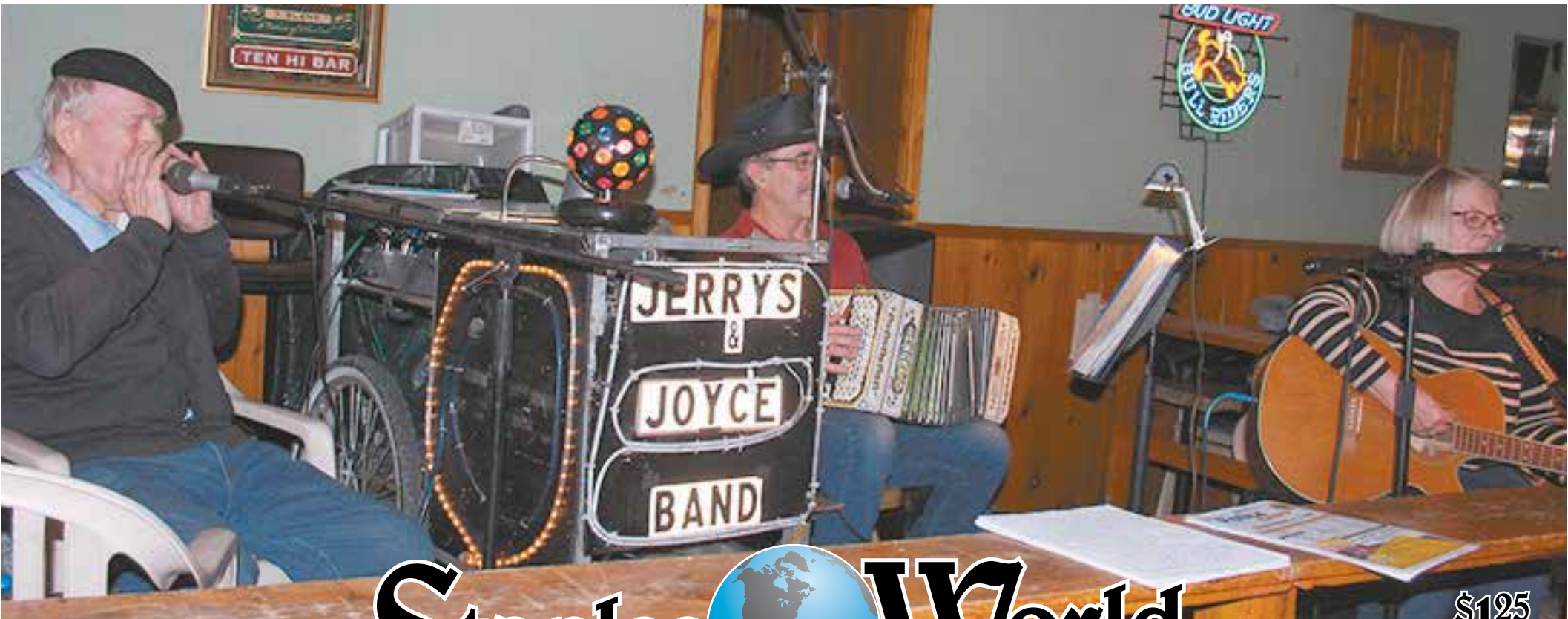


Inside this issue:

Wrestling team sends nine individuals to state  
Trails group planning improvements  
Creating an effective learning environment  
Our Voice, Our Song event March 1



**Playing old time music** The Jerry and Joyce Band provided dance music for a few hours Feb. 11, at the Ten-Hi Bar in Motley. Pictured above, from left, are Ken Hillstrom, Menahga, on harmonica; Jerry Bierchbach, Melrose, on concertina; and Joyce Maus, Pierz, on guitar. They offer a variety of old time music and keep busy playing at venues across central Minnesota, including the Ten Hi, where they're booked the second Tuesday of every month. (Staples World photo by Dawn Timbs)

Krebs back home safe after airplane crash

By Mark Anderson  
Managing Editor

Hannah Krebs is back safe at home after surviving the airplane crash in Toronto where the plane flipped upside down upon landing on Feb. 17. Krebs, formerly a Staples area resident, said she has a few bumps and bruises, and is still being monitored for possible internal damage. "It could be much worse, I made it out better than most people," she said. But surviving a plane crash takes more than a physical recovery. "I am very shaken up mentally, I am feeling some PTSD symptoms," she said. Her best therapy was getting back home to her family, her husband Jacob and two children, Mabel, 4 and Amelia, 2. The Krebs family recently moved to Burnsville, but they still have family and friends in this area.

**Plane crash** Krebs said she flies occasionally for work so she is used to the routine of air travel. This trip to Toronto did not raise any red flags, even though it was delayed a little for maintenance. The flight itself was uneventful, with little turbulence, until they were almost on the ground. "I noticed as we were getting close to the ground, there was a violent jerking action from the wind," she said. "All the windows around me were closed so I didn't see the ground coming. It touched down really hard, then felt like we bounced back up, then we were immediately tilting to the right." Krebs said she was in a left side aisle seat in the middle of the plane, near the wings. "Then the lights went out, we could see the orange

See **KREBS** on page 12a



Leaving the scene of the crash

Former Staples resident Hanah Krebs took this photo after exiting the upside down airplane in Toronto on Feb. 17. She is now back home after everyone on board survived this incident.

Old time dancing in Motley is good for the soul  
(And also keeps the cold at bay)

By Dawn Timbs  
Staples World reporter

What's a person to do when it's 20 below zero and even the family dog doesn't care to be outside? Why, put on your dancing shoes and head to the Ten-Hi bar in Motley..that is if it's the second Tuesday of the month, which it was Feb. 11, when at least a dozen dance enthusiasts braved the weather for an afternoon of dancing to the music of the Jerry and Joyce Band. "There's nothing else to do when it's this cold," said Jean Loomis of Ottertail, who was set to two-step on the wooden dance floor with her husband, Jerry. Plus, they wouldn't miss an opportunity to meet up with friends who love dancing as much as they do. The sounds of old time music filled the Ten-Hi that afternoon, drowning out any hint of the blustery wind outside. Songs like "Don't Come Cryin' to Me When it's Over," "The Green, Green Grass of Home," and familiar waltz instrumentals had folks grabbing their partners for a spin on the old dance floor, including seasoned dancers Jerry and Pat Morse of Staples. "This is a great place to dance," Jerry Morse said of the Ten-Hi, adding that the bar's owners have always gone out of their way to



Waltzing away the winter blues

Dance lovers came from across central Minnesota to the Ten-Hi Bar in Motley Feb. 11, where they waltzed and two-stepped to the music of the Jerry and Joyce Dance Band. (Staples World photo by Dawn Timbs)

make the dance group feel welcome. Morse helps organize the dance schedule and book the bands, with Jerry and Joyce being one of the favorites. Most of the people who come out to dance are senior citizens, but anyone is welcome, Morse said. He noted that that particular day they had folks in their 70s on up to 99 years old out on the dance floor. "I guess I'm one of the youngsters here," laughed

James Miller of Deer Creek, just a kid at 78. A few steps ahead of Miller on the dance floor of life was Lawrence Weinrich of Ottertail. "I'll be 100 years old on May 30, 2025,"

See **DANCING** on page 3a

Weather

2025

This Week's Forecast

|         | High | Low | Cond.     |
|---------|------|-----|-----------|
| Feb. 26 | 42   | 30  | Cloudy    |
| Feb. 27 | 43   | 34  | M. Cloudy |
| Feb. 28 | 43   | 16  | M. Cloudy |
| Mar. 1  | 27   | 14  | P. Cloudy |
| Mar. 2  | 38   | 27  | P. Cloudy |
| Mar. 3  | 49   | 29  | P. Cloudy |
| Mar. 4  | 40   | 22  | Cloudy    |

Last Year, 2024

|         | High | Low | Cond.    |
|---------|------|-----|----------|
| Feb. 26 | 54°  | 32  | Sunny    |
| Feb. 27 | 32   | 6   | Cloudy   |
| Feb. 28 | 14   | -2  | Cloudy   |
| Mar. 1  | 43   | 28  | M. Sunny |
| Mar. 2  | 58   | 32  | Sunny    |
| Mar. 3  | 53   | 31  | M. Sunny |
| Mar. 4  | 62   | 40  | Sunny    |

Average Temps:  
H = 32° Low = 13°

Compiled by  
Dale Hausmann,  
WCCO's Staples area  
Weatherwatcher

Public Notices

Bullard Township 9A

Freshwater minutes 9A

Moose Lake 9A

Moran 9A

Motley 9A

Region Five 9A

Staples 9A

Obituaries

Wallace Anderson

James Brown

Wayne Longbella

Anthony Young



### S-M Seniors show Snodaze spirit

A number of Staples-Motley High School seniors participated at the Snodaze lip sync contest Feb. 12, at Centennial Auditorium. (Staples World photo by Dawn Timbs)



### Future Rockettes?

Freshmen Carson DeWald, Hayden Ziegler, Vance Vetajsa, and Isaac Vargas DeWald were dressed up and ready to take on Radio City Music Hall at the Snodaze lip sync contest Feb. 12. (Staples World photo by Dawn Timbs)

## Trails group looks to enhance walking, biking opportunities in Staples

By Mark Anderson  
Managing Editor

The Staples Trails Committee was recently formed to start identifying trail needs and opportunities in the Staples area.

At their Feb. 19 meeting, the trails committee identified several projects they feel could go forward quickly. They reviewed other trail ideas that may need more planning before being proposed.

#### Safe Routes to School

Staples Economic Development Authority and Region Five developed a Safe Routes to School plan that was submitted in 2021 but was declined for funding by the state.

The trails group agreed that the city should keep the same plan but update it with new dates and cost estimates, then resubmit it to MnDOT.

The plan includes two connections to the bike trail on Airport Road. The first would go from the existing trail to Staples-Motley Elementary School, so students could ride their bikes to school without going in the street. The second would be a short connection along 3rd Street NE, near the overpass, to allow bike access from the downtown area.

The plan also calls for a paved trail or road extension, running from the high school to the elementary school, along 2nd Street NE and then the school baseball field property. Staples Economic Development Director Lucas Wakefield said he would work on updating the plan.

#### Nature/farm trails

The trails committee

identified two publicly owned land areas that could be opened up for public hiking or possibly biking, both adjacent to the Airport Road bike trail.

One is a nature area owned by the Staples-Motley School District, west of Airport Road, across from the JV baseball field. There is a pond on the property and the area is used by the school for recreation and environmental units.

The group has asked if the area could be opened up for the public for foot traffic only and the school has asked for a proposal. Trails committee members Mark Anderson and Lisa Fontaine agreed to work on the project.

There is a connecting gravel road that goes farther west to the Central Lakes College Heavy Equipment campus, with more forest areas that could be used for hiking, birdwatching and nature.

A second idea is to develop walking or biking trails through the Central Lakes College Ag and Energy Center farm. There are already farm roads going through the property so the trails group wondered if the public could use those paths for walking or biking. Trails committee member Tim Rice said he would talk further with CLC about walkers and bikers on the property.

If the proposals are accepted, both the school nature area and the CLC farm could be opened to the public as soon as permission is granted.

#### Bike trails

The trails committee identified a paved trail from Staples to Dower Lake as a

priority, possibly the next trail to be built by the city. They explored several possible routes and reported on conversations with landowners who may be open to allowing a trail on their land.

Possible grants were identified, some of which need matching funds. The group talked about the possibility of working with the Todd County Trails Committee, which has done a lot of work around Lake Osakis, but not as much in the northern part of the county. Todd County Coordinator Jackie Bauer and Todd County Commissioner Barb Becker have been contacted and have shown interest in working with the trails committee.

Other long-term trail ideas include connecting to larger trail systems, such as the Paul Bunyan Trail that is making plans to connect from Brainerd to Pillager and Camp Ripley. The trails committee decided that a new trail study is not needed at this time, until the opportunity for a larger trail connection is developed more.

Another future trail possibility was identified, a paved trail going from the city of Staples to Lakewood Health System. The wetland between the two was identified as a barrier, but it also could be an asset as a nature trail. Lakewood CEO Lisa Bjerga said one idea is to create a trail loop, going along Highway 10, through the hospital campus then back north to Warner Road and into the city again.



### Freshmen lip syncers

Members of the freshmen class syncing to one of their favorite songs. showed off their dance moves while lip (Staples World photo by Dawn Timbs)

## March is Food Share Month

### Motley Food Shelf hopes to stock their shelves

The Minnesota FoodShare March Campaign is in its 44th year of bringing organizations, businesses, faith communities and individuals to help keep 300 food shelves statewide stocked throughout the year. Minnesota FoodShare has distributed over \$18 million to March Campaign participating food shelves via the Minnesota FoodShare Fund. One-hundred percent of donations received by Minnesota FoodShare during the March Campaign go into the FoodShare fund.

The Motley Area Food Shelf (MAFS) this past year has seen a 20 percent increase in clientele. Sherry Frisk, MAFS Director, shared that, “We served 1,052 families, 3,197 indi-

viduals and gave out 89,171 pounds of food. We are now receiving deliveries from Second Harvest twice a month.”

The food shelf continues to be fully staffed by volunteers, each playing a part in keeping the food shelf runny smoothly, Frisk went on.

“We have a community garden with eight garden plots plus six raised garden beds. We have a garden hose and water available for gardeners to use. All that we ask if you have extra produce to please share with the food shelf,” Frisk said. “Also, keep your garden weeded. You can sign up for garden space by stopping by the food shelf.”

