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The Class of 2023 and the pursuit of excellence

By Mark Anderson
Managing Editor

As the Staples-Motley seniors get their diplomas on Friday evening, May 26, they will each have a unique academic journey with different interests and specialties. They all share a high school career that started with the Covid pandemic, but the school still gave them opportunities to pursue their interests and excel in the fields they chose.

Seniors Mandy Carter and Topanga Braith will be giving commencement speeches at this year's graduation. They are the top two seniors academically, with the highest grade point average in the class.

Carter and Braith said that this year's class has been very strong academically. Just getting into the top ten was a high bar to reach. "The top ten were all very close," said Braith.

Carter will be getting her AA degree for completing her first two years of college while still in high school.

Braith is close to the AA college degree, and will have nearly two years of college credits when she graduates.

Many of their classes were online classes from the Post Secondary Education Option (PSEO) and they also took many of the College in School (CIS) classes that are taught live in the high school.

A lot of students in this year's graduating class took



Class of 2023 speakers

Topanga Braith and Mandy Carter will give commencement speeches at the Staples-Motley High School graduation on Friday, May 26. (Staples World photo by Mark Anderson)

college level classes and will have college credits as they leave. Carter said this class has more AA degrees than any other class.

Looking back on their academic experience in high school, Braith and Carter took many of the same classes and found out that they have very different interests. Despite opposing interests, they are both planning on going into medical-related fields.

Carter said that pre-calculus was a rough class. Braith took calculus and statistics, where "I discovered I have a love for math," she said.

Carter said her college level composition classes through Central Lakes College were really good. Braith took the same classes, but had a different reaction. She agreed that the composition class had a great teacher "but I found out I don't like writing," said Braith.

Instead, she liked the three psychology classes she took. "I learned a lot more from those," she said.

Carter said her most memorable classes were the biology classes taught by

See **SENIORS** on page 12a

Elementary gym started

Staples-Motley Elementary School held a groundbreaking for their new gymnasium on May 17, with all of the students and staff invited for the big photo. The gym is expected to open in late fall. (Submitted photo)

SWAT team called out to apprehend fire suspect

The Wadena County Sheriff's Office received a 911 call in regarding a structure fire in Section 14 of North Germany Township on May 13, at approximately 3:35 p.m.

Prior to law enforcement's and the fire units response, it was learned the fire may have been intentionally set by a male party who had fled the scene. Upon arrival, law enforcement and fire personnel determined the structure was a complete loss; no one was injured.

Initial interviews with witnesses it was learned that the male party had also threatened the complainant and his son with a firearm. Law enforcement began an immediate search of the area for the suspect. After over an hour into the incident, the suspect was located at the Sebek West Cemetery in Section 32 of Red Eye Township.

As law enforcement made contact, the suspect retrieved a firearm from his vehicle and shot three rounds into the wooded area adjacent to the cemetery. Initial responding officers retreated to a safe distance



Jason Goble

with further resources requested. A shelter-in-place notification was sent out to surrounding residences.

The Wadena/Hubbard SWAT team was activated and an armored vehicle was dispatched from Otter Tail County. Law enforcement maintained a visual of the suspect with an Unmanned Aerial System (Drone) as officers took cover where they could watch the suspect's movements. A short time later the SWAT team made an approach with the armored vehicle into the cemetery towards the suspect and his vehicle. The suspect fled south through

the woods into a swampy area where law enforcement had set a perimeter and were able to make contact with the suspect a short distance from the cemetery.

Jason Goble, 47, of Lakeville, was subsequently arrested without further incident and was transported to Astera Health in Wadena for medical evaluation. After being cleared by medical professionals, Goble was transported to the Wadena County Jail where he's being held on charges of 2nd Degree Assault, 2nd Degree Arson and Reckless discharge of a firearm.

The Wadena County Attorney's Office is reviewing the incident for formal charges.

The Wadena County Sheriff's Office was assisted by the Sebek and Verndale Fire Depts., Verndale, Sebek, Menahga and Wadena Police Depts., MN State Patrol, MN State Fire Marshal, Otter Tail County and Hubbard County Sheriff's Offices, Wadena/Hubbard SWAT team, Astera Health Ambulance and K&K Towing.

Memorial Day in Staples, Motley

Several Memorial Day events will be held on Monday, May 29, in the Staples and Motley area.

Staples

The Staples service will be held at the All Veterans Park located at 820 Hwy 10 at 10 a.m. Bring your lawn chairs.

Huck Holst will serve as emcee, Pastor Carl Larson will give the invocation, U.S. Navy Veteran Wayne Berry will be the guest speaker, Deb Otteson will sing the National Anthem, and Brian Sterriker will be providing patriotic music. A 21-gun salute, followed by Taps, will be conducted by the Motley American Legion Color Guard. Staples Dairy Queen will be providing Dilly Bars.

Berry's talk is titled, "I am a Veteran, Veterans Past and Now." Berry was drafted into the Navy in 1969 and discharged in 1973. His reserve commitment continued until 1976. Berry

served in the Pacific aboard the U.S.S. Ticonderoga (CVS-14), an Anti-Submarine Aircraft Carrier as an engineer Boiler Technician. He later worked at Saucier & Sons, Egan Cos and Harris Mechanical. He later retired as President of APi Supply Lifts after 23 years. In 2020, he and his wife moved to Staples, and their family has been actively involved in volunteering at the Veterans Park.

As part of the service in Staples, the following veterans who have passed away during the past year will be honored: Robert Cheney, Roger Goble, Raleigh Gode, Marvin Feaks, Dale Holub, Richard Johnson, Robert Lee, Del Lindgren, Robert Lovelace, Gary Mertens, Edwin Perry, Roger Peterson, Jack Rengel, Robert Smith, Harold Tholl.

Motley

The Motley American

See **MEMORIAL** on page 12a



With her 'Foster Grandpa'

Jaida Holst, 13, of Staples, attended the Motley American Legion's Open House Celebration May 13, where she ran into veteran Frank Vasecka, known as 'Grandpa Frank' to many students at Staples-Motley Elementary School (SMES). Vasecka had been a longtime Foster Grandpa in Jody Johnson's third grade classroom at SMES, which had been Holst's homeroom when she was a third-grader. (Staples World photo by Dawn Timbs)

Weather

This Week's Forecast

	High	Low	Cond.
May 24	65	51	M. Cloudy
May 25	76	55	Sunny
May 26	82	58	Sunny
May 27	81	58	P. Cloudy
May 28	82	60	Cloudy
May 29	83	59	Cloudy
May 30	83	62	M. Sunny

Last Year, 2022

	High	Low	Cond.
May 24	68°	48	Sunny
May 25	50	49	Cloudy
May 26	65	47	M. Sunny
May 27	81	48	Sunny
May 28	80	58	Sunny
May 29	72	63	Cloudy
May 30	71	60	Rain

Average Temps:
H = 72° Low = 50°

Compiled by
Dale Hausmann,
WCCO's Staples area
Weatherwatcher

Public Notices

Villard quotes: **9A**

May Public Hearing: **9A**

Todd Commissioners: **9A**

Obituaries

Joan Bjerga
Charles Calhoun
Gene Dennemeyer
Ramona Randgaard
Donald Sirucek



Enjoying birthday cake at the open house

Cake and ice cream were served at the 100th birthday celebration for the Tri-County American Legion Post #124, held May 13, at Motley City Hall. Pictured, from left, are sisters Helen (Cronin) Helseth and Agnes (Cronin) Stevens, both of Brainerd; Sherry Mudgett, Motley; and Betsy (Dingman) Heller, Montana.

Helen and Agnes shared that their dad, Charles Cronin, had been the Com-

mander of the Motley American Legion years ago, and when they heard about the open house, wanted to come out of respect. They also recalled that their mom, Leona, often made the cakes served at Motley American Legion celebrations. Sherry shared that her uncle had been a member of the Motley American Legion. (Staples World photo by Dawn Timbs)



Swapping stories

Members of the Tri-County American Legion Post #124 enjoyed visiting at their open house in Motley May 13. The event was a celebration of the 100th anniversary

of the American Legion. Pictured, from left, are Harry Meyer, Norm Cronin, Ron Unger, Alan Marshall. (Staples World photo by Dawn Timbs)

Ron, Ron and their other brother, Ron

Three veterans named Ron were in attendance at the Motley American Legion's open house May 13. Pictured, from left, are Motley American Legion members Ron Starke, Ron Unger and Ron Hanson. (Staples World photo by Dawn Timbs)



New Motley Fair Board members elected

The Motley Fair Board has new members, as of an election held at the fairgrounds May 10. They include:

- President, Shawn Jordahl
- Vice President, Barb Trantina
- Secretary - Jessica Paklonsky
- Treasurer - Shawn Trantina

As noted in previous Staples World articles, former fair board director Rhonda Amundson had decided to step down after many years of volunteer work, and no one else from the previous board had expressed an interest in taking over. Amundson then reached out to the Motley Community Events Organization (MCEO) to see if they would

be interested.

An informational meeting to discuss the future of the Motley Fair had been held April 12, and was chaired by Amy Brichacek, president of the MCEO. A total of 30 were in attendance at that meeting, including MCEO board members and others interested in keeping the fair going.

The new board members noted above were voted in May 10, at the annual Morrison County Ag Association (Motley Fair) meeting. This new board is a separate entity from the MCEO.

People in attendance at the Motley Fair meeting were Rhonda Amundson, Troy Davis, Gerry Koval, Paul Rasmussen, Larry Beckner, Bruce Brotherton,

Tammy Brotherton, Cheryl Paklonsky, Denise Brown, Jason Borash, Brenda Borash, Barb Trantina, Shawn Trantina, Shawn Jordahl, Stephanie Jordahl, Jaelyn Jordahl, Kristin Bjerga, Mary Trantina, Bruce Ekert, Terri Ekert, Tad Carlson and Tom Daly. Everyone in attendance was able to nominate and vote for the new board members.

According to Stephanie Jordahl, "The attendees at the May 10 meeting showed great interest and enthusiasm in getting the fairgrounds maintained and the Motley Fair something the entire community could participate in."

Following the election, the first fair board meeting was scheduled for May 16.



At their first meeting

The newly elected Motley Fair Board held their first meeting May 16, at Motley City Hall. Pictured, from left, are Barb Trantina, Vice President; Shawn Jordahl, President; Shawn Trantina, Treasurer; Jessica Paklonsky, Secretary.

Some of the main items discussed included obtaining liability insurance, having a Premium Fair Book printed and distributed, deciding not to have a horse show this year (the arena is being used for mud volleyball during June Fest), and discussing the possibility of bringing back a

midway in future years. The fair's finances were also discussed, with plans to open a new checking account (the former account has been closed). Jordahl noted that they need to figure out their day-to-day costs at the fairgrounds. What are they able to budget for? How will they go about making a profit? Do rental/storage fees need to be increased? The next fair board meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, May 30, following the June Fest meeting which begins at 6 p.m. (Staples World photo by Dawn Timbs)

Motley area law enforcement report

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

May 10 - 16

May 12 - Logan James Ayres, 26, was arrested by Motley Police for DWI.

May 10 - The MPD received a report of suspicious activity at the 800 block of 3rd Ave. S., Motley.

May 10 - The MPD

received a report of a car fire in the alley of the 100 block of Hwy 10 S., Motley. Motley Fire was paged.

May 16 - The MCSO received a report of a theft of some medication and a radar detector at the 33000 block of rolling Oaks Ln., Motley.

May 15 - The MCSO received a call from Cass County requesting Motley Fire for a garage fire at the 12000 block of 71st Ave SW,

Motley.

May 15 - The MCSO received a report of a vehicle on the side of Hwy 10 near Cushing that had run out of gas.

May 14 - The MCSO received a report of a fire at the 2000 block of Birchcrest Dr., Motley.

May 11 - The MCSO received a call from a resident at the 25000 block of Beaver Rd., Cushing, reporting a scam.

One injured in ATV accident, Cushing Twp

The Morrison County Sheriff's Office (MCSO) reports that on May 17, at approximately 7:04 p.m., they received a report of an ATV accident approximately four miles north of Cushing. The incident took place on a property located on Bear Road in Cushing Township.

According to the MCSO, 27-year-old David Klingele

of Austin, Texas, was driving an ATV on private property. He lost control and rolled the ATV on top of himself causing a leg injury. Klingele was transported to St. Gabriel's Hospital in Little Falls by Mayo Clinic Ambulance.

