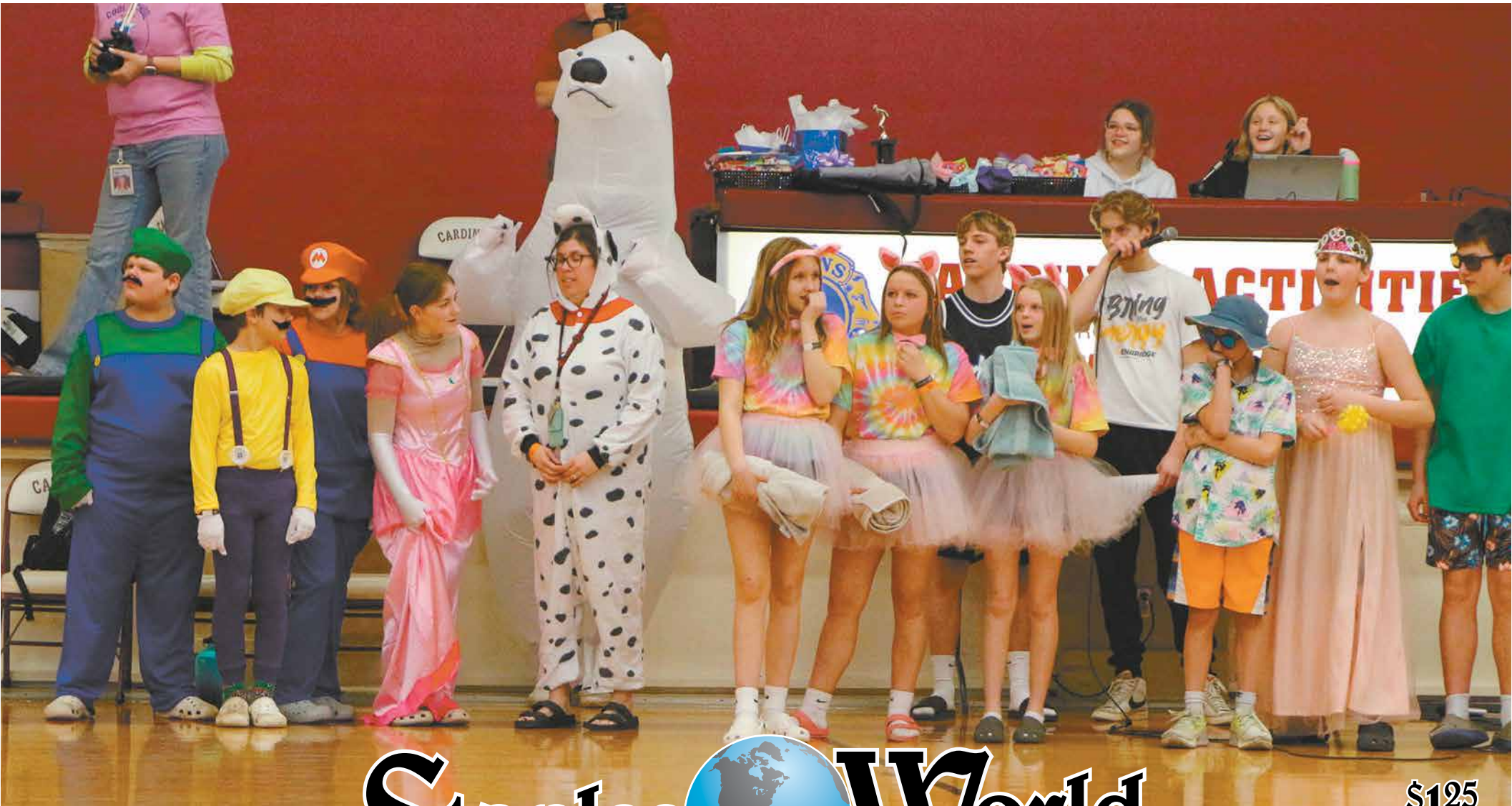


Inside this issue:

Stan Edin memorial
Kloeckl-Jimenez scholarship, travels
Spelling bee held in Staples
New tobacco shop in Staples



Polar Plunge costumes Staples-Motley students dressed up to participate in the Polar Plunge on March 20. Students raised more than \$10,000 for Special Olympics. See photos on page 11a. (Photo by Mark Anderson)

Staples council to introduce prayer to meeting agenda

By Mark Anderson
Managing Editor

Two members of the Staples City Council asked to add a prayer at the beginning of every council meeting. Mayor Ron Murray brought up the topic and said he had been talking about it with council member Roy Miles, who is a pastor at the Assembly of God Church in Staples.

Murray said they would hold the prayer after the Pledge of Allegiance and would be delivered by one of the community pastors.

Council member John Jewison said the council should consider the separation of church and state, but also said “a prayer wouldn’t bother me.”

City Administrator Jerel Nelsen said a U.S. Supreme Court decision in 2014 does allow for city councils to hold prayers, as long as it meets certain guidelines.

Miles said he is simply looking for a blessing for the council. “We need a blessing from the Lord to make deci-

sions and help us make decisions,” said Miles.

Miles said it would not be more than a few minutes and would not have any political insights. “Just a blessing of the Lord and wisdom of God as we make decisions,” said Miles.

A few council members had questions and concerns, but no objections were voiced by council members.

Sales tax

The city’s sales tax revenue has been more than expected, which could help get the Staples Community Center fixed up quicker. Nelsen said they had estimated \$120,000 per year from the one half of one percent sales tax, but the latest report showed \$134,000 in the period between July through January.

The tax was approved to collect \$1.6 million for community center improvements. Once that amount is reached, the tax will be ended.

Nelsen said they will start by fixing a drain that

needs to be cleaned up. He said they will look for financing for the major projects such as new boilers and HVAC work, then pay that back through the sales tax.

In other news, the council

- Heard from Nelsen that the city received eight applications for the Economic Development Director position and they will interview two of the candidates. He said if they don’t make a hire before current director Melissa Wyman leaves, they could contract with Todd County Development Corporation, where Wyman is taking over as director, to follow up with some of the current projects going on in Staples.
- Approved grant agreement with Division of Homeland Security and Emergency in the Minnesota Department of Public Safety for Dower Lake storm shelter construction.
- Approved certifying unpaid utility bills, with one property listed having a bill of \$219.
- Adopted assessments for 2nd Street NE street and utility improvement project, and approved plans for the project.

Chamber sets deadline to fill board positions

By Mark Anderson
Managing Editor

The Staples Area Chamber of Commerce made a plan to fill open board positions at their April 24 meeting, or else look into ending the chamber organization.

At their March 27 meeting, the chamber talked about the need for community participation and for area businesses to get involved in the chamber.

The chamber has not had a director or a board president for one year. Events Committee Chair Jordan

Goodwater has been functioning as de-facto president. The other officers are Jamie D’Ambrogio, Secretary, and Josi Longbottom, Treasurer.

Three board positions not filled are President, Membership and Marketing. The current board members noted that they are all over-extended as volunteers and will not be able to continue chamber functions, such as hosting events, without more volunteers.

One of the main functions of the chamber was to organize Railroad Days.

All the chamber board members still work on the annual event, but it now falls under the Discover Staples tourism board.

Prior to the March 27 meeting, the chamber sent out letters to businesses to ask for more input at the April 24 meeting. Three new people came to the meeting, plus one person joined by phone. Of the three open positions, two people expressed interest in taking a spot.

The April 24 meeting is at 8:30 a.m. at Timberlake Hotel, Staples.

Angst panel suggests skills to fight anxiety

By Mark Anderson
Managing Editor

Around 75 people gathered at Faith Lutheran Church to watch a movie and talk about the role that anxiety plays in our community.

The viewing of the movie “Angst” on March 19 was sponsored by Staples Motley Beyond Poverty, and was followed by a panel discussion of mental health professionals. The movie was also shown to Staples-Motley Middle School 7th and 8th grade students earlier

in the day, with the same panel discussing the topic and taking questions afterwards.

The movie talks about how anxiety leads to a feeling of loss of control and how it can lead to physical and behavior issues. It mentions the role of social media in creating anxiety and the role of parents in sometimes fostering anxiety or allowing it to go on without confronting it.

The movie suggests different coping strategies. Olympic swimmer Michael Phelps makes a cameo in

the movie and talks about his own struggle with anxiety and depression. Talking with one of the film’s subjects, he encourages children to open up and talk about what they are going through.

Following the movie, the panel talked about their professional experiences with anxiety in the community. The panel was Dr. Paul Davis and Amanda Mithun of Lakewood Health System, Lexy Van Alst and Lindsey Soule of Northern Pines Mental Health Center, and Carlie Reading, Staples-Mot-

See **ANGST** on page 12a

Weather

2024			
This Week’s Forecast			
	High	Low	Cond.
Apr. 3	49	24	M. Sunny
Apr. 4	50	24	Sunny
Apr. 5	51	29	Sunny
Apr. 6	54	36	M. Sunny
Apr. 7	58	38	P. Sunny
Apr. 8	56	38	M. Cloudy
Apr. 9	60	39	Showers

Last Year, 2023			
	High	Low	Cond.
Apr. 3	31°	28	Cloudy
Apr. 4	29	27	Cloudy
Apr. 5	23	20	Cloudy
Apr. 6	27	12	Sunny
Apr. 7	40	14	Sunny
Apr. 8	47	20	Sunny
Apr. 9	46	26	Sunny

Average Temps:
H = 50° Low = 31°

Compiled by
Dale Hausmann,
WCCO’s Staples area
Weatherwatcher

Public Notices

City of Staples	
	9A
Evergreen Hill Cemetery	
	9A
Moose Lake Township	
	9A
Motley Township	
	9A
Todd Cty Public Hearing	
	9A
City of Staples	
	9A

Obituaries

Mitchell Braith
Raymond Brynairski



Mental health professionals concerned about anxiety

The local panel discusses the prevalence of anxiety in our society. Standing at left, Amy Wiese, Community Health Supervisor at Lakewood and SMBP board member who helped organize the event and asked questions to the panel, with the panel of Dr. Paul Davis, psychologist at Lakewood Health System, Amanda Mithun, Behav-

ioral Health therapist at Lakewood Health System, Lexy Van Alst, Mental Health Practitioner with Northern Pines Mental Health Center, Lindsey Soule, Northern Pines Mental Health Center, and Carlie Reading, Staples-Motley Middle School Social Worker. (Staples World photo by Mark Anderson)

Tracey Kloeckl-Jiménez receives scholarship

The Board of Directors for the Central States Language Teachers recently presented Tracey Kloeckl-Jiménez of Staples with the Goethe Institute Scholarship at their annual conference held in Minneapolis.

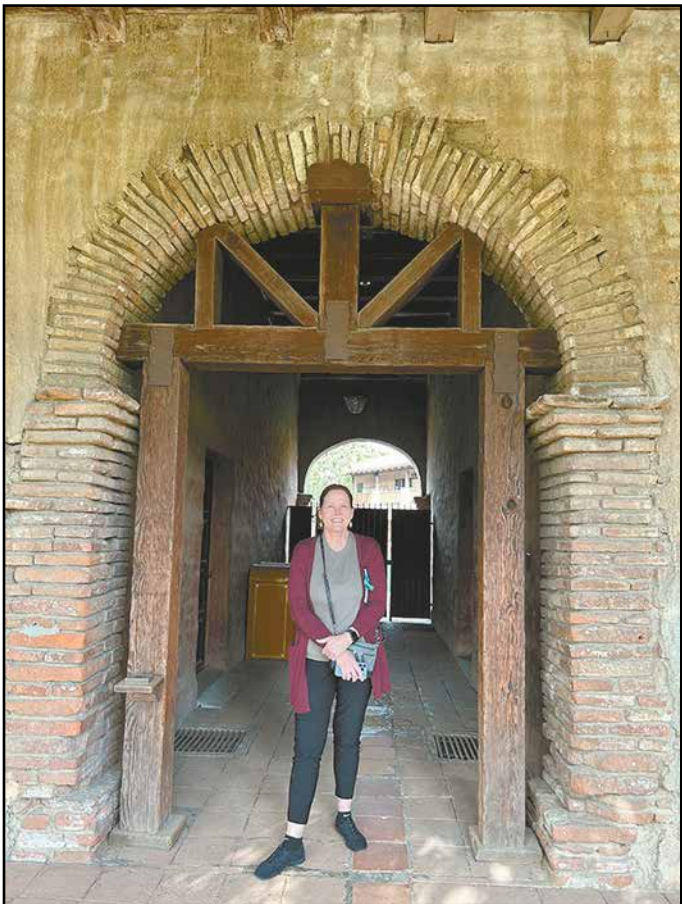
This award, which allows Kloeckl-Jiménez to study in Germany and live with a German family, was in recognition of her professional commitment and significant involvement in the teaching of world languages. The Goethe Institute also recently awarded Kloeckl-Jiménez an additional scholarship, so she will be studying in both Munich and in Schwäbisch Hall for a month this coming summer.

