

Inside this issue:

Wrestling team wins section, qualifies for state
Boys basketball defeats HOL Conference leaders
Winter trout fishing gear
Escape room at library



Wednesday, February 19, 2025

Staples, Minnesota

Staples-Motley Snodaze Royalty court

Staples-Motley High School held its SnoDaze Coronation Feb. 12. Pictured above are members of the Snodaze Court, all seniors, as well as the Snodaze Class Representatives from 9th, 10th and 11th grades. From left, are Evan Schultz, sophomore; Beau Carlson, freshman; Josiah Critten, senior; Benet Robinson, senior; Luke Bjerga, junior; Dustin Converse, senior; Jacob Becker, senior; King Grant Bestland; Queen Arabella Moore; Sophie Albie, senior; Ellie Lange, senior; Savanna Davis, sophomore; Naila Mikhaeil, senior; Sarah Kroll, freshman; Heidi Zimmerman, senior; Livia Triff, junior, (Staples World photo by Dawn Timbs)

Members enjoying The NEST facilities this winter

By Dawn Timbs
Staples World reporter



Ready to assist members

Lori Nienow was at the front office at The NEST Feb. 11, ready to assist present members, as well as sign new ones up. A screen on the wall behind Nienow shows what is happening at the various places at The NEST, including its walking track and community fitness room. (Staples World photo by Dawn Timbs)

Discover Staples trying new strategies to get visitors

By Mark Anderson
Managing Editor

Discover Staples is using a new visitors guide and Explore Minnesota to attract visitors to the Staples area. Rene Kroll of Discover Staples gave an update to the Staples City Council at their Feb. 11 meeting. Discover Staples is funded by the Staples city lodging tax.

Kroll said the new visitors guide has been distributed to more than 50 businesses in the area and at more than 100 locations around the state. She said every visitor at the Timberlake Hotel gets a guide, amounting to around 13,000 visitors every year. Kroll said they are trying to capture visitors looking for a day trip from the St. Cloud area.

“A lot of people have heard about it, we need to get them up here to spend some dollars and see what is near to them,” said Kroll. Kroll said Discover Staples’ involvement in Railroad Days has allowed them up to \$8,000 in grant eligibility from Explore Minnesota, the state tourism arm. Discover Staples is also working on highway ban-

See **STAPLES** on page 12a

Cole recognized for creative frozen water line solution

By Mark Anderson
Managing Editor

At the Staples City Council meeting, Public Works Director Scott Grabe credited one of the water department employees with going above and beyond his duties in fixing a broken water line. He said on Jan. 20, Del

Cole was one of the city employees dispatched to assist with a broken valve for a customer at the Oak Ridge mobile home park. In order to fix the leak, the crew needed to turn off the water to the line, but the only shut off valve was seven feet underground and the handle used to turn it

was not a common nut that could be turned with a wrench. The other option was to turn off the entire water line on the street, which would have shut off water to Lakewood Health System. The maintenance department

See **COLE** on page 12a

Weather

2025

This Week's Forecast

	High	Low	Cond.
Feb. 19	6	-14	M. Sunny
Feb. 20	13	-6	M. Sunny
Feb. 21	19	9	Cloudy
Feb. 22	32	25	Cloudy
Feb. 23	41	26	Cloudy
Feb. 24	43	27	M. Sunny
Feb. 25	41	26	Cloudy

Last Year, 2024

	High	Low	Cond.
Feb. 19	38°	21	Sunny
Feb. 20	44	20	Sunny
Feb. 21	50	31	Sunny
Feb. 22	43	27	Cloudy
Feb. 23	34	23	P. Cloudy
Feb. 24	47	18	Sunny
Feb. 25	42	27	P. Sunny

Average Temps:
H = 30° Low = 11°

Compiled by
Dale Hausmann,
WCCO's Staples area
Weatherwatcher

Public Notices

May Township Board **9A**
Staples Township **9A**
Thomastown **9A**
Todd bids **9A**
Todd County Commissioners **9A, 10A**
Todd Planning **6A**

Obituary

Andrew Hellmers



Staying active despite the freezing weather

The Staples Community Center Aquacise class has fun exercising in the indoor pool despite sub-zero weather outside. The community center holds lap swim

and open swim times for the public to use the heated pool during winter. (Staples World photo by Mark Anderson)



Move over Fred Astaire

Fred Astaire and Ginger Rogers, famed dance partners from the 1930s, had nothing on these creatively clad, choreographed seniors at the recent Snodaze lip sync contest. The contest was held at Centennial Auditorium following the coronation Feb. 12. Pictured above, from left, are Steven Petrich, Alex Schultz, Logan Robben, Jack Carlson and Benet Robinson. (Staples World photos by Dawn Timbs)



Groovin'

Noah Larson, a junior at Staples-Motley High School, had some impressive dance moves acrobatics at the Snodaze lip sync contest. (Staples World photo by Dawn Timbs)

Runway models?

Benet Robinson and Logan Robben show off the latest fashion trends at the Snodaze lip sync contest Feb. 12. (Staples World photo by Dawn Timbs)



And the winner is...

At left: Deb Ferdon, principal at Staples-Motley High School/Middle School, and Penny Lee, daughter of Josh Lee, Activities Director at SM, used an applause meter to determine the winner of the lip sync contest. The crowd applauded for each of the high school classes, with the junior class taking first place. (Staples World photo by Dawn Timbs)



Staples-Motley faculty take the stage

Several faculty members at Staples-Motley High School participated in the lip sync contest following the Snodaze coronation Feb. 12. Pictured, from left, are Cait-

lyn Hacker, Val Turner, Sarah Decker, Marly Simmons, Allison Vangness, Kasey Odden, Stacy Schultz. (Staples World photo by Dawn Timbs)



Cool dudes

Pictured above, from left, are juniors Turner Beachy, Adrian Gomez and Luke Bjerga, performing at the Staples-Motley Snodaze lip sync contest. Below, Beachy and Gomez don sunglasses and lip sync to another song. (Staples World photo by Dawn Timbs)



Are they 'smarter than a fifth grader'?

Prior to the coronation ceremony Feb. 12, Snodaze royalty candidates took part in a contest called, "Are you smarter than a fifth grader?" The contest was facilitated by Principal Debbie Ferdon and Allison Vangness, teacher at SM, who asked a variety of questions,

including, "What is the longest river in the world?" and, "Who wrote the play, 'Hamlet?'" Pictured above are the king candidates, and below are the queen candidates. (Staples World photos by Dawn Timbs)

Donate Your Car

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Winter trout fishing has polar dimensions in Minnesota

Most of us are familiar with that uniquely Minnesota winter sport known as the polar plunge. Participants gather on a frozen lake, and—in an act of bravado that those with weak hearts might well avoid—jump into a hole that has been cut in the ice. This rarely fails to attract a television news crew, especially if the purpose of the frigid event is to raise awareness or funds for some charitable cause.

By -standers cheer wildly as brave souls clad only in swimsuits take the plunge, to emerge from the water with looks of shock and awe on their faces, shaking soon-to-be-frozen droplets like a Labrador retriever, and immediately wrapping themselves in towels to stave off frostbite.

As contrary to good sense as the polar plunge might be, it's not the only winter activity that may cast doubt on its participants' sanity. Winter stream trout fishing may qualify, too. Its adherents don hip boots or chest waders, and wade into icy, flowing waters that have remained liquid only because they're in constant motion.

These dramas take place on the streams of Southeast Minnesota, tributaries to the Mississippi that emerge from rock formations in country whose dramatic elevations remind one of mountains in miniature. These streams drain the "driftless" area of Minnesota, so named because the last glaciers that covered much of our state stopped just short of this area, and did not deposit the "glacial drift" of gravel, boulders, and sediments that glaciers usually leave behind.

Though rain and snow-melt may contribute to the flow in these streams, their primary source is underground springs that percolate through porous sedimentary rock laid down millions of years ago, a constant and cool water supply needed by those most sen-

sitive of fishes, the several trout species found here.

While the statewide stream trout season generally runs only from mid-April to the end of September, many of the streams here are open to catch-and-release winter angling. It's an opportunity for an adventurous angler to temporarily exit from their pull-behind "ice castle," pop-up style portable shelter, or whatever commercial or home-made structure is the site where their winter angling usually takes place.

More than at other seasons, extra measures are needed to remain dry and warm under extreme and potentially hazardous conditions. To properly approach and cast to trout where they hold in a stream's riffles, bends, or pools, the ability to wade into, and across, a stream is imperative. Chest-high waders or hip boots are therefore a must. Waders are better insurance against "shipping water" in a deep pool, or in a stumble over a boulder that can unexpectedly bring an angler to his knees. Some opt for waders made of the same insulating neoprene favored by duck hunters, while others rely instead on insulating clothing layers under summer-weight wading wear.

More problematic is hand function, finding a balance that avoids frostbite, while still having the dexterity needed for line control and changing flies or lures. Bare hands would be preferable, and that works when an angler is inside a heated ice shelter. But for winter trout anglers, when temperatures hover at, or below, the freezing mark, bare hands would be a formula for certain frostbite.

One solution is hybrid mitten-gloves. Their open-ended fingers allow a measure of dexterity, and an attached mitten extension—folded back when not in use—can be flipped over to cover the fingertips when the angler is not managing line or terminal tackle. It's a tolerable compromise, the lesser of two evils, frozen fingers being the greater.

If you fish these trout streams in winter, one can hope for the proverbial January or February thaw, a streak of above average temperatures. If peak daytime

temperatures are above freezing, as they sometimes are, the tackle used when lakes are ice-free may work just fine. But when air temperatures are below freezing—common from January through March—then tackle adjustments should be made.

Use the most supple line you can. Cold temperatures stiffen other things besides fingers. Lines that are truly made for ice fishing are theoretically designed to be more supple, and to ice up less readily. Under sub-freezing temperatures, the more often an angler's line is picked up wet and retrieved through a rod's guides and onto a reel, the more there will be icing issues.

Anglers who use fly fishing tackle have one advantage that anglers using more conventional tackle don't. Their casting method uses the weight of the fly line—not the lure's weight—to load the rod and deliver the cast. It's often possible to work some fish-holding lies with repeated casts and drifts without actually retrieving line through the guides, thus minimizing ice-up effects. Ice that forms on a rod's guides can often be dealt with by—counter-intuitively—submerging that portion of the rod in the flow briefly to liquefy the ice, then giving the rod a vigorous shake to throw off some of the water droplets before they can refreeze. It's not foolproof, but at temperatures not too far below the magic 32 degrees, it often works. "Rinse and repeat" may be necessary.

About nine miles and as many minutes north of St. Charles, a small town a half hour or so east of Rochester, the county road my son and I followed begins a sharp slant downward. It leaves behind rolling farm fields where corn stubble pokes through a thin layer of snow, and descends into forest that clings to craggy limestone slopes. The farther down you go, the farther above you these bluffs tower. At the valley floor, where the trout streams are, the effect is as close as Minnesota comes to having mountains.