The MCSO was assisted at the scene by Scandia Valley Fire and Rescue and Mayo Clinic Ambulance.



Positive reports given

Presenters at the Motley City Council's regular meeting May 8, included Lisa Bjerga (center), President/CEO at Lakewood Health System (LHS) in Staples; and certified public accountant Jon Archer (right) of Schlenner Wenner & Company, Little Falls.

Bjerga, who's been on board in this position since this past January (replacing longtime CEO/President Tim Rice who retired), brought the LHS Annual Hospital District Report to the council. She was joined by Lana Hansen (left), Motley, who serves on the System Board at Lakewood. In her financial update, Bjerga noted that Lakewood saw a five percent growth in revenue over 2021, despite no price increases (there have been no price increases in nine years). She also said that things are "getting back to normal" since the Covid pandemic, including not having to wear masks in recent weeks. Lakewood continues to experience growth, including hiring several new providers and embarking on building projects. There were 510 births in 2022, Bjerga said.

In his report, Archer noted that overall, the audit went really well. He praised City Clerk/Treasurer Darci Odden for doing a very nice job in her department and noted the positive working relationship with management. Archer said that nothing unusual was noted in terms of recorded transactions or accounting policies/treatments. He mentioned that the city has a very healthy general fund budget, consistent for the past four years. (Staples World photo by Dawn Timbs)

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DEADLINE: 4:30 p.m., Wednesday, May 31st, 2023

To apply visit www.co.stevens.mn.us under Employment Opportunities. ADA accommodations available. Stevens County is an EOE.



Mystery photo

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

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

Looking back

75 YEARS Ago - 1948

• May 20, 1948 - Douglas H. Timmerman, Assistant Executive Officer and Director of Civic Affairs of the Minneapolis Chamber of Commerce, will be the commencement speaker for the graduating class of 1948 at the high school auditorium May 27, according to Superintendent P. M. Atwood of the Staples schools.

Mr. Timmerman will use as the theme for his address, “Becoming An Optimist by Conquering Fear.”

• May 20, 1948 - While

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Compiled by
Dawn Timbs
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returning home from Bertha Wednesday night of last week, the Marohn car, with Harvey driving and accompanied by Bud Hanson went over a 5-ft. embankment. Fortunately the boys were not injured too seriously altho the car was badly damaged.

The boys were taken to the Bertha hospital where they spent several hours. Harvey Marohn received bruises in the chest from the steering wheel, and also cuts on his face. Bud suffered a cracked jaw and went to the University hospital for treatment, returning home the first of this week.

• May 20, 1948 - Miss Geraldine Haugen and James Ewing are the co-valedictorians of the graduating class of 1948 of Staples high school; and Miss Verdelle Granby is the salutatorian of the class.

Geraldine is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Olaf Haugen of Staples and has attended all 12 years of school here. James is the son of Rev. and Mrs. Raymond Ewing of Staples and has attended three years of school in Staples. Verdelle is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Orel Granby of rural Staples. She has spent four years in high school here, coming from Garfield district north of this city.

• May 20, 1948 - Little Larry Jasmer, six year old son of Mr. and Mrs. Art Jasmer of southwest of Staples had the misfortune of breaking his left arm at the elbow Sunday afternoon about five o'clock playing with other children at the Jasmer farm home.

There is a new basement being dug at the Jasmer place and Larry and other children were playing

around the opening when he fell about six feet into the hole. He was brought to Staples to a physician and admitted to the Municipal hospital where x-rays revealed the broken arm.

He is getting along nicely at the present time.

50 YEARS Ago - 1973

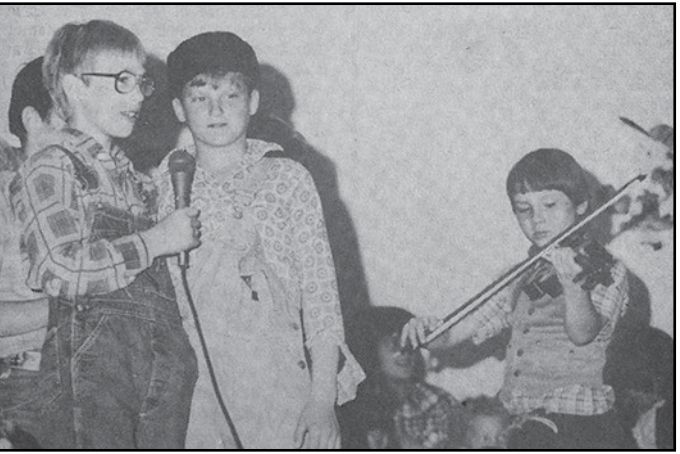
• May 24, 1973 - Two persons won prizes during the recent sale at the Peterson Furniture store in Staples. Robert Peterson, store owner, said that Jody Hovland won the four-piece luggage set and Frank Anderson was the winner of the decorator mirror.

• May 24, 1973 - The seven members of the Staples High school Class of 1974 who were initiated into membership of the National Honor Society at ceremonies Monday morning were Lynnelle Reese, Toni Anderson, Susette Jay, Gary Williams, Jeanne Hesse, Marie Ziegler and Patricia Blessing.

• May 24, 1973 - A full-page Tribute to the Staples High School Class of 1973 was sponsored by the following firms and individuals: Jerry’s TV and Radio, Lila’s Style Shop, Anderson Hardware, dj’s Men’s Wear, Ernie’s Food Market, Mueller Motors, Miller-Holst Gulf Store, Perry’s Ben Franklin, Staples State Bank, Peterson’s Furniture, The Staples World, National Food Store, Staples Rexall Drugs, Dr. & Mrs. J. Muus, Sears Catalog Store, Staples Dairy Queen, Nagel Barbershop, Ken Barrett Ins. Agency, Hi-Ho Cafe, Time Jewelry, Lefty’s Bar, Dr. R. Garland, Huff Furniture, Longbella Drug, Don Roline American Family Insurance, Mr. & Mrs. B. C. Blessing, Dr. & Mrs. William Mennis, Dr. & Mrs. Robert Mayhew, Dr. & Mrs. V. J. Thompson, Kentucky Fried Chicken.

• May 24, 1973 - A ministry of love, featuring the Jesus People Singers, will be presented in Staples June 1. The program will begin at 8 p.m. in the cafeteria of Staples High school. Everyone is welcome to attend.

• May 24, 1973 - America’s number one soul group, Andrae Crouch and the Disciples, will be appearing May 27, in Wadena under the sponsorship of the Mid-State Youth for Christ. The program will be presented at 2:30 p.m. in the Wadena Memorial Auditorium. Tickets are \$2 in advance or \$2.50 at the door. They may be purchased in Staples, at the dental office of Dr. Ray-



Mystery solved

Last week’s mystery photo published in the May 8, 1980 edition of the Staples World featured fifth graders at North Elementary in Staples performing “On Top of Old Smokey” at their spring program entitled, “Songs from the Country.” Pictured, from left, are Doug Johnson and Derrold Winter, singing a duet; and Scott Tepley, who accompanied them on his violin.

Kathy Odden of Staples recognized Derrold Winter. Thanks for participating in our mystery photo.

mond O. Garland.

25 YEARS Ago - 1998

• May 21, 1998 - A long time teacher who has provided musical instruction and entertainment for three decades in the Staples area has been honored with the Staples Motley Teacher of the Year award.

“So much of teaching is throwing out seeds,” said Stan Carlson, the community’s vocal music instructor for the past 33 years.

“You throw them (seeds) out, you nurture them, you help them confront fears, you help a student get from here to there,” he said, describing what he feels is a teacher’s role.

• May 21, 1998 - As a newly elected Lions Clubs International district governor, Frank Leidenfrost recently returned to Staples after taking part in a five-day training program with 735 fellow district governors-elect, representing all regions of the world.

Training sessions were presented at the Arthur Andersen training facility in St. Charles, Ill., with visits to Lions Clubs International headquarters in nearby Oak Brook, Ill.

Leidenfrost will be officially sworn in as district governor during the 81st Lions Clubs International Convention this summer in Birmingham, England on June 29 - July 3. The upcoming convention will feature keynote speaker former U. S. President George Bush.

• May 21, 1998 - Ground breaking ceremonies were

held May 18, at the site of the new Harmony House location in Motley.

The Harmony House will be a duplex adult foster care residence serving frail elderly and persons with memory loss.

10 YEARS Ago - 2013

• May 23, 2013 - The Staples Motley High School baseball field will be known as Jerry Riewer Field, thanks to action taken on a split vote at the Staples Motley School Board meeting May 20.

• May 23, 2013 - The new store coming to Staples will be Dollar General, it was revealed after they closed the sale on the land near the Staples Municipal water facility along Hwy 10.

• May 23, 2013 - Four FFA students from Staples Motley High School recently took first place (as a team) in the Fish and wildlife Career Development Event (CDE) at the 84th Annual State FFA Convention.

They will head to the National FFA Convention this fall, where they will compete in the National Fish and Wildlife CDE, in Louisville, Ky. Team members include Josh Robben, Jared Reining, Kendall Yungbauer and Kathryn DeGeest.

• May 23, 2013 - Sarah Paskewitz, Browerville, is one of the 12 finalists for the title of Princess Kay of the Milky Way. She is a 2012 graduate of Staples Motley High School and is the daughter of Bruce and Sandy Paskewitz.

May court

The following cases were heard before Judge Daniel A. Benson in Seventh District Court in Todd County May 1, 2023.

Kirsten Lind Krause, Circle Pines. Speed 82/70. Convicted and Sentenced. \$40 fine. \$115 fee.

Leslie Marie Bruder, Long Prairie. DWI- Operate Motor Vehicle Under Influence of Controlled Substance. Convicted and Sentenced. Local Confinement (90 Days, Stay 0 Yr 0 Mo 88 Days For 2 Yr Credit for time served: 2 Days). Probation- Adult (Supervised probation, 2 Yr). \$400 fine. \$500 fine. DWI-4thDegree Driving While Impaired. Dismissed. Drugs- 5th Degree- Possess Schedule 1,2,3,4- Not Small Amount Marijuana. Stay of Adjudication and Continued. Probation-Adult (Supervised probation, 2 Yr). \$50 fine. \$50 total fees.

Billy Lee Finken- Melde, Osakis. DWI 3- Alcohol Concentration 0.08 Within 2 Hours. Convicted and Sentenced. Local Confinement (365 Days, Stay 0 Yr 0 Mo 365 Days For 5 Yr). Probation-Adult (Supervised probation, 5 Yr). \$50 fine. \$7455.18 restitution. \$8010.18 total fees.

The following cases were heard before Judge Daniel A. Benson in Seventh District Court in Todd County May 2, 2023.

Sory Argeliz Carpio De Jesus, Long Prairie. Disorderly Conduct-Fight. Continued for Dismissal. Probation- Adult (Unsupervised Monitoring without Conviction, 6 Mo).

Juan Jose Chavez Rodriguez, Long Prairie. DWI- Alcohol Concentration 0.08 Within 2 Hours. Convicted and Sentenced. Local Confinement (30 Days, Stay 0 Yr 0 Mo 0 Days Credit for time served: 15 Days). Comment: work release/ sts if qualified under sheriff's rules. Commit to Commissioner of Corrections- Adult(MN Correctional Facility-St. Cloud, 36 Mo, Stay For 5 Yr). Home Monitor: (Electronic Alcohol). Within 150 Days For Indeterminate. Comment: begin immediately upon completion of jail sanction, must also complete 30 days of electronically monitored alcohol sensitive house arrest for each year on probation. Probation-Adult (Supervised probation, 5 Yr). \$300 fine. \$415 total fees. Driving After Cancellation. Dismissed.

Kristopher Michael Malay, Baxter. Wireless Communications Device- Engage in cellular phone or video call. Dismissed. School Bus- Safety of School Children; Use of Stop Arm Signal. Dismissed. School Bus- Stop Signal Extended/ Red Lights Flashing- Other Drivers to Stop. Probation-Adult (Unsupervised Monitoring without Adjudication, 1 Yr). \$300 fine. \$375 total fees.

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

Gary Alan Thomas, Long Prairie. Theft- Take/ Use/ Transfer Movable Prop-No Consent. Local Confinement (3 Days, Stay 0 Yr 0 Mo 0 Days Credit for time served: 3 Days). Probation- Adult (Supervised probation, 2 Yr). \$150 fine. \$1,215.14 restitution. \$1,440.14 total fees.