Kloeckl-Jiménez is on sabbatical from teaching at Central Lakes College in Brainerd this spring semester to study and travel. In January, she traveled through Southern California studying our Mexican-American heritage; and in February, she traveled throughout the southern cone of South America. She shared, “These experiences to travel and live with local families where the target language is spoken are invaluable learning opportunities. I feel truly fortunate to have had these opportunities, and will most certainly share things I learned with students, family and the community.”



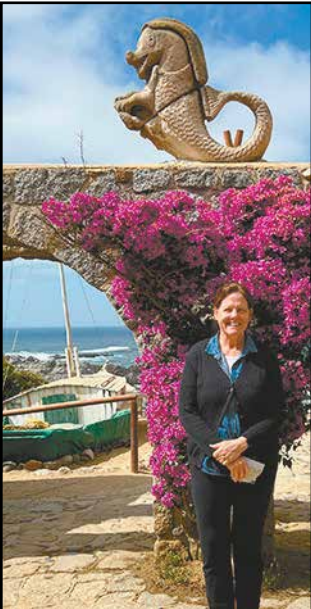
With her award

Tracey Kloeckl-Jiménez, left, of Staples receives the Central States Scholarship award from Franziska Treipke, the Lesson/Language Consultant Expert at the Goethe Institute in Chicago. The award was presented recently at the Goethe Institute’s annual conference. (Submitted photo)



Studying in California

Tracey Kloeckl-Jiménez is pictured at the San Luis Capistrano Mission while studying in Southern California this past January. (Submitted photo)



In South American

Tracey Kloeckl-Jiménez in pictured in front of the Chilean poet Pablo Neruda’s home “Isla Negra” on the Chilean Pacific Coast this past February. (Submitted photo)

Faith in Action for Cass County receives 2024 Aging Services Grant

Faith in Action for Cass County was awarded a grant from Older Americans Act (OAA) to provide services to older adults living in Central Minnesota during 2024. This grant provides reimbursement for program services including transportation to and from doctor’s appointments, shopping and errands, chores and homemaker services, and accessibility modifications such as wheelchair ramps and railings.

Congress passed the Older Americans Act (OAA) in 1965 in response to concern by policymakers about a lack of community social services for older persons. The original legislation established authority for grants to states for community planning and social services, research and development projects, and personnel training in the field of aging. The law also established the Administration on Aging (AoA) to administer the newly created grant programs and to serve as the Federal focal point on matters concerning older persons.

Although older individuals may receive services under many other federal programs, today the OAA is considered to be the major vehicle for the organization and delivery of social and nutrition services to this group and their caregivers.

It authorizes a wide array of service programs through a national network of 56 state agencies on aging, 629 area agencies on aging, nearly 20,000 service providers, 244 Tribal organizations, and two Native Hawaiian organizations representing 400 Tribes. The OAA also includes community service employment for low-income older Americans; training, research, and demonstration activities in the field of aging; and vulnerable elder rights protection activities.

Current census data shows that Cass County’s population of people aged 65-plus is approaching 30 percent. Local services for seniors are the key to helping people “age in place” in their homes and communities. In 2023, Faith in Action for Cass County served 331 people through their programs and 75 percent of those served were aged 65-plus. Faith in Action volunteers provided rides to appointments, chore services, building ramps, and offering care giving support. In addition, volunteers drove over 106,725 miles to furnish these essential services to members of our communities.

For more information on volunteer opportunities, call Theresa Eclov at Faith in Action at 218-675-5435 or visit www.faithinaction-cass.com.



Motley Lions donate to the food shelf

The Motley Lions recently donated \$15,000 to the Motley Area Food Shelf (MAFS). Pictured, from left, are Florence Berndt and Fran Kokett, MAFS volunteers;

Lion President Bruce Brotherton; Brenda Cleveland, MAFS volunteer; and Sherry Frisk, MAFS Director. (Submitted photo)



Leader Lions breakfast fundraiser

The Leader Lions recently held a breakfast fundraiser for the Motley Area Food Shelf. Pictured above at the Leader Community Hall, from left, are Lions Dar-

la Malcore, Deb Alexander, Joann Lund, Tammy Bell, Linda Johnson, Bill and Sandy Smith. (Submitted photo)



Motley Area Food Shelf donation

The Motley American Legion Post #124 recently donated \$1,000 to the Motley Area Food Shelf (MAFS). Pictured, from left, are Alan Marshall, Motley American Legion Commander; Sherry Frisk,

MAFS Director; Fran Kokett, MAFS volunteer; and Frank Vasecka, Motley American Legion Membership Director and Treasurer. (Submitted photo)



You're invited!

Social Security and Your Retirement.

Join us for an educational seminar

Regardless of when you plan to retire, Social Security will likely be an important part of the road ahead. Join us for a no-cost, no-obligation seminar that will answer your Social Security questions and discuss routes you can take to help get the most out of your benefits. Find out how to set a clear direction on your road to retirement.

Tuesday, April 9, 2024 • 6-7pm
Timbers Event Center
1220 2nd Ave NE, Staples 56479

Hosted by: Matt Ratchenski
LPL Financial Advisor
Mid Minnesota Investment & Retirement Services

Speaker: Michael Mason
Regional Vice President TruStage™

Please call Matt at (218) 325-6540 or email to reserve your seat at m.ratchenski@lpl.com

Refreshments will be served. Spaced is limited, so call Matt today to RSVP.

Matthew Ratchenski
LPL Financial Advisor, CRPC™
ph: (218) 325-6540 e: m.ratchenski@lpl.com



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Todd County Sheriff's report

March 25: At approximately 10:20 p.m. Todd County Sheriff's Office (TCSO) received a 911 call for a house fire in the city of Staples, 1200 8th St NE. Upon arrival Staples Police Officers observed the home fully engulfed. TCSO was able to determine that the residents were not home at the time of the fire. Staples Fire Depart. with the assistance of Motley Fire Depart. fought and distinguished the blaze for approximately three and 1/2 hours.

March 24: TCSO responded to a one vehicle rollover on US Hwy 71, near Cty 2, rural Sauk Centre. Martin Talley was traveling south on US 71, when he lost control of his 2005 Toyota Tundra, entering the ditch and rolled. Talley was not injured. Road conditions are believed to be a contributing factor. The sheriff's office was assisted on scene by Centre Towing.

March 24: At 5:41 a.m., TCSO received a 911 call of a barn fire at the address of 25866 Cty 14, rural Browerville. Hannah Lenz, a resident at the address, called in the fire. Browerville, Clarissa and Long Prairie Fire all responded to the scene. The fire departments were able to contain the fire to the west end of the barn. The

cause of the fire is believed to be an electrical issue with the dairy equipment.

March 22: TCSO responded to a two vehicle crash, near the intersection of Ann Ave West and John St S, Clarissa. A 2013 Dodge Dart driven by a juvenile male, rear ended a parked 2023 Subaru Outback. No injuries were reported.

March 21: TCSO responded to a report of a garage on fire at 49447 Cty 23. Hewitt Fire, Bertha Fire and Verndale Fire departments responded and extinguished the fire.

March 20: At 5:04 a.m. TCSO and Long Prairie Fire Depart. responded to a report of a fire at Dairy Ridge Farm. It is believed the fire started due to a bearing going out on a ventilation fan and a hot piece of metal falling onto the fiberglass shroud. The fire was extinguished by two employees using fire extinguishers prior to law enforcement and fire department arrival.

March 15: The Osakis Fire Depart. and TCSO responded to a tractor on fire at a rural address on Cty Rd 4. Rud Wasson, the owner, was not injured during the blaze. The tractor was a total loss.

Court report March 27

Long Prairie Police Department
Karen Cecilia Asfeld, Clarissa. Speed 46/30. Fine \$60. Fee \$85.
Rafael Becerra Garcia, Long Prairie. Driving after revocations. Fine \$200. Fee \$85.
Michael Richard Okane, Long Prairie. Disorderly Conduct- offensive, abusive, boisterous, noisy, obscene. Dismissed.
Minnesota Department of Natural Resources
Timothy Allan Servin, Dassel. Fish and Game- lend, borrow, or transfer a license tag or seal; use license tag seal. Fine \$200. Fee \$85. Wildlife Restitution fee \$500.
Jerome Steven St. Sauver, Mound. Fishing- special management waters- quality sunfish reduced daily limit 10. Fine \$100. Fee \$85. Wildlife Restitution fee \$15.
Minnesota State Patrol
Dalton Andrew Emerson, Verndale. Speed 79/65. Fine \$50. Fee \$85.
Wade Walter Moenkedick, Verndale. Speed 69/60. Fine \$40. Fee \$85.
Walid M. A. Abu Esefan, Oakville, Ontario. Speed 88/70. Fine \$60. Fee \$85.
Fowzia Osman Amin, Winnipeg, Manitoba. Speed 85/70. Fine \$60. Fee \$85.
Dawn Lee Bancroft, Afton. Speed 89/70. Fine \$60. Fee \$85.
Monica Marie Braun, Dayton. Seatbelt required. Fine \$25. Fee \$85.
Damon Seth Demmer, Ullen. Hands-Free Law- hold wireless communications device with on or both hands. Fine \$50. Fee \$85.
Isabella Ann Dukowitz, Verndale. Speed 65/55. Fine \$40. Fee \$85.
John William Edwards, Little Falls. Speed 94/60. Fine \$150. Fee \$235.
Dustin Mark Gilson, Osakis. Seatbelt required. Fine \$25. Fee \$85.
Kim Renee Hruby, Mound. Speed 81/70. Fine \$50. Fee \$85.
James Leiman, Fargo, N.Dak. Speed 80/70. Fine \$40. Fee \$85.
Taylor Alan Loidolt, Pierz. Speed 71/60. Fine \$50. Fee \$85.
Troy Michael Nelson, Osakis. Speed 65/60. Fine \$40. Fee \$85.
Viridiana Orozco Vazquez, Melrose. Speed 81/60. Fine \$70. Fee \$155. No Minnesota Driver's License after 60 days residency/30 days CDL. Fine \$100.
Raymond Avelino Rohl, Osakis. Unsecure load. Fine \$60. Fee \$85.
James Bernard Super, Melrose. Unsecure load. Fine \$60. Fee \$85.
Adam Frank Traeger, Minneapolis. Speed 80/70. Fine \$40. Fee \$85.
Ryan Nelson Volkman, Backus. Speed 70/60. Fine \$40. Fee \$85.
Callister Clegane White, Clio, Mich. Speed 80/70. Fine \$40. Fee \$85.
Gilly Willow Zylka, Long Prairie. Speed 78/60. Fine \$60. Fee \$85.
Staples Police Department
Gilberto Russell Terrones, Staples. Second DWI- operate a motor vehicle with an alcohol concentration greater than 0.08. Dismissed. Second Degree DWI. Dismissed. Driving after revocation. Dismissed. Careless driving. Dismissed. Fail to signal for turn. Dismissed. Vehicle lighting. Dismissed.
Todd County Sheriff's Office
Charles Eugene Denny, Long Prairie. Driving without a valid license for vehicle class or type. Fine \$100. Fee \$75.
Samuel Judah Hanson Hoopman, Virginia. Fifth Degree Possession of a Controlled Substance. Dismissed, conditions met or expired.
Edwin Manuel Medina Matos, Long Prairie. Driving after suspension. Fine \$200. Fee \$85.
Leonaldy Perez, Browerville. Domestic Assault-commits act to cause fear of immediate bodily harm or death. Dismissed.
Edyluis Rojas Salazar, Long Prairie. Speed 85/60. Fine \$70. Fee \$155.
The following cases were