We're headed to the tiny valley hamlet of Elba, which has but one short commercial street, St. Aloysius church, and a scattering of

residences. From there we'll follow a gravel road along the meandering Middle Branch of the Whitewater River. In summer this is a hugely popular area among trout fishermen. But this day, with temperatures hovering in the mid-20's, we will see only two other anglers.

This trip was a pilgrimage of sorts, a return after a decade's absence. Back, then, when my son would be home on a mid-winter college break, we would brave January or February weather uncertainties—and sometimes unpleasantries—to fish together here. Maybe just to prove that we could! The odds usually favored the fish, more or less predictable in winter. To catch just "a" fish, or a brace of two, was sometimes our tally for the day. At other times the stream was more generous. But we were there for the companionship as well as the bragging rights, so it was always good.

This recent February day would not be one for bragging-rights. We walked for miles along two different branches of the Whitewater, much of the time in a gentle, postcard-like snowfall, concentrating our casts on the places where we knew trout would typically be. From the vantage point of a high bank we spotted a pod of at least 25, a mix of small and large trout. They were skittish, sometimes darting to and fro at hyper-speed, as trout will do when they sense danger. We gave them a long rest, came back, approached the water carefully, and tried everything we could think of to tempt them, to no avail.

"Sullen" was the word that an angler we met used to describe the mood of the fish, his way of explaining fishlessness. My son and I settled on less human-centric terms; words like "disinterested," "wary," and "unapproachable," to explain our own fishlessness. No matter. We had taken our limits of the beauty of the snowy day and the picturesque scenery; not to mention the companionship.

Putting Minnesotans first

Senator Paul Utke

We're in February and nearly one month into Session. Due to the historic power-sharing agreement that was in place until recently, bills have been moving in the Senate and work has been getting done. Unfortunately, moments after the new Democrat Senator for SD60 was sworn in, Democrats promptly voted to eliminate the agreement, despite the fact that their caucus leader, Sen. Erin Murphy, claimed that she hoped this agreement would last throughout session.

We knew this was coming, but it was still disappointing to see Democrats so quickly returning to their definition of the "status quo," after their leader said otherwise. After the way session ended last year, during which Democrats ignored the voices of 49 percent of the state, the power-sharing agreement felt like a good step forward. It allowed Republicans to hear numerous bills that Democrats ignored ways to address burdensome education mandates, discussions about nuclear energy, solutions to fraud and more. I was disappointed to see it end as quickly as it started. Even though the agreement ended, Republicans will continue to advocate for policies that put Minnesotans first.

In keeping with that theme, one of the top things we need to focus on is helping Minnesotans with the high cost of living. Folks have had their budgets crippled by inflation; and though things may improve at the federal level, we still have quite a way to go here in Minnesota, where Democrats have repeatedly passed costs on to taxpayers. That has to stop.

Another thing we have to do is rein in government spending and get ahold of the fraud that has run rampant in our state for far too long. Our government has seen unsustainable growth under Democrat leadership, growing by nearly 40 percent. Folks haven't seen that growth in their budgets, so why should the government? This out-of-control growth and spending has made Minnesota unaffordable, and it has primed our state and its agencies for fraud. Minnesotans are tired of this waste and we have to address it now.

We also want to keep our communities safe. Much of the legislation that's been passed over the last two years was soft on crime and focused heavily on giving criminals lighter sentences. Minnesotans have been loud and clear: they want criminals off of our streets and out of our communities. We also need to get back to supporting our law enforcement officers. That means supporting recruitment and retention efforts and investing in proven crime prevention strategies.

Finally, we have to tackle the education mandates. Over the last few weeks, schools from across the state have come to testify in our education committees and they've all been saying the same thing, unfunded mandates are crippling their budgets. Many schools are being forced to make cuts because they simply can't afford to prop up the burdensome mandates. These schools and their staff know our students better than the state does. We also need to empower local input and control when it comes to education policies and curriculum. We need to reverse course immediately so we can set our kids up for success, and that means eliminating the mandates that fail to put students first.

As we move forward, we can't lose sight of what matters and that's putting Minnesotans first in everything we do. If Sen. Murphy was serious about her desire for bipartisanship to play a role this session, I hope Democrats start taking our concerns seriously. We have a lot of work ahead of us, and not a lot of time. We need to do everything in our power to listen to folks across the state so we can put Minnesotans first.

Fischbach working in D.C.

Michelle Fischbach
U.S. Representative

I was proud to return to Washington this past January to a government that runs on common sense. President Trump has hit the ground running, securing our borders, protecting our communities and putting a stop to the rampant waste, fraud and abuse throughout the federal government. He's already exposed the abuse of taxpayer dollars taking place at the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) and the State Department. These include transgender coloring books in Peru, DEI

in Serbia's workforce, transgender operas in Colombia and DEI musicals in Ireland. It doesn't take a genius to see that none of these programs are in America's best interest. Republicans in Congress and in the White House are committed to putting America first, and I'm proud the President took swift action to put a stop to such ridiculous programming. There are those out there who say he's taking a sledgehammer to a problem where a scalpel is needed. To that, I say that the federal government has been claiming to cut waste fraud and abuse for years with no results. We cannot afford the status quo. President Trump understands that and will do what it takes to deliver for the American people.

The first piece of legislation the House passed, the Laken Riley Act, has already been signed into law by President Trump. This bill, honoring the nursing student who was murdered by an illegal alien who had previously been cited for shoplifting, requires detention of illegal aliens who commit theft and allows a state to sue the federal government for not enforcing border laws. Had the policies in this bill been in place, Laken would still be alive today.

I was honored to be invited recently to the White House, where President Trump signed an Executive Order to keep men out of women's sports. The House also wasted no time passing the Protecting Women and Girls in Sports Act, which amends Title IX to protect the law's intent to ensure equal opportunity for women in sports and the integrity of women's

athletics. My House Republican colleagues and I know that there are biological differences between men and women and ignoring these differences in sports puts women and girls at an inherent disadvantage, robbing them of rewards for their hard work and perseverance. This legislation states that, in the athletic context, sex must be recognized based only on a person's reproductive biology and genetics at birth. I look forward to this passing in the Senate and making its way to the President's desk to be signed into law so no future administration can reverse this commonsense policy to protect women and girls.

To further support this Administration's efforts to secure our borders and end the tragic fentanyl epidemic, the House passed the HALT Fentanyl Act. Fentanyl is currently a Schedule II drug, but that status is set to expire in March. This legislation would make the classification permanent, which ensures law enforcement has the tools they need to keep these deadly drugs out of our communities and enables U.S. Customs and Border Protection to maintain their authority to seize these drugs when they're found at border crossings.

These are just a few of the things we have accomplished in the first month of the 119th Congress and things are moving quickly. I encourage you to sign up for my newsletter at Fischbach.house.gov to receive regular updates and to follow me on social media @RepFischbach. If my office can be of any assistance to you, do not hesitate to reach out to my team at Fischbach.house.gov or 320-403-6100.

Quote of the week
“Let the storm rage on. The cold never bothered me anyway.”
— Elsa from Frozen

Quote of the week
“We must use our lives to make the world a better place to live, not just to acquire things. That is what we are put on the earth for.”
— Dolores Huerta, (National Farm Workers Association)

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1,000 Books Before Kindergarten



Two new 1,000 Books Before Kindergarten readers were recently awarded their certificates at the Staples Library. The reading program helps children prepare for kindergarten. By signing your child up for the program they receive a free backpack and duckies. Upon completion they also receive a hard cover book and stuffed animal. Record keeping can be done on an easy app. or booklet. This program is provided by the Staples Friends of the Library. Left: Library Coordinator, Cathy Perish and Hudson Meyer; right: Aveline Hagg and her grandmother/Library Assistant, Angie Johnson. (Submitted photos)



Escape Room at the library

They couldn't escape our Great Storybook Escape Room at the Staples Library. The team that completes in the shortest amount of time wins a \$25 pizza party at Tower Pizza in Staples provided by the Staples Friends of the Library. The competition is for adults and teens with adults only. Teams of four have 30 minutes to escape. Call the library at 218-894-1401 to sign up for a spot. Above: Ann Danielson, Zack Sonntag and Sarah Frisch. (Submitted photos)



Dave and Kathy Harren; Ralph and Kris Judd.

Lamplighter to perform at MACT*Fest, March 7

The Lost Souls of Ireland by Lamplighter Community Theatre of Staples will be the second performance at the Minnesota Association of Community Theatres (MACT) Festival in Duluth, Friday, March 7. Tickets are available at mn-act.net. Following is a press release from MACT. Community theatres and theatre enthusiasts from around the state will gather at the historic Duluth Depot in Duluth, for MACT*Fest 2025. The 27th biennial theatre festival will be held o Friday, March 7 through Sunday, March 9, at The Depot located at; 506 West Michigan St. Duluth. MACT*Fest audiences will enjoy a wide variety of short plays and the opportunity to attend theatre workshops on topics of interest

to actors, directors, technical crews and all fans of community theatre. There will also be social gatherings and opportunities for networking. Audience members may attend part of the festival, or purchase ticket packages to see all of the shows, workshops and social gatherings. Minnesota Association of Community Theatres (MACT), sponsor of MACT*Fest, has been supporting Minnesota community theatre for more than 50 years. Discounted ticket packages are available if purchased by February 28. Additional information regarding MACT*Fest, including how to purchase tickets, is available at the MACT website (mn-act.net).Theatres presenting shows: Friday, March 7, 1:30; County Seat Theater

Company, Cloquet: Game of Life. Mindless Mirth Productions, St. Paul: Little Claus & Big Claus. Friday, March 7, 7:00; Absolute Theatre, Rochester: Forever Plaid. Lamplighter Community Theatre, Staples: The Lost Souls of Ireland. Saturday, March 8, 1:00 Applause Community Theatre, Twin Cities: Done to Death. Northern Starz Center for the Performing Arts, Ramsey: 26 Pebbles. Calumet Players, Pipestone: Get Over It. Saturday, March 8, 7:30 Ole Olson Onstage, Stillwater: Trapp's Last Crepe. FungusAmongus Players, Dassel-Cokato: Finishing School.

Mark Your Calendar

February 19, 20

FREE TAX-AIDE Wednesdays, 1-4 p.m. and Thursdays, 10 a.m.- 4 p.m., through April 10, Staples City Hall. Must call for an appointment at 218-296-6616. For low to moderate income taxpayers. 'WALK WITH A Doc' Thursdays at 5:15 p.m., at Lake-wood 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>

February 21

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

February 22

FREE COMMUNITY BREAKFAST Saturday, Feb. 22, 9 - 10:30 a.m., at Motley United Methodist Church, 847 3rd Ave. S., Motley.

