sue Walsvik, Clerk
Thomastown Township

13-14pnc

Clerk's Posted Notice

Important Information Regarding Assessment and Classification of Property

This may affect your 2025 property tax payments.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, That the Board of Appeal and Equalization for the

City of Motley, Morrison and Cass Counties, Minnesota shall meet on Friday, April 11th,

2025 at 9:00 a.m. this meeting is at the Motley City Hall. The purpose of this meeting is to

determine whether taxable property in the jurisdiction has been properly valued and classified

by the assessor, and to determine whether corrections need to be made.

If you believe the value or classification of your property is incorrect, please contact your

Assessor's office to discuss your concerns. If you are still not satisfied with the valuation or

classification after discussing it with your assessor, you may appear before the Local Board of

Appeal and Equalization. The Board shall review the valuation, classification, or both if

necessary, and shall correct it as needed. Generally, an appearance before your Local Board

of Appeal and Equalization is required by law before an appeal can be taken to the County

Board of Appeal and Equalization.

Given under my hand this 6th day of March, 2025

Clerk of the City of Motley

12-13pnc

**NOTICE OF
MORTGAGE
FORECLOSURE SALE**

**THE RIGHT TO VERI-
FICATION OF THE DEBT
AND IDENTITY OF THE
ORIGINAL CREDITOR
WITHIN THE TIME PRO-
VIDED BY LAW IS NOT
AFFECTED BY THIS
ACTION.**

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

DATE OF MORTGAGE:
February 28, 2023

ORIGINAL PRINCIPAL
AMOUNT OF MORTGAGE:
\$150,200.00

MORTGAGOR(S): Jac-
quelyn Gilman, a single
person

MORTGAGEE: Mortgage
Electronic Registration Sys-
tems, Inc., as nominee for
PennyMac Loan Services,
LLC

DATE AND PLACE OF
FILING: Recorded on March
7, 2023 as Document Number
A535533 in the Office of the
County Recorder of Todd
County, Minnesota.

ASSIGNMENTS OF
MORTGAGE: Assigned
to: PennyMac Loan Ser-
vices, LLC by assignment
recorded on October 17,
2024 as Document Number
A543225 in the Office of the
County Recorder of Todd
County, Minnesota.

LEGAL DESCRIPTION
OF PROPERTY: The middle
1/3 of Lots 4, 5 and 6, Block
9, Searle's First Addition to
Staples, Todd County, Min-
nesota.

STREET ADDRESS OF
PROPERTY: 919 2ND AVE
NE, STAPLES, MN 56479

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

THE A M O U N T
CLAIMED TO BE DUE ON
THE MORTGAGE ON THE

DATE OF THE NOTICE:
\$154,358.29

TRANSACTION AGENT:
Mortgage Electronic Regis-
tration Systems, Inc.

NAME OF MORTGAGE
ORIGINATOR: PennyMac
Loan Services, LLC

RESIDENTIAL SER-
VICER: PennyMac Loan
Services, LLC

TAX PARCEL IDEN-
TIFICATION NUMBER:
38-0059400

T R A N S A C T I O N
A G E N T ' S M O R T -
G A G E I D E N T I F I -
C A T I O N N U M B E R :
1007159-7001852891-7

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

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

DATE AND TIME OF
SALE: May 08, 2025 at 10:00
AM.

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

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

TIME AND DATE TO
VACATE PROPERTY:

Unless said mortgage is
reinstated or the prop-
erty redeemed, or unless
the time for redemption is
reduced by judicial order,
you must vacate the prem-
ises by 11:59 p.m. on Novem-
ber 10, 2025.

THETIMEALLOWEDBY
LAW FOR REDEMPTION
BY THE MORTGAGOR,
THE MORTGAGOR'S
PERSONAL REPRESENTA-
TIVES OR ASSIGNS,
MAY BE REDUCED TO
FIVE WEEKS IF A JUDI-
CIAL ORDER IS ENTERED
UNDER MINNESOTA
STATUTES, SECTION
582.032, DETERMINING,
AMONG OTHER THINGS,
THAT THE MORT-
GAGED PREMISES ARE
IMPROVED WITH A RESI-
DENTIAL DWELLING OF
LESS THAN FIVE UNITS,
ARE NOT PROPERTY
USED IN AGRICULTURAL
PRODUCTION, AND ARE
ABANDONED.

M O R T G A G O R (S)
RELEASED FROM FINAN-
CIAL OBLIGATION ON
MORTGAGE: None

Dated: March 05, 2025

PENNYMAC LOAN
SERVICES, LLC
Mortgagee

TROTT LAW, P.C.

By: _____ /s/ _____
*N. Kibongni
Fondungallah, Esq.*
Samuel R. Coleman, Esq.
Alexa Marsh, Esq.
Attorneys for Mortgagee
25 Dale Street North
St. Paul, MN 55102
(651) 209-9760
(25-0226-FC01)

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

12-17pnc



2002, 2003 girls cross country hall of fame team

Taking off together at the 2003 state cross country meet, Staples Motley runners, front row from left, Steph Jares, Brittany Brenny, Hannah Landecker and Amanda Reichel; behind them are Naomi Landecker, Natasha Wenzel and Courtney Robinson. (Staples World file photo)



1981, 1982 boys basketball hall of fame team

From the 1981 boys basketball tournament, Craig Wolhowe steals the ball from a Warren player and heads up the court for a fast break. (Staples World file photo)

ATHLETIC continued from page 1a

Coaches Norm Card, Tom Honek elected to hall of fame, 1981 and '82 boys basketball, 2002, '03 girls cross country

5.9 yards per carry and 28 touchdowns. All Conference in baseball, .533 batting average. All Conference in basketball as a four year starter. Named Most Valuable Track Athlete his junior year.