During the March Cam-

paign the MAFS also does ‘Pack the Pews,’ sharing this information with our local churches. “The items that we ask for are the things we go out and buy in the community, they are not items we can get through Second Harvest,” Frisk said, adding that she and the other volunteers are grateful for the support local food shelves receive during FoodShare Month.

*The Motley Area Food Shelf is located at 697 3rd Ave. So., in Motley. It is open each Thursday from 9 a.m. - noon; and the evening of the third Thursday of every month from 5 - 7 p.m. For more information, call 218-352-6344.*



### Two-vehicle crash in Staples

Staples Police responded to a two-vehicle crash at the intersection of 12th St. and 2nd Ave. NE in Staples Feb. 11, at approximately 4 p.m. There were no injuries reported.

According to their report, Michael Robert Pilip, 41, of Motley, was traveling east on 2nd Ave. NE; and Michael Angelo Grier, Jr., 44, of Otsego, was driving west on 2nd Ave. Pilip was attempting to make a left hand turn, northbound on 12th St.; and Grier had just exited Hwy 10 and was driving west on 2nd Ave. NE when Pilip's

vehicle turned directly in front of him at the intersection.

Pilip informed law enforcement that he didn't see the westbound driver, Grier, when he started to turn onto 12th St. By the time he noticed him, Pilip attempted to come out of the turn, but slid on the ice. Pilip's vehicle sustained heavy front-end, passenger-side damage. Grier's vehicle sustained heavy front-end damage. Pilip was cited for failing to yield and driving with a suspended license. (Staples World photos by Dawn Timbs)



## Motley area law enforcement

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

#### Feb. 5 - 11

Feb. 6 - Motley Police received a report from the

Public Works Dept., stating that two vehicles parked at Pine Ave. S. in Motley are a hazard for the to plow around. Motley Police called the owners to tell them that if they weren't moved, they would be towed.

Feb. 5 - Motley Police issued a speeding citation to Cynthia Louise Large, 60.

Feb. 10 - The MCSO paged out the Motley Fire Dept. for a house fully engulfed at 7378 79th Ave. SW in Staples.

Feb. 5 - A Morrison County deputy responded to a report of harassment at the 27000 block of E Jade Trl, Cushing.

#### Feb. 12 - 18

Feb. 18 - Motley Police

responded to a report of a gas theft at the Holiday Station in Motley in the amount of \$41.28. Motley Police watched the video of the incident, which confirmed that the suspect driver pumped the gas and then drove off on purpose without paying for the fuel. Motley Police arrived at the address of the driver but no one was home.

Feb. 15 - Motley Police received a complaint of harassment at the 1200 block of Hwy 10 S., Motley. A Morrison County deputy took care of the call.

Feb. 18 - A Morrison County deputy responded to a report of harassment at the 800 block of Cimar-ron Dr., Motley.



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Minnesota Attorney

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A dance for sweethearts

Tom and Kathy Bisek of Motley enjoyed dancing together at the Ten-Hi in Motley Feb. 11, just shy of Valentine's Day. (Staples World photo by Dawn Timbs)



Young at heart

Lawrence Weinrich, right, of Ottertail, enjoys being on the Ten-Hi dance floor with his favorite dance partner, Judy Petrie of Long Prairie. Weinrich, who turns 100 in May, said he's been dancing for 65 years and has no plans of stopping. (Staples World photo by Dawn Timbs)

DANCING continued from page 1a

Good music lifts spirits

Weinrich said with a smile. A native of Fergus Falls, he loves polkas and has been an avid dancer for the past 65 years. It helps keep you young, Weinrich says of his favorite pastime. Tom and Kathy Bisek of Motley have been 'old time dancing' for about five years. "We retired from the metro area about six years ago and met some people who told us about this activity," Kathy Bisek shared, adding that she and Tom subsequently decided to take dance lessons and have been enjoying dancing all over the area since. The Biseks, who will celebrate their 40th wedding anniversary this July, have found that dancing is a hobby they can enjoy together. They've also found it's a great way to get exercise while having a fun time. Another positive impact

of dancing is the social aspect. "The dancers are all friendly," Kathy said, adding that, "Usually there are some hugs given and lots of visiting and laughter." She goes on to mention the dance bands that are so much a part of their gatherings. "Good music lifts spirits too," Kathy says. In addition to their gig in Motley, the Jerry and Joyce Band plays at other venues around the area, including in Willmar, Genola, Forest Lake, Park Rapids and more. A few other old time bands are a part of the roster as well, and many of the same dancers travel around to dance at the various venues. No reservations are necessary, you just show up, Kathy said. She and Tom will be back at the Ten-Hi on March 11, ready to join new and old friends for an afternoon of old time dancing.

Court report Jan. 2025

**MN State Patrol**  
William Tucker Rahr, Edina. Speed 80/70. Fine \$40. Fee \$85.  
Aiden Kenyon Schutt, Fargo, ND Speed 80/70. Fine \$40. Fee \$85.  
Jacob Tanner Stout, Sauk Centre. Speed 65/55. Fine \$40. Fee \$85.  
Jessica Eileen Thompson, Billings, MT. Speed 80/70. Fine \$40. Fee \$85.  
Keith Allen Tonn, Robbinsdale. Speed 80/70. Fine \$40. Fee \$85.  
Debra Kay Vanalphen, Brandon. Speed 80/70. Fine \$70. Fee \$155.  
Richard Jake Vandemay, Staples. Driving after revocation. Fine \$200. Fee \$85.  
Mehkamu Trokon Wayson, Minneapolis. Speed 86/70. Fine \$60. Fee \$85.  
Zachary Michael Bennett, Motley. CRM-Trespass-unlawful entry of building. Dismissed.  
Joshua Aaron Dumpprope, Staples. Expired registration. Fine \$30. Fee \$85.  
**Staples Police Dept.**  
Mitchell Terrace VanAlst, Motley. Driving after cancellation. Fine \$200. Fee \$85. Failure to display current registration. Fine \$30.  
**Todd County**  
Juan Florencio Ambriz Vazquez, Long Prairie. Speed 70/55. Fine \$60. Fee \$85.  
Chad Lee Bosl, Long Prairie. Speed 85/55. Fine \$100. Fee

\$85.  
Mauriel Antonio Trujillo Soza, Henning. Driving after revocation. Fine \$200. Fee \$85.  
Loren Stanley Vanhavermaet, Eagle Bend. Dog kills/pursues domestic livestock. Fine \$50. Fee \$85.  
**The following cases were heard before Judge Daniel A. Benson in Seventh District Court in Todd County January 22, 2025.**  
Jose Manuel Flores Melchor, Long Prairie. DWI-Fourth degree. Dismissed. DWI-refuse to submit to chemical test; breath or test refusal or failure. Dismissed. Ope bottle law. Dismissed. Careless driving-operate any vehicle carelessly on street or highway. Sentenced. Local confinement (90 days, stay 0 yr 0 mo 90 days for 1 yr). Probation-adult (unsupervised probation, 1 yr). Fine \$600.  
Jacob Eldon Oothoudt, Staples. Drugs-1st degree-possess 25 grams or more, 100 dosage units or more; heroin or fentanyl. Sentenced. Commit to Commissioner of Corrections-adult (MN Correctional facility-St. Cloud, 65 mo, stay for 5 yr. Local confinement (229 days credit for time served: 123 days) Probation-adult (supervised probation, 5 yr.) Fine \$500. Fee \$75. Fleeing a Peace Officer by a means other than motor vehicle. Dismissed.  
Nathanael Lee Culp, St. Cloud.

**75 YEARS Ago - 1950**  
• March 2, 1950 - Mrs. Marilla Rice will be the hostess for the members of the Motley Study Club who will hold their regular meeting Saturday afternoon, March 4, in her home. Mrs. Lelyn Flora (Shirley Sampson) will give a book review and Mrs. Harding Blake will have charge of the English drill.  
• March 2, 1950 - Quadruplet lambs were born at the

**- O -**  
*Compiled by Dawn Timbs*  
**- O -**

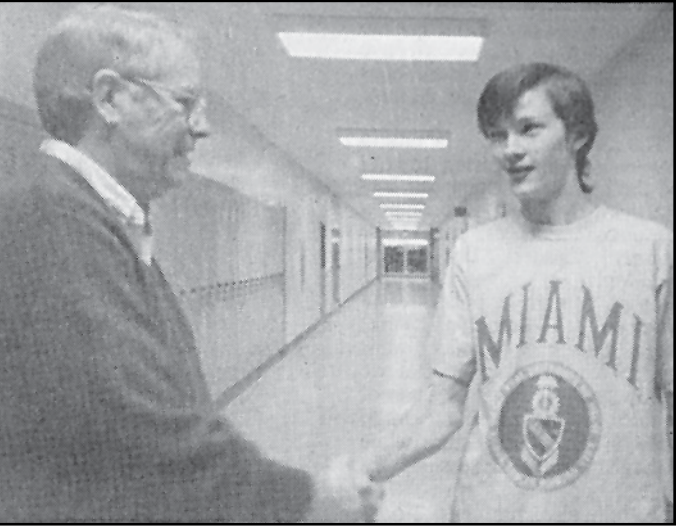
Henry Hirschey farm 7 1/2 miles southwest of Staples the first of this week. Three of the lambs were born on Feb. 27, and the fourth one arrived on Feb. 28.  
The lambs were three little bucks and one ewe. On March 1, two of the babies died, so Mr. and Mrs. Hirschey were unable to have all four of the little fellows.  
The Hirschneys have only 12 ewes and so far most of them have had twins or triplets.  
• March 2, 1950 - Ed Carlson, city clerk of Staples, stated that late last week the city of Staples received a total of \$2,952 from the state tax department as her share of the cigaret and liquor tax money, which is distributed twice a year from the state department.  
This year the cigaret tax amounted to 49 cents per capita, and the liquor tax totaled 51 cents per capita, for a total of \$1 for the combined sources.  
• March 1, 1950 - The Old Coin race has again come to light in Staples, and it is thought that Fred Goepferd has the oldest silver dollar in this community. The date on the silver dollar is 1795.  
While out west two years ago Mr. Goepferd received the silver dollar as change for a bill he had presented in payment for something. He was astonished when he noticed the date on the silver piece and has kept it since that time, and states that he will not part with it for anything in the world.  
• March 2, 1950 - Lost - Two Pair Skiis with poles and accessories in greenish canvas case, presumably somewhere between Staples and Wadena. Case has Swedish flag on it. Kindly notify Jorgen M. Blegdad, c-o Panogen Inc., 117 Hudson St., New York 13, N.Y.

Along with his Classified Ad, Blegstad included a letter to The World, which read, in part, "Being from Sweden with my wife for an extensive tour of this country where we hope to be able to do some skiing, we are very unhappy about the loss of the skiis, and I shall therefore very much appreciate anything you can do for us to recover them."  
**50 YEARS Ago - 1975**  
• Feb. 27, 1975 - Marine

Burglary. Dismissed. Receiving stolen property. Sentenced. Commit to Commissioner of Corrections-adult (MN Correctional facility-St. Cloud, 18 mo. Fine \$50. Restitution \$1000.  
Wade Scott Cummings, Browerville. Driving after revocation. Local confinement (10 days, stay 0 yr mo 10 days for 1 yr). Probation-adult (unsupervised probation, 1 yr) Fine \$200. Fee \$75.  
Robert Paul Radtke, Osakis. Possess ammo/any firearm. Continued. Probation-adult (supervised probation, 5 yr).  
The following cases were heard before Judge Daniel A. Benson in Seventh District Court in Todd County January 21, 2025.  
Christhiam Alexanders Alaniz Martinez, Browerville. Disorderly conduct. Continued. Probation-adult (supervised probation, 6 o.) Fine \$50. Fee \$75.  
Anthony James Herman Ninow, Long Prairie. Trespass. Continued. Probation-adult (unsupervised probation, 6 mo.) Fine \$50. Fee \$75.  
Karla Sue Rolla, St. Cloud. Theft. Probation-Adult (unsupervised probation, 6 mo.) Local confinement (10 days, stay 0 yr 0 mo 10 days for 6 mo.) Fine \$50. Restitution \$303.50.  
Ramon Alejandro Santiago Natal, Long Prairie. Malicious punishment of a child. Dismissed. Domestic assault-bodily harm. Local confinement (1 days, stay 0 yr 0 mo 0 days credit for time served: 1 day). Probation-adult (supervised probation, 2

yr) Fine \$50.  
Justin Mark Sieben, Swanville. DWI-4th Degree driving while impaired. Dismissed. DWI-operate motor vehicle alcohol concentration 0.08 within 2 hours. Local confinement (90 days, stay 90 days for 2 yr credit for time served: 0 days) Probation-adult (supervised probation, 2 yr). Fine \$400. Fee \$100. DWI-operate motor vehicle under influence of alcohol. Dismissed.  
Tracy Marie Rivetts, Little Falls. Uninsured vehicle. Dismissed. Driving after revocation. Dismissed. Operate unregistered vehicle/without plates on public streets. Service-Adult (community work service, 10 hours for indeterminate). Probation-adult (unsupervised probation, 1 yr) Fine \$50. Fee \$75. Motor vehicle title-fail to mail/deliver certificate of Title to Dept. within time frames specified. Dismissed.  
**The following cases were heard before Judge Daniel A. Benson in Seventh District Court in Todd County January 15, 2025.**  
Kristy Ann Alagarin Trischler, Long Prairie. Assault-5th Degree-Fear of bodily harm or death. Dismissed. Disorderly conduct. Local confinement (90 days, stay 0 mo 89 days for 1 yr credit for time served: 1 Day). Probation-adult (unsupervised probation, 1 yr.) Fine \$100. Fee \$75.  
Adinson Alfonso Contreras Feliz, Long Prairie. Assault-5th degree-fear of bodily harm or death. Dismissed.