heard before Judge Daniel A. Benson in Seventh District Court in Todd County March 15, 2024.
Kaitlyn Elizabeth Espree, Clarissa. DWI- operate motor vehicle under influence of controlled substance. Dismissed. DWI- operate motor vehicle under influence of controlled substance. Dismissed. DWI- operate motor vehicle- any amount Schedule I/II drugs/metabolite; not cannabis/hemp. Fine \$50. Fee totals \$150. Local confinement 90 days. Stay 88 days for two years. Credit for time served: two days. Supervised probation, two years.
The following cases were heard before Judge Daniel A. Benson in Seventh District Court in Todd County March 18, 2024.
Heather Jean McKenzie, Fort Collins, Colo. Receiving stolen property. Dismissed. Second Degree DWI- operate motor vehicle under influence of alcohol. Dismissed. Second Degree DWI- operate motor vehicle, alcohol concentration of 0.08 within two hours. Sentenced. Fine \$100. Fee totals \$10,605. Local confinement 364 days. Stay 334 days for four years. Credit for time served: four days. Supervised probation, four years.
Juan David Lopez Rodriguez, Long Prairie. DWI Third Degree- operate motor vehicle under influence of alcohol. Dismissed. DWI Third Degree- operate motor vehicle- alcohol concentration 0.08 within two hours. Dismissed. DWI- operate motor vehicle under influence of alcohol. Sentenced. Fine \$250. Fee totals \$350. Local confinement 90 days. Stay 87 days for two years. Credit for time served: three days. Supervised probation, two years.
Andrew Francis Seifert, Grey Eagle. Driving after cancellation. Sentenced. Fine \$200. Fine \$75. Local confinement 364 days. Stay 363 days for two years. Credit for time served: one day. Unsupervised probation, two years.
The following cases were heard before Judge Daniel A. Benson in Seventh District Court in Todd County March 19, 2024.
Alison Marie Larrimore, Staples. Speed 53/35. Continued for dismissal. Fine \$150. Fee \$75. Unsupervised monitoring without conviction, six months.
The following cases were heard before Judge Daniel A. Benson in Seventh District Court in Todd County March 20, 2024.
Mitzi Ann Meizinger, Long Prairie. Theft- take, use, transfer movable property, no consent. Fine \$50. Fee totals \$163. Local confinement 10 days. Stay 10 days for six months. Unsupervised probation, six months.
Dale Joseph Olson, Motley. Speed 90/55. Sentenced. Fine \$100. Fee \$175. Careless driving. Sentenced. Local confinement 90 days. Stay 90 days for one year. Unsupervised probation, one year. Fine \$50. Public Defender Reimbursement fee \$300. No proof of motor vehicle insurance. Dismissed.
Jeremy John Freudenrich, Grey Eagle. Threaten crime of violence. Dismissed. Assault- Third Degree- Substantial Bodily Harm. Dismissed. Disorderly Conduct- Brawling or Fighting. Fine \$50. Fee totals \$345. Local confinement 90 days. Stay 90 days for one year. Supervised probation, one year.
Jeffrey Paul Warner, Brainerd. First Degree- possess 50 grams or more- methamphetamine. Sentenced. Fine \$100. Fee \$75. Local confinement 80 days. Credit for time served: 80 days. Supervised probation, five years. Introduce contraband- drug/liquor into jail. Dismissed. Obstruct legal process. Dismissed. Third Degree DWI- refuse to submit to chemical test; blood or urine as required by search warrant. Dismissed.

75 YEARS Ago - 1949

• April 7, 1949 - Mrs. A. F. Sampson was hostess to the Motley Study Club April 1. The business of the meeting was the election of officers: President, Hazel Converse; vice-president, Mildred Neuberger; secretary, Marilla Rice; treasurer, Shirley Sampson. Mrs. Harold Johnson gave an interesting talk on flowers.
Because this was the last meeting Mrs. Johnson would attend, the ladies had a handkerchief shower for her during the social hour. Mrs. Sampson served a lovely lunch at the close of the evening.
• April 7, 1949 - Attention is called to the forthcoming senior class play at Motley High school, "Faith, Hope and Flarity", April 8 and 9, at 8:15 p.m., in the high school gymnasium. The

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Compiled by
Dawn Timbs
- O -

play is under the talented direction of John Phelps of the English and speech department of the school.
• April 7, 1949 - Wilho Mattila arrived in Motley from Denham, Minnesota, on April 2, to take over his duties as manager of the Farmer's Co-op Store in Motley, succeeding Harold B. Johnsen, who resigned his position about March 1.
Mr. Mattila is married and he and his wife have rooms over the Aaron Haney tavern at the present time.
• April 7, 1949 - Blessing's Barber Shop in Staples underwent complete redecoration the first of this week. The color scheme used at the shop is a buff and pastel green for the sidewalls. All of the woodwork is white. Wilfred Nurnberger did the work at the shop.
• April 7, 1949 - A serious accident occurred near Lake Shamineau south of Motley about 4 p.m. April 2, in which Loretta Smith, six-year-old daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Fred Smith was seriously injured.
A car reported driven by Richard Wiesman of St. Paul hit the little girl as she attempted to dash across the highway, following her two sisters.
The little girl was brought to the Staples Municipal hospital in an unconscious condition. She remains in poor condition at the hospital.
• April 7, 1949 - Twelve members of the senior class of 1949 of the Staples high school, under the direction of Miss Mary Forsan, are busy practicing for the senior class play, "Double Exposure" which will be presented at the high school auditorium on May 4.
50 YEARS Ago - 1974
• April 4, 1974 - Don Droubie, director of the Right to Read program in the Staples schools and principal of the Lincoln Model Nongraded school, was elected president of the Staples Rotary Club for the 1974-75 year at a recent election of the organization.
Droubie, who has been a Rotarian since 1969, will assume his duties as head of Staples Rotary July 1. He served as vice-president during the past year and will succeed James Hofer.
Staples Police report March 20-25
March 20, Staples Police responded to a report of a burglary of an occupied dwelling, on the 500 block of Highway 10. The complainant reported that a flat screen television had been taken during the incident. The incident is under investigation.
March 20, Staples Police received a report of a student in possession of marijuana around the 1800 block of Airport Road. The juvenile was given a citation for possession of marijuana under 21 and possession of marijuana in a public or charter school.
March 20, Staples Police received a report of a loud

Looking back



Mystery photo

Hello readers. This week's archive photo is from 1974. 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.

• April 4, 1974 - James G. Randgaard, a prominent retired Staples businessman and community leader, died unexpectedly at the United District Hospital, about 11:45 p.m. Monday, March 25. Mr. Randgaard, 69, entered the hospital about 11 p.m. that evening. Death was apparently attributed to a heart attack.
Funeral services were conducted at 2 p.m. March 28, at the Faith Lutheran Church. The Rev. Eugene Floistad officiated at the services, followed by burial in Evergreen Hill cemetery.
• April 4, 1974 - A fire, which completely destroyed a mobile home early Wednesday evening, March 27, claimed the life of a Staples woman. Killed in the fire was Mrs. Ione A. Ragsdale, age 47.
According to information given The World, the fire in the mobile home was first noticed by Mike Thelen, son of Mrs. Marie Thelen, who resides in the mobile home next to Mrs. Ragsdale in the Knosalla Trailer Court. Young Thelen, a junior at Staples High school, immediately called the Staples Fire Department, and the fire alarm sounded in Staples about 5:35 p.m. It was also reported that Thelen and some vocational school students attempted to enter the trailer to rescue Mrs. Ragsdale, but were turned back by the flames.
• April 4, 1974 - Robert Sowers, age 17, has recently been named Star Farmer of District 4 of the Minnesota FFA. Sowers is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Walter Sowers of rural Leader.
• April 4, 1974 - With three lettermen returning from last year's District 24 and Region Six runner-up squad, the Staples Cardinal Baseball Team of Coach Jerry Riewer will be getting their season underway this week.
Heading the team as returning lettermen are Doug Cizek, a senior, who will be catcher and pitcher; Tom Odden, senior, shortstop and pitcher; and Jeff Cizek, sophomore, first baseman, pitcher and outfielder.
• April 4, 1974 - The Motley FFA general livestock judging team placed third in the District IV contest to qualify for state competition. Floyd Jares, Todd Kraft, Ned Digiovanni and Clarence Cronin repre-

sented Motley in the contest which was won by Verndale. Lynn Campbell and Wade Cattleberry were alternates and served as livestock showmen.
• April 4, 1974 - CeCe Huff, a sophomore at Staples high school, will leave April 5, for Spain for 10 days as a representative for American Ambassadors for Youth.
The group, which includes five students from Highland Park, one from Robbinsdale, five from Thief River Falls and 1 from Staples, along with a chap-erone, will depart from Minneapolis by airplane that evening.
They will spend four days in Madrid and then visit Granada, Seville and Cordova. A one-day sight-seeing trip to Tangiers, Africa, is also on the agenda. Miss Huff is the daughter of Lawrence J. Huff.
25 YEARS Ago - 1999
• April 8, 1999 - An 18-year-old Staples Motley high school student was arrested last Friday in connection with the March 23 telephone bomb threat at the Staples Motley High School. Grant Graton, 18, rural Staples, was arrested about 5 p.m. April 2 following questioning by the Staples Police Dept. officers. He was then



Mystery solved

Last week's mystery photo published in the April 8, 1982 edition of the Staples World featured the leaders of the Cardinal tracksters in 1982. Pictured front row, from left, are the girls tri-captains Lorrie Johnson, Melanie Nelson and Cindy Johnson. In back are the boys squad co-captains Darrel Crocker (left) and Steve Peterson.
were called to Pine Grove Park for a vehicle parked near the gated entrance. The occupants of the vehicle were advised to leave because the park was closed.
March 24, Staples Police were called to the 500 block of 3rd St NE for a suspicious person walking around the football field. They were observed walking up the stairs to the press box and other buildings. Police located the subject and they indicated they were out for a walk. The subject was advised their actions were suspicious and advised to walk on the side of a street or sidewalk.
March 23, Staples Police

Governor Walz state of the state

Excerpts from Minnesota Governor Tim Walz' State of the State Address

Maybe it's the smell of a freshly-sharpened pencil. Maybe it's the sight of the desks lined up perfectly in rows.

Maybe it's the sound of nervous, youthful chatter filling the hallways.

But whatever it is, if you're a teacher, nothing – nothing – beats the first day of school.

Take it from me and Gwen. For many years of our lives, we celebrated New Year's Day not in January, but in the early fall, when the doors opened and the kids came back from summer break. The first day of school is all about hope, and opportunity, and possibility. That's never been more true than it was here in Owatonna last fall, when the doors opened on this beautiful new building – a 317,000-square foot, state-of-the-art symbol of this community's commitment to its children.

When you walk through the doors for the first time as a student, the whole world opens up for you. The classrooms here are gorgeous, full of natural light and modern technology. And as you explore, you'll find not just wood, metal, and engine shops, but next-generation hydroponics equipment, a nursing lab, and a full commercial kitchen, and so much more.

This building is a factory, and what it manufactures are futures. You see, the curb appeal is undeniable. But this building wasn't designed with the first day of school in mind, but rather the last.

When students walk out of here for the last time as graduating seniors, they'll each have a ticket in their pocket – a ticket to a good-paying career they can feel excited about pursuing. They'll go on to become construction managers and firefighters, farmers, welders, and cardiac surgeons. And not only will they have the foundation to pursue any life they can dream of, many will have advanced

credentials to give them a leg up on the journey.

Think about how many young people will walk out those doors each spring, full of passion and purpose, ready to make a contribution to this community and to the world, ready to work and build and grow, ready to make the state of our state even stronger than it is today.

I came to Owatonna tonight to celebrate this magnificent school and discuss the work we're doing to improve the lives of children across Minnesota. But I also want people to remember just how many things had to go right for this vision to become reality.

Everybody in town knows the backstory: The old high school, while beautiful, was a hundred years old, and people in the community had been talking about replacing it for decades. But it wasn't until a few years ago that leaders in the public and private sectors came together and decided it was time to stop talking and start building.

Federated Insurance – a cornerstone of Owatonna since the early 20th century – pledged a major investment, not just for the good of their community, but for the good of their future workforce. Other companies joined in, offering not just money but equipment and expertise.

Owatonna voters overwhelmingly approved a bonding referendum. And, finally, this community was ready to take the plunge and actually get some shovels in the ground.

That small window of opportunity – that brief moment when the stars aligned – produced a community institution that will stand for decades and serve thousands and thousands of kids.

You know, most of the time, politics is incremental, frustrating, sometimes gridlocked altogether.

But every once in a while, you get an opportunity to make a whole lot of progress in a short amount of time. It happened here in Owatonna in 2019. And, after half a century of waiting

and working, it happened in Saint Paul in 2023.

I couldn't be more proud of the work we've done in our window of opportunity to improve education inside the walls of this school, and in every school across the state:

We've given our children a brighter future by making the largest investment in public education in our state's history.

We've increased teacher pay and doubled down on our efforts to recruit teachers from more diverse backgrounds.

We've expanded access to mental health resources, social workers, nurses, and chemical dependency counselors.

We've invested in making sure every student can read at their grade level.

We've expanded special education and career and technical education – as part of our commitment to making sure every Minnesota student receives a world-class education, regardless of where they live or where they go to school.

We're working to make Minnesota the best state in the country for a kid to grow up. And our work extends far past the classroom.

We've expanded access to pre-k and affordable child care.

We've made a billion-dollar investment in affordable housing.

We've established free public college tuition for low-income families.

We've made it easier to balance career and family by making paid family and medical leave the law of the land.

We've made Minnesota a more welcoming place for all by outlawing conversion therapy for LGBTQ youth and putting in place new protections for trans Minnesotans.

We've invested hundreds of millions to bring competitive, high-paying jobs to Minnesota and expand our economy with an eye towards the green energy jobs of the future.

We've expanded the right to organize – because Minnesota will always be a labor state.

We've lived up to our responsibility to our elders by cutting taxes for seniors.

We've invested \$300 million in public safety aid for communities across the state to fight crime and improve emergency services.

We've struck a blow against climate change by putting Minnesota on a pathway to 100 percent clean energy by the year 2040.

We've expanded voting rights and made it easier for people to vote.