Christopher Bradley Lade, St. Cloud. Criminal Sex Conduct- 5th Degree- Lewd Exhibition- Under 16 Present. Convicted and Sentenced. Amended Decision. Local Confinement (365 Days, Stay 335 Days For 4 Yr Credit for time served: 2 Days). Comment: Defendant to report. Work release/STS approved per jail policy. Time may be served in Morrison County Jail at own expense. Probation- Adult (Supervised probation, 4 Yr). \$300 fine. \$375 total fees.

Shaun Allen Lenz, Staples. Drugs- 2nd Degree- Possess 25 grams or more cocaine or methamphetamine. Dismissed. Drugs- 3rd Degree-Possess 10 grams or more a narcotic drug other than heroin. Stay of Adjudication and Continued. Local Confinement (5 Days, Stay 0 Yr 0 Mo 0 Days Credit for time served: 5 Days). Probation- Adult (Supervised probation, 5 Yr). \$300 fine. \$300 total fees. 5th Degree Possession of a Controlled Substance. Dismissed.

Kristopher Charles Tornow, Duluth. Disorderly Conduct- Brawling or Fighting. Convicted and Sentenced. Local Confinement (90 Days, Stay 0 Yr 0 Mo 86 Days For

1 Yr Credit for time served: 4 Days). Probation- Adult (Supervised probation, 1 Yr). \$50 fine. \$125 total fees. Domestic Assault- Bodily Harm. Dismissed. 5th Degree Possession of a Controlled Substance. Statutory Stay of Adjudication and Continued. Local Confinement (4 Days, Stay 0 Yr 0 Mo 0 Days Credit for time served: 4 Days). Probation- Adult (Supervised probation, 5 Yr). \$50 fine. \$50 total fees. Violate Order for Protection. Dismissed.

Long Prairie Police Department

Itzel Espitia Lopez, Long Prairie. Driving After Suspension. \$200 fine \$85 fee. Vehicle Lighting; Lights to Be Displayed Sunset- Sunrise. \$40 fine.

Manuel Ramirez Orozco, Long Prairie. Driving Without a valid License. \$100 fine. \$85 fee.

Berkis Amada Perez De Tiburico, Long Prairie. Vehicle License Not Current. Dismissed.

Minnesota Department of Natural Resources

Cole James Espelund, Watkins. Dark/ Fish House/Shelter- Fail to Display License Tag when required. \$25 fine. \$85 fee.

Gordon James Gilbert, Proctor. Fail to Display ATV Registration. \$25 fine. \$85 fee.

Minnesota State Patrol

Amanda Marie Boldon, Monticello. Speed 75/65. \$40 fine. \$85 fee.

Anastacia Araceli Caudillo, Staples. Speed 79/65. \$50 fine. \$85 fee.

Brian William Wallace, Lastrup. Muffler Required. \$50 fine. \$85 fee.

Todd William Bartylla, Browerville. Hands Free Violation. \$50 fine. \$85 fee.

Abiah May Bogenrief, Ashby. Speed 78/60. \$60 fine. \$85 fee.

Brian George Burton, Annandale. Expired Registration. \$30 fine. \$85 fee.

Kevin Patrick Coleman, Sartell. Speed 80/70. \$40 fine. \$85 fee.

Balvino Dilone Tiburcio, Long Prairie. Speed 76/60. \$60 fine. \$85 fee.

Tunde Patrick Grimes, Brooklyn Center. Speed 81/70. \$50 fine. \$85 fee. Driving After Revocation. \$200 fine. No Proof of Insurance. \$200 fine.

Frances Rebecca Klaphake, Freeport. Duty to Drive With Due Care. \$40 fine. \$85 fee. No Insurance Owner. \$200 fine. No Proof of Insurance. \$200 fine.

Jordan Lee Kracke, Fargo, ND. Speed 89/70. \$60 fine. \$85 fee.

Dennis Allan Lindner, Verndale. MN Annual Inspection Decal Violation. \$100 fine. \$85 fee.

Joshua Deane Meyer, Long Prairie. Open Bottle in Motor Vehicle. \$100 fine. \$85 fee.

Caden Richard Rowe, Clarissa. Speed 75/60. \$60 fine. \$85 fee.

Austin Thomas Schlichting, Rice. Set Belt Violation. \$25 fine. \$85 fee. Window Tint Violation. \$50 fine.

Mark Frederick Steen, Plymouth. Speed 87/70. \$60 fine. \$85 fee.

Xavier Perez Torres, Long Prairie. Driving After Revocation. \$200 fine. \$85 fee.

Timothy Robert Underhill, Battle Lake. Speed 80/70. \$40 fine. \$85 fee.

Jocelyn Vasquez, Shakopee. Speed 89/70. \$60 fine. \$85 fee.

Dennis Williams, Fargo, ND. Speed 80/70. \$40 fine. \$85 fee.

Samuel Josh Wollman, Henderson. Speed 91/70. \$70 fine. \$155 fee.

Lily Kathryn Zemke, Fridley. Speed 80/70. \$40 fine. \$85 fee.

Staples Police Department

Sheldon Ronald Goos, Staples. Speed 39/30. \$40 fine. \$85 fee.

Todd County Sheriff Office

Shyanne Morgan Hemmingson, Long Prairie. Speed 65/55. \$40 fine. \$85 fee.

Matthew William Rahn, Sauk Centre. 5th Degree Possession of a Controlled Substance. Dismissed.

Arlene Marie Rodriguez, Hewitt. Issuing Worthless Check. Dismissed.

Claudia Anahi Ruiz Gomez, Sauk Centre. Driving After Suspension. \$200 fine. \$85 fee. Speed 70/60. \$40 fine.

Connor Michael Tierney, Wadena. Liquor- Consumption by persons under 21. \$100 fine. \$85 fee.

Native vegetation plots need maintenance

From Todd County NRCS

Native grasses and wild-flower plantings take about 3 to 5 years to establish. The reason for the slow establishment is that the plants focus a lot of energy into their root systems the first few growing seasons. This delay in above ground growth may allow annual weeds to establish. A general rule to remember is the first year of planting the site will “Sleep”, The second

year it will “Creep” and the third year it will “Leap”. Patience and management are key. If your native grass or pollinator planting isn’t looking how you thought it would in it’s early stages, it may just need time.

Management the year it is planted may require 1 or 2 mowings. This is done to control the seed heads of annual weeds. Timing of this mowing will depend on the rate the annual weeds are maturing. The first

mowing should be done before weeds reach maturity. Mow the vegetation to a height of about 8” and to use a flail type mower, not a windrower. Monitoring the site. If annual weeds come back and will reach maturity than a second mowing should be performed.

The following year, monitoring of weed presence will be needed. If weeds re-establish, another mowing may be needed. By the time this mowing happens the native

vegetation should have a good root system started and you should begin to see above ground growth. You should also start to notice the native vegetation out competing the weeds. Eventually the native vegetation will become more and more resistant to the presence of weeds.

If you have a native vegetative planting that you would like assistance with please stop into your local NRCS office.

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Newspapers are still leaders in civic engagement

By Marnie Werner, Vice President, Research Center For Rural Policy and Development

Part Two

Newspapers depend on revenue from three sources: classified ads, display ads, and subscriptions. Advertising provided the bulk of the revenue from the 1970s until 2020, when revenue from subscriptions finally exceeded revenue from advertising, according to the Pew Research Center.

While circulation among weekday newspapers peaked in 1984, advertising revenue kept going strong simply because newspapers were still seen as the best way to get ads in front of potential customers. Then, in the early 2000s, two near-fatal blows hit newspapers: the launch of Craigslist in 2005 and the Great Recession in 2008.

When Craigslist appeared, it offered people a free alternative to classified ads. What perhaps really hurt newspapers was that Craigslist provided local sections, allowing people to advertise directly to their neighbors. Classifieds, which had made up about half of an average newspaper's ad revenue, almost disappeared, seemingly overnight.[8]

The Great Recession of 2008-2009 then went on to decimate display advertising. Newspapers' biggest advertisers in display ads—department stores and car dealerships—were already affected by the rise of the Internet as Amazon and other online retailers changed people's shopping habits. Department stores were closing, especially in rural areas, and people increasingly shopped for cars online. Then the Great Recession forced the closings of hundreds of car dealerships across the country, often in smaller cities and towns, removing another source of ad revenue. More recently, the loss of advertising revenue from local restaurants and small businesses that closed during the early months of the pandemic was another major blow to advertising revenue.

At the same time, though, tech giants like Facebook and Google appeared and began offering highly targeted advertising at a fraction of the cost of advertising in newspapers. Newspapers' early response to this digital revolution was to move online with the hope of recapturing some of that advertising revenue through online readership. Unfortunately, the revenue from a single digital ad was (and is) so low that most print newspapers, especially smaller ones, haven't been able to generate enough ad volume to come near replacing the lost revenue, even though

digital ads continue to grow as a share of advertising revenue overall. In 2019 and 2020, the actual revenue from digital ads was only half of what it was in 2013, according to Pew Research.

So far, only large companies like Facebook and Google have been able to use digital ads effectively because of the sheer volume of ads they sell. Facebook and Google in particular use the information they collect on their billions of users, data like age, race, location, and perhaps most importantly, shopping habits, to put that advertiser's ad in front of very specific viewers, thus raising the chances of it getting clicked.

"No amount of tinkering with free-market mechanics can restore the business fundamentals that sustained local news in the twentieth century," wrote Timothy Karr, a researcher and media advocate, in the Columbia Journalism Review in 2022. The money newspapers made from advertising before 2000 "was due in large part to their unique ability to bundle local information with daily advertisements targeted to local audiences. This newsprint formula no longer functions in a media world where connections are instantaneous and attention is the main commodity."

The disruption of the business model and resulting vulnerability of newspaper companies initiated a wave of mergers and acquisitions across the country as larger companies bought up smaller ones.

Today's news industry is much more consolidated than it was twenty years ago. In 2000, only a handful of news groups existed in Minnesota, with most of their newspapers located in the Twin Cities. Today, Minnesota-based Adams Publishing Group/APG-ECM owns the largest number of Minnesota newspapers, at 38, according to the 2022 Minnesota Newspaper Association directory, followed by Forum Communications out of Fargo at 16, and CherryRoad, a New Jersey company, with 10.

A quick analysis of local papers from around Greater Minnesota shows how the newspaper landscape has changed here. We chose six local newspapers, all weeklies, and compared their print editions from October 1992, around the time circulations were peaking and well before the start of the Internet, to October 2022. Circulation dropped considerably during that time.

Examples of 1992 Circulation vs. 2022 Circulation: Hutchinson Leader 5,438 - 3,192m Long Prairie Leader 3,215 - 1,660, Sauk Centre Herald 3,001 - 1,819, Murray County News 1,200 - 770, Thief River Falls Times 5,861 - 2,856.

Classified ads in 2022 were down more than 70 percent in all six papers.

In rural communities, small businesses are the main advertisers, says Marshall Helmberger, owner of the Timberjay, covering Tower, Orr, and Ely in northeast Minnesota. The big-box businesses don't advertise with his paper, he said, but the small local businesses do. As their owners age, however, the issue of selling the business comes along, and they have difficulty finding someone to buy it from them. These mom-and-pop shops often end up closing, Helmberger said, meaning the loss of another advertiser.

Eli Lutgens, the twenty-something owner of a newspaper in New Richland and a new startup paper in Waseca, sees advertising as giving advertisers the ability to hold him accountable for putting out a quality newspaper of substance. "Our advertisers also read the newspaper, because they're all local, right?"

We have spirit

In rural areas, including in Minnesota, there may be no greater example of civic engagement and community cohesion than in high school sports. In Warroad, Lovelace lamented the loss of high school sports coverage. "It's odd to me to think this whole age of kids are never going to get to see their picture in the paper," Lovelace said. 'As a parent, that was a big deal for me.'" Mark Chamernick, Warroad High School's athletic director, agreed. "Our girls hockey team just won the state championship — it would be nice to have clippings to compare to when they won it in 2010." [18]

Someone who understands this most local of local coverage is Eli Lutgens, the owner and publisher of the NRHEG Star Eagle (NRHEG stands for New Richland-Hartland-Elendale-Geneva, the name of the school district) and the new Waseca County Pioneer. They are print-first newspapers, and Lutgens makes a special effort to cover school news, especially sports.

"We started covering Waseca sports to begin with because I felt that was the first step necessary to opening a newspaper," especially in an area that already had an established paper, the Waseca County News. Lutgens likes small town news because "you get much more intricate, intimate content. The stories can be quite literally about your neighbors. You can go to any person in any small towns and write about them, and they will have a story," Lutgens said in an interview.