Staff Sergeant Robert P. Blessing was promoted to his present rank while serving at the U.S. Marine Corps Base, Camp Butler, Okinawa.  
Blessing, a 1964 graduate of Staples High School, joined the Marine Corps in June of 1964. He is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Robert F. Blessing.  
• Feb. 27, 1975 - Lori Anglin, a seventh grader at Staples High school, will be competing in the semi-national contest of the Elks "Hoop Shoot" contest to be held in Iowa City Saturday, March 1.  
Lori, the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. LeRoy Anglin, won the local contest by making 15 out of 25 free throws. In the district competition at Brainerd, she shot 16 out of 25 to take top honors. Lori then advanced to the regional at Alexandria and came home with another first place, sinking 19 out of 25.  
Her fourth contest was the State Elks "Hoop Shoot" at Williams Arena at the University of Minnesota two weeks ago. Competing against four other regional winners, Lori made 16 out of 25 and topped the field for the championship of the 12-13 age group and earned the right to advance to semi-national competition at Iowa City.  
• Feb. 27, 1975 - Dave Roberts, the sophomore 105-pound wrestler for Coach Don Dravis, was the only member of the Cardinal Wrestling team to qualify for the State Tournament this weekend at the St. Paul Civic Center.  
Roberts, the son of Mr. and Mrs. Dick Roberts, took a second place finish, losing to Bob Arvold of Alexandria by a 10-2 score in the championship round of the Region Six Wrestling tournament held at Fergus Falls last weekend.  
**25 YEARS Ago - 2000**  
• March 3, 2000 - The Staples Area Men's Chorus has announced the release of their new Compact Disc. The CD, entitled "Thy Life a Booklet," features music not available on any of their previous recordings.  
The Chorus has been recording music since the days of the 78's. Those first recordings, which were released in the 1940s, are treasured heirlooms.  
Over the years The Staples Area Men's Chorus has released a series of LPs and Cassettes, but this is their first compact disc.  
• March 3, 2000 - Gary and Glenda Dauer, owners of the new Leader Amoco convenience store on Highway 64 at Leader, opened their brand new doors at their new business this month.  
Regular gas and diesel are available at the pumps along with an array of items inside the convenience store including groceries, movies, etc. The will also continue to run the Bear's Den of Leader.  
• March 3, 2000 - Two



Mystery photo

Hello readers. This week's archive photo is from 1990. Do you know who these people are and perhaps the context of the photo? Do you have a memory to share? Email your answers and where you're from to dtimbs@staplesworld.com by Friday, or call 218-894-1112. The answers will be published in next week's paper, as well as a new mystery photo.

Staples Motley wrestlers survived the Section 7AA wrestling meet Saturday, taking first and second place in their weights and advancing to the state meet this weekend.  
Tony Johnson won the 145 pound weight class, getting a 5-1 win over Tyler Swenson of Minnewaska. A week earlier, in the section team meet, Swenson had downed Tony by an identical 5-1 score.  
Taking second place in the 125 pound weight class, Tylor Bendson won his first two matches before losing to Peter Hayes of Wade-na-Deer Creek, 3-0. Hayes and Bendson also met a week ago, when Hayes won an 11-3 decision.  
• March 3, 2000 - The Cardinal boys basketball team

improved to 19-1 last week, taking sole ownership of the 1999-2000 Mid State Conference title along the way.  
The boys downed Wade-na-Deer Creek 71-47 on Thursday, Feb. 24, and then downed Perham 60-55 last Saturday.  
• March 3, 2000 - Rev. Muriel Pool Hachfeld of Detroit Lakes has been named as the first permanent pastor of the Heartland Tri-Parish, which consists of First Congregational Churches in Aldrich, Staples and New York Mills.  
**10 YEARS Ago - 2015**  
• Feb. 26, 2015 - Stephen Plopper and Addie Klefsaas were crowned the Staples Motley High School's Sno Daze King and Queen at the recent coronation.



Mystery solved

Last week's mystery photo published in the March 10, 1988 edition of the Staples World featured, from left, Staples wrestling cheerleaders making the first leg of the trip to the state tournament atop the Staples Fire Department fire truck. From left are: Tami Brown, Debbie Holst (statistician), Kathy O'Keefe, Lynn Card, Adele Japke, Tonja Lester and Kathy Heldman.  
Kathy (Heldman) Robben of Staples recognized all except Debbie Holst, whom she thought might be Erica Vollegraaf. The picture brought back great memories of the state wrestling meets, Kathy said. Thanks for participating in our mystery photo.

Disorderly conduct. Local confinement (90 days, stay 0 yr mo 89 days for 1 yr credit for time served: 1 day). Probation-Adult (unsupervised probation, 1 yr.) Fine \$100. Fee \$75.  
**The following cases were heard before Judge Jade Rosenfeldt in Seventh District Court in Todd County January 21, 2025.**  
Namiko Secharraui, Shakopee. Contributes to need for child protection or services. Dismissed.  
Hannah Marie Larson, Hewitt. Careless driving. Dismissed, conditions met or expired. Probation-adult (unsupervised monitoring without conviction, 6 mo. Restitution \$362. Fee \$75. Driver fails to stop at entrance of through highway. Dismissed, conditions met or expired. Probation-adult (unsupervised monitoring without conviction, 6 mo.)

Todd County Sheriff's report

Recent reports from the Todd County Sheriff's Office (TCSO) included:  
Feb. 13, 2025: TCSO received a report of a phone scam where a scammer pretended to be the granddaughter of a Todd County citizen, claiming they were in legal trouble and needed money to get bailed out of jail. The money was requested to be sent through UPS. TCSO reminds citizens that if you receive such a call, contact family members and check in with them and if you're requested to send payments of large amounts of cash, gift cards or cryptocurrency, it's probably a scam. Use caution with phone calls, emails and text message(s) you're not familiar with.  
Feb. 7, 2025, 9:43 p.m.: TCSO received a report of a two vehicle accident at the intersection of Cty 21 and 340th St, Browerville. A 2005 Ford F150 driven by Jenna Trantina, 25, of Browerville was traveling south on Cty 21 when she collided with a grain truck driven by Leon Dickinson of Clarissa. Dickinson was traveling west bound on 340th St when he failed to make a complete stop at the stop sign, resulting in the accident. Heavy damage was sustained by both vehicles. Both parties were cleared on scene by Browerville Ambulance with no injuries. TCSO was assisted on scene by Browerville Ambulance, Browerville Fire Dept. and MN State Patrol.

# Cardinal Showcase

Creating an effective learning environment

By Debbie Ferdon, Principal  
Staples-Motley Middle  
School/High School

At Staples-Motley Schools, we're committed to continuous improvement and creating a learning environment that supports student success. As part of our work with Sourcewell on the Effective Schools Blueprint (ESB), we engaged parents, students and staff in surveys designed to assess our strengths and identify areas for growth. The valuable insights gathered from these surveys have played a crucial role in shaping district decisions and guiding improvements. Our commitment to providing a high quality educational experience has been strengthened through utilizing our Continuous Improvement Plan as well as our collaboration with Sourcewell and the implementation of the ESB. This framework has guided us in identifying and enhancing the key components necessary for fostering a positive and effective learning environment for all students. One of the most significant takeaways from the survey results was the need

to enhance awareness of learning targets and course pathways for both parents and students. The feedback revealed that many families desired clearer communication regarding academic expectations, progress and available educational opportunities. In response, the district has been working on several strategies to meet these needs, including improved communication of learning targets, enhanced parent communication tools and clarifying course pathways and academic planning. Our teachers meet monthly in Professional Learning Communities and more often as department and grade level teams. These opportunities have given them time to continue collaboration around academic standards and learning targets in various content areas and grade levels. Teachers continue to work toward implementing more structured ways to share learning objectives with students as they work through units of study, which may include more thorough descriptions of learning goals and include more opportunities to assess students and

have them reflect on their learning. The district has expanded its use of parent communication tools. This includes Synergy StudentVue and ParentVue newsletters, and informational meetings to provide families with real-time access to student progress and expectations. Parent-teacher conferences are always an opportunity for families to get more information and ask more questions to better understand learning targets and how they can support their child's academic journey at home. Our High School Guidance Counselor, Social Workers and Administrators are working to ensure students and families receive detailed information about academic options, including advanced coursework, career pathways and graduation requirements. Through registration informational meetings with students and families, the district is developing clear Cardinal Flight Paths to help students make informed decisions about their educational future. These include course paths in the areas of Health and Human

Services, Business Services, Agriculture and Trades and STEAM (Science, Technology/Engineering, Art and Mathematics). We're also excited to be working closely with students with a new tool called SchoolLinks that provides data and guidance for students and helps us provide career and academic experiences for students based on interests and skills in a variety of areas. By using survey data to drive decision making, Staples-Motley Schools is ensuring that students, parents and staff are aligned in their understanding of academic expectations and opportunities. This collaborative approach fosters a more informed, engaged, and proactive school community, ultimately leading to stronger student outcomes and a more supportive learning environment. We're grateful for the participation of our families, students and staff in this process, and we remain committed to ongoing reflection and improvement. By listening to our community and implementing meaningful changes, we continue to build a school system that empowers every student.

## Letters to the Editor

### Trump fixing problems

President Donald J. Trump ran for office because he was fed up with the former administration. He didn't need the job nor want it for money, power or control over everything and everyone, like Biden and all the people who were running the government with him who kept up the lie for four years that Biden was of sound mind and body. They ran our country into rack and ruin. They do not care about the well-being of our people and our country. They want money, power and control over everything and everyone and they lie, cheat and ruin many good people's lives along the way to gain their own means and keep it. The Democratic Party is not the same as it was in past years as people of my age knew it, the span of change of that party encompasses at least 35-40 years. A lot of the Democrats have left the Democrat Party. They're fed up like the majority of America and many people around the world, like the leader Netanyahu of Israel and its people who were slaughtered on that October day at a public concert and many kidnapped. Trump has been working night and day to reestablish peace talks with Russia's leader Putin, North Korea, China and Hamas, the leaders of those entities. The war in Ukraine need never have happened. The Biden administration didn't care nor did they know how to deal with any of the world leaders. The majority of America voted Trump in, legally. Hopefully the far-left radical trouble-makers will realize what "One Nation Under God" means and care about our Constitution.

Marinell Philipp  
Motley, Minn.

### Needed services being cut

More red flags. A democracy thrives under the rule of law. What happens when the leaders of a democracy do not act within the law? Will we still have the democracy we cherish? The president and Elon Musk are presiding over dismantling the parts of our democratic government that benefit us, the ordinary citizens, under the guise of cutting waste and fraud. They're illegally shutting down and tearing up government agencies that serve the people. Programs and services we all need are being gutted and we will all be less safe and less healthy. A partial list includes: police protection ( FBI and CIA ), Department of Justice, Department of Treasury, Department of Education, Federal Aviation Administration, National Transportation Safety Board, Office of Government Ethics, NOAA, USAID, National Labor Relations Board, Consumer Product Safety Bureau, Food and Drug Administration, National Institutes of Health and Veterans Affairs. Rich people don't need these services, but our community members do. We need our local police to have the support they need from the FBI, we need Head Start, Title One and Special Education programs, we need our free press, our ability to trust in our local banks, pharmacies, hospitals, food supply, medicaid programs for seniors and people with disabilities and we need to take care of our vets. (Last week 1,000 jobs were cut in Veterans Affairs.) These closures are aimed at cutting spending on benefits for us, the people, in order to give \$4.5 trillion in tax cuts, mostly to the ultra rich and big corporations. On Feb. 13, the House Republicans proposed raising the debt ceiling by \$4 trillion, on the backs of American taxpayers.

Cheryl Koll  
Motley, Minn.

## Tax cut or tax increase?

By Mike Wiener  
State Representative

One of the biggest topics in the Taxes Committee this week was the Governor's budget and his proposed "tax decreases". The House Democrats are saying they will be cutting taxes, while The House Republicans are saying the Governor's budget increases taxes. So, I wanted to clear this up because two things that are totally opposite can be true at the same time. Here's what's happening:

A Sales Tax Cut: The Governor's budget says sales tax is going down by 0.75%, which may sound like good news. But in order to make up for the 0.75% loss other taxes will be going up. While the sales tax may be decreasing, taxes in other areas or services will increase to make up for it. So, while the DFL may be say-

ing that they are decreasing sales tax they will actually be shifting this loss to other areas causing higher taxes for everyone in our community. Property Owners Could See Higher Costs: The Governor's budget also has many unfunded mandates. These unfunded mandates mean the state requires them but doesn't provide money to pay for them. Counties are now responsible for paying for new programs, like paid family leave and safe and sick leave due to these mandates. Unfortunately, since counties will be responsible that will lead to higher property taxes for our communities. House Republicans are fighting hard against these unfunded mandates and increased taxes because you deserve to keep your hard-earned money, and I will continue to advocate for our communities.