February 23

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

February 24

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

February 25

CARE MINISTRY FREE MEAL Tuesday, Feb. 25, 4:30 - 6 p.m., at Assembly of God Church, 914 3rd Ave. NE, Staples. The free meals are held on a monthly basis to promote fellowship, connection and nourishment **WOMEN'S AA MTG** Tuesdays, from 6 - 7 p.m., at Staples Church of Christ, on Hwy 210, south of Staples. **EXPERIENCE STRENGTH AND HOPE AA GROUP MTGS IN STAPLES** are held at the Church of Christ, 27343 490th St., Tuesdays, 7 - 8 p.m. For info., call Dan at 218-640-7228. **WADENA COUNTY REPUBLICANS MTGS** are held on the fourth Tuesday of the month at the Wadena VFW at 7 p.m. If you wish to eat early you may order from the menu prior to meeting.

DEADLINE
for all classified
ads and copy is
12 noon Friday

For the
Staples World

TODD COUNTY REPUBLICAN CONVENTION
for Precinct Delegates
and Alternates
March 1, 2025
10 a.m. Registration: 9 a.m.
Browerville Community Center, 653 Main St. S., Browerville
ALL ARE WELCOME!

Great River Eye Clinic
formerly Crosby Eye Clinic
Dr. Stacy Sjoberg, MD, Ph.D.
Evaluations and Surgery close to home!!
Call to schedule in Staples: 1-800-952-3766

Free Meal! All Welcome!
Care Community Meal
Tues., Feb. 25
4:30 - 6 p.m.
Staples Assembly of God
914 3rd Ave. NE
Sliced ham dinner. Fellowship and food for all!
Also join us for a showing of "How Great Is Our God" at 5:50 p.m. in the sanctuary for those who would like to stay (A 40 min. presentation by Louie Giglio).

SATISFYINGLY FULL PLATE
Sunday, Feb. 23, 3 p.m.
Everyone is welcome to Healthy & Tasty Cooking Demos and Samples!
FREE EVENT! **RSVP to: 218-851-2318 or 218-296-1741 by Feb. 20** **FREE EVENT!** **Limit 50**
421 DAKOTA AVE SE STAPLES

The Lost Souls of Ireland
A One Act Play
by
Amy L. Hunter
Thur & Fri, Feb. 27 & 28th, 7:30 PM
Sun Mar 2, 2:00 PM
Centennial Auditorium
Staples MN

Adults \$10.00 **Students \$5.00**

TICKETS
www.lct-staples.com
or at the door

This activity is made possible, in part, by the voters of Minnesota through a grant from the Five Wings Arts Council, thanks to a legislative appropriation from the Arts and Cultural Heritage Fund.

Staples World
DEADLINES
Newspaper deadline for copy and advertising: 12 noon Fridays

Hello World

Needing/Wanting a Granite Memorial FOR YOUR FAMILY?



I can help!
Diane M. Hahn
30 years serving our area!
Rep. for Fergus Falls Monument Co.
Call 218-445-5685 or 218-640-2341

BIRTHS REPORTED AT LAKEWOOD HEALTH SYSTEM HOSPITAL IN STAPLES INCLUDED:

Born to Katheine and Mary Gonzalez of Brainerd, a baby boy, Mateo Anthony weighing seven pounds, one ounce on January 30, 2025.

Born to Stephanie and Brent Sterriker of Long Prairie, a baby girl, Minnie Mae weighing six pounds, two ounces on February 1, 2025.

Born to Abby and Jay Brichacek of Browerville, a baby girl, Evelyn Helen weighing seven pounds, five ounces on February 5, 2025.

Born to Shawna and Robert Sirovy of Pequot Lakes, a baby boy, Nolan Mark weighing nine pounds on February 5, 2025.

Born to Kalie and Jeremiah Korfe of Eagle Bend, a baby girl, Penny Lou Kathleen weighing eight pounds, 12 ounces on February 5, 2025.

Born to Mikayla and Brett Reinke of Alexandria, a baby girl, Paisley Rose weighing seven pounds, eight ounces on February 7, 2025.

Born to Corrina Schmidt of Pillager, a baby boy, Vincent Michael weighing seven pounds, 15 ounces on February 7, 2025.

Born to Sandra and Caleb Beltran of Brainerd, a baby boy, Callahan Lawrence weighing six pounds, five ounces on February 13, 2025.

Obituary

Andrew Hellmers

Andrew (Andy) Dean Hellmers, 61, passed away January 21, 2025 in a Fargo, North Dakota hospital as a result of a massive stroke.

A Celebration of Life will be held the summer.

Andy was born in 1963 in Renton, WA and lived there until he was seven-years-old when he and his family moved to Arlington, VA. They moved to Minnesota in 1975 and Andy loved farm/rural living. He attended Motley Public School; his favorite activity was FFA. He joined the MN National Guard in 1981, phasing into the U.S. Army and was stationed at Fort Hood, TX. He served until 1985 after a short term in Germany.

His hobbies included hunting, fishing, gardening, raising chickens as pets, bird feeding and caring for his lawn, of which he received many compliments.

On the second Thursday in May 2010, he and his fiancé, Val Etzler of Cushing, eloped and they celebrated their anniversary each year on the second Thursday in May. He worked a variety of jobs, primarily carpentering with his step-dad, which was his favorite work.

Andy had a personality that entertained people, could joke easily, was a generous guy and will be



remembered as one who loved.

He is survived by his wife, Valerie Hellmers of Cushing; parents, Wally and Lillian Smith of Cushing; two brothers, Gary (Karen) Hellmers of Albert Lea and Tom (Sue) Hellmers of New Richmond, WI; one sister, Laurie (Kevin) Trout of Motley; five step-siblings, Kathy Gordon and Cindy (Dennis) Macheel, all of Motley; Ken Smith and Kevin Smith, both of Federal Way, WA; Wayne (Sinath) Smith of Auburn, WA; many nieces and nephews; lifetime friend Jeff Busse of AK and two cats, Mellow and Wild Child.

He was preceded in death by his father, George Hellmers; two aunts; one uncle; Val's parents and one brother-in-law.

w9p A00006B2025FB19

Student Achievements

IAIN SAMS, Cushing, was recently named to the 2024 Fall Semester Dean's List at St. Cloud State University. To qualify, students must earn a grade point average of 3.75 or better.

ST. CLOUD STATE UNIVERSITY recently announced its 2024 Fall Semester Dean's List. To qualify, students must achieve a grade point average of 3.75 or higher. Local students named include:

- Daniel Leone, Staples
- Oliver Lund, Staples

BEMIDJI STATE UNIVERSITY recently announced its 2024 Fall Semester Dean's List. To qualify, students must enroll in at least 12 cred-

its and earn a grade point average of 3.5 or higher for the semester. Local students named include:

- Lauren Rутten, Motley
- Ethan Gephart, Motley
- Avery Jones, Motley
- Duane Franzen, Pillager

• Megan Lentner, Pillager

SAVANNAH MULDER, Motley, was recently named to the 2024 Fall Semester Honor List at Minnesota State University, Mankato. To qualify, students must achieve a 3.5 grade point average and be enrolled for at least 12 credit hours for the semester.

Public Notice

NOTICE TODD COUNTY PLANNING COMMISSION

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

Notice is hereby given that the Todd County Planning Commission will hold a public hearing on **Thursday, February 6, 2025 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 February 6, 2025 Planning Commission meeting minutes.

1. Henry Miller: Section 31, Eagle Valley Township
Site Address: 33371 171st Avenue, Clarissa, MN 56440
PID: 07-0037500

1. Request for CUP to replace #CUP-2024-008 for the expansion of an existing business to include sawmill, horse shoeing, trimming, window manufacturing, woodworking and machining in AF-1 Zoning District.

2. Wolf River Electric: Section 14, Germania Township

Site Address: 21381 430th Street, Bertha, MN 56437. **PID:** 09-0009500

1. Request a CUP for the installation of a Ground Mounted PC Solar System in excess of 120% of annual energy consumption, in AF-1 Zoning District.

3. Justin and Erika Wardell: Section 11, Leslie Township

Site Address: 14795 County Rd 65, Long Prairie, MN 56347. **PID:** 15-0012301

3. Request a CUP for the 30' X 36' addition to an existing garage for temporary family housing in AF-1 Zoning District.

Adjournment – Next meeting: April 3, 2025

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

Todd County Planning Commission
Jim Pratt, Chair

9pnc

Staples Area Church Directory

Staples

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

Assembly of God

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

Church of Christ

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

Faith Lutheran

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

Sacred Heart Catholic Church

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

Seventh Day Adventist

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

Thomastown Covenant

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

Trinity Lutheran

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

United Methodist

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

Aldrich

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

Cushing

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

Lincoln Evangelical Free

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

Cushing Baptist

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

Leader

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

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

Motley

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

St. John's Lutheran

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

St. Michael

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

United Methodist

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

Oylen

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

Pillager

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

Casino Assembly of God

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

First Baptist

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

Hewitt

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

Trinity Lutheran Church (LCMS)

524 Front Street, PO Box 116, Hewitt, MN
Pastor Robin Fish
Sunday Worship.....10:30 a.m.

Hewitt Community Church

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

Verndale

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

"Heartfelt"

Submitted by Pastor Roy Miles, Staples Assembly of God

--Author Unknown, EXCHANGE publication

The Bible has a great deal to say about our heart:

"Thy word have I hid in mine heart, that I might not sin against Thee." Psalm 119:11

"Search me, O God, and know my heart, try me, and know my thoughts; and see if there be any wicked way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting." Psalm 139:23-24

"Keep thy heart with all diligence; for out of it are the issues of life." Proverbs 4:23

"For as he thinketh in his heart, so is he..." Proverbs 23:7a

"Blessed are the pure in heart: for they shall see God." Matthew 5:8

Jesus said:"For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also." Luke 12:34

Jesus said:"For out of the heart proceed evil thoughts, murders, adulteries, fornications, thefts, false witness and blasphemies..." Matthew 15:19

Jesus said:"Let not your heart be troubled: ye believe in God, believe also in Me." John 14:1

"For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation." Romans 10:10

THE STAPLES AREA CHURCH DIRECTORY IS SPONSORED BY THESE AREA BUSINESSES:

Ernie's Food Market
Groceries - Gas - Convenience - more
Staples, MN 218-894-1072

Staples Veterinary Clinic
"Complete Animal Care"
Staples, MN 218-894-1775

Tower Pizza
Pizza, Pasta, Salads, Sandwiches
Staples, MN 218-894-3299

Central Building Supply
Hwy. 10 West, Staples, MN
218-894-3794

Staples World
Your community newspaper since 1890
224 4th St. NE, Staples, MN
218-894-1112

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

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Wrestlers win Section 7A title with offense early, defense late

By Mark Anderson
Managing Editor

The Staples-Motley wrestling team had another nail-biter win against Holdingford, on Feb. 14 to qualify for the state wrestling tournament. The final score was 30-28, with every match crucial to the team score. Key wins included pins by Caden Kramer and Colbe Tappe, plus a decision by Cayden Neisen against an opponent who beat him last time they wrestled.

