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- New Years resolutions
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- Boys basketball wins



Musical holiday program Above, Staples-Motley Elementary fourth graders play ukelele to the song Grandma Got Run Over by a Reindeer, while their classmates sing along. The Winter Concert was held at the elementary school gym on Dec. 21. Below, kindergarten students sing loud and proud during their performance at the concert. (Photos by Mark Anderson)

School meets some academic goals, graduation still a strength

By Mark Anderson
Managing Editor

The Staples-Motley School Board heard about progress on some of the school's academic goals at their Dec. 18 meeting. Curriculum and Assessment Coordinator Jennifer Pantzke presented the results of the goals along with Middle School/High School Principal Debbie Ferdon and Elementary Principal Allen Berg.

The goals were set as part of the World's Best Workforce program.

Two goals that are on track are for all students to graduate and for all graduates to be career and college-ready. The school's graduation rate has been rising from 88 percent in 2020 to 95 percent in 2023. The goal was to reach 94 percent by 2025. Ferdon said this is an all time high for graduation rate at the school. It was reported earlier that the Staples-Motley graduation rate is among the best in the area.

To be career and college-ready, the goal set was for 75 percent of graduates to establish a Personal Learning Plan with the support of a school consultant and counselor. In 2022, 83 percent of ninth and tenth graders completed a plan and in 2023, 83 percent of seniors completed their plan. Ferdon said they will continue to focus on family engagement and working with students to check their progress towards graduation.

"We want to keep students engaged and have flexible

See **SCHOOL** on page 12a



God's creatures witness Christmas

Sacred Heart Area School put on a musical Christmas program titled "Angels, Lambs, Ladybugs & Butterflies," where those creatures were joined by fireflies, grasshoppers, birds, shepherds and Wisemen, to witness the Christmas story of Jesus, Mary and Joseph. (Staples World photo by Mark Anderson)

Weather

2023-2024

This Week's Forecast

	High	Low	Cond.
Dec. 27	37	24	P. Cloudy
Dec. 28	36	23	P. Cloudy
Dec. 29	35	25	M. Sunny
Dec. 30	31	18	M. Sunny
Dec. 31	29	16	M. Sunny
Jan. 1	30	17	Sunny
Jan. 2	29	16	Sunny

Last Year, 2022-23

	High	Low	Cond.
Dec. 27	22°	10	Cloudy
Dec. 28	34	28	M. Sunny
Dec. 29	23	10	M. Sunny
Dec. 30	15	9	M. Sunny
Dec. 31	27	20	Sunny
Jan. 1	18	16	Cloudy
Jan. 2	22	10	Cloudy

Average Temps:
H = 21° Low = 6°
Happy New Year!

Compiled by
Dale Hausmann,
WCCO's Staples area
Weatherwatcher

Public Notices

Todd Commissioners

9A

Bartlett Township

10A

Byron Township

10A

May Township

10A

May Township

10A

Todd Abatement

10A

Todd Planning

10A

Online group of quilters meet in person for the first time at Cushing resort

Submitted by Heather Sams, Cushing, Minn.

Why would women who have never met before from Oregon, New York, North Dakota, Minnesota, Nevada, and North Carolina all meet at a resort in the middle of Minnesota to quilt and bake? The answer is friendship. Who knew that such a deep friendship could come from an online quilting and baking group? If you ever got to meet the group's founder, Carie McGhie, you would quickly know why such friendships developed.

Over a decade ago, Carie had a thriving quilting shop in Reno, Nev., when health issues became so compromising that she needed to walk away from it. She sold the business to one of her managers, while maintaining a small profit share, and began baking from home instead.

Eight years later, and still struggling with many unanswered questions regarding her health, Carie and her husband had to take back the quilting business. That was in November of 2019. As we all know, just a few short months later, running a quilt shop was not a viable business option due to the pandemic. In addition, the day before the shutdown, it became clear that Carie, herself, had COVID-19. After several weeks of fighting the illness, Carie emerged with a permanent heart condition and an even more compromised immune system that required her to stay home. In order to keep themselves and their quilting business



Memories made at Campfire Bay Resort



LouAnn Uhr, Laurie Ehard, Sue Eppler, Angela Eppler, Ginny Dillon, Sue Faykus, Dee Hanson, Muffi King, Jilda Hoffman, Marla Priday, Edna Bowman, Robin Kennedy and Melissa Conrad. (Submitted photos)

afloat, Carie started teaching quilting classes and baking classes online. She had taught in person at the shop before so she did what

she did best but just turned to the internet. While the new business model kept them going financially, a big benefit was the social

Carie McGhie of Prior Lake, pictured above at far left, and in lower photo, led a quilting class at Campfire Bay Resort in Cushing this past fall. The class members, who hailed from all over the United States, had initially met online, where they shared their passions for quilting and baking. The women were excited to meet in person for the first time at Campfire Bay Resort, owned by Brian and Heather Sams. In addition to McGhie, the group's founder, group members include

and I am, but they don't realize how much they support me. Teaching online gave me the social interaction I so needed," Carie admits. Her online students come from all over the country and have nothing but praise for Carie's patient and detailed method of teaching. "Carie is just so kind and explains everything so patiently. I have taken many other online classes and just felt like the teacher was in it for the money, but Carrie really knows what she's doing and even if she doesn't, will look it up for you on the spot; she always answers your questions patiently and knowledgeably," gushed student Dee Hanson of Buffalo, N.Y. and another group member. At the advice of her cardiologist, Carie and her husband, Neff, moved from Reno to Minnesota to be at a lower elevation so as not to put too much stress on her failing heart. Her online class business, called Stitches and Crumbs, of course easily made that transition and she even started a VIP class for those wanting more help and perks. After a couple of years, she threw out the idea of them all meeting in person for a retreat and everybody was excited about the idea. Even Dee, who hadn't left the state of New York since 2015 after her husband died, was determined to make the trip in order to get together with her favorite group of women. Carie therefore booked several cabins, a

campsite, and the gathering room at Campfire Bay Resort in Cushing. A month before the event, Carie succumbed to COVID-19 yet again and ended up in the hospital on oxygen. The retreat looked like it would have to be postponed or canceled. However, not too long before the event, she was able to be released and deemed fit enough to travel, so she and her husband packed up their travel trailer and drove to Campfire Bay.

The retreat was a success with all the women so happy to see each other in person and try first hand different quilting techniques, baking techniques, and experience the camaraderie that can ultimately only happen in person. Old habits die hard though, even though they were sitting only a couple feet apart sewing away on their machines, Dee and another group member were still texting each other. Her sister, who helped drive her all the way from Buffalo, N.Y., commented, "We'll be at a restaurant and my sister's phone is just blowing up with texts from all these ladies."

It was a sad day when the women packed up and all headed out to their respective states, but they all decided they definitely needed to do another in person retreat. And while they weren't going to see each other in person again for who knows how long, they each knew they still had the next quilting class to see each other...online.



Staples-Motley Minnesota Honor Society inductees

Seventeen new members from Staples-Motley High School were inducted to the SM Minnesota Honor Society Dec. 3 for 2023 -24, based on the pillars of Scholarship, Character, Leadership and Service. Pictured, front row, from left: Dylan Lawrence, Lilly Tyrrell, Corinne Olson, Jade Storry, Ashlyn Vogel, Naila Mikhaeil, Laken Hines, Miranda Schotzko. Center: Dillan Robben, Steven

ven Petrich, Odin Trif, Christian Bachmann, Heidi Zim-merman, Emery Lorber, Logan Robben, Peyton Mithun, Oliviah Lorber. Back row: Andrew Salcido, Lauren Rut-ten, Addisyn Cichos, Sabina Moe, Bel Birkholtz, Emali Kloeckl-Jimenez, Izzy Olander, Brooke Hansen, AJ Nien-ow. Not pictured: Cami Anderson. (Submitted photo)



Christmas for Kids funding

The Staples Host Lions recently donated \$250 for the 'Christmas For Kids' event hosted by the Staples '93 Lions. Pictured, from left, are Staples '93 Lion Janet Opheim; and Lion President Rick Adamietz. (Staples World photo by Dawn Timbs)

Motley Police, Morrison County Sheriff's reports

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

Dec. 13 - 19

Dec. 12 - The Motley Police received a complaint of 19 cats and a dog at a Riverside Lane residence in Motley.

Dec. 18 - Morrison County deputies responded to assist a trooper who was

requesting assistance on a traffic stop at the 33000 block of Hwy 10 N., Motley.

Dec. 18 - Morrison County deputies responded to a one vehicle crash with no injuries at the 27000 block of Cedar Rd., Morrison County. Subsequently, they issued a citation to Kyle Ackerblade, 25.

Dec. 16 - Morrison County deputies were dis-

patched to a burglary that had just happened at the 31000 block of 70th Ave., Cushing. Subsequently, they arrested Nathanael Lee Culp, 42, and Sheryl Lee Kedrowski, 54.

Dec. 16 - Morrison County deputies assisted state patrol with a semi that was in the ditch at Hwy 10 S. and Azalea Rd., Motley.



'Light up Staples' funding

The Staples Host Lions recently donated \$200 toward the Light Up Staples event held Dec. 2, organized by the Staples Downtown Revitalization Committee. Pictured, from left, are committee member Sally Gorton; and Lion President Rick Adamietz. (Staples World photo by Dawn Timbs)

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Happy New Year!

Have your ads and copy into the office by 4 p.m. on Weds., Dec. 27 for the Jan. 3, 2024 issue.

Staples World

lassified word ads: office@staplesworld.com
Copy: editor@staplesworld.com
Obits: jwinter@staplesworld.com
224 4th St. NE, Staples, MN, 218-894-1112

Staples Police report

Dec. 12, Staples Police responded to assist the Minnesota State Patrol with a fleeing motor vehicle. The MSP stopped pursuing the vehicle prior to the vehicle entering the city of Staples. The driver was later apprehended in Morrison County.

Dec. 12, Staples Police assisted the Todd County Sheriff's Department with a traffic stop on the 400 block of 2nd Ave., where the driver had an active body only warrant. The driver, Andrea Rychner, 43, was arrested without incident, and taken to the Wadena County Detention Center by the Todd County Sheriff's Department.

Dec. 13, around 1:20 a.m., Staples Police observed a semi truck and trailer, parked in a turn lane on Cardinal Drive NW, north of 2nd Ave. NW. The semi was observed to be was running, and it did not initially appear to be occupied. Police checked the cab and located a party inside who had pulled over to sleep. Police checked the operator's welfare and the operator was advised.

Dec. 13, at 4:30 p.m., Staples Police took a report of small child walking around outside with no clothes on near the 1400 block of 3rd St. NE. The child was taken into another apartment until parents could be located. The child was reunited with its mother and the child appeared to be okay.

Dec. 14, Staples Police received information regarding a party who is using meth and driving without a drivers license.

Dec. 14, at 4:05 p.m., Sta-

ples Police received a report of a missing elderly woman with dementia around the 400 block of 2nd St. SE. After having the fire department paged out to assist in looking for the female party, a fireman located the party walking on Pine Grove Rd. The female party was assisted home and left in the care of her husband.

Dec. 15, Staples Police noticed a semi parked in the shoulder of Highway 10 E. with its hazards on. Officers found the vehicle to be abandoned after it appeared the truck broke down.

Dec. 16, at 5:11 a.m., Staples Police assisted a male at the Love Hotel who had received a key card that did not work for his room and the management was not answering his calls. Police arrived on scene and knocked on the management's door and spoke with staff. The issue was soon resolved.

Dec. 16, Staples Police received a report of a possible bobcat around the 200 block of 5th St NE. Upon arrival it appeared to be a male tom cat with a stub tail. The cat ran off as officers approached.

Dec. 16, Staples Police received report of a vehicle travelling at a high rate of speed from Morrison County. Police located the vehicle and did not observe any speeding. The driver was stopped and verbally warned for not keeping to the right on the interstate.

Dec. 17, Staples Police assisted a male in getting to Wadena hospital after reports of him walking on the shoulder of Highway 10.

Court report Dec. 11, 18

Long Prairie Police Department
Daryl Duane Breden, Randall. Theft of motor fuel from retailer. Dismissed.

John L. Robertson, Kenner, La. Driving without a valid license for a vehicle class or type. Fine \$100. Fee \$85.

Randolph George Servatius, Long Prairie. Speed 40/30. Fine \$40. Fee \$85.

Minnesota Department of Natural Resources
Mike Antone Etzler, Browerville. Fish and Game- Lend borrow or transfer a license tag or seal. Fine \$200. Fee \$85.