Quote of the week

“When a dog bites a man, that is not news, but when a man bites a dog, that is news.”  
— Charles A. Dana

Quote of the week

“Forget the stock market. The quickest way to double your money is to fold it in half and put it in your back pocket.” — Will Rogers

# Outdoors lovers could feel federal job-cutting blowback

If you were a hard rock miner, or a military explosives specialist, you would know from training and experience about blowback. In the literal sense, it is the expansion of explosive gases in a direction unintended, and—more importantly—potentially harmful to those in its path. In the figurative sense, it is a side-effect or outcome that may have been unintended, but may be harmful nonetheless.

Inside the  
Outdoors



Mike Rahn

Just such an outcome—a blowback—may be in store for we who hunt, fish, hike, snowmobile, trail ride, camp, canoe, or take part in other recreational pursuits on lands and waters under federal management. This, as a result of cuts and proposed cuts in the federal workforce that administers and maintains these lands and waters. These places include National Wildlife Refuges, National Parks, National Forests, federal Waterfowl Production Areas, and federal wilderness areas; in short, lands and waters in federal ownership that are open to the public for a wide variety of recreations. Unless one has been isolated from news outlets

during the past month, they are aware of efforts undertaken by the current presidential administration to shrink the federal workforce, and to eliminate fraud and waste in federal government agencies and programs. This effort is being pursued by several avenues. These include offering buy-outs to virtually any federal employee, called “deferred resignation,” which is a promise to pay employees through the month of September if they resign now from federal employment. If they do not respond by resigning, they have no assurance of future employment. Beyond this offer to resign and “take the money” rather than risk being fired, thousands of so-called “probationary” employees are being terminated. “Probationary” in this context means an employee who has been in their current position less than one or two years. These are not necessarily new employees, because a change in duties or in federal agency employer often brings with it a new probationary period to determine one's suitability in that role. Even mid-career and late-in-career employees with decades of federal service who change roles can for a time be considered “probationary.” The logic behind terminating probationary employees was a belief expressed by those ordering them that probationary employees can be most easily fired. While it may be true

that some federal employees are unsuited to the work their job demands, there are examples of probationary employees with recent performance ratings of “outstanding” being informed by generic email that “based on your performance...you have not demonstrated that your further employment ... would be in the public interest.” Termination without explanation or justification, in other words. Minnesota's Outdoor News, the Minnesota Star Tribune, and the international news agency Reuters have reported that the U.S. Forest Service is to release 3,400 employees, some 10% of its workforce. According to news sources, the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service—as operator of the nation's 573 National Wildlife Refuges, the federal agency with the most direct impact on hunters and hunting—is to cut more than 400 employees, or 5% of its workforce. The National Park Service reportedly is being required to terminate 1,000 employees, also about 5% of its workforce. Representatives of these agencies have stated that they are already staffed at less than needed numbers, even before the cuts now being required by the current administration. The National Park Service, for example, has reportedly been down 20% from full staffing since 2010; this before the 1,000 additional jobs it is being asked to cut. Employees of these agencies are responsible for such

things as managing timber sales to improve forest habitat for deer, ruffed grouse, and nongame wildlife; maintaining portages and campsites in the Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness; maintaining multi-use trails and campgrounds in Minnesota's Superior and Chippewa National Forests, enhancing waterfowl breeding and migration habitat on our numerous federal Waterfowl Production Areas; enforcement of regulations on National Wildlife Refuges that permit hunting; and numerous other activities, both major and minor. No evidence has yet been presented that these agency-wide job cuts, or terminations at the individual level, are based on assessments of competence, waste, inefficiency, or the terminations' impact on the agencies' ability to fulfill their respective missions. Only time will tell the extent of short or long-term harm to the benefits we now get from these public lands and waters. Some believe this is a first step in an agenda to dismantle and ultimately privatize our citizen-owned and federally-managed public lands and waters, on which so much public recreation now depends. Hopefully, as was the case with the fairy tale's Chicken Little, this will prove to be only a “sky is falling” false alarm. Too many think otherwise to not take the possibility seriously.

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

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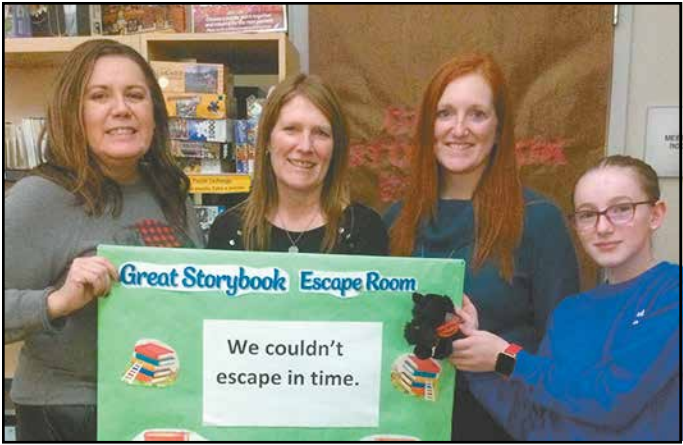
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## Escape Room at the Staples Library

Try the Escape Room at the Staples Library for a chance to win a \$25 pizza party. The time to beat is 28.33 minutes. Call the library at 218-894-1401 to sign up; contests ends Feb. 28.

Above: Ruthie, Hannah, Asher and Beth Noordmans. (Submitted photos)



Rachel Johnson, Amy Winter, Mandi Hanson and Mayzelle Hanson.



## Staples Area Women's Chorus to perform at festival

The Staples Area Women's Chorus (SAWC) will host the 'Our Voice, Our Song' festival at Staples-Motley High School gym on Saturday, March 1. The event includes a concert at 7 p.m., which will feature several choirs and guest soloists. (Submitted photo)

## 'Our Voice, Our Song' event March 1, Staples

The Staples Area Women's Chorus will host their annual 'Our Voice Our Song' festival Saturday, March 1, at the Staples-Motley High School gym. The concert begins at 7 p.m. and tickets will be available at the door.

'Our Voice, Our Song' is an annual event that the chorus started in 2014. During 2020, they were able to hold this event virtually by creating an on-line performance.

This year, the guest director is Isaac Lovdahl, DMA. He is an assistant professor of music and interim director of choral activities at Bemidji State University. Several area high schools plan to attend the festival, with the day consisting of rehearsals, sectionals and lessons from a variety of music professionals.

The day will end with a concert for the public which will feature the combined choir of 200 voices. In addition, featured choirs performing for the concert include the Colle Voce Choir from the Staples Area, the Staples Area Women's Chorus, and the Brainerd High School, as well as selected soloists.

This event 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.

## CLC planning survey

Central Lakes College is seeking community input as the college kicks off its Strategic Planning process. The process is a one-year collaborative journey to develop a 2026-2031 plan to continue the college's critical work to "build futures" as

its mission demands.

All community members are invited to weigh in and provide input by completing a short survey by March 7. Access the survey at: <https://tinyurl.com/CommunitySurvey-CLC25>

## Mark Your Calendar

### February 26, 27

**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>

**WADENA WHIRLWAYS SQUARE DANCE GROUP DANCING** Thursday, Feb. 27, 7:30 - 10 p.m., at St. Michael's Church, 280 1st Ave. S., Motley. Benjamin Stokes, caller. For info., 612-743-3480.

### February 28

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

### March 2

**CELEBRATE RECOVERY GROUP MEETINGS** are held every Sunday at 6 p.m., at Motley

Free Methodist Church, 33 Wellwood St. E., Motley.

### March 3

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

### March 4

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

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

**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.



## S-M Seniors show Snodaze spirit

A number of Staples-Motley High School seniors participated at the Snodaze lip sync contest Feb. 12, at Centennial Auditorium. (Staples World photo by Dawn Timbs)

## 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  
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Staples MN

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Students  
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## James Brown



James Robert “Jim” Brown, 92, was a patient at Sanford Hospital, Fargo, North Dakota, when he left his earthly body February 20, to continue life in heaven with his precious Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

A celebration of Jim’s life will be at Lincoln Evangelical Free Church on Saturday, March 1 at 11:00 a.m. with pastor Don Reigstad officiating. Jim has been blessed to have been part of the Lincoln E Free Church staff since 2001. After a very short retirement, he was thrilled to be invited to serve as an associate at the church where he and Irene had their membership.

James Robert Brown (Jim) was born November 15,

1932 to Victor and Mathilda Brown in Annandale. He was the little brother of Roy, June and Rose. Growing up he enjoyed playing games with his family, following in the steps of his big brother, and attending his church where he had many good friends. He graduated in 1950 from Annandale High School, Trinity Bible College in Chicago in 1956 and Trinity Evangelical Divinity School in 1961.

On August 23, 1957, he married Irene Olson, the girl who enjoyed having him for a friend before they began dating seriously. His adventurous spirit, his humor and his kind, loving ways have been a blessing to Irene for their 67 years of marriage.

During the years from 1961-1971 Jim pastored Faith Free Church in Spirit Lake, Iowa. While serving this Home Missions congregation, Jim was ordained as a pastor into the Evangelical Free Church of America. He loved being a dad to Todd, Scott and Gregg who were born during the years Jim and Irene served in Iowa.

From 1971 to 1999 the Browns Lived in Rose City, where they served the Free

Church congregation in that little town. In 1974 the Leslie Community Church was added to Jim’s ministerial duties. One Sunday as he was greeting folks after the morning worship at Rose City, a young man and his wife who were headed East to serve their first congregation, asked Pastor Jim for a piece of advice. It was simply, “Love your people.”

In the Fall of 1998, Jim and Irene’s three sons and several men of their congregation moved them to their new home on Crookneck Lake. While they were completing ministry days at Rose City and Leslie, they camped out at the Rose City parsonage until the last day of February 1999.

Moving to Crookneck Lake where Jim and Iren could fish, canoe and just spend time on the pontoon enjoying God’s beautiful outdoors was an unexpected blessing. Having time to attend the grandchildren’s school programs and as many sporting events as possible during football, basketball and tennis seasons was an added blessing. Hunting with the Rosenquist family at their farm in the Rose City area,

attending events at Camp Shamineau and attending conferences of the Evangelical Free Church of America were looked forward to with great anticipation by both Jim and Irene. The trip of a life-time to Venezuela to visit college and seminary friends, Darryl and Millie Carlson, meant Jim had to fly. He preferred driving his own vehicle, whether the big van full of teen-agers to swim or sing Christmas carols or whatever vehicle he was using for visiting folks in his congregation or being with those who needed him with them during especially difficult times. During these later ministry days, he traveled from here to there in the little red Edge- being able to drive his own vehicle gave him great joy!

Jim did love the people in his life, everyone of you. He enjoyed preparing Brown Bag devotionals and tributes to friends, daily prayer times with Irene, reading his Bible through yearly (READ IT THOUGH IN SIXTY-TWO, Vacation Bible school theme) and VISTING, whether in person or on the phone. Leading out Lincoln Encore Senior Bible Study was a special privilege as well as helping Irene prepare Praise and Prayer sheets for the Wednesday group. Shopping was always a fun activity for him.

Jim was preceded in death by his brother Roy (Vernis), sister June Mattila (Rueben) and brother-in-law Harry Johnson as well as many aunts, uncles, cousins and friends.

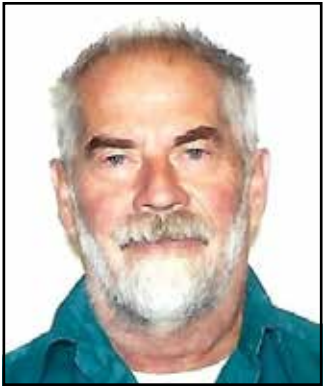
Jim is survived by his wife of 67 years, Irene; three sons, Todd (Pat) of Becker, MN, Scott (Deb) of Maple Grove, MN, Gregg (Katrina) of Becker, MN; Grandchildren Denver (Sarah) Brown, Molly (Charlie) Moore, Gavin (Ana) Brown, Dawson (Aly) Brown, Ayla, Sawyer and Tess Brown; 11 Great-grandchildren, Elle, Clara, Jed, Hannah, Rowan, Mabel, Merrick, Noble, Calahan, Shea and Jones; 15 nieces and nephews and numerous great nieces and nephews, special friends Kerwin Rosenquist and Robin Houde.

Burial will be at the Scandia Valley Cemetery. Jim’s grandchildren are his chosen pallbearers.

Arrangements are by the Brenny Family Funeral Chapel Staples.

w10c A00006B2025FB26

## Obituaries



## Anthony Young

Anthony (Tony) K. Young, 77, of Staples, passed away February 19, 2025 at Lake-wood Care Center in Staples.

A celebration of life will be held at 11:00 a.m. on Friday, Feb. 28, at the Church of Christ in Staples, with Pastor Barry Klein officiating. A gathering of family and friends will be held from 10:00 to 11:00 a.m. prior to the service at the church.

Anthony was born November 10, 1947 to Patrick and Bertha (Lee) Young in Staples.

He grew up on a farm west of Staples and joined the U.S. Army in 1968. He was employed for many years as a bus driver for the Staples Bus Company and in later years as a truck driver. Tony was a life member of the Staples Church of Christ where he especially enjoyed Tuesday men’s night.

Tony will be deeply missed by his wife, Dorothy; one son, Kevin (Tracy) Young; three daughters, Christine Young, Alicia (Rene) Hernandez and Molly Young; eight grandchildren, Samantha (Shane) Stauffer, Jared Manuel, Jailyen Manuel, Wade Tornow, Thomas Hernandez, Brock Graton, Axel Young, Callie Young; one sister, Marcy Young and one sister-in-law, Judy Young.