The section title was also won by playing defense and not giving up pins or extra bonus points to Holdingford's top wrestlers. Coach Dan Bjerga noted that Riley Reese and Luke Bjerga neutralized top ranked wrestlers by limiting them to major decisions, nearly keeping it to a regular decision. The match came down to Steven Petrich at heavy-weight, needing to avoid a pin. Although he lost, he didn't get pinned and helped send the team to state.

In the first two rounds of the Section 7A tournament, the Cardinals took wins over Crosby-Ironton 76-0 and Royalton-Upsala 54-18.

First rounds

Wrestling at the Staples-Motley gym on Feb. 11, C-I defeated Blackduck/Cass Lake-Bena 40-36. That set up the quarterfinal match for Staples-Motley against C-I.

The Cardinals won with six pins, five forfeits and two technical falls. Senior wrestler Jack Carlson took one of the forfeits at 145 pounds. Carlson hasn't been able to train with the team this year because of medical issues, but was instrumental in the team earning second place at state last year.

Coach Mark Carlson, Jack's father, said "being a senior, it was a nice opportunity to get him into the mix. He's been supportive of the team all year and all his buddies were happy to see him get that win."

In the semifinals against Royalton-Upsala on Feb. 14, at Holdingford, the Cardinals won the first seven matches by pin or forfeit, earning the team victory before the upper weights even started. That run was capped with a pin by Beau Carlson at 145 pounds.

Section final

Staples-Motley against Holdingford was the section final that wrestling fans across the state were waiting to see. The packed gym at Holdingford had Staples-Motley fans on one side wearing red and Holdingford on the other side wearing green. Each team has top ranked wrestlers, Staples-Motley with more in the lower weights and Holdingford throughout the middle to upper weights. The two teams met earlier in the season with the Car-

dinals scratching out a four point win.

"We knew we needed to get a swing match or two, and minimize their bonus points," said Carlson.

The match started well with two technical falls by Garrett Bjerga and Gage Bjerga and a pin by Caden Kramer. The referees were slow to call a pin with Staples-Motley feeling they could have gotten more points, but that dynamic ended up going in their favor at the end.

At 127 pounds, Cayden Neisen got a second period takedown and nearfall with a headlock throw that came close to a pin. He turned it into an 8-4 win in one of the swing matches.

"That got the momentum going," said Carlson, "the kid he beat is a veteran, one of their best wrestlers. To get that win was a huge boost."

Eli Greenwaldt took a 6-2 lead in his match but ended up falling 11-9. At 139 pounds, Turner Beachy came close to getting a pin but ended up with a technical fall, putting the team up 24-3.

With the heart of the Holdingford lineup coming up, the Cardinals switched to being defensive-minded and limiting points.

"We've been drilling all their techniques and their moves, how to counter their bread and butter moves," said Carlson.

"Holdingford is good at head levers and arm bars, we spent a couple weeks on how to defend those," said Coach Bjerga. "We avoided the throws and ties that they like to use."

It paid off when Beau Carlson limited a ranked wrestler to a technical fall instead of a pin. Riley Reese held one of their top ranked wrestlers to a major decision. Holdingford avoided Colbe Tappe, who cleaned up with a quick pin. At 172, Dustin Converse stayed away from back points but lost by tech fall from takedowns.

The last three weights had three highly ranked wrestlers from Holdingford. Luke Bjerga avoided trouble and kept it to a major decision. Adrian Gomez was close to getting a takedown, but ended up with a 3-2 loss.

That made the score 30-24 with one match to go, Steven Petrich against the state's top 189 pounder who weighed in at 215. If Holdingford scored a pin in this match, they would win the section title because it would tie the score and they would have the tiebreaker by having won seven of the 13 matches.

"Their wrestler was very good a pinning," said Coach Bjerga.

In the first period, the only scoring was a takedown by Holdingford. In the second period, Holdingford did score a nearfall.

"Steven got arm barred over, he had to fight through and bridge out of that," said Carlson. "It was courageous, it was amazing for him to do that. He did a tremendous job the whole match."

In the third period, Petrich needed to avoid a throw to his back and he did that, losing by technical fall but saving a team point by not getting pinned. It was an anti-climactic victory, but in a tough match against one of the best teams in the state, you can't expect a pretty win.

"Sometimes you just have to limit points," said Carlson.

The match score was 30-29, but following the match, Holdingford was assessed a team point penalty for understandably showing their frustration.

In the end, not a single Cardinal wrestler got pinned, while the team scored two pins of their own, a two point swing that's one of the many reasons the team was victorious.

"Everyone knew their job and they went out and battled," said Coach Bjerga.

Both teams had learned from their previous meeting and it became a low scoring defensive match. The Staples-Motley bread and butter crossface cradle was not effective in most bouts.

"They were good at blocking it, so we tried other combinations and pinning moves," said Carlson.

The Staples-Motley defense was also key to the win.

"We work on good position, good defense, how to prevent those positions. That was key for us," said Carlson.

The rivalry against Holdingford has reached an elevated level as both teams are among the best in the entire state, regardless of class. They just happen to be in the same section. Last year Staples-Motley had an upset win to go to state and this year the Huskers were looking to return the favor but came up one point short.

"We've gotten to know each other for the last five years or so. We have a lot of respect for the Holdingford team, they are a top tier team in the state," said Carlson.

State tournament

The Cardinals will wrestle in the state team tournament on Thursday, Feb. 27, at the XCEL Energy Center in St. Paul with their first match at 9 a.m.

The team individual tournament will be held Feb. 28 and March 1. The Cardinals will find out what individuals that will be going to state at the Section 7A individual tournament on Friday, Feb. 21, at Cass Lake-Bena.

State team seeding is not out yet, but Staples-Motley can expect to get one of the top two seeds along with Chatfield, the defending champion who beat the

Cardinals in the state final last year. Other state tournament teams are United North Central (Sebeka/Menahga), West Central Area/Ashby/Brandon-Evansville, Canby, LeSueur-Henderson, Jackson County Central and Lake Crystal-Wellcome Memorial (Garden City).

Looking forward to the state meet, Coach Bjerga said "we're going to stay the course, our kids will continue drilling and doing what they're best at."

While Chatfield is looming as a possible state title rematch, Bjerga said the team will not get ahead of themselves by looking that far into the future.

"We will be taking it one dual at a time," said Bjerga. "Chatfield is very tough, hopefully we will have an opportunity to wrestle them."

Team results

Section 7A tournament
Staples-Motley 76, Crosby-Ironton 0

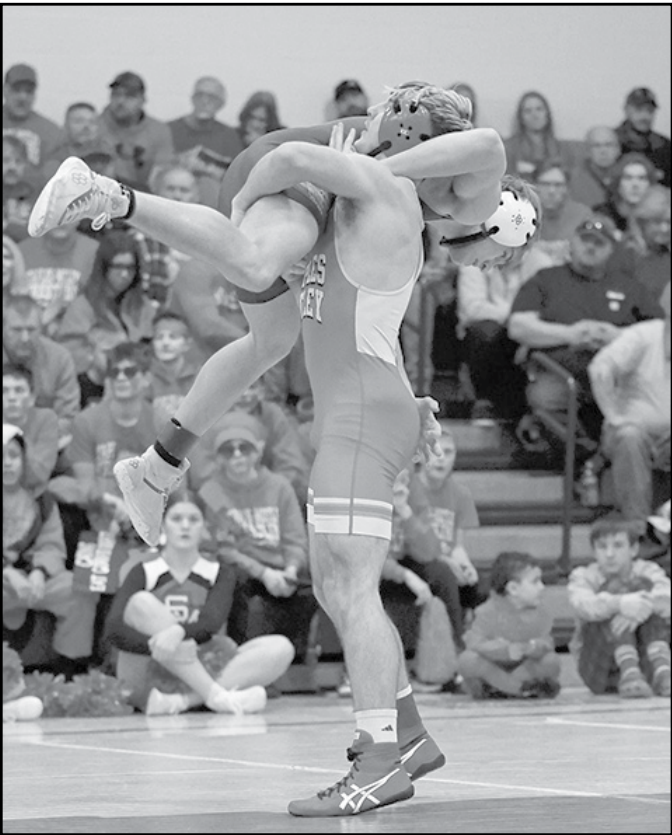
107 Garrett Bjerga W fall, 114 Caden Kramer W fall, 121 Gage Bjerga W 15-0, 127 Cayden Neisen W fall, 133 Eli Greenwaldt W ff, 139 Turner Beachy W ff, 145 Jack Carlson W ff, 152 Riley Reese W ff, 160 Colbe Tappe W fall, 172 Dustin Converse W 15-0, 189 Reece Headley W fall, 215 Adrian Gomez W fall, 285 Steven Petrich W ff

SM 54, Royalton-Upsala 18

107 Gt. Bjerga W fall, 114 Kramer W fall, 121 Gg. Bjerga W fall, 127 Neisen W fall, 133 Greenwaldt W ff, 139 Beachy W ff, 145 Beau Carlson W fall, 152 Reese L 10-0, 160 Tappe W fall, 172 Zachary Tabatt L 10-1, 189 Headley L fall, 215 Gomez W fall, 285 Petrich L 11-2