Devan Roger Leger, Little Falls. Water Safety- fail to have legal life-saving device on board watercraft or waterfowl boat. Fine \$25. Fee \$85.

Colin Patrick Novak, South Saint Paul. Wildlife Management Area- construct, occupy, or use any elevated scaffold or stand; portable stand violation. Fine \$50. Fee \$85.

Kenneth Michael Tschida, Sauk Centre. Forestry--open burning garbage- by a person. Fine \$100. Fee \$85.

Minnesota State Patrol
Xiomara Elena Castilblanco, Saint Paul. Instruction permit violation (18 years or older). Fine \$50. Fee \$85.

Zion Elias Kramer-Smart, Dilworth. Speed 75/65. Fine \$40. Fee \$85.

James David Adamek, Grey Eagle. Speed 70/60. Fine \$40. Fee \$85.

Erin Marie Bell Karlsen, Otsego. Speed 80/70. Fine \$40. Fee \$85.

Shauna Lynn Block, Brooklyn Center. Speed 65/60. Fine \$40. Fee \$85.

Philip Isaac Buhl, Browerville. Seatbelt required- driver and passengers must use. Fine \$25. Fee \$85.

Scott Michael Doucette, Cushing. Speed 70/60. Fine \$40. Fee \$85.

Matthew Mark Eastwood, Osakis. Speed 65/55. Fine \$40. Fee \$85.

Foster Afoakwa Adom Frimpong, Moorhead. Speed 97/70. Fine \$100. Fee \$185. Instruction permit violation (18 years or older). Fine \$50.

John Paul Jansen, Riverside, Calif. Speed 80/60. Fine \$70. Fee \$155.

Tracy Jean Karasch, Sauk Centre. Speed 65/60. Fine \$40. Fee \$85.

Nathan Alan Kist, Little Falls. Speed 65. Fine \$60. Fee \$85.

Yair Enrique Martinez Corrales, Melrose. Speed 85/60. Fine \$70. Fee \$155. Driving after revocation. \$200.

Cody James Masog, Long Prairie. Seatbelt required--driver and passenger must use. Fine \$25. Fee \$85.

Abdwahab Arale Nunow, Fargo, N.Dak. Speed 86/70. Fine \$60. Fee \$85.

Emmanuel Oppong, Fargo, N.Dak. Speed 89/70. Fine \$60. Fee \$85.

Hannah Louise Parrot, Saint Cloud. Speed 93/70. Fine \$70. Fee \$155.

Berkis Amada Perez De Tiburico, Long Prairie. Hands-Free Law-engage in cellular phone or video call. Fine \$50. Fee \$85.

James Michael Peterson, Cannon Falls. Speed 80/70. Fine \$40. Fee \$85.

Blake Thomas Proell, Sauk Centre. Speed 82/55. Fine \$100.

Fee \$185.

Travis Denton Foster Smith, Long Prairie. Speed 70/60. Fine \$40. Fee \$85.

Tyler Joseph Stich, Lonsdale. Window tint (less than 50 percent light transmittance). Fine \$50. Fee \$85. Window restrictions- windshield tinted or glazed. Fine \$50.

Anna A. Yoder, Clarissa. Window restrictions- windshield tinted or glazed. Fine \$50. Fee \$85.

Staples Police Department
Daryl Duane Breden, Randall. Theft- theft of motor fuel from retailer. Dismissed.

Ray Lamar Johnson, Staples. Traffic-littering. Fine \$100. Fee \$85. No Minnesota driver's license. Fine \$100.

Jacob Alex Prado, Staples. Animal at large. Dismissed. Dog running at large. Fine \$50. Fee \$85.

Todd County Sheriff's Office
Daryl Duane Breden, Randall. Possess ammo/any firearm- previous felony conviction. Dismissed. Domestic assault- fear. Dismissed.

Keiza Llmarris Montalvo Silva, Sauk Centre. Expiration of driver's license--over 21. Fine \$100. Fee \$85.

Gregory Allen Pooler, Eagle Bend. Aiding an offender to avoid arrest-harbor/conceal. Dismissed. Fifth Degree possession of a controlled substance. Dismissed.

Davey Sanchez Contreras, Browerville. Fifth Degree possession of a controlled substance. Dismissed, conditions met or expired.

The following cases were heard before Judge Daniel A. Benson in Seventh District Court in Todd County Nov. 30, 2023.

Joshua Allen Martin, Rice. First Degree DWI- operate motor vehicle under influence of controlled substance. Dismissed. Fifth Degree-possess Schedule I/II/III/IV- not small amount marijuana. Dismissed. DWI- operate motor vehicle- body contains any amount Schedule I/II drugs- not marijuana. Sentenced. Commit to Commissioner of Corrections--Minnesota Correctional Facility, St. Cloud 57 months, stay for five years. Local confinement 364 days. Credit for time served: 172 days. Upon successful completion of treatment at Teen Challenge, balance of jail sentence will be suspended. Fine \$500. Fee totals \$680. Supervised probation, five years.

Jordan Bernard Statema, Browerville. Second Degree DWI- operate motor vehicle under influence of alcohol. Dismissed. Second Degree DWI- operate motor vehicle- alcohol concentration .08 within two hours. Sentenced. Fine \$800. Fee totals \$1,605. Local confinement 364 days. Stay 334 days for four years. Credit for time served: four days. Remaining 26 days to be served on Alcohol Sensitive Electronic Home Monitoring. Supervised probation, four years.

The following cases were heard before Judge Daniel A. Benson in Seventh District Court in Todd County Dec. 3, 2023.

Shaun Allen Lenz, Browerville. Drugs- Second Degree- possess 25 grams or more cocaine or methamphetamine. Dismissed. Drugs- Third Degree- possess 10 grams or more a narcotic drug other than heroin. Stay

75 YEARS Ago - 1948

• Dec. 23, 1948 - Word has been received from the news bureau of the University Farm, that Vernon Drake, of Staples, participated in the annual Christmas program of the University of Minnesota School of Agriculture.

• Dec. 23, 1948 - People have read stories about trappers catching large wolves from time to time in the daily newspapers, but when

- O -

Compiled by

Dawn Timbs

- O -

a local man is concerned, all "sit up and take notice."

Sunday, Dec. 19, Albert Angstrom, age 75, who lives three miles north of Staples on the Golf course road, trapped a large wolf which had been raising "cain" with many of the flocks of sheep in that community for some time.

A veteran trapper, Mr. Angstrom has been trapping since he was ten years of age, and has always been interested in eliminating predatory animals which do so much damage to farmers' livestock and poultry.

The wolf, although not a timber wolf, measured just five feet from tip to tip, but Mr. Angstrom could not judge the weight of the animal. He will collect a handsome bounty on the animal from the state conservation department.

• Dec. 23, 1948 - *Letters to Santa:*

• Dear Santa, For Christmas I would like a doll that says mama and papa and a doll house and a doll high-chair. Maybe a doll buggy. I have been a good girl. Marianne Arndt

• Dear Santa Claus, Please bring me an electric train, and a chemistry set with a microscope and a pair of skis, six feet long with skii poles.

Please bring my dog an nice juicy bone and some dog biscuits and a dog collar about 17 inches long and about an inch wide and a leash. Please bring what you can. My age is nine. Love, Richard and Trixy Sperley

• Dear Santa Claus, Thank you for the things you brought us last year. This year I would like these things. Bring as many of them as you can. I would like quite a big doll with real hair on it and a pair of skates size 2. Also a pair of skis 5 ft. long and a pair of skii poles. My big sister would like a metronome. Love, Mary and Joan Sperley

• Dear Santa, My sister Darlene has been a good girl, please bring her a rubber doll. I want a sled and tinker toys. I leave you an apple on the table. Love, Gene Erbe

• Dear Santa, Will you please bring me a train, some farm animals, also a new tractor and some candy and nuts, don't forget my big brother and sister. I am 3 years old. Thank you. Dale Mudick

• Dear Santa, I am a little girl 5 years old, and have tried hard to be good. I help mama a lot. I've been having plenty of trouble with ulcerated teeth, so please would you bring me a big sleeping eye doll and a doll buggy and a set of kettles and pans to cook with. Your little friend, Carol Jean Hirschey

COURT continued

of adjudication. Fine \$300. Supervised probation, five years. Local confinement 20 days. Fifth Degree possession of a controlled substance. Dismissed.

The following cases were heard before Judge Daniel A. Benson in Seventh District Court in Todd County Dec. 4, 2023.

John Merrill Bermel, Grey Eagle. Second Degree DWI- operate motor vehicle under influence of alcohol. Dismissed. DWI- operate motor vehicle- alcohol concentration .08 within two hours. Fine \$50. Fee totals \$530. Local confinement 364 days. Stay 334 days for four years. Credit for time served: four days. Remaining 26 days to be served on alcohol sensitive electronic home monitor. Supervised probation, four years.

Andrew Lee Denny, St. Cloud. DWI- operate motor vehicle- body contains any amount Schedule I/II drugs--not marijuana. Fine \$50. Fee \$85. Local confinement 364 days.

The following cases were



Mystery photo

Hello readers. This week's archive photo is from 1973. Do you know who these people are and perhaps the context of the photo? Do you have a memory to share? Email your answers and where

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

50 YEARS Ago - 1973

• Dec. 27, 1973 - George Colburn of the Staples Area Vocational Technical Institute, Staples, has been awarded membership in the Wise Owl Club of America, a unique organization of industrial workers and lab and shop students who escaped eye damage and blindness through use of industrial-quality safety eyewear.

Approval of membership for George Colburn by the National Society for the Prevention of Blindness, Inc., sponsor of the internationally-known Wise Owl eye safety incentive program, was announced today by Mel Nefstead Jr., Safety Director, Independent School District 793, Staples.

Conscientious use of safety eyewear by George Colburn saved his sight on Oct. 9, 1973, when Colburn, a second year Diesel Mechanic student at the Staples Vo-Tech Institute, was under a 260 Allis Chalmers motor scraper installing a drive line after a recent transmission overhaul. While he was working on a bearing cap of the U-joint assembly slipped off an dropped, striking and breaking the left lens of his safety glasses. George said that it all happened so fast that all he had time to do was to close his eyes. Other than a broken lens, no damage was done, except for George getting a face full of dirt that jarred loose from the bearing cap from the impact.

• Dec. 27, 1973 - The Staples chapter of Toastmasters elected officers



Mystery solved

Last week's mystery photo published in the Dec. 13, 1973 edition of the Staples World featured six girls from the Staples Chapter of the Future Farmers of America (all seniors at Staples High School) who were seeking the honor of 1974 FFA Sweetheart. The candidates, from left: Jeanne Hesse, daughter of

Mr. and Mrs. Alfred Hesse; Vicki Noska, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Elmer Noska; Kris Brichacek, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. George Brichacek; Julie Voeltz, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Ivan Voeltz; Marie Ziegler, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Richard Ziegler; and Joleen Desotell, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Marice Desotell.

Sydney Nichole Ehrenberg, Parkers Prairie. Domestic Assault--bodily harm. Stay of adjudication. Continued. Fine \$50. Supervised probation, one year.

Warren Michael Mcardell, Long Prairie. Fifth Degree possession of a controlled substance. Sentenced.

Commit to Commissioner of Corrections- Minnesota Correctional Facility, St. Cloud 15 months, Stay for five years. Local confinement 112 days. Credit for time served: 112 days. Fee totals \$200.

See **COURT** on page 11a

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New Years resolutions

New Years resolutions often revolve around diet, inspiration, love and money. This page has some thoughts and suggestions that could help our readers set their resolutions for 2024.

At right are quotes relating to inspiration and money. Below are stories about diet, mostly revolv-

ing around the Blue Zones concept, from the book that identified traits of cultures where people tend to live to an old age.

With apologies, we didn't have space for love. You are still on your own for that goal until Valentine's Day.

Let us know your resolutions for 2024 and have a wonderful new year.

Minnesota ranked second, but we can do better here

By Mark Anderson
Managing Editor

A new study came out recently ranking Minnesota as the number two state for healthy living and the potential to become a blue zone, an area where people routinely live to 100 years old or more.

I won't go much into the study, because I think they didn't understand the concept very well and used strange markers to rate the states, but I want to talk about how rural Minnesota fits into this. The idea of being number two makes me think that we could get to number one, especially since California was rated number one and we all know Minnesota is a much nicer place to live.

In the study, Minnesota ranked high in avoiding anxiety, adults who are physically active and sleep. We were average in religiosity and poor in diet.

Those are among the categories that are identified in the Blue Zones book that finds common traits among groups of people who commonly live to 100 years or more. Author Dan Buettner is continuing to explore those topics at bluezones.com.