Tony is preceded in death by his parents; two brothers, Toby Young and Mort Young; two sisters, Gwen (Clarence) Schoon and DeeDee Young and one granddaughter, Juliana Hernandez.

Arrangements are by Taylor Funeral Home of Staples.

w10c A00006B2025FB26



## Wallace Anderson

Wallace (Wally) Eugene Anderson, 91, of Pillager, passed away February 16, 2025, in Pillager.

Funeral services were held Feb. 24 at the Staples Assembly of God Church.

Burial was at the Wild-wood Cemetery in Pillager.

Wallace was born January 4, 1934, to Charles and Mary (LeLaCheur) Anderson in Dunning, NE.

Wally had a long career as a field representative for Super-Valu, where he worked for 25 years. He married Marlene Clark on October 1, 1955 and together they built a family filled with love and support. Wally was a man who deeply enjoyed the outdoors, with hunting and fishing among his greatest passions. Wally’s dedication to serving others was shown through his 25 years serving as a Royal Ranger Leader, mentoring and guiding young boys. He was also an active member of the Frontiersmen (now Fellowship), a camping fraternity that further fueled his love for nature and service.

Wally’s legacy lives on in his children; he is survived by three daughters, Rona (Ron) Koch of New Stanton, PA, Valerie Graves of Lakeville and Veronica (Kevin) Taylor of Marquette, MI; one son, Dave Anderson of Pillager; ten grandchildren; 18 great-grandchildren and one sister, Karla DeRose of Rockford, IL.

He was preceded in death by his beloved wife, Marlene; parents; step-mother, Eva Anderson; two brothers, Marvin and Kenneth Anderson; two sisters, Charlene Myhre and an infant sister; one son-in-law Kevin Graves and one granddaughter, Jennifer Graves.

The family is grateful for the many years they had with Wally, whose life will be cherished in their hearts forever.

In lieu of flowers, memorials can be made to: MN Royal Rangers, 1315 Portland Ave. S, Minneapolis, MN 55404.

Arrangements were by the Brenny Family Funeral Chapel, Staples.

w10c A00006B2025FB26

## Student Achievements

**THE UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA-DULUTH**, has announced its Dean’s List for Fall Semester 2024. To qualify, students must achieve a grade point average of 3.50 or higher while earning a minimum of 12-letter-graded credits. Local students named include :

- Jada Benton, Pillager
- Cayden Kleffman, Pillager
- Aften Robinson, Staples

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| <b>Staples</b><br><b>Staples Alliance</b><br>1512 8th St. NE, Staples.....218-894-2891<br>Jonny Olson, Associate Pastor<br>Sunday Worship.....9:30 a.m.<br>Sunday School.....11:00 a.m.<br>WEDNESDAY<br>AWANA.....6:00 p.m.<br><b>Assembly of God</b><br>914 3rd Ave. NE, Staples.....218-894-1081<br>Pastor Roy Miles<br>Small Groups (Bible classes for all ages).....9:30 a.m.<br>Morning Worship Service.....10:30 a.m.<br>Children’s Church (Kids start in main worship service).....11 a.m.<br>Prayer Meeting.....5 p.m.<br>WEDNESDAY<br>Sonlight (Kids ages 4 yrs.-4th grade).....After school to 5:30 p.m.<br>Youth Group (Teens, 7th-12th grade).....After school to 5:30 p.m.<br><b>Church of Christ</b><br>27348 49th St., Staples.....218-894-2609<br>Pastor Barry Klein<br>Facebook Live<br>Bible School (youth and adult).....9:30 a.m.<br>Sunday Worship.....10:30 a.m.<br>WEDNESDAY<br>Adult Bible Study.....6:30 p.m.<br><b>Faith Lutheran</b><br>430 12th Street. NE., Staples.....218-894-1546<br>Pastor Carl Larson<br>Sunday Worship Service.....8:30 a.m.<br>Sunday School and Coffee Fellowship.....10:05 a.m.<br><b>Sacred Heart Catholic Church</b><br>310 4th St. NE, Staples<br>Church.....218-894-2296<br>info@marysac.org<br>Fr. Aaron Kuhn and Fr. Rick Aubol<br>MASS:<br>Sunday.....8:30 a.m.<br><b>Seventh Day Adventist</b><br>421 Dakota Ave. SE, Staples<br>Pastor Joshua Jeresek<br>218-894-0033<br>Saturday Worship.....9:30 am.<br>Sabbath School.....10:45 a.m.<br><b>Thomastown Covenant</b><br>15940 251st Ave., Staples.....218-894-3923<br>Pastor Scott Jorgenson<br>Sunday Worship.....10:30 a.m.<br>WEDNESDAY NIGHT YOUTH.....6:30 p.m.<br><b>Trinity Lutheran</b><br>1000 4th St., NE, Staples.....218-894-2372<br>Pastor Vicar Paul Koehler<br>Sunday Divine Service.....9:00 a.m.<br>Sunday School and Bible Class...10:30 a.m.<br><b>United Methodist</b><br>310 5th St. NE, Staples.....218-894-2248<br>Sunday Worship.....10:30 a.m.<br>(Nursery Available for Sunday Worship) | <b>Aldrich</b><br><b>Balsamlund Lutheran</b><br>19550 49th Street, Aldrich<br>Janet Eckman SMA.....218-837-5831<br>je227@yahoo.com<br>Sunday Worship.....8:30 a.m.<br><b>Cushing</b><br><b>Bethany Lutheran</b><br>25430 Bison Rd, Cushing, MN<br>320-749-2140<br>Pastor Carl Larson<br>Pastor Chris Mathison<br>www.bethanylutheranrushing.org<br>Sunday Worship.....9:00 a.m.<br>Communion.....1st and 2nd Sunday of each month<br><b>Lincoln Evangelical Free</b><br>1354 320th Street, Cushing, MN 56443<br>Phone: 218- 575-2449<br>www.lincolnefree.org<br>Office Hours: Tues. - Thurs., 9 a.m. - 12 p.m.<br>Senior Pastor: Don Reigstad<br>Community Life Pastor: Jim Brown<br>SUNDAY<br>Church Worship Gathering.....10:00 a.m.<br>YouTube Channel.....10:00 a.m.<br><b>Cushing Baptist</b><br>26298 Bear Rd., Cushing<br>Pastor Dan Holmes.....320-749-2583<br>Facebook Lincoln E Free<br>Sunday School.....9:30 a.m.<br>Worship.....10:30 a.m.<br>WEDNESDAY<br>Bible study.....7:30 p.m.<br><b>Leader</b><br><b>Swan Valley Lutheran</b><br>Leader.....218-397-2470<br>Sandy Knight, Synodically Authorized Minister of Word and Sacrament<br>Sunday Worship<br>January - July.....9 a.m.<br>July - January.....11 a.m.<br><b>Maple Hill Lutheran</b><br>Sandy Knight, Synodically Authorized Minister of Word and Sacrament<br>Leader.....218-397-2470 (Rural Pine River)<br>Worship and Sunday School.....9:00 a.m.<br><b>Motley</b><br><b>Motley Free Methodist</b><br>33 Wellwood St. E<br>Motley 56466.....218-352-6888<br>Jim Johnson, Senior Pastor<br>Casey Reynolds, Assistant Pastor<br>Sunday Worship.....9:00 and 10:30 a.m.<br>Facebook Live.....9 a.m.<br>WEDNESDAY<br>AWANA.....4:00-5:30 p.m.<br>Youth Group.....6:00-8:00 p.m.<br><b>St. John’s Lutheran</b><br>497 3rd Ave. S, Motley.....218-352-6399<br>Pastor Vicar Paul Koehler<br>Sunday School and Bible Class....8:30 a.m.<br>Sunday Worship.....9:30 a.m.<br>St. Michael Catholic Church<br>1st St. and Birch, Motley.....218-894-2296<br>info@marysac.org<br>Fr. Aaron Kuhn<br>Fr. Gabriel Walz<br>MASS:<br>Saturday.....4:00 p.m. | <b>St. Michael</b><br>280 1st Ave S, Motley.....218-894-2296<br>Fr. Aaron Kuhn and Fr. Rick Aubol<br>MASS:<br>Sunday.....10:30 a.m. (May - Nov.)<br>Saturday.....4:00 p.m. (Dec. - April)<br><b>United Methodist</b><br>847 3rd Ave. S. Lane, Motley.....218-352-6466<br>Pastor Greg Leslie<br>www.motleyumc.net<br>Sunday Worship Service.....10:00 a.m.<br>Monday AA meeting.....8:00 p.m.<br><b>Oylen</b><br><b>Oylen Alliance</b><br>Cty. Rds. 7 and 9, Oylen<br>218-472-3440 or 218-472-3316<br>Pastor Neal Malcore<br>Sunday School.....10:00 a.m.<br>Sunday Worship.....11:00 a.m.<br><b>Pillager</b><br><b>First Lutheran Church</b><br>Pastor Matthew Sundquist<br>717 River Street S, Pillager, MN<br>218-746-3775<br>Sunday Worship.....9:30 a.m.<br>Sunday School, 2nd and 4th Sundays.....8:30 a.m.<br><b>Casino Assembly of God</b><br>Pastor Dan Johnson<br>N. of Motley, Hwy. 64, E. on Cty 34 to Cty. 104.<br>Phone.....218-746-3839<br>Sunday School.....9:30 a.m.<br>Worship.....10:00 a.m.<br>Sunday Worship.....7:00 p.m.<br>WEDNESDAY.....7:00 p.m.<br><b>First Baptist</b><br>903 River Street South, Pillager<br>Pastor Jake Anderson<br>218-746-3768<br>curious@fbcpillager.com<br>Worship Gathering.....10:00 a.m.<br>Connection Point.....9:30 a.m.<br><b>Hewitt</b><br><b>Church of the Nazarene</b><br>114 Front Street, P.O. Box 146 Hewitt, MN<br>218-924-2028<br>Jim and Linda McGaffey, Pastor<br>Sunday School.....9:30 a.m.<br>Sunday Worship.....10:45 a.m.<br>WEDNESDAY PRAYER.....7:00 p.m.<br><b>Trinity Lutheran Church (LCMS)</b><br>524 Front Street, PO Box 116, Hewitt, MN<br>Pastor Robin Fish<br>Sunday Worship.....10:30 a.m.<br><b>Hewitt Community Church</b><br>Hwy. 210, Hewitt, MN<br>Pastor Kenneth Uhren<br>Sunday Worship.....10:30 a.m.<br><b>Verndale</b><br><b>Verndale Alliance</b><br>109 NW Brown Street, Verndale, MN 56481<br>218-445-5619<br>Senior Pastor Tony Stanley<br>Youth Pastor Joe Ward<br>Sunday Worship.....9:30 a.m.<br>Sunday Bible Fellowship Classes.....11-11:45 a.m. | <b>Family Life Church</b><br>402 NE Clark Drive, Verndale 218-445-5568<br>VerndaleFLC@gmail.com<br>Pastor Amos Sell.....218-371-7189<br>Tahina Kurup, Connections & Media Pastor<br>Tillman Piaggon, Kid’s & Food Shelf Pastor<br>Ryan Maltenden, Youth Pastor<br>SUNDAY<br>Youth Prayer.....9:20 a.m.<br>Worship Service.....10:00 a.m.<br>Prayer Meeting.....5 p.m.<br>WEDNESDAY<br>Life Groups.....6:30 p.m.<br><b>Hope Chapel Alliance</b><br>18126 County Road 7, Verndale<br>218-445-5643 or 218-472-3316<br>Pastor Neal Malcore<br>Sunday Worship.....9:00 a.m.<br>Sunday School.....10:30 a.m.<br>WEDNESDAY<br>Family Night.....5:30 p.m.<br><b>Immanuel Lutheran Church of Bartlett Township (LCMS)</b><br>17097 460th St., PO Box 37, Verndale<br>Pastor Robin Fish<br>Sunday Worship.....9:00 a.m.<br>WEDNESDAY<br>Bible Study.....6:30 p.m.<br><b>Verndale United Methodist</b><br>10 3rd Ave. SW, Verndale<br>218-445-5108<br>Pastor Jill Pawlowski<br>Sunday Worship.....9:00 a.m.<br><b>Central Community Church</b><br>5 miles N on Cty Rd 26 (Mimrod rd)<br>Pastor James Middendorf, 320-260-4952<br>Sunday Service.....9:00 a.m.<br>Bible Study.....10:30 a.m.<br><b>St. Frederick Catholic Church</b><br>20 Mason Avenue NW<br>Verndale.....218-894-2296<br>info@marysac.org<br>Fr. Aaron Kuhn and Fr. Rick Aubol<br>MASS:<br>Saturday.....6:00 p.m.<br><b>St. Hubert Catholic Church</b><br>Blugrass.....218-894-2296<br>info@marysac.org<br>Fr. Aaron Kuhn and Fr. Rick Aubol<br>MASS:<br>Sunday Service.....10:00 a.m. (Dec. - April)<br>Saturday.....4:00 p.m. (May - Nov.) |
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### “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

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## Wayne Longbella



The Minnesota Vikings might have killed our dad. Not literally, of course, but the heartbreak of so many Super Bowl failures didn’t do him any favors. Wayne Ernest Longbella, 86, died Feb. 11, 2025, of coronary-related complications.

Dad loved sports, but football was tops. He was a formidable player himself back in the day, as a full-back and halfback for the Staples High School Cardinals. In 1955 a St. Cloud Times reporter described him as “displaying power running which is seldom seen in a prep contest.” His name also appeared in a Sid Hartman “roundup” when he signed a tender in 1957 to play football for the University of Minnesota.