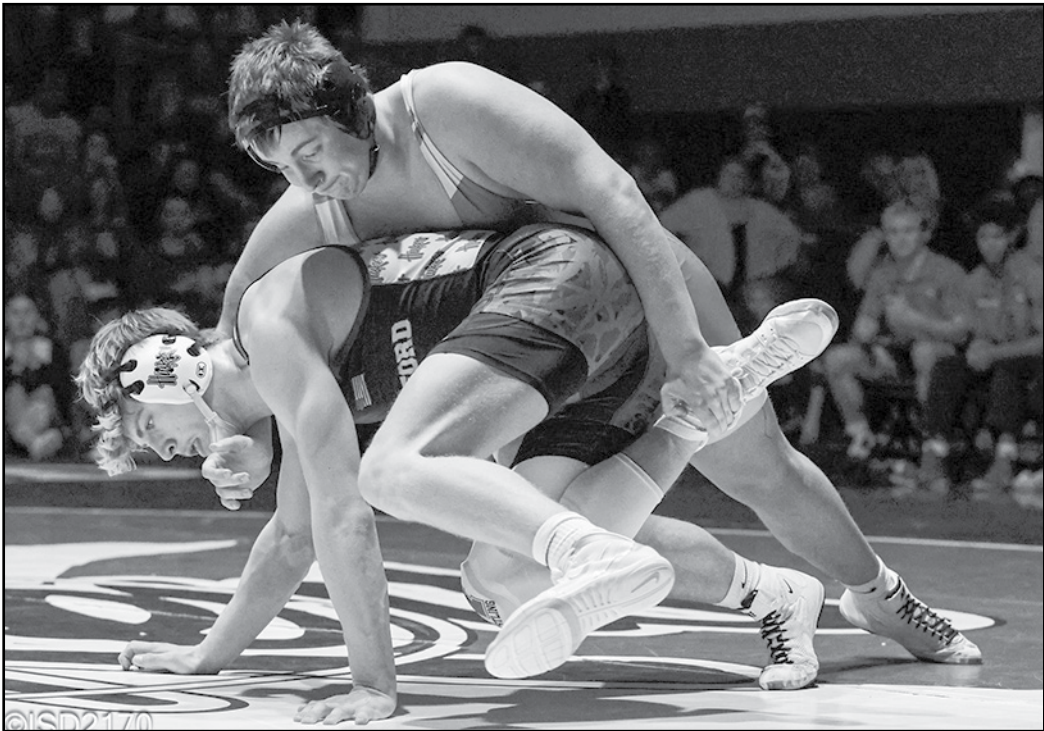
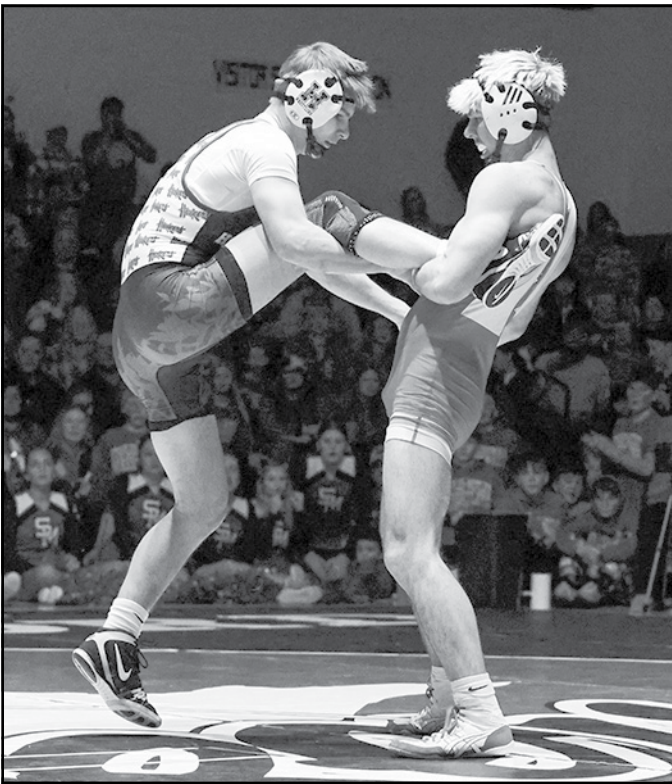
Staples-Motley 30, Holdingford 28

107 Gt. Bjerga W tf 17-2, 114 Kramer W fall, 121 Gg. Bjerga W tf 17-2, 127 Neisen W 8-4, 133 Greenwaldt L 11-9, 139 Beachy W tf 16-1, 145 B. Carlson L 15-0, 152 Reese L 12-2, 160 Tappe W fall, 172 Converse L tf 19-4, 189 L. Bjerga L 11-3, 215 Gomez L 3-2, 285 Petrich L tf 15-0 (Holdingford score reduced one point for misconduct)



Standing tall

Colbe Tappe, above, and Riley Reese, below, stood tall in the section team tournament, Tappe with three pins and Reese with two decisions against two of the best wrestlers in the state. (Photos by Staples-Motley School District)



Sticking with the plan

Steven Petrich, top, kept his concentration during the final match of the team section tournament. Although he lost, he

avoided a pin and allowed the team to go to state. (Photo by Staples-Motley School District)



Section 7A wrestling champions

The Staples-Motley wrestlers posed for a photo after punching their ticket to the state tournament with a 30-28 win against Holdingford. Front row from left, Cooper Tappe, Caden Kramer, Cayden Neisen, Colbe Tappe, Eli Greenwaldt, Jack Carlson, Garrett Bjerga, Luke Bjer-

ga and Justin Olson; back row, Dustin Converse, Zachary Tabatt, Steven Petrich, Adrian Gomez, Turner Beachy, Gage Bjerga, Reece Headley, Riley Reese, Beau Carlson, Seth Cossentine and Jackson Schouville. (Photo by Staples-Motley School District)



Coach congrats

Coach Jim Jackson celebrates with Luke Bjerga after the Cardinals secured their section championship. (Photo by Staples-Motley School District)



NOTICE OF MORTGAGE FORCLOSURE SALE

THE RIGHT TO VERIFICATION OF THE DEBT AND IDENTITY OF THE ORIGINAL CREDITOR WITHIN THE TIME PROVIDED BY LAW IS NOT AFFECTED BY THIS ACTION.

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

DATE OF MORTGAGE: January 6, 2006

ORIGINAL PRINCIPAL AMOUNT OF MORTGAGE: \$195,000.00

MORTGAGOR(S): Kevin J. Bednar, and Penny K. Bednar, husband and wife as joint tenants

MORTGAGEE: Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc., as nominee for MILA, Inc.

DATE AND PLACE OF FILING: Recorded on August 9, 2006 as Document Number 443619 in the Office of the County Recorder of Todd County, Minnesota.

ASSIGNMENTS OF MORTGAGE: Assigned to: U.S. Bank National Association, as Trustee for the Specialty Underwriting and Residential Finance Trust Mortgage Loan Asset-Backed Certificates Series 2006-BC2 by assignment recorded on January 6, 2010 as Document Number 466298 in the Office of the County Recorder of Todd County, Minnesota; thereafter assigned to Bank of America, N.A. by assignment recorded on September 5, 2023 as Document Number A537950 in the Office of the County Recorder of Todd County, Minnesota; thereafter assigned to Nationstar Mortgage, LLC by assignment recorded on November 12, 2013 as Document Number 487120 in the Office of the County Recorder of Todd County, Minnesota; thereafter assigned to U.S. Bank, National Association, as Trustee for the Holders of the Specialty Underwriting and Residential Finance Trust, Mortgage Loan Asset-Backed Certificates, Series 2006-BC2 by assignment recorded on October 29, 2014 as Document Number A491803 in the Of-

fice of the County Recorder of Todd County, Minnesota. LEGAL DESCRIPTION OF PROPERTY: The North 436.14 Feet to the South 1183.43 Feet of the West 547 Feet thereof of the Southwest Quarter of the Southwest Quarter of Section 17, Township 133, Range 33 West of the Fifth Principal Meridian, Todd County, Minnesota.

STREET ADDRESS OF PROPERTY: 48218 COUNTY 9, STAPLES, MN 56479

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

THE AMOUNT CLAIMED TO BE DUE ON THE MORTGAGE ON THE DATE OF THE NOTICE: \$267,245.95

TRANSACTION AGENT: Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc.

NAME OF MORTGAGE ORIGINATOR: MILA, Inc.

RESIDENTIAL SERVICER: Nationstar Mortgage LLC

TAX PARCEL IDENTIFICATION NUMBER: 22-0017500

TRANSACTION AGENT'S MORTGAGE IDENTIFICATION NUMBER: 1001752-0000289060-9

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

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

DATE AND TIME OF SALE: March 13, 2025 at 10:00 AM.

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

to pay the debt then secured by said mortgage and taxes, if any actually paid by the mortgagee, on the premises and the costs and disbursements allowed by law. The time allowed by law for redemption by said mortgagor(s), their person-

al representatives or assigns is six (6) months from the date of sale.

TIME AND DATE TO VACATE PROPERTY: Unless said mortgage is reinstated or the property redeemed, or unless the time for redemption is reduced by judicial order, you must vacate the premises by 11:59 p.m. on September 15, 2025.

THE TIME ALLOWED BY LAW FOR REDEMPTION BY THE MORTGAGOR, THE MORTGAGOR'S PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVES OR ASSIGNS, MAY BE REDUCED TO FIVE WEEKS IF A JUDICIAL ORDER IS ENTERED UNDER MINNESOTA STATUTES, SECTION 582.032, DETERMINING, AMONG OTHER THINGS, THAT THE MORTGAGED PREMISES ARE IMPROVED WITH A RESIDENTIAL DWELLING OF LESS THAN FIVE UNITS, ARE NOT PROPERLY USED IN AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTION, AND ARE ABANDONED.

MORTGAGOR(S) RELEASED FROM FINANCIAL OBLIGATION ON MORTGAGE: None

Dated: January 10, 2025

U.S. BANK, NATIONAL ASSOCIATION, AS TRUSTEE FOR THE HOLDERS OF THE SPECIALTY UNDERWRITING AND RESIDENTIAL FINANCE TRUST, MORTGAGE LOAN ASSET-BACKED CERTIFICATES, SERIES 2006-BC2 Mortgagee

TROTT LAW, P.C.

By: _____/s/ _____
N. Kibongni Fondungallah, Esq.
Samuel R. Coleman, Esq.
Sung Woo Hong, Esq.
Alexa Marsh, Esq.
Attorneys for Mortgagee
25 Dale Street North
St. Paul, MN 55102
(651) 209-9760
(24-0766-FC02)

THIS IS A COMMUNICATION FROM A DEBT COLLECTOR.
4-9pnc

NOTICE MAY TOWNSHIP BOARD MEETING

YOU ARE HEREBY NOTIFIED, and advised that the township board of May Township in Cass County, Minnesota, will meet at the town hall in said township on the 17th day of March, 2025 at 7:00 p.m. to consider and determine, among other things, the adoption of the following resolution:

WHEREAS, May Township in Cass County, MN contains a number of township roads, and

WHEREAS, nearly all of the township roads have been established by use and/or prescription or by dedication and there may or may not be record of such roads recorded in the office of the County Recorder of Cass County, MN, and

WHEREAS, the township board of supervisors has determined it to be in the best interest of the township, the public and all parties concerned to determine and record the center line location of Red River Trail, a duly established town road, and

WHEREAS, the town board has caused to be prepared, and a road map indicating the location of said town road contained in the township, and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that easements for township roads and road rights-of-ways which will be presented to the aforesaid meeting are hereby determined to be the duly established center lines of the 66 foot road in said township and the center lines of the duly established 33 foot cartways and roads in said township, all as shown on attached survey; that in the event the physical location of a town road differs from the legal description of that road as contained herein, the legal description shall govern unless otherwise noted.

FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED, the township map is on file with the township clerk and may be inspected and examined at reasonable times by calling the Clerk of the Township whose name is Bianca Wyffels.

YOU ARE FURTHER ADVISED, that you may at-

tend the meeting as scheduled above and state your position with reference to the township adopting the proposed resolution

Dated: January 22, 2025

Bianca Wyffels, Clerk
May Township
9pnc&12pnc

NOTICE STAPLES TOWNSHIP ELECTION AND ANNUAL MEETING

The Staples Township Election and Annual Meeting will be held Tuesday, March 11, 2025 at the Staples Town Hall located at 25750 490th St., Staples, MN.

The Polling Hours are 4:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. Positions to be filled are:

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

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

In case of inclement weather, the Election and Annual Meeting will be held one week later on Tuesday, March 18, 2025.