I would like to look closer at diet and religiosity, because that is where our state is ranked low, but rural Minnesota has the ability to turn those negatives into a positive.

Diet

In the nowpatient study, they rated states according to how many searches people made for meat-free restaurants. Minnesota scored low on that scale, for good reason. This is a big meat producing and hunting state, so meat is one of our staple trade items.

The Blue Zones book found that people who eat more plants and less meat tend to live longer and healthier. It doesn't mean they look for meat-free restaurants, it is just that their traditional diets are more centered around fruits, vegetables and whole grains.

I don't expect people in

rural Minnesota to stop hunting, fishing and raising livestock. But we do have an amazing resource that is one of the healthiest items on the Blue Zones list: beans.

The Staples area is one of the biggest producers of dry beans in the country. Our entire community should become connoisseurs of beans: hotdishes, soups, chili, baked beans, bean dip, bean burritos, bean salads ... you can add beans to nearly every meal, including meat dishes. We should be doing more of that to promote our community and to become healthier.

Religiosity

The nowpatient study rated each state by the percentage of people who were religious. Again, I think they missed the point of the Blue Zones study showing that long-living cultures tend to take part in regular spiritual activities. According to nowpatient's own study, the most religious states were at the bottom of the U.S. life expectancy scale and vice versa. It was completely turned upside down.

So what gives? I think the Blue Zones study doesn't show that religiosity is necessarily the healthy part, it is the community gathering aspect that is healthy.

This is an aspect that rural Minnesota excels in. We have a lot of churches with regular patrons who gather frequently. Most of the congregations are small enough so that our pastors and fellow parishioners actually care about us on a personal level.

That's really all you need, they could be gathering for any reason, but religion gives an extra solemnity and reason to care about the community.

Religion also plays a role in diet, both here and in the blue zones areas. Community meals are common and diet advice is a big part of religion, including another healthy aspect found in the Blue Zones book: fasting.

This stuff isn't complicated, but it takes a community-wide effort to create the healthy lifestyles that bring us closer together and give us a reason to live.

Quote of the week

“Motivation is what gets you started. Habit is what keeps you going.”
— Laurence J. Peter

Quote of the week

“People often say that motivation doesn't last. Well, neither does bathing. That's why we recommend it daily.”
— Zig Ziglar

Quote of the week

“It's not what you look at that matters, it's what you see.”
— Henry David Thoreau

Quote of the week

“We must let go of the life we have planned, so as to accept the one that is waiting for us.”
— Joseph Campbell

Quote of the week

“If we command our wealth, we shall be rich and free; if our wealth commands us, we are poor indeed.”
— Edmund Burke

Quote of the week

“A rich man is nothing but a poor man with money.”
— W. C. Fields

Quote of the week

“All I ask is the chance to prove that money can't make me happy.”
— Spike Milligan

Quote of the week

“Success is stumbling from failure to failure with no loss of enthusiasm.”
Winston Churchill

Four foods to always eat

From BlueZones.com

Remembering four food groups might be an easier starting point than remembering all the foods prepared in the Blue Zones diet. Here's our list.

1. 100 percent Whole Wheat Bread: While not, perhaps, the perfect longevity food, it could help force white breads out of the diet and be an important step toward a healthier diet for most Americans.
2. Nuts: We know that nut-eaters outlive those who don't eat nuts. Nuts come in a variety of flavors, and

Quote of the week

The more healthier practices you undertake, the healthier you become.”
— Dean Ornish

they're full of nutrients and healthy fat that satiate your appetite. The ideal snack is a two-ounce mix of nuts (about a handful). Ideally, you should keep small two-ounce packages on hand. Small quantities are best.

3. Beans: Beans of every

type are the world's greatest longevity foods. They're cheap, versatile, and full of antioxidants, vitamins, and fiber, and they can be made to taste delicious. It's best to buy dry beans and it's easy to cook them, but low-sodium canned beans in non-

Four foods to avoid

From BlueZones.com

By the same token, remembering four rules about which foods to avoid to help you Blue Zone your refrigerator and kitchen cupboard might make the process easier. We're not saying that you can never treat yourself to these foods. In fact, if you love any of these foods and they make you happier, you should absolutely indulge occasionally. But save them for celebrations or, at the very least, make sure you have to go out to get them. Just don't bring them into your home, and you'll cut many of these toxic foods

that don't exist in the Blue Zones diet out of your diet without too much grief.

1. Sugar-Sweetened Beverages: Harvard's Willett has estimated that 50 percent of America's caloric gain is directly attributable to the empty calories and liquefied sugar that come in sodas and boxed juices.
2. Salty Snacks: We spend about \$6 billion a year on potato chips—the food (not coincidentally, perhaps) most highly correlated with obesity (though fried pork rinds are closing in fast). Almost all chips and crackers deliver high doses of salt, preservatives, and high-

ly processed grains that quickly metabolize to sugar. They've also been carefully formulated to be optimally crunchy and tasty and to deliver a sultry mouth feel. In other words, they're engineered to be irresistible. So how do you resist them? Don't have them in your home.

3. Processed Meats: A recent gold-standard epidemiology study followed more than half a million people for decades and found that those who consumed high amounts of sausages, salami, bacon, lunch meats, and other highly processed meats had the highest rates

BPA cans are okay too.

4. Your Favorite Fruit: Buy a beautiful fruit bowl, place it in the middle of your kitchen (either the counter, center island, or table—wherever gets the most traffic), and place it under a light. Research shows that we really do eat what we see, so if chips are always in plain sight, that's what we'll eat. But if there is a fruit you like and keep in plain sight all the time, you'll eat more of it and be healthier for it. Don't bother buying a fruit you think you ought to eat but really don't like.

List of superfoods

From BlueZones.com

I've brought together all the longevity foods into a single list. Pick as many as you can, learn to prepare them, stick with them for the long run, and see how good they make you feel.

Longevity Superfoods from the World's Blue Zones Diets:

Vegetables

Fennel
Kombu (seaweed)
Wakame (seaweed)
Potatoes
Shiitake mushrooms
Squash
Sweet potatoes
Wild greens
Yams

Fruits

Avocados
Bananas
Bitter melons
Lemons
Papayas
Pejivalles (peach palms)
Plantains
Tomatoes

Beans (Legumes)

Black beans
Black-eyed peas

Chickpeas
Fava beans
Other cooked beans

Grains

Barley
Whole-grain bread
Brown rice
Maize nixtamal
Oatmeal

Nuts and Seeds

Almonds
Other nuts

Lean Protein

Salmon
Soy milk
Tofu
Dairy
Feta cheese
Pecorino cheese

Added Oils

Olive oil

Beverages

Coffee
Green tea
Red wine
Water

Sweeteners and Seasonings

Garlic
Honey
Mediterranean herbs
Milk thistle
Turmeric

Staples World

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

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Beginner farmer workshops

The Minnesota Beginner Farmer Institute is a workshop series geared toward young or beginning farmers who are either joining an existing farm or starting their own farm and who are using their farm as a business for profit. Institute participants will tackle questions like: "What is a business plan and what does my banker want to see when I'm applying for a loan? What can I take for a business deduction and when is the best time to market my grain?"

The Institute is a four-part course that uses an interactive and fun approach to teach participants farm management topics. The

participants will build camaraderie and meet four times over the course of two months. Topics include business planning and goals, taxes, business entities, financial statements, record keeping, grain marketing and land rent. Each workshop will have educational handouts and presentations.

"Keeping on top of and managing the farm's finances is a top concern," said Nathan Hulinsky, University of Minnesota Extension agricultural business management educator. "This course will give the participants the opportunity to understand their finances, as well as their business

goals, to help determine the farm's best next step to keep the farm profitable."

There will be four sites across Minnesota that are hosting this series. These workshops are free to attend, and lunch is provided. The class will run from 10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m., with doors opening at 9:30 a.m.

- Clearwater - January 9, 16, 23, and 30.
- Detroit Lakes - January 18, 25, February 1, and 8

Registration is free, but pre-registration is required at <https://z.umn.edu/BF23>. Questions? Contact Nathan Hulinsky at (218) 828-2680 or huli0013@umn.edu.



Preschool Storytime at Staples Library

Fun stories about Santa and a pirate were shared and Christmas tree craft decorating were a part of the recent December Preschool Storytime held at the Staples Library. January Storytimes will held Saturday, Jan. 13, and Wednesday, Jan. 17, at 10:30 a.m. The programs are sponsored by The Staples Friends of the Library.

Front row, Alida Hanson, AJ Biggar, Alana Reigstad; back, Archie Hanson, Ray Biggar, Sawyer, Martin and Elias Krier, Samuel Reigstad. (Submitted photo)



Students donate to food shelf

Second grade students at Sacred Heart Area School, along with their teacher, Justin Edin, collected over 100 hygiene product items for the Staples Area Food Shelf. Pictured front row from left: Aiden Pearson, Beckham Pearson, Rory Schultz, Grace Fink, Rylee Dolezal. Mid-

dle row: Ophelia Taylor, Aliza Alexander, Kallyn Stevens, John Dempsey, Chloe Boyer, Sara Cole, Jagger Jansson, Cooper Lothson, Joe Lehner, Jonah Becker. Back row: Bryce Peterson, Noah DeWald, Noah Cole. (Submitted photo)



Staples Host Lions make donations

The Staples Host Lions recently donated \$1,253.42 to the Staples-Motley Speech Team, and \$1,500 to the Staples Historical Society (SHS). The funds for the speech team will go toward their home meet this coming February; and the Staples Historical Society's donation was designated for the recent Polar Express event.

Pictured at top, from left, are speech team co-captain Sabina Moe, Lion President Rick Adamietz, and speech team co-captain AJ Nienow.

In lower photo, from left, are John Wolak, SHS member; and Lion President Rick Adamietz. (Staples World photos by Dawn Timbs)



Mark Your Calendar

December 28

'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>

December 29

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.

December 29-31

NORTH POLE LIGHT DISPLAY AT PINE GROVE PARK, STAPLES, Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays, from 5-8 p.m., through New Year's Eve. Free Will donation.

December 30

FREE COMMUNITY BREAKFAST Saturday, Dec. 30, 9 - 10:30 a.m., at Motley United Methodist Church, 847 3rd Ave. S., Motley.

January 1

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

January 2

OLD TIME DANCE is held the first Tuesday of every month at the Wadena VFW. For information, call 218-639-0132.

RUBY'S PANTRY will be held Tuesday, Jan. 2, from 4:30 - 6 p.m. at the parking lot of Central Lakes College in Staples.

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.

January 3

DEMENTIA CAREGIVER SUPPORT GROUP offered by Lakewood Health System of Staples, meets the first Wednesday of the month, 11 a.m. - noon, in the Burlington room, located through Door C at Lakewood's Senior Campus (401 Prairie Ave. NE), Staples. For info., 218-894-8851 or 218-894-8067.

Motley Community Blood Drive

A Motley Community Blood Drive will be held Thursday, Jan. 4, from noon - 6 p.m., at the Motley United Methodist Church located at 847 3rd Ave. S.

For more information and to schedule an appointment, call 1-800-733-2767, or visit RedCrossBlood.org and enter: Motley Community.

Join us at Timbers, Friday, Dec. 29, from 4-6 p.m.

to honor
Bruce Grondahl's
40-year career
with the
City of Staples

...as he embarks on a thrilling new journey into bike sales and repair. Let's celebrate a legacy and toast to his exciting new chapter!

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To sign up, contact Tara Greer, City Clerk at 218-541-5004 or send an e-mail to tgreer@ci.staples.mn.us.

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Staples World

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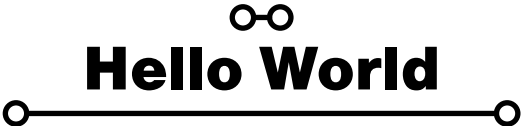
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The audience helps sing, “Joy to the World”

Director Cade Bestland invited the audience to join the Cardinal Choir in singing, “Joy to the World” at the recent Cardinal Christmas Concert at Centennial Auditorium. Other sing-alongs were “We Wish You a Merry Christmas” and “Silent Night.” (Staples World photo by Dawn Timbs)



Hello World

ONLINE BIRTHS REMOVED
AT THE REQUEST OF LAKEWOOD
HEALTH SYSTEM.

Staples Area Church Directory

Staples

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

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

Church of Christ
27343 490th St., Staples 218-894-2609
Pastor Barry Klein
Facebook Live
Bible School (youth and adult) 9:30 a.m.
Sunday Worship 10:30 a.m.
WEDNESDAY:
Teen Youth/Adults Bible Study 7-8 p.m.