He never played for the Golden Gophers, however. Instead he packed up and moved to Moorhead, Minn., where he went to Concordia College and Moorhead State College, eventually earning degrees in sociology and education. While working his way through school, he met the love of his life, our mom, Barbara Spencer, also from Staples. They married in 1962.

Three of their four children would watch him graduate from Concordia in 1968 and Moorhead State in 1972.

While he was in college, Dad began working for Northern States Power Co. as a janitor, ending his career there in management. He retired from NSP in 1996.

Dad had always been a woodcarver, meticulously crafting all manner of things, from frames to canes. In retirement, he outfitted a workshop where he made toys out of wood, and he dabbled in painting. Crossword puzzles were a passion as was watching all the Minnesota teams play. He was a voracious reader. Mostly, though, he loved spending time with his family, especially his cherished grandchildren. And eating mincemeat pie.

He is survived by his children Maren (Jason Abraham) Longbella of West St. Paul, Minn., Ayn (Mel) Locklear of Glyndon, Minn., Dane (Teresa) Longbella of West Fargo, N.D., and Robin (Matt) Ahonen of Dilworth, Minn.; seven grandchildren, Matthew, Mei, Lin, Ming, Finn, Cass and Tess; and a sister, Karen (Steve) Hoemberg of Staples, as well as many nieces and nephews. He was preceded in death by his wife, parents and two brothers. A private graveside service will be held at a later date at Evergreen Hill Cemetery in Staples. Online guestbook at [www.wrightfuneral.com](http://www.wrightfuneral.com).

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## Nine wrestlers qualify for state

By Mark Anderson  
Managing Editor

A week after the Staples-Motley wrestling team won the Section 7A team title, they had another stunning performance in the section individual tournament, sending nine wrestlers to state and placing the remaining four in third place.

The top two individuals in each weight bracket go to state. The Cardinals have six section champions, Garrett Bjerga, Caden Kramer, Cayden Niesen, Turner Beachy and Colbe Tappe. The second place finishers are Riley Reese, Adrian Gomez and Steven Petrich. The meet was held Feb. 21 at Cass Lake-Bena High School.

"It was a wonderful day, it was a good atmosphere and everything turned out good for us," said Petrich, a senior who qualified for the state individual tournament for the first time.

This was one of the most successful individual section tournaments in school history.

"The entire team showed up to compete," said coach Eric Kramer. "Our focus was to wrestle through every period and finish every period on top, and that's what they did."

### State level upsets

The three wrestlers who placed second were not ranked in the state's top 10, according to theguillotine.com, but they each had to defeat a ranked wrestler to earn their trip to state.

"I knew there were two great wrestlers in my bracket and I had to beat one of them," said Steven Petrich the team's heavyweight.

The same was true for Riley Reese at 152 pounds and Adrian Gomez at 215, each with two ranked wrestlers in their bracket.

Petrich and Gomez both punched their ticket to state by winning their semifinal match against one of those top wrestlers. As a senior, Petrich knew this was his last chance to qualify for

state. "I wanted it really bad," he said.

Petrich had two losses this season against the fifth ranked wrestler he faced in the semifinal, but he still had some confidence because he had beaten this wrestler last year.

"I felt I was a better technical wrestler than he was," said Petrich, "so I waited for him to mess up, I just stalled until he made a mistake."

That lasted more than six minutes, as both wrestlers earned an escape with no takedowns, sending the match into overtime.

The opportunity Petrich was looking for came early in the first overtime.

"He shot, so I snapped his head down and did a go-behind," said Petrich.

It was a successful move that the Cardinals have been working on all season. It was so well-drilled that Petrich said he didn't have time to think when he executed the move.

"It was automatic, I just did it," said Petrich. "We have been conditioning so much this year, I felt he was more tired than I was."

The takedown earned him his trip to state, as he reached the final where he had a loss against the number two wrestler in the state.

Gomez had a similar story, using a well-drilled go-behind to score a takedown in his semifinal match against a ranked wrestler for a 3-2 win in the semifinal. He kept wrestling well in a 7-3 loss to an undefeated wrestler in the final.

Coach Eric Kramer said the team had scouted the two heavyweight opponents and felt the go-behind could work.

"They executed their game plans perfectly," said Kramer. "We won matches we had lost before because we consistently executed."

Reese nearly accomplished his upset in the semifinal, falling to the top seed 1-0. He came back with two tech falls to place third, setting up a true second match with a ranked wrestler who had beaten him 10-0 just a week earlier.

"We had to shore up a few key positions," said Kramer, "we thought Riley could do well against him."

Reese kept the match close and ended up on top with a 4-2 victory, achieving his first state individual tournament.

### Section champions

Of the six section champions, only Turner Beachy was the number two seed, beating the top seed in his final match at 139 pounds with a solid 10-5 win.

"Turner has been working on finishing matches. He needs to stay ahead and keep scoring, that's how he won that match," said coach Kramer.

Gage Bjerga at 121 and Garrett Bjerga at 107 had an easy path to their titles as the top seeds, with upsets in the bracket before them, so they didn't even face the second seeds in the final. This is Gage's second trip to state and the first for Garrett.

Caden Kramer had a very tough 114 pound final, against a wrestler who had only one loss this year, an earlier match against Kramer.

"The kid was more conservative this time," said coach Kramer, Caden's father. "He had to dig deep to get this one."

Kramer emerged with an 8-7 win to earn his second trip to state.

Cayden Niesen was the top seed at 127 pounds and beat a ranked wrestler 14-7 to earn a trip to state. This will be his second time at state, he placed sixth last year while wrestling for Little Falls.

Colbe Tappe won his third straight section title, this time at 160 pounds after wrestling 152 last year. He faced a tough ranked opponent in the final and came out on top with a 12-7 win.

### Third place finishers

Two of the third place finishers had qualified for state last year but had a tough bracket to overcome.

Eli Greenwaldt at 133 pounds lost in the semifinal to another ranked wrestler. Although he came back

with two dominating wins to place third, he did not get a chance for a true second match.

At 189 pounds, Luke Bjerga reached the first place match and lost. He had a challenging true second match, but he ran out of steam in overtime, getting taken down to finish third.

Dustin Converse was a senior looking to get to state for the first time, but had two ranked wrestlers ahead of him. He made the semifinal but lost 4-2 to the top seed. He came back with a pin and then a 6-0 win in the third place match, setting up a true second match for a chance to go to state. He gave a good effort, but ended up with an 11-5 loss to remain in third.

Cooper Tappe was wrestling up in weight at 145 pounds, allowing Beau Carlson to rest for this tournament. He took advantage of the opportunity with an amazing run, Tappe wrestled his way to third place with a 12-6 win and earned a true second match for a chance to go to state. He ended up with a loss to a ranked wrestler to stay in third.

Head Coach Jim Jackson said the team's success was the story of the tournament. "We have nine guys going to state and the rest placed third. That speaks for itself," said Jackson.

### Team results

#### Section 7A individual tournament

|                     |                |
|---------------------|----------------|
| 107 Garrett Bjerga  | 3-0, 1st place |
| 114 Caden Kramer    | 3-0, 1st place |
| 121 Gage Bjerga     | 3-0, 1st place |
| 127 Cayden Niesen   | 3-0, 1st place |
| 133 Eli Greenwaldt  | 3-1, 3rd place |
| 139 Turner Beachy   | 2-0, 1st place |
| 145 Cooper Tappe    | 3-2, 3rd place |
| 152 Riley Reese     | 5-1, 2nd place |
| 160 Colbe Tappe     | 3-0, 1st place |
| 172 Dustin Converse | 3-2, 3rd place |
| 189 Luke Bjerga     | 2-2, 3rd place |
| 215 Adrian Gomez    | 2-1, 2nd place |
| 285 Steven Petrich  | 2-1, 2nd place |



Adrian Gomez in a regular season match.

## State wrestling team preview

The Staples-Motley wrestling team will face United North Central, a team that combines Sebeka and Menasha, in the first round at the state wrestling tournament on Thursday, Feb. 27 at 9 a.m. at the Xcel Energy Center in St. Paul. The first match is at 9 a.m., with two more rounds to follow, the championship match is scheduled for 7 p.m.

The Cardinals are the number two seed in the tournament and UNC is a random draw to face them.

The two teams have not seen each other since Dec. 7, when they were both at the Wadena individual tournament. At that tournament, Staples-Motley finished in first place with 233 points and UNC was second with 210. Against other state tournament teams, UNC has a win over West Central Area and a loss to Canby.

If Staples-Motley wins in the first round, they will likely face Jackson County Central, a team that placed fourth in the state last year and has LeSueur-Henderson in the first round. JCC

has three returning state medal winners, all in the lower weights.

The Cardinals did see a few of the JCC wrestlers at a tournament in January, but JCC didn't send a full team that day. It has been many years since there was a dual between the two teams, although they have been rivals at state tournaments in the past.

If Staples-Motley advances to the final, they will likely face Chatfield, the returning state champion who beat the Cardinals in last year's state final. This year's state bracket has Chatfield facing West Central Area/Ashby/Brandon-Evansville in the first round. The other two teams in that bracket are Lake Crystal-Wellcome Memorial and Canby.

If Chatfield makes the state final again, they will bring nine ranked wrestlers in the 13 weight categories, five of them ranked in the top three. Staples-Motley has eight ranked wrestlers, five of them in the top three.



### GBB Senior Night

The Staples-Motley girl's basketball seniors were recognized before the varsity game at The Nest, Feb. 20. They received personal posters, goodie baskets from team members, sweatshirts and had their basketball journey depicted in photos displayed on The Nest scoreboard screen and video messages from teammates. Above: Ellen (Ellie) Lange, Miranda (Mur) Schotzko, Olivia (Livi) Lorber. (Submitted photos)



SMHS Basketball Boosters Justin Larson and Pat Hoppe presenting seniors Lange, Schotzko and Lorber with their sweatshirts.



### Driving the lane

Staples-Motley senior Livi Lorber drives the lane with help from teammates Hanna Cole and Addie Potter in the Feb. 20 basketball game vs Aitkin Feb. 20. (Photo by Kelly Humphrey, kick! photo gallery, brainerddispatch.com)

## Girls basketball gets win in final week of regular season

The Staples-Motley girls basketball team got a win in the final week of the regular season, beating Long Prairie-Grey Eagle 57-52 on Feb. 18. The Cardinals had a close loss against a good Aitkin team, 77-73 on Feb. 20, then finished the regular season with a 87-33 loss against Breckenridge.

The Cardinals finished the season with a 3-23 record, and were winless in the Heart O Lakes Conference.

For Section 7AA playoffs, the Cardinals travel to Duluth

to play Marshall School on Tuesday, Feb. 25, at 5 p.m. The Cardinals are the number 14 seed and Marshall is number three seed.

### Team results

**Staples-Motley 33, Breckenridge 87**

Scoring: Clara Maros 8, Jocelyn Link 7, Livi Lorber 7, Miranda Schotzko 5, Hannah Cole 3, Sophia Luna 3



### Hustle play

Hannah Cole hits the floor to make a steal and then turn around and pass the ball to a teammates in the game against Breckenridge. Despite being behind, the Cardinals

kept hustling to make plays. (Staples World photo by Mark Anderson)



NOTICE  
BECKER TOWNSHIP  
ANNUAL MEETING

The Becker Township Annual Meeting will be held Tuesday, March 11, 2025 at 7 p.m. at the Becker Township Hall, with the regular meeting to follow.

In case of bad weather, the Annual meeting will be held on March 18, 2025 at 7 p.m.

All township residents are encouraged to attend.

Mary Fitcher, Clerk  
Becker Township  
10pnc

NOTICE  
BULLARD TOWNSHIP  
ELECTION AND  
ANNUAL MEETING

Notice is hereby given to qualified voters of Bullard Township, Wadena County, Minnesota, that the Annual Election of Officers and Annual Meeting will be held Tuesday, March 11, 2025, at the Bullard Township Hall. Election poll hours are 5:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m., at which time voters will elect:

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

The Board of Canvass will meet at 8:05 p.m., and the Annual Meeting will begin at 8:15 p.m.

In case of inclement weather, the election and meeting will be postponed until Tuesday, March 18, 2025, with the same times and location.

Janelle VanAlst, Clerk  
Bullard Township  
10pnc

NOTICE  
MORAN TOWNSHIP  
ELECTION AND  
ANNUAL MEETING

The annual Moran Township meeting will be held on Tuesday, March 11, 2025 at 3:00 p.m.

Elections will take place at 5:00 p.m. at the close of the annual meeting, at which time voters will elect:

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

Diane Mack, Clerk  
Moran Township  
10-11pnc

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: October 14, 2016

ORIGINAL PRINCIPAL AMOUNT OF MORTGAGE: \$87,387.00

MORTGAGOR(S): Timothy L. Klimek and Dawn Klimek, husband and wife

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

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

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

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

NOTICE  
MEADOWBROOK  
TOWNSHIP 2025  
ANNUAL MEETING

Meadowbrook Township will hold its annual meeting on Tuesday, March 11, 2025 at 6:30 p.m. at the Leader Community Hall.

In case of inclement weather the annual meeting will be held the following Tuesday, March 18, 2024, same time and place.

Ty Peterson, Clerk  
Meadowbrook Township  
10-11pnc

NOTICE  
POPLAR TOWNSHIP  
ANNUAL MEETING;  
BOARD OF APPEALS  
AND EQUALIZATION

The Poplar Town Board will hold its Annual Meeting on Tuesday March 11 at 2:30 p.m. in the Leader Community Hall. The regular monthly meeting will follow.