Sports are good for the town and good for the paper. "The thing about our small

town is that all of the kids are very, very aware of the newspaper, because their grandmothers keep scrapbooks," Lutgens said. "I have kids that come in routinely throughout the year asking for photos that I took at sporting events that they saw in the paper, and they want the extras."

School sports aren't the only element making up community cohesion: there are also all the many community events, church fundraisers, 4-H and FFA, county fairs, Lions and Kiwanis, VFW and American Legion.

"We provide what Facebook can't," says Jason Brown, publisher of the Long Prairie Leader. "Facebook can't be on the garage wall at the graduation party. Facebook isn't there on the first day of kindergarten."

Small communities are the ones being left in the lurch as newspapers have closed around him, Brown says. "It's left the smaller communities hanging. Smaller surrounding communities felt like they were not a priority. They have their own schools, and they wanted coverage." Brown is expanding the Leader's reach to cover those school districts and cities, and he also started a Spanish-language edition for the city's significant and growing Latino population when he realized how disconnected they were from city and community news.

The biggest headache

But with all these ventures, Brown says, staffing "has been interesting." Finding staff is the big problem, especially for small newspapers. Hills says they have never had so many open positions on the Minnesota Newspaper Association's statewide job listings service.

One problem is of course revenue. Newspapers struggle to make enough money to support the array of reporters and editors that they once did, and the low pay is not attractive to young journalism students. When asked what would help newspapers attract recent journalism school graduates, Jennifer Moore, head of the journalism program at the University of Minnesota, Duluth, stated: "Pay them. Many can't live on what they're paid."

There's also perception. Lutgens relates the story of a friend working for a paper owned by one of the larger newspaper companies in the state. At an editorial meeting, this friend suggested that, to gain readers, they should cover more local news—Boy Scouts or Lions' Club events.

"He was laughed out of the room and told by all the college-graduate journalism students that that wasn't real journalism," Lutgens said.

Quote of the week

“How something important happens is the business of historians and newspapers, the effect it has is the business of philosophers and writers and especially poets.”
— Karl Shapiro

Bonding bill a win for greater Minnesota

From Coalition of Greater Minnesota Cities

The Minnesota House and Senate announced an agreement on a significant infrastructure package for Minnesota. "It is wonderful news that legislators finally came to an agreement on a much needed and long-awaited bonding bill that serves the needs of Greater Minnesota," said Thief River Falls Mayor and CGMC President Brian Holmer. "While this legislative session had its fair share of ups and downs, this bonding bill is the result of the tireless efforts of legislators and is evidence of what can be achieved when Democrats and Republicans work together for Minnesotans."

This agreement will open the door for vital infrastructure investments that will greatly benefit cities across the state. These bills will ensure cities statewide have access to safe infrastructure, good-paying jobs, clean drinking water, and many

other essential needs and services to support healthy and thriving communities. "With all the projects ready to break ground in Greater Minnesota, we are thrilled that this bill will deliver the critical funds needed to move these projects forward and lay the groundwork for future infrastructure investments."

"The emergency funding for nursing homes and long-term care included in the agreement is also very good news for families in Greater Minnesota," Holmer continued.

"We would especially like to thank Governor Walz, Majority Leader Dziedzic, Minority Leader Johnson, Speaker Hortman, and Minority Leader Demuth for their tireless work on this agreement. In the final days of session, we look forward to witnessing the bipartisanship that will result in the passage of this bonding bill and illustrate the legislature's dedication to delivering for Minnesota."

Federal funding creates new era for electric co-ops

From CURE

Rural leaders from across the country recently gathered at the White House to mark the release of the Empowering Rural America (New ERA) Program. The program makes \$9.7 billion of federal investment available to rural electric cooperatives that will leverage almost \$40 billion of investment in rural energy infrastructure. The program prioritizes investments that create rural jobs, save rural people money, and reduces greenhouse gas emissions.

CURE, a grassroots rural nonprofit with staff working across Minnesota, planted the seeds for the creation of this program in 2019 with the release of the Rural Electrification 2.0 Report examining barriers to the clean energy transition in rural electric cooperatives and policy solutions to those barriers. The report recommended major new investments and policy shifts to allow co-ops stranded asset relief and resources to accelerate the co-op clean energy transition. These priorities gained support from several candidates in the 2020 Presidential Primary including, Vice President Harris and others.

In 2020 at the outset of the pandemic, CURE, with several organizational partners, drafted a call to action to support rural electric cooperative member owners and co-ops themselves to address the immediate pandemic crisis and long-term needs. The letter led to the creation of the Rural Power Coalition, a national coalition of organizations pushing for democracy and new investments in rural electric cooperatives. CURE's original vision was adopted by the Rural Power Coalition and gained

the support of the new Biden Administration, who included it as an investment priority in their rural policy agenda. The program that would become New ERA was included in every version of Build Back Better and the Inflation Reduction Act.

"Today marks the end of a five-year chapter and a new beginning in the nearly 100 year story of rural electrification," said Eric Hatlestad, Energy Democracy Program Director at CURE, who authored the Rural Electrification 2.0 Report and leads the Rural Power Coalition's advocacy. "Together, rural advocates have researched, created, and won the largest investment in rural electrification since 1936."

"When rural electric co-ops and rural democracy advocates work together, we win big for rural America. That's how Rural Electrification got done back in the 1930's," he added. "Today, we have a historic opportunity to create good rural jobs once again, save rural people money, and take smart action on climate."

This summer, rural electric cooperatives from across the country will have the opportunity to make an application to the New ERA Program. With Minnesota cooperatives strongly positioned to submit competitive applications and win awards, Minnesota's cooperative leaders must take advantage of this singular opportunity that advocates have won on their behalf.

CURE is rural based with offices in Montevideo and staff across Minnesota. CURE embraces democracy-driven solutions to environmental justice and rural issues.

Quote of the week

“If your ship doesn’t come in, swim out to it!”
— Jonathan Winters

StaplesWorld

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

MINNESOTA NEWSPAPER ASSOCIATION

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Member: Minnesota Newspaper Association, MCAN Advertising

Dr. Andrea F. Agre receives pharmacy award

North Dakota State University School of Pharmacy recently announced awards to pharmacists who help educate students as they pursue their future careers.

Staples native Dr. Andrea F. (Hanson) Agre was named an Adjunct Preceptor of the Year for 2023 by NDSU. Pharmacy students on clinical rotations nominate and choose the award recipients for Adjunct Preceptor of the Year.

Agre acknowledges Dr. Julie Mayers-Benson and the Hospice and Palliative Care teams of Lakewood Health System in Staples for their quality co-operation in support of this pharmacy rotation during her 12 years at LHS. Dr. Andrea F. (Hanson) Agre currently serves patients at Riverwood Healthcare Center in Aitkin.

A student who nominated Dr. Agre as Adjunct Preceptor of the Year said she



Receives award

Dr. Andrea F. Agre receives a 2023 Adjunct Preceptor of the Year award from the NDSU College of Health Professions and School of Pharmacy. (Submitted photo)

would frequently quiz her to enhance understanding of topics. “She loves to teach,” said the student. “When-

ever I would ask a question about a medication, she would answer ‘What do you think?’ and walk me through the considerations I should think about to find the answer. She made the rotation well rounded,” said the student.

Of Agre, the student noted her ability to communicate. “She was incredible while talking to providers, nurses, patients, and other pharmacies. She had such a compassionate and empathetic approach that people responded to and opened up to. I was continuously impressed by her clinical knowledge,” according to one student on a rotation with Agre.

Dr. Agre is a 1999 graduate of Staples-Motley High School and a 2008 graduate of the NDSU School of Pharmacy. She is the daughter of Dennis and Lynnelle Hanson of Staples.



Donald Sirucek

Donald Arthur Sirucek, 80, of Poplar Township near Leader, passed away May 14, 2023, at Lakewood Health System Care Center in Staples.

A memorial service was held May 22 at the Motley Free Methodist Church with Pastor Jim Johnson officiating.

Don was born September 10, 1942 in Ronan, Montana the 12th child of Emil and Rose (Kasala) Sirucek.

Growing up, Don’s childhood was spent working on the the family farm where his parents also owned a logging and sawmill operation. Don was the only son of Rose and Emil Sirucek to graduate high school and college.

Don married Denise Hiebert, his wife of 59 years in 1964 at the Little Brown Church in Big Fork, Montana. While living in Montana Don was active in the U.S. Army from 1959 - 1965.

He worked at the local plywood plant as a millwright, and the Anaconda Aluminum Plant as an electrician.

After moving their family to Minnesota in 1971, Don operated a dairy, beef and crop farm. He served on the Lakewood Health System Hospital Board, the Poplar Township Town Board and Cass County Soil and Water Conservation Board. Don was a skilled craftsman who built boats, several houses and enjoyed hunting and fishing.

He will be deeply missed by his wife, Denise; six sons, Leo, Quincy (Vickie), Neil (LaNette), Loren (Barbara), Justin and Tyler (Lydia); one daughter, Paulette (John); many grandchildren; great-grandchildren; extended family members, and dear friends.

Don is preceded in death by his parents; 12 siblings; grandchildren and one great-grandchild.

The family is requesting potted plants in lieu of flowers.

Arrangements are by Taylor Funeral Home, Staples.

w22c A00006B2023MY24

Joan Bjerga

Joan R. Bjerga, 83, of Staples, passed away unexpectedly at Lakewood Helath System Hospital on May 13, 2023.

Services were held May 19 at the Motley Free Methodist Church.

Interment was at the Motley Public Cemetery.

Joan was born March 1, 1940, to Frank and Lila (Marsh) Kowalski. She grew up on a farm southwest of Staples. She married Rudy Bjerga on September 24, 1960. The couple moved to the Twin Cities and raised their family. Her life in the Cities was raising four children as well as selling Avon for many years until they purchased the farm. In 1981 they purchased The Friendly Inn by Motley. Joan worked many hours over the 42 years they owned the Friendly. From bartending to cooking all the soups and prepping the weekly prime rib that customers always commented on how good it was. Joan enjoyed visiting with everyone over the years. She was actively involved in the Friendly Inn until she passed. She and Rudy would love to go motorcycle riding every year to attend The Sturgis motorcycle rally. She also enjoyed riding around the Motley/Staples area with their sons. She loved to go to the casino. Her family would take yearly trips to Las Vegas, Laughlin and Reno. She always



seemed to have money left her in pocket when it was time to leave. Her passion, most recently, was looking through cookbooks to see what she could create for the next family holiday or when someone came to visit.

Joan is survived by two daughters, Laurie (Mike) Craft and Gloria (Barry) Jansson; two sons, Rudy (Mary) Bjerga, Jr. and Joey (Lorrie) Bjerga; nine grandchildren, eight great-grandchildren; one brother, Frank (Shirley) Kowalski; one sister, Agnus (Ron) Carry and two brothers-in-law, Mike (Judy) Bjerga and Dale (Lorna) Bjerga.

She is preceded in death by her husband, Rudy; parents; two sisters, Lucille Etzler and Jeanette Etzler and one grandson, Ryan Jansson.

Arrangements were by the Brenny Family Funeral Chapel, Staples.

w22c A00006B2023MY24

Ramona Randgaard

Ramona Mae Randgaard, 90, passed away May 12, 2023, in Sauk Rapids.

Funeral services were held May 19, 2023, at Faith Lutheran Church in Staples.

Interment was at Evergreen Hill Cemetery in Staples.

Ramona was born October 11, 1932 to William J. and Alice M. Buckner in Benson. She attended school in Benson and graduated from Benson High School in 1950. She married James D. Randgaard on October 11, 1932 at Our Redeemer’s Lutheran Church in Benson.

Ramona was employed by Staples ISD #793 for 23 years. She was a member of Bethlehem Lutheran Church in St. Cloud and a past member of Faith Lutheran Church in Staples; the Staples Lioness Club and Orchid Chapter #94, Order of the Eastern Star, Staples.

Ramona is survived by two sons, David Randgaard and Steve (Wanda) Randgaard, both of Lake City; one granddaughter, Kendra Randgaard of Los Angeles, CA; one brother, Robert (Judy) Buckner of Benson; one sister, Laurel Johnson of Twin Valley; two brothers-in-law, Rev. Martin Langemo of Princeton and Roger Randgaard of Staples and several nieces and nephews.