We've announced plans to stop medical debt from ruining people's credit – and cut the interest rate on that debt to zero. Thanks to the leadership of Attorney General Ellison.

And we've put food on the table for struggling families by passing a new child tax credit that is estimated to cut child poverty in Minnesota by a third.

Speaking of putting food on the table, we're already seeing real results from our groundbreaking commitment to providing free school breakfast and lunch for every child in Minnesota.

The data shows that 30 percent more kids are eating breakfast, and 11 percent more eating lunch, than before – illustrating the scope of the problem we're working to solve. All those kids were going without before, and now they can focus on their studies with full stomachs.

And yet, for some reason, some politicians, especially from other states, roll their eyes when we talk about the importance of feeding and educating our children. They say it's not the role of government to make sure kids can eat and learn. Instead, they're spending their time and energy and political capital picking fights with beer companies and librarians.

Look, speaking on behalf of Minnesota to the leaders of other states, we're happy to take your jobs, and your private-sector investment dollars, and your brilliant young people. But we're not going to take your radical ideas.

Quote of the week

“A leader is one who knows the way, goes the way and shows the way.”
— John C. Maxwell

High costs, burdens of new state policies

By Senator Paul Utke

As we head into the second half of session, Democrats have continued the trend of bringing forward unacceptable bills that come with high costs, and oftentimes higher burdens. We're seeing this in the education policy bill, the labor bill, and the multiple land transfer bills that have been proposed.

After the White Earth State Forest land transfer bill was tabled, many had hoped that meant the issue was put to rest. Unfortunately, that same senator just introduced a bill that proposes another land transfer, this one focusing on Upper Red Lake. It proposes the transfer of all state-owned land and property administered by the state, which includes a 1-mile strip around the Upper Red Lake shoreline. This will cut off lake access to many Minnesotans who have enjoyed the lake for years. These metro legislators keep introducing bills that affect districts they don't represent, and it creates a lot of tension and animosity within affected communities. Those same legislators are also refusing to listen to concerns from that part of the state. I hope both land transfer bills die in committee since they didn't meet legislative deadlines, but with the way deadlines have been ignored in the past, you can never be sure.

The Education policy bill is another bill full of new burdens. One provision says that school boards and governing bodies of libraries are not allowed to ban an "otherwise age-appropriate book." What does that mean, and who gets to decide what is age appropriate? I see some clear issues with that. There's also a problematic section that states student journalists that write for their school papers can write about whatever they want without oversight. There's another section that states schools must allow American Indian students to practice the rite of smudging on school

grounds, which often involves the use of tobacco. These are just a few of the concerning provisions, and this is just one of multiple education-related bills. Democrats already passed a record number of unfunded school mandates last year, and it seems like this year is more of the same. Much of this year's bill may not come with a price tag, but it will still undoubtedly increase burdens on schools.

Another bill full of costs and burdens is the Labor policy bill, which just makes it harder to own a business in Minnesota. One big change is that minimum wage will now be attached to inflation and can increase by up to five percent every year. This is going to be incredibly costly for small businesses to implement. There's also a section of the bill that stipulates employers will now be forced to cover credit card transaction fees on tips left by customers using credit cards. Why is it that Democrats are so intent to work against business owners? It seems like every year, they are making it harder to own and operate a business in Minnesota, and this bill is the latest example of that. These measures will be incredibly costly for small businesses across the state.

I do want to note one positive point: Democrats have stayed true to their word and will pass a bill to fix the Net Operating Losses issue. This was an oversight in last year's tax bill that was going to cost small businesses nearly \$14.8 million in the form of higher taxes. Both tax chairs agreed to fix this, and though the fix is coming a bit later than it should have, better late than never. This would have been an insurmountable financial burden had it not been addressed.

There's still a lot of Session left, and I will continue providing updates on the bills that come before us. If you have concerns about any of these bills, please feel free to reach out to my office at Sen.Paul.Utke@MNSenate.gov.

Quote of the week

“More than anything, be consistent. Go at it. Go at it. Go at it.” — Antonia Novello

Is production chain ready for new USDA organic rules?

By Heather Close
The Rural Blog

The certification of the U.S.'s organic food supply faces its first big change in 30 years, and many food companies may not be ready. The Department of Agriculture launched its Strengthening Organic Enforcement regulations on March 19, and some experts are waiting to see "if unprepared companies will get left behind," reports Lydia Noyes of FoodDive. "The new rule is the most significant change to organic certification since the program's start. . . . There's growing concern that large portions of the food industry. . . haven't made the necessary compliance changes."

The organic food industry has grown exponentially since the 1990s and has "outscaled its initial regulations. That's led to gaps in enforcement that allowed for loopholes and outright fraud," Noyes writes. The SOE rule is designed to address the sector's growth and complexity, but has been large-

ly ignored. Nate Ensrud, an executive with FoodChain ID, one of the largest organic certifiers in the U.S., told Noyes he has "noticed little action across the industry to meet SOE's changes."

The failure to address the new rule may come from a lack of information and a historical lack of oversight requirements. Ensrud told Noyes, "Some organic suppliers are still unaware of the March 19 compliance requirements. Because importers, exporters, brokers, traders, and storage facilities have not historically been required to be certified, we believe there will be an increase in last-minute organic certification applications."

When a supplier is not SOE compliant, production may suffer. Ensrud told Noyes: "Suppose a manufacturer of organic breakfast cereals finds that a handler of organic raisins in their supply chain hasn't pursued certification in light of SOE. Now the manufacturer must find a replacement, and it might suffer production disruption in the meantime."

Child abuse awareness in April from Hands of Hope

By Cassandra Ortiz
General Crime and Child Abuse Services Coordinator
Hands of Hope Resource Center

Child Abuse Prevention Month is an annual observance in the United States dedicated to raising awareness and preventing child abuse. April has been designated Child Abuse Month in the United States since 1989. This year, NCAPM's 2024 theme is "Doing Things Differently: Moving from the Challenge to the Change". The theme invites us to "explore, engage, and invest in innovative new ideas to transform the way we partner with families to deliver services and support." The NCAPM Campaign seeks to reach these following goals: develop

and enhance the child welfare workforce, support kinship caregivers, prevent children from coming into foster care, and ensure youth leave care with strengthened relationships, holistic supports, and opportunities.

Child abuse and neglect have a long-lasting negative effect on the victims and our society. As a community member, there are many ways you can help prevent child abuse and neglect. Awareness is one of the key components in prevention. Here are a few ways on how you can promote awareness:

- Have a conversation with your loved ones, friends, or colleagues about the issue
- Wear blue on April 5 to stand in solidarity with child abuse prevention efforts

- Post about it on social media- Use a blue child abuse prevention ribbon
- Directly reach out to and support parents and kids in your family and community
- Donate items such as clothes, diapers, and toys to families in need
- Be a listening ear or guide to new parents
- Anyone who thinks a parent should seek support can share the 1-800-CHILDREN (244-5373) Helpline number.

Let's work together to prevent child abuse and build healthier and stronger communities for our children.

If you are a victim of crime or would like more information regarding child abuse prevention, please contact Hands of Hope Resource Center at (320)-732-2319.

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

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Having fun at rehearsal

Members of the Staples Area Men's Chorus had fun rehearsing a song for their upcoming show, "This was the '70s." A few members even showed up dressed for the era. The dinner buffet/concert event will be held

Saturday, April 13, at the Clarissa Ballroom in Clarissa, and will feature special appearances from The Staples Area Women's Chorus and the River Rats Rock Band. (Submitted photo)

The Staples Area Men's Chorus presents 'This was the '70s'

Concert/dinner event is April 13, Clarissa Ballroom

If you're a fan of Simon & Garfunkel, Jim Croce, the Mamas & the Papas, and ABBA, you won't want to miss "This was the '70s," a concert and dinner event presented by the Staples Area Men's Chorus (SAMC), under the direction of Jeff Iverson.

The event will be held Saturday, April 13, at the Clarissa Ballroom, in Clarissa. Doors open at 4:30 p.m., with salads served at 5 p.m. The music begins at 5:30 p.m.

Joining the SAMC will be The Staples Area Women's Chorus (SAWC) and the River Rats Rock Band. Expect to hear a number of favorite songs from that era, including "California Dreamin'" "Morning Has Broken" "Bad, Bad LeRoy Brown" "Bohemian Rhapsody" "Scarborough Fair" and "Dancing Queen."

Rumor has it that the performers will be dressed in true '70s fashion, and there will be other reminders/trivia from that time

offered throughout the evening. Although it's not required, attendees are encouraged to join the fun and dress up in their favorite '70s attire.

Presale tickets are available from any member of the SAMC or SAWC, at Kevin Nelson Insurance in Staples (218-895-5046), the Long Prairie Chamber Office (320-732-2514), Michelle's Family Hair Care in Clarissa (218-756-2132) or online at staplesmen.org. Tickets must be purchased before

April 4.

The Clarissa Ballroom is located at 19281 Kotter Rd., an address that also serves as a reminder of the 1970s. Enthusiasts of that era may recall the popular sitcom from that time, "Welcome Back, Kotter." Perhaps one of the groups at the upcoming event will sing the theme song from that show, "Welcome Back," made popular by John Sebastian, lead singer for The Lovin' Spoonful.



Bunny art part of Storytime at Staples Public Library

Storytime at the Staples Public Library includes stories, flannel boards, crafts and snacks. Our next Storytimes are Sat., April 13 and Weds., April 24 at 10:30 a.m. Call the Staples Library at 218-894-1401 for information. The program is provided by the Staples Friends of the Library.

Front, left to right: Ziva Thorsett, Sawyer Krier, Alida Hanson, Archie Hanson, Nash Adams, Faith Frisk, Woodrow Krier, Jameson Basara, Irelyn Basara and Martin Krier. Back: Rhett LaBlanc, Bjorn LaBlanc, Ella Doss, Niya Doss, Malakhai Doss and Elias Krier. (Submitted photo)

Mark Your Calendar

April 3, 4

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

'WALK WITH A DOC' Thursdays at 5:15 p.m., at Lakewood Health System's main campus in Staples. Meet at the main entrance. For more information about this free program, visit <https://walkwithadoc.org/join-a-walk/locations/staples-minnesota>

April 5

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.

April 7

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

OLD WADENA SOCIETY'S ANNUAL MEETING will be held Sunday, April 7, at the Staples Railroad depot. Doors open at 11:30 a.m. Guest speaker Dr. Amelei Allard will give a presentation on Fur Trading in the 18th Century: A view from Reaume's Leaf River Post. Dec. 2022. Open to the public.

April 8

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

April 9

GRIEF SUPPORT GROUP offered by Lakewood Health System, will be held Tuesdays (through April 23), from 3 - 4:30 p.m., at Sourcewell, 202 12th St. NE, Staples. Anyone grieving the loss of a loved one, child or any other loss is welcome to attend.

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

Staples-Motley School Board Work Session cancelled

The Staples-Motley School Board Work Session scheduled for April 8 has been cancelled due to no topic.

DEADLINE

for all classified ads and copy is 12 noon Friday

For the Staples World

Are you looking for child care?

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Parent Aware offers free tools and resources to help families find the quality child care programs their children need to succeed in school and life.

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Todd County Museum special events

A number of special events, hosted by the Todd County Historical Society (TCHS), will be held at the Todd County Museum in Long Prairie in April and May.

Events include:

- **'Morning at the Museum,'** Saturday, April 13, from 10 - 11:30 a.m. Grandparents, parents and children are invited to view the many displays of Todd County's history, geography, and culture.
- **'An Evening at the Museum,'** Thursday, April 18, 6:30 - 8 p.m., with the same displays offered above.
- **Art Contest for Children.** There will be two divisions - one for ages six and under, and one for ages seven - 12. Children are asked to submit a picture of a plant or animal which is native to Todd County. Pictures are to be on an 8 1/2 by 11 inch sheet of paper with the child's name in the lower left hand corner, and their address on the back. Prizes will be sent out by mail. Entries may be brought to the Museum on April 13 or 18. Pictures will be displayed in the Histori-

cal Society Building during the Todd County fair.

Gerry Ruda, TCHS member shared that, "Thanks to Rita Stracek's grant writing, microfilm copies of practically every newspaper printed in Todd County from 1891 - 2020 is available at the museum. In addition to being a source of information about the past, it's fun to read the old newspapers and enjoy their way of telling about events."

The Todd County Historical Museum is located at 333 Central Ave., Long Prairie. It is open from 11:30 a.m. - 4 p.m. Wednesday, Thursday and Friday, or by appointment.

The Historical Society meets on the first Monday of each month at 1 p.m., during the months of November through April; and at 7 p.m. during the months of May through October. The business meeting is followed by a presentation by on of the members and refreshments.

For more information about the TCHS and upcoming events, call Gerry Ruda at 320-533-0705.

Congregate meal at community center April 10

Senior Nutrition Program
218-894-2556

Congregate dine-in lunch followed by bingo will be offered at the Senior Nutrition Site, Staples Community Center senior's room on Weds., April 10 at 11 a.m.