The Board of Appeals and Equalization meeting for the Township of Poplar will meet on Thursday April 3 at 12:00 p.m. in the Leader Community Hall.

Any questions can be directed to Sue Peet Poplar Township Clerk at 218-851-8692.

Sue Peet, Clerk  
Poplar Township  
10pnc

NOTICE  
MOOSE LAKE  
TOWNSHIP  
2025 ANNUAL  
MEETING;  
ACCEPTING BIDS

Moose Lake Township will hold its Annual Meeting on Tuesday, March 11, 2025 at 5:00 p.m. at the Leader Community Hall.

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

In case of inclement weather, the alternate meeting date will be Tuesday, March 18, 2025 at 5:00 p.m. at the Leader Community Hall.

Karen Roubal, Clerk  
Moose Lake Township  
10-11pnc

NOTICE  
MOTLEY TOWNSHIP  
ELECTION AND  
ANNUAL MEETING

The Motley Township Election and Annual Meeting will be held Tuesday, March 11, 2025 at the Motley Township town hall located at 4032 Azalea Road. The polls will be open from 5 p.m. until 8 p.m., followed by the Board of Canvass. The regular monthly meeting will follow the annual meeting.

Positions to be filled are:  
One (1) Supervisor, three (3) year term;  
One (1) Treasurer, two (2) year term

One (1) Clerk, one (1) year term.

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

Ken Swecker, Clerk  
Motley Township  
10-11pnc

NOTICE  
REGION FIVE  
DEVELOPMENT  
COMMISSION  
MEETING

Commissioner Chuck Parins will participate remotely via interactive technology at the Mohave County Library, 1770 McCulloch Blvd N, Lake Havasu City, AZ 86403, for the Region Five Development Commission Meeting to be held March 27, 2025 at 5 p.m.

Savannah Winkler  
R5DC Regional  
Development Planner  
10pnc

(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

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

(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

Freshwater  
Education District

MINUTES  
FRESHWATER ED.  
DISTRICT #6004  
Organizational and  
Regular Meeting  
January 22, 2025  
2222 Industrial Drive,  
Wadena, MN

Call to order

Meeting called to order by Chair Wright at 5 p.m.

Board Present: R. Huttunen- Sebek; C. Wolf- LP-GE; B. Tumberg- WDC; S. Veronen- Verndale; J. Hillmer- Browerville; R. VanDenheuvel- B-H; R. Thalmann- Henning; K. Howard- Menahga; R. Wright-S.M.

Supts: L. Westrum-WDC and S. Vedbraaten-Browerville.

FED: E. Weber, Supt.; J. Wothe, SpEd Dir.; J. Anderson, Fin. Mang.; S. Thiel, Admin. Assist.

Others: B. Opshal, Brady Martz & Associates.

MOTIONED BY VanDenheuvel and 2ND BY Wolf to appoint the following officers for the calendar year 2025; Chair, R. Huttunen, V-Chair, C. Wolf; Clerk, B. Tumberg; Treasurer, S. Veronen. VOTE - U/C.

At 5:01 p.m., 2025 Chair Huttunen, took over the mtg.

MOTION BY Thalmann and 2ND BY Tumberg to approve the agenda as presented. VOTE- U/C

B. Opshal, CPA of Brady Martz and Associates reviewed FY24 Audit Report.

MOTIONED BY Hillmer and 2ND BY Howard to approve the 10.23.24 minutes as presented. VOTE-U/C.

Organizational  
Business

MOTIONED BY Thalmann & 2ND BY Veronen to authorize the use of a signature plate to sign documents. VOTE-U/C

MOTIONED BY Wolf & 2ND BY Tumberg to name the following as official depositories: 1st Int. Bank, Staples, MN, Wadena State Bank, Wadena, MN, First National Bank, Ottertail, MN, & MN School District Liquid Asset Fund, and to authorize designated staff to invest funds in these institutions with evidence of sufficient collateral. VOTE- U/C

MOTIONED BY Hillmer & 2ND BY Howard to authorize the designated staff to make electronic fund transfers as outlined by State Statutes. VOTE-U/C

MOTIONED BY Veronen & 2ND BY Thalmann to approve to keep Board per diem the same as 2024 calendar; regular, special, committee mtgs. to be set at the per diem rate of \$70 for mtgs. 4 hrs. or less & \$130 for mtgs. over 4 hrs., & mileage to be reimbursed at the Federal rate. VOTE-U/C

MOTIONED BY VanDenheuvel and 2ND BY Wright to set the Regular Board Mtg. dates as follows and a start time of 5 p.m.: 3/12/25, 5/23/25, 6/25/25, 8/20/25, 10/22/25 in Wadena, MN w/ Special Board Mtg. called as needed. VOTE - U/C

MOTIONED BY Howard and 2ND BY VanDenheuvel to name the Long Prairie Leader, Long Prairie, MN as the 2025 official newspaper. VOTE - U/C

Appointments by the 2025 Chair: Pers. Comm; S. Veronen, B. Tumberg, and R. Thalmann. Otter Tail Co Collab.; R. Thalmann; Todd Co Collab.: R. VanDenheuvel; two Sup. Supts: L. Westrum and S. Vedbraaten, and acknowledges the annual associate membership in MREA and full membership in MSBA.

MOTIONED BY Tumberg and 2ND BY Hillmer to acknowledge the annual review of policies and action to direct the Ex. Dir. to maintain the Dist. Policy Manual per any MSBA recommended legal and/or legislative mandatory revisions; VOTE - U/C

MOTIONED BY Howard and 2ND BY Thalmann to name Hitesman & Associates, P.A., Maple Grove; Kennedy & Graven, Minneapolis; Pederson & Pederson P.A., Wadena, as well as Pemberton Law, Fergus Falls as the 2025 Consulting

Law Firms. VOTE - U/C  
MOTIONED BY VanDenheuvel and 2ND BY Hillmer to name the designated staff as FED's E-Service contacts. VOTE - U/C

Regular Board Mtg.

MOTIONED BY Howard and 2ND BY Wolf to approve the 11/14/24 and 1/8/25 Supt. Advisory minutes as presented. VOTE - U/C

MOTIONED BY Tumberg and 2ND BY Hillmer to approve the final reading of Policy #522 as presented. VOTE - U/C

MOTIONED BY Veronen and 2ND BY Wright to acknowledge receipt and review of the 2024 Financial Audit and direct the auditing firm to forward a copy to MDE. VOTE - U/C

MOTIONED BY Tumberg and 2ND BY VanDenheuvel to approve the 10/1/24 -12/31/24 voucher claims as presented. VOTE - U/C

The following resolution is hereby MOVED BY Howard and 2ND BY Thalmann: to recognize that the Board of FED #6004, gratefully accepts the following donations as identified as: Lincoln Scandia Valley Lions, Motley, MN ~ \$300; Nelson Insurance Agency, Staples, MN ~ \$50; Browerville Lions Gaming, Browerville, MN ~ \$500; Long Prairie Packing Co, Long Prairie, MN ~ \$150; Long Prairie Dairy Queen, Long Prairie, MN ~ \$100; Grey Eagle/Burtrum Lions Club, Grey Eagle, MN ~ \$500; Staples Eye Clinic, Staples, MN ~ \$50; Pillager Area Fire Dept. and Relief Assoc., Pillager, MN ~ \$500; Lincoln Area Bus. Assoc., Cushing, MN ~ \$2,500; American Legion Post #124, Motley, MN ~ \$200; VFW Auxiliary #3922, Wadena, MN ~ \$100; Unity Bank, Staples, MN ~ \$100; Faith Lutheran Church Men, Staples, MN ~ \$25; Bertha Area Sportsman Club, Bertha, MN ~ \$1,000; American Legion Post #12, Long Prairie, MN ~ \$200; Eagle Bend Lions Gambling, Eagle Bend, MN ~ \$500; Lions Club of Motley, Motley, MN ~ \$2,000. VOTE on adoptions of this Resolution was as follows; ABSTENTIONS: None. AYE: Wolf, Tumberg, Veronen, Hillmer, VanDenheuvel, Thalmann, Howard, Wright and Huttunen. NAY: None. ABSENT: None. WHEREUPON said Resolutions was declared duly adopted.

The following resolution is hereby MOVED BY Thalmann and 2ND BY Hillmer, directing the Admin. to make recommendations regarding the reduction and/or discontinuance of programs and positions and reasons therefore;

BE IT RESOLVED, by the Board of FED #6004, VOTE on adoptions of this Resolution was as follows; ABSTENTIONS: None. AYE: Wolf, Tumberg, Veronen, Hillmer, VanDenheuvel, Thalmann, Howard, Wright and Huttunen. NAY: None. ABSENT: None.

WHEREUPON said the Resolution was declared Adopted.

MOTIONED BY Tumberg and 2ND BY Veronen to approve the service agreement between VIA Actuarial Solutions and FED #6004 to provide GASB 75 OPEB actuarial services for FY25 & FY26 as presented. VOTE - U/C

MOTIONED BY VanDenheuvel and 2ND BY Howard to approve RII Budget modification and Assessment Manual Summary of the current FY25 financial budget as presented. VOTE - U/C

MOTIONED BY Tumberg and 2ND BY Wolf to approve and post the FY25 FED T-I Seniority list as presented. VOTE - U/C

MOTIONED BY Hillmer and 2ND BY VanDenheuvel to approve and post the FY25 Para Seniority list as presented. VOTE - U/C w/ Howard Abstaining.

MOTIONED BY Wright and 2ND BY Thalmann to approve and post the FY25 SPED RVR Drivers Seniority list as presented. VOTE - U/C

Reviewed the Annual Admin. Memo Regarding Pro- See **FRESHWATER** on page9a



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FRESHWATER continued from page 8a

bationary and Term Employee.

MOTIONED BY Hillmer and 2ND BY Wolf to approve the service agreement between ASLIS, Duluth and FED for ASL Interpreting Services, effective 12/6/24 - 6/30/25, as presented. VOTE - U/C

MOTIONED BY Veronen and 2ND BY VanDenheuvel to approve the service agreement between St. Cloud ISD 742 and FED #6004 as presented. VOTE - U/C

MOTIONED BY Thalmann and 2ND BY Howard to approve Policy 400.12L as presented. VOTE - U/C

MOTIONED BY Tumberg and 2ND BY Hillmer to authorize the FED Admin to advertise a request for proposal for Mental Health Services for the 24/25 SY Academy Program. VOTE - U/C

MOTIONED BY Hillmer and 2ND BY VanDenheuvel to approve the RY TS/CR Services Agmt. for the 24/25 SY between FED and participating districts as presented. VOTE - U/C

MOTION BY VanDenheuvel and 2ND BY Veronen to approve the Business Mgr. Service Agmt. w/Henning School from 12/18/24 - 6/30/25 as presented. VOTE - U/C

MOTIONED BY Howard and 2ND BY Wolf to approve the Payroll Service Agmt. w/Henning School from 12/18/24 - 6/30/25 as presented. VOTE - U/C

MOTIONED BY Thalmann and 2ND BY Veronen to accept the letter of intent to negotiate a new contract for the T-I bargaining unit unionized under the Ed MN-FED. VOTE - U/C

MOTIONED BY VanDenheuvel and 2ND BY Wright to accept the letter of intent to negotiate a new contract for the Para-Driver group unionized under the Ed MN-FED. VOTE - U/C w/Howard Abstaining.

MOTIONED BY Hillmer and 2ND BY Tumberg to approve the pay equity implementation report and submit to MN Mang. and Budget as presented. VOTE - U/C

Supt. Vedbraaten left the meeting.

Dept. reports

J. Anderson, Finance

Mang. reviewed the following reports: Cash, Fund Balance, Facility Reserve and OPEB Reserve.

J. Wothe, SpEd Di. gave updates on the following: State Monitoring corrections have been submitted; Fiscal Monitoring will start in the spring; Academy has had the lowest number of referrals ever; Working towards to bill MA for Social Workers time; Upcoming Trainings: New Teacher, Feb 7; Principals, Feb 13; and Disability Mtg.'s in March.

E. Weber, Ex. Dir. reported on the following items: Reviewed the 25/26 SY Menu Options with no changes. Putting a bid in for a used Toro Lawn Mower w/brush attachment for snow removal. ABE enrollment is up 10 percent (%). ALC/TS enrollment is up 20 students compared to last year at this time. A total of 16 TS Prog. running. Reviewed Fall Enrollments w/ECFE enrollment decreased by eight percent (8%), while SR remained the same.

Tech is finalizing with all staff moving to "Google Drive" a cloud-based storage service; finalizing E-Rate, internet and phone bids for the 25/26 SY.