She is preceded in death by her husband; parents; two brothers, Allen (Glenita) Buckner and Donald Buckner; sister and brother-in-law, Beverly and Marshall Skaalrud; mother and father-in-law, Hazel and James G. Randgaard, one sister-in-law, Carol Langemo and two brothers-in-law Richard (Lucy) Randgaard and Daryl Johnson.

Arrangements were by the Brenny Family Funeral Chapel, Staples.

w22c A00006B2023MY24

Charles Calhoun

A Celebration of Life will be held for Charles (Chuck) Calhoun at the Elks Park in Hutchinson, 1100 Sherwood St. SE. The service will be held from 11 a.m. until ?

Cards may be sent to: Ms. June Dawson, 448 California St. NW Trlr 31, Hutchinson, MN 55350-1531.

w22-23c A00006B2023MY24/31

Eugene Dennemeyer

Eugene (Gene)Thomas Dennemeyer, 76, of Motley, passed away May 17, 2023, in Baxter at Diamond Willow Assisted Living.

Mass of Christian burial was held May 22 at Sacred Heart Catholic Church in Staples.

Interment was at Evergreen Hill Cemetery, Staples.

Gene was born October 21, 1946, to Albert and Angela (Adamietz) Dennemeyer in Staples. Gene spent his entire life on the farm working with his father. Gene’s land adjoined the family farm that had been in the family for over 100 years.

Gene graduated from Staples High School in 1964. He served in the Army Reserves for six years. He worked as a Lineman Electrician for Todd Wadena Electric for 30 years. Gene enjoyed the outdoors, hunting, fishing on the Crow Wing River and driving around the neighborhood in his truck. He



enjoyed having company and a good conversation.

Gene is survived by his former wife, Anne Converse; one sister, Frances Dennemeyer and two nephews, Richard and Kenneth Geske.

He is preceded in death by his parents and one sister, Agnes Geske.

Arrangements were by Taylor Funeral Home, Staples.

w22c A00006B2023MY24

Student Achievements

MINNESOTA STATE COMMUNITY AND TECHNICAL COLLEGE recently announced it’s Spring 2023 Academic Honors List. Students named to the President’s List earned a grade point average of 4.0; and those named to the Dean’s List earned a grade point average of 3.5 - 3.99. Local students named include:

- Jaelyn Jordahl, Motley, Dean’s List
- Annie Roggenkamp, Motley, Dean’s List
- Keyona Teamer, Pil-lager, Dean’s List
- Annie Capistrant, Staples, Dean’s List
- Rachel Connell, Staples, Dean’s List
- Damon Halverson, Staples, President’s List



Jack Storry

Parents: Wayne and Susan Storry, Staples
Future goals: Attend trade school Class of 2023
Graduating from Crosslake High School

Hello World

ONLINE BIRTHS FROM LAKEWOOD HEALTH SYSTEM HOSPITAL IN STAPLES REVOKED AT THEIR REQUEST.

* * * * *

BIRTHS REPORTED AT ASTERA HEALTH HOSPITAL IN WADENA INCLUDED:

Baby boy Thomas Allen Thew was born May 11, 2023, to Karon and Arthur Thew of Wadena, weighing seven pounds, nine ounces at Astera Health in Wadena. Proud sibling is Waylon. Proud grandparents are Brent and Ann Johnson and Jess and Lauri Thew.



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Ben Tyrrell sprawls to toss the ball for an out at second base.

Cardinals fall in extra innings

The Staples-Motley baseball team lost in extra innings on May 20, falling 5-4 against Aitkin.

Griffin Bettis hit a two RBI double and Jack Carlson put down a sacrifice bunt for an RBI in the game.

The Cardinals played great defense but Aitkin put together timely hits to score one run in each of the last four innings.



Colbe Tappe tags a runner out at the plate after an outfield throw from Griffin Bettis and a relay from Jack Carlson.

Golfers shooting low team scores

The Staples-Motley boys golf team had one of their best performances of the season, but they were matched against two of the top teams in the state at the Mid State Conference meet at Headwaters Golf Club on May 15.

The Cardinals had three golfers shoot in the 70s and three more in the low 80s for a season low 306 team score. But the team placed third behind Pequot Lakes and Detroit Lakes.

Carter White carded six birdies and ended up one under par to win the meet with a score of 71. Isaiah Schultz shot 75 and Keller Anderson 79 for the next two spots on the team. Schultz

shot four birdies and nine pars. Anderson had one birdie, nine pars and was very consistent with zero double bogeys.

White was medalist of the season-long Mid-Minnesota Conference, which included several meets. He was also the medalist at the Pre-Section meet on May 17.

The Staples-Motley girls golf team posted a team score for the first time this season at a meet in Fergus Falls on May 19, getting a fourth golfer to complete the team score.

Girls results

Mid State Conference at Headwaters Golf Club
7. Mallroy Uselman 83
19. Walker Johnson 103

20. Katelyn Schotzko 104
Otter Invitational at Pebble Lake in Fergus Falls
Pequot Lakes 312, Park Rapids 343, Moorhead 345, Fergus Falls 357, Hawley 359, Crookston 375, Bemidji 381, Staples-Motley 394, Pine River-Backus 420
11. Uselman 86, 27. Johnson 97, 33. Schotzko 99, 49. Sarah Kroll 112

Boys results

Mid State Conference at Headwaters Golf Club
Pequot Lakes 296, Detroit Lakes 297, Staples-Motley 306, Crosby-Ironton 344, Park Rapids 350, Wadena-Deer Creek 365
1. Carter White 71, 8. Isaiah Schultz 75, 13. Keller Anderson 79, 18. Jackson White 81, 18. Peyton Mithun 81, 20. Grant Bestland 82

Pre-section 6AA at Blackberry Ridge

Pequot Lakes 317, St. Cloud Cathedral 324, Albany 326, Staples-Motley 329, Osakis 332, Foley 340, Paynesville 356, Pierz 359, Rocori 372, Wadena-Deer Creek 379, Milaca 382, Melrose 382, Sauk Centre 390, Kimball 403, Royalton 441
1. C. White 71, 22. Bestland 84, 27. Mithun 86, 39. J. White 88, 42. Schultz 89, 52. Anderson 94,
Mid Minnesota Conference at Cuyuna Country Club
Pequot Lakes 314, Staples-Motley 326, Crosby-Ironton/Aitkin 360, Pine River-Backus 360, Wadena-Deer Creek 390
1. C. White 73, 6. Bestland 83, 8. Mithun 84, 13. J. White 86, 14. Anderson 87, 14. Thomas Johnson 87



Softball action

Alli Olander leaps to grab a line drive in the game against Foley. (Staples World photos by Mark Anderson)

Softball team headed to playoffs

The Staples-Motley softball team ended the regular season with three losses. They started the playoffs May 22 at Pequot Lakes, with the game played after the newspaper went to press. The Cardinals lost to

Foley 25-0 on May 15, lost 18-5 against Wadena-Deer Creek on May 16 and fell 15-0 at Sauk Centre on May 17.

The Cardinals finished the regular season with a 4-15 record.



Jessie Lundquist



Mandy Carter



Peyton Mithun



Jackson White



Izzy Olander



Comeback race with exciting finish

Logan Robben nips a competitor at the line for the Staples-Motley 4x400 relay team as his teammates and other fans watch the exciting finish. Robben started well

behind at the start of his relay leg, then closed fast in the last 100 meters to lean ahead by one tenth of a second. (Staples World photos by Mark Anderson)

Track teams do well at conference

The Staples-Motley track and field teams competed in the Mid State Conference meet May 16 at Pequot Lakes.

Each team had two individual conference championships and a relay champion.

In the girls meet, Audrey Brownell won the 800 in 2:19 and Kyanna Burton won the 3,200 in 11:32. The 4x800 relay of Aften Robinson, Burton, Brownell and Ashley Robben ran a season best 9:41 to win.

For boys, Hunter Miller won the high jump at 6'2" and Turner Beachy cleared 12 feet in the pole vault for the first time. The 4x100 team of Miller, Avandre Brandt, Bennet Robinson and Austin Weite won in 1:45.

In field events, the shot putters and triple jumpers

continued their season long improvement. Steven Petrich was an inch away from 40 feet in the shot put.

Boys results

Park Rapids 93, Pequot Lakes 90, Detroit Lakes 79, Staples-Motley 58, Crosby-Ironton 54

100 - 2. Austin Weite 11.22, 5. Josiah Critten 11.95, 7. Elijah Blue 12.12

200 - 3. Weite 23.51, 4. Avandre Brandt 24.06, 8. Blue 24.95400 - 5. Logan Robben 52.97, 13. Sawyer Ferdon 59.82

800 - 7. Ivan Lozano 2:24, 9. Blaine Plattner 2:26, 10. Israel Ritter 2:31

1,600 - 4. Issiah Tabatt 4:56, 9. Odin Trif 5:26

3,200 - 5. Tabatt 10:46, 6. Dilan Robben 11:16

110 hurdles - 5. Noah Larson 17.99, 9. Gavin Chenoweth 19.73

300 hurdles - 5. Larson 46.31, 10. Ramiro Gallardo 51.50, 12. Chenoweth 53.88

4x100 - 1. 45.18
4x200 - 4. 1:39
4x400 - 4. 3:52
4x800 - 3. 9:41

High jump - 1. Hunter Miller 6'2", 3. Brandt 5'10", 8. Dakota Hennagir 5'2"

Pole vault - 1. Turner Beachy 12'0", 6. Conner Kuhns 10'0", 15. Ryan Neelan 7'6"

Long jump - 8. Critten 17'11", 13. Benet Robinson 17'3", 14. Blue 16'1"

Triple jump - 4. Brandt 39'11", 5. Sawyer Ferdon 39'3", 8. Chenoweth 35'0"

Shot put - 8. Steven Petrich 39'11", 11. Drake Dukowitz 35'10", 14. Dustin Converse 26'4"

Discus - 10. Dukowitz 102'9", 11. Petrich 98'11", 14. Converse 89'8"

Girls results

Detroit Lakes 153, Pequot Lakes 90, Park Rapids 74, Staples-Motley 44, Crosby-Ironton 13

100 - 8. Corrine Olson 14.08, 13. Jorja Kobliska 15.52

400 - 7. Sophie Schlosser 1:05
800 - 1. Audrey Brownell 2:19, 4. Ashley Robben 2:28
1,600 - 10. Suhaila Mikgaail 6:21, 11. Addisyn Cichos 6:45
3,200 - 1. Kyanna Burton 11:32, 2. Bella Hines 12:25
100 hurdles - 3. Jayce Kobliska 18.10, 7. Bailey Weiland 18.88, 13. Abby Brichacek 21.45
300 hurdles - 5. Ja. Kobliska 52.776, 12. Brichacek 1:00, 13. Avery Japke 1:01
4x100 - 4. 57.10
4x200 - 5. 2:05
4x400 - 3. 4:25
4x800 - 1. 9:41
High jump - 7. Schlosser 4'6", 10. Japke 4'2"
Pole vault - 9. Jo. Kobliska 6'0"
Long jump - 10. Weiland 13'5"
Triple jump - 6. Isabel Cole 31'11", 12. Brichacek 28'6", 13. Ronnie Noska 28'1"
Shot put - 7. Camden Anderson 29'7", 10. Weiland 25'1"
Discus - 10. Weiland 69'7", 13. Anderson 67'8"



Regional medalist

Lucy Maros with her fifth place medal for vault. She placed 11th on floor, 12th on bars, 16th on beam and 14th all around. (Submitted photo)

Maros earns medal at region Gymnastics

Lucy Maros of Staples was one of the top competitors in the Region 4 Gymnastics meet against gymnasts from seven other states, held in April.

Maros, a student at Staples-Motley Middle School, brought home hardware, taking fifth on vault at the Region 4 meet. In order to qualify for the MN USAG state meet, she had to get a 34 All-Around Score at a USA Gymnastics sanctioned meet. To qualify for Region 4, she had to get a 34 all around score at the state meet.

Region 4 is comprised of gymnasts from clubs in Minnesota, North Dakota, South Dakota, Wisconsin, Iowa, Missouri and Nebraska. Maros trains with the Perham Area Gymnastics Academy (PAGA).

At the Region 4 meet held in April, Maros scored 9.125 on vault, 8.750 on bars, 8.3 on beam and 8.9 on floor for an all around score of 35.075, which placed her 14th overall in the competition.

Sith Hansana, the coach

of Perham Area Gymnastics said "Our goals are to have the girls peak at the right time around their last meet. They did a phenomenal job and brought home some hardware."