Lunch may be reserved through the nutrition site by calling LuAnn at 218-894-2556. **Those wishing to attend should order the meal by 10 a.m. Friday, April 5.**

April 10 menu: Rose-

mary pork loin, diced potatoes, green peas, bread w/ marg., chocolate chip bar, 1% milk.

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

Meals On Wheels Drivers Needed

The Senior Nutrition Site Meals On Wheels needs volunteer drivers to provide weekday delivery of meals to seniors. If interested, call LuAnn in Staples at 218-894-2556 for information or to sign up.

Cardinal Calendar SM school events

April

- **MUSIC SOLO/ENSEMBLE SHOWCASE** April 5, 6 p.m., high school cafeteria
- **SPEECH SHOWCASE** April 9, 6 p.m., Centennial Auditorium
- **VOCAL SOLO/ENSEMBLE CONTEST** April 10, at Pillager High School

- **MUSIC DEPT. JAZZ EVENT** April 12, 6 p.m., high school cafeteria
- **YOUTH VOLLEYBALL TOURNAMENT** April 13-14, Staples-Motley gymnasiums
- **FFA STATE CONVENTION** April 21-23, University of Minnesota, Twin Cities
- **PROM** April 27

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Obituaries

○



Mitchell Braith

Beloved son, brother, grandson and nephew Mitchell Braith, 24, of Staples passed away unexpectedly March 27, 2024 at his home.

Mass of Christian Burial will be held Friday, April 5, at 11 a.m. at Sacred Heart Catholic Church, Staples. Visitation will be held Thursday, April 4 at Taylor Funeral Home, Staples from 4 to 7 p.m. and again one hour prior to services at the church.

Interment will be at Evergreen Hill Cemetery, Staples.

Mitchell Albert Braith was born October 18, 1999 at Lakewood Health System Hospital, Staples to Scott and Cindy (Sjodin) Braith.

Mitchell was raised and lived in Staples. He attended Staples-Motley School, graduating with honors in 2018. He went on and attended CLC in Brainerd and received his AA Degree with honors. Mitchell was currently employed at Jon's Family Foods, Staples, until the time of his passing.

Mitchell enjoyed and was knowledgeable in computers, art, history, hunting, guns, researching and DC Comics...ask him ANY question, if he knew it or not, he would find out the answer.

Mitchell was sweet, loving, tender hearted, compassionate and loved having conversations with people that crossed his path. To have known Mitchell was to have known his kindness and love.

Mitchell will be forever loved and remembered by his dad, Scott (Kim Petrich); mother, Cindy; one sister, Topanga Braith; grandmothers, LaDonna Sjodin and Kay (Grandpa Dave) Jessop; grandfather, Terry Braith; fur buddy "Peanuts;" aunts and uncles, Misty Sjodin, Tory Sjodin, Chris (Denise) Sjodin, Ty Sjodin, Kyle (Jenny) Braith, TJ (Mandy) Braith; also cousins and many good friends.

Mitchell was preceded in death by his grandfather, Jim Sjodin.

Arrangements are by the Taylor Funeral Home, Staples.

w15c A00006B2024AP03

Raymond Bryniarski

Raymond Bryniarski, 90, of Cushing, passed away March 27, 2024 in Freedham.

Mass of Christian Burial will be held at 11:00 a.m. on Wednesday, April 3 at St. James Catholic Church in Randall with Father Patrick Hoefft officiating.

Visitation will be held from 4 to 7 p.m. Tuesday, April 2, 2024 at the Shelley Funeral Chapel in Little Falls and from 10 to 11 a.m. Wednesday, April 3, 2024 prior to services at the church.

Burial will take place at the Cushing Union Cemetery, Cushing.

Ray was born October 13, 1933 to Tony and Anne (Drong) Bryniarski in Moran Township. He attended country schools and at a young age, with farming in his blood, he operated the family farm in Cushing. Ray was a dairy farmer for many years and saw many changes in the farming industry. After he retired from dairy farming, he raised beef cattle until his actual retirement in January of 2022. For many years, Ray served on the Cushing Township board and was a state fire warden for 65 years. He enjoyed his garden and sharing his harvest of sweet corn, homemade raspberry jelly and a lot of rhubarb crisp. Ray loved his coffee while watching his hummingbirds and his cattle grazing from his kitchen window. If you brought him a donut, he enjoyed it even more. What really lit up his life were his children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren. Nothing made him happier than having family and friends all around him.

Ray is survived by three sons, Steven (Alyce) Bryniarski of Little Falls, Bryon (Sherry) Bryniarski and Brent (Danelle) Bryniarski of Little Falls; two daughters, Kim (Joel) Quance of Staples and RaeAnn (Randy) Peterschik of Cushing; two sisters, Marianne (Allan) Host of Long Prairie and Jodi (Gary) Collins of St. Cloud; 13 grandchildren and 33 great-grandchildren.

Ray was preceded in death by his parents; spouse, Kate Bryniarski; two sisters, Loraine Altrichter and Rita Britz; one brother, Stefan Bryniarski and one great-grandson, Owen Mrozek.

Arrangements are by the Shelley Funeral Chapel in Little Falls.

w15c A00006B2024AP03

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For the Staples World

Staples Area Church Directory

Staples Staples Alliance 1512 8th St. NE, Staples.....218-894-2891 Pastor Zach Jones Sunday Worship.....9:30 a.m. Sunday School.....11:00 a.m. WEDNESDAY AWANA.....6:00 p.m. Assembly of God 914 3rd Ave. NE, Staples.....218-894-1081 Pastor Roy Miles Small Groups (Bible classes for all ages).....9:30 a.m. Morning Worship Service.....10:30 a.m. Children's Church (Kids start in main worship service).....11 a.m. Prayer Meeting.....5 p.m. WEDNESDAY Sonlight (kids ages 4 yrs.-6th grade).....After school to 5:30 p.m. Youth Group (Teens, 7th-12th grade).....After school to 5:30 p.m. Church of Christ 27343 490th St., Staples.....218-894-2609 Pastor Barry Klein Facebook Live Bible School (youth and adult).....9:30 a.m. Sunday Worship.....10:30 a.m. WEDNESDAY: Adult Bible Study.....6:30 p.m. Faith Lutheran 430 12th Street. NE., Staples.....218-894-1546 Pastor Carl Larson Pastor Chris Mathiason Sunday Worship Service.....9:00 a.m. Sunday School and Coffee Fellowship.....10:05 a.m. Sacred Heart Catholic Church 310 4th St. NE, Staples.....218-894-2296 Church..... info@marysacc.org Fr. Aaron Kuhn Fr. Gabriel Walz MASS: Sunday.....8:30 a.m. Seventh Day Adventist 421 Dakota Ave. SE, Staples 218-894-0033 Saturday Worship.....9:30 am. Sabbath School.....10:45 a.m. Thomastown Covenant 15940 251st Ave., Staples.....218-894-3923 Pastor Scott Jorgenson Sunday Worship.....10:30 a.m. WEDNESDAY NIGHT YOUTH.....6:30 p.m. Trinity Lutheran 1000 4th St. NE, Staples.....218-894-2372 Rev. Robin Collins Sunday Divine Service.....9:00 a.m. Sunday School and Bible Class...10:30 a.m. United Methodist 310 5th St. NE, Staples.....218-894-2248 Sunday Worship.....10:30 a.m. (Nursery Available for Sunday Worship)	Aldrich Balsamlund Lutheran 19550 490th Street, Aldrich Janet Eckman SMA.....218-837-5831 jre227@yahoo.com Sunday Worship.....8:30 a.m. Cushing Bethany Lutheran 25430 Bison Rd.Cushing, MN 320-749-2140 Pastor Carl Larson Pastor Chris Mathiason www.bethanylutherancushing.org Sunday Worship.....9:00 a.m. Communion.....1st and 2nd Sunday of each month Lincoln Evangelical Free 1354 320th Street, Cushing, MN 56443 Phone: 218- 575-2449 www.lincolnefree.org Facebook Lincoln E Free Office Hours: Tues. - Thurs., 9 a.m. - 12 p.m. Senior Pastor: Don Reigstad Community Life Pastor: Jim Brown Associate Pastor: Joe Reigstad SUNDAY Church Worship Gathering.....10:00 a.m. YouTube Channel.....10:00 a.m. Cushing Baptist 26298 Bear Rd., Cushing Pastor Dan Holmes.....320-749-2583 Sunday School.....9:30 a.m. Worship.....10:30 a.m. WEDNESDAY Bible study.....7:30 p.m. Leader Swan Valley Lutheran Leader.....218-397-2470 Sandy Knight, Synodically Authorized Minister of Word and Sacrament Sunday Worship January - July.....9 a.m. July - January.....11 a.m. Maple Hill Lutheran Sandy Knight, Synodically Authorized Minister of Word and Sacrament Leader.....218-397-2470 (Rural Pine River) Worship and Sunday School.....9:00 a.m. Motley Motley Free Methodist 33 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.
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St. Michael Catholic Church 1st St. and Birch, Motley.....218-894-2296 info@marysacc.org Fr. Aaron Kuhn Fr. Gabriel Walz MASS: Saturday.....4:00 p.m. United Methodist 847 3rd Ave. S. Lane, Motley....218-352-6466 Pastor Greg Leslie www.motleyumc.net Sunday Worship Service.....10:00 a.m. Monday AA meeting.....8:00 p.m. Oylen Oylen Alliance Cty. Rds. 7 and 9, Oylen 218-472-3440 or 218-472-3316 Pastor Neal Malcore Sunday School.....10:00 a.m. Sunday Worship.....11:00 a.m
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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.
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Trinity Lutheran Church (LCMS) 524 Front Street, PO Box 116, Hewitt, MN Pastor Robin Fish Sunday Worship.....10:30 a.m.

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

Verndale Verndale Alliance 109 NW Brown Street, Verndale, MN 56481 218-445-5619 Senior Pastor Tony Stanley Heath Belknap, Pastor of Student Ministries Sunday Worship.....9:30 a.m. Sunday Bible Fellowship Classes.....11-11:45 a.m. Family Life Church 402 NE Clark Drive, Verndale 218-445-5568 VerndaleFLC@gmail.com Pastor Amos Self.....218-371-7189 Tahna Rurup, Connections & Media Pastor Tillman Phagan, Kid's & Food Shelf Pastor Ryan Wolfenden, Youth Pastor SUNDAY Youth Prayer.....9:20 a.m. Worship Service.....10:00 a.m. Prayer Meeting.....5 p.m. WEDNESDAY Life Groups.....6:30 p.m.

Hope Chapel Alliance 18126 County Road 7, Verndale 218-445-5643 or 218-472-3316 Pastor Neal Malcore Sunday Worship.....9:00 a.m. Sunday School.....10:30 a.m. WEDNESDAY Family Night.....5:30 p.m.
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Immanuel Lutheran Church of Bartlett Township (LCMS) 17097 460th St., PO Box 37, Verndale Pastor Robin Fish Sunday Worship.....9:00 a.m. WEDNESDAY Bible Study.....6:30 p.m.
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Verndale United Methodist 10 3rd Ave. SW, Verndale 218-445-5108 Pastor Jill Pawlowski Sunday Worship.....9:00 a.m.

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

St. Frederick Catholic Church 20 Mason Avenue NW.....218-894-2296 info@marysacc.org Fr. Aaron Kuhn Fr. Gabriel Walz MASS: Saturday.....6:00 p.m
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St. Hubert Catholic Church Bluegrass.....218-894-2296 info@marysacc.org Fr. Aaron Kuhn Fr. Gabriel Walz MASS: Sunday.....10:30 a.m.
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Leaf River Township The Old Country Church Leaf River Twp., Wadena County Rd. 6 Info: 218-837-5690 Call first. Sunday Service.....10:00 a.m.
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"Alleluia!"

Pastor Carl Larson, Faith Lutheran Church, Staples

"Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! By His great mercy He has given us a new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead."
1 Peter 1:3

Chaplain Murdo Ewen MacDonald was a World War II POW locked up in a prisoner-of-war camp in eastern Germany. It was early on June 6, 1944 that Chaplain MacDonald was awakened by a private who told him to go over to the barbed wire fence that separated the American and British soldiers.

It was at that fence that a British officer, who had somehow received word by way of the underground, shared three simple words, "They have come!"
Chaplain MacDonald then ran back into the

camp, yelling "They have come!They have come!" And all in the camp, everyone understood what that meant. It was D Day and the allied troops had landed at Normandy Beach and there was a new hope born ...

And the reaction among the POW's was incredible as men were jumping around, shouting, rolling around, hugging each other and celebrating any way they knew how.

Outwardly they were still POW's, captives in POW camps in Germany. But inside, in their hearts, they celebrated the new hope and the new possibilities.

Hope - resurrection hope - an Easter hope is what allows us to move beyond our past and accept the new present and promised future!
Alleluia, Christ is risen!
Christ is risen indeed, Alleluia!