MOTIONED BY VanDenheuvel and 2ND BY Wolf to approve the items as follows:

- Hiring of I. Nesland; K. Hall;
- Voluntary Reduction in Days for M. Ludovissie; J. Nelson
- Authorization to Advertise and Hire a PT School Psych
- Resignation of J. Pexsa; K. Bowman; J. Timm
- Increase in Hrs. K. Aho; B. Larson
- Lane Change Request for H. Haase
- Assign ABE Steps as follows:

- Step 1: L. Hokanson
- Step 3: V. Gonzalez; C. Urbina-Oberton
- Step 5: L. Hintz; S. Opheim
- Step 7: L. Hamann
- Step 9: L. Oman

Adjournment

MOTIONED BY Hillmer and 2ND BY Tumberg to adjourn the mtg. at 6:05 p.m. 11pnc

SERVICES & EMPLOYMENT

205  
Help Wanted  
WORKING IN GREEN-HOUSE & SALES STAND IN STAPLES: Seasonal, part-time, March - June. Ability to lift 35 lbs. Debbie's Plants. Text Diane, 218-851-8273. 10-12p

208  
Storage  
FOR RENT  
Japke's North 8th Street Mini Storage, 894-1551 6x20, 10x12, 10x20, 10x24



REAL ESTATE

602  
Apartments  
for Rent  
STAPLES: Downtown, 1 - 2 bdsm., recently remodeled, NO pets, non smoking, 218-894-3108. 6tfc

FRONTIER TOWNHOMES  
FOR RENTAL INFO CALL 218-296-5031  
Under new ownership  
We are accepting applications for 2 and 3 bedroom townhomes in Staples, a community you can get attached to. Rent based on income. Now professionally managed by BRUTGER EQUITIES, INC. Income guidelines apply.

611  
Wanted to Buy  
40+ ACRES between Wadena/Pillager, with or without house, 218-831-3521. 9-11p



GARAGE SALES

701  
STAPLES ASSEMBLY OF GOD YOUTH: Now accepting donations for upcoming garage sale. Call Kathy at 218-296-1647 for drop off or pick up. 8-22c

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\*Thomas Sellnow is a Real Property Law Specialist certified by Real Property Section of Minnesota State Bar Association.  
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# Lakewood Health System welcomes new District Board members

Lakewood Health System, Staples, has welcomed two new members to its District Board: Mary Fitcher and Franz Achermann.

Fitcher started her three-year term on Jan. 1, replacing board member, Judy Bjerga, who retired after serving for 18 years.

A 38-year resident of the Staples/Motley area, Fitcher spent 33 of those years working in various positions at Lakewood before retiring in 2023. She is married to her husband, Mike, who is recently retired from 3M in Staples, and they have two children and four grandchildren. They love many outdoor activities including golf, fishing, gardening and playing pickleball. Chasing after their grandchildren also keeps them very busy.

Fitcher is a member of the Staples '93 Lions and is the Becker Township clerk. "I retired two years ago after having worked at Lakewood for 33 years," she said, adding, "With my history of not only living in the area, but also working at Lakewood, I felt I would be a



Mary Fitcher



Franz Achermann

good representative for our township on the Lakewood District Board."

Achermann started his three-year term on Jan. 1, replacing board member, Linda Dietrich, who retired after serving 13 years. A 40-year resident of the Leader area, Achermann is the seventh of 11 siblings, has one son, and cares for his 90-year-old mother. He owns and operates a construction company located on approximately 200 acres of land in Moose Lake Township, where his biggest hobby is caring for his assortment of birds, includ-

ing chickens, geese, turkeys and peafowl, along with two German Shepherds. "I consider myself very fortunate to live where I do, surrounded by wonderful neighbors and community, and I'm proud to represent the Moose Lake Township on the District Board," Achermann said.

The Lakewood District Board is tasked with various responsibilities, such as maintaining Lakewood's affiliation agreement, acquiring real estate and issue debt, pursuing board education and development, and advocacy.



## Chilling results of apartment fire in Wadena

(Social media photo, Wadena Chamber of Commerce posted Feb. 18)

## One dead in apartment fire; residents displaced

The Minnesota Department of Public Safety State Fire Marshal (SFM) division is assisting following a deadly fire Feb. 16, 2025,

123 Bryant Ave. SE, Wadena, located one block off Hwy. 71.

Crews were called to the scene Sunday, Feb. 16 at 10:46 p.m. to find heavy flames coming from an upstairs window.

One person was found deceased. All of the 12-unit residents were displaced.

Seven residents were evacuated from a nearby apartment building, 115 Bryant Ave. SE. Temporary housing for the displaced residents was provided. All displaced residents without shelter were taken to local hotels Sunday and Monday nights.

According to a joint media release by Wadena County Sheriff Mike Carr, the deceased individual was taken to the Midwest Medical Examiner's Office, where he was identified as David Henrichs, 68, of Wadena.

The cause of the fire remains under investigation by the Wadena Fire Dept. and MN State Fire Marshal's Office. Currently, no foul play is suspected in Henrichs' death.

Subzero temperatures and extreme wind chills made firefighting efforts difficult, causing four trucks and two ladders to freeze up. Crews were on scene until Monday afternoon.

The Wadena Fire Dept. was assisted by Verndale Fire, Staples Fire, Bluffton Fire, Deer Creek Fire, Sebeka Fire, Perham Fire, Wadena Police Dept., Wadena County Sheriff's Dept, Astera Health and Wadena Iron and Metal.

On Feb. 19, the Wadena County Board of Commissioners signed a disaster

declaration which will allow response efforts to continue. The Wadena National Guard Armory was opened as the next step in the sheltering process due to the extreme weather conditions. This was made possible by an executive order by Gov. Tim Walz following the request from Wadena Cty. Sheriff Mike Carr. The American Red Cross and Salvation Army have responded to assist with shelter operations as permanent housing is located for each displaced resident who needs assistance. Wadena Cty. Human Services continues working to locate appropriate long-term housing for those affected. The residents of the apartment building next door to the fire site were allowed back to their residences the morning of Feb. 18 after the scene was deemed safe by the Wadena Fire Dept.

The Initiative Foundation has partnered with the City of Wadena to accept financial donations to help the displaced residents. Donations can be made at [www.givemn.org/wadena-fire-recovery](http://www.givemn.org/wadena-fire-recovery). The website also has information on how to pay by check or over the phone. To donate other personal items, contact Wadena Cty. Human Services at 218-631-7605 for guidance on what can be accepted as donations.

Several individuals and churches are managing donations that are not affiliated with Wadena County and may be able to accept more/other items. All efforts are appreciated to help the victims who have lost most or all of their possessions.



## Musical basketball players

Staples-Motley Elementary students had a music and basketball performance at halftime of the Feb. 21 varsity doubleheader. Students dribbled and passed in time to the music being played, showing the difference between rhythms. Elementary music teacher Brandy Lyon coordinated the show. (Staples World photos by Mark Anderson)



## Two-steppin' sophomores

Staples-Motley High School sophomores showed off a variety of dance moves at the Snodaze lip sync contest at Centennial Auditorium Feb. 12. (Staples World photo by Dawn Timbs)

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Josiah Burton



Grant Bestland



Ryan Neelan

# Rutten’s scoring pulls Cardinals to win against Breckenridge

Eli Rutten scored 20 second half points to lead the Staples-Motley boys basketball team to a 71-57 win over Breckenridge on Feb. 21. It was a close game most of the way, until the Cardinals pulled away in the final minutes. Staples-Motley had a Heart O Lakes Conference loss at Perham, 72-67, on Feb. 18. Perham is now the conference leader with a 12-3 record after Staples-Motley knocked off Dilworth-Glyndon-Felton the previous week. The Cardinals are now 13-11 overall and 7-7 in the conference. They have two games remaining in the regular season, both conference games.

Against Breckenridge, Rutten scored the first basket of the game, a three pointer, then was scoreless the rest of the half as the Cowboys played aggressive defense and Rutten started getting other players involved. In the second half, the Breckenridge defense tired a little and Rutten went to the basket consistently, earning 12 free throws in the half and making 10. With the Cardinals still behind, Ryan Neelan made a driving score and Conner Kuhns hit a three pointer to put them ahead by two points. Rutten expanded the lead with a three pointer and then put the game out of reach

with a step-back three pointer to go up 63-55. The Cardinals made free throws to finish the game. Against Perham, the Cardinals led by three at halftime but got into foul trouble in the second half and Perham made 22 of 30 free throws to pull ahead. **Team results**  
**Staples-Motley 67, Perham 72**  
Scoring: Eli Rutten 31, Avandre Brandt 13, Josiah Burton 8, Alex Schultz 7, Conner Kuhns 5, Grant Bestland 3  
**Staples-Motley 71, Breckenridge 57**  
Scoring: Rutten 23, Kuhns 12, Brandt 10, Schultz 9, Bestland 7, Ryan Neelan 4, Burton 4, Larson 2



Eli Rutten



## Girls basketball action

Staples-Motley girls basketball players in their game against Breckenridge. Left, Miranda Schotzko goes after a loose ball. Center, Clara Maros goes up for a layup.

Right, Sophia Luna scores on a fast break. (Staples World photos by Mark Anderson)





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## Homecoming birthday party

Hannah Krebs with her daughters Amelia and Mabel, celebrating her return from the Toronto with a birthday cake. Krebs said she turned 30 but the cake place was out of zeros. (Submitted photo)

KREBS continued from page 1a

## Still dealing with trauma of plane crash

glow of the fire and people could feel the heat from the fire.”

At that point people started screaming inside the plane.

“I had the feeling that the plane was crashing and I thought we are all going to die,” said Krebs.

Her first thought was “I won’t have time to contact my family, but they all know I love them.”

Her next thought was to avoid any debris that might be spinning around in the cabin. Luckily nothing was flying around and all overhead bins were secure.

“I couldn’t tell when we flipped,” said Krebs. “When I looked up, everyone’s hair and scarves were hanging, so I thought we must be upside down.”

The plane skidded for a while then came to a halt.

“There was a moment of silence,” said Krebs. “We were all wondering ‘what just happened?’”

Then people started popping out of their seat belts.

“I don’t remember how I got down, I unbuckled myself but I must have come down hard, it is a big blank to me,” she said.

There were a few other passengers who could not get down and Krebs teamed up with others to help them get down.

“The flight attendants were yelling to stay in our seats, but that was the only disobeying we did,” said Krebs.

### Exiting the plane

Krebs’ backpack had been stored under her seat. She reached up and it was resting right there.

It took a while to get the emergency door open but when they did, jet fuel started pouring in, so they had to close it again and everyone had to exit out of the front door where they had entered.

“Everyone was very calm, orderly and attentive,” said Krebs. “We made sure we all could get out.”

This was the start of the healing process for Krebs, when she realized how everyone was working together instead of panicking and trying to save themselves.

“For people who don’t have faith in the goodness of humanity, it is heartwarming that we all looked out for each other in this situation,” she said.

She finally got out on the tarmac where the wind was whipping and it was extremely cold. Later on, Krebs didn’t know if the burns on her ankle were from the jet fuel or from frostbite.

“I texted my husband as I was running away,” she said. “I told him ‘the plane crashed but I’m alive,’ and that was all.”

She next sent a text to her work boss saying “I’m okay.”

Once everyone was safe, she was able to call her husband Jacob and tell him that she was in good shape.

“I was still pretty in shock,

I hope I sounded calm and collected, but I was in a panic,” she remembered.

She remembers the message back from Jacob, calming her down and saying “Thank God you are safe.”

### Coming back home

Krebs flew back to Minneapolis on Feb. 20, just three days after the crash. She had looked for trains and other transportation because she wasn’t sure she wanted to get on an airplane again. Her family also offered to drive to Tornoto to bring her home, but with sub-zero winter weather the whole way, she didn’t want that to turn into another mishap. In the end, the need to come home and see her family overcame her concern about air travel and she took the flight home.

Luckily a couple of other people who were on the flight that crashed were going home on this flight also, she said. She connected with them and sat next to one of them for the flight home.

“We kept talking to each other, that was extremely helpful,” said Krebs.

As they were coming in for the landing, Krebs and her fellow survivor looked outside at the sunny weather and noticed something that gave them both comfort for the landing.

“As the sun hit the plane, there was a sun bow, a rainbow that is shaped like an eye,” said Krebs. “We said ‘wow, look at that,’ and we knew this landing would work out.”

Her daughters were anxious to see her and made plans to welcome her home.

“Mabel said ‘mommy, we are going to get you a birthday cake and throw you a surprise party,’” said Krebs. “I said ‘thank you, I will be so surprised.’”

Since her children are so young, they have kept the details of the plane crash vague.

“They know that mommy’s plane had a hard landing and mommy got some

owies,” she said.

Krebs is going to make a scrapbook with news stories about the crash so her daughters can read it when they are older and able to understand it better.

“We don’t want them to be afraid of flying,” said Krebs.

She noted that since she is now in the .00001 percent of people who have been in a plane crash, stastically everyone she knows should be safe to fly or it would be beating the odds.

### Healing

The birthday party was a way for the family to celebrate her return without the children being suspicious of how the incident could have been a tragedy.

“It was a nice homecoming, the kids loved it,” said Krebs. “It was a good end to a very bizzarre, very surreal week.”

Krebs had a message for the people in the Staples area who have reached out to her following the crash.

“Thank you for all of your support and love, the outpouring of love has been amazing,” she said.

She also had some advice:

“Wear your seat belts when you fly, if you have anything important, put it in your pockets.”

Since she still has travel scheduled for work, Krebs was uncertain about flying in the near future. She said Delta Airline was very helpful on the day of the crash, but they have not offered any other therapy or guidance since.

She has a European trip planned for work, so she has set a goal of feeling good about air travel again.

“I really want to go to Ireland,” said Krebs. “One way or another I will overcome it.”

As she works towards getting back to being comfortable with flying, she is taking some of her own advice:

“Don’t be afraid to keep living just because bad things can happen,” said Krebs.



## Eye in the sky after crash

On the return flight home, Hannah Krebs and another passenger who survived the plane crash in Toronto saw this sun bow, a circular rainbow, giving them comfort that this flight was being watched over and would land safely.