Maros said her favorite event is floor. She loves gymnastics because it's fun and challenging and athletes get to learn something new every day.

PAGA is a fitness program that consists of recreational girls gymnastics and boys fitness classes, as well as, a competitive gymnastics program. The competitive program is part of USAG and all meets are USAG sanctioned. Gymnasts in the competitive program at Perham range from Level 3 to Level 10. Each level requires certain skill sets and qualifying scores. Gymnasts are required to compete in all four events (vault, bars, beam and floor). PAGA has gymnasts from Perham, Staples-Motley, Detroit Lakes, Frazee, Bemidji, Verndale, Henning and more.



Aften Robinson in the 4x800 relay



Sawyer Ferdon in the triple jump



Turner Beachy twists to clear 12 feet for the first time in competition.



Gymnastics teammates

Lucy Maros, front left, with some of her teammates (Submitted photo)



Hunter Miller hands the baton to Benet Robinson in the 4x100 relay.



Corinne Olson



Issiah Tabatt



MAY TOWNSHIP
NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING ON IMPORVEMENTS

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN:

TIME AND PLACE

Notice is hereby given that the Town Board of May Township, Minnesota, will meet in the May Township Town Hall , on the 3rd day of June, 2023 at 7:00 p.m., to consider the construction of the following improvements: paving of said road.

NATURE OF IMPROVEMENT:

The paving of town road.

ESTIMATED COST

The total estimated cost of said improvement is \$78,759.50

AREA PROPOSED TO BE ASSESSED

The area proposed to be assessed consists of every lot, piece or parcel of land benefited by said improvement, which is as follows: All lots abutting 124TH Street SW and other streets affected as set forth in the feasibility study now on file at the Town Hall.

AUTHORITY

The Council proposes to proceed under the authority granted by Chapter 429 M.S.A.

Such persons as desire to be heard with reference to the proposed improvements will be heard at this meeting. Written or oral objections will be considered.

Dated: 5/15, 2023.

BY ORDER OF THE TOWN BOARD:

By *Brian C. Zipp*
Town Clerk

22-23pnc

NOTICE
TOWN OF VILLARD
COUNTY OF TODD
STATE OF MINNESOTA
BID REQUEST

Villard Township will be accepting quotes for blowing, sealing, patching all existing cracks (including edge cracks) on approximately 6,200 feet of township roads.

We are asking for a quote using MN/DOT Spec. #3723 rubberized asphalt. Cracks will need

to be routed 3/4 inch in width and 3/4 in depth.

All quotes must include equipment, labor, and materials. Work is to begin as soon as weather permits. The Villard Town Board requests that all work be done by October 1, 2023. The Board would recommend filling while the cracks are open.

Please contact Chairman Shawn Jordahl at 218-270-0137 with any questions. All quotes

CASS COUNTY
LAND DEPARTMENT
NOTICE OF SALE OF
TAX-FORFEITED PARCELS



Notice is hereby given that an Oral Auction will be held in the Commissioners Board Room at the Cass County Courthouse, 303 Minnesota Ave. West, Walker, MN at 9:00 a.m., Saturday, June 10, 2023.

For information concerning specific parcels, contact the Cass County Land Department at 218-947-3338, or the Auditor-Treasurer's Office at 218-547-7210.

Parcel information may be viewed on the Cass County Website: www.co.cass.mn.us

22-23pnc

must be brought to the Town Hall on June 13, 2023, no later than 7 p.m. or mailed to the Town Clerk to be received no later than 5 p.m. on Tuesday, June 13, 2023. Quotes can be faxed to 218-352-6736 by 5 p.m. on Tuesday, June 13, 2023. The Villard Town Board reserves the right to reject any or all quotes in the best interest of the township.

Mary Trantina Koenig,
Clerk
Villard Township
31836 Timberlane Road
Staples, MN 56479
218.640.6115
Fax #218.352.6736

20pnc

Public Notice
Advertising Protects
Your Right To Know

Todd County Board of Commissioners

MINUTES OF THE
MEETING OF THE
TODD COUNTY BOARD
OF COMMISSIONERS
April 18, 2023

Call to Order

The Todd County Board of Commissioners met in the Commissioner's Board Room in the City of Long Prairie, MN on the 18th day of April, 2023 at 9 a.m. The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Neumann. The meeting was opened with the Pledge of Allegiance. All Commissioners were present except Commissioner Erickson.

Moment of Silence

The Todd County Board extends thoughts and prayers to the family of Pope County Deputy Josh Owen who was killed in the line of duty April 15, 2023. The Board also extends their thoughts and prayers to the other Pope County Deputy and Starbuck Officer who were shot in Cyrus. Thank you to Deputy Owen for his service and sacrifice. Todd County extends continued support for the Pope County Law Enforcement during this tragedy. The Todd County Sheriff Department will assist Pope County during this time. A moment of silence was held to honor Deputy Owen.

Approval of Agenda

On motion by Denny and seconded by Becker, the following motion was introduced and adopted by unanimous vote: To approve the agenda as presented with the addition of item 5.3 A Resolution Establishing Support for Seeking Funding from Sourcewell for enhancements to Sheriff's Office Impound Facility for training and item 5.4 Rescind Board Action Tracking Number 20230321.20.

Consent Agenda

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

To approve the Todd County Board of Commissioner's Meeting Minutes for April 4, 2023 as presented.

GAMBLING PERMIT –
MIDWEST OUTDOORS
UNLIMITED – PRAIRIE
PARTNERS

WHEREAS, the Todd County Board of Commissioners are establishing their approval for a Gambling Permit for the Midwest Outdoors Unlimited – Prairie Partners through this resolution;

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Todd County Board of Commissioners approve a Gambling Permit for the Little Birch Lake Improvement Association

WHEREAS, the Todd County Board of Commissioners are establishing their approval for a Gambling Permit for the Little Birch Lake Improvement Association through this resolution;

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Todd County Board of Commissioners approve a Gam-

bling Permit for the Little Birch Lake Improvement Association to hold a bingo event at the Hub Supper Club in Burnhamville Township at the address 30905 County 13, Burtrum, MN on September 16, 2023.

To approve the retirement of Mr. Norb Bueckers from the Solid Waste Department effective on April 27, 2023.

To approve the hiring of Nathan Ruda as a Seasonal Worker for the Solid Waste Department effective on April 24, 2023.

To approve the resignation of eligibility worker Michael Vazquez Garcia, effective April 12, 2023.

To approve Morgan Thole to fill the open Care Coordinator Social Worker position. Grade 10, Step 1 at \$27.38 Start date: TBD

Commissioners

The Todd County Board of Commissioners recognizes that the County employees are our most valuable asset and presented years of service awards for staff achieved during Quarter 1 of 2023.

On motion by Becker and seconded by Noska, the following motion was introduced and adopted by unanimous vote: Approve waiving the rental and utility fees for Browerville School Spring sports practice at the Todd County Expo Building from 4/18/23 through 5/31/23. This is a one-time use allowed due to the unexpected loss of the Browerville gym facility.

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

A RESOLUTION
ESTABLISHING
SUPPORT FOR
SEEKING FUNDING
FROM SOURCEWELL
FOR ENHANCEMENTS
TO SHERIFF'S OFFICE
IMPOUND FACILITY
FOR TRAINING

WHEREAS, Sourcewell is providing community impact funding for the Cities and Counties in Region Five; and;

WHEREAS, The Todd County Sheriff's Office has a need to provide a safe and secure training facility to law enforcement/EMS Personnel/Fire Departments within Todd County and with agencies outside Todd County when the need arises; and;

WHEREAS, a training facility exists, but does not allow for trainings during winter months due to the large portion of the building not being insulated and without heat; and;

WHEREAS, The Sheriff's Office and surrounding agencies, including those in Region 5 could benefit by conducting trainings together; and;

WHEREAS, enhancing the existing facility would provide a secure and safe location to meet this need year round; and;

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Todd County Board of Commissioners approves Sourcewell Community Impact Funding application submitted by Todd County Sheriff's Office to enhance the current training facility by insulating and heating the large open area of the impound building, providing a location that can be utilized year-round by Todd County, surrounding cities,

surrounding counties, EMS

and Fire Personnel.

On motion by Becker and seconded by Denny, the following motion was introduced and adopted by unanimous vote: To approve the rescinding of Board Action Tracking Number 20230321-20.

Auditor-Treasurer

On motion by Becker and seconded by Noska, the following motion was introduced and adopted by unanimous rollcall vote: To approve the Commissioner Warrants number (ACH) 402499 through 402521 in the amount of \$19,749.03 and (Regular) 56872 through 56909 in the amount of \$36,305.46 for a total of \$56,054.49.

On motion by Denny and seconded by Noska, the following motion was introduced and adopted by unanimous rollcall vote: To approve the Health & Human Services Commissioner Warrants number (ACH) 803907 through 803990 and (Regular) 710391 through 710461 for a total of \$188,215.16.

On motion by Noska and seconded by Denny, the following motion was introduced and adopted by unanimous rollcall vote: To approve the Health & Human Services SSIS Warrants number (ACH) 600894 through 600908 and (Regular) 517311 through 517333 for a total amount of \$79,948.21.

Hands of Hope
Resource Center

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

NATIONAL CRIME
VICTIMS' RIGHTS
WEEK,
APRIL 23-29, 2023

WHEREAS, the term "victim" is more than just a label and has legal standing and protections that go along with it; and;

WHEREAS, crime victims' rights acts passed here in Minnesota and at the federal level guarantee victims the right to meaningfully participate and use their voice in the criminal justice process; and;

WHEREAS, victim service providers, advocates, law enforcement officers, attorneys, and other allied professionals can help survivors find their justice by enforcing these rights; and;

WHEREAS, the right to provide an impact statement ensures that victims' voices are considered in court during sentencing and, when relevant, restitution processes; and;

WHEREAS, including and elevating the voices of survivors makes certain they are heard and seen, and creates a path to forging and sustaining community trust; and;

WHEREAS, National Crime Victims' Rights Week provides an opportunity to recommit to listening to crime survivors in every space where decisions are made that could impact them; and;

WHEREAS, Hands of Hope Resource Center is hereby dedicated to amplifying the voices of survivors and creating an environment where survivors have the confidence that they will be heard, believed, and supported.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Todd County Board of Commissioners do hereby

proclaim the week of April 23-29, 2023 as

NATIONAL CRIME VICTIMS' RIGHTS WEEK reaffirming Todd County's commitment to creating a victim service and criminal justice response that assists all victims of crime during National Crime Victims' Rights Week and throughout the year; and expressing our sincere gratitude and appreciation for those community members, victim service providers, and criminal justice professionals who are committed to improving our response to all victims of crime so that they may find relevant assistance, support, justice, and peace.

Survivor Voices:
Elevate. Engage. Effect
Change.

County Assessor

On motion by Denny and seconded by Becker, the following motion was introduced and adopted by unanimous vote: To approve the abatement, reducing the 2023 property tax on parcel 33-0028800 from \$1,426 to \$954.

On motion by Noska and seconded by Denny, the following motion was introduced and adopted by unanimous vote: To approve the abatement, which would reduce the 2023 property tax on 21-0000700 from \$3,626 to \$1,324 and reduce parcel 21-0013800 from \$1,886 to \$944.

On motion by Becker and seconded by Denny, the following motion was introduced and adopted by unanimous vote: To approve abatement; recalculate the tax amount for the parcel based on the appealed value of \$133,000. This would reduce the 2023 property tax from \$1,610 to \$1,316.

Planning & Zoning

On motion by Denny and seconded by Noska, the following motion was introduced and adopted by unanimous vote: To grant the conditional use permit for a community solar energy system on parcel 26-0018002 with the following conditions:

1. Applicant must obtain permitting and/or licensing from additional governmental agencies as necessary.

2. Submission of Interconnection Agreement with the electric service provider prior to issuance of a land use permit.

3. Additional solar arrays would require review of the Planning Commission.

On motion by Becker and seconded by Denny, the following motion was introduced and adopted by unanimous vote: To approve the Finally Home Preliminary Plat on parcel 22-0010000 with the following conditions:

1. Two sewerable sites shall be identified prior to final platting.

2. Applicant must abide by all other applicable federal, state, and local standards.

On motion by Denny and seconded by Noska, the following motion was introduced and adopted by unanimous vote: To grant the conditional use permit on parcel 16-0022600 with the following conditions:

1. All traffic to and from the site shall be traveled along 335th Ave to County 31.

2. Applicant must obtain all permitting in accordance with MN 7020 Rules

prior to start of construction.