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

Sacred Heart Church
310 4th St. NE, Staples
Church 218-894-2296
Pastor Fr. Aaron Kuhn
Parochial Vicar, Fr. Gabriel Walz
MASS:
Thursday and Friday 8:30 a.m..
Sunday 8:30 a.m.

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

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

Trinity Lutheran
1000 4th St., NE, Staples 218-894-2372
Rev. Robin Collins
Sunday Divine Service 9:00 a.m.
Sunday School 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
Eric Clapp 701-261-2394 (cell)
Sunday Worship 8:15 a.m.
Sunday School 8:30 a.m.

Cushing
Bethany Lutheran
25430 Bison Rd.Cushing, MN
320-749-2140
Pastor Carl Larson
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.

St. Michael

1st St. and Birch, Motley 218-894-2296
Pastor Fr. Aaron Kuhn
Parochial Vicar, Fr. Gabriel Walz
MASS:
Tuesday 6:30 p.m.,
Saturday 4:00 p.m.

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

Oylen

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

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

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

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

Hewitt

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

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

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

Verndale

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

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

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

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

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

Central United Methodist
5 miles N on Cty Rd 26 (Nimrod tar)
Pastor James Middendorf, 320-260-4950
Sunday Service 9:00 a.m.
Bible Study 10:30 a.m.
WEDNESDAY
Seeds of Hope 7:00 p.m.

Leaf River Township

The Old Country Church
Leaf River Twp., Wadena County Rd. 6
Info. 218-837-5690 Call first.
Sunday Service 10 a.m.



Staples Host Lions donate

The Staples Host Lions recently donated \$1,000 to the Hilltop Regional Kitchen in Eagle Bend. Pictured, from left, are Rick Hest, with Hilltop Regional Kitchen; and Lion President Rick Adamietz. (Staples World photo by Dawn Timbs)

Flu information
and tips for parents

Submitted by Todd County
Health and Human Services

How is flu different from a cold?

Colds are generally less serious than the flu. With a cold, you may have a runny or stuffy nose, while the flu causes body aches, fever, and extreme tiredness. A cold won’t usually keep kids from their normal activities, but kids with the flu will often feel too sick to play. Flu can cause serious health problems like pneumonia, bacterial infections, and hospitalization.

What if my child has the flu?

- Stay home if you or your child is sick.
- Rest and drink lots of fluids.
- Children may need fever reducing medications to keep their fever under control. Follow your doctor’s instructions.
- Antibiotics will not help a person recover from the flu. Flu is caused by a virus not by bacteria.
- Seek immediate medical care if your child:
 - Breathes rapidly or with difficulty.
 - Has bluish skin color.
 - Does not drink enough and becomes dehydrated.

- Does not wake up or interact with others.
- Is so irritable that he or she doesn’t want to be held.
- Gets better only to become sick again, with fever and a more severe cough.
- If you are concerned that something does not seem right with your child, call your doctor or clinic.

What can I do to protect myself and others?

- Get vaccinated.
- Avoid being around others who are sick.
- Cover your nose and mouth with a tissue when you cough or sneeze, or cough or sneeze into your sleeve.
- Wash your hands often with soap and water or an alcohol-based hand sanitizer.
- Protect infants by not exposing them to large crowds or sick family members when flu is in your community.
- Do not share drinking cups and straws.
- Frequently clean commonly touched surfaces (doorknobs, refrigerator handles, phones, water faucets).

Source: MN Department of Health

“Light in the Darkness”

One weekend, a group of fathers decided to take their young sons camping and spelunking. As they entered the caves early Saturday morning, each family brought its own lantern to light their way. Through a series of unfortunate events, every boy but one disabled his light source. The entire group had ventured deep into the caves and was left with only one lantern to lead the entire group out. Though it was a stressful experience, the group made it to safety by following this one light.

God leads His followers in much the same way as they struggle to find their way through the darkness of this world.

“You light a lamp for me. The Lord, my God, lights up my darkness.”
--Psalm 18:28, NLT

Like the fathers and sons who followed the one light to find their way through the caves, followers of Jesus can follow the light that lives within them through the power of the Word of God and the leadership of the Holy Spirit. People are never lost in this world when they follow Jesus.

--Psalm 119:105: “Your word is a lamp to guide my feet and a light for my path.”

Submitted by Pastor Roy Miles, Staples Assembly of God

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

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Hwy. 10 West, Staples, MN
218-894-3794

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or call 218-894-1112. As always, continue to email your Ministerial pastoral message or advertisement to: jwinter@staplesworld.com

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Boys basketball earns two wins in a row

The Staples-Motley boys basketball team took off in the second half, turning a one point deficit into a 28 point win, 81-53, over Braham on Dec. 18. The Cardinals also defeated Pine River-Backus 78-43 in the first round of the Pillager holiday tournament on Dec. 21. The second game was played Dec. 22, after this newspaper went to print.

In the first half, the Cardinals did a good job of breaking a trapping press. They stayed patient and avoided turnovers.

The second half offensive explosion was started by players finding holes in the Braham zone defense and hitting short jump shots or slicing through to the rim.

Alex Schultz, Avandre Brand and Eli Rutten all scored multiple baskets inside. That opened Rutten up to hit two three point shots, starting an 18-0 run that put the game away for good.

On defense, Staples-Motley gave up a lot of open three point shots in the first half. In the second half, they did a better job of closing out on the shooters, forcing them to rush their shots with a lot of misses.



Hustle play

Francesco Piovesan (15) and Elijah Blue (33) run to catch up to a loose ball.

Team results
Staples-Motley 81, Braham 53

Scoring: Alex Schultz 19,

Eli Rutten 18, Avandre Brandt 17, Grant Bestland 9, Conner Kuhns 8, Benet Robinson 3, Noah Larson 3, Ryan Neelan 2, Logan Robben 2



Reaching for the rim

Avandre Brandt gets fouled as he attempts to dunk the ball in the game against Braham. He made both free throws to

give the Cardinals a big lead in the game. (Staples World photos by Mark Anderson)

Cardinals fall in two games

The Staples-Motley girls basketball team had a close game at Dilworth-Glyndon-Felton on Dec. 18, but ended up on the short end, losing 56-51. The Cardinals also played in the Pillager holiday tournament on Dec. 21, where they lost to Pine River-Backus 81-65 in the first game on Dec. 21. The second game was played Dec. 22, after this newspaper

went to print.

Against DGF, the Cardinals were down by three at halftime but couldn't close the gap by the end of the game.

Against PRB, Lauren Rutten made eight of ten free throws, plus eight baskets to score 26 points. The Cardinals were 14 of 18 from the free throw line, with Liv Lorber making four out of

five.

Team results
Staples-Motley 51, Dilworth-Glyndon-Felton 56

Scoring: Liv Lorber 17, Lauren Rutten 16 (16?), Izzy Olander 5, Miranda Schotzko 4, Pam Lawrence 4, Cami Anderson 4, Ellie Lange 1

Staples-Motley 65, Pine River-Backus 81

Scoring: Rutten 26, Olander 14, Lorber 13, Schotzko 5, Lawrence 3, Anderson 2, Lange 2

Wrestlers remain perfect

The Staples-Motley wrestling team finished the first half of the season undefeated, beating Ogilvie 60-10 and Zimmerman 72-6 on Dec. 21.

The Cardinals were

ranked seventh in the state in the latest ranking by The Guillotine. They have three wrestlers ranked in the same poll, Gage Bjerga at 106 pounds, Eli Greenwaldt at 121 and Colbe Tappe at

152.

The wrestlers will have tougher competition coming up in the second half of the season, starting with the Fargo Rumble on the Red Dec. 28-29.



Alex Schultz scores with his left hand.



Noah Larson puts up a shot.



Surrounded by opposing players, Eli Rutten floats up a teardrop shot.



Gopher CC MVP

Staples-Motley graduate Emmet Anderson was named the University of Minnesota cross country MVP for the past season. He led the Gophers in three meets and was within a few seconds of the top runners in every race this year. His fastest race was a 24:02 8K at the pre-nationals meet in Virginia, averaging 4:50 per mile for the five mile race. Anderson is in his second year running for Minnesota. (Submitted photo)

**Public Notice**

**TODD COUNTY
NOTICE OF PUBLIC
HEARING ON
PROPOSED
PROPERTY TAX
ABATEMENT**

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Board of Commissioners (the "Board") of Todd County (the "County"), will hold a public hearing of the Board at the Historic Courthouse, 215 1st Ave. S, Long Prairie, Minnesota, on January 16, 2024, at approximately 9:00 a.m., on the proposal that the County abate property taxes levied by the County on property with the following parcel identification numbers:

36-4015400
36-4015500

The total amount of the taxes proposed to be abated by the County on the property for up to an eleven (11) year period is estimated to be approximately \$580,000. The Board will consider the property tax abatement in connection with financing the development of an approximately three-story, 87,150 square-foot, 61-unit, market-rate workforce housing project and future housing projects (the "Improvements") in the City of Long Prairie.

All interested persons may appear and be heard at the public hearing either orally or in writing or may file written comments with the County Auditor-Treasurer before the hearing.

BY ORDER OF THE
COUNTY BOARD
OF TODD COUNTY,
MINNESOTA

County Auditor/
Treasurer
Todd County, Minnesota
1-2pnc

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*Thomas Sellnow is a Real Property Law Specialist certified
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Todd County Commissioners Minutes

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE TODD COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS HELD NOVEMBER 7, 2023

Call to Order

The Todd County Board of Commissioners met in the Commissioner's Board Room in the City of Long Prairie, MN on the 7th day of November, 2023 at 9:00 AM. The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Neumann. The meeting was opened with the Pledge of Allegiance. All Commissioners were present. Approval of Agenda

On motion by Becker and second by Denny, the following motion was introduced and adopted by unanimous vote: To adopt the agenda as presented.

Consent Agenda

On motion by Noska and second by Becker, the following motions were introduced and adopted by unanimous vote:

To approve the Todd County Board of Commissioner's Meeting Minutes for October 1 7th, 2023 as presented.

Hire Erica Myers for the FT Dispatcher position start date TBD, starting pay will be \$22.56 Grade 6 Step 2

Hire Karrie Feldewerd for the FT Administrative Assistant position start date TBD, starting pay will be \$23.01 Grade 6 Step 3

Hire Daniel Gaida for the PT Correctional Officer position start date TBD, starting pay will be \$23 .24 Grade 6 Step 3

Hire Katie Schultz for the FT Correctional Officer position start date TBD, starting pay will be \$21.89 Grade 6 Step 1

Hire Jeremy Puff for the PT Road Deputy position start date TBD, starting pay will be \$27 .65 Grade 10 Step 1

Accept the resignation of Allyssa Engfer (Full Time Deputy) effective November 14th, 2023 Approve the retirement of Marie Baron-Kelly, Paraprofessional Case Aide, effective November 1, 2023

Approve the retirement of Teresa Scheve, Client Account Specialist, effective December 4, 2023 Approve the retirement of Pam Herding, Registered Nurse, effective December 29, 2023 Approve the resignation of Social Worker Mickey Berg effective October 23, 2023

To approve Lisa Chapin to fill the open temporary Eligibility Worker position. Grade 6, Step 9 at 27.46. Start date: TBD

To approve the promotion of Abigail Deters to fill the Administrative Assistant position, grade 8, Step 1 at \$24.36/hour. Start date: November 8, 2023

Auditor-Treasurer

On motion by Denny and second by Noska, the following motion was introduced and adopted by unanimous rollcall vote with Becker abstaining: To approve the October 2023 Auditor Warrants number (ACH) 903523 through 903629 in the amount of \$7,206,784.17 (Manual) 885 through 895 in the amount of \$592,535.29 and (Regular) 241612 through 241781 in the amount of \$1,411,183.31 for a total of \$9,210,502.77.

On motion by Becker and second by Noska, the following motion was introduced and adopted by unanimous rollcall vote: To approve the Commissioner Warrants number (ACH) 402842 through 402875 in the amount of \$45,890.28 and (Regular) 57446 through 57492 in the amount of \$130,622.15 for a total of \$176,512.43.

On motion by Noska and second by Denny, the following motion was introduced and adopted by unanimous rollcall vote: To approve the Health & Human Services Commissioner Warrants number (ACH) 804652 through 804701 and (Regular) 711172 through 711230 for a total of \$44,182.24.

On motion by Denny and second by Becker, the following motion was introduced and adopted by unanimous rollcall vote: To approve the Health & Human Services Commissioner Warrants number (ACH) 804652 through 804701 and (Regular) 711172 through 711230 for a total amount of \$151,812.45.