Bonnie Thoele, Clerk
Staples Township
9-10pnc

NOTICE THOMASTOWN TOWNSHIP ELECTION AND ANNUAL MEETING

Polls will be open from 5:00 to 8:00 p.m. at the Thomastown Town Hall on Tuesday, March 11, 2025 for the township election of one supervisor position, one treasurer position and one clerk position.

The annual meeting of the township will be held following the canvassing of the election at 8:10 p.m.

If there is inclement weather on March 11, the election and annual meeting will be postponed to March 18, 2025 at the same times.

If you would like to vote by absentee ballot, contact Sue Walsvik at 218-639-8465.

Sue Walsvik, Clerk
Thomastown Township
8-9pnc

(ABBREVIATED ADVERTISEMENT)

TODD COUNTY 2025 GRAVEL SURFACING PROJECT
Closing date: March 11, 2025

Sealed bids will be accepted until 10:00 A.M., March 11th, 2025 by the Todd County Public Works Director/Engineer and County Auditor/Treasurer at 44 Riverside Drive, Long Prairie, Minnesota 56347 for the following construction projects:

CP 25:71
CP 25:85
CP 25:86

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

Loren Fellbaum
Todd County Public Works Director/Engineer
8-10pnc

(ABBREVIATED ADVERTISEMENT)

TODD COUNTY 2025 PAVEMENT MARKING PROJECT
Closing date: March 11, 2025

Sealed bids will be accepted until 10:00 A.M., March 11th, 2025 by the Todd County Public Works Director/Engineer at 44 Riverside Drive, Long Prairie, Minnesota 56347 for the following construction project:

C.P. 77-25-03
Pavement Marking Application
Various County Highways (183.29 miles)

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

Loren Fellbaum
Todd County Public Works Director/Engineer
8-10pnc

Todd County Commissioners Minutes

MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL BOARD MEETING OF THE TODD COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS HELD ON JAN. 3, 2025

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 3rd day of January, 2025 at 9:00 a.m. The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Becker. The meeting was opened with the Pledge of Allegiance. All Commissioners were present except Commissioner Byers.

Agenda

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

Union Negotiations
Summary of proposals and discussion was held with the LELS beginning at 9:00 a.m.

On motion by Denny and second by Noska, the following motion was introduced and adopted by unanimous vote: To enter into closed session pursuant to Minnesota Statute 13D.03 at 9:57 a.m.

Chair Becker reopened the session to reconvene with LELS for further discussion.

LELS unit provided a status update to the County Board to continue this conversation at the next planned meeting.

Summary of proposals and discussion was held with the Teamsters Courthouse unit.

On motion by Noska and second by Neumann, the following motion was introduced and adopted by unanimous vote: To enter into closed session pursuant to Minnesota Statute 13D.03 at 11:30 a.m.

On motion by Noska and second by Neumann, the following motion was introduced and adopted by unanimous vote: To reopen the session at 12:32 p.m.

Teamsters Courthouse provided a status update to the County Board to continue this conversation at the next planned meeting.

Summary of proposals and discussion was held with the AFSCME 65 – Public Works unit beginning at 12:35 p.m.

Chair Becker closed the meeting for AFSCME 65 to meet in caucus at 1:02 p.m.

Chair Becker reopened the meeting at 2:05 p.m. to acknowledge AFSCME 65 had no update to provide.

Summary of proposals and discussion was held with the AFSCME 65 - HHS unit beginning at 2:06 p.m. AFSCME 65 - HHS Unit provided a status update to the County Board to continue this conversation at the next planned meeting.

Adjourn
On motion by Neumann and second by Denny, the meeting was ad-

jourled at 2:58 p.m.

On a motion by Becker and second by Denny, the preceding minutes of the Special County Board meeting held January 3, 2025 were duly approved by unanimous vote at the Todd County Board of Commissioners at the Regular Board Meeting held on January 21, 2025.

Witness my hand and seal:
/s/ on file
Bob Byers, County Board Chairperson
/s/ on file
Denise Gaida, Todd County Auditor-Treasurer
7pnc

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE TODD COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS HELD ON JAN. 7, 2025

Call to Order
The Todd County Board of CommisThe Todd County Board of Commissioners met in the Commissioner's Board Room in the City of Long Prairie, MN on the 7th day of January, 2025 at 9:00 a.m. The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Becker. The meeting was opened with the Pledge of Allegiance. All Commissioners were present.

Oaths of Office
An Oath of Office was completed for the following candidates to begin their new term of service to the citizens of Todd County:

Barbara Becker, Todd County Commissioner District 1
Bob Byers, Todd County Commissioner District 3

Randy Neumann, Todd County Commissioner District 5

Approval of Agenda

On motion by Noska and second by Denny, the following motion was introduced and adopted by unanimous vote: To adopt the agenda as presented with the addition of item 8.8 for a Transportation Grant Opportunity.

Board Organization

On nomination by Neumann and second by Denny with no other nominations, the following was introduced and adopted by unanimous vote: To appoint Commissioner Byers as the Chairperson of the Todd County Board of Commissioners for 2025 proceedings.

On nomination by Becker and second by Neumann with no other nominations, the following was introduced and adopted by unanimous vote: To appoint Commissioner Denny as the Vice-Chairperson of the Todd County Board of Commissioners for 2025 proceedings.

Consent Agenda

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

To approve the Todd County Board of Commissioner's Meeting

Minutes of December 30, 2024 as presented.

To hire Ashlynn Leskey to fill the open Social Worker position. Grade 10 Step 1, \$28.06/hr. Start date: TBD
To hire Christine Lorentzen to fill the open Social Worker position. Grade 10 Step 1, \$28.06 /hr. Start date: TBD

Todd Wadena Community Corrections

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

RESOLUTION APPOINTING MEMBERSHIP
TODD WADENA COMMUNITY CORRECTIONS 2025

This is a resolution appointing membership to the Todd-Wadena Community Corrections Executive Committee and Advisory Board.

WHEREAS, in accordance with MN Statutes Chapter 401, in 1976 Todd and Wadena Counties entered into a joint powers agreement and established Todd-Wadena Community Corrections, and

WHEREAS, Memberships of the Todd-Wadena Community Corrections Executive Committee and Advisory Board need to be appointed by the Boards of Commissioners in Todd and Wadena Counties, and

THEREFORE, IT IS RESOLVED that the members of the Todd-Wadena Community Corrections Executive Committee are appointed as follows:

1. Barbara Becker, Todd County Commissioner
 2. Lew Noska, Todd County Commissioner
 3. _____, Wadena County Commissioner
 4. _____, Wadena County Commissioner
 5. Kyra Ladd, Wadena County Attorney
 6. Jane Gustafson, Assistant Todd County Attorney
- BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the members of the Todd-Wadena Community Corrections Advisory Board are appointed as follows:
1. Barbara Becker, Todd County Commissioner
 2. Lew Noska, Todd County Commissioner
 3. _____, Wadena County Commissioner
 4. _____, Wadena County Commissioner
 5. Jessen Alexander, Wadena County Public Defender
 6. Mike Allen, Todd County Sheriff
 7. Donald Asmus, Todd County Citizen Member
 8. Honorable Daniel A. Benson, District Court Judge
 9. Melissa Birkholtz, Police Chief
 10. Michael D. Carr, Wadena County Sheriff
 11. Honorable Douglas Clark, District Court Judge
 12. Johanna Bolter, Victims Services Representative

13. Jane Gustafson, Assistant Todd County Attorney

14. Kyra Ladd, Wadena County Attorney

15. Katherine Langer, Todd-Wadena Community Corrections Director

16. Jim Miller, Career Corrections Agent

17. Sheldon Monson, Wadena County Citizen Member

18. Sarah Ness, Wadena County Public Health Director

19. Jackie Och, Todd County Health and Human Services Director

20. Jason Sellnow, Todd County Public Defender

21. Josiah Tonder, Todd County Citizen Member

22. Sarah Urbach, Todd-Wadena Community Corrections Supervisor

23. Lane Waldahl, Wadena County Citizen Member

Auditor-Treasurer

On motion by Becker and second by Neumann, the following motion was introduced and adopted by unanimous rollcall vote: To approve the December 2024 Auditor Warrants number (ACH) 904651 through 904718 in the amount of \$1,653,507.77 (Manual) 1024 through 1033 in the amount of \$65,008.17 and (Regular) 243651 through 243817 in the amount of \$2,129,571.43 for a total of \$3,848,087.37.

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

A RESOLUTION DESIGNATING OFFICIAL NEWSPAPER FOR 2025

WHEREAS, Minnesota Statutes Chapter 375.12 requires the annual letting of bids for publication of official proceedings of the County Board and similar statutes require the publication of delinquent tax lists, County Financial Statements, and local transportation project bid advertisements, and:

WHEREAS, pursuant to advertisement bids were opened to be designated for those parties interested in being named as the official newspaper for Todd County on January 7, 2025.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Todd County Board of Commissioners accept the bid from the Long Prairie Leader, with a bid of \$18.00 per column inch to be the Official Newspaper for the year 2025 and:

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Todd County website (www.co.todd.mn.us) be also designated as an official publication for all statutory requirements.

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

A RESOLUTION DESIGNATING EXTRA PUBLICATION NEWSPAPER FOR 2025

WHEREAS, Minnesota Statutes Chapter 375.12 requires the annual

letting of bids for publication of official proceedings of the County Board and similar statutes require the publication of delinquent tax lists, County Financial Statements, and local transportation project bid advertisements, and:

WHEREAS, pursuant to advertisement bids were opened to be designated for those parties interested in being named as the extra publication newspaper for Todd County on January 7, 2025.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Todd County Board of Commissioners accept the bid from the Long Prairie Leader with a bid of \$13.00 per column inch to be the Extra Publication Newspaper for the year 2025.

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

A RESOLUTION ESTABLISHING THE 2025 TODD COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS BOARD PROTOCOL

(Copy of full resolution language available in the Auditor-Treasurer's Office for public inspection.)

On motion by Denny and second by Noska, the following motion was introduced and adopted by unanimous vote: To approve to continue to hold the Todd County Board of Commissioner's Meetings on the first and third Tuesday of every month at 9:00 a.m. in the Todd County Historic Courthouse and Worksession designated by the Board Chairperson or three members of the County Board as deemed necessary. The County Board also approves that the year-end board meeting be scheduled for December 30, 2025.

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

A RESOLUTION ESTABLISHING THE COMMISSIONER'S COMMITTEE ASSIGNMENTS FOR 2025

WHEREAS, The County Commissioners have wide ranging and diverse responsibilities, and:

WHEREAS, it is necessary for Commissioners to be assigned to Committees for the purposes of advocating for the County, and to effectively complete the work of the County.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the attached Committee Roster (Attachment 1) is hereby adopted as the County Commissioners' Committee Assignments for 2025 and will remain on file in the Auditor-Treasurer's Office.