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6th grade basketball champions

The Staples-Motley sixth grade boy's basketball team won the Greater Minnesota MYAS championship held in Hutchinson March 16. Kneeling: Austin Dumpprope, Blake Mongan, Ben Stevens; standing:

Kade Potter, Ben Rutten, Jaxston Kritten, Oskar Doll, Angel Luna, JJ Winter. Coaches Nick Doll, Joshua Winter and TJ Rutten. (Submitted photo)



Helping a member of the team

The Staples-Motley basketball boosters donated \$1,309 to the family of Ashley Robben, a former player who is now battling leukemia. The money was

raised during games throughout the season. (Staples World photo by Mark Anderson)

Spring takes a step backward

If you are a person of “a certain age,” you may be among those most familiar with the music of the aging Bruce Springsteen, song writer, popular music icon, and longtime member of the Rock & Roll Hall of fame. “A certain age,” in this case, being a euphemism for “older.”

One of his more memorable songs is punctuated numerous times with the melancholy chorus “one step up and two steps back.” The song is about love gone bad. But the chorus is also an apt description for the progress of our Minnesota spring.

A week before Easter, across virtually the entire state, all the indicators of spring were ahead of schedule. Snow was virtually nonexistent. Lakes had lost their covering of ice on dates that in many cases were the earliest on record. Rain fell when it should have been snow. Winter sports that depend on snow and ice had been crippled by a shortage of both. Minnesotans had generally accepted that sad fact, were moving on from the disappointment, and looking ahead to jumping prematurely into the activities of spring with both feet.

Then came the week before Easter, and with

it a weather system that dumped significant snowfall on a wide swath of Minnesota. South to North, from the Twin Cities to the North Shore of Lake Superior, snow fell in double-digit amounts. Here where I live in North Central Minnesota, 12 to 14 inch readings were common. A DNR Fisheries acquaintance who lives in Two Harbors, north of Duluth, reported 22 inches at his home. With the snow came a return of colder nighttime temperatures, ensuring that the snow would linger. Spring, by anyone's reckoning, had taken a backward step.

When the new snow was at its deepest, I drove by a small, shallow pond nearby that is ringed around most of its shoreline by cattails. Though the surface of the pond was ice-free, snow lay deep all around it. That made it all the more incongruous to see a sandhill crane standing on its stilt-like legs on a snowdrift. Sandhill cranes are an adaptable bird. They will be found feeding in harvested cropland or grassy farm fields, but will also readily be seen stalking the edges of marshes, where they might consume anything from frogs to rodents to insects. But viewed against a post-blizzard backdrop, this one seemed anywhere but in its element.

Lakes in my neighborhood lost their ice by the 15th of March, give or take a day or two. But with a week of sub-freezing nights that followed the blizzard, and nearly dead calm air on some of them, even some large lakes had a newly-ac-

quired skim of ice on them. The lake where the family cabin resides is nearly 3,000 acres, yet one morning much of its surface was in icy stillness as dawn broke. When the sun rose with its warming rays, and a wind picked up later in the day, that delicate surface fractured, dissolved, and disappeared as the lake reopened.

With the new snow, some geese that migrate along the western edge of Minnesota and the eastern Dakotas actually retreated back southward. These are the snow and blue geese—different color phases of the same species—that feed primarily on harvested crop fields as they migrate from wintering grounds farther south to their breeding destination in the Arctic. Because of their overabundance, and the damaging impact of their feeding on fragile Arctic vegetation, they are hunted both in fall and in spring. When the recent heavy snow arrived, they retreated southward from our latitude until they could find open ground—some as far as Nebraska.

Though Canada geese are field feeders, too, their diet and feeding habits are more diverse, and they seem more resilient and adaptable. The Canadas we had been seeing before the heavy snow arrived remained, both on the lake and on nearby rivers, showing no evidence that they were bailing out and heading south.

With so much new snow, one might have thought that snowmobilers would be given a last-ditch opportunity to salvage a disappointing winter. But with

Staples-Motley spring sports schedules

Baseball

Monday, Apr 8, vs. Pine River-Backus @ Northwestern University
Tuesday, Apr 16, @ Pelican Rapids
Thursday, Apr 18, 4:30 p.m. @ Menahga
Friday, Apr 19, 4:30 p.m. @ Hawley
Tuesday, Apr 23, 4

p.m. home vs. Crosby-Ironton
Thursday, Apr 25, 4 p.m. @ Park Rapids
Tuesday, Apr 30, 4: p.m. home vs. Detroit Lakes
Friday, May 3, 4:30 p.m. home vs. Osakis
Tuesday, May 7, 4:30 p.m. @ Breckenridge
Thursday, May 9,

4:30 p.m. @ Long Prairie-Grey Eagle
Friday, May 10, 4:30 p.m. home vs. Sauk Centre
Tuesday, May 14, 4 p.m. @ Aitkin
Saturday, May 18, 3 p.m. @ Pillager
Tuesday, May 21, 4:30 p.m. @ Royalton
Thursday, May 23, 4:30 p.m. @ Pierz

Softball

Monday, Apr 8, 9 a.m. @ Northwestern University
Thursday, Apr 11, 4 p.m. @ Aitkin
Tuesday, Apr 16, 5 p.m. @ Breckenridge
Friday, Apr 19, 3:30 p.m. home vs. Pierz
Tuesday, Apr 23, 4 p.m. @ Crosby-Ironton
Thursday, Apr 25, 4

p.m. home vs. Park Rapids
Monday, Apr 29, 4:30 p.m. home vs. Pelican Rapids
Tuesday, Apr 30, 4 p.m. @ Detroit Lakes
Thursday, May 2, 4:30 p.m. @ Menahga
Friday, May 3, 4:30

p.m. @ Osakis
Friday, May 10, 4:30 p.m. home vs. Sauk Centre
Monday, May 13, 4:30 p.m. home vs. Pequot Lakes
Thursday, May 16, 4:30 p.m. @ Long Prairie-Grey Eagle
Saturday, May 18, 8:15 p.m. @ Pillager

Track and field

Monday, Apr 1, 12:30 p.m. @ NDSU
Thursday, Apr 11, 4 p.m. @ Pillager
Thursday, Apr 18, 4 p.m. @ Foley
Tuesday, Apr 30, 4 p.m. @ Minnewaska

Thursday, May 2, 4 p.m. @ Wadena-Deer Creek
Tuesday, May 7, True Team Section 11: a.m. @ Pelican Rapids
Thursday, May 9, 4 p.m. @ Melrose

Tuesday, May 14, Mid State Conference, 4 p.m. @ Crosby-Ironton
Thursday, May 23, Subsection TBD

Girls golf

Friday, Apr 26, 9:30 a.m. @ Bemidji Town & Country Club
Monday, Apr 29, 10 a.m. @ Crosswoods Golf Course
Saturday, May 4, 9:30 a.m. @ Geneva Golf Course
Tuesday, May 7, 9 a.m. @ Gravel Pit Golf Course
Saturday, May 11, 9

a.m. home at The Vine-tage
Tuesday, May 14, Conference Tournament home at The Vine-tage
Friday, May 17, 9:30 a.m. @ Fergus Falls Pebble Lake
Tuesday, May 21, 12: p.m. @ Detroit Country Club
Tuesday, May 28,

12 p.m. @ Sauk Rapids-Rice Wapicada Golf Club
Monday, Jun 3, Section Tournament 12:30 p.m. @ Blackberry Ridge Golf Club
Tuesday, Jun 4, Section Tournament 12:30 p.m. @ Blackberry Ridge

Boys golf

Friday, Apr 12, 2 p.m. @ Detroit Country Club
Thursday, Apr 18, 10 a.m. @ Pines Golf Course
Tuesday, Apr 23, 3: P.m. @ Wadena-Deer Creek WhiteTail Run Golf Course
Saturday, Apr 27, 9 a.m. home at The Vine-tage
Thursday, May 2, 3 p.m. @ Pine River-Backus, The Preserve Golf Course
Monday, May 6, 9 a.m. @ Bemidji Town & Country Club
Tuesday, May 7, 3 p.m. @ Deacon's Lodge
Thursday, May 9, 1:45

p.m. @ St. Cloud Country Club
Monday, May 13, 9:30 a.m. @ Blackberry Ridge Golf Club
Tuesday, May 14, Conference Tournament home at The Vine-tage Golf Club
Monday, May 20, 9 a.m. @ Eagle's Landing Golf Course
Wednesday, May 29, 2 p.m. @ Cragun's Legacy
Sunday, Jun 2, Section Tournament 8 a.m. @ Blackberry Ridge Golf Club
Tuesday, Jun 4, Section Tournament 8 a.m. Blackberry Ridge

Staples Sportsmen's Club Field Day Apr. 27

Firearm Safety Classes Apr. 15 - 25

The Staples Sportsmen's Club Field Day and Online All Day Field Day will be held Saturday, April 27, from 8 a.m. - 4 p.m. The preceding traditional classroom Firearm Safety Classes (FSC) will be held on six days, beginning Monday, April 15. Students must be 12 years old by the start of this year's deer hunting season. Students from the local area will be accepted, with priority give to students from the Staples/Motley area. All FAS (Firearm Safety) classes will be held at the

Staples Sportsmen's Club. *Note: There will be NO classes in Motley this spring.* Classes will be held at the following days/times:
• April 15, 6:45 - 9 p.m.
• April 16, 7 - 9 p.m.
• April 18, 7 - 9 p.m.
• April 22, 7 - 9 p.m.
• April 23, 7 - 9 p.m.
• April 25, 7 - 9 p.m.
To register for classes, or for questions, call Darlys Hamberg (Staples) at 218-296-1518 (8 - 4 Mon. - Fri.) or 218-894-2608 after 6 p.m.; or Bob Koenig (Motley) at 218-352-6390.



Mike Rahn

Help Wanted City of Motley
The City of Motley is accepting applications to fill the position of
Deputy City Clerk-Office Manager
Salary: \$20.05 - \$22.65 Hourly Depending on Qualifications
Application Deadline: April 15, 2024
JOB SUMMARY: The City of Motley is accepting applications to fill a newly created part-time 32 hour- 4 days a week (Monday-Thursday), Deputy City Clerk-Office Manager 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 Manager position will be responsible for monthly utility billing (UB Max), 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 bookkeeping, accounting, automated billing software, and the use of word processing and spreadsheet software. Benefits include PTO, Earned Sick and Safe Time (ESST), PERA, paid holidays (if the holiday falls on a regularly scheduled work day).
A resume, cover letter, and application are required. Applications 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 Monday, April 15, 2024.
Contact Kari Jacobson City-Clerk Treasurer for questions.
Phone: 218-352-6709 or email clerk@cityofmotley.com.
EOE



Todd County Employment Opportunities

Todd County is looking for reliable, service-oriented individuals to serve the citizens of Todd County in the following positions:
Heavy Equipment Operator - Public Works, Deputy Auditor Treasurer, Payroll & Benefits Specialist.
To learn more about these openings and how to apply visit the official Todd County website at www.co.todd.mn.us or www.governmentjobs.com/careers/cotoddmn
Questions can be directed to Todd Cty. Administration: 320-732-6447
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2321 330th Ave., Motley or call 612-801-4463 with questions.


SERVICES & EMPLOYMENT
205 Help Wanted
TODD COUNTY HHS EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY: Todd County HHS is looking for reliable, service-oriented individuals to serve the citizens of Todd County in the following position: ****Social Worker - Child Services (full-time).** To learn more about this opening and how to apply, visit the official Todd County website at <https://www.co.todd.mn.us/>. Questions

--SUMMER EMPLOYMENT--
THE LAKE SHAMINEAU LAKE IMPROVEMENT DISTRICT
is looking for responsible adults to serve as inspectors of boat launching uses about Cleaning, Draining, boat & trailer and Disposing of used bait. The program runs from May 15 (opening fishing) through September 4 (Labor Day), typically 4-6 hour shifts on Fridays, Saturday, Sunday and Holidays. Requirements: must be at least 18 years of age, must attend a paid (\$20 per hour) 3 hour AIS (Aquatic Invasive Species) training, in person or online with a DNR Regional Watercraft Inspection Supervisor. Interested applicants contact **Bob Koll, 218-296-2933.**

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ADVERTISEMENT
FOR BIDS
2ND STREET NE
IMPROVEMENTS
CITY OF STAPLES
STAPLES, MN

RECEIPT AND OPENING OF PROPOSALS: Proposals for the work described below will be received online through QuestCDN.com until 10:00 a.m. on Thursday, April 18, 2024, at which time the bids will be opened and publicly read at the office of the City of Staples, 122 6th Street NE, Staples, MN 56479.