On motion by Noska and second by Denny, the following resolution was introduced and adopted by unanimous vote:

Resolution for Classification of Tax-Forfeited Property and Requesting Approval from the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources for the Sale of Tax Forfeited Lands

WHEREAS, the County Board of Commissioners of the County of Todd, State of Minnesota, desires to offer for sale certain parcels of land that have forfeited to the State of Minnesota for nonpayment of taxes, and

WHEREAS, said parcels of land have been viewed by the County Board of Commissioners and have been classified as non-conservation lands as provided for in Minnesota Statutes 282.01.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Todd County Board of Commissioners hereby certifies that all parcels of land on the attached list have been viewed and comply with the provisions of Minnesota Statutes 85.012, 92.461, 282.01, Subd. 8, and 282.018, and other statutes that require the withholding of tax-forfeited lands from sale. The Todd County Board of Commissioners hereby certifies that the Soil and Water Conservation Board (of the district in which the land is located) has reviewed the attached land sale list and identified any and all non-forested marginal land and wetland.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Todd County Board of Commissioners hereby request approval from the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources for the Sale of one tax forfeited parcel highlighted on the attached list.

Todd Wadena Community Corrections

Kathy Langer, TWCC Director provided the County Board an update regarding the STS Building Project and the challenges of the current funding situation to replace the building lost by the tornado weather event. The bids for the project have been received and the time to award the contract and for construction to start is impending. MCIT Insurance and FEMA funding will support a

large portion of the building project with potential for a call for gap funding needed from Todd and Wadena counties.

TWCC will bring an update to the next possible board meeting regarding the FEMA funding award outcome and continued discussion of next steps forward.

Public Works

The proposed purchase of a 2024 Pickup Truck was held from action to allow for research of pricing and availability with local vendors for discussion to resume at the November 21, 2023 board meeting.

Ditch/Ag Inspector

On motion by Noska and second by Denny, the following resolution was introduced and adopted by unanimous vote:

HOLD HARMLESS AGREEMENT - DITCH MAINTENANCE - COUNTY DITCH 32

WHEREAS, Doug Carry is requesting to maintain approximately 1400 feet of County Ditch 32 that is located on his property. A Hold Harmless Agreement has been signed and submitted to the Ditch Authority, and; WHEREAS, an onsite inspection has been done, and;

WHEREAS, applicant is allowed to maintain the drainage ditch to the original width, depth and grade. An improvement by lowering or widening the ditch bottom is not allowed. Sediment and vegetation can only be removed to the extent of the original ditch bottom elevation. Spoil must be side cast and leveled, staying within 16.5 feet of the ditch or moved to an approved upland site.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, the Todd County Ditch Authority gives permission to Doug Carry to maintain approximately 1400 feet of CD32 that is located on parcel 24-0011600, Turtle Creek Twp section 11. This maintenance will be done on his property and at his own expense.

On motion by Denny and second by Noska, the following resolution was introduced and adopted by unanimous vote:

HOLD HARMLESS AGREEMENT - DITCH MAINTENANCE - COUNTY DITCH 3

WHEREAS, Chad Bosl is requesting to maintain approximately 1,740 feet of County Ditch 3 that is located on his property. A Hold Harmless Agreement has been signed and submitted to the Ditch Authority, and; WHEREAS, an onsite inspection has been done, and;

WHEREAS, applicant is allowed to maintain the drainage ditch to the original width, depth and grade. An improvement by lowering or widening the ditch bottom is not allowed. Sediment and vegetation can only be removed to the extent of the original ditch bottom elevation. Spoil must be side cast and leveled, staying within 16.5 feet of the ditch or moved to an approved upland site.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, the Todd County Ditch Authority gives permission to Chad Bosl to maintain approximately 1,740 feet of CD3 that is located on parcel 17-0002301, Little Sauk Twp section 3. This maintenance will be done on his property and at his own expense.

On motion by Becker and second by Denny, the following motion was introduced and adopted by unanimous vote: Acting as Ditch Authority, approves the County Ditch Inspector starting the process on CD41 Maintenance Project. This will include contacting the Ditch Attorney to set a date for an Informational Meeting, and a possible drone flyover of the ditch.

Veteran Services

On motion by Becker and second by Noska, the following motion was introduced and adopted by unanimous vote:

A RESOLUTION SUPPORTING OPERATION GREEN LIGHT FOR VETERANS

WHEREAS, the residents of Todd County have great respect, admiration, and the utmost gratitude for all of the men and women who have selflessly served our country and this community in the Armed Forces; and

WHEREAS, the contributions and sacrifices of the men and women who served in the Armed Forces have been vital in maintaining the freedoms and way of life enjoyed by our citizens; and

WHEREAS, Todd County seeks to honor these individuals who have paid the high price for freedom by placing themselves in harm's way for the good of all; and

WHEREAS, Veterans continue to serve our community in the American Legion, Veterans of Foreign Wars, religious groups, civil service, and by functioning as County Veteran Service Officers in 29 states to help fellow former service members access more than \$52 billion in federal health, disability and compensation benefits each year; and

WHEREAS, Approximately 200,000 service members transition to civilian communities annually; and

WHEREAS, an estimated 20 percent increase of service members will transition to civilian life in the near future; and

WHEREAS, studies indicate that 44-72 percent of service members experience high levels of stress during transition from military to civilian life; and

WHEREAS, Active Military Service Members transitioning from military service are at a high risk for suicide during their first year after military service; and

WHEREAS, the National Association of Counties encourages all counties, parishes and boroughs to recognize Operation Green Light for Veterans; and

WHEREAS, Todd County appreciates the sacrifices of our United States Military Personnel and believes specific recognition should be granted; therefore be it

RESOLVED, with designation as a Green Light for Veterans County, Todd County hereby declares from November 5th, 2023 through Veterans Day, November 11th 2023 a time to salute and honor the service and sacrifice of our men and women in uniform transitioning from Active Service, and in recognition of this, will participate in Operation Green Light for Veterans for the entire month of November, 2023; therefore, be it further

RESOLVED, that in observance of Operation Green Light, Todd County encourages its citizens in patriotic

tradition to recognize the importance of honoring all those who made immeasurable sacrifices to preserve freedom by displaying a green light in a window of their place of business or residence. Solid Waste

On motion by Becker and second by Denny, the following motion was introduced and adopted by unanimous vote: To designate \$62,500 of ARP funds as matching funds for MPCA EA Grant Application. Planning & Zoning

On motion by Noska and second by Denny, the following resolution was introduced and adopted by unanimous vote:

A RESOLUTION REESTABLISHING A TODD COUNTY SEPTIC LOAN PROGRAM

WHEREAS, Todd County has a high demand for replacement of failing or noncompliant septic systems, and; WHEREAS, Todd County land owners often inquire about funding programs, and;

WHEREAS, the Pollution Control Agency provides loan funding for nonpoint source best management practices.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, Todd County shall submit a proposal to the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency to conduct the following project: Todd County Septic System Replacement Initiative Part 2, and;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that Adam Ossefoort, Planning and Zoning Director, be authorized to submit the proposal for the above mentioned project and shall have the authority to represent this body in all matters that do not specifically require the action of this body.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that submittal of a proposal does not obligate this body to accept a grant and/or a loan if offered.

On motion by Denny and second by Noska, the following motion was introduced and adopted by unanimous vote: To remand back the proposed amendments to Section 9.20 of the Todd County Planning and Zoning Ordinance to the Planning Commission to allow for considerations of EAW.

Health & Human Services

Cory Lawrence, STEP Director provided an update to the County Board regarding the past year's services provided for clients with mental health and developmental disabilities in Todd County.

On motion by Noska and second by Becker, the following motion was introduced and adopted by unanimous vote: To approve the STEP Purchase of Service and Host County contract renewal.

Brian Gapinski and Evie Fowler, Rural MN CEP provided an update to the County Board regarding MFIP and DWP Employment Services for clients in Todd County.

On motion by Denny and second by Becker, the following motion was introduced and adopted by unanimous vote: To approve the renewal contract (1/1/24 to 12/31/24) for Rural MN CEP to provide MFIP & DWP Employment Services with an option for one extension from 1/1/25 to 12/31/25.

On motion by Noska and second by Becker, the following motion was introduced and adopted by unanimous vote: To approve the Northern Pines Purchase of Service Agreements renewal.

On motion by Becker and second by Denny, the following motion was introduced and adopted by unanimous vote: To ratify the PH-DCO maintenance & Support Agreement with MCCC.

Administration

On motion by Denny and second by Noska, the following motion was introduced and adopted by unanimous vote: To approve the Cannabis Ordinance prohibiting use in public places and places of public accommodation.

On motion by Noska and second by Denny, the following motion was introduced and adopted by unanimous vote: To approve letter of support for Sytek Communications MN Border to Border grant application.

On motion by Becker and second by Noska, the following motion was introduced and adopted by unanimous vote: To approve financial support of \$5,000 for Sytek MN Border to Border Broadband Grant, if grant is awarded.

On motion by Becker and second by Denny, the following motion was introduced and adopted by unanimous vote: To form an internal committee to discuss job description and recruitment process and bring suggested changes to the November 21 Board meeting to include the Board Chair, Board Vice Chair, County Auditor-Treasurer, County Attorney, Highway Engineer, HHS Director and HR Manager.

County Auditor-Treasurer's Report

The County Auditor-Treasurer provided a reminder that the second half real estate tax payments for certain parcels will be due on November 15, 2023. There is also Special Elections happening on this day for ISD 213 Osakis Public School, ISD 740 Melrose Public School, ISD 787 Browerville Public School, ISD 2155 Wadena-Deer Creed Public School and Todd County Commissioner District 3 including the precincts of Long Prairie City, Long Prairie Township and Reynolds Township with all poll locations open until 8:00 PM today. County Attorney's Report

The County Attorney reported that the office is managing the caseload during the interim time of being without one assistant attorney.

County Commissioner's Report

The Commissioners reported on meetings and events attended. Commissioner Denny had limited attendance due to illness but stayed connected via email to committee meetings.

Commissioner Becker attended the Friendly Rider, West Central Regional Juvenile, AMC District, Region V, Public Health training, Facilities, Policies, Personnel and Mississippi Watershed meetings.

Commissioner Noska attended the Tri-Cap meeting which included planning a tree in memory of Commissioner Erickson, the TWCC executive meeting and the Ag Society meeting.

Commissioner Neumann attend-

ed the Policies, Personnel, and Central MN Council on Aging meetings. County Coordinator's Report

The County Coordinator attended the Sourcewell, Region V, Facilities, Policies, Personnel, CPT, and Historical Society meetings regarding our grant application.

Recess Chair Neumann recessed the meeting until November 21, 2023.