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

DESIGNATION OF DEPOSITORIES, INVESTMENTS & ELECTRONIC FUNDS TRANSFERS

WHEREAS, Minnesota Statute §118A.02, subdivision 1 (a) states "The governing body of each government entity shall designate, as a depository of its funds, one or more financial institutions." and:

WHEREAS, in accordance with Minnesota Statute §118A.01 through §118A.08, the County Board of Commissioners has the official role to authorize the County Auditor/Treasurer to select depositories & make investments of funds under Minnesota Statute §118A.01 to 118A.08 or other applicable law for and on behalf of the County of Todd and:

WHEREAS, in accordance to Minnesota Statute § 385.07, the County Board of Commissioners has the official role to authorize the County Auditor/Treasurer the use electronic funds transfers where deemed appropriate, expeditious and in the best interest of the County of Todd.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Todd County Board of Commissioners authorize the Todd County Auditor/Treasurer to select depositories & make investments in accordance to Minnesota Statute §118A.01 through § 118A.08 where the following financial institutions are currently in place:

- American Heritage National Bank
- CETERA Investments managed through American Heritage National Bank
- Minnesota National Bank
- Gold Sweep Investments managed through Minnesota National Bank
- Moreton Capital Markets, LLC
- US Bank
- MAGIC Fund
- Unity Bank

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Todd County Board of Commissioners authorize the Todd County Auditor/Treasurer the use of electronic funds transfers where deemed appropriate, expeditious and in the best interest of Todd County.

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

A RESOLUTION ESTABLISHING TODD COUNTY'S SUPPORT FOR SEEKING FUNDING FROM MINNESOTA STATE ACTIVE TRANSPORTATION (AT) INFRASTRUCTURE PROGRAM

WHEREAS, up to \$12.502 million in Active Transportation funding is available, with a minimum of \$50,000 and cap of \$1,000,000 for each project, and:

WHEREAS, Acknowledgement that AT funds can be used to reimburse construction costs on AT eligible items, and that construction costs above the AT infrastructure grant amount will need to have alternate funding sources, and:

WHEREAS, the project will enhance safety for pedestrians and cyclists by installing lighting, con-

See **TCC** on page 10a

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Public Notices

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TCC continued from page 8a

structing a sidewalk along the parking lot, and creating a safe crosswalk leading to the county offices. Additionally, a new hillside sidewalk will ensure visitors and employees no longer need to walk in the roadway. These improvements will also benefit children attending Long Prairie Elementary School and neighborhood residents, who frequently use the sidewalk and crosswalk. The project components are outlined and supported by the 2018 Long Prairie Safe Routes to School Plan, and;

WHEREAS, the project will benefit a wide range of stakeholders, including visitors accessing county services, county employees utilizing the parking lot with over 60 vehicle spaces, and children traveling to and from Long Prairie Elementary School via the sidewalk and crosswalk. Additionally, neighborhood residents will enjoy improved infrastructure for walking and biking, enhancing safety and accessibility throughout the area. By serving these diverse groups, the project fosters a safer, more connected community for all users, and;

WHEREAS, the estimated construction cost for the project is \$237,045.90, with construction planned for 2025. Funding is being requested in the amount of \$56,168.00 to cover 50 percent (%) of mobilization costs (\$25,000.00), lighting expenses (\$16,654.25), and sidewalk construction costs (\$14,514.00). The remaining project funding will be sourced from the Todd County Facilities Capital Improvement Fund.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Todd County Board of Commissioners does hereby support Todd County seeking grant funding from the Minnesota State Active Transportation (AT) Infrastructure Program for the construction of a parking lot with adjacent sidewalk, crosswalk and paved hillside walkway at the intersection of 2nd Street South and 2nd Avenue South located in Long Prairie, MN and agrees to maintain such improvements; the Todd County Board of Commissioners supports submittal of the AT infrastructure application; and the Todd County Board of Commissioners assures that the county will pay all costs associated with the project beyond the AT infrastructure grant amount schedule.

Facilities Department

On motion by Neumann and second by Becker, the following motion was introduced and adopted by unanimous vote: To make the Facilities Manager the Point Person of the Battle Point Park with the attached list of parameters.

County Auditor-Treasurer's Report

The County Auditor-Treasurer reported that year end reporting is busy along with audit preparations.

County Attorney's Report

The County Attorney had nothing to report.

County Coordinator's Report

The County Coordinator extended thanks to Commissioner Becker and Commissioner Neumann for their service during the 2024 year.

County Commissioner's Report

The Commissioners reported on meetings and events attended.

Commissioner Becker extended thanks to the County staff and County Board for their service in 2024.

Commissioner Neumann attended

the union negotiations and extended thanks to the board for their service in 2024.

Commissioner Noska attended usual meetings and looking forward to the New Year.

Commissioner Byers was unable to attend recent meetings due to illness.

Commissioner Denny has attended meetings as usual and union negotiations.

Recess

On motion by Denny and second by Noska, the meeting was recessed until January 21, 2025.

AUDITOR WARRANTS

VENDOR NAME	\$ AMOUNT
BOULDER CREEK, INC.	\$99,365.25
CARGILL SALT	
DIVISION	21,459.36
CITY OF BROWERVILLE	100,717.96
CITY OF LONG PRAIRIE	307,931.39
COLBY/JACOB	3,284.06
LONG PRAIRIE OIL COMPANY	4,733.95
MIDWEST MACHINERY CO	182,446.51
REDSTONE CONSTRUCTION	274,446.31
STANTEC CONSULTING SERVICES INC.	8,671.00
VERIZON	6,298.79
WIDSETH SMITH NOLTING INC.	3,025.00
29 PAYMENTS LESS THAN \$2,000	16,909.05
CARD SERVICES COBORNS	3,326.17
CENTRA CARE	12,109.12
CLIFTON LARSONALLEN, LLP	2,152.50
EBSO INC	308,200.49
FLEET SERVICES/ WEX BANK	6,821.27
HEALTH PARTNERS DENTAL	7,952.20
HY-TEC CONSTRUCTION	838,375.00
LONG PRAIRIE SANITATION INC.	6,396.76
MORRIS ELECTRONICS INC	2,444.75
PETERS LAW OFFICE, P.A.	6,886.00
POPE DOUGLAS SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT	2,274.75
PRAIRIE LAKES MUNICIPAL SOLID WASTE AUTH.	90,689.03
STANTEC CONSULTING SERVICES INC.	10,042.80
STAPLES ADVANTAGE	3,323.44
STEP	9,981.13
SYTEK	5,000.00
TANGEN/NEIL R.	3,079.00
TODD CO AUD-TREAS.	8,690.77
200 PAYMENTS LESS THAN \$2,000	10,397.28
ARC ELECTRIC SERVICE	4,891.12
BOYER FORD TRUCKS INC	157,246.32
CHRISTENSEN/ ROBERT AND MCKENZIE	4,691.25
COUNTIES PROVIDING TECHNOLOGY	7,041.00
EGAN/THOMAS AND KIMBERLY	7,537.50
FARM-RITE EQUIPMENT, INC.	3,126.28
GALLAGHER BENEFIT SERVICES INC.	2,000.00
GIESKE/GABRIEL AND BARBARA	4,000.00
GOVERNMENT MANAGEMENT GROUP	5,500.00

HOLLERMANN FAMILY DAIRY 10,989.28

KRAEMER/KEN 3,126.38

MADDEN GALANTER HANSEN, LLP 2,769.45

METRO SALES INC. 3,852.70

MINNESOTA POWER 15,249.04

MN DEPT OF FINANCE 5,613.00

MORRISON COUNTY 30,662.94

NORTHERN STAR COOP 2,009.67

REGENTS OF THE UNIV OF MN 36,865.44

SHIRLEY'S GAS & GROCERIES INC 3,269.74

THE TRADESMEN CONSTRUCTION INC 45,229.39

USPS-POC 14,750.00

WIDSETH SMITH NOLTING INC 17,101.85

54 PAYMENTS LESS THAN \$2,000 27,345.95

CENTERPOINT ENERGY 3,786.10

CITY OF BROWERVILLE 593,607.50

DIAMOND BUICK GMC 3,061.87

GOERTZ/STEVEN and TAMMY 23,600.00

GOLDEN SHOVEL AGENCY 6,460.00

MINNESOTA POWER 4,817.07

MOTOROLA 16,000.00

STOECKEL JAHNER INC 8,450.00

TODD CO PLANNING & ZONING 20,038.75

TODD CO PUBLIC WORKS 15,300.00

ULINE 7,317.36

30 PAYMENTS LESS THAN \$2,000 15,576.50

AMAZON CAPITAL SERVICES 2,891.12

CARDMEMBER SERVICE 4,434.99

CLIFTON LARSONALLEN, LLP 8,935.50

COMMISSIONER OF TRANSPORTATION 9,451.44

DOUGLAS SWCD 20,880.85

LONG PRAIRIE LEADER 23,188.50

LONG PRAIRIE OIL COMPANY 19,840.27

MOTOROLA 7,105.71

TODD CO AGRICULTURAL SOC. 9,640.08

TODD SOIL & WATER CONS DIST 161,570.62

30 PAYMENTS LESS THAN \$2,000 14,825.58

MN DEPT OF REVENUE 2,309.00

MN DEPT OF REVENUE 48,137.48

US BANK -CC 5,301.90

CARDMEMBER SERVICES 6,216.84

7 PAYMENTS LESS THAN \$2,000 3,042.95

TOTAL: \$3,848,087.37

On a motion by Becker and second by Denny, the preceding minutes of the County Board meeting held January 7, 2025 were duly approved by unanimous vote at the Todd County Board of Commissioners at the Regular Board Meeting held on January 21, 2025.

Witness my hand and seal:
/s/ on file
Bob Byers, County Board Chairperson
/s/ on file
Denise Gaida, Todd County Auditor-Treasurer

9pnc



King Grant and Queen Arabella

Grant Bestland and Arabella Moore were crowned the 2025 Staples-Motley High School's Snodaze King and Queen Feb. 12. The coronation was held at Centennial Auditorium in Staples. (Staples World photo by Dawn Timbs)



The crowning moment

Staples-Motley High School's reigning Homecoming King and Queen crowned this year's Snodaze King and Queen. Above, Abby Tyrrell (hidden in back) crowned Grant Bestland (far right) Snodaze King. The other candidates, from left, are Josiah Critten, Benet Robinson, Dustin Converse and Jacob Becker. Below, Ben Tyrrell places the crown on the 2025 Snodaze Queen Arabella Moore. The other queen candidates, from left, are Sophie Albie, Ellie Lange, Naila Mikhaeil, and Heidi Zimmerman. (Staples World photos by Dawn Timbs)



STATE OF MINNESOTA COUNTY OF TODD SEVENTH JUDICIAL DISTRICT DISTRICT COURT PROBATE DIVISION Court File No. 77-PR-25-98

Estate of Larry Roland Starry, Decedent

NOTICE AND ORDER FOR HEARING ON PETITION FOR DESCENT OF PROPERTY

A Petition for Determination of Descent has been filed with this Court. The Petition represents that the Decedent died more than three years ago, leaving property in Minnesota and requests the probate of Decedent's last Will dated N/A, if any, and the descent of such property be deter-

mined and assigned by this Court to the persons entitled to the property.