The first Staples basketball teams to qualify for the state tournament, starting a run of 11 appearances over 20 years.

Norm Card
Staples and Staples Motley Athletic Director and coach for many years. Led the development of the "culture of success" that made the 1970-2000 era of Staples/Motley sports, music, and speech/debate dominance.

Tom Honek
Coached football, basketball and softball. In nine years as head football coach, had a record of 72-24. Led the Staples/Motley Cardinals to the 1988 Class A Prep Bowl. The Cardinals lost to Lakeville (35-28). S/M returned to the state tournament in 1989, playing Fridley in the state tournament quarter-final. Multiple conference, sub-section and section championships. Head coach of the 1989 Minnesota Out-state All-Star team.

Coached boys basketball ninth grade team for nine years and was girls basketball varsity assistant for two years. Assistant coach for softball for nine years.

Dick Bremer
Known throughout Minnesota as the voice of the Minnesota Twins TV broadcasts, Bremer was a Staples Cardinal athlete for four years, participating in baseball and basketball, graduating in 1974. He has earned multiple broadcasting awards, but is known locally as a hometown supporter. His hall of fame nomination letter stated "We call Dick a friend, gracious when entertaining hometown visitors to the Twins broadcast booth, generous when raising funds for the Staples-Motley baseball team." Bremer also frequently talked about his Staples

1981 and 1982 boys basketball teams

The 1981 team was undefeated in the regular season and through the district and region playoffs, but lost their first state tournament game. They came back to win the consolation championship. Top players were Jamie Marden, Mike Mergens, Craig Wolhowe, Bo Olson and John Riewer.

The 1982 team also won the state consolation championship after an injury hurt their state tournament run. Top players included Craig Wolhowe, Pete Backberg, John Riewer, Bo Olson and Paul Howard.

2002 and 2003 girls cross country teams

Staples Motley finished second at the state girls cross country meet in 2002, just nine points away from first. The top runners were Hannah Landecker, Steph Jares, Courtney Robinson, Liza Milless, Kayla Smith, Amanda Reichel, Kelsey Griffith and Amy Bernstrom.

The 2003 team improved to an untouchable level. They won state with a record of 45 total points, also setting a record for their winning margin of 84 points. Their times would have won the Class AA big schools state meet. The team was ranked 20th in the nation by the end of the year. The top seven runners at the state meet and their 4,000 meter race times were Steph Jares 15:04, Hannah Landecker 15:08, Naomi Landecker 15:08, Natasha Wenzel 15:23, Amanda Reichel 15:27, Brittany Brenny 15:36, and Courtney Robinson 15:45.

ASCEND continued from page 1a

AscendRural learning how to tailor program to specific organization needs

The two technology companies they are using to start the pilot program are Supportiv, a real-time, anonymous, 24/7 digital per-to-peer support platform, and Psyche Care, a digital caregiver support platform to empower parents to become therapeutic caregivers.

The AscendRural program was developed with collaboration from community leaders to find out their needs and find ways that could help.

Five area organizations volunteered to test out the pilot program. Clara's House, a program from CentraCare of St. Cloud, serves children with emotional and behavioral difficulties. Selander Coaching and Consulting of Aitkin provides many mental health services. The Shop of Brainerd is a non-profit for teens transitioning to young adulthood. Smiles For Jake is a suicide prevention program based in Brainerd. The YMCA of Brainerd has also volunteered to participate in the program.

When asked if schools will be able to participate in the future, Kjolsing said they want to see what works with the pilot programs first. They are also looking at ways to tailor the program for each organization that gets involved.

"We want to make sure

the community organizations are able to advocate what their constituents need, it could be different for each community," said Kjolsing. "We want it to be much more intentional. Trust is so important to the work. We would be devastated if it worked for one group and then we brought it to another group and it failed."

A press release from Sourcewell addressed the issue of how to create a program to meet rural needs.

"Most systems and economic models are incentivized to serve the largest number of people possible," said Kjolsing. "This approach often overlooks rural communities, leading to new products and services that are not designed with them in mind. By creating a space where rural communities can engage and explore innovative solutions, AscendRural aims to position rural areas as viable markets for new technologies and ways of thinking."

At a time when technology plays a role in rising mental health issues among youth, Ascend Rural is attempting to give youth a platform that they and their parents can trust.

"We are meeting young people where they are," said Kjolsing, "they use the internet, that's part of their life."

She gave an example of the Psyche Care platform that is part of the pilot program, how it works to overcome the negative side of digital consumption.

"It shows how caregivers can create boundaries and how to encourage young people in their own home," said Kjolsing. "It teaches critical thinking skills, asking why are they reading what they are and how to engage with that."

Sourcewell, headquartered in Staples, serves schools, government entities, nonprofits and other public institutions, providing cooperative purchasing and providing needed services for the five county area and around Minnesota.

"We are excited to be in this space, to bring these resources to the community," said Kjolsing.

According to the press release, "AscendRural is a technology innovation and implementation hub dedicated to boosting the well-being of rural America. Initiated by Sourcewell, it embodies their commitment to helping communities thrive. The program brings together local leaders and the innovation community to pilot technology solutions. The goal is to address accessibility, availability and affordability issues while accounting for what makes rural communities unique."

FAMILY MEDICINE

STAPLES

Welcoming

KEVIN BARDWELL, MD

Schedule an appointment: 218-894-7870

Find their full profile:

EssentiaHealth.org/NewToEssentia

Essentia Health