AUDITOR WARRANTS

VENDOR NAME.....	AMOUNT
CAREY GROUP PUBLISHING.....	
.....	\$ 2,275.00
EBSCO INC.....	\$272,346.53
GOVERNMENT MANAGEMENT GROUP.....	\$5,500.00
GRANITE ELECTRONICS INC.....	\$16,314.95
HEALTH PARTNERS DENTAL.....	\$7,071.51
LONG PRAIRIE SANITATION INC.....	\$4,673.25
NATIONSTAR MORTGAGE LLC.....	
DBA MR. COOPER.....	\$69,628.84
PRAIRIE LAKES MUNICIPAL SOLID WASTE AUTH.....	\$86,883.00
TODD CO AUD-TREAS.....	\$7,294.54
VERIZON.....	\$5,735.57
21 PAYMENTS LESS.....	
THAN \$2,000.....	\$14,032.96
ANDERSON/JEANETTE.....	\$15,000.00
AVI SYSTEMS.....	\$15,143.71
CENTRAL SPECIALTIES INC.....	\$286,917.08
GOLDEN SHOVEL AGENCY.....	\$6,270.00
GREAT RIVER REGIONAL LIBRARY.....	\$89,536.75
MN DEPT OF FINANCE.....	\$6,803.50
PETERS LAW OFFICE, P.A.....	\$5,082.00
REGENTS OF THE UNIV OF MN.....	\$35,966.44
STEP.....	\$11,450.29
VANSLATEN/CODY.....	\$13,800.00
VOYANT COMMUNICATIONS, LLC.....	\$3,403.85
WATERGUARDS, LLC.....	\$9,469.25
WIDSETH SMITH NOLTING INC.....	\$2,324.00
ZIEGLER INC.....	\$29,841.13
33 PAYMENTS LESS.....	
THAN \$2,000.....	\$15,258.74
ANOKA CO GOVERNMENT CENTER.....	\$8,375.00
BECKER/DAN & BARB.....	\$1,475.00
BREITENFELT/DENNIS.....	\$6,000.00
CARD SERVICES.....	
COBORNS.....	\$2,807.58
CENTRA CARE.....	\$11,532.50
CITY OF LONG PRAIRIE.....	\$29,242.00
CITY OF LONG PRAIRIE.....	\$190,538.45
COUNTIES PROVIDING TECHNOLOGY.....	\$5,629.00
DOLEZAL/PATRICK & BEVERLY.....	\$2,628.68
FLEET SERVICES/WEX BANK.....	\$9,529.17
GALLAGHER BENEFIT SERVICES INC.....	\$2,000.00
KNEISL/JASON.....	\$6,000.00
LAFORECE/BECKY.....	\$17,660.00
LOCAL LEGAL GROUP, LLP.....	\$112,061.34
MACK/ARLYN & DIANE.....	\$2,193.00
MIDDENDORF/NATHAN.....	\$2,143.24
MINNESOTA POWER.....	\$18,266.91
MORRISON COUNTY.....	\$56,805.24
NEUMANN/GARY.....	\$15,800.00
NORTHERN STAR COOP.....	\$3,497.75
SANDERS CONSTRUCTION, INC.....	\$322,713.22
TIMMERMAN PROPERTIES, LLC.....	\$2,799.00
WATERGUARDS, LLC.....	\$2,315.25
54 PAYMENTS LESS.....	
THAN \$2,000.....	\$22,423.74
GALLAGHER BENEFIT SERVICES INC.....	\$9,825.00
MAHONEY/MAXIMILIAN.....	\$6,475.00
MINNESOTA POWER.....	\$3,924.20
STAPLES ADVANTAGE.....	\$2,094.42
26 PAYMENTS LESS.....	
THAN \$ 2,000.....	\$15,069.22
BIG SWAN LAKE IMPROVEMENT DIST.....	\$5,472.95
CITY OF BERTHA.....	\$93,201.59
CITY OF BROWERVILLE.....	\$121,486.60
CITY OF BURTRUM.....	\$9,746.09
CITY OF CLARISSA.....	\$83,817.25
CITY OF EAGLE BEND.....	\$145,929.26
CITY OF GREY EAGLE.....	\$59,247.61
CITY OF HEVITT.....	\$24,118.82
CITY OF LONG PRAIRIE.....	\$639,124.64
CITY OF OSAKIS.....	\$34,372.69
CITY OF STAPLES.....	\$488,780.30
CITY OF WEST UNION.....	\$5,367.44
REGION V DEVELOPMT COMMISSION.....	\$10,729.11
SAINT PAUL PORT AUTHORITY.....	\$8,737.12
SAUK RIVER WATER SHED DISTRICT.....	\$44,341.08
SCHOOL DISTRICT 213.....	\$345,025.84
SCHOOL DISTRICT 2155.....	\$2,374.58
SCHOOL DISTRICT 2170.....	\$635,740.90
SCHOOL DISTRICT 2753.....	\$863,357.19
SCHOOL DISTRICT 486.....	\$220,559.23
SCHOOL DISTRICT 740.....	\$55,104.29
SCHOOL DISTRICT 746.....	\$614,816.85
SCHOOL DISTRICT 786.....	\$196,681.73
SCHOOL DISTRICT 786.....	
DEBT DIST 86.....	\$10,373.15
SCHOOL DISTRICT 787.....	\$340,084.27
SCHOOL DISTRICT 818.....	\$13,361.06
TOWN OF BARTLETT.....	\$19,745.83
TOWN OF BERTHA.....	\$20,351.89
TOWN OF BIRCHDALE.....	\$89,872.72
TOWN OF BRUCE.....	\$68,010.50
TOWN OF BURLEENE.....	\$18,536.66
TOWN OF BURNHAMVILLE.....	\$71,891.54
TOWN OF EAGLE VALLEY.....	\$22,397.31
TOWN OF FAWN LAKE.....	\$52,939.68
TOWN OF GERMANIA.....	\$15,192.51
TOWN OF GORDON.....	\$83,213.85
TOWN OF GREY EAGLE.....	\$90,599.08
TOWN OF HARTFORD.....	\$52,341.19
TOWN OF IONA.....	\$15,807.74
TOWN OF KANDOTA.....	\$42,229.53
TOWN OF LESLIE.....	\$64,148.12
TOWN OF LITTLE ELK.....	\$25,093.93
TOWN OF LITTLE SAUK.....	\$45,531.27
TOWN OF LONG PRAIRIE.....	\$51,501.17
TOWN OF MORAN.....	\$28,388.54
TOWN OF REYNOLDS.....	\$21,619.15
TOWN OF ROUND PRAIRIE.....	\$38,840.07
TOWN OF STAPLES.....	\$68,286.54
TOWN OF STOWE PRAIRIE.....	\$32,548.42
TOWN OF TURTLE CREEK.....	\$25,469.57
TOWN OF VILLARD.....	\$61,833.60
TOWN OF WARD.....	\$40,495.11
TOWN OF WEST UNION.....	\$17,460.06
TOWN OF WYKEHAM.....	\$29,086.83
5 PAYMENTS LESS.....	
THAN \$2,000.....	\$3,404.08
CELLEBRITE USA CORP.....	\$6,100.00
EAST OTTER TAIL SOLID & WATER CONS DIST.....	\$8,189.33
EBSCO INC.....	\$262,265.51
HEALTH PARTNERS DENTAL.....	\$6,892.05
NORTHERN STAR COOP.....	\$2,923.32
NOW MICRO INC.....	\$3,758.60
TODD CO AGRICULTURAL SOC.....	\$6,227.15
TODD CO AUD-TREAS.....	\$7,294.54
VERIZON.....	\$5,811.07
WEX BANK-SINCLAIR.....	\$3,038.81
ZIMMERMAN/JOSEPH.....	\$24,375.00
22 PAYMENTS LESS.....	
THAN \$2,000.....	\$12,457.17
MN DEPT OF REVENUE.....	\$70,576.13
US BANK.....	\$11,184.90
MN DEPT OF REVENUE.....	\$3,959.00
MN DEPT OF REVENUE.....	\$502,209.05
7 PAYMENTS LESS.....	
THAN \$2,000.....	\$4,606.21
TOTAL.....	\$9,210,502.77

HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES WARRANTS	AMOUNT
VENDOR NAME.....	
MORRISON CO PUBLIC HEALTH.....	

SERV.....	\$3,372.88
PERISH/ALAN.....	\$2,837.92
TAYLOR FUNERAL HOME - STAPLES.....	\$3,500.00
106 PAYMENTS LESS.....	
THAN \$2,000.....	\$34,471.44
Total:.....	\$44,182.24

VENDOR NAME.....	AMOUNT
DHS - ANOKA METRO RTC - 412.....	\$63,180.00
DHS - MSOP - MN SEX OFFENDER PROGRAM.....	\$5,748.00
DHS - ST PETER RTC - 472.....	\$ 14,388.00
HEARTLAND GIRLS RANCH.....	\$10,432.00
MID MINNESOTA DRUG TESTING INC.....	\$2,453.00
MORTH HOMES CHILDREN & FAMILY SERVICES.....	\$20,632.64
PRAIRIE LAKE YOUTH PROGRAMS.....	\$9,800.00
WEST CENTRAL REG JUVENILE CTR.....	\$9,757.00
24 PAYMENTS LESS.....	
THAN \$2,000.....	\$15,421.81
Total:.....	\$ 151,812.45

On a motion by Noska and second by Denny, the preceding minutes of the County Board meeting held November 7, 2023 were duly approved by unanimous vote at the Todd County Board of Commissioners at the Regular Board Meeting held on November 21, 2023.

Witness my hand and seal:

/s/ on file

Randy Neumann, County Board Chairperson

Todd County Auditor-Treasurer Denise Gaida, 50pnc

MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL BOARD MEETING OF THE TODD COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS HELD NOVEMBER 13, 2023

Call to Order

The Todd County Board of Commissioners met in the Commissioner's Board Room in the City of Long Prairie, MN on the 13th day of November, 2023 at 9:00 AM. The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Neumann. The meeting was opened with the Pledge of Allegiance. All Commissioners were present with Commissioner Noska absent.

Approval of Agenda

On motion by Denny and second by Becker, the following motion was introduced and adopted by unanimous vote: To adopt the agenda as presented.

Administration



TCC continued from page 9a

the total work certified being \$5,350,872.20, and;

WHEREAS, partial payments amounting to \$5,040,398.13, have been previously been made to the contractor as work progressed, and; WHEREAS, it has been determined that \$310,474.07 still remains to be paid to Knife River Corporation. NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Commissioners does here accept said completed project for and in behalf of the County of Todd and authorize final payment as specified.

On motion by Noska and second by Becker, the following resolution was introduced and adopted by unanimous vote:

RESOLUTION OF SUPPORT FOR AND AGREEMENT TO SPONSOR THE CITY OF LONG PRAIRIE'S PURSUIT OF 2023 LOCAL ROAD IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM FUNDING APPLICATION FOR THE 1ST STREET SOUTH IMPROVEMENT PROJECT

WHEREAS, the existing pavement is in poor condition and in need of rehabilitation along 1st Street S between 6th Avenue S and 8th Avenue S, and on 8th Avenue S between US 71 and 1st Street S, and;

WHEREAS, 1st Street S between 8th Avenue S and Lake Charlotte Road is unpaved, which reduces access to 1st Street S from Lake Charlotte Road, impacts travel time reliability, and is prone to flooding; and

WHEREAS, 1st Street S and 8th Avenue S are routes of regional significance, part of Long Prairie's economic development plan, and work together to connect a high employment commercial district to the trunk highway system; and

WHEREAS, the Local Road Improvement Program (LRIP) administered by the Minnesota Department of Transportation makes available up to \$1,500,000 to apply towards projects on local roads that are regionally significant, result in safety improvements, address transportation deficiencies, and contribute to economic development; and

WHEREAS, the Local Road Improvement Program (LRIP) requires a city, such as Long Prairie, that is not a State Aid city, to have a county sponsor to support the application and act as a fiscal agent on the behalf of the City of Long Prairie; and

WHEREAS, the City of Long Prairie has requested by resolution that Todd County act as the Project Sponsor and Fiscal Agent, as required by the Local Road Improvement Program (LRIP), for the City's LRIP funding application and the associated project for the 2026 1st Street S Improvement Project.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Todd County Board of Commissioners does hereby support the City of Long Prairie's pursuit of Local Road Improvement Program (LRIP) Funding for the 2026 1st Street S Improvement Project.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Todd County Board of Commissioners does hereby agree to sponsor the City of Long Prairie's Local Road Improvement Program application to MnDOT and act as the City's fiscal agent for this project if it is funded.

County Sheriff

On motion by Becker and second by Denny, the following motion was introduced and adopted by unanimous vote: To accept the 2024 Boat and Water Grant for the amount of \$5,296.00.

On motion by Noska and second by Denny, the following motion was introduced and adopted by unanimous vote: To approve the 2024 Law Enforcement Monthly City Contracts at the rate of \$45 per hour with the following cities: Bertha 60 hours, Browerville 60 hours, Burtrum 12 hours, Clarissa 30 hours, Eagle Bend 60 hours, Grey Eagle 44 hours and Hewitt 10 hours.

Solid Waste

On motion by Denny and second by Noska, the following motion was introduced and adopted by unanimous vote: To approve collection service fee of \$25 per pickup, and tipping fee of \$3 per cubic yard of re-

cyclable film plastic and \$5 per cubic yard of non-recyclable film plastic.

On motion by Noska and second by Denny, the following resolution was introduced and adopted by

SOLID WASTE ENTERPRISE FUND 2024 BUDGET

Description of Revenue Source	2024 Proposed Budget
Property Taxes and Penalties	\$931,600
Licenses and Permits	\$80
HHW Reimbursement & Stipend	\$14,500
SCORE Grant	\$70,000
Charges for Service	\$2,000,000
Recyclables	\$250,000
Equipment Disposal	\$30,000
Revenue Total	\$3,296,900

Description of Expense	2024 Proposed Budget
Personnel Services	\$555,350
Services and Charges	\$383,450
Supplies and Materials	\$170,150
Capital Expenditures	\$300,000
Tipping Fees	\$1,775,000
Other Expenditures	\$95,600
Expense Total	\$3,279,550
BALANCE (REVENUE - EXPENSE)	\$17,350

unanimous vote:

A RESOLUTION TO APPROVE 2024 SOLID WASTE ENTERPRISE FUND BUDGET

WHEREAS, The Todd County Board of Commissioners is required to adopt an annual budget and certify it to the County Auditor.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, the Todd County Board of Commissioners hereby approves the following as the 2024 Budget for the Solid Waste Enterprise Fund of the County of Todd, Minnesota and directs that it be forwarded to the County Auditor.