3. All manure management requirements must be followed in accordance with MN 7020 rules including, but not limited to, manure application rates, setbacks, and record keeping.

4. Manure application records shall be supplied to the County Feedlot Officer annually.

5. Prior to manure application event, an air quality exemption shall be called in to the County Feedlot Program.

6. Manure nutrient testing shall be conducted annually prior to manure application.

7. Two rows of trees shall be planted on the north and east sides of the proposed building location for the purposes of screening.

8. Establishment of a road maintenance agreement with Little Elk Township to address road damage both during and after construction.

9. Mandatory use of pit additives for odor control and establishment of biofilters or advanced technology on pit fans for additional active odor control.

10. Applicant must abide by all other applicable federal, state, and local standards.

Solid Waste

On motion by Noska and seconded by Denny, the following motion was introduced and adopted by unanimous vote: To use ARPA funds for the project of cover and closure of cells at the Todd County Landfill, as recommended by the ARPA Environmental Resources Committee.

Closed Session

On motion by Becker and seconded by Denny, the following motion was introduced and adopted by unanimous vote: Enter into closed session pursuant to MN Statute §13D.05 Subd. 3(a) at 9:42 a.m.

On motion by Becker and seconded by Denny, the following motion was introduced and adopted by unanimous vote: To reopen the board meeting at 10:47 a.m.

Chair Neumann reported that the four department heads evaluated have met or exceed the expectations for their position.

County Auditor-
Treasurer's Report

The County Auditor-Treasurer reported that the property tax collections remain steady, CLA audit summary presentation is set for May 2, 2023 board meeting and that advertising for Sauk River Watershed Manager position scheduled to expire in June will be publishing the beginning of May. A request from the Breakfast of the Farm group has been made for parking on a portion of the fairgrounds on June 17, 2023 to allow for shuttle of guests to the BOTF event due to the parking lot project happening at the LPGE High School during this time.

County Attorney's
Report

The County Attorney reported that office activity remains steady.

County Commissioner's
Report

The Commissioners reported on meetings and events attended.

Commissioner Noska attended the TCDC dinner, Annual Township meeting, law library committee and

TWCC meetings.

Commissioner Becker attended the TCDC dinner, Annual Township meeting, SWCD meeting, Rainbow Rider meeting, and TWCC meetings.

Commissioner Denny attended many of the same meetings as Commissioner Noska.

Commissioner Neumann attended dept head meeting, personnel committee meetings, the Senator Klobuchar representative meeting, Feedlot meeting, Broadband meeting, Finance committee, Park Board, SRWD, CPT and Justice Center meetings.

County Coordinator's
Report

The County Coordinator reported on many of the meetings already discussed and walk-throughs at the Expo building and Impound Lot building. Attention to the legislative updates for key changes proposed continues.

Adjourn

On motion by Noska and seconded by Denny, the meeting was adjourned for the month of April, 2023.

COMMISSIONER WARRANTS

VENDOR NAME.....	AMOUNT
ALL STATE COMMUNICATIONS...	\$2,100.00
BROWERVILLE TRUCKWASH/BIG BOYZ	\$2,413.75
COMPASS MINERALS AMERICA.....	\$2,428.13
EMERGENCY AUTOMOTIVE TECH	\$15,418.50
LONG PRAIRIE LEADER \$3,230.50	
MORRISON CO DEPT OF PUB WORKS	\$13,902.65
55 PAYMENTS LESS	
THAN \$2,000	\$16,560.96
Total:	\$56,054.49

HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES
WARRANTS

VENDOR NAME.....	\$AMOUNT
V# 15696 - COST EFF HEALTH INS	\$2,393.70
DHS - SWIFT	\$51,009.36
ITEN FUNERAL HOME - BROWERVILLE	\$10,185.25
MCCC, MI33	\$6,035.90
V# 13069 - COST EFF HEALTH INS	\$2,666.64
RURAL MN CEP INC	\$13,743.38
TCSS MH INITIATIVE FLEX FUND	\$13,385.00
TODD COUNTY AUDITOR/ TREASURER	\$15,834.95
TRANSUNION RISK & ALTERNATIVE DATA	\$4,080.00
146 PAYMENTS LESS	
THAN \$2,000	\$68,880.98
Total:	\$188,215.16

VENDOR NAME.....	AMOUNT
HEARTLAND GIRLS RANCH	\$7,172.00
# 17302	\$2,046.87
NORTHERN PINES MENTAL HLTH CTR INC	\$17,674.48
PORT OF CROW WING GIRLS HOME.....	\$8,057.70
# 17183	\$2,399.09
PSJ ACQUISITION LLC	\$7,962.00
STEP	\$7,854.24
VILLAGE RANCH INC.....	\$2,891.06
WEST CENTRAL REG JUVENILE CTR.....	\$4,584.00
PAYMENTS LESS	
THAN \$2,000	\$19,306.77
Total:	\$79,948.21

On a motion by Denny and seconded by Noska, the preceding minutes of the County Board meeting held April 18, 2023 were duly approved by unanimous vote at the Todd County Board of Commissioners at the Regular Board Meeting held on May 2, 2023.

Witness my hand and seal:
Randy Neumann,
County Board Chairperson
Denise Gaida,
Todd County Auditor-Treasurer

22pnc



SERVICES & EMPLOYMENT

205
Help Wanted
PRIVATE HOME
CAREGIVER for elderly

woman in Baxter. \$25/HR
+ perks. Call Stacy, 218-
270-2565. 20-22p

Longbella Drug is looking to hire a **full time person for the clerk position** at our Longbella Drug Clinic pharmacy. Apply at Longbella Drug downtown

or online at Indeed.com. 12tfc

TODD COUNTY HHS EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES: Todd County HHS is looking for reliable, service oriented individuals to serve the citizens of Todd County in the following positions: ****Eligibility Worker (full-time).** ****Social Worker - Child Protection (full-time).** ****Office Support Specialist II (seasonal, part-time).** To learn more about these openings and how to apply, visit the official Todd County website at <https://www.co.todd.mn.us/>. Questions can be directed to Todd County Administration 320-732-6155. EOE 22c

208
Storage

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

209
Business Services

Your major appliance parts source. Parts for all major brands. One day service, **Staples True Value**, Staples. 218-894-3263. 26tfc

GARAGE SALES 701

ANNUAL CHURCH GARAGE SALE: Staples Assembly of God, 914 3rd Ave. NE, Staples. Thurs., May 25-Fri., May 26, 8 a.m.-7 p.m., Sat., May 27, 8 a.m.-noon. Items of interest: 16' Alumacraft boat w/25 HP Evinrude motor/trailer; Brother printer, flat screen TV, great selection of electronics, sewing machines, golf equipment, Avon, toaster oven, queen and bunk bed set, leaf blower, truck

topper, furniture, household items, VERY clean clothing and bedding. 22c

PERENNIAL PLANT SALE in Memory of Sue Gosse and Yvonne Dickman: Sat., May 27-Mon., May 29, 9 a.m.-? 50195 - 305th Ave., Staples (3 mi. E of Staples on Hwy. 10). Hostas, Daylilies, Peonies and many more. Watch for signs. 22p

FOR SALE

303

Hay, Feed, Seed
SHEDED BALES: (12) 4 x 4.5 round bales grass hay, \$27/bale; (5) 4 x 4.5 round bean bales for bedding, \$20/bale. 218-640-6353. 20-22p

WANTED TO BUY

****Farmers****
Buying field
stone boulders
320-630-4570
Chris

REAL ESTATE

OPEN HOUSE
\$419,000
43374 Ottetail Line
Rd, Bertha, MN
Saturday, May 27,
1:00-4:00 pm

Call Terri Jensen,
National Land Realty
507-382-0908
View online:
<https://nationalland.com/listing/lg-rural-bldg-site-with-newer-house>

STAPLES: Downtown, 1 - 2 bdrm., 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.

EASTWOOD APARTMENTS

in Motley MN.
is now accepting applications for **FUTURE 2-3 bedroom apartments**
Laundry facilities available on site. garage included with apartment. All utilities paid. Applications are available at: **956 Hwy 10 S., Motley**
For information and qualifications contact Nicole at **218-751-6881**
An Equal Housing Opportunity

611

Wanted to Buy
40+ ACRES between Wadena/Pillager, with or without house, 218-831-3521. 21-23p



DON'T FORGET!!!!

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

Friday, noon

*SERVICE DIRECTORY*SERVICE DIRECTORY*SERVICE DIRECTORY*SERVICE DIRECTORY*SERVICE DIRECTORY*SERVICE DIRECTORY*SERVICE DIRECTORY*SERVICE DIRECTORY

SERVICE DIRECTORY

PROFESSIONAL LAWN MOWER BLADE SHARPENING

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Another side to the bait debate

In the days leading up to Minnesota’s general fishing opener, Saturday, May 13th, there were a couple of anxieties on the minds of state anglers. For some, it was whether their favorite season-opening lake would be completely ice-free, something that is not always certain on the most far northern waters. Another question concerned the availability of live bait, which is by far the most popular angling tactic at this time of year. Not just any live bait; minnows, in particular.

Whether there would be enough minnows to satisfy an angler demand was uncertain, as a number of minnow wholesalers and retailers warned in a pre-opener story by Minneapolis Star-Tribune writer Tony Kennedy. They pointed to a number of factors, among them a gradual loss of access to waters suitable for minnow harvest, a consequence of changing land use patterns and development around natural ponds and shallow lakes with previously undeveloped shorelines. Minnow harvest is also generally restricted by the DNR in waters where aquatic invasive species have been detected.

As relayed in that Star-Tribune article, some in the minnow industry have asked the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (DNR) to help them by easing access to suitable waters on lands managed by the DNR for the harvest of minnows. Writer Kennedy also reported that some bait dealers have criticized the DNR’s efforts to manage shallow lakes and wetlands for waterfowl—ducks and geese—as being harmful to minnow populations in those waters.

There’s no denying that anglers are the largest segment of Minnesotans who participate in the so-called “field sports.” Certainly there are more anglers than hunters, though many are avid participants in both activities. This being the case, angler priorities and their success are important factors in DNR decision making, because angling license fees are a big slice of the DNR’s funding pie. So it follows that DNR Section of

Fisheries leaders may try to please the producers of those minnows that are so important to anglers.

Some, however, believe there are legitimate objections to prioritizing minnow production on DNR-managed public waters, if following that path is in conflict with other resource management objectives. Particularly troubling was the suggestion by minnow producers that the DNR’s management of wetlands and shallow lakes for waterfowl is undesirable because it is not good for minnows.

It’s true that some wetland management practices are not fish or minnow-friendly. Practices like drawing down water levels, or complete basin drainage, do eliminate fish, minnows included. That’s their purpose, with the goal of regenerating emergent vegetation—including food and cover plants important to both waterfowl and nongame wildlife—and eliminating rough fish that uproot vegetation and stir up bottom sediments, which reduces sunlight penetration needed for aquatic plant growth.

Where minnows are not native to a wetland, they can have undesirable effects on the aquatic community. While growing to baitfish size, they are eating quantities of aquatic invertebrates: water “bugs,” like zooplankton, mosquito and dragonfly larvae, freshwater shrimp, and others. These are important to the survival of many creatures. They feed young waterfowl; also reptiles and amphibians, which in turn feed great blue herons, sandhill cranes, hawks, and other creatures. Aquatic insects in their adult winged forms feed many songbirds resident in or near these wetlands.

Preserving and restoring the productivity of wetlands and shallow lakes is an important resource management priority for many Minnesotans. As every waterfowl hunter knows, wetland drainage for agricultural, commercial, and residential development has led to a steady and major decline in our wetlands, and harm to the activities associated with them: hunting, of course, but also such non-consumptive activities as wildlife observation and photography, natural resource education, threatened species protection, and more.

Brad Parsons, Fisheries Section Manager within the DNR’s Division of Fish & Wildlife, was reported in

that Star-Tribune article to be considering the possibility of allowing minnow trappers access to some currently off-limits DNR-managed lands, within which are waters with minnow populations. At that time, Parsons did not specify the nature of such lands. But in an email exchange within the past week, Parsons confirmed to me that the decision makers would consider including state wildlife management areas (WMAs).

Parsons stated that he could foresee setting calendar restrictions for minnow harvest activities in order to avoid negative impacts on nesting and migratory birds on WMAs, restricting the trapping to minnows already living in these waters—allowing no minnows to be introduced, in other words—and employing permitting and reporting requirements for minnow trappers to ensure their compliance with DNR rules. As Parsons put it, “What can it hurt to remove some [minnows], if done right?”