DESCRIPTION OF WORK: The work includes the construction of approximately:

- 2700 SY of Bituminous Removal
 - 1300 CY of Common Excavation
 - 600 TONS of Bituminous Pavement
 - 460 CY of Aggregate Base, Class 5 (CV)
 - 1210 LF of Concrete Curb and Gutter
 - 510 LF of PVC Sanitary Sewer
 - 650 LF of PVC Water-main
 - 52 LF of 18" Concrete Storm Sewer
- together with numerous related items of work, all in accordance with Plans and Specifications. This project is subject to Prevailing Wage Rates, Truck Rentals, Disadvantaged Business Enterprise Goals, Targeted Group Business Program Goals, and Veteran-Owned Small Business, Equal Employment Opportunity Provisions, Buy American Iron and Steel Provisions, and Responsible Contractor Certification.

COMPLETION OF WORK: All work under the Contract must be complete by 08/15/2024.

PLAN HOLDERS LIST, ADDENDUMS AND BID TABULATION: The plan holders list, addendums and bid tabulations will be available for download on-line at www.questcdn.com or www.bolton-menk.com.

TO OBTAIN BID DOCUMENTS: Complete digital project bidding documents are available at www.questcdn.com or www.bolton-menk.com. You may view the digital plan documents for free by entering Quest project #9016649 on the website's Project Search page. Documents may be downloaded for \$50.00. Please contact QuestCDN.com at 952-233-1632 or info@questcdn.com for assistance in free membership registration, viewing, downloading, and working with this digital project information.

BID SUBMITTAL: A bid shall be submitted online no later than the date and time prescribed. For this project, the Owner will only be accepting online electronic bids through QuestCDN. To access the electronic bid form, download the project document and click online bidding button at the top of the advertisement. Prospective bidders must be on the plan holders list through QuestCDN for bids to be accepted.

BID SECURITY: A Proposal Bond in the amount of not less than 5 percent of the total amount bid, drawn in favor of City of Staples shall accompany each bid.

OWNER'S RIGHTS RESERVED: The Owner reserves the right to reject

any or all bids and to waive any irregularities and informalities therein and to award the Contract to other than the lowest bidder if, in their discretion, the interest of the Owner would be best served thereby.

DATED: March 22, 2024

/S/ Jerel Nelsen
City Administrator

Published:

Staples World
March 27, 2024, April 3, 2024, April 10, 2024
Finance and Commerce:
March 27, 2024, April 3, 2024, April 10, 2024

14-16pnc

STATE OF MINNESOTA
COUNTY OF TODD
IN DISTRICT COURT
PROBATE COURT
DIVISION
SEVENTH JUDICIAL
DISTRICT
Court File No.
77-PR-24-226

Estate of
Steven Lee Ostendorf
Deceased

NOTICE AND ORDER
FOR HEARING ON
PETITION FOR
DESCENT OF
PROPERTY

A Petition for Determination of Descent has been filed with this Court. The Petition states that the Decedent died more than three years ago leaving property in Minnesota. It requests the probate of Decedent's last will, if any, and for the descent of such property to be determined and assigned by this court to the persons entitled to the property.

Any objections to the petition must be filed with the court prior to the hearing. If proper and if no objections are filed or raised, the petition may be granted.

It is ordered and notice is given that on April 29, 2024 at 10:14 a.m. a hearing will be held virtually at 615 Highway 23, P.O. Box 189, Foley, Minnesota 56329 to hear the petition. This is an administrative hearing. No appearance is required.

Notice shall be given to all interested persons (Minn. Stat. § 524.1-401) and persons who have filed a demand for notice (Minn. Stat. § 524.3-204).

Notice shall be given by publishing this Notice and Order as provided by law and by:

X mailing a copy of this Notice and Order at least 14 days prior to the hearing date.

Dated: March 13, 2024

BY THE COURT:
Daniel A. Benson
JUDGE OF DISTRICT

Attorney for
Representative:
Joseph S. Mayers
KELM & REUTER, P.A.
Attorney No. 0295747
Attorney for Petitioner
1287 2nd Street North,
Suite 101
Sauk Rapids, MN 56379
(320) 251-1423
kelmreuter@kelmreuter.com

15-16pnc

NOTICE
BYRON TOWNSHIP
BOARD OF APPEAL
AND EQUALIZATION
MEETING

The Byron Board of Appeal and Equalization meeting will meet Thursday, April 11, 2024, at 10:00 a.m. at the Leader Community 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.

Becki Rassler, Clerk
Byron Township

15pnc

NOTICE
MOTLEY TOWNSHIP
BOARD OF APPEAL
AND EQUALIZATION
MEETING

The Board of Appeal and Equalization for the Township of Motley, Morrison County, Minnesota shall meet on Thursday, April 12, 2024 at 10:30 a.m. at the Motley Township 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.

Ken Swecker, Clerk
Motley Township

15-16pnc

NOTICE
EVERGREEN HILL
CEMETERY CLEANUP

Evergreen Hill Cemetery, Staples, will be conducting their spring cleanup on Tuesday, April 9, 2024.

Two flower arrangements are allowed either on shepherd hooks or pole style pot holders, or a monument topper. Flowers must be maintained in an attractive manner or they will be removed.

Bob Reeck,
Secretary/Treasurer

14-15pnc

NOTICE
MORAN TOWNSHIP
Important Information
Regarding Property
Assessments
This may affect your
2025 property taxes

The Board of Appeal and Equalization for Moran Township will meet on April 22, 2024 at 10:00 a.m. at the Town Hall. The purpose of this meeting is to determine whether property in the jurisdiction has been properly valued and classified by the assessor.

If you believe the value or classification of your property is incorrect, please contact your assessor's office to discuss your concerns. If you disagree with the valuation 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 corrections as needed. Generally, you must appeal to the local board before appealing to the County Board of Appeal and Equalization.

Diane Mack, Clerk
Moran Township

15pnc

NOTICE OF PUBLIC
HEARING TO
CONSIDER REZONING
VALLEY VIEW FIRST
ADDITION
CITY OF STAPLES

NOTICE is hereby given that the Planning and Zoning Commission of the City of Staples will hold a Public Hearing at 5:00 p.m. on Tuesday, April 15, 2024 at the Staples City Hall, 122 6th St NE, to consider rezoning Valley View First Addition from R-3 to R-1.

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

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

Tara Greer, City Clerk
Staples, MN

15pnc

NOTICE
MEADOWBROOK
TOWNSHIP BOARD
OF APPEAL AND
EQUALIZATION

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 Township of Meadowbrook, Cass County, Minnesota shall meet on Wednesday, April 10, 2024 at 10:00 a.m. this meeting is at the Leader Community 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.

Ty Peterson, Clerk
Meadowbrook Township

14-15pnc

(ABBREVIATED
ADVERTISEMENT)

NOTICE
TODD COUNTY
2024 PAVEMENT
BITUMINOUS
PROJECTS
Closing date:
April 30, 2024

Sealed bids will be accepted until 10:00 a.m., April 30, 2024 by the Todd County Public Works Director/Engineer and County Auditor/Treasurer at 44 Riverside Drive, Long Prairie, Minnesota 56347 for the following construction projects:

SP 077-602-020
SAP 077-615-007
SAP 077-633-004
SAP 077-638-019
SAP 077-646-008
SAP 077-646-009
CP 24:86
CP 24:100
CP 24:103
CP 77-24-01
CP 77-24-06

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

Loren Fellbaum,
Todd County Public Works
Director/Engineer

15-17pnc

NOTICE OF
PUBLIC HEARING
TO CONSIDER
ESTABLISHMENT
OF OSAKIS LAKE
IMPROVEMENT
DISTRICT
TODD COUNTY

Upon petition by the Osakis Lake Association for a proposed Osakis Lake Improvement District, the Todd County Board of Commissioners has set a public hearing scheduled for 6:00 p.m. on Tuesday, April 16, 2024, in the Osakis Public School Auditorium, 500 First Avenue East, Osakis, Minnesota.

The boundaries of the proposed Osakis Lake Improvement District shall include parcels with lake frontage, or lake frontage access, on Osakis Lake in Douglas and Todd Counties. The purposes, programs, and funding for the district are outlined in the Petition for Proposed Osakis Lake Improvement District, a copy of which is available for public review at the Office of the Todd County Auditor-Treasurer, Historic Courthouse, 215 1st Avenue S, Long Prairie, Minnesota

and is also available on the county website: <https://www.co.todd.mn.us/>

The establishment of the proposed Osakis Lake Improvement District requires review by the Commissioner of Natural Resources, by the town board of a town wholly or partially within the boundaries and the approval of the Douglas and Todd County Boards. Concerned citizens may submit evidence at the public hearing or send written comments to the County Auditor-Treasurer Department prior to the public hearing. Mail to: Todd County Auditor-Treasurer RE: OLID, 215 1st Avenue S, Suite 201, Long Prairie, MN 56347 or email clerk@co.todd.mn.us

This hearing is being held prior to the passage of any order establishing the proposed lake improvement district. Concerned citizens may also submit evidence and opinions to the Commissioner of Natural Resources.

Questions can be directed to Denise Gaida, Todd County Auditor-Treasurer by email clerk@co.todd.mn.us or by phone at 320-732-4469.

Denise Gaida, Todd County
Auditor-Treasurer
Clerk to the Board

14-15pnc

SUBSCRIBE

Staples World newspaper subscription rates, one year:

Local: \$53 (Todd, Wadena, Morrison, Cass counties)

Minnesota: \$58.

Out-of-State: \$63.

Foreign: on-line only

Student Rate: \$43 per school year, in-state (Sept-April)

On-Line: \$50

Print with on-line: \$76

Staples World

P.O. Box 100
224 4th St. NE
Staples, MN 56479
218-894-1112
www.staplesworld.com

NOTICE MOOSE LAKE TOWNSHIP
BOARD OF APPEAL AND EQUALIZATION

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 Township of Moose Lake, Cass County, Minnesota shall meet on Thursday, April 11, 2024 at 11:30 a.m. This meeting is at the Leader Community 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.

Karen Roubal, Clerk, Moose Lake Township

15-16pnc

DEADLINE

for all classified
ads and copy is
12 noon Friday

For the
Staples World

Who's watching
out for you?

NEWSPAPERS!
Naturally.

Eighty percent of people polled believe that governments should be required to publish public notices in newspapers. But for years, government has tried to "hide" public notices by either posting them on government websites only, or by not publishing them at all.

Newspapers across the country are fighting for YOUR right to that information. That's our job.

Keep public notices public.
Keep them in newspapers.
Support your local newspaper.

SOURCE: 2011 Readership Survey by National Newspaper Association.



Regional Spelling Bee competitors

Sixteen students in grades 3 - 8 from school districts in Cass, Crow Wing, Morrison, Todd and Wadena counties (also known as Region 5) participated at the Regional Spelling Bee March 20, at Sourcewell in Staples.

Pictured from left, front: Jessa Aho, Menahga; Carson Lucking, Pierz; Soren Pearson, Pequot Lakes; William Rausch, Royalton; Owen Roline, Staples-Motley; Autumnne Haus, Bertha-Hewitt; Marlowe

Cotariu, Crosslake.

Middle: Josslyn Hansen, Wadena-Deer Creek; Hudson Nelson, Sebeka; Wyatt Dropps, Pine River-Backus; Corey Stone, Nay Ah Shing; Jeffrey Brassard, Aitkin.

Back: Milo Hutchins, Swanville; Jacob Harrison, Pequot Lakes; Tyler Thesing, Pierz; Isabelle Grittner, Pierz. Not Pictured: Zachary Prethish, Aitkin. (Staples World photo by Dawn Timbs)

Sourcewell sponsors top spellers at Regional Spelling Bee

By Dawn Timbs
Staples World reporter

Top spellers from Region Five met up at Sourcewell in Staples March 20, to compete in the Regional Spelling Bee...showing off their skills with a number of correctly spelled words, including fugitive, insomnia, salivate and ouster.

Of the 16 participants, William Rausch, an eighth grader from Royalton, emerged as the winner, a title he earned at last year's Regional Bee as well. Finishing as first runner-up was Soren Pearson, a fifth grader from Pequot Lakes. Hudson Nelson, an eighth grader from Sebeka, was declared the second runner-up.

Some of the words Rausch correctly spelled were tangy, bother, marimba and apothecary. Pearson's correctly spelled words included cruel, moped, suitable and millionaire. Nelson correctly spelled a variety of words as well, including bleat, nervily and rankles.

Phillip Olsen, Student Academics Coordinator at Sourcewell (sponsors of the Regional Spelling Bee) served as the event coordinator. He shared later that "This is an intense competition every year. The stakes aren't just a trophy, medals or something like that. The winner gets to represent the region as they move on to compete at the Scripps National Spelling Bee in Washington, DC. That is a special opportunity and will be something that they will remember for the rest of their lives. Our champion this year (Rausch) is a repeat champion for us, as he also represented our region last year at the Scripps



Down to the final r-o-u-n-d

Above: Soren Pearson, a fifth grader from Pequot Lakes, successfully spelled 'millionaire' at the Regional Spelling Bee in Staples to advance to the final round, along with William Rausch (right), an eighth grader from Royalton. Pearson finished as runner-up after misspelling 'addendum.'