On motion by Denny and second by Becker, the following motion was introduced and adopted by unanimous vote: To approve the purchase of Excel Baler system from Apex Equipment for a final cost of \$254,320.00.

Planning & Zoning

On motion by Becker and second by Denny, the following motion was introduced and adopted by unanimous vote: To adopt the findings of the Planning Commission and grant the rezoning of parcel 25-0004300 from R-2 to Commercial with the following conditions.

1. Future driveway accesses must be approved by MNDOT.
2. Future development of the property must comply with the Minnesota Wetland Conservation Act.

On motion by Noska and second by Denny, the following motion was introduced and adopted by unanimous vote: To adopt the findings of the Planning Commission and approve the preliminary plat on parcel 06-0033001 with no conditions.

Health & Human Services

On motion by Becker and second by Denny, the following motion was introduced and adopted by unanimous vote: To authorize the hiring of one Care Coordinator.

Commissioners

On motion by Denny and second by Noska, the following motion was introduced and adopted by unanimous vote: To adopt the changes to the County Coordinator Job Description and Start Recruitment Process.

County Auditor-Treasurer's Report

The County Auditor-Treasurer reported that the agriculture taxes were due on November 15, 2023. An update of the results of the Special Elections affecting Todd County voters held on November 7th, 2023 was given with special mention that Bob Byers is the Commissioner-elect for District 3 with preparations for Oath of Office in motion. A reminder was also given that the Truth In Taxation hearing is scheduled for November 28, 2023 at 6 p.m. in the County Board Room.

County Commissioner's Report

The Commissioners reported on meetings and events attended. Commissioner Denny attended Solid Waste, Prairie Lakes, Hill-

top Kitchen, fall road meeting and GRRL policy meetings.

Commissioner Becker attended the Dept Head, Soil & Water planning, Rainbow Rider, Canvass election, Personnel, Policy, Public Health, MTWCHB, Regional Transportation, Road Meeting, Facilities, and TWCC meetings.

Commissioner Noska missed attending meetings due to out of state and did attend Fall Road meeting.

Commissioner Neumann attended the Dept Head, Solid Waste, Rainbow Rider, Canvass election, Personnel, Policy, Public Health, Coordinator Recruit Committee, Opioid, Fall Road, and Facilities meetings.

County Coordinator's Report

The County Coordinator attended the Dept Head, Solid Waste, Broadband, ESST, Personnel, Legacy Finance, Policy, Wellness, Finance, CPT, Fall Road and Facilities committee meetings. An update from TWCC STS building project remains paused as they await response from FEMA.

Adjourn

On motion by Noska and second by Becker, the meeting was adjourned for the month of November 2023.

COMMISSIONER WARRANTS

VENDOR NAME	\$ AMOUNT
AMAZON CAPITAL SERVICES	\$2,766.42
CARGILL SALT DIVISION	\$6,877.82
LITTLE FALLS MACHINE INC	\$2,944.12
LUBE-TECH & PARTNERS, LLC	\$2,832.86
MIDSTATES EQUIPMENT & SUPPLY INC	\$16,926.00
TWARDOWSKI EXCAVATING INC.....	\$3,500.00
WIDSETH SMITH NOLTING INC	\$5,174.75
61 PAYMENTS LESS THAN \$2,000	\$22,653.03
Total:	\$63,675.00

HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES WARRANTS

VENDOR NAME.....	AMOUNT
V#16734 - COST EFF HEALTH INSURANCE..	\$2,425.65
V#17455 - COST EFF HEALTH INSURANCE	\$2,038.00
DHS - SWIFT	\$15,747.47
INNOVATIVE OFFICE SOLUTIONS, LLC....	\$14,252.51
RURAL MN CEP INC ...	\$26,921.51
108 PAYMENTS LESS THAN \$2,000	\$48,131.09
Total:	\$109,516.23

VENDOR NAME.....	AMOUNT
# 17116	\$2,461.85
# 17324	\$3,787.89
HEARTLAND GIRLS RANCH	\$20,212.00
HOLISTIC FAMILY EDUCATION SRVS....	\$9,922.52
# 17353	\$2,096.22
# 17302	\$3,319.17
LENDING HANDS COMMUNITY SERVICES	\$2,470.76
LITTLE SAND GROUP HOME	\$10,311.84
MID MINNESOTA DRUG TESTING INC	\$2,083.00
NORTHERN PINES MENTAL HLTH CTR INC	\$2,253.00
# 17183	\$2,468.22
STEP	\$7,496.92
VALLEY LAKE BOYS HOME INC	\$7,750.00
VILLAGE RANCH INC..	\$14,543.34
25 PAYMENTS LESS THAN \$2,000	\$22,011.38
Total:	\$113,188.11

On a motion by Denny and second by Byers, the preceding minutes of the County Board meeting held November 21, 2023 were duly approved by unanimous vote at the Todd County Board of Commissioners at the Regular Board Meeting held on December 7, 2023.

Witness my hand and seal:

/s/ on file
Randy Neumann,
County Board Chairperson
/s/ on file
Denise Gaida,
Todd County Auditor-Treasurer
1pnc

BARTLETT TOWNSHIP FILING NOTICE

Notice is hereby given to the voters of Bartlett Township, Todd County, Minnesota that filing for the following Town Office(s) may be made at the home of the Clerk between January 2, 2024 through January 16, 2024 by 5 p.m.

Please call the clerk at 218-640-3176 to make an appointment for filing. Clerk will be available for filing from 1:00 to 5:00 p.m. on January 16, 2024 at 47810 193rd Ave., Aldrich.

- ONE (1) SUPERVISOR, THREE (3) YEAR TERM
- ONE (1) CLERK (TWO (2) YEAR TERM)

Filing Fee: \$2.00.

Jan Jares, Clerk
Bartlett Township.

1pnc

BYRON TOWNSHIP RE-ORGANIZATIONAL MEETING

Byron Township will hold their re-organizational and regular meeting Tues., Jan. 9, 2024 at 6:00 p.m.

The Annual Audit meeting will be held Tues., Jan. 23, 2024 at 7:00 p.m. following the regular meeting.

All meetings are held at the Leader Community Hall.

Becki Rassler, Clerk
Byron Township

1pnc

FAWN LAKE TOWNSHIP 2024 TOWNSHIP OFFICE OPENINGS

Notice of the upcoming offices open for election for the year 2024:

- One (1) Supervisor for a three (3) year term
- One (1) Clerk for a two (2) year term.

Call the township clerk to file for either position. Filing date is open from January 3, 2024 until 5:00 p.m. January 17, 2024. Filing fee is \$2.00.

Kelly Miller, Clerk
218-531-0287
Fawn Lake Township.

52-1pnc

MAY TOWNSHIP RE-ORGANIZATIONAL MEETING

May Township will hold their re-organizational meeting Weds., Jan. 3, 2024 at 6:00 p.m.

The regular meeting will be held Mon., Jan 8, 2024 at 7:00 p.m.

The Annual Audit will be held Mon., Jan. 8, 2024 following the regular meeting.

Bianca Wyffels, Clerk
May Township

1-2pnc

MOTLEY TOWNSHIP RESIDENTS NOTICE OF FILING

Motley Township is accepting filings for:

- One (1) Supervisor for a three (3) year term
- One (1) Clerk for a two (2) year term

The filing period for these offices opens at the home of the Clerk on January 2, 2024 and closes at 5:00 p.m. on January 16, 2024.

The filing fee is \$2.00.

Please contact Ken Swecker at 218-330-7887 to file for office.

Ken Swecker, Clerk
Motley Township.

52-1pnc

TODD COUNTY PLANNING COMMISSION

215 1st Ave. South, Suite 103
Long Prairie, MN 56347
320-732-4420
toddplan.zone@co.todd.mn.us

PUBLIC NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that the Todd County Planning Commission will hold a public hearing on **Thursday, January 4, 2024 at 6:00 p.m.** in the Commissioners meeting room, Historic Courthouse, 215 First Ave. South, Long Prairie, MN to consider the following applications.

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

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

AGENDA

- Call to Order
- Pledge of Allegiance
- Introduction of Planning Commission Members and process review.
- The applicant is introduced
- Staff report
- Applicant confirms if staff report accurately represents the request
- Public comment
- Board review with applicant, staff, and public
- Approval of agenda.
- Approval of the December 7, 2023 Planning Commission meeting minutes.

1. Reorganization of the Board and review Business Rules:

2. Hwy 27 Salvage:

Section 07, Round Prairie Township
Site Address: 19622 US 71 So., Long Prairie, MN 56347.
PID: 21-0008601
PID: 18-00407001

1. Request for auto Salvage Yard in AF-1 and Commercial oning.

3. Dairy Ridge LLC:

Section 33, Long Prairie Township
Site Address: 21695 State Hwy 287, Long Prairie, MN 56347

PID: 18-0040700

1. Request to expand the existing feedlot in AF-1 Zoning:

- a. Increase from 1695 head of dairy cows (2373 AU) to 2395 head of dairy cows (3353 AU) over 1000 lbs. (NPDES permit application).
- b. Construct two 276' x 128' total confinement barns
- c. Expand a current barn by 116' x 90'
- d. Construct a 995' x 335' x 16' earthen LMSA and a 20,000 cf concrete LMSA.
- e. Expand the feed storage area by 85,294 sq. ft.

4. Proposed Amendment to Todd County Planning & Zoning Ordinance:

Section 9.08: Sewage Treatment Standards

5. Proposed Amendment to Todd County Feedlot Ordinance:

Section 9.11: Feedlots

Adjournment.

Next Meeting:
February 1, 2024

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

Todd County Planning Commission
Jim Pratt, Chair

1pnc

STATE OF MINNESOTA COUNTY OF TODD DISTRICT COURT SEVENTH JUDICIAL DISTRICT COURT PROBATE DIVISION Court File No. 77-PR-23-979

Estate of
Gary Ray Schwanke Decedent

NOTICE AND ORDER OF HEARING ON PETITION FOR PROBATE OF WILL AND APPOINTMENT OF PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE AND NOTICE TO CREDITORS

It is Ordered and Notice is given that on January 29, 2024, at 10:15 a.m., a hearing will be held in this Court at 221 1st Avenue South, Long Prairie, Minnesota, for the formal probate of an instrument purporting to be the Will of the Decedent dated, March 25, 2022, ("Will"), and for the appointment of Scot T. Schwanke, whose address is 13625 E. Wellington Crescent, Burnsville, MN, 55337 as Personal Representative of the Estate of the Decedent in an UNSUPERVISED administration. Any objections to the petition must be filed with the Court prior to or raised at the hearing. If proper and if no objections are filed or raised, the Personal Representative will be appointed with full power to administer the Estate including the power to collect all assets, to pay all legal debts, claims, taxes and expenses, to sell real and personal property, and to do all necessary acts for the Estate. This hearing will be an administrative non-appearance hearing.

Notice is also given that (subject to Minnesota Statutes section 524.3-801) all creditors having claims against the Estate are required to present the claims to the Personal Representative or to the Court Administrator within four months after the date of this Notice or the claims will be barred..

Dated: December 8, 2023

BY THE COURT

Daniel A. Benson
Judge of District Court
Kim Peterson
Court Administrator

Attorneys for Petitioner Joseph A. Krueger
QUINLIVAN & HUGHES, P.A.

124 Lake Street South
Long Prairie, MN, 56347
Attorney License No: 0328911
Telephone: (320) 251-1414
FAX: (320) 251-1415
Email: jkrueger@quinlivan.com;

52-1pnc

Public notices are a community's window into the government. You look for those notices in your newspaper. From zoning regulations to local budgets, governments have used local newspapers to inform citizens of its actions as an essential part of your right to know.

Keep public notices in newspapers!



Staples-Motley School Board Minutes

ISD #2170 SCHOOL BOARD MEETING #7 Mon., Nov. 20, 2023, 6 p.m. District Office

MINUTES

Call to Order

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

The meeting was called to order with Wright, Trout, Anderson, Reeck, Winkels and Reese present. (comprising a quorum) Also attending were Superintendent Tappe, recording secretary Larson, Principal Berg, Business Manager Hill, Williams representing ICS, Staples World Managing Editor Anderson, staff and students. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

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

Chair Winkels recognized the public and thanked those in attendance.