Parsons is widely respected as a professional resource manager, both within the fisheries community, and across the other resource management disciplines over which the DNR has oversight. One can’t doubt his sincerity in being optimistic that granting this special access in order to increase the minnow supply can in fact be “done right.” Parsons further stated that this is done “a little bit currently, under permit from our wildlife managers.”

Not all share this confidence. One well-informed individual who spent decades with the DNR within the Section of Wildlife, believes there is a long history of too many minnow trappers randomly and illegally stocking shallow lakes and ponds with minnows, doing this on a “put-grow-and-harvest” basis, with little regard for potentially negative habitat or ecosystem impacts.

Both are sincere in their beliefs.

Minnesota’s WMAs provide a range of recreations and opportunities by season, including not only hunting, but hiking, bird and general wildlife watching, Nature photography, resource education, trapping, and more. But their founding purpose was to preserve wildlife habitat and provide hunting opportunity. Funding for the creation of the 1,500 or so WMAs comes from a variety

of sources, but as the DNR web site states, “...the mainstay of funding has been the surcharge on the small game hunting license,” required to hunt pheasants, ruffed grouse, ducks and geese, rabbits, squirrels, and other small game. For many, WMAs are about prioritizing for hunting.

There might be greater confidence in a positive outcome from opening up minnow harvest on state WMAs, if not for the recent history of the DNR ignoring the main purpose of these special places. The DNR recently had its hands figuratively slapped by the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service for its timber management practices on state WMAs. Timber harvest on some WMAs was being prescribed in order to meet overall state timber sale targets, reportedly in fulfillment of a commitment to the state’s timber industry from the Governor’s office, even though a harvest plan might not benefit wildlife on that WMA.

The DNR receives substantial cost-sharing funding for conservation purposes under the federal Pittman-Robertson Act, and the Fish & Wildlife Service threatened to disqualify the DNR from receiving these funds if it did not reform its timber harvest practices on state WMAs. Not surprising, then, that a proposal to give special treatment to a commercial enterprise on our WMAs would raise eyebrows. One might also ask: what might be the next commercial interest wanting similar access to our WMAs?

In the long term, there may be other minnow production alternatives that are both dependable and not potentially harmful to public wetlands and shallow lakes. Perhaps aquaculture on privately-owned ponds is the answer. Perhaps even lifting Minnesota’s ban on importing minnows from out of state, though this presents its own risks to the health of our fisheries.

One can’t help but sympathize with minnow producers and retailers who have seen their livelihood affected by a several-years-long decline in minnow production in Minnesota. Or sympathize with anglers who may find a preferred minnow in short supply. But a long-term solution to the problem of a minnow deficiency may not lie in compromising longstanding principles and practices on our state’s Wildlife Management Areas.



At the National event

Staples native Curt Jenkins (above), now of White Bear Lake, competes in the 50 Fly event at the U.S. Masters Spring National Championships in Irvine, Calif. Below, from left, are relay team Vic Perini, St. Louis, Mo., Mike Stassi, Denver, Colo., Johnny Ivanyl, St. Louis; and Jenkins. (Submitted photos)



Staples native Curt Jenkins competes at Nat’l Swimming event

Curt Jenkins, 1983 Staples High School graduate, recently competed at the U.S. Masters Spring National Championships in California, where he met his goal of having a top ten finish in his best event for his age group.

“For me, this was a ‘bucket list’ type of event,” Jenkins shared on social media, expressing appreciation to all who had offered encouraging messages to him throughout this event.

Staples area residents will remember Jenkins, now of White Bear Lake, for his successful swimming career while at SHS, even capturing a gold medal at state.

In his social media post, Jenkins said, “I’ve been swimming on and off for the past five years, but felt I needed an event to focus on and train specifically for. In January of this year, I committed to the U.S. Masters Spring National Champion-

ships in Irvine, Calif., with a goal of having a top ten finish in my best event, for my age group.” He went on to share that this became a reality, thanks to the support and encouragement of his U.S. Masters National teammates, his early morning practice group, his fellow University of New Mexico swimmers, Staples-Motley swimmers, hometown supporters, co-workers, his wife, Roxanne, and other family members.

Results

In his age group for men, 55 - 59 years, Jenkins had the following placings:

Individual events - 100 IM, 8th; 200 Free, 9th; 50 Fly, 11th, 100 Free, 15th; 50 free - 17th.

Relay events - 200 Free, 7th; 200 Medley, 12th.

A total of 2,480 swimmers ages 18 - 101 competed at the Masters event, with 140 of those in Jenkins’ age group. His team of four swimmers finished 66 out of 253 teams.

Free USTA event coming to Staples

Tennis enthusiasts invited, May 31

A free Cardio Tennis Session with master instructor Christin Schumann will be offered Wednesday, May 31, from 1 - 2:30 p.m., at the Staples-Motley High School tennis courts located at 1025 4th St. NE in Staples.

From novice player to avid competitors USTA (United States Tennis Association) Northern is welcoming any and all tennis enthusiasts from age 12 to 100. This free opportunity in Staples can host up to 48 participants, and only requires you be injury free and able to move freely. It will be a great kick-off to what hopes to be a busy summer of tennis at our local facility. Invite your family and friends to join the celebration and get out and play tennis.

Local tennis enthusiasts are hoping to have a lot of people register for this event. “Help pack the courts and show USTA Northern that Central Minnesota has a thriving tennis culture worth engaging in,” said Katie Noska of Staples, Cardinal tennis coach and advocate for the life-long sport.

The upcoming event, ‘Let’s Tennis with Cardio Tennis Triples’ is for ages 12 and up. It’s free, but online registration is required at https://

playtennis.usta.com/usta-northern/BookClass/eb5c6060-ed85-42f4-a89e-13d4b7f10207

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- Participants improve their tennis skill and fitness.
- The focus is on fun and social, not competition (even though we do keep score).

According to a press release from USTA Northern, Cardio Tennis Triples enables players to get a great workout while having fun in the process.



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Staples-Motley graduation May 26

Staples-Motley graduates will receive their diplomas Friday, May 26 at 7 p.m. at the high school gym. Above: The “Class of 2023” group photo on the bleachers at the SMHS football field. (Submitted photo)

SENIORS continued from page 1a

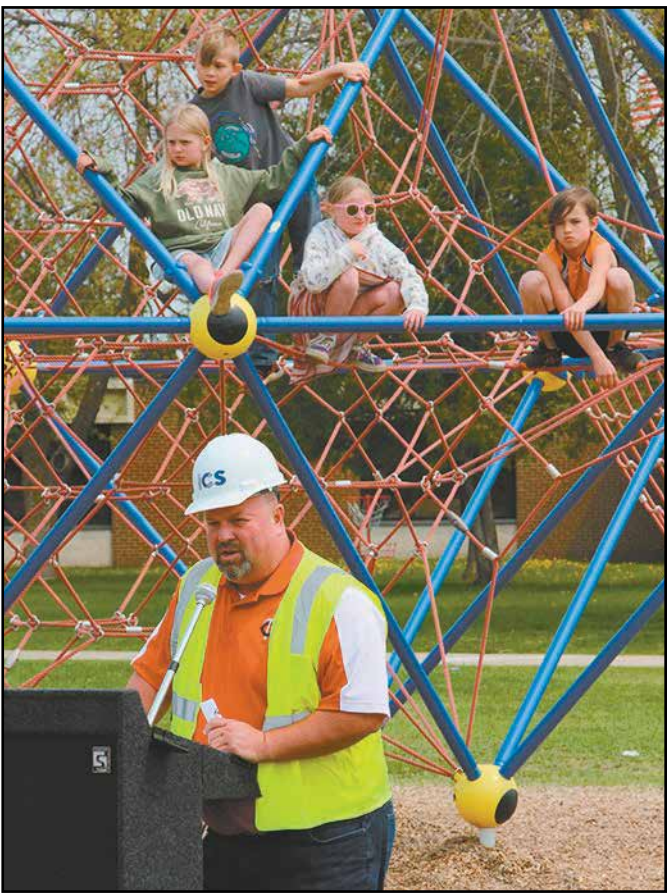
Students remember classes, will miss school’s teachers

Lorna Birkholtz.
“She’s a great teacher, I learn a lot in her classes,” said Carter.
Braith said taking the college level athletic training class at the high school inspired her to continue in that field.
“It’s how I discovered what I want to do,” said Braith.
Carter plans to go to the University of Minnesota, Twin Cities, to major in kinesiology and psychology, with a future goal of getting into physical therapy school.
Braith is headed to Concordia College in Moorhead with a plan to study sciences, math and pre-med courses. She would like to go to medical school and specialize in the sports medicine field.
High school memories
Braith and Carter noted that this year’s class has

state champions in speech and in athletics, as well as others who have achieved in areas such as music and theater. Braith said they don’t have a large percentage of athletes in the class, but the ones who have continued with it for their careers are very good, with many state level athletes.
This year’s senior class started their high school career with the Covid pandemic hitting in ninth grade.
Braith pointed out that previous classes had their whole senior year changed by the pandemic, so they don’t feel like they were affected as much. Getting past it, this year’s class found out they are better off taking classes in school, rather than online or as a hybrid class.
“I know how much I missed out on the past few years, that we didn’t get

the full experience,” said Braith.
But both seniors agree things seem back to normal this year.
“This is the year I’ve been the most comfortable and confident,” said Carter.
Braith said this year’s seniors are a very social grade, not just within the class but they get along with the underclassmen very well.
“That’s the beauty of a small school,” said Carter, “you get to know everyone.”
Carter said the class has formed social groups according to their common interests. She recognized the uniqueness of everyone and said the different groups get along and respect each other.
Braith said the parents of athletes appreciated that the student section had special theme nights and made

the games fun. Even if they didn’t have the best teams every year, they cheered them on like they were the best.
This year’s class also is unique because they embraced their school activities. “We decided we were going to have fun at dances,” said Carter. “We got to be known as the crazy grade.”
Braith thinks what she will miss most after leaving high school will be the teachers. Even though the seniors take a lot of online classes, they spend much of their time in the school, where they study on their own or attend college level courses taught by the high school teachers.
“The teachers give us someone to talk to every day, they are so supportive,” said Braith. “I don’t think we’ll get that same thing in college.”



Groundbreaking interest

Students interested in the Staples-Motley Elementary gym groundbreaking ceremony hovered over School Board Chair Bryan Winkels as he thanked the partners involved in getting the project started. Below, fourth grade student Tim Lind gave a speech, as Principal Allen Berg kept his paper from blowing away. Bottom, students gather for the group photo. (Staples World photos by Mark Anderson)



MEMORIAL continued from page 1a

Three Memorial Day programs for Motley area

Legion, Tri-County Post #124, will host Memorial Day programs May 29, at the following locations:
• Bridgeman Cemetery, 9 a.m.
• Motley Public Cemetery, 11 a.m.
• Poplar Cemetery, 1 p.m.
Guest Speaker at these three locations will be Commander Alan Marshall, U.S. Air Force veteran. Marshall served as crew chief on the F-4 Phantom. Pastor Jim

Johnson, Motley Free Methodist Church, will give the Invocation.
Following the service at Poplar Cemetery, the Poplar Ladies will serve lunch at the Leader Community Hall.
The Motley Historical Society will have an open house at Motley City Hall from noon to 3 p.m. on Memorial Day. Pie and ice cream will be served.



Proud to be Motley American Legion

Members of the Tri-County American Legion Post #124 gathered at Motley City Hall May 13, for an open house celebration of the American Legion’s 100th birthday. Pictured, from left, Norm Cro-

nin, Huck Holst, Harry Meyer, Ron Unger, Ron Hanson, Frank Vasecka, Commander Alan Marshall. (Staples World photo by Dawn Timbs)



Railroad construction in Staples

Construction was in progress May 12, at BNSF Railway property in Staples. According to information from Lydia B. Underdahl, Executive Director, Public Affairs, BNSF Railway is constructing a new building and two garage bays to accommodate its maintenance activities in the region. The project is scheduled to be complete in late 2023 and replaces an existing building in Verndale

that was damaged in storms in 2022. The new building was planned with sustainability in mind: measures are in place to reduce energy consumption during construction, there will be LED lighting with occupancy sensors and high efficiency appliances, and recyclable materials and insulation will exceed code requirements. (Staples World photos by Dawn Timbs)



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