Below: Rausch approaches the microphone during the final round, correctly spelling 'apothecary' and 'profundity.' Also pictured are Phillip Olsen, Student Academic Coordinator at Sourcewell (and event coordinator) and Pearson. (Staples World photos by Dawn Timbs)

National Spelling Bee. He knows the level of competition he'll be facing at this next level. I know he'll continue to work hard in preparation for the bee, and will represent us well."

Judges at the 2024 Regional Spelling Bee were:

- Pronouncer - Bruce Eastman, CLC retired edu-

cator

- Head Judge - Cathy Riewer, Bertha-Hewitt educator

- Rounds and records judge - Emily Monda Sourcewell

- Dictionary judge - Jordan Herman, Sourcewell

- Recorder - Abby Brichacek, Sourcewell.

New tobacco shop fills gap

By Mark Anderson
Managing Editor

Ray Dodin, the owner of the new Staples Smoke Shop, said he found a lot of customers in his store in the Little Falls area were coming from the Staples area. So he decided a store was needed here.

Dodin owns other businesses such as a strip mall in St. Cloud, a gas station and laundry in Little Falls, a gas station at Fort Ripley and now the smoke shop in Staples.

He said one of his gas sta-

tions is much like a smoke shop in that it has all the same items, so he knows the business fairly well.

When Dodin was looking to open a smoke shop in Staples, he said he walked through the city to find out possible locations. He went to city hall to ask if it was possible to set up a smoke shop in that building and was told there was nothing to prevent it. When the school district objected to having a smoke shop a block away from the school, he said he had already purchased the building.

Dodin said all of his

stores follow the law strictly. No one under 21 years of age can enter the store.

To fix up the building, Dodin had new wiring installed, put in a new floor and put in all new surfaces. His next improvement is to fix up the parking lot.

The business so far has been good, he said.

"A lot of people are happy with the store," said Dodin.

He said customers are most interested in rolling tobacco and vaping products. He also put in a humidifier room so the cigars in the store stay fresher.



Ray's Smoke Shop

Ray Dodin in the Staples Smoke Shop in the newly refurbished building. (Staples World photo by Mark Anderson)

Jennissen earns school principal award

Staples native Lynn Jennissen, assistant principal at St. Michael-Albertville Middle School West, has been named this year's recipient of the 2023-2024 Minnesota Assistant Principal of the Year Award. Lynn was honored on Jan. 24, by the Minnesota Association of Secondary School Principals.

Jennissen has been an assistant principal in his current school for the past 14 years; and, he has been a school administrator for 16 years.

According to the award nomination, Jennissen understands the importance of fostering shared responsibility by delegating leadership and individual ownership of the school's vision to faculty and students so that they can create an environment that is open and inclusive and all feel valued.

This sentiment is reflected through the eyes of one staff member, who said



Lynn Jennissen

"When I think of Lynn Jennissen, what comes to mind the most is his heart. He loves his staff, he loves his students, he loves his family, and he loves his community. In every situation, he sees the good. Students, staff, and families know he truly cares about them. He literally learns every student's name and makes the effort to get to know them."

Furthermore, an administrative colleague shared,

"Lynn (LJ) utilizes a coaching model in his approach to growing teachers in their craft. He models accountability and is one of the most positive and genuine people in helping staff see their own growth and reflect on their areas where they need to grow."

Lynn's caring heart is noticed beyond the walls of the school, as one parent states, "Mr. Jennissen approaches his career with a servant's heart. Our district is very lucky that he has chosen to pursue his lifelong dream of being an educator in our district. He plays a critical role when it comes to instilling the district's core values of safety, honesty, citizenship, and respect into students at a young age."

Jennissen will have the honor of competing for the title of 2024-2025 National Assistant Principal of the Year to be awarded later this year.



Bound for Washington D.C.

For the second year in a row, William Rausch, an eighth grader from Royalton, was the winner of the Regional Spelling Bee held March 20, at Sourcewell in Staples. He's pictured with his parents, Dave and Stacey Rausch. They will travel to the Washington D.C. area in May, where William will compete at the Scripps National Spelling Bee. The all-expense trip (for William and one parent) is paid for by Sourcewell, sponsors of the Regional Bee. (Staples World photo by Dawn Timbs)

SMBP offers help to Staples residents for community cleanup day

Staples-Motley Beyond Poverty will sponsor cleanup support for Staples residents who have junk that they wish to remove but need help with loading, hauling or disposal fees. Applications are being accepted for qualified residents and volunteers will help with

trash removal during the Staples City Wide Cleanup Day on Friday, May 31.

Applications for the program can be picked up at Staples City Hall, at the Staples World newspaper or the City of Staples web site.

Applications are to be submitted by

May 8.

SMBP is also asking for sponsors to help fund the project.

For more information about the City Wide Cleanup Day, contact Staples City Hall, 218-849-2550.



Cleanup volunteers

Last year's SMBP cleanup volunteer crew. (Submitted photo)



Staples World

DEADLINES
Newspaper deadline for copy and advertising: 12 noon Fridays



Polar plunge activities

Staples-Motley High School/Middle School held a Polar Plunge event on March 20, raising money for Special Olympics by jumping into cold water wearing

costumes. Before the water jump, a pep fest was held that included a live-action game of Hungry, Hungry Hippo, above. (Staples World photos by Mark Anderson)



Col. Sanders took a chickent to the Polar Plunge.



Willow Hines and Jackson Vangsness tossed rubber ducks into the water



The Students raised more than \$10,000 triggering a challenge for administration to jump.



After the event, chicken feathers floated along the gutter.

Angst film inspires second showing

The Angst film made such a splash among those who attended, a second showing was requested for interested people who were unable to come to the first event.

The new film showing will be Thursday, April 11, at 6:30 p.m. at Motley United Methodist Church. A discussion will follow the 45 minute film. The public is invited to this free event.

ANGST continued from page 1a

Social media creates anxiety

ley Middle School Social Worker.

The panel said the Staples-Motley 7th and 8th graders were interested in overcoming the stigma of anxiety, since it has become more common for that age. One of the biggest questions they asked was “how do I find a trusted adult to talk to?”

Van Alst said one issue she sees is children are reluctant to discuss their anxiety because they don’t want to disappoint parents or grandparents, who might see it as a weakness.

In response from an audience question about the role of media and society on anxiety, Dr. Davis said there has been a clear increase in anxiety starting in 2007, the year smartphones started getting in everyone’s hands and social media became a major form of communication.

“It is designed to make us stressed and make us angry,” said Davis, because social media platforms are programmed to promote the most incendiary comments and issues.

Davis also said people on social media “don’t get to finish the cycle,” because it is always going, there is no end to it.

While some people try to cope with anxiety by using alcohol, marijuana or other substances, Davis

said those “passive” coping skills are not effective because the person doesn’t learn how to combat their anxiety, only to cover it up with unhealthy practices.

The panel discussed their favorite coping tools to deal with anxiety when it crops up. Quick ideas included double breathing techniques (breathing in twice before exhaling) and having fidgeting items to hold in your hands. The panel also suggested “grounding,” or taking a moment to focus on items in the room you are in or colors that you can see. Physical activity is another coping tool, such as going for a walk, finding someone to talk to or reading.

The panel also discussed techniques of turning negative thoughts into positive thoughts, a practice that Reading said school personnel work on often with students.

Former Staples-Motley teacher Frank Odell was in the audience and noted that he may have created a lot of anxiety over the years with his English class assignments. He pointed out that the film mentioned one of the biggest fears in society is speaking in front of a large group. As a speech teacher and coach, he said “A lot of kids gained confidence by learning how to speak to an audience.”



Stan Edin, longtime Staples resident, returns home



Earlier days

Stan Edin, longtime leader at Staples Technical College (later Central Lakes College) is pictured above in 1973, at his office. (Archive photo from the college yearbook)

begun his journey not far from Thomastown decades earlier. “*Tell me, where is the road I can call my own. That I left, that I lost so long ago. All these years I have wandered, oh, when will I know. There’s a way, there’s a road that will lead me home.*” Stan’s home now. (Staples World photo by Dawn Timbs)

Family and friends from around the country came to pay their respects for Dr. Stan Edin, a Staples native who passed away March 10, 2024, in Westminster, Colorado, at the age of 88. His ‘Celebration of Life’ ceremony and subsequent graveside service with military honors were held March 23, at Thomastown Covenant Church in rural Staples.

Except for 15 years or so of his 88 trips around the sun, Staples was the place Edin called ‘home.’ He grew up on a farm near there in Wadena County, the son of Swedish-Americans Alfred and Lydia, attended the Swedish Church down the road (now known as Thomastown Covenant), and got his early education in that neck of the woods...first at a one-room school house, and later at Staples High School, graduating in 1954. Stan would go on to attend colleges in Chicago and Minneapolis, serve in the Army, marry his college sweetheart Rose, and work in the Twin Cities for a few years before returning to his hometown in 1963, when he accepted an offer to teach at Staples Area Vocational Technical Institute. Little did Edin know that he would devote the next 30-plus years to helping build up the technical college...going on to be appointed assistant director of the technical college, later serving as its director/president, and eventually leading a merger with area technical and community colleges, ultimately forming Central Lakes College in 1995, after which Edin retired. Along the way, Stan and Rose built a home on the Crow Wing River, where they raised their two children, Kathy and Jon.

Although he and Rose moved away about seven years ago...first to Florida, and then to a retirement community in Colorado, Stan had deep roots in Staples, and it was only fitting that his ‘Celebration of Life’ service would be held at Thomastown Covenant - the little brown church in Wadena County where both his physical and spiritual life took flight. His grandsons, Erik and Joshua, sang “The Road Home” at their granddad’s service, the lyrics seeming to have been written especially for Stanley Allen Edin, who’d begun his journey not far from Thomastown decades earlier. “*Tell me, where is the road I can call my own. That I left, that I lost so long ago. All these years I have wandered, oh, when will I know. There’s a way, there’s a road that will lead me home.*” Stan’s home now. (Staples World photo by Dawn Timbs)



Olympic swimming champion Michael Phelps talks about anxiety in the film Angst.

There’s still time!

The Staples Motley Area Community Foundation spring grant cycle is coming to a close, but there’s still time to submit your application!

Go to www.staplesmotleyfoundation.org/how-to-apply to submit an application before **April 15, 2024** to be considered.

Grants are available to public, academic, and nonprofit organizations that serve residents living and/or working in the boundaries of the Staples-Motley School District.



Plans in place for Old Wadena Society meeting

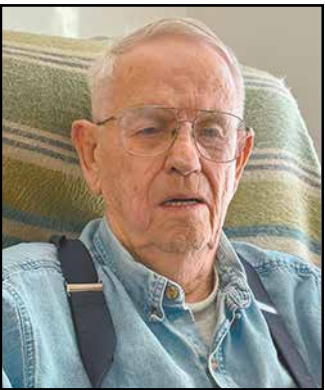
Plans are being made for Old Wadena Society members to conduct their annual meeting at the Historic Northern Pacific Depot in Staples at 1 p.m. Sunday, April 7.

The public and all OWS members are invited to attend and view a video of Dr. Amelie Allard from the University of Minnesota discussing the archeological ‘dig’ she and her students conducted several years ago along the Leaf River in central Wadena County. Her program is entitled “A View from Reaume’s Leaf River Post.”

The roughly 30-year-old Old Wadena Society also plans to present their Friend of Old Wadena award this year to Russ Lee, a long time OWS board member and active volunteer at annual rendezvous. The retired Staples Motley social studies and history instructor is expecting to be leaving the community in the near future to move closer to family in the Pacific Northwest.

In addition to being an active Old Wadena board member for nearly 25 years, Russ Lee had a part in a number of improvements at both Old Wadena and other locations. Russ said in 1994 he joined with English instructor Kay Pettit to offer a class called Senior Seminar in which students were expected to complete a community service project. Guidelines required students to form a team, develop a project and get it approved by a governing body, then complete their project. Students took on tasks throughout the Staples-Motley school district, but each year students devised projects at both Old Wadena and other Wadena County parks on the Crow Wing River.

At Old Wadena, student projects included a rail fence around the park area,



Russ Lee

clearing trails and spreading wood chips on trails, building picnic tables and other improvements at remote camp sites, building an authentic Red River Ox Cart with wooden hub and numerous other projects.

“Our projects had an unexpected dividend,” Russ recalled. Glen Motzko, Wadena County parks supervisor, told him that after a year or two of Senior Seminar projects, “Our vandalism has gone down by 75 percent.” Russ also noted that one group working on their project called in a report of vandalism in progress.

Reflecting back on his Senior Seminar years, Russ wanted to share the credit. He noted the Wadena County Commissioners over the years and county employees deserve credit for utilizing the scenic river and developing the county parks system. Secondly, he said former Principal Bruce Pederson first had the idea for a public service project. After Russ and Pettit described the Senior Seminar idea to their principal, Russ said “Pederson said okay and stepped aside.”

Old Wadena members also plan to discuss preliminary plans for this year’s Old Wadena Rendezvous planned for August 10 and 11.