Any objections to the Petition must be filed with the Court prior to or raised at the hearing. If proper, and no objections are filed or raised, the Petition may be granted.

IT IS ORDERED and Notice is further given, that the Petition will be heard on March 10, 2025, at 10:14 a.m. by this Court at Todd County District Court, Long Praire, Minnesota. **This is a non-appearance hearing and no appearance will be required.**

1. Notice shall be given to all interested persons (MINN. STAT. § 524.1-401) and persons who have filed a demand for notice pursuant to Minnesota Statutes Section 524.3-204.

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

and by:

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

BY THE COURT

Dated: February 2, 2025

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

Attorney for Petitioner
Name: David T. Johnson
Firm: Amundson, Johnson & Schrader, P.A.
Street: 217 West James Street; P. O. Box 241
City, State, ZIP: Paynesville, MN 56362
Attorney License No: 291055
Telephone: (320) 243-3878
FAX: (320) 243-4956
Email: DavidJ@amundsonlaw.com

8-9pnc



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YAHUAH'S FESTIVALS

SCRIPTURE OBEDIENT PEOPLE are invited to almighty Yahuah's 3 annual sacred festivals: Passover, April 12-18; Shabuoth, June 1st; Tabernacles, October 7-14. Prov-erbs 6:23 Ministry 218/533-6029

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They've got rhythm

Staples-Motley seniors, including Steven Petrich at far right, gave it their all at the Snodaze lip sync contest at Centennial Auditorium Feb. 12. (Staples World photo by Dawn Timbs)



Drive and dish

Avandre Brandt, right, hangs in the air before he passes to Josiah Burton crashing down the lane, left. (Staples World photo by Mark Anderson)

Boys brush off losses to beat conference leader

The Staples-Motley boys basketball team lost a game in overtime, 77-72 against Pillager on Feb. 10, lost 63-52 against Crosby-Ironton on Feb. 11, then came back strong with a 62--59 win against conference leader Dilworth-Glyndon Felton on Feb. 14.

Against Pillager, the Cardinals had a nine point lead with four minutes to go, but foul trouble and turnovers allowed Pillager to tie the game at 68 and send it to overtime.

Avandre Brandt got the ball rolling in overtime with two drives for scores, but the team didn't get much the rest of the way and fell by five.

Against Crosby-Ironton, he Cardinals had the game tied at 31 at halftime, but only made one out of seven free throws in the second half as their opponents continued scoring.

Everything turned around against DGF, the Heart O' Lakes Conference leaders who only had two conference losses coming in.

Noah Larson was hot in the first half with two 3-pointers and two more baskets. Eli Rutten and Avandre Brandt took over in the second half, Rutten scoring 10 of his game high 18 points and Brandt also scoring 10, including four of four free throws.

Team results
Staples-Motley 72, Pillager 77
Scoring: Eli Rutten 29, Avandre Brandt 22, Noah Larson 12, Conner Kuhns 4, Ryan Neelan 3, Josiah Burton 2
Staples-Motley 54, Crosby-Ironton 63
Scoring: Brandt 21, Burton 14, Rutten 9, Larson 8, Neelan 2
Staples-Motley 62, Dilworth-Glyndon-Felton 59
Scoring: Rutten 18, Larson 14, Brandt 12, Kuhns 12, Eli Blue 4, Burton 2



Girls basketball action

Above, Livi Lorber comes up with the ball after a scramble for a rebound against Pillager. Right, Sophia Luna and Miranda Schotzko take shots. The Cardinals played well in three losses last week, 71-57 against Pillager on Feb. 10, 62-32 at Perham on Feb. 11, and 78-26 against Dilworth-Glyndon-Felton on Feb. 14. (Staples World photos by Mark Anderson)



Caden Kramer



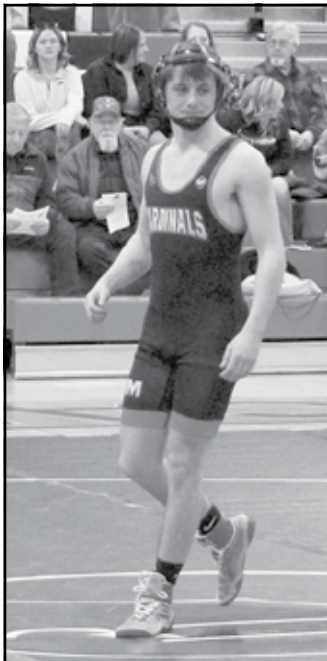
Staples-Motley cheerleaders perform a dance during the basketball game Feb. 10. (Staples World photo by Mark Anderson)



Staples-Motley cheerleaders led the crowd at the section wrestling match.



Staples-Motley wrestling coaches survive a tense moment in the section tournament. From left, Dan Bjerga, Holton Truax, Eric Kramer and Mark Carlson. Head coach Jim Jackson can be peeking between Bjerga and Truax. (Photo by Staples-Motley School District)



Carlson taking the mat one more time

Staples-Motley senior wrestler Jack Carlson got back on the mat during the section tournament, taking a forfeit against Crosby-Ironton. Carlson hasn't been able to wrestle this year due to medical issues, but

has been an integral part of the team and his teammates were happy to greet him coming off the mat after getting a win once again. (Staples World photos by Mark Anderson)

THE NEST continued from page 1a

The NEST offers workout opportunities in inspiring facility



Friendships formed at The NEST

LaVonne Selleck, left, of Staples poses with Lori Nienow, Activities and Community Education Office Assistant at Staples-Motley Middle/High School, headquartered at The NEST on 3rd St. NE in Staples. To date, there are close to

350 members at The NEST, which held its grand opening this past December, 2024. Nienow said she's been enjoying getting to know the members, including 93-year-old Selleck of Staples. (Staples World photo by Dawn Timbs)



Watching the pickleball game below

LaVonne Selleck, Staples, paused briefly during her mile-walk on the track at The NEST to watch high school students playing a game of pickleball. Selleck said

she enjoys hearing the banter below, as well as exchanging greetings with other walkers on occasion. (Staples World photo by Dawn Timbs)

out machines) and Walking.

Selleck said she enjoys hearing the voices of students in the gymnasium situated below The NEST. On this particular day, they're playing pickleball. She's also inspired by the sayings painted on the walls, including "Don't Count the Days, Make the Days Count" and "Pursue Excellence, Success Will Follow."

Bev Nelsen of Staples said she also enjoys the walking track at The NEST. Like Brauch, she enjoys listening to music or programs while she walks. On this particular day she's listening to Dr. Charles Stanley, a pastor, whose message was, "Every Day is a Gift."

Yes, it is, Selleck agrees, feeling better for having walked her mile at The Nest, and ready for what lies ahead. When asked, "What's next?" Selleck said she planned to go home, rest a bit, read her book, and then go volunteer at the library.

And tomorrow? She'll be back walking at The NEST and enjoying every minute of it.

For more information about The NEST, call 218-894-5400 ext. 3120, or email activities@isd2170.org



State-of-the-art fitness center

The NEST in Staples features a Community Fitness Center with a number of exercise machines including treadmills, stationary bicycles and elliptical trainers. For those who like to work out to music, a stereo system is available, and there is a TV set as well. Members also

have access to the walking track. (Staples World photo by Dawn Timbs)



Invigorating walk

Mike Brauch of Staples said he tries to walk two miles a day, every day except Sunday. He appreciates the opportunity to walk inside at The NEST when the weather is extremely cold, as it was Feb. 11. While walking, he also enjoys listening to books on tape. He's currently listening to, "We Were Soldiers Once, and Young." (Staples World photo by Dawn Timbs)

Last lap for the day

LaVonne Selleck (at left) of Staples finished up her 10th lap at the walking track at The NEST Feb. 11, equivalent of one mile. The 93-year-old tries to walk three or four times a week. Behind her on the track is Bev Nelsen of Staples, another member at The NEST. (Staples World photo by Dawn Timbs)



Walking with baby Georgia

Chloe Denning of Staples, along with her five-week-old baby Georgia, enjoyed walking the track at The NEST in Staples Feb. 11. (Staples World photo by Dawn Timbs)



STAPLES continued from page 1a

City lot sold to build house

ners to attract some of the thousands of cars that drive through the city on Highway 10 every day.

The council approved the tourism marketing agreement with LEAP, the non-profit that Discover Staples uses.

In other news, the council

- Approved sale of a city owned lot to Dale and Carla Leehy. The city received an offer on a 125 foot lot at the corner of Dakota Ave. and 2nd St. SW, for \$13,000 to build a home on the lot.
- Approved gambling

permit for Sacred Heart Catholic Church to conduct bingo on April 13.

- Read proclamation to dedicate Feb. 11 as a day of thanks and remembrance for Dr. John Gorton and his work on the city's Forestry and Beautification Board and Parks and Recreation Board.
- Learned that the city's Bright Energy Solutions program through Missouri River Energy awarded a \$40,000 rebate to the Staples-Motley School District for installing energy saving equipment on their high school construction project.

COLE continued from page 1a

Hand-made wrench works

at Lakewood requested several days notice before it could be shut off, but that would have left the mobile home park residents without water for several days.

The next day, Cole devised a plan. He went to the local hardware store to try and construct a wrench to turn the valve seven feet underground. A few hours later, the handmade wrench

did work and the plumbers were able to repair the broken valve.

"Del went above and beyond in customer service," said Grabe, "His ingenuity and resourcefulness maintained water service to many and allowed others to get their service back much sooner than had he not intervened."

Court report

The following cases were heard before Judge Doug Clark in Seventh District Court in Todd County February 11, 2025.

Trisha Nicole Bierwerth, Hastings. Driving after revocation. Sentenced. Probation-adult (unsupervised probation, 6 mo). Fine \$40. Fee \$75. Driver must carry proof of insurance when operating vehicle. Dismissed.

Pennie Kay Dubbin, Long Prairie. Theft-no consent. Sentenced. Probation-adult (unsupervised probation, 6 mo). Fine \$50. Restitution \$149. Fee \$224. Ignition interlock-lend, rent or lease motor vehicle knowing person subject to device restriction. Dismissed. Driver must carry proof of insurance when operating vehicle. Dismissed. Theft-no consent. Continued. Theft-no consent. Dismissed. Contempt of court. Dismissed.

Jesus Daniel Garcia Montanez, Long Prairie. Driving after revocation. Dismissed. Underage drinking and driving. Sentenced. Local confinement (90 days, stay 88 days for 1 yr credit for time served: 2 days) Fine \$400. Fee \$75. Liquor-consumption by persons under 21. Dismissed.

Get great service & great rates.

Daniel Douts, Agent
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Staples, MN 56479
Bus: 218-894-1717
daniel.douts.f27q@statefarm.com

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Pickleball at Staples Community Center

Pickleball games are happening every week day at the Staples community Center, with participants forming



teams in the mornings. (Staples World photos by Mark Anderson)