School/Community Forum

None

Consent Agenda

Approval of Minutes from the October 23, 2023 School Board Meeting

Approval of Minutes from the October 27, 2023 Special Meeting

Approval of Minutes from the November 14, 2023 Work Session

Accept the resignation of Todd Crawford, MS/HS Custodian

Approve the fundraiser requests from Student Council

Approve the hire of:

- a. Christine Qual, Elementary Paraprofessional
- b. Margaret Ubanski, MS/HS Long Term Substitute - Math
- c. Justin Thorne, Assistant Boys Basketball Coach
- d. Jerry Cleveland, Assistant Wrestling Coach
- e. Jeff Sterriker, Assistant Wrestling Coach
- f. Emily Berscheit, Adventures Assistant

g. Jace Thompson, Junior High Boys Basketball Coach
h. Kip Hines, Head Competitive Speech Coach

Motion by Wright, seconded by Trout, to approve the consent agenda. MC

Donations and Grants

Motion by Reeck, seconded by Winkels, to approve the Resolution to Accept Grants and Donations in the amount of \$5,121.65. MC

Thank you to Staples-Motley Football Boosters, Wellness in the Woods, VFW-Wadena and Staples-Motley Basketball Boosters for your generous donations.

Finance Items

Financial Report presented by Business Manager Hill

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

General Fund, \$935,759.66
Food Service, \$64,626.14
Community Service, \$20,365.07

Construction Fund, \$2,387,208.42
Debt Service, \$0

Fund 45, \$0
Fund 47, \$0
Motion by Trout, seconded by Anderson, to approve the October receipts. MC
General Fund, \$990,034.36
Food Service, \$32,027.98
Community Service Fund, \$42,479.96
Construction Fund, \$103,628.07
Debt Service Fund , \$884,564.12
Fund 45, \$6,208.17
Fund 47, \$12.03
Facilities
ICS Update presented by Williams.

Reports

School Board:
a. FED
b. Sourcewell - September 19, 2023 Minutes
Principals - Report by Principal Berg
Superintendent - Report by Superintendent Tappe
SMEA report - Report by SMEA president Kneisl
Activities/Community

Ed
Motion by Anderson, seconded by Reeck, to adjourn the meeting at 6:22 p.m. MC

1pnc

MINUTES School Board Truth In Taxation Meeting - #8 Fri., Dec. 4, 2023 6:00p.m. District Office

Call to Order

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

The meeting was called to order with Trout, Wright, Winkels, Reese, Reeck and Anderson present. (comprising a quorum). Also attending were Superintendent Tappe, recording secretary Larson, Principal Berg, Principal Ferdon, Business Manager Hill, Staples World Managing Editor Anderson, staff and students. The Pledge of Allegiance was re-

cited.
Motion by Wright, seconded by Anderson, to adopt the agenda. MC

Truth In Taxation Levy Presentation - Community / Public Forum

Truth In Taxation Levy was presented by Business Manager Hill, followed by public comment from one community member.



Saxophone ensemble

A saxophone ensemble performed “God Rest Ye Merry Gentlemen” at the recent Cardinal Christmas Concert in Staples. Ensemble members pictured,

from left, Emery Lorber, Walker Johnson, Zachary McIlravy, Thomas Johnson, Tyson Turner, Charles Simkins, Natalie Miller. (Staples World photo by Dawn Timbs)



Singing “Carol of the Bells”

Members of the a cappella ensemble Mane Vox sang, “Carol of the Bells” and “Jingle Bell Rock” at the Cardinal Christmas Concert Dec. 19. Ensemble members (not all pictured) included Naila

Mikhaeil, Walker Johnson, Olivia Opheim, Brianna Mitchell, Ember Munger, Brynn Bestland, Raina Mikhaeil, Cecily Moe, Lauren Rutten, AJ Nienow, Skyler Self. (Staples World photo by Dawn Timbs)

COURT continued from page 3a

Todd County court cases

Long Prairie Police Department
Cassi Jo Nohl, Herman. Speed 55/45. Fine \$40. Fee \$85.
Patricia Rodriguez, Long Prairie. Driving without a valid license for vehicle class or type. Fine \$100. Fee \$85.
Minnesota Department of Natural Resources
Devan Roger Leger, Little Falls. Water Safety—fail to have legal life-saving device on board watercraft or waterfowl boat. Fine \$25. Fee \$85.
James Curtis Nelson, Oakdale. Fish and Game—untagged big game animal. Fine \$100. Fee \$75.
John Michael Statema, Browerville. Hunting-Transportation of Firearms—loaded firearm. Fine \$100. Fee \$85.
Minnesota State Patrol
Jaxin Scott Anderson, Silver Lake. Speed 75/65. Fine \$40. Fee \$85.
Austyn Lee Laporte, Staples. No insurance owner. Fine \$200. Fee \$85. Fail to display current registration. Fine \$30.
Shawn Phillip Monson, Staples. Speed 75/65. Fine \$40. Fee \$85.
Latanya Laurice Pendleton, Bloomington. Speed 45/35. Fine \$40. Fee \$85.
Riley Greg Schubert, Shoreview. Speed 75/65. Fine \$40. Fee \$85.
Brian Norman Ray Schulte, Henning. Speed 69/55. Fine \$50. Fee \$85.
Christopher Botello Ramirez, Saint Joseph. Speed 78/60. Fine \$60. Fee \$85.
Gerald Gordon Braastad, Long Prairie. Speed 70/60. Fine \$40. Fee \$85.
Jason Michael Curtiss, Little Falls. Speed 70/60. Fine \$40. Fee \$85.
Juan Gabriel De Aza Rodriguez, Orlando, Flor. No Minnesota Driver's License. Fine \$100. Fee \$85.
Duane Kelly Dirkes, Sauk Centre. Hands-Free Law- engage in cellular phone or video call. Fine \$50. Fee \$85.
Ryan Allan Driehorst, Wadena. Speed 50/35. Fine \$60. Fee \$85. Driving after Revocation. Fine \$200.
Matthew Mark Eastwood, Osakis. Speed 65/55. Fine \$40. Fee \$85.
Jacob Douglas Fender, Osakis. Speed 65/55. Fine \$40. Fee \$75. Seatbelt required—driver and passenger must use. Dismissed.
Jordan Taylor Folkstad, Wadena. Speed 71/60. Fine \$50. Fee \$85. No proof of insurance. \$200.
Bradley Ray Horst, Browerville. CMV- breakaway braking requirements for trailers violations—no breakaway brake system. Fine \$200. Fee \$85.
Nathan Alan Kist, Little Falls. Speed 80/65. Fine \$60. Fee \$85.
Olivia Grace Kleinschmidt, Osakis. Speed 65/60. Fine \$40. Fee \$85.
Angel Lean, Moorhead. Driving after revocation. Fine \$200. Fee \$85. Expired registration. Fine \$30. No proof of insurance. Fine \$200.
Beau Alexander Lorentzen, Byron. Speed 80/70. Fine \$40. Fee \$85.
Kendra Jo Frances Moure, Alexandria. Speed 87/70. Fine \$60. Fee \$85. No proof of motor vehicle

insurance. Fine \$200. No insurance owner. Fine \$200.
Ellee Marie Pastwa, East Bethel. Speed 75/70. Fine \$40. Fee \$75.
James Micheal Peterson, Cannon Falls. Speed 80/70. Fine \$40. Fee \$85.
Keyauntae Devaun Pitts, Fargo, N.Dak. Speed 88/70. Fine \$60. Fee \$85. Driving after suspension. Fine \$200. Child passenger restraint system—not equipped and installed. Fine \$50.
Gaven Richard Raden, Hoffman. Speed 88/70. Fine \$60. Fee \$85.
Noah Andrew Schnettler, Clarissa. Hands-Free Law- initiate, compose, send, retrieve, read electronic message. Fine \$50. Fee \$85.
Lonnie George Schottenbauer, Morton. Minnesota Annual Inspection Decal Violation. Fine \$100. Fee \$85.
Mervin Chad Stevenson, Peguis, Manitoba. Speed 85/70. Fine \$60. Fee \$85.
Rebecca Russell Thompson, New Glarus, Wis. Speed 80/70. Fine \$40. Fee \$85.
Michael Allan Werner, Sauk Centre. Speed 65/60. Fine \$40. Fee \$85.
Staples Police Department
Rebecca Lee Conn, Staples. Dog running at large. Fine \$50. Fee \$85. Dog or cat nuisance. Fine \$50.
Tracy Allen Mitchell, Willow River. Unlawful parking/storage. Dismissed.
Wendy Sue Poland, Staples. Unlawful parking/storage. Dismissed.
Todd County Sheriff's Office
Robert Dale Canfield Sr., Bertha. Criminal Vehicular Operation—bodily harm—leave scene of collision. Dismissed, conditions met or expired.
Jeremy Tyson Johnson, Clarissa. Careless Driving. Fine \$100. Fee \$85.
Mary Ann Joy Kelley, Browerville. Require/permit offense by another. Fine \$100. Fee \$85.
Robert Philip McCreery, Staples. Obstruct legal process. Dismissed. Penalty for not complying with peace officer. Dismissed.
Alejandro Sanchez Garcia, Osakis. Driving without a valid license for vehicle class or type. Fine \$100. Fee \$85.
The following cases were heard before Judge Daniel A. Benson in Seventh District Court in Todd County Dec. 8, 2023.
Matilda Rae Anderson-king, Vernal. Traffic-School Bus Stop Arm. Continued for dismissal. Fine \$50. Fee \$75. Unsupervised monitoring without conviction, one year.
The following cases were heard before Judge Daniel A. Benson in Seventh District Court in Todd County Dec. 11, 2023.
Stephanie Cuevas, Long Prairie. DWI- operate motor vehicle under influence of alcohol. Dismissed. DWI- operate motor vehicle- alcohol concentration of 0.08 within two hours. Sentenced. Fine \$300. Fee \$105. Local confinement 364 days. Stay 364 days for four years. Supervised probation, four years. Driving after revocation. Dismissed.



“Howdy, Mr. Snowman!”

Seven-year-old Jason Sturm-Hughes of Staples greeted a snowman outside of the Staples Post Office Dec. 21. The snowman was initially built by Post Clerk Caitlin Brichacek a few days earlier,

when snow fell in the area. Since then, Brichacek said, others in the community have added to the snowman, including giving him a hat. (Staples World photo by Dawn Timbs)

Staples-Motley Elementary Winter Concert



First graders ring bells as they sing Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer.



Second grade students sing Rockin' Around the Christmas Tree



Chorus of kazoos

Third graders hummed along to The Chipmunk Song with kazoos.



Sacred Heart Christmas program

Above, the Sacred Heart Area School kindergarten class rings bells as they perform Jingle Bell Rock. Above left, the angels reveal themselves to the crowd. Left, a manger scene where all the animals learn about the birth of Jesus. Below left, fireflies do a dance while trying to get to Bethlehem. (Staples World photos by Mark Anderson)

SCHOOL continued from page 1a

Audit has minor findings

options,” said Ferdon. A third goal that is on track in in third grade literacy. The goal was for third grade students to be above the state average on the statewide MCA reading test by 2025. Berg said that the state scores went down this past year but the Staples-Motley student scores continued to rise, showing they are making progress to meet the goal. One goal that was not met was reading goals of School Readiness students who are headed to kindergarten. The goal was for 80 percent to know 10 or more letters by the time they got to kindergarten. In 2022, 94 percent of the students met the goal but in 2023, only 71 percent did. Berg said they will make an effort to screen preschool students at age three so they know what to work on before reaching kindergarten. The final goal that was not met had to do with the achievement gap between students who receive free and reduced lunch and those who do not. The goal was for both groups to be within five percent on the statewide MCA tests for reading. In 2019, the school had a 13 percent difference and they lowered it to 11 percent in 2022. But in 2023, the difference went back up to 17 percent. Pantzke said they will be using data collected by teachers and will provide more interventions for students who are in need of help. **Yearly audit** The school district received an unmodified opinion on their audit by the Brady Martz accounting firm. That means the audit found that the school followed all accounting principles properly and the finances look to be in good order. Tracee Bruggeman of Brady Martz presented the audit to the school board at their Dec. 18 meeting. She said they had three findings that were noted in the audit that could become an issue. **In other news, the board** • Approved resignations: Justin Edin, tennis coach; Tammy Johnson, speech coach; Garret Ballantine, baseball coach; Mark Bettis, baseball coach • Approved hires: Bobby Johnson, Honor Society Advisor; Brian Alt, industrial tech substitute; Miranda Anderson, District Office receptionist; Jessica Sadlo, paraprofessional; Evan Woodwick, custodian



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